2018 Year in Review

NORTH KOREA AND THE WORLD

A YEAR IN HEADLINES

EDITED BY
ALBERT BUIXADÉ FARRÉ
HAEUN RHO

HRNK
THE COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN NORTH KOREA

Committee for Human Rights in North Korea

2018

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A Year in Headlines

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ABOUT THE COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN NORTH KOREA

The Committee for Human Rights in North Korea (HRNK) is the leading U.S.-based nonpartisan, non-governmental organization (NGO) in the field of North Korean human rights research and advocacy, tasked with focusing international attention on human rights abuses in that country. It is HRNK's mission to persistently remind policymakers, opinion leaders, and the general public that more than 20 million North Koreans need our attention. Since its establishment in October 2001, HRNK has played an important intellectual leadership role in North Korean human rights issues by publishing over 50 major reports (available at https://www.hrnk.org/documentation/). Recent HRNK reports have addressed issues including North Korea's overseas workers, the influx of outside information into North Korea and the regime's response, the health and human rights of North Korean children, and North Korea's political prison camps.

HRNK is the first and only NGO that solely focuses on North Korean human rights issues to receive consultative status at the United Nations (UN). It was also the first organization to propose that the human rights situation in North Korea be addressed by the UN Security Council. HRNK was directly and actively involved in all stages of the process supporting the work of the UN Commission of Inquiry (COI) on North Korean human rights. Its reports have been cited numerous times in the report of the COI, the reports of the UN Special Rapporteur on North Korean human rights, a report by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, two reports of the UN Secretary-General António Guterres, and several U.S. Department of State Democratic People's Republic of Korea Human Rights Reports. HRNK has also regularly been invited to provide expert testimony before the U.S. Congress.

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FOREWORD

After its establishment in 2001, the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea (HRNK) has assumed intellectual leadership of researching, investigating and reporting on the North Korean human rights situation. In addition to our reporting, HRNK has conducted robust outreach to think tanks, universities, civil society organizations, U.S. Government agencies, Congressional offices, members of the European Parliament, members of the South Korean National Assembly and the Japanese Diet as well as the UN, especially since acquiring UN ECOSOC consultative status in April 2018.

As HRNK embarked on a mission to find out and tell the truth about North Korea's human rights violations, our organization has relied on youthful energy and enthusiasm rather than large budgets. HRNK has trained around 450 interns over the past 14 years. Our research interns execute multiple tasks. One product that keeps attention constantly focused on our work and mission is our Daily Press, a daily compilation of relevant articles on Korean peninsula issues. This is entirely the mission of our interns, who take turns and work in teams to ensure not a single day is missed.

The Daily Press requires effort, discipline, and teamwork. HRNK Managing Editor Albert Buixadé Farré had the brilliant idea of collecting and categorizing all headlines of the daily press issued throughout a calendar year and publishing them in one volume. We started this past June by publishing as a pilot project the first volume, covering the year 2023. Now we are expanding the series by launching four more volumes covering the years 2018, 2020, 2021, and 2024. In this one, Albert has worked with HRNK research intern Haeun Rho, covering the calendar year 2018.

This will be an essential tool, meant to enable researchers and students of North Korea to get a firm grip on the timeline, nature, and implications of relevant developments throughout a given calendar year.

Greg Scarlatoiu

President and CEO
Committee for Human Rights in North Korea (HRNK)
September 25, 2025

CREDITS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report is the result of the dedicated efforts of our team throughout 2018. Haeun Rho took the leading role in compiling the daily news digests and drafting the summary sections, helping to shape a comprehensive overview of the year's events.

We also acknowledge the diligent work of the authors listed below, who created the original daily news digests compiled in this report. Their commitment and expertise ensure that our readers remain well-informed about the latest developments.

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YEAR IN REVIEW

This report is part of HRNK's *Year in Review* series. The series is primarily composed of the annual *North Korea and the World: A Year in Headlines* reports, which present a curated collection of news coverage capturing global and regional developments related to North Korea.[1] This collection provides context for our work and for those in related fields, ensuring that significant events are documented and their record preserved for reference.

Through this series, HRNK seeks to provide a reliable resource for academics, policymakers, advocates, and others interested in the evolving landscape of North Korean human rights.

[1] As of September 2025, the following *Year in Review – North Korea and the World: A Year in Headlines* reports have been published (release date in parentheses) or are slated for imminent release: 2018, 2020, 2021, 2023 (June 2025), and 2024.

INTRODUCTION

A. OVERVIEW

The Committee for Human Rights in North Korea (HRNK) is dedicated to providing comprehensive and up-to-date information on developments related to North Korea through our daily email digests. This report consolidates an entire year's worth of monitoring into a single, accessible document, offering valuable insights for the general public and researchers.

The report is divided into three distinct parts:

- Part I: A concise one-page executive summary offering a snapshot of the year's key events and trends.
- Part II: A five-page chronological account, organized by topic, providing a more detailed overview of the events of 2018
- Part III: The complete collection of daily news digests, spanning one thousand and seven hundred pages, preserving the original content for in-depth research and reference.

By organizing the information in this manner, we strive to accommodate various preferences for detail and to enhance the utility of the report for all readers.

B. SCOPE OF NEWS COVERED

HRNK staff compile a daily list of news articles focused on North Korea, its relations, key developments in the U.S.-South Korea relationship, and significant domestic events in South Korea. Most of the news is sourced from the following outlets:

- NK News: North Korea News
- Korea JoongAng Daily
- The Korea Times
- The Korea Herald
- Radio Free Asia
- 38 North
- BBC
- The Guardian
- The Daily Telegraph
- Reuters
- Associated Press News
- CNN
- The National Interest
- North Korea Leadership Watch
- North Korea Economic Watch
- The New York Times
- PIIE: Peterson Institute for International Economics
- UPI: United Press International
- VOA: Voice of America
- The Washington Post
- HRNK Insider

PART I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2018, North Korea shifted from isolation and confrontation toward a year of high-level diplomacy, while remaining constrained by international sanctions. Kim Jong-un made his first foreign visits since taking power, engaging closely with China and holding historic summits with South Korea and the United States. The country's human rights situation remained a persistent concern, though global attention centered on nuclear talks.

Militarily, Pyongyang paused the missile and nuclear tests that had defined 2017. Kim announced a freeze on nuclear testing and the closure of the Punggye-ri test site—seen by outside experts as already of little use after a 2017 collapse. While no major new tests followed, North Korea kept its arsenal and stressed that dismantlement required reciprocal U.S. steps and sanctions relief.

Economically, the regime emphasized development, self-reliance, and raising living standards. Yet sanctions continued to restrict exports, fuel, and financial flows, and observers saw little visible recovery. China remained its primary economic lifeline, though formal trade stayed constrained. Humanitarian concerns persisted, with food insecurity and chronic shortages.

Diplomatically, 2018 marked a breakthrough. Kim met Chinese President Xi Jinping three times and South Korean President Moon Jae-in three times, including a September summit in Pyongyang that pledged peace, military de-escalation, and cross-border projects. The landmark Singapore Summit with Donald Trump in June produced a joint statement on denuclearization and improved relations, though concrete progress soon stalled.[2]

In South Korea, the year saw heated debate over Moon's labor reforms, which reduced the maximum workweek and raised the minimum wage. The #MeToo movement (a global campaign led by women against sexual assault and harassment) swept the country, toppling figures in politics, arts, and literature. Among the most prominent was An Hee-jung, a provincial governor and presidential hopeful, charged with sexual assault by a former aide.

Overall, 2018 brought a dramatic shift in North Korea's international posture. Weapons tests gave way to summitry, as Kim appeared on the global stage with leaders of China, South Korea, and the United States. Yet substantive denuclearization and sanctions relief did not follow, leaving the process fragile. North Korea ended the year balancing cautious engagement with enduring economic hardship, dependent on China and wary of U.S. intentions..

[2] Post-2018 note: A second summit between Kim Jong-un and U.S. President Donald Trump took place in Hanoi, Vietnam, in February 2019. The talks were cut short and ended without a deal, largely due to U.S. demands for denuclearization and North Korea's insistence on sanctions relief.

PART II. CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

A. IN NORTH KOREA

HUMAN RIGHTS

- **March 8, 2018, Unspeakable Atrocities**: A United Nations report accused North Korea of committing "unspeakable atrocities" against its citizens, citing systematic torture, starvation, and forced labor in political prison camps.
- **August 17, 2018, UN Report on Children's Rights**: The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child published its concluding observations, expressing deep concern over "grave violations" of children's rights in the DPRK, including forced labor and malnutrition.
- **November 12, 2018, Expert Report Finds "No Improvement"**: The Group of Independent Experts on the DPRK released a report concluding there was a "deplorable lack of improvement" in the human rights situation and that crimes against humanity were ongoing.

MILITARY ACTIVITY

- **April 21, 2018, Suspension of Nuclear Tests**: North Korea announced it would immediately suspend all nuclear and ICBM tests and dismantle its Punggye-ri nuclear test site.
- **May 24, 2018, Demolition of Tunnels**: North Korea demolished tunnels at its Punggye-ri nuclear test site in a ceremony attended by foreign journalists (though not international experts).
- **September 18–20, 2018, Third Inter-Korean Summit in Pyongyang**: Kim Jong-un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in signed the Pyongyang Joint Declaration, which included a military agreement to establish no-fly zones along the border, cease live-fire drills in designated areas, and dismantle 11 guard posts within the DMZ.
- **September 2018, Commitments on Yongbyon and Dongchang-ri**: As part of the Pyongyang Declaration, Kim Jong-un committed to permanently dismantling the Yongbyon nuclear facility if the United States took "corresponding measures." He also agreed to dismantle the Dongchang-ri missile engine test site under international observation.
- **November 2018, Meeting Postponement**: A meeting between U.S. and North Korean officials scheduled for November 8 in New York was abruptly postponed by North Korea, citing displeasure with the U.S.'s unwavering stance on maintaining sanctions.

- **December 2018, Reports of Continued Missile Site Activity**: Satellite imagery analysis from experts indicated continued operational activity at key ballistic missile sites, suggesting no progress on dismantlement beyond the Punggye-ri site.

ECONOMICS

- **January 1, 2018, Declaration of New Economic Development**: Kim Jong-un used his New Year's Address to emphasize a new focus on domestic economic development and boosting the national economy.
- **June 14, 2018, Discussions on Reopening the Kaesong Industrial Complex:** Following the Singapore Summit, discussions began about potentially reopening the jointly run Kaesong Industrial Complex as an economic confidence-building measure with South Korea.
- **July–December 2018, Sanctions Stalemate Continues**: The core international sanctions regime remained fully in place. The U.S. maintained its "maximum pressure" policy, insisting sanctions would not be lifted until denuclearization was complete, creating a stalemate.

B. IN SOUTH KOREA

- **January 4, 2018, Cross-Border Hotline Reopens**: South Korea confirmed North Korea had reopened a cross-border hotline after a nearly two-year hiatus.
- **February 2, 2018, Supreme Court Upholds "Comfort Women" Agreement Ruling**: The Supreme Court upheld a lower court ruling that found the 2015 "comfort women" agreement between South Korea and Japan, which aimed to "finally and irreversibly" resolve the issue, did not invalidate the victims' individual right to claim compensation. This paved the way for continued legal battles.
- **April 6, 2018, Former President Lee Myung-bak Arrested on Corruption Charges**: Following his indictment on charges of bribery, embezzlement, and tax evasion, former President Lee Myung-bak was arrested, making him the fourth South Korean former president to face arrest.
- **August 24, 2018, Supreme Court Orders Retrial for "Comfort Women" Statue Dispute**: The Supreme Court ordered a retrial in a case regarding a local government's refusal to install a statue commemorating "comfort women," a decision seen as supportive of freedom of expression and the right to commemorate historical issues.
- **November 29, 2018, Court Orders Dissolution of Unified Progressive Party (UPP) Upheld**: The Constitutional Court upheld its 2014 decision to dissolve the left-wing Unified Progressive Party for being pro-North Korea and a threat to the country's democratic order, a ruling that remained controversial on free speech grounds.

C. INTER-KOREAN RELATIONS

- **January 1, 2018, New Year's Address**: Kim Jong-un announced that North Korea's nuclear forces had "been completed," offered an olive branch to South Korea by suggesting participation in the upcoming PyeongChang Winter Olympics, and emphasized a new focus on economic development.
- **January 9, 2018, Peace House Talk**: North and South Korea held high-level talks at the Peace House in Panmunjom, agreeing on North Korean participation in the Olympics.
- **February 9–25, 2018, North Korea in the PyeongChang Olympics**: As part of the diplomatic thaw, North Korea sent a delegation, athletes, and an art troupe to the PyeongChang Olympics, presenting the event as a major soft-power initiative despite the expenses involved.
- **April 27, 2018, Steps to Complete Denuclearization**: Kim Jong-un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in met at the Peace House in Panmunjom and signed the Panmunjom Declaration, agreeing to work toward the "complete denuclearization" of the Korean Peninsula.
- **May 26, 2018, Second Moon-Kim Summit**: The two leaders held an unplanned, surprise meeting at Panmunjom to ensure the success of the upcoming North Korea–U.S. summit in Singapore.
- **September 18–20, 2018, Agreement on Cross-Border Railways**: The two Koreas agreed during the Pyongyang summit to begin reconnecting cross-border railways and roads. This project was subject to sanctions exemptions, highlighting the tension between inter-Korean engagement and international sanctions.
- **November 2018, Military Agreement Implementation Begins**: As part of the Pyongyang Declaration, the two Koreas began dismantling 11 front-line guard posts within the DMZ, establishing no-fly zones, and ceasing live-fire drills in designated areas. They also launched a joint effort to remove landmines from the Joint Security Area (JSA) in Panmunjom.

D. INTERNATIONAL

UN SECURITY COUNCIL & SANCTIONS

- **January 24, 2018, Panel of Experts Report on Sanctions Evasion**: The UNSC Panel of Experts submitted a report detailing "a massive increase in illegal ship-to-ship transfers of petroleum products and coal" by North Korea, highlighting sophisticated evasion techniques that violated sanctions.
- **May 11, 2018, UNSC Exemptions for Inter-Korean Project**: The UN Security Council granted a sanctions exemption to allow a joint inter-Korean survey on modernizing North Korea's railways to proceed, demonstrating a willingness to support diplomatic confidence-building measures.

- **August 5, 2018, UN Report on Sanctions Violations**: The United Nations Security Council Panel of Experts reported that North Korea had illegally smuggled petroleum products through ship-to-ship transfers at sea and had violated sanctions by exporting coal.
- **December 21, 2018, China and Russia Propose Sanctions Relief**: Following the diplomatic momentum of the year, China and Russia introduced a draft resolution to the UNSC that would have lifted some sanctions on North Korea. The proposal was rejected by the United States and other members, who insisted pressure must remain until denuclearization.

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- **September 29, 2018, Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho Addresses UNGA**: North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho addressed the UN General Assembly, stating that sanctions were "threatening to wipe out our development and achievements" and that trust with the U.S. was "fading away," signaling frustration with the lack of progress.
- **October 18, 2018, UN Report on "Dire" Situation**: The UN General Assembly's Third Committee heard a report from the UN Secretary-General, which stated that "the human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea remained dire."
- **November 5, 2018, UNGA Third Committee Condemns DPRK Human Rights**: The UN General Assembly's Third Committee adopted a resolution condemning North Korea's "systematic, widespread and gross violations of human rights," continuing the annual practice despite the year's diplomatic talks.
- **December 17, 2018, UNGA Plenary Adopts Human Rights Resolution**: The full UN General Assembly formally adopted the resolution condemning North Korea's human rights record, maintaining international scrutiny on the issue irrespective of nuclear diplomacy.

CHINA

- **March 25–28, 2018, Xi and Kim First Meet in Beijing**: Kim made his first foreign trip since assuming power, traveling to Beijing to affirm North Korea's commitment to denuclearization and willingness to hold a summit with the U.S.
- **May 7–8, 2018, Second Meeting in Dalian**: Kim paid a second visit to China in Dalian and exchanged views on denuclearization and China–DPRK relations.
- **June 19–20, 2018, Third Meeting in Beijing**: One week after Kim's summit with U.S. President Trump, he met Xi for the third time to discuss outcomes and align future diplomatic strategy.
- **April 22, 2018, Bus Accident Kills Chinese Tourists**: A bus carrying Chinese tourists on a tour in North Hwanghae Province crashed off a bridge. Thirty-two Chinese tourists and four North Koreans were killed, and Kim visited the Chinese embassy in Pyongyang to express condolences

- **September 18–20, 2018, China's Reaction to Inter-Korean Summit in Pyongyang**: China's state media praised the third inter-Korean summit of 2018 as promoting peace and denuclearization.

UNITED STATES

- **March 30, 2018, U.S. Announces New Unilateral Sanctions**: The U.S. Treasury Department sanctioned a group of shipping and trading companies from China, Singapore, and Panama, along with dozens of vessels, for facilitating illicit trade with North Korea, acting outside the UN framework.
- **May 9, 2018, Release of American Detainees**: North Korea released three American detainees as a goodwill gesture ahead of the U.S.–North Korea summit.
- **June 12, 2018, Trump and Kim Met in Singapore**: U.S. President Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un met in Singapore, signed a joint statement committing to "work toward complete denuclearization," and for the U.S. to provide "security guarantees."
- **July 6–7, 2018, Mike Pompeo Visits Pyongyang**: U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo made his first visit to Pyongyang after the Singapore Summit for follow-up talks. He reported progress, but North Korea later accused the U.S. of making "gangster-like" demands for denuclearization.
- **July 27, 2018, Repatriation of U.S. War Remains**: The Korean War remains of 55 U.S. servicemen were repatriated and transferred to Osan Air Base in South Korea, fulfilling a commitment from the Singapore Summit.
- **October 7, 2018, Pompeo's Visit to Pyongyang**: U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo visited Pyongyang and met with Kim Jong-un. He stated the meeting was "productive" and that plans for a second Trump–Kim summit would advance.
- **November 2018, Planned New York Meeting Cancelled**: A meeting between Pompeo and top North Korean official Kim Yong-chol, scheduled for November 8 in New York, was postponed by North Korea, citing displeasure with the U.S.'s unwavering stance on maintaining sanctions.
- **December 2018, Diplomatic Stalemate Sets In**: Working-level talks between U.S. and North Korean officials made no progress on bridging the gap between the U.S. demand for complete denuclearization before sanctions relief and the North's demand for a step-by-step process. Planning for a second summit continued into 2019.

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I. PART III. DAILY PRESS

1. JANUARY

Monday, January 1, 2018

N.K. open to sending delegation to PyeongChang Olympics: leader; S. Korea's presidential office hails North's proposal on PyeongChang delegation

In North Korea:
(LEAD) N.K. leader set to deliver New Year's speech amid tensions over nukes (*Yonhap*, 12/31/17)
Kim Jong Un delivers New Year's address (CNN, 01/01/18)
Kim Jong-un may send athletes to PyeongChang Olympics (*Joongang Ilbo*, 12/31/17)
Kim Jong-un says 'nuclear button on his desk' (*Korea Times*, 01/01/18)
Kim Jong-un: North Korea's nuclear arsenal is now complete (*Guardian*, 12/31/17)
Kim's New Year's address (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/01/18)
Kim's New Year's address strikes a conciliatory note (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/01/18)
Leader Kim Jong Un says North Korea completed its nuclear force in 2017 and the U.S. must know it is a reality (AP, 12/31/17)
N. Korea opens 2018 with big fireworks (*Yonhap*, 12/31/17)
N.K. names Putin before Xi in list of allies that sent New Year's greetings to leader Kim (*Yonhap*, 12/31/17)
New Year's Address (*NK Leadership Watch*, 01/01/18)
North Korea's Kim Jong-un issues threats and olive branch (BBC, 01/01/18)
North Korea's New Year Message (BBC, 01/01/18)
North Korean leader says he has 'nuclear button' but won't use it unless threatened (*Washington Post*, 01/01/18)
What to Read if You Want to Know More About North Korea (NYT, 01/01/18)

In South Korea:
North Korea: South seizes second ship in oil supply row (BBC, 12/31/17)
PyeongChang Olympics' top organizer welcomes N. Korean interest in participation (*Yonhap*, 01/01/18)
Rival parties show mixed reaction toward N. Korean leader's new year message (*Yonhap*, 01/01/18)
Seoul seizes another vessel for trading with Pyongyang (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/01/18)
South Korea seizes second ship amid North Korea sanctions row (CNN, 12/31/17)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) N.K. may demand S. Korea lift sanctions in return for Olympics participation: report (*Yonhap*, 01/01/18)
(2nd LD) S. Korea's presidential office hails North's proposal on PyeongChang delegation (*Yonhap*, 01/01/18)

(5th LD) N.K. open to sending delegation to PyeongChang Olympics: leader (*Yonhap*, 01/01/18)
Eyes on Kim Jong-un's New Year message (*Korea Times*, 12/31/17)
Inter-Korean dialogue may resume soon (*Korea Times*, 01/01/18)
Kim Jong-un claims he has nuclear button on his desk as he floats meeting with South Korea (*Telegraph*, 01/01/18)
Kim Jong Un extends olive branch to Seoul while threatening Washington with 'nuclear button' (UPI, 01/01/18)
Kim Jong-un Offers North Korea's Hand to South, While Chiding U.S. (NYT, 12/31/17)
Kim Jong Un offers rare olive branch to South Korea (CNN, 01/01/18)
Kim Jong-un says willing to send delegation to PyeongChang (*Korea Times*, 01/01/18)
Kim's speech on Olympic delegation 'a nice surprise': PyeongChang (*Korea Times*, 01/01/18)
N.K.'s olive branch toward Seoul targets breakthrough amid sanctions: experts (*Yonhap*, 01/01/18)
North Korea likely to demand a price for Olympic participation (*UPI*, 01/01/18)
North Korea's Kim says 'open to dialogue' with South Korea, will only use nukes if threatened (*Reuters*, 01/01/18)
North Korea's Kim says nuclear weapons will prevent war with U.S. (*Reuters*, 12/31/17)
Peace overture (*Korea Times*, 01/01/18)

International:
Asia's best and worst in 2017 (*Joongang Ilbo*, 12/31/17)
Bring United Nations headquarters to Korea (*Korea Times*, 12/31/17)
Former Joint Chiefs chairman: Nuclear war with North Korea closer than ever (CNN, 01/01/18)
Kim Jong-un's Overture Could Drive a Wedge Between South Korea and the U.S. (NYT, 12/31/17)
Korean War, a 'Forgotten' Conflict That Shaped the Modern World (NYT, 12/31/17)
North Korea casts nuclear shadow over Asia's 2018 (*Guardian*, 01/01/18)
North Korea Leader Warns US of Reality of its Nuclear Program (VOA, 01/01/18)
Nuclear war with North Korea is closer than ever, says former US military chief (*Telegraph*, 12/31/17)
Remember the Acheson Line (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/01/18)
Sen. Graham: U.S. can deal 'fatal blows' to Iran, North Korea in 2018 (UPI, 12/31/17)
U.S. experts divided over possible delay of S. Korea military drills (*Yonhap*, 12/31/17)
In North Korea:

- N. Korean leader KJU is set to deliver his New Year's address Monday as the country's nuclear and missile programs are advancing at a fast clip amid deepening international sanctions. (*Yonhap*)
- In a New Year's Day speech, N. Korean leader warned the US that he keeps a nuclear button on his desk, but said he genuinely wishes for peaceful resolution with the southern border. (CNN)
- KJU said he is willing to send a N. Korean delegation to the upcoming PyeongChang Winter Olympics in a New Year's address Monday, adding both Koreas "could urgently meet" to discuss the matter. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- NK has completed its development of nuclear weapons, its leader KJU claimed in his New Year's speech, Monday, saying he has a "nuclear button on his desk" to strike the mainland US. (Choi Ha-young, *Korea Times*)
- Leader says US 'can never start a war against me' and also hopes for better ties with Seoul before the Winter Olympics. (Justin McCurry, *Guardian*)
- N.Korean leader KJU delivered two messages in his New Year's address Monday, one conciliatory and one threatening. (*Joongang Ilbo*)

- He says he may send athletes to Olympics and hold 'urgent' talks. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Leader KJU says NK completed its nuclear force in 2017 and the US must know it is a reality. (AP)
- NK has welcomed the new year with massive fireworks at an annual gala initiated by its leader KJU. (*Yonhap*)
- NK's state media has mentioned Russian President Vladimir Putin before Chinese President Xi Jinping when it called out the names of foreign leaders who sent its leader KJU New Year's cards. (*Yonhap*)
- " Dear fellow countrymen and brave service personnel of the People's Army, Dear compatriots, Today, recollecting with great pleasure and pride and deep emotion the proud achievements we performed last year.." (*NK Leadership Watch*)
- NK's leader KJU has said a nuclear launch button is "always on my table" and warned the US it will never be able to start a war. (BBC)
- KJU boasts of a nuclear button on his desk. (BBC)
- N. Korean leader KJU boasted in an annual New Year's Day speech Monday that he had a nuclear button on his desk and that the entire US was within range of his weapons — but he also vowed not to attack unless threatened. (Simon Denyer, *Washington Post*)
- NK may be the most secretive and totalitarian country in the world, as well as the wackiest. (Nicholas Chrostof, NYT)

In South Korea:

- S. Korean authorities have seized a second ship suspected of supplying oil to NK in violation of international sanctions. (BBC)
- The top organizer for the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics on Monday welcomed North Korea's expression of interest in participation in the games, saying the gesture was akin to "a gift on New Year's Day." (Yoo Jee-ho, *Yonhap*)
- Rival parties showed mixed reactions toward the New Year's message from N. Korean leader KJU in which he made an unexpected conciliatory gesture to the South and hinted at the possibility of sending athletes to PyeongChang. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea is investigating a second vessel it suspects of illegally transferring oil for shipping to North Korea in violation of UN sanctions. (Ser Myo-ja, Jung Hyo-sik, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- SK has seized a second ship as part of what it describes as an ongoing effort to monitor NK's attempts to evade UN sanctions. (Taehoon Lee, Lauren Said-Moorhouse, Yuli Yang, CNN)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- NK may demand that SK lift sanctions on Pyongyang, resume inter-Korean economic projects and provide aid in exchange for the North's participation in the Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's presidential office welcomed Monday's proposal by N. Korean leader KJU to send a delegation to the upcoming PyeongChang Olympics slated for next month. (*Yonhap*)
- NK could send a delegation to the upcoming PyeongChang Olympics to be held in SK and is open to talks with Seoul over it. (*Yonhap*)

- Government officials and experts here are paying keen attention to what message N. Korean leader KJU will deliver during his New Year address. (Jun Ji-hye, *Korea Times*)
- N. Korean leader KJU's New Year address increased the likelihood for inter-Korean talks to take place soon, as the young leader showed a stronger willingness than ever to improve frozen relations between the two Koreas, according to experts. (Jun Ji-hye, *Korea Times*)
- N. Korean leader KJU made a dramatic shift in his approach to Seoul as he called for direct talks in an apparent bid to drive a wedge between SK and the US, its key ally. (Julian Ryall, James Rothwell, *Telegraph*)
- N. Korean leader KJU has offered a potential olive branch to SK while warning the US that he has a "nuclear launch button" on his desk. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- NK's leader, KJU, moved Monday to ease his country's isolation by offering to send a delegation to the Winter Olympics in SK, even as he claimed to have accomplished the ability to launch a nuclear missile at the mainland United States. (Choe Sang-hun, NYT)
- N. Korean leader KKU held out a rare olive branch to the country's southern neighbor Monday, offering talks over sending a delegation to the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang next month. (Alanne Orjoux, Steve George, CNN)
- NK is willing to send its delegation to the PyeongChang Winter Olympics, scheduled for Feb. 9 to 25, N. Korean leader KJU said in his New Year's address. (Jun Ji-hye, *Korea Times*)
- The organizing committee of the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics hailed N. Korean leader K's announcement that he is wJUilling to send a delegation to the Olympics to be held in SK next month. (Kang Hyun-kyung, *Korea Times*)
- N. Korean leader KJU's offer of an olive branch toward SK is seen as an attempt to use better inter-Korean ties to break the current stalemate amid deepening international sanctions. (*Yonhap*)
- NK may demand a price for its participation in the Winter Olympics next month. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- KJU on Monday warned the US he has a "nuclear button" on his desk ready for use if NK is threatened, but offered an olive branch to South Korea, saying he was "open to dialogue" with Seoul. (Heekyong Yang, Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- N. Korean leader KJU said on Monday that the US will never be able to start a war against NK now that his country has developed the capability to hit all of the US mainland with its nuclear weapons. (*Reuters*)
- Kim Jong-un should put words into action (Park Yoon-bae, *Korea Times*)

International:

- Kim's continued survival may well rest on China's support more so than his nuclear arsenal. (Curtis S. Chin, Jose B. Collazo, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- The Trump administration's decision to reduce drastically the US contribution to the UN was generally interpreted as payback after the stunning rebuke to the American decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital. (Emanuel Pastreich, *Korea Times*)
- The US is "closer to a nuclear war with NK" than ever, Adm. Mike Mullen, a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said, adding that he does not "see the opportunities to solve this diplomatically at this particular point." (Zachary Cohen, CNN)
- NK's surprise call for direct talks with SK could drive a wedge into the decades-old alliance between Seoul and Washington, potentially creating a reprieve from months of tensions but also undercutting President Trump's tough approach to North. (Choe Sang-hun, NYT)

- The Korean War has been called “the Forgotten War” in the US, where coverage of the 1950s conflict was censored and its memory decades later is often overshadowed by World War II and the Vietnam War. (Liam Stack, NYT)
- Its missile tests have dominated the region in the past year and, with little to suggest any diplomatic aces from Trump, this is likely to continue. (Justin McCurry, Benjamin Haas, Michael Safi, *Guardain*)
- N. Korean leader KJU says the US must realize that the North's nuclear program is a reality. (VOA)
- The US is closer than ever before to war with NK, according to Mike Mullen. (*Telegraph*)
- On Jan. 12, 1950, US Secretary of State Dean Acheson under President Harry Truman announced the so-called Acheson Line. (Ko Soo-suk, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Current and former US officials said President Trump's response to Iranian protests could have long-term effects on nuclear tensions with North Korea. (Daniel Uria, UPI)
- With the PyeongChang Winter Olympics a month away, US experts are divided over whether the two countries should postpone their annual military exercises to lower tensions with NK. (*Yonhap*)

Prepared by Huiwon Yun, HRNK Legal Research Intern

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Tuesday, January 2, 2018

Seoul offers high-level talks with Pyongyang on Jan. 9; U.S. warns North Korea against new missile test, plays down talks; IOC welcomes North Korean Olympic overture

In North Korea:

Clad in light grey, North Korea's Kim goes for softer image in New Year address (*Reuters*, 01/02/2018)
Kim Jong-un's sister speculated to lead delegation to South (*Korea Times*, 01/02/2018)
Markets provide relief for ordinary people hurting from sanctions (*DailyNK*, 01/02/2018)
North Korean defector claims Kim Jong-un has ordered biggest missile yet for nation's 70th anniversary (*Telegraph*, 01/02/2018)
North Korean shellfish for sale in Yanji despite sanctions (*DailyNK*, 01/02/2018)
North Korea shows off icy replica of Hwasong-15 missile (BBC, 01/02/2018)
Pyongyang authorities to expel defector families from the city (*DailyNK*, 01/02/2018)
What's it like to live in North Korea? (BBC, 01/02/2018)

In South Korea:

(LEAD) Moon urges swift steps to realize N. Korean participation at PyeongChang (*Yonhap*, 01/02/2018)
PM: N. Korea could demand 'different treatment' in rare inter-Korean talks (*Yonhap*, 01/02/2018)

S. Korea 'carefully' mulling timing of offering talks with N.K. (*Yonhap*, 01/02/2018)
S. Korea pledges coordination with U.S. over potential inter-Korean talks (*Yonhap*, 01/02/2018)
Sports minister says PyeongChang 2018 will lead to peace, prosperity on Korean Peninsula(*Yonhap*, 01/02/2018)
Time to be careful (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/02/2018)
Unification minister to make announcement after N.K's dialogue offer (*Yonhap*, 01/02/2018)
We won't get fooled again (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/02/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(3rd LD) S. Korea offers high-level talks with N.K. next week (*Yonhap*, 01/02/2018)
FM says more global coordination needed to brace for thaw in inter-Korean ties (*Yonhap*, 01/02/2018)
Kim Jong Un's game of chicken roulette (UPI, 01/02/2018)
North Korea: South proposes Olympics delegation talks (BBC, 01/02/2018)
Seoul offers high-level talks with North Korea over Winter Olympics (*Telegraph*, 01/02/2018)
Seoul offers high-level talks with Pyongyang on Jan. 9 (*Korea Times*, 01/02/2018)
Seoul phones North Korea to arrange dialogue (UPI, 01/02/2018)
Seoul proposes Tuesday talks with North (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/02/2018)
South Korea offers to hold talks with North after Olympics olive branch (*Guardian*, 01/02/2018)
South Korea Offers Talks With Rival North Over Winter Olympics (VOA, 01/02/2018)
South Korea offers talks with North ahead of Olympics (*Reuters*, 01/02/2018)
South Korea offers talks with North on Olympic cooperation (*Washington Post*, 01/02/2018)
South Korea Proposes Border Talks With North Korea After Kim's Overture (NYT, 01/02/2018)
South Korea welcomes North's offer of talks, proposes to meet next week (*Washington Post*, 01/02/2018)

International:
Chinese firms own ships suspected of supplying oil to North Korea (UPI, 01/02/2018)
How the Korean War put presidents in charge of nuclear weapons (*Washington Post*, 01/02/2018)
IOC says it's 'open' to North joining Games (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/02/2018)
IOC welcomes North Korean Olympic overture (*Reuters*, 01/02/2018)
Lockheed to support Korea's Peace Krypton intelligence aircraft (UPI, 01/02/2018)
No. of N. Korean refugees in U.S. sharply drops under Trump gov't (*Yonhap*, 01/02/2018)
North Korean Olympic overture seen aimed at blunting international pressure (*Reuters*, 01/02/2018)
'Sanctions on North Korea are biting' (*Korea Times*, 01/02/2018)
Shinzo Abe seeks improved ties with South Korea, China (UPI, 01/02/2018)
The art of good enough (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/02/2018)
Trump says N.K. wanting talks with S. Korea could be good news (*Yonhap*, 01/02/2018)
Trump sounds open to Korea dialogue, says Kim feels pressure (*Washington Post*, 01/02/2018)
U.S. cautious in commenting on N.K. leader's New Year's Day speech (*Yonhap*, 01/02/2018)
U.S. warns North Korea against new missile test, plays down talks (*Reuters*, 01/02/2018)
Why North Korea succeeded at getting nuclear weapons — when Iraq and Libya failed (*Washington Post*, 01/02/2018)

In North Korea:

- The light-grey suit and matching tie that KJU donned for his New Year's address was likely carefully calculated to project a softer, more relaxed image to go with his surprise offer for talks with Seoul. (Christine Kim, *Reuters*)

- Kim may consider his right-hand man Choe Ryong-hae or his younger sister Kim Yo-jong on the list of candidates to lead the delegation. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- With little expectation that the government will deliver beneficial reforms, North Koreans are trying to find ways to survive through market trading. (Kang Mi Jin, *DailyNK*)
- KJU has ordered NK scientists to construct a missile that will be the largest in the regime's arsenal and to have it ready to be launched on September 9, the 70th anniversary of the founding of the republic. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- A number of vendors in Yanji, China, are openly selling NK seafood, despite this year's UNSC Resolution 2371 banning the North from exporting such goods. (Kim Sung Il, *DailyNK*)
- A frozen replica of NK's long-range missile Hwasong-15 was the star of an ice sculpture festival in Pyongyang. (BBC)
- NK authorities are preparing to conduct a large-scale expulsion of families from the capital. (Kang Mi Jin, Kim Chae Hwan, *DailyNK*)
- NK is one of the most closed-off counties on the planet, with little access to the outside world.
- Four North Koreans who managed to escape explain what life was like back home and what they miss the most. (BBC)

In South Korea:

- Moon called for swift measures to realize NK's participation in Winter Olympic Games, one day after KJU hinted at a resumption of inter-Korean dialogue to the end. (*Yonhap*)
- PM Lee Nak-yon said NK could demand "different treatment," apparently as a nuclear power, if rare talks take place between the two sides to discuss its participation in Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's unification ministry said it is "carefully" considering the timing of proposing talks with NK as the North's leader expressed his willingness to send a delegation to Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- SK will continue its "watertight" coordination with the US as it takes steps to resume dialogue with NK. (*Yonhap*)
- SK Sports Minister Do Jong-hwan said the upcoming Winter Olympics in the country will usher in an era of peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- Seoul must not overreact to Pyongyang's proposal and lift economic sanctions. (Bae Myung-bok, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- SK's unification minister will make an announcement on inter-Korean ties, government officials said, a day after NK leader KJU offered talks over the Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon welcomed KJU's New Year's address in which he expressed a willingness to send a North Korean delegation to hold a senior-level meeting with Seoul, but it is too early to expect NK to take the road to peace. (*Joongang Ilbo*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- SK proposed high-level talks with NK next week over the North's possible participation in Winter Olympics, in response to KJU's reconciliatory New Year message. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's top diplomat underlined the need for stepped up efforts Tuesday to seek global policy coordination to brace for a thaw in inter-Korean relations. (*Yonhap*)

- For KJU, developing a nuclear weapons system will ensure that he has a greater chance of survival than doom in the event of an armed confrontation, the way Russian roulette gives a much higher chance of survival and death. (Madhav Das Nalapat, UPI)
- SK has offered high-level talks with NK to discuss its possible participation in Winter Olympic Games, and KJU would consider sending a team to SK for the Games in February. (BBC)
- SK has proposed talks next week in order to arrange NK athletes' participation in the upcoming Winter Olympic Games. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon proposed Tuesday holding high-level talks with NK, Jan. 9, to discuss its participation in the Winter Olympics. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- SK has proposed holding high-level dialogue with the North at the truce village of Panmunjom next Tuesday. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- Seoul proposed high-level talks with Pyongyang on SK's side of the JSA to discuss NK's participation in the upcoming Winter Olympics. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- SK has proposed holding high-level talks with NK next week, a day after KJU said he was prepared to send a delegation of athletes to Winter Olympics. (Justin McCurry, *Guardian*)
- SK offered to hold high-level talks with bitter rival NK over the North's possible participation in the upcoming Winter Olympic Games. (VOA)
- SK offered talks with NK next week amid a standoff over its weapons programs, a day after KJU said he was open to negotiations but that his country would push ahead with "mass producing" nuclear warheads. (Christine Kim, *Reuters*)
- SK offered high-level talks with rival NK to find ways to cooperate on next month's Winter Olympics in the South. (Hyung-Jin Kim, AP)
- SK responded to an overture from NK and proposed holding high-level talks between the countries on their border next week. (Choe Sang-hun, NYT)
- SK welcomed on Tuesday an offer of talks from KJU ahead of next month's Winter Olympics, and suggested the two sides meet as early as next week. (Simon Denyer, *Washington Post*)

International:

- Two ships SK authorities detained after they were suspected of transferring fuel supplies to NK vessels at sea are of Chinese origin. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- The president's unilateral nuclear authority comes from decisions made at the start of the Atomic Age. (Se Young Jang, *Washington Post*)
- Mark Adams, the director of communications for the IOC said the IOC will consider "in an open way" KJU's remarks about possibly sending a delegation to the Winter Olympics. (Chun Su-jin, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- IOC welcomed the possibility of NK competing at next month's Pyeongchang Games in SK and said the invitation remained open. (*Reuters*)
- Lockheed Martin was awarded a $33.6 million contract by the U.S. Air Force to extend support for SK's tactical reconnaissance aircraft and mission support equipment. (James LaPorta, UPI)
- Only one NK defector entered the US in the capacity of a refugee last year, the fewest since Washington began to accept NK refugees in 2006. (*Yonhap*)
- After a year of making threats and weapons advances, KJU appears to be using the upcoming Winter Olympic Games in SK as a tool to blunt growing international pressure on Pyongyang while leaving his nuclear arsenal untouched. (Josh Smith, David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)

- NK's overture to SK for dialogue shows signs the reclusive regime has started to feel the pinch of sanctions, according to a former high-ranking U.S. diplomat. (Kim Jae-kyoung, *Korea Times*)
- Abe says he wants to improve ties with SK and China, despite tensions over a 2015 "comfort woman" deal and disputes with Beijing over Chinese coast guard vessels. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- The US indeed needs SK to resolve the problem of NK nukes diplomatically. (Venerable Pomnyun Sunim, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Trump said that NK's willingness to hold talks with SK could be "good news," although he also expressed skepticism. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump sounded open to the possibility of an inter-Korean dialogue after KJU's New Year address. But Haley insisted talks would not be meaningful unless the North was getting rid of its nuclear weapons. (Matthew Pennington, AP)
- US has not said much about KJU's New Year's Day address, in which he gave a nuclear warning against it but also a conciliatory gesture toward SK. (*Yonhap*)
- Nikki Haley warned NK against another missile test and said Washington would not take planned talks between two Koreas seriously if NK did not take steps to give up its nuclear weapons. (Rodrigo Campos, Christine Kim, *Reuters*)
- NK was considered too poor, authoritarian and vulnerable to succeed with its nuclear and missile programs. And yet it has acquired advanced nuclear capabilities. What differentiates NK from Iraq and Libya? (Malfrid Braut-Hegghammer, *Washington Post*)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

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Wednesday, January 3, 2018

Engaging North Korea Successfully on Human Rights; North Korea reopens border hotline with South; Trump says his nuclear button is bigger

Top News:
Engaging North Korea Successfully on Human Rights (*johnfeffer.com*, 12/28/2017)

In North Korea:
A New Enchilada (*38 North*, 01/03/2018)
Central authorities offer pork and rice for new year, but uneven distribution angers residents (*DailyNK*, 01/03/2018)
Convoy of Chinese military trucks seen moving towards North Korea border in late December (*DailyNK*, 01/03/2018)
Hotline restored on Kim's order (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/03/2018)
New calendars reflect North Koreans' disinterest in propaganda (*DailyNK*, 01/03/2018)

Nine Reasons Why Kim Jong Un's South Korea Initiative is More Than Just a Tactic (*38 North*, 01/03/2018)
North Koreans focusing on Kim Jong Un's new look more than New Year's address content (*DailyNK*, 01/03/2018)
North Korea prepares new ICBM launch: report (*Korea Times*, 01/03/2018)
North Korea and the Olympics: Bombs, media blackouts and glory (BBC, 01/03/2018)
Stability-seeking Party cadres seek out illegal fortune tellers (*DailyNK*, 01/03/2018)

In South Korea:
Analyst: Kim Jong Un May Agree to Talks with S. Korea, But Will Not Stop Building Nuclear Arsenal (VOA, 01/03/2018)
How South Korea's missile defense may be hurting Hyundai (*Washington Post*, 01/03/2018)
Kim's Achilles' heel (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/03/2018)
Kim Jong-un's trap (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/03/2018)
S. Korea to enable talks between Pyongyang and Washington (UPI, 01/03/2018)
Sports minister says PyeongChang 2018 will lead to peace, prosperity on Korean Peninsula (*Yonhap*, 01/03/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Inter-Korean talks must deal with nukes (*Korea Times*, 01/03/2018)
N. Korea shows no reaction to S. Korea's offer for talks (*Yonhap*, 01/03/2018)
N. Korea reopens communication channel with South (*Yonhap*, 01/03/2018)
North Korea reopens hotline to South to discuss Olympics (BBC, 01/03/2018)
North Korea Reopens Cross-Border Hotline to South (VOA, 01/03/2018)
North Korea reopens border hotline with South (*Korea Times*, 01/03/2018)
North Korea reopens border hotline as Trump boasts of 'bigger' nuclear button (*Reuters*, 01/03/2018)
N. Korea reopens cross-border communications with S. Korea (*Washington Post*, 01/03/2018)
North Korea Reopens Border Hotline With South (NYT, 01/03/2018)
PyeongChang offers to send cruise for N. Korean delegation (*Yonhap*, 01/03/2018)
PyeongChang reaffirms readiness to host N. Korea at Winter Olympics (*Yonhap*, 01/03/2018)
South and North Korea make contact on communication line (*UPI*, 01/03/2018)
Two phones, two years, two calls: How North and South Korea reconnected (CNN, 01/03/2018)
Two Koreas reopen hotline (*Korea Times*, 01/03/2018)
Will North Korea compete in Winter Olympics? (BBC, 01/03/2018)

International:
China endorses easing of tensions on Korean peninsula (UPI, 01/03/2018)
Donald Trump says his nuclear button 'bigger' than Kim Jong-un's as North Korea reopens border hotline (*Telegraph*, 01/03/2018)
IOC 'welcomes' Koreas' interest in talks on North's participation in PyeongChang 2018 (*Yonhap*, 01/03/2018)
Kang, Tillerson reaffirm commitment to ironclad coordination in peacefully resolving N.K. issue (*Yonhap*, 01/03/2018)
N.K. leader's overture seen aimed at weakening int'l sanctions: defector (*Yonhap*, 01/03/2018)
Q&A: Is there a chance for a breakthrough with the Koreas? (*Washington Post*, 01/03/2018)
Social Media Shudders After Trump Mocks North Korea's 'Button' (NYT, 01/03/2018)
The Latest: UN leader welcomes Koreas' communications link (*Washington Post*, 01/03/2018)

This North Korea business will get out of control (*Washington Post*, 01/03/2018)
Trump's big-stick approach to North Korea suddenly becomes extremely literal (*Washington Post*, 01/03/2018)
Trump boasts of 'nuclear button' but doesn't really have one (*Washington Post*, 01/03/2018)
Trump hasn't caused an international crisis yet, but we might not be so lucky in 2018 (CNN, 01/03/2018)
Trump's loony nuclear-button tweet adds to incoherence on North Korea (*Washington Post*, 01/03/2018)
Trump says his nuclear button is bigger (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/03/2018)
Trump says N.K. wanting talks with S. Korea could be good news (*Yonhap*, 01/03/2018)
Trump Says His 'Nuclear Button' Is 'Much Bigger' Than North Korea's (NYT, 01/03/2018)
Trump tries to call out North Korean propaganda. Will it work? (*Washington Post*, 01/03/2018)
US-North Korea Nuclear Button Explainer (VOA, 01/03/2018)
US skeptical about Pyongyang's overture (*Korea Times*, 01/03/2018)
US Urges Further Pressure on N. Korea Ahead of Possible Missile Test (VOA, 01/02/2018)
U.S. to continue to put maximum pressure on N. Korea: White House (*Yonhap*, 01/03/2018)
U.S. warns North Korea against new missile test, plays down talks (*Reuters*, 01/03/2018)
What it actually takes to launch a nuclear strike (CNN, 01/03/2018)
Why nuclear war with North Korea is less likely than you think (*Washington Post*, 01/03/2018)
Why the Olympics matter when it comes to North Korea (*Washington Post*, 01/03/2018)

Top News:

- Greg Scarlatoiu, the Executive Director of HRNK: "NK has ignored other issues, such as the terrible things done to political prisoners in the camps, the utter lack of freedom of expression, freedom of association, any conceivable human right." (*38 North*)

In North Korea:

- With this year's New Year's address, KJU put in play a familiar NK gambit—letting the fox loose among the chickens. Kim went surprisingly easy on the US in his speech compared with last year. (Robert Carlin, *38 North*)
- NK authorities have distributed pork and rice in celebration of the new year. However, KJU's failure to distribute these items to all households highlights the leader's limited resources and has resulted in negative reactions as well. (Kang Mi Jin, *DailyNK*)
- Dozens of Chinese military trucks were spotted on December 24 driving from Yanji (Jilin Province) towards the NK border, drawing the curiosity of passersby. (Kim Sung Il, *DailyNK*)
- NK accepted SK's offer of dialogue and said it would reopen its military hotline in the border village of Panmunjom to discuss "practical matters" about its participation in the upcoming Olympics. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- NK's calendars have historically featured heavy propaganda idolizing the Kim family. However, more recent editions are showing signs of moderation, with less emphasis on the regime. (Kim Sung Il, *DailyNK*)
- Discerning the seriousness of NK's SK initiatives goes beyond cherry-picking lines from Kim's New Year's Speech and the subsequent announcement. There are nine reasons why recent North Korean proposal is serious. (Robert Carlin, Joel S. Wit, *38 North*)

- Following NK's annual broadcast of KJU's New Year's address to the nation, residents have reportedly been more interested in the leader's changing appearance than the content of the speech. (Kang Mi Jin, Kim Sung Il, *DailyNK*)
- NK may test-fire another ICBM this week or next, a U.S. broadcaster reported. (Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)
- For a country like NK, where image is everything, the Olympic Games present a conundrum. (BBC)
- A new fad coinciding with the New Year is emerging in NK, in which fortune tellers are making house visits. More people are pursuing the banned service in secret to avoid punishment by the authorities. (Seol Song Ah, *DailyNK*)

In South Korea:

- Talks between SK and NK officials will not deter Pyongyang from building its nuclear arsenal, says a Seoul-based political analyst. (Zlatica Hoke, VOA)
- SK' deployment of THAAD may be hurting Hyundai as Hyundai experienced decreasing sales in China when the Chinese government's boycott took effect. (Peter Holley, *Washington Post*)
- Kim's Achilles' heel is economics. He knows his power will be safe if the economy runs well. But the economy cannot flourish if it is under strict controls. And a free market will weaken his dictatorship. (Kim Byung-yeon, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- NK's willingness to reconnect the communication hotline attracts SK's attention, but if the Moon Jae-in administration rushes to dialogue, it can fall into Pyongyang's trap. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- SK says it will aim to improve inter-Korean relations as a means of enabling engagement between Washington and Pyongyang. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- SK Sports Minister Do Jong-hwan said Tuesday the upcoming Winter Olympics in the country will usher in an era of peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Rep. Yoo Seong-min, chairman of the minor conservative Bareun Party, has demanded the Moon government include the NK nuclear issue on the agenda of high-level talks between the two Koreas, if such talks are held. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- NK has yet to respond to SK's latest offer for high-level talks Wednesday after its leader KJU extended a rare rapprochement toward Seoul. (*Yonhap*)
- SK and NK made their first contact via a cross-border communication channel in nearly two years as NK reopened the suspended hotline one day after Seoul offered high-level talks. (*Yonhap*)
- NK has reopened a hotline to South Korea, almost two years after it was disabled on the orders of leader KJU. (BBC)
- NK has reopened a cross-border communications channel with SK Wednesday, the first significant sign the bitter rivals are seeking to improve relations after years of rising tensions. (VOA)
- NK reopened the border hotline with SK. It came a day after Seoul proposed high-level inter-Korean talks in Panmunjeom on Jan. 9 to discuss matters related to the NK's participation in the Winter Olympics. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)

- NK reopened a long-closed border hotline with SK on Wednesday, hours after Trump appeared to mock KJU by saying he has a “bigger and more powerful” nuclear button than he does. (Christine Kim, *Reuters*)
- KJU reopened a key cross-border communication channel with SK for the first time in nearly two years as the rivals explored the possibility of sitting down and talking after months of acrimony and fears of war. (Hyung-Jin Kim, AP)
- NK reopened a border hotline with SK, restoring a channel of direct dialogue and signaling a possible thaw in relations between two Koreas. (Choe Sang-hun, NYT)
- The Gangwon provincial government, organizer of the upcoming Winter Olympic Games, has expressed an intention to send a cruise to a NK port to transport a delegation. (*Yonhap*)
- SK reaffirmed its readiness to host NK at the competition held south of the border, with Pyongyang expressing interest in participation. (*Yonhap*)
- SK and NK made contact on a re-established communication channel running through the truce village of Panmunjom on Wednesday. (UPI)
- NK state media announced that KJU had given the order to open the line and make the call. The trigger appeared to be the upcoming Winter Olympics in SK, where NK hopes to have its athletes represented. (Judith Vonberg, CNN)
- NK reopened the cross-border communication link at Panmunjeom, in response to SK's suggestion for high-level talks on its participation in Winter Olympics and other issues. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- NK and SK both seem keen for the North to take part in the 2018 Winter Olympic Games in the South. But there are still hurdles to overcome. (BBC)

International:

- China is welcoming news of détente between NK and SK after the two sides agreed to re-establish contact after months of tensions. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- NK called SK on Wednesday on a hotline that had previously remained dormant for two years despite an astonishing tweet by Trump, boasting that his “nuclear button” was bigger than KJU's. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- IOC on Wednesday welcomed the interest taken by the two Koreas in having talks on the North's participation in the upcoming Winter Games south of the border. (*Yonhap*)
- The top diplomats of SK and the US reaffirmed Wednesday that they will continue their joint diplomatic efforts to peacefully resolve the NK nuclear problem through "ironclad" coordination. (*Yonhap*)
- KJU seems to be seeking to weaken coordination among SK, US and China in applying sanctions on Pyongyang when he issued a New Year message, a high-profile defector said. (*Yonhap*)
- Amid NK’s strongest-ever nuclear bomb test and repeated missile launches — an unexpected, very tentative interest in peace seems to have broken out. What does this mean? (Foster Klug, AP)
- Trump's tweet taunting KJU over the relative strength of the two nations' nuclear arsenals set off a torrent of concern of Twitter. (Austin Ramzy, NYT)
- The UN is welcoming the reopening of a key cross-border communication channel between NK and SK. (AP)

- Trump's advisers don't seem to know how to persuade him not to stumble his way into a conflict with NK. And Trump's inability to coerce NK into giving up its nuclear weapons will only cause him to make even more outlandish threats. (Daniel W. Drezner, *Washington Post*)
- Trump has had enough foreign policy wins that he probably thinks his madman approach is working. But a central feature of the madman approach is that it appears to work well right up until the moment it backfires and turns to tragedy. (Aaron Blake, *Washington Post*)
- Trump boasted that he has a bigger and more powerful "nuclear button" than KJU does — but the president doesn't actually have a physical button. (Matthew Pennington, AP)
- Trump's presidency has helped usher in unprecedented risks on numerous fronts. Those 2018 Trumpian risks fall into three main categories: international security, American democracy and his dangerously unfit temperament. (Brian Klaas, CNN)
- Having a commander in chief who is erratic, ignorant, bellicose and illogical will only make the US harder to deal with NK issues in the future (Jennifer Rubin, *Washington Post*)
- Trump boasted over Twitter that his nuclear arsenal is bigger, more powerful and more functional than NK's in his latest salvo at KJU. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Trump said that NK's willingness to hold talks with SK could be "good news," although he also expressed skepticism. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump again raised the prospect of nuclear war with NK, boasting in strikingly playground terms that he commands a much bigger and powerful nukes than KJU (Peter Baker, Michael Tackett, NYT)
- Propaganda matters deeply for NK. It always has — and for reasons that Trump, with his bellicose tweets about nuclear buttons, clearly doesn't comprehend. (Benjamin R. Young, *Washington Post*)
- Trump tweeted Tuesday in response to KJU that his nuclear button is "bigger" and "more powerful" than Kim's. In reality, there is no nuclear button. (VOA)
- US has remained cautious about possible talks between the two Koreas after KJU expressed his willingness to send a delegation to Winter Olympics (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- U.S. Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley said the "civilized world" must remain vigilant against NK weapons development. "We will never accept a nuclear NK." (Steve Herman, VOA)
- US will continue to put "maximum pressure" on NK to force it to abandon its nuclear weapons program, the White House said amid the possibility of inter-Korean talks next week. (*Yonhap*)
- Nikki Haley warned NK against staging another missile test and said US would not take any talks between NK and SK seriously if they did not do something to get Pyongyang to give up nukes. (Rodrigo Campos, Christine Kim, *Reuters*)
- While Trump and KJU talked about a "nuclear button" on their desks, it takes a lot more than just pressing a button to launch a nuclear strike. (Zachary Cohen, Brian Todd, CNN)
- There are many other factors, including geography and military capabilities, that will matter more than tweets or the characteristics of leaders. And these factors reduce the likelihood of war. (Michael C. Horowitz and Elizabeth N. Saunders, *Washington Post*)
- The presence of NK officials and athletes at the games may calm jitters about potential missile tests or worse occurring during the events, which will be held just 50 miles from the DMZ. (Adam Taylor, *Washington Post*)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

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Thursday, January 4, 2018

Moon, Trump agree to suspend military drills during PyeongChang Olympics; S. Korea: No sign of imminent North Korean provocation; Taiwan investigates man over illegal North Korean oil sales

In North Korea:
Kim Jong Un's 2018 New Year's Speech: Self-Confidence After a Tough Year (*38 North*, 01/04/2018)
New kimchi culture reflects marketizing North Korea, warts and all (*Daily*NK, 01/04/2018)
North Korean test missile accidentally hit one of its own cities (*Telegraph*, 01/04/2018)

In South Korea:
FM reaffirms inter-Korean dialogue won't go separately from denuclearization efforts (*Yonhap*, 01/04/2018)
Koreans Turn Down the Volume (NYT, 01/04/2018)
Military gets ready for talks with North Korea (*Korea Times*, 01/04/2018)
Moon to hold press meeting on 2018 policies (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/04/2018)
Most S. Koreans approve of North Korea's presence at PyeongChang Olympics (*Yonhap*, 01/04/2018)
NK offer boosts Moon's popularity (*Korea Times*, 01/04/2018)
Outgoing U.S. commander awarded medal for service in Korea (*Yonhap*, 01/04/2018)
Separation won't work (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/04/2018)
SKorea's leader apologizes to ex-sex slaves over Japan deal (*Washington Post*, 01/04/2018)
South Korean president apologizes to Japan's sexual slavery victims over 2015 deal (UPI, 01/04/2018)
S. Korea: No sign of imminent North Korean provocation (UPI, 01/04/2018)
S. Korean military: No signs of N. Korea's imminent missile launch (*Yonhap*, 01/04/2018)
S. Korea opposed to 'freeze for freeze' option on N. Korean nukes: foreign ministry (*Yonhap*, 01/04/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Hotline at DMZ is working but North is reluctant (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/04/2018)
Koreas end contact via resumed hotline without agreement on talks (*Yonhap*, 01/04/2018)
Seoul open to discuss details of high-level talks with North Korea (*Korea Times*, 01/04/2018)
North Korea's Overture Raises Hopes, but Huge Obstacles Loom (NYT, 01/04/2018)

International:
A United Front Against North Korea (NYT, 01/04/2018)
As North and South Korea Begin to Talk, Trump Watches From Sidelines (NYT, 01/04/2018)
Chinese own five ships involved in illegal trade with Pyongyang: report (*Korea Times*, 01/04/2018)
Don't the South Koreans get a vote on war with the North? (*Washington Post*, 01/04/2018)
Expert says NK's dialogue overture will ease tensions, but cautions against excessive optimism (*Yonhap*, 01/04/2018)
Japan's Abe: N. Korea should change course, end nuke program (*Washington Post*, 01/04/2018)
Japan faces greatest danger since World War due to North Korea: PM (*Reuters*, 01/04/2018)

Mentally Unfit or Rational? White House, US Intelligence Differ on Kim Jong Un (VOA, 01/03/2018)
Moon, Trump agree to suspend military drills during PyeongChang Olympics (*Korea Times*, 01/04/2018)
Moon, Trump agree to delay joint military drills during PyeongChang Olympics (*Yonhap*, 01/04/2018)
Nuclear envoys of S. Korea, U.S., Japan share updates on N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 01/04/2018)
Offer of talks could be 'wedge,' says McMaster (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/04/2018)
Pence defends Trump's tweets on N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 01/04/2018)
Seized vessel tied to China firm (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/04/2018)
Sharp Reactions in Congress to Trump Tweet on North Korea (VOA, 01/03/2018)
Taiwan investigates man over illegal North Korean oil sales (*Washington Post*, 01/04/2018)
Taiwan releases man on bail in suspected North Korean oil transfer (*Reuters*, 01/04/2018)
Trump agrees to delay military exercise with South Korea until after Winter Olympics (*Washington Post*, 01/04/2018)
Trump hails potential Korea talks, credits his firm stance (*Reuters*, 01/04/2018)
Trump: Inter-Korean talks are 'good thing' (*Yonhap*, 01/04/2018)
Trump tells South Korean president that talks with North would be 'a good thing' (*Guardian*, 01/04/2018)
U.S. commander: Kim Jong Un's speech should be met with caution (UPI, 01/04/2018)
U.S. opposes South Korea funding for North Korea Olympians (UPI, 01/04/2018)
U.S. redesignates N. Korea as violator of religious freedom (*Yonhap*, 01/04/2018)
US Re-designates 10 Nations for Violations of Religious Freedom (VOA, 01/04/2018)
U.S. reluctant to comment on inter-Korean dialogue (*Yonhap*, 01/04/2018)
US, South Korea Delay Military Drills Until After Winter Olympics (VOA, 01/04/2018)
USFK chief warns against illusions about N. Korea's peace overture (*Yonhap*, 01/04/2018)
Washington convulses over Trump's 'button' (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/04/2018)
Xi Jinping tells army not to fear death in show of China's military might (*Guardian*, 01/03/2018)

In North Korea:

- In his 2018 New Year's Speech, KJU acknowledges the effects of the toughest ever sanctions against NK but refuses to yield. (Ruediger Frank, *38 North*)
- The gap between the rich and poor in NK is evident in all areas of life, like housing, jobs and medical care. And now, it is becoming more evident in a central aspect of Korean culture: making kimchi. (Seol Song Ah, *DailyNK*)
- NK accidentally misfired a test ballistic missile into one of its own cities in April last year, destroying an industrial complex. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)

In South Korea:

- SK's top diplomat said that the country will maintain close coordination with the US in seeking dialogue with NK, and reaffirmed that inter-Korean talks will not go separately from the allies' joint denuclearization efforts. (*Yonhap*)
- While Trump began the new year with an apocalyptic Twitter outburst, Moon, like an adult, has tried to resume direct engagement with NK. It provided at least some hope for a peaceful resolution to the NK nuclear issue. (NYT)

- The restoration of the cross-border communication channel at Panmunjeom is fueling optimism that the two Koreas may soon reopen their military hotlines as well. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- Moon will hold a press conference next week to personally lay out his administration's policy objectives for the new year. (*Yonhap*)
- Three out of four South Koreans are in favor of NK's participation in the upcoming Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon's approval rating rose to 72.1 percent amid high expectations for the resumption of dialogue between the two Koreas. (Jun Ji-hye, *Korea Times*)
- The SK government awarded Lt. Gen. Thomas S. Vandal, the outgoing commander of the U.S. Eighth Army, a medal of merit for his contribution to the alliance. (*Yonhap*)
- If the government insists on scrapping or renegotiating the comfort women deal, Seoul-Tokyo relations will get worse. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- Moon apologized to Korean women forced into sexual slavery by Japan's imperial army in WWII over what he called a flawed 2015 deal with Tokyo to settle long-running disputes over the issue. (Hyung-Jin Kim, AP)
- Moon has apologized to the victims of Japan's wartime sex enslavement over a controversial 2015 deal reached by Seoul and Tokyo to resolve the contentious historical issue. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- SK's Joint Chiefs of Staff says there is no sign of an imminent provocation from NK. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- SK's defense authorities said there has been no indication of an imminent missile test by NK, responding to U.S. news reports that NK appears to be preparing to fire another ICBM. (*Yonhap*)
- SK does not support the option of a so-called "freeze-for-freeze" that requires NK to stop its military weapons tests in return for the suspension of annual South Korean-U.S. joint military exercises. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- One day after the restoration of a military hotline between the two Koreas at Panmunjom, no conversation has been held on possible talks leading up to Winter Olympics. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- SK and NK closed contact via a reopened cross-border hotline without reaching an agreement as the North did not comment on Seoul's latest offer for high-level talks. (*Yonhap*)
- SK is ready to discuss issues over high-level talks with NK, including timing, place and agenda, a senior Ministry of Unification official said. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- While most South Koreans favor dialogue and peaceful accommodation with NK, many also fear that hastily engaging and granting the North economic concessions would throw a lifetime to KJU. (Choe Sang-hun, NYT)

International:

- Trump needs to accept that NK will not give up its nuclear weapons as long as the Kim regime is in power. (Robert S. Litwak, NYT)

- While the two Koreas were gingerly reopening a border hotline, Trump was gleefully taunting KJU. This captured the challenge facing the Trump administration as SK embarked on fragile new talks with NK. (Mark Landler, NYT)
- Five vessels that are being investigated by the UN for being involved in illegal oil trade with NK ships in international waters were found to be owned by Chinese businessmen. (Choi Ha-young, *Korea Times*)
- NK is still a long way from being able to wage war against the continental US. If war begins, it's not heartland Americans who will pay the price. It's South Koreans. (Christian Caryl, *Washington Post*)
- Lankov cautioned against reading too much into the overture as a possible breakthrough to the current nuclear standoff, as the North will not give up its missile and nuclear programs under any circumstances. (*Yonhap*)
- NK should shift course and drop its nuclear program and missile tests to become a wealthier nation, Shinzo Abe said Thursday. (AP)
- The security situation facing Japan is the most perilous since WWII because of NK's "unacceptable" provocations, Abe said on Thursday and he vowed to bolster defenses to protect the Japanese people. (*Reuters*)
- Questions about Trump's latest tweets about NK appear to be exposing some possible rifts between the White House and the U.S. intelligence community over how best to read KJU. (Jeff Seldin, VOA)
- Moon and Trump agreed to delay their regular joint military drills during the Winter Olympic Games. (Bahk Eun-ji, *Korea Times*)
- Moon and Trump agreed to delay their countries' regular joint military exercises during the Winter Olympic Games to be held here next month. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's top envoy on NK nuclear issues has talked to his American and Japanese counterparts to share the latest news about the security situation on the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump's National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster said the purpose of KJU's New Year address was to "try to drive a wedge" between Seoul and Washington. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Vice President Mike Pence defended Trump's fiery tweets at NK, saying the commander-in-chief's clear messaging helped increase pressure on the regime over its nuclear weapons program. (*Yonhap*)
- A Panama-flagged vessel suspected of illicitly transferring oil products to NK and seized by SK authorities last week was operated by a Chinese company with links to a blacklisted NK shipping company. (Yoo Jee-hye, Sarah Kim, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Trump's tweet warning KJU set off a series of sharp reactions on Capitol Hill as the Senate gaveled in for its first day of business in 2018. (Michael Bowman, VOA)
- Prosecutors in Taiwan said they're investigating a man suspected of involvement in illegal oil sales to NK. (Kelvin Chan, AP)
- A court in Taiwan has released on bail a man prosecutors allege to have made false declarations in the case of a Hong Kong-flagged tanker suspected of transferring oil to NK in violation of international sanctions. (*Reuters*)
- Trump and Moon have agreed to postpone the sprawling joint military exercise their nations hold each year until after the Winter Olympics. (Dan Lamothe and Simon Denyer, *Washington Post*)
- Trump called potential talks between NK and SK "a good thing" and the SK presidency said he had agreed there would be no military drills with SK during next month's Winter Olympics. (David Brunnstrom, Christine Kim, *Reuters*)

- Trump said that resumed dialogue between SK and NK was a "good thing" and took credit for making it happen. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump told Moon in a telephone call that he hoped inter-Korean talks would lead to good results and that he would send a high-level delegation, including members of his family, to the Winter Olympics. (*Reuters*)
- The top U.S. military commander in SK said KJU may have an ulterior motive in offering talks and reconciliation in his New Year's speech. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- US is opposed to any move by the SK government to extend financial support to the NK national team during the Winter Olympics. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- US has redesignated NK as a violator of religious freedom for the 17th consecutive year, the State Department said. (*Yonhap*)
- US re-designated 10 countries, including Myanmar, China, Iran and NK, as "countries of particular concern" for having engaged in or tolerated violations of religious freedom. (VOA)
- US State Department has made no particular comments on the latest reopening of a hotline between the two Koreas, just saying inter-Korean dialogue and NK's nuclear program cannot be handled separately. (*Yonhap*)
- US and SK have decided to delay joint military exercises until after the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics next month. (Carla Babb, VOA)
- The commanding general of U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) stressed the importance of combat readiness and unity among regional powers to cope with NK's recent peace offensive. (*Yonhap*)
- White House downplayed concerns about Trump's tweets and said the "people of this country should be concerned about the mental fitness of the leader of NK." (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Xi tells armed forces to be 'capable of combat and sure to win' in move designed to bolster his political standing. (Tom Phillips, *Guardian*)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

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Friday, January 5, 2018

North Korea accepts offer from South to meet for peace talks; China tightens North Korea trade limits under UN sanctions; No. of defections by North Koreans falls 21 pct in 2017

In North Korea:

Kim Jong Un follows history of empty promises in annual New Year's address (*Daily*NK, 01/05/2018)
North Korea: Has diplomacy already peaked for the year? (BBC, 01/05/2018)
North Korea Likely Preparing for New Rocket Engine Test at Sohae (38 *North*, 01/04/2018)
North Korea opens new ski resort amid Olympic optimism (BBC, 01/05/2018)
North Korea Stokes Anti-China Sentiment in Response to Tougher Sanctions (RFA, 01/04/2018)
Uber in North Korea? On-demand taxi services on the rise (*Daily*NK, 01/05/2018)

In South Korea:
Moon, Trump agree to delay joint military drills during PyeongChang Olympics (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/05/2018)
Moon, Trump agree to delay joint military drills during PyeongChang Olympics (*Yonhap*, 01/05/2018)
No. of defections by North Koreans falls 21 pct in 2017: data (*Yonhap*, 01/05/2018)
Nuke envoys of S. Korea, Japan to meet ahead of inter-Korean talks (*Yonhap*, 01/05/2018)
PyeongChang Olympics the key agenda for inter-Korean dialogue: Cheong Wa Dae (*Yonhap*, 01/05/2018)
S. Korea hopes inter-Korean talks will pave the way for better ties: minister (*Yonhap*, 01/05/2018)
S. Korea, U.S. affirm strong alliance amid inter-Korean dialogue mood (*Yonhap*, 01/05/2018)
S. Korea, U.S. to start joint military exercise in late April: source (*Yonhap*, 01/05/2018)
Trump, South Korea's Moon agree to no military drills during Olympics (CNN, 01/04/2018)
Washington, Seoul agree to delay joint exercises (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/05/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
A two-way street (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/05/2018)
Cautious optimism grows over inter-Korean ties, nuclear deadlock (*Yonhap*, 01/05/2018)
Is it a trap to talk? (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/05/2018)
Koreas agree to hold high-level talks next week (*Yonhap*, 01/05/2018)
Koreas communicating via hotline for talks over Winter Olympics (*Yonhap*, 01/05/2018)
Korea talks set for next week, with low expectations and lots of wariness (*Washington Post*, 01/05/2018)
Koreas to hold high-level talks Tuesday (*Korea Times*, 01/05/2018)
North Korea accepts Olympics talks offer, says South (BBC, 01/05/2018)
North Korea accepts offer to hold high-level talks next week (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/05/2018)
North Korea accepts offer from South to meet for peace talks (CNN, 01/04/2018)
North Korea accepts offer from South to meet for talks ahead of the Winter Olympics (*Telegraph*, 01/05/2018)
North Korea agrees to talks after U.S., South Korea postpone military drills (*Reuters*, 01/05/2018)
North Korea agrees to talks with South at Panmunjom (*UPI*, 01/05/2018)
North and South Korea Agree to Border Talks Next Week (NYT, 01/05/2018)
North Korea's offer: Is this a trap? (*Korea Times*, 01/05/2018)
Pyongyang will attend talks on Tuesday (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/05/2018)
Time to be careful (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/05/2018)

International:
Chinese delegate calls deferred U.S.-South Korea drills a 'freeze-for-freeze' (*UPI*, 01/05/2018)
China promises to 'deal seriously' with sanctions violators (*Washington Post*, 01/05/2018)
China tightens North Korea trade limits on oil, steel products (*Yonhap*, 01/05/2018)
China tightens North Korea trade limits under UN sanctions (*Washington Post*, 01/05/2018)
Is Donald Trump's North Korea strategy working? (CNN, 01/05/2018)
Is Trump making himself irrelevant on North Korea? (*Washington Post*, 01/04/2018)
Let the Games begin? Why Kim Jong Un might be interested (*Washington Post*, 01/05/2018)
Support for NK's Olympic delegation may breach world sanctions (*Korea Times*, 01/05/2018)
The CDC wants to gently prepare people for (an unlikely) nuclear war (CNN, 01/05/2018)
U.S-Korea trade talks pit pickup trucks against nuclear threat (*Reuters*, 01/05/2018)

U.S. redesignates N. Korea as violator of religious freedom (*Yonhap*, 01/05/2018)
U.S. says inter-Korean talks would be limited to Olympics (*Yonhap*, 01/05/2018)
U.S. to Start Korean Trade Talks Amid Rising Tensions (NYT, 01/05/2018)

In North Korea:

- NK residents are not easily moved by New Year's overtures to 'improving the lives of the people,' seeing the yearly address as proof of the 'history of lies' of the Kim family. (Seol Song Ah, *DailyNK*)
- The first inter-Korean talks since 2015 are due to take place next week, but the optimism surrounding them could be fleeting (Ankit Panda, BBC)
- Media reports suggest that NK is undertaking preparations to launch its new Kwangmyongsong-5 Earth-observation satellite in the near future, possibly from a mobile transporter-erector-launcher (TEL). (*38 North*)
- NK says it has completed construction of a winter sports resort amid proposed talks to secure the country's attendance at the Winter Olympics in neighbouring SK. (BBC)
- NK authorities are stirring up anti-China sentiment among ordinary citizens through conferences and lecture sessions as the closed, authoritarian country's economy bears the brunt of tough new economic sanctions supported by its longtime ally. (RFA)
- On-demand taxi services have recently been gaining popularity in major NK cities. The price to summon a taxi by phone is reportedly higher than the base fare for hailing a taxi, but many are happy to pay for the added convenience. (Seol Song Ah, *DailyNK*)

In South Korea:

- Moon and Trump agreed Thursday to delay annual bilateral joint military exercises to ensure the safety and success of the Winter Olympics, which kick off next month. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Moon and Trump agreed Thursday to delay their countries' regular joint military exercises during the Winter Olympic Games to be held here next month. (Byun Duk-kun, *Yonhap*)
- The number of North Koreans defecting to SK declined 21 percent in 2017 from the previous year. The drop comes as NK has been strengthening border control. (*Yonhap*)
- The top nuclear envoys of SK and Japan will meet to discuss NK's nuclear issue ahead of the upcoming inter-Korean talks on NK's possible participation in the Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- SK and NK may discuss ways to improve ties but only after they first settle the issue of the North's participation in the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's unification minister expressed hope that next week's high-level talks with NK could pave the way for an improvement in long-stalled inter-Korean ties. (*Yonhap*)
- The defense chiefs of SK and US agreed Friday to continue close cooperation for a nuclear-free peninsula in the face of NK's recent peace gesture. (*Yonhap*)
- SK and US defense authorities have already set a schedule for this year's Key Resolve combined exercise. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump and Moon have agreed not to hold joint military drills during the Winter Olympic Games in February. (Stella Ko, Angela Dewan, Barbara Starr, CNN)
- Moon and Trump agreed to delay annual bilateral joint military exercises to ensure the safety and success of the Winter Olympics, which kick off next month. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Ilbo*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The first high-level inter-Korean meeting in two years must be used to create a momentum for solving the NK nuclear problem. The two sides must restore mutual trust first. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- The two Koreas' agreement to hold high-level talks, coupled with US-ROK delaying their joint military exercises, raised hopes for reduced tensions and possible progress in efforts to resolve the NK nuclear standoff. (*Yonhap*)
- Before moving to wider economic concessions, however, Moon needs to think about what it seeks in return. Unrequited support for the regime would not only violate the multilateral sanctions regime, but send the wrong signal. (Stephan Haggard, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- SK and NK agreed Friday to hold high-level talks next week to discuss Pyongyang's potential participation in Winter Olympics and ways to improve ties. (*Yonhap*)
- SK and NK began the third day of their contact via the recently reopened border hotline as they are seeking to hold talks to discuss the North's potential participation in Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- NK and SK are due to hold their first official talks in more than two years, as both sides dial down tensions ahead of next month's Winter Olympics, but experts warned not to expect too much from the fragile process. (Simon Denyer, *Washington Post*)
- NK accepted SK's offer to hold high-level talks to discuss the North's participation in the Winter Olympics and ways of improving inter-Korean relations. (Jun Ji-hye, *Korea Times*)
- NK has accepted an offer to attend high-level talks next week. (BBC)
- NK has accepted SK's proposal to hold a high-level meeting next Tuesday near the border to discuss its participation in the Winter Olympics and other issues "related to the improvement" of South-North relations (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- NK has accepted SK's proposal for official talks, in what will be the first high-level contact to take place between the two countries in more than two years. (Euan McKirdy, Taehoon Lee, CNN)
- NK and SK agreed on Friday to hold border talks next week amid signs of the first major thaw in relations between the two nations in two years. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- NK agreed to hold official talks with SK, the first in more than two years, hours after US and SK delayed a military exercise amid a standoff over the North's nuclear and missile programs. (Christine Kim, *Reuters*)
- NK accepted a SK offer of talks, to be held on Tuesday, a month before the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- Moon said that he would take a tougher line with NK than his progressive predecessors, vowing to strengthen the military even as the two Koreas agreed to start high-level talks next week. (Choe Sang-hun, NYT)
- Moon will have to ensure NK will respond in concrete ways to both SK needs and joint ROK-U.S. needs. This will be complex, but is exactly what two Koreas should have been doing for the past decade. (Stephen Costello, *Korea Times*)
- NK has accepted SK's proposal to hold a high-level meeting next Tuesday near the border to discuss its participation in Winter Olympics and other issues "related to the improvement" of South-North relations (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Ilbo*)

- Moon must be extra careful in responding to Kim's latest peace offensive. The proposal for inter-Korean talks to dispatch a NK delegation to the Olympic Games is too tempting to refuse. (Bae Myung-bok, *Joongang Ilbo*)

International:

- Chinese government officials are welcoming news of the postponement of U.S.-ROK military exercises following a phone call between Trump and Moon. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- China's government promised to "deal seriously" with violators of U.N. sanctions on NK after a SK newspaper said Chinese-owned ships registered abroad regularly delivered oil. (AP)
- China's commerce ministry and customs authorities said they've tightened trade restrictions with NK, banning outbound shipments of steel goods and limiting the export of oil products. (*Yonhap*)
- China on Friday tightened limits on critically important energy supplies to NK and stepped up other trade restrictions under intensified U.N. nuclear sanctions. (Joe McDonald, AP)
- To the extent that NK anxieties are due to US-inspired sanctions, Trump has a point. But Trump's unpredictability may also have contributed to Pyongyang's decision. (John Everard, CNN)
- As Trump's first year in office draws to a close, the president is starting to look like a bystander in the situation on the Korean Peninsula. (Adam Taylor, *Washington Post*)
- Why, after a year marked by the test of his country's most powerful nuclear bomb to date and a record number of missile launches, is KJU starting off 2018 by proposing talks across the DMZ? (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- SK's pledge to support a NK delegation likely to participate in the Winter Olympics has drawn controversy over its possible breach of international sanctions against the nuclear-armed country. (Choi Ha-young, *Korea Times*)
- It is absolutely impossible to mention nuclear war without freaking people out, but the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is trying to gently prepare for the possibility. (AJ Willingham, CNN)
- Talks starting Friday to amend a U.S.-ROK trade deal must balance Trump's domestic agenda against the need to contain a nuclear armed NK and will have to be completed swiftly. (Lesley Wroughton, Hyunjoo Jin, *Reuters*)
- US has redesignated NK as a violator of religious freedom for the 17th consecutive year. (*Yonhap*)
- US understands that possible talks between SK and NK would be limited to discussing the upcoming Winter Olympics, not the nuclear weapons program of the communist regime. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump and SK officials will meet on Friday to begin formally renegotiating a free-trade pact that has served as a source of conflict between the two allies. (Ana Swanson, NYT)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

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Saturday, January 6, 2018

Two Koreas to continue discussions on details ahead of next week's high-level talks; Trump hopes inter-Korean talks go beyond Olympics

In North Korea:
Analysts: North Korea had been preparing rocket engine test (*UPI*, 01/05/18)
Kim Jong Un follows history of empty promises in annual New Year's address (*Daily NK*, 01/05/18)
N.K. scholar dismisses impact of U.N. sanctions, claims sustained economic growth (*Yonhap*, 01/05/18)
North Korea agrees to talks with South Korea: Video (CNN, 01/05/18)
North Korea official says likely to participate in Winter Olympics: Kyodo (*Reuters*, 01/06/18)
North Korea opens new ski resort amid Olympic optimism (BBC, 01/05/18)
North Korea: Has diplomacy already peaked for the year? (BBC, 01/05/18)
Reports: North Korea says likely to join Olympics in South (AP, 01/06/18)
Uber in North Korea? On-demand taxi services on the rise (*Daily NK*, 01/05/18)
What to Read About North Korea (NYT, 01/05/18)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(5th LD) Two Koreas to continue discussions on details ahead of next week's high-level talks (*Yonhap*, 01/06/18)
Koreas Will Meet for Talks Next Week in Small Breakthrough (AP, 01/05/18)
N. Korea accepts offer to talks with S. Korea: Video (CNN, 01/06/18)
N. Korea likely to join in PyeongChang Olympics: Kyodo (*Yonhap*, 01/05/18)
North Korea 'likely' to attend Olympics in South, says official (BBC, 01/06/18)
North Korea 'likely' to join Winter Olympics, says regime official (AFP, 01/06/18)
North Korea Agrees To Talks With South (BBC, 01/05/18)

International:
(LEAD) Diplomatic efforts on N. Korea backed by military option: Tillerson (*Yonhap*, 01/05/18)
'Strong' military action against North Korea remains an option, Tillerson says (CNN, 01/05/18)
Asia Society Panel on the Alliance and North Korea (*PIIE*, 01/06/18)
N. Korean restaurants in China face closure soon (*Yonhap*, 01/06/18)
North Korea's trade with Mongolia at record high in 2017 (*Yonhap*, 01/05/18)
The Significance of Small Gestures: The Decision on Military Exercises (*PIIE*, 01/05/18)
Transcript: CNN's exclusive interview with Rex Tillerson (CNN, 01/05/18)
Trump hopes inter-Korean talks go beyond Olympics (*Yonhap*, 01/06/18)
Trump on Korea Talks: 'I Hope It Works Out' (VOA, 01/06/18)
Trump Says He'd Be Open to Talking With North Korean Leader (AP, 01/06/18)
Trump says he's open to talks with North Korea, hopes rogue nation participates in Winter Olympics (*Washington Post*, 01/06/18)
Trump says he would talk with Kim Jong Un: Video (CNN, 01/06/18)
Trump takes credit for Olympics talks between North and South Korea (*Guardian*, 01/06/18)

Trump's tweets rattle the globe, but aides say North Korea policy is carefully calibrated (*Washington Post*, 01/05/18)
U.S.-Korea trade talks pit pickup trucks against nuclear threat (*Reuters*, 01/06/18)
VOA Interview With Senator Ben Cardin - Full Transcript (VOA, 01/05/18)

In North Korea:

- NK is more likely to have been preparing the test of a rocket engine at its Sohae satellite launching facility than a new Earth-observation satellite. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- During his 2018 New Year's address, KJU mentioned plans to 'bring improvements to the lives of the people' this year. Similar to last year's address, he mentioned the goal in the context of building up the country's industries – a point made repeatedly since the beginning of his rise to power 6 years ago. (Seol Song Ah, *Daily NK*)
- A Pyongyang scholar has insisted that the N. Korean economy remains on the path to sustained growth despite toughened international sanctions. (*Yonhap*)
- NK has accepted SK's proposal for official talks in what will be the first high-level contact between the two countries in more than two years. (CNN)
- NK's representative at the IOC said the country expects to send a figure skating pair to compete at the Pyeongchang Winter Olympic Games in SK next month. (*Reuters*)
- NK says it has completed construction of a winter sports resort amid proposed talks to secure the country's attendance at the Winter Olympics in neighbouring SK. (BBC)
- The first inter-Korean talks since 2015 are due to take place next week, but the optimism surrounding them could be fleeting. (BBC)
- NK's IOC representative said his country is likely to compete in figure skating in next month's Winter Olympics in SK. (AP)
- On-demand taxi services have recently been gaining popularity in major North Korean cities. (Seol Song Ah, *Daily NK*)
- In The New York Times Book Review, Nicholas Kristof writes about the best fiction and nonfiction to read for glimpses into the secretive world of NK. (NYT)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Sk and Nk will continue their discussions for a second day on Sunday to arrange the details of high-level talks next week over the North's potential participation in the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- The rival Koreas will sit down for their first formal talks in more than two years next week to find ways to cooperate on the Winter Olympics in the South and to improve their abysmal ties. (AP)
- NK has accepted SK's proposal for official talks, in what will be the first high-level contact to take place between the two countries in more than two years. (CNN)
- Nk is likely to join in the upcoming PyeongChang Winter Olympics to be held in SK. (*Yonhap*)
- A N. Korean Olympic official has said that his country is "likely to participate" in next month's Winter Olympic Games. (BBC)
- NK's Olympic representative has reportedly said the reclusive nation is "likely to participate" in next month's Winter Games in SK. (AFP)

- NK accepts SK's invitation to the first high level talks between the two nations in more than two years. (BBC)

International:

- US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Friday that military action remains an option should diplomatic efforts fail to end NK's nuclear weapons program. (*Yonhap*)
- In mid-December I participated on a panel at the Asia Society in San Francisco on the theme of "Trump, Moon and the 'Ironclad' Alliance: Responding to North Korea's Nuclear Ambitions." (Stephan Haggard, PIIE)
- Tough military action against NK remains an option if diplomatic efforts fail to end its pursuit of nuclear weapons. (Nicole Gaouette, Elise Labott, CNN)
- A large number of N. Korean restaurants operating in China are expected to close soon, as the Jan. 9 deadline imposed by Beijing in accordance with the Un sanctions nears. (*Yonhap*)
- Trade between NK and Mongolia reached a record high last year due to a surge in the North's tobacco imports. (*Yonhap*)
- The chance that the Trump administration would unilaterally cancel exercises altogether remains close to zero, and certainly in the absence of some sign of willingness on the part of NK to discuss the nuclear issue. (Stephan Haggard, PIIE)
- There was big news last night about the North and South arranging talks for next week. (CNN)
- US President Trump said that he hopes South and North Korea discuss more than just the Olympics when they meet for rare high-level talks next week. (*Yonhap*)
- US President Trump says he hopes the newly arranged talks between North and SK will go "beyond the Olympics" and promised the US will take part "at the appropriate time." (VOA)
- President Trump says he's open to talking with the N. Korean leader he's called "Rocket Man" and is hoping some good can come from upcoming talks between the Koreas. (AP)
- President Trump said he remains open to direct talks with NK's regime over its nuclear program and added that he hopes the rogue Asian nation participates in the Winter Olympics to be held in SK next month. (David Nakamura, *Washington Post*)
- During a media briefing at Camp David, President Trump said he would be willing to talk to NK's leader KJU, but not without preconditions. (CNN)
- Donald Trump said he was open to talking to KJU and hoped good could come from negotiations between NK and SK over this year's Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang. (*Guardian*)
- President Trump's taunting tweet this week raising the specter of nuclear war with NK sparked fresh concerns in the Pentagon, about whether a carefully calibrated strategy to compel the rogue state into negotiations can survive the impulses of both countries' leaders. (Philip Rucker, Greg Jaffe, *Washington Post*)
- The Korea trade talks will have to strike a balance between Trump's domestic agenda and the need to contain a nuclear-armed NK. (Lesley Wroughton, Hyunjoo Jin, *Reuters*)
- Senator Ben Cardin, (D-MD), the highest ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee spoke to VOA contributor Greta Van Susteren about Iran and NK. (VOA)

Prepared by Huiwon Yun, HRNK Legal Research Intern

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Sunday, January 7, 2018

Trump says he would 'absolutely' talk to North Korea's Kim on phone; N.K. picks top point man on inter-Korean ties as chief delegate to Tuesday's talks; UN envoy says no change in US position on North Korea talks

In North Korea:
N. Korean media urges stronger inter-Korean cooperation ahead of bilateral talks (*Yonhap*, 01/06/18)
North Korea 'likely' to attend Olympics in South, says official (*BBC*, 01/06/18)
North Korea calls for inter-Korea cooperation ahead of talks (*Korea Times*, 01/07/18)
Official says North Korea likely to join PyeongChang (*Korea Times*, 01/07/18)
What's behind Kim Jong-un's peace overture? (*Korea Times*, 01/07/18)

In South Korea:
Lessons from Roh's U.S. policy (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/07/18)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) N.K. picks top point man on inter-Korean ties as chief delegate to Tuesday's talks (*Yonhap*, 01/06/18)
'Principled approach' needed in inter-Korean talks (*Korea Times*, 01/07/18)
A 'super week' lies ahead (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/07/18)
Both sides agree on dialogue delegations (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/07/18)
I have no answers. Do you? (*Korea Times*, 01/07/18)
Ministry with 'intractable' task of reuniting North and South Korea (CNN, 01/06/18)
North Korea's point-man to lead inter-Korean talks (*Korea Times*, 01/07/18)
South and North Korea's unification chiefs to lead inter-Korean talks (UPI, 01/07/18)

International:
How U.S. Intelligence Agencies Underestimated North Korea (NYT, 01/06/18)
Jimmy Carter's role for peace (*Korea Times*, 01/07/18)
Nikki Haley: Trump aimed to 'keep Kim on his toes' with 'nuclear button' tweet (*Guardian*, 01/07/18)
Nuclear envoys of China, Japan visit Seoul (*Korea Times*, 01/07/18)
Trump is about to put his mark on the US nuclear arsenal (CNN, 01/07/18)
Trump on North Korea: 'I always believe in talking' (CNN, 01/06/18)
Trump says he'd be open to talking with North Korean leader (AP, 01/06/18)
Trump says he would 'absolutely' talk to North Korea's Kim on phone (*Reuters*, 01/07/18)
Trump Tweet on Nuclear Button Keeps Kim Jong Un 'on His Toes': Haley (*Reuters*, 01/07/18)
Trump willing to talk with Kim if conditions are set (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/07/18)

Trump's Twitter Threats Put American Credibility on the Line (NYT, 01/07/18)
Trump: 'Great Thing for the World' if Korean Talks Make Progress (VOA, 01/06/18)
UN envoy says no change in US position on North Korea talks (AP, 01/07/18)
US adds platform for stealth jets to Pacific (CNN, 01/06/18)
US Ambassador Haley: N. Korea's Nuclear Threat Remains 'Very Dangerous' (VOA, 01/07/18)

In North Korea:

- North Korea's state media on Sunday called for inter-Korean cooperation as the two Koreas are set to hold their first formal talks in more than two years early this week. (*Yonhap*)
- A North Korean Olympic official has said that his country is "likely to participate" in next month's Winter Olympic Games. (BBC)
- NK's state media called for inter-Korean cooperation Sunday ahead of bilateral high-level talks this week. (Rachel Lee ,*Korea Times*)
- NK's representative to the IOC has reportedly said his country expects to take part in the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (Baek Byung-yeul, *Korea Times*)
- "Ahead of the proposed inter-Korean dialogue, the mood is upbeat. " (Kim Jae-kyoung, *Korea Times*)

In South Korea:

- Shocked by the briefing, Roh gave up his anti-American sentiment and turned toward pro. (Kang Chan-ho, *Joongang Ilbo*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- NK notified the South that it will send a five-member delegation led by Ri Son-gwon, point man on inter-Korean affairs, to high-level talks to be held this week. (*Yonhap*)
- Kim's overture does not mean he is changing his strategy, experts say. (Kim Jae-kyoung, *Korea Times*)
- NK has presented us the names of the members of its delegation for an inter-Korean meeting to discuss its participation in the upcoming PyeongChang Winter Olympics and other urgent issues. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- North-South relations leaders will focus on upcoming Olympics (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- I have been told many times that Koreans outside of Korea worry more about the dangers of war than Koreans in Korea. (Chang Se-moon, *Korea Times*)
- On Tuesday, in a building along the border between North and South Korea, negotiators will sit down face to face for the first time in more than two years. (James Griffiths, CNN)
- NK's Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Korea (CPRK) Chairman Ri Sun-gwon will spearhead its five-member delegation for high-level talks with Seoul. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- South and North Korea's top unification officials will lead the high-level meeting Tuesday aimed at arranging the North's participation in the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics. (Jennie Oh, UPI)

International:

- At the start of Trump's presidency, American intelligence agencies told the new administration that while NK had built the bomb, there was still ample time to slow or stop its development of a missile capable of hitting an American city with a nuclear warhead. (David E. Sanger, William J. Broad, NYT)
- The UN recently placed new sanctions on NK, the US independently sanctioned two N.Korean officials, and Pyongyang called the UN sanctions an "act of war". (Chi Wang, *Korea Times*)
- Trump's tweet taunting N. Korean leader KJU over the size of his "nuclear button" was meant to "keep Kim on his toes", the US ambassador to the UN said on Sunday. (Martin Pengelly, *Guardian*)
- The top nuclear envoys of China and Japan have been visiting SK since last week, ahead of the scheduled high-level talks between Seoul and Pyongyang. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- The first comprehensive review of US nuclear forces is shaping up as President Trump's signature nuclear weapons initiative in the face of a growing N. Korean nuclear threat. (Barbara Starr, CNN)
- President Trump told reporters Saturday at Camp David that he's open to talking with N. Korean leader KJU. (Daniella Diaz, CNN)
- President Trump, shelving comparisons about the size of a "nuclear button," said he is open to talking with the N. Korean leader he's called "Little Rocket Man" and hopes some progress results from upcoming talks between the Koreas. (Jill Colvin, AP)
- US President Trump said he would "absolutely" be willing to talk on the phone to N. Korean leader KJU and that he hopes a positive development results from talks between NK and SK. (James Oliphant, *Reuters*)
- US President Trump's tweet about having a bigger nuclear button than N. Korean leader KJU's has kept Kim "on his toes" and makes clear the risks of a nuclear standoff. (*Reuters*)
- US president takes credit for bringing Pyongyang to the table (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Since the first of the year, President Trump has attacked a variety of countries in Twitter posts, urging protesters to overthrow the Iranian government, threatening to blow up NK (Steven Erlanger, NYT)
- US President Trump says he hopes the newly arranged talks between North and South Korea will go "beyond the Olympics" and promised the US will take part "at the appropriate time." (VOA)
- President Trump's UN ambassador says the administration hasn't changed its conditions regarding talks with NK amid growing tensions over the North's nuclear and missile programs. (AP)
- The fifth-generation fighter jets are seen as a major advantage for the US in any contingencies involving NK as they are undetectable by Pyongyang's radars. (Brad Lendon, CNN)
- The US ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley, says it is "good for the US" that North and South Korea are set to engage in high-level talks, but warned Pyongyang's nuclear weapons ambitions still pose a serious threat to the world. (Ken Bredemeier, VOA)

Prepared by Huiwon Yun, HRNK Legal Research Intern

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Monday, January 8, 2018

S. Korea seeks to discuss divided families, easing tensions at inter-Korean talks; Six North Koreans found at sea seek repatriation

In North Korea:
Call for safety regulations after fatal tractor crash (*DailyNK*, 01/08/2018)
Cryptocurrency may be getting quietly channeled to North Korea university: report (*Reuters*, 01/08/2018)
It's Kim Jong-un's 34th birthday - but North Koreans are not celebrating (*Telegraph*, 01/08/2018)
N. Korea marks Kim Jong-un's birthday low key (*Korea Times*, 01/08/2018)
N. Korea opens new ski resort (*Yonhap*. 01/08/2018)
North Korea slams U.S. despite Trump's appeasing words (*Yonhap*, 01/08/2018)
North Korean leader Kim Jong-un 'has kidney problem' (*Korea Times*, 01/08/2018)
Pyongyang suggested Olympic talks in Dec. (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/08/2018)
Who is Kim Jong Un? Separating myth from fact (CNN, 01/07/2018)

In South Korea:
Coast Guard rescues N. Korean in East Sea (*Yonhap*, 01/08/2018)
First steps (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/08/2018)
Nuke envoys of S. Korea, Japan vow cooperation for peaceful resolution of N.K. issue (*Yonhap*, 01/08/2018)
Over half of S. Koreans agree on supporting N.K. Olympic group's travel expenses (*Yonhap*, 01/08/2018)
Remember what's at stake (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/08/2018)
Seoul could halt sanctions to let North join Games (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/08/2018)
Seoul will ask Tokyo to revisit 2015 deal (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/08/2018)
S. Korea hopes to drive peace momentum beyond PyeongChang: FM (*Yonhap*, 01/08/2018)
South Korea moves to expand remit of planned talks with North (*Telegraph*, 01/08/2018)
South Korea sees speedy trade talks with U.S., but 'uphill battle' ahead (*Reuters*, 01/08/2018)
S. Korea seeks to discuss divided families, easing tensions at inter-Korean talks (*Yonhap*, 01/08/2018)
S. Korean spy agency to regularly brief security ministries on N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 01/08/2018)
'We may see progress in dialogue with Pyongyang' (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/08/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Inter-Korea talks will focus on Olympics (*Korea Times*, 01/08/2018)
North and South Korea to Talk About Olympic Cooperation (VOA, 01/08/2018)
Seoul and Pyongyang set the time for first inter-Korean talks in 25 months (UPI. 01/08/2018)
Six North Koreans found at sea seek repatriation (UPI, 01/08/2018)

International:
A new Korean war would kill more U.S. military personnel than you might think (*Washington Post*, 01/08/2018)

AP Explains: What to expect from North-South Korean talks (*Washington Post*, 01/08/2018)
Can these two North Korean ice skaters help bring about a diplomatic thaw? (*Washington Post*, 01/08/2018)
Experts: N. Korea could be using inter-Korean talks to reach Washington (UPI, 01/08/2018)
IOC extends deadline for North Koreans to register for Olympics (CNN, 01/08/2018)
Newt Gingrich: Differing approaches to North Korea are working (UPI. 01/08/2018)
Nikki Haley on Trump's 'nuclear button' tweet: He must 'keep Kim on his toes' (CNN, 01/08/2018)
North Korea crisis in 300 words (BBC, 01/08/2018)
Olympics: IOC extends North Korea deadline for Pyeongchang Games (*Reuters*, 01/08/2018)
Olympics keeps 'door open' for NKorea at Pyeongchang Games (*Washington Post*, 01/08/2018)
Pope, in 'state of world' speech, urges dialogue in Korea, nuclear ban (*Reuters*, 01/08/2018)
Pope urges efforts to rebuild trust in North Korea, Syria (*Washington Post*, 01/08/2018)
Pope Urges Efforts to Rebuild Trust in North Korea, Syria (VOA, 01/08/2018)
U.S. wants diplomatic solution to N.K. nuclear crisis: CIA chief (*Yonhap*, 01/08/2018)
Trump has to keep N.K. leader on his toes: U.S. envoy (*Yonhap*, 01/08/2018)
Winter Olympics 2018: 'A tension reducer' for North and South Korea (CNN, 01/08/2018)

In North Korea:

- A tractor being delivered as a gift from KJU was recently involved in a deadly accident in Ryanggang Province, resulting in the deaths of the driver and all passengers. (Kang Mi Jin, *DailyNK*)
- A cybersecurity company said it has found software that appears to install code for mining cryptocurrency and sends any mined coins to a server at a NK university, the latest sign that NK may be searching for new ways to infuse its economy with cash. (Joyce Lee, *Reuters*)
- KJU is believed to be marking his 34th birthday on Monday, but without the expected fanfare of a leader known for his cult of personality and audacious public celebrations of missile launches. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- NK passed the birthday of its leader KJU without holding any major events or military provocations (Jun Ji-hye, *Korea Times*)
- NK has completed construction of a new ski resort in its northern region. (*Yonhap*)
- NK on Monday continued its harsh rhetoric aimed at the US, despite Trump's recent conciliatory remarks that alluded to dialogue with the North. (*Yonhap*)
- KJU appears to have a kidney disease. Kim's voice during his New Year speech indicated his kidneys were not functioning as well as his other organs. Kidney disorders often cause body parts to swell. (Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)
- Pyongyang initially told Seoul last month that it was interested in participating in the Winter Olympics, and the SK government was preparing for NK's official announcement on the matter. (Jeong Yong-soo, Kang Tae-hwa, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- The legacy KJU carries is beset with the expectation that he will finally achieve what both his father and grandfather had long pursued but never attained: transforming NK into a legitimate nuclear power. (Jamie Tarabay, CNN)

In South Korea:

- SK's coast guard rescued a NK boat carrying one crewman in the East Sea earlier in the day. (*Yonhap*)

- The Moon administration must find out why NK used its Olympics card from the start. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- The top nuclear envoys of SK and Japan agreed to step up cooperation on efforts to turn the emerging "peace momentum" on the Korean Peninsula into a peaceful resolution of NK's nuclear stalemate. (*Yonhap*)
- More than half of South Koreans approve of helping cover the expenses that NK's athletes and cheering squad would incur if they join the upcoming Winter Olympics in SK. (*Yonhap*)
- Seoul would lose face and credibility from Washington if the upcoming talks stop at arranging NK participation at PyeongChang. It must somehow develop the momentum to set the grounds for denuclearization talks. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- SK is considering a temporary suspension of its unilateral sanctions against NK during the Winter Olympics after local authorities unearthed a web of restrictions that would prevent a NK team from participating in the Games. (Jeong Yong-Soo, Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs plans to announce measures to follow up on a task force's review of the controversial agreement between Seoul and Tokyo in 2015 to resolve the issue of comfort women. (Ser Myo-ja, Sarah Kim, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- SK's foreign minister expressed hopes that the North's expected participation in the Winter Olympics will catalyze inter-Korean reconciliation and the resolution of the nuclear standoff. (*Yonhap*)
- SK wants the reunification of families divided since the end of the Korean War to be on the agenda when its diplomats meet their NK counterparts at Panmunjom on Tuesday morning. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- SK's trade ministry said on Monday it anticipates an "uphill battle" to revise its bilateral trade deal with the US, but it expects Washington to proceed with the talks in a speedy manner. (Hyunjoo Jin, *Reuters*)
- SK will seek to discuss ways to ease military tensions and reunite divided families during this week's high-level talks with NK. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's spy agency said Monday it will share intelligence on NK with security-related ministries through regular briefings. (*Yonhap*)
- JoongAng Ilbo sat down with Lee Jong-seok, former unification minister and one of SK's leading experts on NK to hear his thoughts on the future of North-South relations. (Cha Se-hyeon, *Joongang Ilbo*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The two Koreas will focus on NK's participation in the Winter Olympics and resuming stalled exchanges during the inter-Korea talks slated for today. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- NK and SK will hold high-level talks on Tuesday primarily to discuss the North's participation in the upcoming winter Olympics, but also to look for ways to reduce heightened tensions over NK's growing nuclear threat. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- Seoul and Pyongyang officials will meet at 10 a.m. on Tuesday for the first inter-Korean dialogue to be held in 25 months. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- Six North Koreans found at sea are seeking repatriation after being discovered by SK authorities. The finding comes only a day after a NK boat containing bodies was found in SK waters. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

International:

- A Korean war would put the tens of thousands of U.S. military personnel stationed in SK in harm's way, with much higher human costs — and many more fatalities — than the US has seen in its recent military conflicts. (Tanisha M. Fazal, *Washington Post*)
- Tuesday's planned talks between the Koreas, the first in about two years, have raised hopes of at least a temporary easing of tensions over NK's recent nuclear and missile tests. What are there to expect from the talks? (Hyung-Jin Kim, AP)
- Ryom Tae Ok and Kim Ju Sik, the North Korean figure skating duo will be at the center of inter-Korean talks set to take place Tuesday, but they won't even be inside "Peace House" on the southern side of the border between the two countries. (*Anna Fifield*, *Washington Post*)
- NK's overture for improving inter-Korean relations may be a tactic to increase its leverage in potential negotiations with Washington. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced that it had extended the deadline to register NK athletes to participate in the Winter Olympics. (Lauren Said-Moorhouse and Sean Coppack, CNN)
- Former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich says Trump's NK policy is working and differing approaches to Pyongyang, in Seoul and Washington, are well matched. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- US ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley says Trump's tweet warning KJU about US nuclear capabilities helps global security because it keeps Kim "on his toes." (Eli Watkins, CNN)
- The NK stand-off is a crisis that, at worst, threatens nuclear war, but it's indeed complicated (BBC)
- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has extended the deadline for registration of NK athletes for the Winter Olympics and is planning more talks with all sides. (*Reuters*)
- Olympics officials say they have "kept the door open" for NK to take part in the upcoming Winter Games in SK. (AP)
- Pope Francis, in his annual "state of the world" address called on Monday for all nations to support dialogue to ease tensions on the Korean peninsula and to work for a legally binding ban on nuclear weapons. (Philip Pullella, *Reuters*)
- Pope Francis urged concerted international efforts to rebuild trust on the Korean peninsula and in Syria, using his annual foreign policy address to demand that political leaders put the dignity of their people before war, profit or power. (Nicole Winfield, AP)
- Pope Francis urged concerted international efforts to rebuild trust on the Korean peninsula and in Syria, using his annual foreign policy address to demand that political leaders put the dignity of their people before war, profit or power. (AP)
- US is determined to end NK's nuclear weapons program through diplomacy, but it is also prepared to use force if necessary. (*Yonhap*)
- US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley on Sunday defended Trump's controversial tweets on NK, saying he needs to keep the North's leader "on his toes." (*Yonhap*)
- The selfie taken by SK gymnast Lee Eun-Ju with her NK competitor Hong Un-Jong during a training session at the 2016 Olympics showed how sport can bring people together. (Aimee Lewis, CNN)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

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Tuesday, January 9, 2018

N.K. agrees to hold military talks, send Olympic delegation to South; Can South Korea Avoid Getting Played by the North?; U.S. welcomes inter-Korean meeting on Olympics; N. Korea restores military hotline with South

Top News:
Can South Korea Avoid Getting Played by the North? (NYT, 01/08/18)

In North Korea:
After Olympic deal, North Korea figure skaters may lead team (AP, 01/09/18)
Domestic food industry a focal point of North Korea's 2018 calendars (*Daily NK*, 01/09/18)
Family shame explains why Kim Jong Un's birthday is still not a holiday (*Daily NK*, 01/09/18)
In sanctioned North Korea, bribery problem worsens (*Daily NK*, 01/09/18)
Kim Jong Un setting a 'bad example' smoking cigarettes on camera (*Daily NK*, 01/08/18)
Kim Jong-un's weak voice suggests he has a kidney complaint, says audio forensics expert (*Telegraph*, 01/09/18)
North Korea and the Olympics: A long and surprisingly successful history (*Washington Post*, 01/09/18)
North Korea country profile (BBC, 01/09/18)
North Korea Is in Winter Olympics Without Any Star Athletes (NYT, 01/09/18)
North Korea's cheerleading charm offensive (BBC, 01/09/18)
North Korea: A sporting history of bombs and diplomacy (BBC, 01/09/18)
Satellite image shows vehicle movement in Kaesong complex: VOA (*Yonhap*, 01/08/18)

In South Korea:
Parties show mixed reactions to gov't measures on sex slavery deal (*Yonhap*, 01/09/18)
South Korea's liberal president isn't anti-American (*Washington Post*, 01/09/18)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) N. Korea restores military hotline with South (*Yonhap*, 01/09/18)
(7th LD) N.K. agrees to hold military talks, send Olympic delegation to South (*Yonhap*, 01/09/18)
(Yonhap Feature) Koreas sit down for talks amid hopes for better ties (*Yonhap*, 01/09/18)
A first step (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/09/18)
A small uptick in inter-Korean ties follows a tense year (AP, 01/09/18)
Can these two North Korean ice skaters help bring about a diplomatic thaw? (*Washington Post*, 01/09/18)
China's Foreign Ministry says happy to see talks between North and South Korea (*Reuters*, 01/09/18)
How the Olympics gave Kim Jong Un a moment of unearned legitimacy (CNN, 01/09/18)
In rare inter-Korean talks, North pledges 'invaluable' gift (*Reuters*, 01/09/18)
Inter-Korean talks: Is a corner being turned? (*Korea Times*, 01/08/18)

Is the tide turning in Korea? (*Korea Times*, 01/08/18)
Moscow welcomes dialogue between North and South Korea (*Reuters*, 01/09/18)
Moon watched inter-Korean talks live (*Korea Times*, 01/08/18)
North and South Korea agree to hold talks on easing military tensions (CNN, 01/09/18)
North Korea agrees to send athletes and cheer squad to Winter Olympics after first talks with South in two years (*Telegraph*, 01/09/18)
North Korea agrees to send athletes to Winter Olympics after talks with South (*Guardian*, 01/09/18)
North Korea agrees to send athletes to Winter Olympics, South says (*Washington Post*, 01/09/18)
North Korea taking part in South Korean Olympics after talks (AP, 01/09/18)
North Korea tells South it will not discuss nuclear arms in future talks (*Reuters*, 01/09/18)
North Korea says nuclear program talks would dent inter-Korean ties (*Reuters*, 01/09/18)
North Korea to participate in PyeongChang Olympics (*Korea Times*, 01/08/18)
North Korea to reopen military hotline with South: Seoul minister (*Reuters*, 01/09/18)
North Korea to Send Olympic Athletes to South Korea, in Breakthrough (NYT, 01/08/18)
North Korea to send team to Winter Olympic Games (BBC, 01/09/18)
North Korea urges guarantee of peace on Korean peninsula: South Korea (*Reuters*, 01/09/18)
North Korea will join Olympics, military talks planned, another hotline between countries restored (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/08/18)
North Korea, South Korea agree to hold military talks: joint statement (*Reuters*, 01/09/18)
Paralympics panel to discuss N. Korea's wild-card entry to PyeongChang (*Yonhap*, 01/09/18)
Premature to judge if inter-Korean dialogue is beginning of change: U.S. senior adviser (*Yonhap*, 01/08/18)
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PyeongChang Olympics chief welcomes N. Korea's historic participation (*Yonhap*, 01/09/18)
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S. Korean flag bearer remembers "harmony" under Korean Peninsula flag at 2006 Winter Olympics (*Yonhap*, 01/08/18)
Seoul demands denuclearization talks (*Korea Times*, 01/08/18)
South Korea moves to expand remit of planned talks with North (*Telegraph*, 01/09/18)
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South Korea says will consider temporary lifting of sanctions against North Korea to facilitate Winter Olympics participation (*Reuters*, 01/09/18)
South Korean officials head to border for talks with North (AP, 01/08/18)
South, North Korea talk about Olympics (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/09/18)
Sports have their limits (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/09/18)
Suddenly, an Olympic Charm Offensive From Kim Jong-un (NYT, 01/09/18)
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Two Koreas begin high-level talks on Winter Olympics, ties (*Korea Times*, 01/08/18)
Venue for Korea talks is potential flash point inside border (AP, 01/09/18)
What to Expect When North Korea Talks With Seoul: QuickTake Q&A (*Washington Post*, 01/08/18)

International:
(2nd LD) U.S. welcomes inter-Korean meeting on Olympics (*Yonhap*, 01/09/18)
Analysis: With Koreas talking again, should US be worried? (AP, 01/09/18)
Britain cancels plan to forgive N. Korean debt (*Yonhap*, 01/09/18)
Ex-UN chief hopes inter-Korean talks lead to dialogue on denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 01/08/18)

Foreign Leaders Wary of Being Burned by 'Fire and Fury' (VOA, 01/09/18)
How rugby, ping-pong and other sports have mended political rifts (CNN, 01/09/18)
IOC welcomes North Korea competing at Olympics (AP, 01/09/18)
IPC optimistic over N.K.'s presence at PyeongChang Paralympics (*Yonhap*, 01/08/18)
Kim's olive branch and US (*Korea Times*, 01/08/18)
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S. Korea's top envoy on N. Korean nukes to visit U.S. this week (*Yonhap*, 01/09/18)
State Department sees 'a start' (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/09/18)
The Latest: UN chief welcomes progress to ease Korea tension (AP, 01/09/18)
The Latest: US consults with SKorea over NKorea talks (AP, 01/09/18)
Treat Kim Jong Un like the gangster that he is (UPI, 01/09/18)
Trump's military option for North Korea is not an option (*Washington Post*, 01/08/18)
U.S. hails Korea talks, despite North's rejection of denuclearization (*Reuters*, 01/09/18)

Top News:

- The talks that opened this week between the North and South Korean governments are off to an inauspicious start: Even before negotiators could settle into their seats, the North had pocketed its first concession from the South, offering nothing in return. (Nicholas Eberstadt, NYT)

In North Korea:

- They're the friendly face of NK, and it looks like they're coming south to the Olympics. (James Ellingworth, AP)
- Some of the more unique items to appear in this year's calendars are the various domestically-produced products being shown off by the authorities, such as smartphones, cosmetics, sports equipment, and medicines. (Kang Mi Jin, *Daily NK*)
- NK's 2018 calendar was recently distributed. Although some were wondering whether KJU's birthday, January 8, would be designated a national holiday, it has yet to happen. (Jung Kyo Jin, *Daily NK*)
- Daily NK sources in NK are reporting that a large part of the problem is due to increasing demands for bribes by state officials. (Kim Sung Il, *Daily NK*)
- Just as in many parts of the world, families in NK also contemplate New Year's resolutions to quit smoking. (Kang Mi Jin, *Daily NK*)
- Analysis of KJU's voice indicates that the N. Korean dictator is suffering from a kidney disease, according to a S. Korean expert. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- NK will send a delegation to the Winter Olympics in SK next month — a move that prompted a rare outbreak in optimism on the Korean Peninsula after months of tension surrounding Pyongyang's weapons tests. (Adam Taylor, *Washington Post*)
- For decades NK has been one of the world's most secretive societies. It is one of the few countries still under nominally communist rule. (BBC)
- NK has agreed to send a team to the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang. While the decision may help defuse nuclear tension with the West, it is unlikely to bring the emergence of a hidden-away NK version of Shaun White or Yuzuru Hanyu. (Victor Mather, NYT)

- NK announced that it would be sending a delegation to this year's Winter Olympic Games in SK, including a team of cheerleaders. (BBC)
- Sport often brings a certain degree of drama - but perhaps never more so than when it comes to the two rival Koreas. (BBC)
- A satellite photo shows North Korea presumably filching products from the closed inter-Korean industrial complex in its border city of Kaesong. (*Yonhap*)

In South Korea:

- SK's political parties gave mixed responses to Seoul's measures to deal with a controversial 2015 deal with Japan to address its wartime sexual slavery. (*Yonhap*)
- To suggest that SK doubts its alliance with the US is a mistake — and a dangerous one, given the need for us to maintain a common front against the nuclear threat from the North. Let's put our faith in the present, not the past. (S. Nathan Park, *Washington Post*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The US welcomed inter-Korean talks that led to NK's agreement to participate in the Winter Olympics and hold military talks with the South on easing tensions. (*Yonhap*)
- NK told the South that it has recently restored a military hotline severed for nearly two years. (*Yonhap*)
- NK accepted Seoul's proposal to hold military talks to reduce tensions and agreed to send a delegation to next month's Winter Olympics in the South. (*Yonhap*)
- South and North Korea reactivated a communication channel between the Ministry of Unification and the Committee for the Reunification of the Fatherland in Pyongyang. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- The last N. Korean to cross this heavily militarized border was shot by his own comrades, and barely escaped with his life. (*Reuters*)
- North and South Korea sat down to talk after a year of mounting tensions that saw NK test ever-more capable missiles and conduct its largest nuclear detonation ever, and the US and its allies respond with sanctions and harsh rhetoric. (AP)
- Two people were at the center of inter-Korean talks that began Tuesday, but they were not even inside "Peace House" on the southern side of the border between the two countries. (Anna Fifield, *Washington Post*)
- China's FM said it was happy to see talks between North and South Korea take place, their first formal dialogue in more than two years, and welcomed all positive steps. (*Reuters*)
- Most people love peace and sports. But the sudden rapprochement between North and South Korea over the Winter Olympics pretty much trashes most norms of diplomacy. (Nick Paton Walsh, CNN)
- President Moon and his aides watched the progress of the inter-Korean talks held at the border village of Panmunjeom via television at Cheong Wa Dae, Tuesday. (Choi Ha-young, *Korea Times*)
- NK said after its first talks with SK in more than two years that it would not discuss its nuclear weapons with Seoul because they were aimed only at the US, not its "brethren" in SK. (Christine Kim, Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)

- Tuesday sees the previously unanticipated resumption of high-level bilateral talks between North and South Korea, the first such discussions since 2015, and the latest evidence of a surprise mini-rapprochement. (Andrew Hammond, *Korea Times*)
- High-level talks between North and South Korea today offer a potential for diplomacy ? not threats of war ? to reduce the increasingly tense standoff between Washington and Pyongyang. (Frank Ching, *Korea Times*)
- NK agreed to send athletes and cheerleaders to next month's Winter Olympics in SK and to hold talks with Seoul to ease military tensions, in the most significant diplomatic breakthrough between the neighbouring countries in years. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- Delegation including cheerleaders will travel to Games despite rising tensions over Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programme. (Justin McCurry, *Guardian*)
- NK's representatives assured the S. Korean government that its "cutting edge" nuclear weapons are aimed only at the US, not at its neighbors, as it struck a deal to send athletes to next month's Winter Olympics and to re-open a military hotline. (Anna Fifield, *Washington Post*)
- NK has agreed to send a delegation to next month's Winter Olympics in SK and to hold talks with Seoul to ease military tensions, in the most significant thaw in relations between the neighboring states in years. (Taehoon Lee, Joshua Berlinger, Angela Dewan, CNN)
- The rival Koreas moved toward reducing their bitter animosity during rare talks, with NK agreeing to take part in next month's Winter Olympics in SK. (Hyung-Jin Kim, AP)
- Russia welcomes dialogue between North and South Korea. (*Reuters*)
- NK agreed to send a large-sized delegation, including athletes, a cheering squad and officials, to the upcoming PyeongChang Winter Olympics following the first high-level talks with the South in almost two years. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- The discussion of NK's nuclear program and its weapons arsenal, which is solely aimed at the US, would negatively impact inter-Korean ties, a N. Korean official said while finishing up talks with the South. (*Reuters*)
- NK has completed technical maintenance needed to reopen a military hotline with SK on the west coast with normal communications via the hotline expected to resume. (*Reuters*)
- NK agreed to send athletes to February's Winter Olympics in SK, a symbolic breakthrough after months of escalating tensions over the North's rapidly advancing nuclear and missile programs. (NYT)
- NK is to send a delegation to the 2018 Winter Olympic Games taking place in SK in February. (BBC)
- SK asked NK to halt hostile acts that raise tension on the Korean peninsula, in the first talks between the neighbors in two years. (*Reuters*)
- Seoul and Pyongyang agreed to hold working-level meetings in the near future to discuss NK's participation in the PyeongChang Winter Olympics next month, boost inter-Korean cooperation in various fields. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- The first thing the two Koreas shared during their first talks in two years was words about the cold weather, a metaphor for years of frozen ties and a requirement for the success of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics in the South. (*Yonhap*)
- North and South Korea agreed to hold military talks, a joint statement said after the two Koreas engaged in formal dialogue on Tuesday for the first time in more than two years. (Reuters)
- The International Paralympics Committee (IPC) said it will convene an executive committee meeting later this month to discuss whether to grant a wild-card entry to NK for the upcoming PyeongChang Paralympics. (*Yonhap*)

- It's premature to judge if the results from the ongoing talks between South and North Korea will lead to any changes in the US' policy toward NK. (*Yonhap*)
- Prosecutors cleared a former presidential aide of leaking the classified transcript of a 2007 inter-Korean summit, which sparked a political dispute in 2012 over whether late President Roh Moo-hyun conceded to the North over the de facto maritime border in the Yellow Sea. (*Yonhap*)
- The top organizer for the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics welcomed NK's decision to participate in the quadrennial event. (*Yonhap*)
- SK may consider the temporary lifting of sanctions against NK if it is necessary to enable N. Korean officials to visit the South for next month's PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- "I want to see the South-North joint march again at Winter Olympic Games. It will be more meaningful as the Team Korea will be the last team in as the host country." (*Yonhap*)
- SK asked to resume dialogue on denuclearization during high-level talks with NK, Tuesday. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- SK wants the reunification of families divided since the end of the Korean War to be on the agenda when its diplomats meet their N. Korean counterparts at Panmunjom on Tuesday morning. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- SK says NK has said it will send a delegation to the Winter Olympics next month in the South. (AP)
- SK said it will consider a temporary lifting of sanctions against NK if it is necessary to facilitate the visit of N. Koreans to the Winter Olympics in SK next month. (*Reuters*)
- North and South Korea were set to hold rare talks at their tense border Tuesday to discuss how to cooperate in next month's Winter Olympics in the South and improve their long-strained ties. (Hyung-Jin Kim, AP)
- Military hotline along west coast is restored after being cut in 2016. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- The US and China did not normalize a diplomatic relationship through ping-pong. (Nam Jeong-ho, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- NK's leader, KJU, spent 2017 rattling the world with nuclear and long-range missile tests. Now, the new year has brought him an ideal opportunity for a sudden charm offensive: the Winter Olympics. (Choe Samg-hun, NYT)
- NK offered to send a taekwondo demonstration team, along with athletes and others to next month's Winter Olympics in SK, shedding light over a possible reconciliation between two Koreas through sports. (*Yonhap*)
- South and North Korea began their first formal talks on Tuesday to discuss the North's potential participation in the PyeongChang Winter Olympics in the South next month and how to improve their long-stalled ties. (Ko Dong-hwan, *Korea Times*)
- The two Koreas' rare high-profile talkstook place at the jointly controlled area inside the world's most heavily fortified border — the same place where N. Korean soldiers recently sprayed bullets at a colleague who was making a daring dash for freedom. (Hyung-Jin Kim, AP)
- At 10 a.m. Seoul time on Tuesday, North Korean and South Korean officials will open their first high-level meeting in more than two years. (David Tweed, *Washington Post*)

International:

- NK is starting off the new year with a fresh diplomatic initiative aimed at wooing SK ahead of its hosting of next month's Winter Olympics. But it's sticking to a decidedly harsh — and familiar — message for Trump. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- The British government has withdrawn its plan to cancel a N. Korean debt that has been unpaid for more than four decades, in consideration of the possibility that NK could pay it back after the two Koreas are unified. (*Yonhap*)
- Former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said he hopes the upcoming talks between South and North Korea lead to more meaningful dialogue on ridding the North of its nuclear weapons. (*Yonhap*)
- Only five months ago, world leaders reacted with public disapproval of Trump's promise to respond to any N. Korean aggression with "fire and fury." Now a new "fire and fury" is occupying their thoughts. (Jamie Dettmer, VOA)
- Never mind high-pressure peace talks that fail amid the looming threat of warfare. Try wrestling or ping-pong diplomacy instead. (Holly Yan, CNN)
- The International Olympic Committee says it welcomes moves by NK to take part in next month's Winter Olympics in SK. (AP)
- The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) has said it is sanguine about NK's participation in the upcoming PyeongChang Paralympics and will consider a wild card for N. Korean athletes if they fail to acquire qualification to join. (*Yonhap*)
- Nk's Kim offered a rare peace overture. Washington should be careful not to make the usual mistake of tossing the ball over to Beijing. (Lee Seong-hyon, *Korea Times*)
- North Korea is trying to break our military alliance with the United States and stoke internal division. (Chung Young-tae, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- US Vice President Pence credited President Trump with enabling rare high-level talks between South and North Korea this week, backing Trump's own argument. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea's top negotiator on North Korea's nuclear issues will visit Washington this week to share assessments on the latest developments involving the North. (*Yonhap*)
- Policy adviser to Tillerson says talks so far focus on Olympics. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is welcoming progress during talks between the two Koreas, especially their agreement to work to ease military tensions, hold military-to-military talks and to reopen a military hotline. (AP)
- The US is consulting with S. Korean officials to ensure NK's participation in the Winter Olympics does not violate UN sanctions imposed over its nuclear weapons. (AP)
- US President Trump and N. Korean leader KJU should never talk to each other on the phone, or through Twitter. Two unpredictable, nuclear-armed egotists are a threat to themselves and to the world, regardless of the size of their buttons. (Robert Huish, UPI)
- When President Trump boasted that he had a "bigger" nuclear button than North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un, members of both parties rightly condemned his reckless bravado about possible nuclear war with North Korea. (Jennifer Rubin, *Washington Post*)
- North and South Korea held their first talks in more than two years on Tuesday and Washington hailed them as a good first step in solving the crisis over the North's nuclear missile program, even though Pyongyang said it would not discuss weapons that were only aimed at the US. (Christine Kim, David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)

Prepared by Huiwon Yun, HRNK Legal Research Intern

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Wednesday, January 10, 2018

S.K President Opens the Door for Talks with N.K Leader; Trump open to US-N.K talks 'under right circumstances'; Pence to Lead US Delegation to Winter Olympics

Top News:
[Interview] Kim Chang-deuk, President of Vision Forum for Reunified Korea and Co-representative of United Korea Party (NBN, 12/28/2017)

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In North Korea:
Hundreds of North Koreans likely to attend Winter Olympics (UPI, 01/10/2018)
Is economic struggle driving North Korea to negotiating table? (BBC, 01/10/2018)
New Year's holiday sees sharp increase in defector arrests at Chinese border (*Daily*NK, 01/10/2018)
N.K.'s U.N. contribution for this year set at US$121,535 (*Yonhap*, 01/10/2018)
Tense atmosphere in border regions around leader's birthday (*Daily*NK, 01/10/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) S. Korea wants to hold working-level talks with N.K. on Olympics this week (*Yonhap*, 01/10/2018)
(2nd LD) President urges efforts to finalize constitutional revision by June (*Yonhap*, 01/10/2018)
(2nd LD) Seoul says military talks will focus on measures needed for N. Korea's Olympic participation (*Yonhap*, 01/10/2018)
(3rd LD) President reaffirms resolve to denuclearize N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 01/10/2018)
Moon: South Korea will not compromise push for North's denuclearization (UPI, 01/10/2018)
Moon stands firm on sanctions on North (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/10/2018)
PM: N. Korea expected to send 400-500 people to PyeongChang Olympics (*Yonhap*, 01/10/2018)
S. Korean defense chief reaffirms robust alliance with U.S. (*Yonhap*, 01/10/2018)
S. Korea dismisses concerns inter-Korean talks could weaken pressure on N.K. (*Yonhap*, 01/10/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) Koreas set for military talks on easing border tension (*Yonhap*, 01/10/2018)
IOC to convene meeting with two Koreas over North's participation in PyeongChang Olympics (*Yonhap*, 01/10/2018)
Koreas test-run military hotline: ministry (*Yonhap*, 01/10/2018)
Militaries of two Koreas prepare for round of talks (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/10/2018)
No quick fix (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/10/2018)
North snubbed nuke discussion (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/10/2018)
SKorea open to summit with North's Kim, but it won't be easy (*Washington Post*, 01/10/2018)
South Korean President Opens the Door for Talks with North Korean Leader (VOA, 01/10/2018)

Time for sophistication (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/10/2018)
Toward a 'Peace Olympics' (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/10/2018)
Tricky issues may hamper inter-Korea military talks (*Korea Times*, 01/10/2018)

International:
(3rd LD) U.S. welcomes inter-Korean meeting on Olympics, says sanctions to continue (*Yonhap*, 01/10/2018)
Analysis: With Koreas talking again, should US be worried? (*Washington Post*, 01/09/2018)
Are Trump's Threats to North Korea Working? (*Fair Observer*, 01/09/2018)
China scolds Japan over issue of 'comfort women' (*UPI*, 01/10/2018)
Commentary: Why Kim Jong Un wanted the Korea talks (*Reuters*, 01/10/2018)
EU welcomes outcome of inter-Korean talks as positive step for Koreas' relations (*Yonhap*, 01/10/2018)
IOC to host talks on North Korean participation on January 20 (*Reuters*, 01/10/2018)
Moon Jae-in credits Donald Trump for inter-Korea talks (*Guardian*, 01/10/2018)
Netherlands seizes generators bound for N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 01/10/2018)
North Korea: Trump open to talks but will apply 'maximum pressure' (*Guardian*, 01/10/2018)
Pence to Lead US Delegation to Winter Olympics (VOA, 01/10/2018)
Russia welcomes outcome of inter-Korean talks (*Yonhap*, 01/10/2018)
South Korea's Moon credits Trump with 'huge' contribution to North Korea talks (CNN, 01/09/2018)
South Korea's Moon thanks Trump for talks with North (*UPI*, 01/10/2018)
South Korea Pushes Denuclearization Through Olympic Engagement (VOA, 01/10/2018)
South Korean president credits Trump with bringing North Korea to the table (*Washington Post*, 01/10/2018)
South Korea's Leader Credits Trump for North Korea Talks (NYT, 01/10/2018)
South Korea's sunshine man: Can Moon Jae-in fix the North Korea crisis? (CNN, 01/09/2018)
Trump admin approves $133 million anti-ballistic missile sale to Japan (CNN, 01/09/2018)
Trump's nuclear-button tweet was a stroke of 'stable genius' (*Washington Post*, 01/10/2018)
Trump open to US-NKorea talks 'under right circumstances' (*Washington Post*, 01/10/2018)
Trump says U.S. open to talks with North Korea: White House (*Reuters*, 01/10/2018)
Trump tells Seoul he's open to talks with North Korea (CNN, 01/10/2018)
Trump to South Korea: US Open to Talks with North at 'Appropriate Time' (VOA, 01/10/2018)
U.S. approves anti-ballistic missile sale to Japan amid North Korea threat (*Reuters*, 01/09/2018)
USFK chief sounds cautious note on N. Korea's peace overture (*Yonhap*, 01/10/2018)
USFK commander says talks were 'good news' (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/10/2018)
Vice President Pence to lead U.S. delegation to Winter Olympics (*Reuters*, 01/10/2018)
Vice President Pence will lead U.S. delegation to Olympics in South Korea (*Washington Post*, 01/10/2018)

Top News:

- Kim Chang-deuk: SK must pursue reunification to free the suffering North Koreans. If SK ignores the pains of North Koreans, it would come back to haunt SK as the boomerang of pains. (NBN)

In North Korea:

- NK is will likely send hundreds of sporting representatives to the Pyeongchang Olympics next month. (Jennie Oh, UPI)

- Does KJU have a very practical reason to start showing a different face to enemies across the border? The reason probably is the economy. (Karishma Vaswani, BBC)
- Defection attempts across the NK border with China are on the rise, but there have also been reports of an increasing number of arrests as the authorities intensify their crackdown. (Kang Mi Jin, Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)
- A budget contribution allocated to NK for the operation of UN this year has been set at US$121,535. (*Yonhap*)
- Sources reported a tense atmosphere on January 8, the birthday of KJU. Although the date has yet to be officially designated a holiday, an increased troop presence was noted in certain areas on the day. (*DailyNK*)

In South Korea:

- SK on Wednesday expressed hopes of holding working-level talks with NK to discuss its participation in the Winter Olympics as early as this week. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon called on lawmakers to expedite consultations on constitutional revision, reiterating his resolve to hold a national referendum concurrently with local elections scheduled for June. (*Yonhap*)
- SK defense officials said Wednesday upcoming inter-Korean military talks will focus on measures necessary for the North's participation in the Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon welcomed the resumption of inter-Korean dialogue but said his country will continue to work with the international community to denuclearize NK. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon said that denuclearizing the Korean peninsula is a goal that could never be compromised or separated from the process of improving South-North relations. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- SK has no intention of curtailing its sanctions on NK unless there is progress in resolving the nuclear crisis, dismissing speculation that Seoul may lift the punishments as inter-Korean talks resume. (Ser Myo-ja, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- NK is expected to send a delegation of between 400-500 people to SK for the Winter Olympics, Prime Minister Lee Nak-yon said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- SK Defense Minister Song Young-moo reassured the US on Wednesday that their strong alliance will remain rock solid despite renewed inter-Korean dialogue. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's unification minister dismissed concerns that Seoul's push for dialogue with NK may create a fissure in the united front pressing Pyongyang into giving up its nuclear weapons. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- SK began preparations Wednesday for what would be the first military talks with NK in more than three years. (*Yonhap*)
- IOC announced Thursday it will convene a meeting with officials from the two Koreas this month to decide on the NK's participation in the Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- SK and NK militaries conducted test communication Wednesday through a reconnected hotline. (*Yonhap*)
- A day after SK and NK agreed to hold the first military talks to diffuse tension on the peninsula, SK's National Defense Ministry has begun internal discussions on the agenda and delegates. (Lee Sung-eun, Lee Chul-jae, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- SK must not let emotions override us and fall for the North's sweet talk and charm offensive. SK is in the driver's seat and must remember where it wants to end up. (Kim Hyun-ki, *Joongang Ilbo*)

- Pyongyang snubbed Seoul's offer again to hold a reunion of families separated in the 1950-53 Korean War. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Moon remains open to a meeting with KJU, if it would improve the strained relations between their two countries and help resolve the global standoff over NK's nuclear weapons development. (Hyung-Jin Kim, Ken Moritsugu, AP)
- Moon said Wednesday he is willing to hold one-on-one talks with KJU -- but only if certain conditions are met. (VOA)
- The Moon government must push a more sophisticated two-track policy of dialogue and sanctions. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- When the talks are over, the PyeongChang Games will surely be an Olympics of peace where SK and NK — and the rest of the world — can come together in the spirit of sport. (Kim Joo-ho, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- The two Koreas agreed to resume talks between their militaries at their high-level meeting, Tuesday, but tricky issues may hamper the progress of the envisioned meetings. (Choi Ha-young, *Korea Times*)

International:

- US welcomed inter-Korean talks that led to NK's agreement to participate in the Winter Olympics and discuss easing military tensions with SK, but also emphasized it will continue its maximum pressure campaign. (*Yonhap*)
- NK is starting off the year with a fresh diplomatic initiative with SK, but it's sticking to a familiar message for Trump: back off and let Koreans solve their own problems. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- Although Trump has cultivated praise from some over his handling of NK, there is no evidence that the reopening of talks between NK and SK was a direct result of American coercion toward Pyongyang.(Sebastien Smith, *Fair Observer*)
- China says it doesn't want Japan to dismiss the issue of "comfort women," who were forced to serve in Japanese wartime brothels. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Pyongyang appears to be pursuing a deliberate and increasingly successful strategy to drive a wedge between Washington and Seoul. (Peter Apps, *Reuters*)
- The EU welcomed the outcome of the recent talks between SK and NK, labeling the talks as a positive step toward improved inter-Korean relations. (*Yonhap*)
- IOC will host talks on Jan. 20 to discuss details about NK's participation at next month's Winter Olympics in SK, such as flags and the number of athletes. (Stephanie Nebehay, *Reuters*)
- Moon has credited Trump for creating the political backdrop to this week's inter-Korea talks, and echoed the US president's warning that Pyongyang faced more pressure if it continued to conduct missile and nuclear tests. (Justin McCurry, *Guardian*)
- The Dutch government has intercepted a shipment of generators destined for NK in accordance with U.N. resolutions over its nuclear and missile programs. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump has said that he is open to holding direct talks with NK, but added he was determined to apply "maximum pressure" over Pyongyang's nuclear program. (Justin McCurry, *Guardian*)
- U.S. Vice President Mike Pence and Second Lady Karen Pence will lead the U.S. delegation to the Winter Olympics in SK. (VOA)
- Russia welcomed the results of the recent talks between SK and NK, expecting the latest development to ease tensions on the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- SK President Moon has credited his US counterpart Donald Trump with making a "huge" contribution to bringing NK and SK together for landmark talks. (James Griffiths, CNN)

- In a telephone call with the White House on Wednesday, Moon thanked Trump for enabling talks between Seoul and Pyongyang. (Susan McFarland, UPI)
- Moon emphasized that the denuclearization of NK is the long-term goal of his efforts to engage with NK to participate in the upcoming Olympics, and to resume military talk. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- Moon has ushered in the first positive news related to NK in years this week, responding to an overture from KJU and, on Wednesday, very diplomatically giving much of the credit to Trump. (Anna Fifield, *Washington Post*)
- Moon warned that NK would face stiffer sanctions if it resumed weapons tests, while crediting Trump with helping force NK to resume dialogue and strike a broader agreement to improve Korean ties. (Choe Sang-hun, NYT)
- NK agreement of Olympics participation is a major achievement for Moon, who has consistently promoted dialog and peaceful reconciliation as the way forward. (Paula Hancocks and James Griffiths, CNN)
- Trump notified Congress on Tuesday that it has approved the potential sale of SM-3 anti-ballistic missiles to Japan in a deal estimated to be worth $133.3 million. (Zachary Cohen and Ryan Browne, CNN)
- Trump's recent tweet was part of an intentional campaign designed to get NK to understand that Trump, unlike his predecessors, is willing to use force to stop Pyongyang from threatening American cities. (Marc A. Thiessen, *Washington Post*)
- Trump threw his weight behind the Olympics-inspired diplomatic opening with NK, telling Moon that the U.S. was open to talks with NK under the right circumstances. (Matthew Pennington, Ken Thomas, AP)
- Trump told Moon a day after the first intra-Korean talks that US was open to talks with NK "at the appropriate time, under the right circumstances," (Steve Holland, Christine Kim, *Reuters*)
- Trump expressed openness to holding talks between US and NK during a call with Moon on Wednesday, the latest of Trump's forays into inter-Korean relations. (Dan Merica, CNN)
- Trump said during his telephone call with Moon that he is open to talks with NK "at the appropriate time." (Peter Heinlein, VOA)
- The U.S. government has approved the sale of anti-ballistic missiles to Japan to defend itself against a growing nuclear and missile threat from NK. (Chris Sanders, James Dalgleish, *Reuters*)
- The commanding general of U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) remained cautious about NK's motivation behind its decision to hold talks with SK as part of its recent peace offensive. (*Yonhap*)
- Gen. Vincent Brooks, commander of the USFK, cautiously welcomed the high-level inter-Korean talks that took place Tuesday as "good news," adding they appear to have been "earnest" and "productive." (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Vice President Mike Pence and second lady Karen Pence will lead the U.S. delegation to the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang (Blake Brittain, Andrew Hay, *Reuters*)
- Trump informed Moon that Vice President Pence would attend the games in PyeongChang. (Anne Gearan, *Washington Post*)

[Interview] Kim Chang-deuk, President of Vision Forum for Reunified Korea and Co-representative of United Korea Party
NBN, 12/28/2017

On December 11, 2017 at 3p.m., Kim Chang-deuk, President of Vision Forum and co-representative of the Unified Korea Party, won the Grand Prize in Party Politics Sector at the ceremony of the 16th Korean Parliament Awards and the Korea Consumer Preference Brand Awards held at the Seoul Press Center International Conference Hall.

The award was selected through an impartial verification process by judges composed of reporters, professional faculty members, and the Korea Consumer Rights Promotion Solidarity Forum. As a pastor and one who holds a Ph.D. in politics, he holds Vision Forum for Reunified Korea every month to listen to opinions from various sectors and present the directions for reunification, the long-cherished wish of Koreans. He said that the ultimate future vision of a reunified Korea is to free 25 million North Korean compatriots and insisted reunification by means of absorbing the North with liberal democracy. In his speech for the award, he said he believes that this award was a result of efforts and prayers that the reunification of the beautiful Korean Peninsula should be accompanied by the values of free democracy and market economy. He greeted with a humble attitude that he considered this award as an encouragement, saying that becoming a leader who serves people with a humble and meek mind has been his dream.

Meanwhile, on December 15, 2017, he was invited to the Future Korea Peace Forum which was sponsored by the ROTC Federation of Korea and held at the Foreign Correspondents Press Club in the Press Center. During the press brief, he actively suggested the vision of the reunified Korea with a distinctive claim due to his political science Ph.D., along with the former Prime Minister Chung Un-chan, the former president of Seoul National University.

He stressed that the reason why we must pursue reunification is that we have to free the North Korean people who have suffered from hunger for 70 years since the division of the Korean peninsula. He pointed out that if the government ignores the pains of North Korean compatriots, it would come back to haunt South Korea as the boomerang of pains. Deeply touched by his lecture, we asked for an interview with him and asked some key questions after the lecture. The following is the summary of his viewpoints about reunification, including the need for the reunification through absorption by the ROK.

Q: In the Republic of Korea where people are facing the North Korean nuclear crisis, there are some people who insist reunification under communism. Moreover, the mood has been detected where political circles do not provide a clear direction for reunification and are not even interested in reunification. Since you have emphasized the need for free and democratic reunification, could you tell us about it more specifically?

A: Last Chuseok, I attended the event of the displaced people at the Yeoncheon Station Plaza entitled, 'The Face that I Want to See and My Dear Old Home.' I cried along in my heart while watching the event. If those who govern the people turn away from the pains of the dispersed families whose members are held hostage in North Korea, it is like throwing away the remaining hope of the whole nation. Why have the two Koreas been split by ideology, pointing guns at each other? The major contributors to this misfortune are the three generations from Kim Il-sung since its foundation in North Korea. North Korea is under deteriorated communism, totalitarianism, and hereditary dictatorship. The North Korean regime is isolating itself from the world and developing nuclear weapons, threatening South Korea and the rest of the world. North Korea is antagonizing the US and trying to achieve reunification under communism through the destruction of the US -

ROK alliance and the US Troop withdrawal from Korea. These are the reasons why the two Koreas are still divided.

Q: Could you tell us more specifically about the Moon administration impeding reunification?

A: The Moon administration eliminated the Commission of Human Rights in North Korea under the Ministry of Unification and resumed the inter-Korean economic cooperation. They said we should work out inter-Korean affairs through dialogue. In addition, they are opposed to President Trump's preemptive strike suggestion. The Moon administration has opposed the reunification of the two Koreas in every way. Reunification through peaceful dialogue sounds ideal. The truth is, however, it is a hollow claim and they do not even grasp what the Communist dictatorship, North Korea is. Dialogue for assuring the dictator his security and stability is meaningless to North Korean people who have been forced to slavery.

Q: What are the reunification plans that Vision Forum for Reunified Korea are pursuing?

A: Many people ask me if inter-Korean reunification will be possible and if so, when that will happen. Of course, it is possible. However, we are not quite so sure when that would happen. At least it should be by the time the ROK is prepared for reunification. First of all, there should be a government with the collective will to achieve reunification. However, it seems like the current administration is not the one. Forum for Reunified Korea is focusing on freeing North Korean people who are suffering from slavery and groaning under brutal KJU's regime. Inter-Korean reunification is for the innocent North Korean people. Therefore, the plans should be aimed to eliminate Kim Jong-un and those ringleaders in Pyongyang surrounding Kim Jong-un who are suppressing the North Korean people. I am a pastor. I personally feel like eliminating Kim Jong-un and achieving reunification is up to God's will. Nobody knows exactly when and how or by whom Kim Jong-un will be eliminated – it can be via an internal rebellion or a US preemptive attack. What we do is simply remain calm constantly, praying for the North Korean people, and trying to let the world know that freeing the North Korean people is the essence of reunification.

Q: You gave such a passionate lecture at the Future Korea Peace Forum. Could you summarize your main points again?

A: Two Koreas share a 1,000 year-old history together since Silla unified the three kingdoms, and Wang Geun reunified the later three kingdoms, - Silla, Hubaekje, and Hugoguryeo - establishing the Koryŏ (Korea) Dynasty in the year 936. Since then, I think the only nation on the Korean peninsula is Korea, which has a 1,000 year-old history. After Korea's liberation in 1945, tragedy of national division happened, and ever since then, it has been 70 years since one Korea is divided into two: South and North Korea. Making these two Koreas back into one Korea should be the primary task for the people in South Korea. In order to accomplish this task of reunification, it is necessary to verify what caused the division with objective and accurate viewpoint about history. It is obvious which regime – South or North Korea – is really working for its own people. It has clearly shown that Communism is a failed ideology. Reunification by absorbing the North is the way it should be and we have to think what reunification really should be like for the people.

Q: Could you explain the necessity of reunification for those who have become insensible toward unification issues?

A: The current administration is trying to reduce unemployment issues by creating more jobs. The only resolution to this serious unemployment problem is the reunification of two Koreas. It is necessary to sustain domestic economic development. The reunified Korea will become one of the five Powers of the international community with GNP per capita of fifty thousand dollars and population of eighty million people, rising up to G7.

Q: You won the Grand Prize in Party Politics Sector at the ceremony of the 16th Korean Parliament Awards and the Korea Consumer Preference Brand Award. Could you explain about this award?

A: It is sponsored by Yonhap Daily Newspaper and Award Selection Committee and organized by Newsfile and Korean Society for Journalism. My acquaintance recommended me, and I was chosen for the prize winner. I consider it as an encouragement, so I gladly and gratefully took it.

Q: They say the forthcoming local election in June 2018 will be really important because it will get to change the future political landscape for each party. It is attracting national attention. How is Unified Korea party preparing for this and what is your view on this matter?

A: This election is very crucial because it will show the people's thoughts on the ruling party. In addition, the position of the current opposition party, Liberty Korea Party, will be determined as the main opposition party. The Bareun Party and the People's Party are planning on becoming a merging of two parties. Therefore, this election is going to be a very crucial one that will show the future political landscape.

NBN News Kim Jun-ho

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Thursday, January 11, 2018

Inter-Korean talks on PyeongChang to open before IOC meeting; Moon, Xi reaffirm joint efforts on North Korea nuclear issue; Tillerson to host N.K. meeting in Canada

In North Korea:
Choe Ryong Hae to OGD? (*nkleadershipwatch*, 01/11/2018)
Is the US Preparing for Preventive War? Views from North Korea (*38 North*, 01/10/2018)
New title for bigwig in Pyongyang (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/11/2018)
North Korea: Book's Popularity Predicts Trump's End (VOA, 01/11/2018)
N. Korea fears war with U.S. (*Yonhap*, 01/11/2018)
N. Korean official Choe Ryong-hae apparently leading ruling party's key department (*Yonhap*, 01/11/2018)

North Korea Praises 'Fire and Fury' Book on Trump Administration (NYT, 01/11/2018)
North Korean trading companies in China look to South Korea for sanctions relief after high-level talks (*DailyNK*, 01/11/2018)
Punggye-ri Nuclear Test Site: Significant Tunneling Underway at the West Portal (*38 North*, 01/11/2018)
Young North Koreans Ask For 'New Year's Gift' of Money to Defect (RFA, 01/10/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) (News Focus) S. Korea faces balancing act between sanctions and support for N.K. joining Olympics (*Yonhap*, 01/11/2018)
Gangneung offers hanok village to North Korean visitors (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/11/2018)
Gangwon governor proposes 'floating hotel' for North Korea delegates (*Korea Times*, 01/11/2018)
South Korea ended its review of its 'comfort women' deal with Japan. Here's what you need to know (*Washington Post*, 01/11/2018)
S. Korean envoy vows 'watertight' coordination with U.S. on N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 01/11/2018)
S. Korean IOC member to attend meeting on N. Korea's participation in PyeongChang 2018 (*Yonhap*, 01/11/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
In the driver's seat (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/11/2018)
Inter-Korean talks on PyeongChang to open before IOC meeting: Seoul (*Yonhap*, 01/11/2018)
Moon briefs both Trump and Xi on talks with North (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/11/2018)
N. Korea calls on S. Korea to stop military drills with U.S. (*Yonhap*, 01/11/2018)
North Korea's sly tactics (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/11/2018)
Possible joint Koreas parade at Pyeongchang under discussion: source (*Reuters*, 01/11/2018)
Swiss meeting to discuss Olympic issues (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/11/2018)
Two Koreas to meet at IOC over PyeongChang Games (*Korea Times*, 01/11/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) Leaders of S. Korea, China reaffirm joint efforts to denuclearize N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 01/11/2018)
Air Force deployed B-2 stealth bombers to Guam as sensitive talks involving North Korea commenced (*Washington Post*, 01/11/2018)
Asia's top Olympic body hails N. Korean participation in PyeongChang 2018 (*Yonhap*, 01/11/2018)
China's Xi supports progress in inter-Korean talks: South Korea's Blue House (*Reuters*, 01/11/2018)
[INTERVIEW] North Korea seeks sanctions relief with olive branch: ex-US negotiator (*Korea Times*, 01/11/2018)
Last-minute North Korean visit sends Olympics planners scrambling (*Reuters*, 01/11/2018)
Moon, Xi reaffirm joint efforts on North Korea nuclear issue (*Korea Times*, 01/11/2018)
No US military action during inter-Korean talks: Trump (*Korea Times*, 01/11/2018)
Putin Says 'Shrewd' North Korean Leader Has Outplayed His Rivals (NYT, 01/11/2018)
Should you worry about a U.S. war with North Korea? Not really (*Washington Post*, 01/11/2018)
Tillerson to Attend North Korea Talks in Canada: State Department (NYT, 01/11/2018)
Tillerson to host N.K. meeting in Canada (*Yonhap*, 01/11/2018)
Trump hopes inter-Korean talks lead to 'success for the world' (*Yonhap*, 01/11/2018)
Trump jokes that US general may know more than he does about looming war (CNN, 01/10/2018)
Trump, on possibility of North Korea talks, says: 'Who knows where it leads?' (*Reuters*, 01/10/2018)

Trump shifts tone on North Korea and signals he's ready to talk with 'Little Rocket Man' (CNN, 01/10/2018)
UN welcomes Korea talks which can build confidence and trust (*Washington Post*, 01/10/2018)
Xi Jinping tells South Korea he supports inter-Korea talks (*UPI*, 01/11/2018)

In North Korea:

- Choe Ryong Hae was appointed director of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] Organization Guidance Department [OGD]. (*nkleadershipwatch*)
- NK fears that the US is already trying to shape the battlefield for a military operation against the North. (Alexander Vorontsov, *38 North*)
- Choe Ryong-hae, widely believed to be the second most influential man in the NK regime, has added yet another job title: Director of the Organization and Guidance Department of the Central Committee in the Workers' Party. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- NK has found good material to attack Trump: Michael Wolff's bombshell new book, Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House. (Hyung-Jin Kim, AP)
- NK diplomats are extremely serious about the possibility of war between NK and the US, noting that the US has already prepared for it for months. (*Yonhap*)
- Choe Ryong-hae, a close aide to KJU, appears to be leading the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) department that oversees the party's operation and surveillance. (*Yonhap*)
- Michael Wolff's book about the Trump administration has been getting fulsome praise from NK state media. (Gerry Mullany, NYT)
- NK traders operating in China are feeling renewed optimism over potential inter-Korean economic cooperation as high-level talks between NK and SK kick off this week. (Seol Song Ah, *DailyNK*)
- Recent commercial satellite imagery of NK's Punggye-ri Nuclear Test Site indicates that the North Portal, where the last five nuclear tests were conducted, remains dormant and that tunnel excavation has been stepped up at the West Portal. (*38 North*)
- Young North Koreans frustrated by the conditions of life in NK are beginning to ask their parents for money they can use to cross the border into China, in what some are calling the best New Year's gift they can hope to receive. (*RFA*)

In South Korea:

- With NK set to join the Winter Olympics, Seoul appears to be struggling with how to accommodate a large-scale delegation of NK officials and athletes without violating multi-layered sanctions against Pyongyang. (Koh Byung-joon, *Yonhap*)
- The Gangneung city government on Thursday offered to provide lodging for NK's cheerleading squad and cultural performance troupe for the upcoming PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Gangwon Province Governor Choi Moon-soon proposed Wednesday using a cruise ship to accommodate NK athletes and delegates during the Winter Olympics. (Choi Ha-young, *Korea Times*)
- Seoul announced Tuesday that it would not ask to renegotiate the 2015 deal, ending months of uncertainty about the agreement's fate while also answering domestic criticism of the deal. (Celeste Arrington, *Washington Post*)

- SK will coordinate closely with the US on all matters related to the Korean Peninsula, including the North's nuclear weapons program. (*Yonhap*)
- The lone SK member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) said he will travel to Switzerland next week to attend a meeting on NK's participation in the Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The time has come for Moon — supposedly in the driver's seat now — to demonstrate his ability to drive Washington and Pyongyang toward dialogue. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- SK and NK will likely hold working-level talks on the North's participation in the PyeongChang Winter Olympics before IOC's meeting slated for late next week. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon debriefed Trump in a 30-minute phone call on Wednesday night about the South's high-level talks with the North on the previous day. Moon had another telephone talk with Xi Jinping. (Ser Myo-ja, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- NK on Thursday called for SK to suspend its military drills with the US, claiming the drills are the fundamental cause of growing tensions on the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- NK is unbeatable in negotiations. The regime's diplomatic skills are an asset of their system. They take initiative with sentimental language, and the high-level inter-Korean meeting on Tuesday illustrated their character. (Park Bo-gyoon, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- NK and SK athletes could parade together at the opening ceremony of next month's Pyeongchang Winter Games, under a proposal the IOC will consider next week. (Karolos Grohmann, *Reuters*)
- SK and NK officials will convene at the IOC headquarters in Switzerland on Jan. 20 to hammer out details of the North's participation in the upcoming Winter Games. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- IOC President Thomas Bach has called a meeting with the two Koreas to discuss NK's participation in the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (Baek Byung-yeul, *Korea Times*)

International:

- The leaders of SK and China agreed to continue working together to peacefully resolve the NK nuclear issue, welcoming the result of the recent inter-Korean talks as part of such efforts. (*Yonhap*)
- The U.S. Air Force quietly deployed three stealth B-2 Spirit bombers to Guam this week as discussions between NK and SK involving the Winter Olympics were about to commence. (Dan Lamothe, *Washington Post*)
- Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah, head of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) hailed NK's recent decision to participate in the upcoming Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- Xi told Moon that he supported Moon's stance that the advancement of inter-Korean ties and the denuclearization of the peninsula should "go in parallel". (Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)
- KJU's peace overture to SK is a calibrated strategy aimed at securing relief from sanctions, according to a former chief U.S. negotiator with NK. (Kim Jae-kyoung, *Korea Times*)
- NK's late announcement it will send a large delegation to the Winter Olympics has eased concerns over any Pyongyang threat during the games, but it does create headaches for planners over accommodations and security. (Hyunjoo Jin, Jane Chung, *Reuters*)

- Moon and Xi have agreed to increase cooperation to help the ongoing inter-Korean talks lead to a peaceful resolution of the NK nuclear issue. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- Trump confirmed that there will be no military action by his country against NK as long as the two Koreas are engaged in talks. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- Vladimir Putin said KJU was "shred and mature" and has won the latest standoff with SK and the West over his nuclear and missile program. (*Reuters*)
- Many fear a possible war between NK and the US as mutual threats and hostility creating an extremely dangerous environment. But there are plenty of reasons not to panic. (Dan Reiter, *Washington Post*)
- Tillerson will attend a meeting of international foreign ministers in Canada next week to discuss diplomatic efforts on the Korean peninsula. (*Reuters*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson will travel to Canada next week to co-host an international foreign ministerial meeting on addressing NK's nuclear and ballistic missile programs. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump voiced hope Wednesday that recent high-level talks between South and North Korea will lead to "success for the world." (*Yonhap*)
- Trump joked, after a reporter asked him Wednesday about an American general telling troops "there's a war coming," that the general could "know something that I don't know." (Dan Merica, CNN)
- Trump said on Wednesday after the first inter-Korean talks in over two years that the US was willing to speak to NK “under the right circumstances,” although it was far from clear whether this would pay dividends. (Steve Holland, Christine Kim, *Reuters*)
- After months of apocalyptic rhetoric and mockery of "Little Rocket Man," KJU, Trump is offering to open dialogue when it's "appropriate," and even says he's willing to talk to KJU himself. (Stephen Collinson and Nicole Gaouette, CNN)
- The UNSC is welcoming talks between the two Koreas saying they can open “possibilities for confidence building and trust building on the Korean peninsula.” (AP)
- Moon received support from Xi for inter-Korea dialogue following a recent round of talks between North and South at Panmunjom. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

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Friday, January 12, 2018

S.K. offers working-level talks with N.K. on Olympics next week; N.K. calls for total suspension of Seoul-Washington military drills

In North Korea:
Kim Jong-un visits science academy in his first inspection this year (*Yonhap*, 01/12/2018)
Kim Jong Un's economic plans - realistic or not? (*DailyNK*, 01/12/2018)

N.K.'s art troupe set to take stage in S. Korea for rare performance (*Yonhap*, 01/12/2018)
North Korea and Cyber Catastrophe—Don't Hold Your Breath (*38 North*, 01/12/2018)
North Koreans excited but cautious over participation in Pyeongchang Olympics (*DailyNK*, 01/12/2018)
North Korea may prepare nuclear test (*Korea Times*, 01/12/2018)
Satellite imagery shows tunneling at N.K. nuclear test site (*Yonhap*, 01/12/2018)
Satellite (Wisong) Scientists Street Announced (sort of) (*nkeconwatch*, 01/12/2018)

In South Korea:
S. Korea approves relief fund for firms hit by severed inter-Korean economic cooperation (*Yonhap*, 01/12/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) Kang, Tillerson discuss follow-up measures, coordination after recent inter-Korean talks (*Yonhap*, 01/12/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea offers working-level talks with N.K. on Olympics next week (*Yonhap*, 01/12/2018)
A precarious situation (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/12/2018)
N.K. calls for total suspension of Seoul-Washington military drills (*Yonhap*, 01/12/2018)
North Korea media calls for termination of all U.S. military exercises in South (UPI, 01/12/2018)
North Korea Olympic team transportation could violate sanctions (UPI, 01/12/2018)
North Korea will join Olympics, military talks planned (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/12/2018)
S. Korea's military not rushing to talks with N. Korea: official (*Yonhap*, 01/12/2018)
S. Korea notifies N.K. of plan to repatriate bodies found in boat (*Yonhap*, 01/12/2018)
S. Korea proposed unified Korean team in women's hockey at PyeongChang 2018: official (*Yonhap*, 01/12/2018)
S.Korea Proposes Meeting With N.Korea to Discuss Olympics (NYT, 01/12/2018)
S. Korea, U.S. in talks to develop ties with N.K.: envoy (*Yonhap*, 01/12/2018)
Sports have their limits (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/12/2018)

International:
(LEAD) Ministers to discuss maritime interdiction at N.K. meeting in Canada (*Yonhap*, 01/12/2018)
Abe defends 2015 deal, may skip Olympics (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/12/2018)
As Sanctions Bite, China Trade With North Korea Plummets (VOA, 01/12/2018)
China's imports from North Korea plummet in December, lowest for four years (*Reuters*, 01/12/2018)
China's trade with North Korea plunges as sanctions tighten (*Washington Post*, 01/12/2018)
Demand for antiradiation drug jumps after Trump nuclear tweet (CNN, 01/11/2018)
It's time to accept a nuclear North Korea (*Washington Post*, 01/12/2018)
Japan PM rejects South Korean call for new steps to help 'comfort women' (*Reuters*, 01/12/2018)
Korea talks ease war fears in Washington, but for how long? (*Reuters*, 01/12/2018)
The Korean crisis will resume — after the Olympics (*Washington Post*, 01/11/2018)
Trump claims a 'relationship' with North's Kim (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/12/2018)
Trump suggests 'good relationship' with N.K. leader, signaling more efforts on diplomacy (*Yonhap*, 01/12/2018)
Trump Suggests He Has 'Very Good Relationship' With North Korea's Kim (VOA, 01/11/2018)
Trump won't say whether he has talked to Kim Jong Un (CNN, 01/12/2018)
U.N. group asks N. Korea to determine whereabouts of 27 missing persons (*Yonhap*, 01/12/2018)
U.S. must send clear signals to reopen talks with N.K.: expert (*Yonhap*, 01/12/2018)

Yes, North Korea could drive a wedge between the U.S. and South Korea (*Washington Post*, 01/12/2018)

In North Korea:

- KJU visited a state science academy in his first public outing since the New Year address and praised the country's scientific forces as the backbone of overcoming international sanctions. (*Yonhap*)
- It is hard to imagine that Kim will be able to use scientific technology alone to compensate for a lack of resources to mass produce and expand the state economy to the extent that it begins to improve the people's lives. (*DailyNK*)
- A rare performance by a NK art troupe will take place soon in SK amid a mixed sense of curiosity and doubt over the North's intent. (*Yonhap*)
- The heightened tension over NK's nuclear weapons programs, combined with growing NK cyber capabilities, has led some to conclude that NK may launch cyber-attacks against US critical infrastructure. (James A. Lewis, *38 North*)
- While North Koreans hope to see their country represented on the world stage, NK people are expressing doubts that despite KJU's political efforts, not many athletes may be able to participate. (Kang Mi Jin, *DailyNK*)
- North Korea appears engaged in preparing for a nuclear test. The activity involves in significant tunneling on the west side of its main nuclear test site. (Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)
- NK has carried out significant tunneling on the west side of its main nuclear test site, indicating the potential for another bomb detonation. (*Yonhap*)
- While KJU was touring the newly renovated history museum, he was photographed in front of a map that advertised the plan for "Phase 2" of the Wisong Scientists Street. (*nkeconwatch*)

In South Korea:

- The government has decided to provide a total of 18.3 billion won (US$17.2 million) in relief to South Korean companies affected by years of suspended inter-Korean economic cooperation. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The top diplomats of SK and US had a phone conversation Friday to discuss the outcome of recent inter-Korean talks and ways to strengthen their coordination on major issues of mutual concern. (*Yonhap*)
- SK on Friday proposed working-level talks with NK next week to discuss details of the North's participation in the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- NK's representatives insisted that Seoul and Washington stop joint military exercises. NK takes the position that denuclearization cannot be a subject of discussion, no matter what. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- NK's propaganda outlet called for the total suspension of joint military drills between SK and the US in response to the allies' decision to delay them until after the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)

- Fast-thawing relations between NK and SK have renewed enthusiasm for the 2018 Winter Olympics, but NK may be using the momentum to request other concessions from Seoul. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- SK could face difficulties if NK decides to use the Man Gyong Bong to dispatch its Olympians to the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- SK and NK agreed to hold working-level meetings in the near future to discuss NK's participation in the Winter Olympics, boost inter-Korean cooperation in various fields, have military officials meet to defuse tension on the Korean Peninsula. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- SK has no plan to offer a date for the agreed-upon military talks with NK until the decision on the size of its delegation to the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- SK contacted NK via the recently reopened border hotline to repatriate the bodies of four people presumed to be North Koreans and found in a boat adrift in the East Sea. (*Yonhap*)
- SK has proposed assembling a joint women's hockey team with NK at the upcoming PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- SK said Friday it has proposed a meeting with NK next week to discuss details of its participation in Pyeongchang Winter Olympics. (AP)
- SK and US are in talks over how to develop ties with NK in the wake of the regime's recent overture leading to the first dialogue in two years. (*Yonhap*)
- SK must not raise too much hope about NK's participation in the PyeongChang Games. No matter how many gold medals a joint Korean team wins, the NK threat does not go away. (Nam Heong-ho, *Joongang Ilbo*)

International:

- Foreign ministers from more than a dozen nations will discuss ways to stop NK's sanctions evasion through maritime interdiction when they meet in Canada next week. (*Yonhap*)
- Abe flatly rejected Moon's position that the 2015 agreement between the two countries doesn't settle the issue of the Japanese military's wartime sexual enslavement of Korean women. (Ser Myo-ja, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- China's trade with NK plunged 50 percent in December as U.N. sanctions imposed over Pyongyang's nuclear and missile development tightened. (AP)
- China's imports from NK plunged in December to their lowest level in dollar terms since 2014, with trade curbed by U.N. sanctions aimed at persuading NK to abandon its ballistic missile and nuclear weapons programs. (Yawen Chen, Ryan Woo, *Reuters*)
- China's trade with NK plunged 50 percent in December as U.N. sanctions imposed over Pyongyang's nuclear and missile development tightened. (Joe McDonald, AP)
- A Twitter battle over the size of each "nuclear button" possessed by Trump and KJU has spiked sales of a drug that protects against radiation poisoning. (JoNel Aleccia, *Kaiser Health News*)
- NK's regime clearly believes that it is in its national interest to have a nuclear shield. Sanctions will not work. (John Wood, *Washington Post*)
- Abe rejected SK's call for more steps to help "comfort women", a euphemism for women forced to work in Japan's wartime military brothels, and urged Seoul to honor a 2015 pact on the divisive topic. (*Reuters*)
- Talks between NK an SK have eased fears of war, but any reduction in tensions could prove shortlived as KJU has shown no sign of willingness to give in to U.S. demands and negotiate away a weapons program. (John Walcott, David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)

- Though NK's participatin in the Winter Olympics would decrease the tension between NK, ROK, and the US, it is only temporary and the Korean crisis will resume. (David Ignatius, *Washington Post*)
- Trump bragged about having a "very good relationship" with KJU despite his past insults of the NK leader, describing himself as a "very flexible person" who can build rapport with someone "all of a sudden." (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Trump hinted that he has developed a "good relationship" with KJU in an interview, raising expectations that he could pursue more diplomacy in dealing with Pyongyang's nuclear and missile threats. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump has suggested he is on very good terms with KJU despite their recent debate over whose desk has a bigger nuclear button. (VOA)
- Trump would not say whether he has talked with KJU, saying he "probably" has a good relationship with the rogue leader. (Dan Merica, CNN)
- The U.N. Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) has asked the NK government to carry out probes into 27 enforced disappearances. (*Yonhap*)
- US could hold talks with NK if it demonstrates its sincerity, such as by suspending joint military exercises with SK, a US expert said. (*Yonhap*)
- Critics of NK-SK talks warn that KJU may be reaching out to Seoul to drive a wedge in the U.S.-ROK alliance. (Oriana Skylar Mastro, Arzan Tarapore, *Washington Post*)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

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Saturday, January 13, 2018

Kim Jong Un's economic plans - realistic or not?; IOC considering joint Korean hockey team proposal: N. Korea's IOC member

In North Korea:

Could North Korea's military-themed 'Spice Girls' make a show at the Winter Olympics? (*The Telegraph*, 01/12/2018)
Kim Jong Un's economic plans - realistic or not? (*DailyNK*, 01/12/2018)
National Campaign to Purge 'Non-socialist' Elements Terrifies North Koreans (RFA, 01/12/2018)
North Korean soaps turn to romance and travails of modern life as they seek to woo youth and Pyongyang elite (*The Telegraph*, 01/13/2018)
North Korean state media hail talks with South as path to reunification (CNN, 01/13/2018)
'Significant tunneling' detected at Punggye-ri (*The Korea Times*, 01/12/2018)

In South Korea:

(News Focus) Forming joint Korean Olympic hockey team challenging on many levels (*Yonhap*, 01/13/2018)
S. Korea to install additional artificial reefs near western sea border (*Yonhap*, 01/13/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

(LEAD) N. Korea proposes to hold working-level talks next week on art troupe's visit to S. Korea (*Yonhap*, 01/13/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea agrees to meet N. Korea on Monday over art troupe's visit to Olympics (*Yonhap*, 01/13/2018)
Bobsled Diplomacy: Rival Koreas May Share Sled at Olympics (*The Washington Post*, 01/13/2018)
N. Korea yet to respond to S. Korea's Olympics talks proposal (*Yonhap*, 01/12/2013)
Olympics Officials Discuss a Potential First: A Unified Korean Hockey Team (*The New York Times*, 01/2013)
Rival Koreas Agree to Talk on Art Troupe's Visit to Olympics (*The New York Times*, 01/13/2018)
S. Korea preparing for Pyongyang's possible participation in PyeongChang Paralympics (*Yonhap*, 01/12/2018)
South and North Korea discuss joint women's ice hockey team for Olympics (*The Guardian*, 01/13/2018)
South Korea and North Korea to hold working-level talks on January 15 (*Reuters*, 01/13/2018)
South Korea says North Korea suggested talks to send performance group to winter olympics (*Reuters*, 01/13/2018)
South Korea Suggests Combined Olympics Women's Hockey Team With North (VOA, 01/13/208)

International:
2 N. Korean defectors die in boat sinking: activist (*Yonhap*, 01/13/2018)
Economic chiefs of S. Korea, China to hold talks next month (*Yonhap*, 01/12/2018)
Inter-Korea talks unwelcome only in Japan (*The Korea Times*, 01/12/2018)
IOC considering joint Korean hockey team proposal: N. Korea's IOC member (*Yonhap*, 01/13/2018)
North Korea says IOC is considering South Korea's proposal for united women's hockey team: Yonhap (*Reuters*, 01/12/2018)
Trump asked why 'pretty Korean lady' analyst wasn't negotiating with North Korea (*The Guardian*, 01/13/2018)
U.S. and allies must work more closely on North Korea: Japan expert (*Reuters*, 01/13/2018)
U.S. hails China's reduction of trade with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 01/12/2018)
US, Japan Hold Joint Military Drill Amid Korea Tensions (VOA, 01/12/2018)
What does North Korea want from the Olympics? An expert in the politics of sports explains. (*The Washington Post*, 01/13/2018)
Will PyeongChang bring US, North Korea back to table? (*The Korea Times*, 01/12/2018)
With North Korea in Mind, Japan's Abe Strengthens Ties to Europe (VOA, 01/12/2018)

In North Korea:

- NK's decision this week to send an art troupe to accompany its athletes to SK's Winter Olympics in February has sparked excited speculation on the Korean Peninsula about which high octane performance might take the stage. (Nicola Smith, *The Telegraph*)
- The New Year's address provides insights into KJU's frame of mind and his thoughts on new policy directions. This year—in addition to laying out his positions and proposals on matters including foreign relations, the status of North-South relations, and extensions of themes and contents previously seen in past addresses—he used the new phrase "domestification" (which implies national autonomy), to describe accomplishments in various sectors. These sectors include nuclear weapons and foreign policy, NK military, economic interests, and scientific technology. (Lee Geun Young, *DailyNK*)

- NK residents are terrified that leader KJU's recent call to eliminate remaining "non-socialist" elements in society will mean a return to the bloody executions and fearful politics of the past when nonconformists were weeded out and brutally neutralized, sources inside the country said. (Kim Jieun, Jun Leejin, Roseanne Gerin, RFA)
- NK soap operas are turning away from plot-lines featuring heroic soldiers and workers devoting themselves to the party to instead focus on the material benefits - laptop computers, fashionable clothes, gold watches - of being loyal citizens. (Julian Ryall, *The Telegraph*)
- A NK state newspaper is celebrating the country's leader over the resumption of face-to-face talks with the South, saying KJU's policy to improve relations were "brilliant" for "national reunification." (Pauline Lockwood, Jason Hanna, CNN)
- Tunnel excavation has been detected at NK's Punggye-ri nuclear test site, a website analyzing NK said Friday. (Kim Bo-eun, *The Korea Times*)

In South Korea:

- Forming a joint women's hockey team with NK at the upcoming Winter Olympics will present a series of challenges for SK on many levels, despite the government's pledge to minimize any negative impact. (Yoo Jee-ho, *Yonhap*)
- SK will install additional artificial reefs near the western maritime border with NK to prevent illegal fishing by Chinese vessels, the provincial government said Saturday. In July, NK condemned the artificial reef structures as part of Seoul's military provocations against Pyongyang's maritime demarcation line. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- NK offered to hold a working-level meeting with SK next week to discuss details of its plan to send an art troupe to the South during next month's PyeongChang Winter Olympics, the unification ministry said Saturday. (*Yonhap*)
- SK on Saturday agreed to meet NK next week over the latter's plan to send an art troupe south of the border during the upcoming PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- Sliders from North Korea and South Korea may share a four-man sled at next month's games, with coaching provided by top international officials from Italy and the United States. (Tim Reynolds, AP)
- NK has given no response yet to SK's proposal to hold working-level talks next week to discuss details of the North's participation in the upcoming Winter Olympics in the South, an official said Saturday. (*Yonhap*)
- SK has proposed that NK join it in fielding a unified women's hockey team at the Winter Olympics next month, in what would be a first for the Games and a potentially dramatic emblem of the recent turn toward rapprochement on the Korean Peninsula. (Choe Sang-Hun, *The New York Times*)
- The rival Koreas have agreed Saturday that their talks next week will address a NK art troupe's visit to the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics in the South, rather than the participation of the nation's athletes. (*The Associated Press*)

- SK's Paralympic committee said Friday it is preparing to invite NK to the PyeongChang Winter Paralympics, which are slated for March, amid hope of inter-Korean reconciliation through sporting events. (*Yonhap*)
- SK has proposed fielding a joint women's ice hockey team with NK at next month's Winter Olympics, days after Pyongyang agreed to send a large delegation to the Games. (Justin McCurry, *The Guardian*)
- NK and SK have agreed to hold working-level talks at the Tongil Pavilion on the NK side of the truce village of Panmunjom on Jan. 15, SK's unification ministry said in a statement on Saturday. (Reuters Staff, *Reuters*)
- SK's unification ministry said on Saturday that NK has proposed working-level talks on the prospects of sending its performance 'art' group to the winter olympics held in the South. (Reuters Staff, *Reuters*)
- South Korea has suggested the formation of a combined women's hockey team with North Korea to compete at the Winter Olympics next month, a potential landmark development in relations between the bitter rivals. (VOA)

International:

- A small boat carrying 12 NK female defectors recently sank in the Mekong River on the border of Laos and Thailand, killing two of them, a human rights activist in SK said Saturday. (*Yonhap*)
- The top economic policymakers from SK and China will hold a bilateral meeting early next month, the Ministry of Strategy and Finance said Friday, restarting regular talks that have been halted for 21 months over a missile row. (*Yonhap*)
- While the rest of the international community welcomes the resumption of the inter-Korean dialogue and NK's decision to attend the PyeongChang Winter Olympics, Japan has shown a skeptical stance toward the talks. (Kim Bo-eun, *The Korea Times*)
- The International Olympic Committee is considering a proposal that South and North Korea form a joint women's hockey team at next month's PyeongChang Winter Games, the North's IOC member Chang Ung said Saturday. (*Yonhap*)
- NK's International Olympics Committee (IOC) official said it is considering SK's proposal for a united female hockey team, Yonhap news agency reported on Saturday. (Reuters Staff, *Reuters*)
- Amid global furor over his recent reported remarks, Donald Trump faced further controversy on Friday when it was reported that he referred to an intelligence analyst presenting information to him in the Oval Office as a "pretty Korean lady" and suggested she should be part of negotiations with NK. (Martin Pengelly, *The Guardian*)
- The US, SK, and Japan must coordinate more closely on NK, with whom they are engaged in a "pre-negotiation bargaining process", a former Japanese defense official told Reuters. (Stephanie Nebehay, *Reuters*)
- The US on Friday hailed the reduction of trade between China and NK, saying it supports global efforts to end the North's nuclear and ballistic missile programs. (*Yonhap*)
- US and Japanese military forces have launched joint exercises amid tensions with NK over its nuclear and ballistic missile programs.
  (Carla Babb, VOA)
- NK's participation in the upcoming Winter Olympics in PyeongChang may seem to be a change of pace after months of military tension. But NK has a long history in international

sporting events, and has frequently been accused of using its participation for political ends. (Adam Taylor, *The Washington Post*)

- After the two Koreas agreed to resume dialogue, hopes are running high there will also be positive changes in the relations between US and NK. (Yi Whan-woo, *The Korea Times*)
- Japan's prime minister Friday landed in Estonia, his first stop on a tour of the Baltic states and other European nations as he seeks to drum up support for his hawkish stance on NK. (Agence France Presse, VOA)

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, HRNK Research Intern

Sunday, January 14, 2018

The Transition of Trump's N.K. Policy and decreasing number of N.K. defectors in the US; N.K. slams Moon for lauding Trump's role in opening up inter-Korean talks; Trump denies saying he has good relationship with N.K. leader

Top News:
[Video] Washington Talk: The Transition of Trump's North Korea Policy and decreasing number of North Korean defectors in the US (*VOA Korea*, 01/13/2018)

In North Korea:
The coach who helped North Korea's skaters qualify for the Olympics (*BBC*, 01/14/2018)

In South Korea:
S. Korea's FM to attend Vancouver meeting to discuss N.K. issues (*Yonhap*, 01/14/2018)
The cost of ignoring Japan (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/14/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) 2 Koreas to hold working-level talks this week on details of art troupe's trip (*Yonhap*, 01/14/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korea slams Moon for lauding Trump's role in opening up inter-Korean talks (*Yonhap*, 01/14/2018)
N. Korea emphasizes reconciliation, calls for expanded inter-Korean exchanges (*Yonhap*, 01/14/2018)
North, South will meet again over arts group's visit (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/14/2018)
South Korea and North Korea to hold working-level talks on Jan. 15 (*Reuters*, 01/14/2018)

International:
Administration plan sees deterrence in new nuclear firepower (*Washington Post*, 01/14/2018)
A wave of panic rattles Hawaii after false missile alert (*Washington Post*, 01/14/2018)
Ballistic missile warning sent in error by Hawaii authorities (*Reuters*, 01/13/2018)
Gabbard: 'Unacceptable' false alarm missile warning in Hawaii underscores need for talks with North Korea (CNN, 01/14/2018)

Hawaii congresswoman says false alarm shows Trump's failure on North Korea (*Guardian*, 01/14/2018)
Hawaii False Missile Alert Explained: Worker 'Pushed Wrong Button' (VOA, 01/13/2018)
Hawaii False Alarm Hints at Thin Line Between Mishap and Nuclear War (NYT, 01/14/2018)
'Is this the end of my life?': False alert of missile attack sends Hawaii scrambling (*Washington Post*, 01/14/2018)
New Trump Policy Could Strengthen Role of Nuclear Weapons (VOA, 01/13/2018)
Nuclear deterrence is a myth. And a lethal one at that (*Guardian*, 01/14/2018)
Trump denies saying he has good relationship with N.K. leader (*Yonhap*, 01/14/2018)
Trump's dilemma (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/14/2018)
Trump Escalates a Dispute With The Wall Street Journal Over a Quotation (NYT, 01/14/2018)
White House attacks WSJ over Trump interview (CNN, 01/14/2018)
White House claims Wall Street Journal misquoted Trump as saying he has a good relationship with Kim Jong Un (*Washington Post*, 01/14/2018)

Top News:

- HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu discusses North Korea issues of the week, particularly regarding potential US-NK talks and the decreasing number of North Korean defectors in the US. (*VOA Korea*)

In North Korea:

- Canadian figure skating coach Bruno Marcotte will be watching closely when NK's figure skating team takes to the ice in Pyeongchang during the Olympics. (BBC)

In South Korea:

- SK's top diplomat is to join a gathering of ministers from 16 countries to be held in Canada this week to discuss issues related to security and stability on the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- Japan adheres to the position that NK's policies should be changed through maximum pressure. It may be hard to win the support of the US without Japan's backing. SK also cannot rule out the possibility that Japan may seek relations with NK. (*Joongang Ilbo*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Two Koreas will hold working-level talks this week to work out details on the North's participation in next month's Winter Olympic Games. (*Yonhap*)
- NK slammed President Moon for his recent press conference remark that Trump has to be credited for helping open up inter-Korean talks. NK also threatened a withdrawal of its participation in the 2018 PyeongChang Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- NK's state media emphasized the importance of reconciliation and unity between the two Koreas and also called for expanded inter-Korean exchanges in a way that would be conductive to reunification. (*Yonhap*)
- Representatives from Seoul and Pyongyang will convene again near the border to discuss a NK performing arts group's visit to the South next month for the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- NK and SK have agreed to hold working-level talks at the Tongil Pavilion on the NK side of the truce village of Panmunjom on Jan. 15. (*Reuters*)

International:

- With Russia in mind, the Trump administration is aiming to develop new nuclear firepower that it says will make it easier to deter threats to European allies. (Robert Burns, AP)
- The second recent blunder in Hawaii's planning for a possible NK nuclear attack left islanders shaken after an emergency alert warning of an imminent strike sounded on hundreds of thousands of cellphones. (Caleb Jones and Audrey McAvoy, AP)
- An emergency alert was sent mistakenly to Hawaii's residents warning of an imminent ballistic missile attack when an employee at the state emergency management agency pushed the "wrong button," Hawaii's governor said. (Jolyn Rosa, *Reuters*)
- The false ballistic missile warning in Hawaii was "unacceptable" and points to a need for Trump to negotiate with NK directly. (Eli Watkins, CNN)
- The false alarm about a ballistic missile strike that terrified Hawaii on Saturday showed Trump's policy on NK is wrong (Martin Pengelly, *Guardian*)
- Hawaii Governor David Ige said the false missile alert that panicked islanders was "totally unacceptable" and said the warning was caused by human error. (VOA)
- Nuclear experts are warning that Hawaii's false alarm, in which state agencies alerted locals to a nonexistent missile attack, underscores a growing risk of unintended nuclear war with NK. (Max Fisher, NYT)
- The incident underscored the already heightened level of anxiety amid mounting tensions with NK over its nuclear arsenal and the menacing social media exchanges between Trump and KJU. (Amy B Wang, Dan Lamothe and Greg Miller, *Washington Post*)
- Trump's administration could pursue development of new nuclear weaponry and explicitly leave open the possibility of nuclear retaliation for major non-nuclear attacks, if a leaked draft policy document becomes reality. (*Reuters*)
- Nuclear deterrence continues to dominate international relations. Yet there is no proof it ever worked, nor that it ever will. (David P Barash, *Guardian*)
- Trump said a newspaper misquoted him as saying that he has a good relationship with KJU, when in fact he said he "would" have a good relationship with Kim. (*Yonhap*)
- The emergence of North-South dialogue just as the pressure campaign on NK was reaching its apex clearly presented Washington with a dilemma. (Michael Green, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Trump ratcheted up a dispute with The Wall Street Journal, accusing the newspaper of purposely misquoting him as saying in an interview that he has a good relationship with KJU (Michael D. Shear, NYT)
- White House criticizes WSJ misquoting Trump's comment on his relationship with KJU, saying Trump said ""I'd probably have a very good relationship with KJU" instead of "I probably have a very good...." (Rob McLean, CNN)
- Trump claimed Sunday that the Wall Street Journal deliberately misquoted him as saying that he probably has a good relationship with KJU. (Anne Gearan, *Washington Post*)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

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Monday, January 15, 2018

N.K. orchestra to perform in South during Olympics amid easing tensions; N.K. slams U.S. for throwing cold water on warming inter-Korean ties

In North Korea:
Bribes needed for spot on Olympic cheer squad (*Daily* NK, 01/15/2018)
North Korea announces "Naenara" brand vehicles (NK *Economy Watch*, 01/15/2018)
Public prison camp executions belied state propaganda for former prisoner (*Daily* NK, 01/15/2018)
Residents angered by continued government demands to provide material aid for construction projects (*Daily* NK, 01/15/2018)

In South Korea:
S. Koreans turn in favor of N. Korea's Olympic participation (*Yonhap*, 01/14/2018)
Staying alert (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/16/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Can South Korea stomach North Korea's girl band? (*Korea Times*, 01/15/2018)
How far is South Korea willing to go to meet Kim Jong-un's demands over the Winter Olympics? (*Telegraph*, 01/15/2018)
Koreas would march behind 'Korean Unification' flag in joint Olympic entrance: minister (*Yonhap*, 01/15/2018)
North and South Korea meet again to discuss Winter Olympics (CNN, 01/15/2018)
North Korean orchestra to perform in South during Olympics amid easing tensions (*Reuters*, 01/15/2018)
North Korea talks: Baby steps in a big, complex picture (CNN, 01/15/2018)
Police to beef up security for N.K. delegation to PyeongChang Olympics (*Yonhap*, 01/15/2018)
Pyongyang to PyeongChang (*Korea Times*, 01/15/2018)
Seoul has no plans for joint Korean teams in sports other than women's hockey: official (*Yonhap*, 01/14/2018)
South Korea Engagement Strategy Requires Daunting Diplomacy (VOA, 01/14/2018)
S. Korea may consider including N.K. in land development plan (*Yonhap*, 01/14/2018)
S. Korean Olympic body to propose regular inter-Korean sports exchanges (*Yonhap*, 01/14/2018)
Will Kim Jong Un's favorite band be attending the Winter Olympics? (CNN, 01/15/2018)

International:
(LEAD) Alliance-based diplomacy on N. Korea crucial: U.S. senator (*Yonhap*, 01/15/2018)
Allies to hold talks on 'extended deterrence' (*Yonhap*, 01/15/2018)
China absence looms over Canada meeting on how to pressure North Korea (*Reuters*, 01/15/2018)
(LEAD) Leaders of S. Korea, Mongolia vow to improve ties, work for denuclearization of N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 01/15/2018)
North Korea meeting to stress importance of sanctions - Canada (*Reuters*, 01/15/2018)
(LEAD) N.K. slams U.S. for throwing cold water on warming inter-Korean ties (*Yonhap*, 01/14/2018)
Pope warns world is one step away from nuclear war (*Reuters*, 01/15/2018)
Russian foreign minister berates US for 'destabilizing' world (CNN, 01/15/2018)
Russia ready to support direct talks on North Korea crisis: Lavrov (*Reuters*, 01/15/2018)
Russia will not support U.S. bid to change Iran nuclear deal: Lavrov (*Reuters*, 01/15/2018)

S. Korean FM communicates results of inter-Korean talks to visiting U.S. lawmakers (*Yonhap*, 01/15/2018)
USFK halts shooting exercises at Rodriguez range after another accident (*Yonhap*, 01/15/2018)
US moves ships, bombers toward Korea ahead of Olympics (*Washington Post*, 01/15/2018)
(LEAD) Vice foreign minister to visit U.S. to discuss N.K. issue, attend security meeting (*Yonhap*, 01/15/2018)

In North Korea:

- Training is underway for NK's new cheerling squad for the 2018 Pyeongchang Olympics. Girls hoping to make the team not only need to meet aptitude requirements, but must also pay bribes to officials in order to stand a chance at selection. (*Daily NK*)
- The NK news portal "Naenara" announced "Naenara" brand vehicles over the weekend. (*NK Economy Watch*)
- Interview with Pak Joo-yong, who was born in the Pukchang Concentration Camp and did not escape until he was almost 23. It details his experiences of life in a political prison camp. (*Daily NK)*
- Since the start of the New Year, N.Korean residents have been receiving orders to provide aid supplies for construction in Samjiyon County as part of perennial efforts to propagandize the town that N. Korean folklore has established was the hometown of KJI. The residents are reacting negatively to this move, as the purpose is to further idolize KJU, rather than to build homes for the people of Samjiyon. (Kang Mi-jin, *Daily NK*)

In South Korea:

- S. Korean public opinion has swiftly turned positive over NK's participation in the upcoming Winter Olympic Games, since the reclusive country decided last week to join the international event in the South, a local big data analysis firm said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- The government must be on alert if NK makes a move to take advantage of the Olympics to accelerate its propaganda through the dispatch of artistes. The Moon administration must not be one-sidedly dragged into dialogue. (*Joongang Ilbo*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The Moranbong Band's performances focus on glorifying dictator KJU while belittling the Seoul government and antagonizing the US. The band sometimes features mockups of NK tanks and performers in military uniforms, describing SK and the U.S. as helpless enemies. Its music and lyrics reflect the North's military-first policy. (Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)
- The two Koreas have very quickly been able to reach a broad agreement on NK taking part in the upcoming Pyeongchang Winter Olympic Games, but there are countless details that need to be solved before the two nations' athletes can walk into the stadium shoulder-to-shoulder for the opening ceremony on Feb 9. (Julian Ryall, T*elegraph*)
- Athletes of the two Koreas would march together behind the "Korean Unification" flag at the opening of the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics in the case the two sides agree on a joint entrance, Seoul's sports minister said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- NK and SK are discussing fielding a joint ice hockey team in next month's Winter Olympics, a potential first for the two countries, which have never competed under one flag at the Games. (Joshua Berlinger, Jeyup Kwaak, CNN)
- NK agreed during rare talks on Mon. to send a 140-strong orchestra to perform during the Winter Olympics in SK next month, Seoul said, amid easing tensions after a months-long standoff over the North's weapons programs. (Hyonhee Shin, Christine Kim, *Reuters)*
- There have been numerous attempts at finding a diplomatic solution to stymie Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions, but each time yielded little long-term gains. Last week's talks and the

follow-up, are baby steps in the big picture, analysts say and it's unclear whether they'll eventually help both sides walk toward a solution. (Joshua Berlinger, CNN)

- Police said Mon. that they will beef up security for NK participants in next month's PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (Yonhap)
- With Pyongyang abruptly announcing that it will come to PyeongChang — something Moon has long been pressing and hoping for — spiraling tensions look to, at least temporarily, evaporate. I may be a naive dolt, but I consider this to be, on balance, a good thing. However, the cynics are out in force. (Andrew Salmon, Korea Times)
- Seoul has no plans to push for a joint Korean team in sports other than women's hockey at the upcoming Winter Olympics, a sports ministry official said Mon. (Yonhap)
- After negotiating what seems to be an Olympics truce with NK, Moon now has a chance to test his outreach strategy to achieve the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula through economic engagement. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- SK may consider including NK in its countrywide land development plans through consultations with related parties, the transport ministry said Mon. (Yonhap)
- SK's Olympic body will propose to its N. Korean counterpart holding regular sports exchanges, when the two sides meet at International Olympic Committee (IOC) headquarters later this week. (Yonhap)
- As talks continue between the two Koreas an unlikely face popped up at the demilitarized zone as diplomats sat down together Mon: Hyon Song-wol, a member of Kim's personal girl band, Moranbong. Her presence suggests Moranbong may be attending next month's Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, SK. (James Griffiths, CNN)

International:

- Visiting U.S. Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)mentioned two keywords: alliance and denuclearization, expressing support for SKs talks with the North. (Yonhap)
- SK and the US will open senior-level two-plus-two talks this week on Washington's security commitment, the Ministry of National Defense said Mon. (Yonhap)
- Foreign ministers from around 20 nations gather on Tuesday to discuss how to curb NK's nuclear ambitions through diplomatic and financial pressure, but China, seen as a key player in any long-term solution, will be absent. (David Ljunggren, Reuters)
- Moon and Mongolian Prime Minister Ukhnaa Khurelsukh called for efforts to upgrade their countries' relationship on Mon, while also pledging joint efforts to peacefully denuclearize the Korean Peninsula. (Yonhap)
- A summit on curbing North Korea's nuclear ambitions will focus in part on how to ensure countries fully implement all the sanctions imposed on the reclusive state, a Canadian government source said on Monday. (David Ljunggren, Reuters)
- NK condemned the US on Mon for damaging a thaw in inter-Korean ties, as Washington vows to employ maximum sanctions and pressure until the North gives up its nuclear and ballistic missile programs. (Yonhap)
- Asked if he was worried about the possibility of nuclear war, Pope Francis said: "I think we are at the very limit. I am really afraid of this. One accident is enough to precipitate things." He did not mention Hawaii or NK.(Philip Pullella, Reuters)
- Lavrov criticized the US for issuing regular "threats" in relation to events in North Korea and Iran, saying they had "further destabilized" the global situation. (Emma Burrows, Angela Dewan, Lindsay Isaac, CNN)
- Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Mon. Moscow is ready to support direct talks between parties involved in the NK missile crisis. (Reuters)

- Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Mon. Moscow will not support attempts by Washington to modify the Iran nuclear deal, arguing such a move could also complicate diplomacy over NK's nuclear weapons program. (*Reuters*)
- In a meeting with visiting US lawmakers (Senator Tammy Duckworth and Arizona Representative Ruben Gallego), SK's top diplomat (Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha) on Mon. discussed NK's participation in the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics and called for US Congress' support for the successful hosting of the event. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) has again suspended the operation of an accident-prone firing range close to the border with NK following a probe into the latest case of stray bullets found in a nearby area, the Ministry of National Defense said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- The U.S. is beefing up its presence around the Korean Peninsula ahead of next month's Winter Olympics by deploying stealth bombers, at least one extra aircraft carrier and a new amphibious assault ship to the region. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- Vice Foreign Minister Lim Sung-nam, a senior SK diplomat will visit the US this week to discuss cooperation on NK and other security issues, the foreign ministry here said Mon. (*Yonhap*)

Prepared by Emma Stubblefield, HRNK Research Intern

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Tuesday, January 16, 2018

North Korea Nuclear Talks: Greg Scarlatoiu on BBC; Top diplomats of S.K, US, Japan likely to hold trilateral meeting in Vancouver; Japan public TV sends mistaken North Korean missile alert

Top News:
North Korea Nuclear Talks: Greg Scarlatoiu on BBC (*BBC*, 01/16/2018)

In North Korea:
N. Korea calls for complete stop of S. Korea-U.S. joint drills (*Yonhap*, 01/16/2018)
North Koreans feel economic pain, even if Kim boasts success (*DailyNK*, 01/16/2018)
North Korea Mocks Trump's 'Nuclear Button' Boast (VOA, 01/16/2018)
North Korea calls Trump a 'lunatic' and a 'loser' in response to nuclear button tweet(*Washington Post*, 01/16/2018)
Photo shows forced work mobilization of residents in Hyesan (*DailyNK*, 01/16/2018)

In South Korea:
DP head is eager to help inter-Korean talks (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/16/2018)
Opposition moves to defend NIS (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/16/2018)
S. Korea hockey coach says 'damage' inevitable if N. Koreans are added for Olympics (*Yonhap*, 01/16/2018)
South Korean police prep security for North Korean Olympic visitors (*UPI*, 01/15/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) Koreas exchange list of delegates for talks on Olympics (*Yonhap*, 01/16/2018)
(6th LD) N.K. to send 140-member art troupe to S. Korea during Winter Olympics (*Yonhap*01/15/2018)
Experts wary of North Korea using Olympic art troupe for propaganda purposes (*Daily*NK, 01/16/2018)
Final-NK art troupe to Olympics is rarely known (*Korea Times*, 01/16/2018)
Going crazy over the Games (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/16/2018)
In symbolic move, N.K. art troupe likely to walk across tense border (*Yonhap*, 01/16/2018)
North Korea's 140-strong troupe may cross over at DMZ (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/16/2018)
N. Korea requests delay in return of four bodies (*Yonhap*, 01/16/2018)
North Korea slams Moon for giving Trump credit for talks (*Korea Times*, 01/15/2018)
North Korea to send 140-member troupe to South; to hold concerts in Seoul, Gangneung (*Korea Times*, 01/16/2018)
North Korea to send orchestra to Winter Olympics as talks continue over single flag at opening ceremony (*Telegraph*, 01/16/2018)
N. Korean talent not enough to make difference for S. Korea on joint hockey team: coach (*Yonhap*, 01/16/2018)
North Korea warns against joint drills with South; U.S. deploys bombers (UPI, 01/16/2018)
Plan for joint Olympics team with North gets icy reception in South Korea (*Reuters*, 01/16/2018)
South Korea refuses to send back 12 North Korean defectors (UPI, 01/16/2018)
When North and South played together (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/16/2018)

International:
(LEAD) Top diplomats of S. Korea, U.S., Japan likely to hold trilateral meeting in Vancouver (*Yonhap*, 01/16/2018)
Can the U.S. and Russia work together? A new poll suggests some shared foreign policy goals (*Washington Post*, 01/16/2018)
Canada pledges solidarity with S. Korea over handling N. Korean nukes (*Yonhap*, 01/16/2018)
China, Russia slam meeting in Vancouver as outmoded (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/16/2018)
Did the U.S. underestimate North Korea's weapons program? It's not that simple. (*Washington Post*, 01/16/2018)
First Hawaii, now Japan sends a false alarm about incoming North Korean missile (*Washington Post*, 01/16/2018)
Japan issues false alarm over missile launch, days after Hawaii alert gaffe (*Reuters*, 01/16/2018)
Japan's national broadcaster wrongly sends out North Korea missile warning - days after Hawaii sent accidental emergency message (*Telegraph*, 01/16/2018)
Japanese broadcaster issues North Korean missile alert by mistake (*Guardian*, 01/16/2018)
Japanese Broadcaster Issues False Alert of North Korean Missile Strike (VOA, 01/16/2018)
Japanese broadcaster apologizes after false North Korea missile alert (CNN, 01/16/2018)
Japan investigates how to evacuate citizens from South Korea in crisis: report (*Reuters*, 01/16/2018)
Japan public TV sends mistaken North Korean missile alert (*Washington Post*, 01/16/2018)
North Korean Defector Speaks Out After China Repatriates Family (VOA, 01/16/2018)
Russian, US and other ministers expected at UN meetings (*Washington Post*, 01/16/2018)
Russia's hidden world of North Korean labor (CNN, 01/16/2018)
The case for using military force against North Korea (UPI, 01/16/2018)
The Latest: SK Says Talks With NK a 'Significant First Step' (NYT, 01/16/2018)
The Hawaii alert was an accident. The dread it inspired wasn't. (*Washington Post*, 01/16/2018)

Trump's first year of diplomacy finds friends and foes (CNN, 01/16/2018)
Trump Talks North Korea, Trade With Chinese President Xi (NYT, 01/16/2018)
US advises travellers to North Korea to write will and make funeral arrangements (*Telegraph*, 01/16/2018)
US allies from Korean War meet on North Korean nuke threat (*Washington Post*, 01/16/2018)
US and Canada will host North Korea nuclear meeting (CNN, 01/15/2018)
U.S. warns against visiting North (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/16/2018)
Vancouver meeting focuses on sanctions as Koreas explore detente (*Reuters*, 01/16/2018)
Vancouver Talks Focus on Pressuring North Korea (VOA, 01/16/2018)
Xi tells Trump: hard-earned peace on Korean peninsula 'must continue' (*Korea Times*, 01/16/2018)

Top News:

- HRNK Executive Greg Scarlatoiu discusses various North Korea issues including the recent N.K.-S.K. meeting. (*HRNK*)

In North Korea:

- N.K. propaganda outlets repeated their calls for S.K. to totally stop its joint military drills with the US, claiming their temporary halt does not mean the abatement of war danger on the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- As the number of sanctioned items continues to grow, merchants trading in N.K's markets are complaining that they "have no future." KJU and the authorities are demanding loyalty funds so that they can weather the storm. (Kim Sung Il, *DailyNK*)
- N.K. has issued another salvo in the war of words with Trump, calling a recent boast about the size of his "nuclear button" as compared to KJU's as the "spasm of a lunatic." (VOA)
- N.K.'s official news agency responded to Trump's controversial "nuclear button tweet," describing it as the "spasm of a lunatic." (Rick Noack, *Washington Post*)
- A source inside N.K. has sent a photo of local residents mobilized to work on a road and rail construction project in Hyesan, Ryanggang Province. (*DailyNK*)

In South Korea:

- The leader of S.K.'s ruling Democratic Party voiced her willingness to play a mediating role that would allow ongoing inter-Korean talks to lead to dialogue between the US and N.K. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon's initiative to redistribute investigative powers from the NIS and prosecution to police and overhaul the judicial system is facing strong resistance by opposition parties, prosecutors and members of the intelligence community. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- S.K. women's hockey head coach Sarah Murray said her players will suffer "damage" if N.K. players are added to the team for next month's Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- S.K. police are preparing to ramp up security protection for North Koreans attending the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics next month. (Jennie Oh, UPI)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- S.K. and N.K. exchanged lists of delegates for this week's working-level talks on the North's participation in the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K. agreed to send a 140-member art troupe including an orchestra to S.K. during next month's PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- Analysis of the North's agenda during working-level talks in Panmunjom reveals that N.K. is openly indicating its intention to use the Olympics for propaganda purposes. (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)
- The Samjiyon Orchestra, a 140-member N.K. musical performance troupe, is drawing keen attention as it will perform during the Winter Olympics next month. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- Controversy arises over the proposed formation of a single hockey team as many South Koreans believe that a sports event cannot be sacrificed to their government's political goals. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- A 140-member N.K. art delegation that will attend next month's Winter Olympics is likely to walk across the tense border, where a soldier made a dramatic defection to the South two months ago while sustaining gunshot wounds. (*Yonhap*)
- Pyongyang asked Seoul to allow 140 members of an orchestra to cross into the country to attend the Winter Olympics through Panmunjom next month. (Lee Sung-eun, Jeong Yong-soo, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- SK's unification ministry has postponed the return of four bodies of apparent North Koreans to the communist nation by a day at the North's request. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K. state media have strongly criticized Moon about his remarks on the ongoing inter-Korean talks. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- N.K. will send a 140-member orchestral music troupe to the PyeonChang Winter Olympics. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- N.K. will send an 80-piece orchestra and a further 60 singers and dancers to perform concerts in S.K. during the upcoming Winter Olympic Games. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- NK doesn't have enough talent to make a difference for SK in women's hockey even if a joint team is assembled for the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K. media has called for a complete halt of joint military drills between S.K. and the US. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- While Seoul forges ahead with plans to use the upcoming Winter Olympics to showcase inter-Korean unity, some S.K. athletes are "furious" at proposals to form joint teams with North Koreans. (Heekyong Yang, Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- Seoul says it will not repatriate a group of N.K. defectors who escaped through China two years ago. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- With the growing possibility of N.K. and S.K. fielding a unified women's ice hockey team for the upcoming Winter Olympics, attention is turning to previous instances where the estranged countries played together on the international field. (Park Rin, Kim Ji-han, *Joongang Ilbo*)

International:

- The foreign ministers of S.K., the US and Japan are likely to hold a joint meeting in Vancouver this week on the sidelines of an international meeting focused on N.K. issues. (*Yonhap*)

- New comparative polling data shows that the American and Russian publics broadly agree on the importance of a number of key foreign policy issues. (Adam Taylor, *Washington Post*)
- The top Canadian diplomat has pledged her country's solidarity with S.K. in dealing with N.K. nuclear issues as Canada co-hosts a meeting of foreign ministers from countries that fought for the South in the Korean War. (*Yonhap*)
- China and Russia lambasted a foreign ministers' meeting, from which they have been excluded, hosted by the US and Canada on the N.K nuclear issue, criticizing it as mostly involving US allies. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- US seems to underestimate N.K.'s ability to develop a missile capable of hitting an American city with a nuclear warhead. (Alex Bollfrass, *Washington Post*)
- Japanese public broadcaster NHK mistakenly sent an alert Tuesday warning that N.K. had fired a missile, just days after a similar mistake caused panic in Hawaii. (Anna Fifield, *Washington Post*)
- NHK issued a false alarm on Tuesday saying N.K. appeared to have launched a missile and urging people to take shelter, but it managed to correct the error within minutes. (*Reuters*)
- Japan's national broadcaster sent out a message warning the country of an imminent N.K. missile attack, which later turned out to be a false alarm. (Helena Horton, *Telegraph*)
- Japan's public broadcaster mistakenly sent an alert warning citizens about a N.K. missile launch and urging them to seek immediate shelter, then retracted it minutes later – days after a similar error occurred in Hawaii. (AP)
- NHK sent out a message online and through its mobile phone application that read "North Korea likely to have launched missile" and urged people to take shelter either underground or inside buildings. (VOA)
- Japanese national broadcaster NHK issued an on-air apology after issuing an alert incorrectly claiming that N.K. had launched a ballistic missile. (CNN)
- Japan is examining how to evacuate its roughly 60,000 citizens from S.K. in the event of a crisis that closes airports, with military ships being used as shuttles. (*Reuters*)
- Japan's public broadcaster mistakenly sent an alert Tuesday warning citizens of a N.K. missile launch and urging them to seek immediate shelter, then minutes later corrected it, days after a similar error in Hawaii. (Mari Yamaguchi, AP)
- N.K. defector Lee Tae-won is still plagued with guilt over his failed efforts to bring his wife and child to S.K., which resulted in their forced repatriation and the likely prospect of imprisonment and possible execution in N.K. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- A high-level UNSC meeting this week will focus on "confidence building" measures to deal with weapons of mass destruction, and N.K. is expected to be in the spotlight. (AP)
- In pre-fabricated buildings, down a muddy track on the outskirts of St. Petersburg lies a world of hidden North Korean labor in Russia. (Emma Burrows and Matthew Chance, CNN)
- As American and Canadian officials meet this week to discuss N.K, it's worth a reminder that military options must be on the table if diplomatic efforts to denuclearize the country fail. (Danny Lam, University of Waterloo, UPI)
- S.K. Foreign Minister says its talks with N.K. are a "significant first step toward restoring inter-Korean relations." (AP)
- The Hawaii incident could be a wake-up call for state and federal agencies to review their systems with closer scrutiny to the possibility of human error, system malfunction or deliberate manipulation by hackers. (Alex Wellerstein, *Washington Post*)
- Trump has visited 13 countries himself, deepening ties to the club of world leaders. The at-times bombastic Trump has also shown a flair for diplomacy, befriending and charming unlikely world leaders, as both a host and a guest. (Kevin Liptak and Dan Merica, CNN)

- Trump and Xi are hopeful that talks between N.K. and S.K. might prompt a change in N.K.'s destructive behavior. (AP)
- American citizens who wish to visit N.K. should write a will, make funeral arrangements and designate carers for their children and pets, a chilling travel advisory from the US State Department has warned. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- Secretary of State Rex Tillerson huddles Tuesday with nations that fought on America's side in the Korean War, looking to tighten the economic noose around N.K. over its nuclear weapons even as hopes rise for diplomacy. (Matthew Pennington, AP)
- US and Canada will co-host an international summit on the N.K. nuclear threat in Vancouver, as tensions on the Korean Peninsula settle into a steady simmer while direct talks between the north and the south continue. (Laura Koran and Nicole Gaouette, CNN)
- American citizens who wish to travel to N.K. have been advised to first draft a will and make funeral plans in a new warning system introduced by the U.S. Department of State. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Vancouver meeting will look at ways to better implement sanctions to push N.K. to abandon its nuclear weapons, even as the North and South explore detente ahead of next month's Winter Olympics. (David Ljunggren, David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)
- US and Canada are hosting a meeting Tuesday in Vancouver focused on pressuring N.K. to abandon its nuclear weapons program. (VOA)
- Xi Jinping told Trump in a phone call that the hard-earned easing of tensions on the Korean Peninsula must continue. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

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Wednesday, January 17, 2018

Koreas agree to march together at PyeongChang, field first joint Olympic team

In North Korea:

Crackdown on South Korean media continues despite North-South 'thaw' (*Daily* NK, 01/17/2018)
Female cheering squad likely to lead N.K. charm offensive at PyeongChang (*Yonhap*,01/17/2018)
North Korea 'could become world's most prolific crystal meth dealer on the dark net' if diplomacy fails (*Telegraph*, 01/17/2018)
North Korea opens new ski resort amid talks to be involved in next month's Winter Olympics (*Telegraph*, 01/17/2018)
North Korea state-run media reporter joins inter-Korean talks (*Korea Times*, 01/17/2018)
Kim Jong-un's right hand man or his sister: The senior figures tipped to lead North Korea at Winter Olympics (*Telegraph*, 01/17/2018)
North Korea writer 'Bandi' is incommunicado, activist says (UPI, 01/17/2018)
SPECIAL REPORT-The fabulous story of North Korea's fabric made of stone (*Reuters*, 01/17/2018)

Satellite image shows ongoing work on N.K.'s second SLBM test barge (*Yonhap*, 01/17/2018)
Violinists and cheering squads: North Korea's Olympic lineup (*Washington Post*, 01/17/2018)

In South Korea:
Koreas plan Olympic first with joint women's hockey team. But many in the South are not happy. (Washington Post, 01/17/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Agreement on joint Olympic hockey team unprecedented feat for Koreas (*Yonhap*,01/17/2018)
Behind the curtain of Ri Son Kwon's change of tune during high-level talks (*Daily NK*, 01/17/2018)
Experts: Inter-Korean dialogue unlikely to lead to denuclearization talks (*UPI*, 01/17/2018)
FM: Inter-Korean talks do not run afoul of int'l sanctions on N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 01/17/2018)
Joint march at 2018 Winter Olympics long time coming for Koreas (*Yonhap*, 01/17/2018)
Koreas agree to march together at PyeongChang, field first joint Olympic team (*Yonhap*,10/17/2018)
Koreas to be united by traditional martial art of taekwondo -- again (*Yonhap*, 01/17/2018)
Moon touts joint team of two Koreas in Jincheon (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/17/2018)
N. Korea set to make 1st Winter Paralympics appearance (*Yonhap*,01/17/2018)
North Korea to send 230-member cheering squad to Olympics (*Washington Post*, 01/17/2018)
Olympic talks boost hopes for reopening of Inter-Korean land routes (*Yonhap*, 01/17/2018)
Petition filed against unified women's ice hockey team (*Korea Times*, 01/17/2018)
S. Korea may send nat'l team reserves, prospects for joint skiing training with N. Korea (*Yonhap*,10/17/2018)

International:
A nuclear North Korea is bringing back Cold War paranoia (*Washington Post*, 01/17/2018)
China says Canada meeting on North Korea showed "Cold War" mentality (*Reuters*, 01/17/2018)
Donald Trump administration 'looking very seriously at North Korea military options' (*Telegraph*, 01/17/2018).
First 'ghost ship' of 2018 washes up in Japan with dead North Koreans (CNN, 01/17/2018).
Foreign ministers of 20 countries support inter-Korean talks, diplomatic efforts on nuke issue(*Yonhap*, 01/16/2018)
Japan government tells public broadcaster not to repeat false missile alert (*Reuters*, 01/17/2018)
Nations to consider more North Korea sanctions, U.S. warns on military option (*Reuters*, 01/17/2018)
North Korea linked to new cryptocurrency attacks (CNN, 01/17/2018)
North Korean nuclear weapons crisis at a 'tenuous stage,' Tillerson says (*Washington Post*, 01/16/2018)
North Korea Rejects Sanctions Talk, Ready for 'Successful' Olympics: Diplomat (NYT, 01/17/2018)
North Korea rips 'lunatic' Trump as US moves B-52 bombers to Guam (CNN, 01/16/2018)
Russia: North Korea summit undermines U.N., aggravates situation (*Reuters*, 01/17/2018)
S. Korean, Japanese FMs discuss N.K., historical issues (*Yonhap*, 01/17/2018)
S. Korea, U.S., Japan reaffirm shared goal of peacefully resolving N.K. nuke problem(*Yonhap*, 01/17/2018)
Switzerland 'not in favor' of expanded roster for potential joint Korean Olympic women's hockey team (*Yonhap*, 01/17/2018)
Trump, Kazakh president discuss North Korea nuclear threat (*Washington Post*, 01/16/2018)
Trump says 'Russia is not helping' with North Korea (CNN, 01/17/2018)
UN chief believes war over North Korea nukes is avoidable (*Washington Post*, 01/16/2018)
US, Japan warn North Korea playing for time as talks press on (CNN, 01/17/2018)

US: North Korea's Recklessness Put Civilian Air Traffic in Danger (VOA, 01/17/2018)
US Ups Pressure on African Nations to Cut N.Korea Ties, Trade (VOA, 01/17/2018)
U.S. watchdog again rates North Korea as among least-free countries (*Yonhap*, 01/17/2018)

In North Korea:

- Sources inside NK have reported on a recent decision by the authorities to hand down severe punishment to six people charged with spying and treason for making phone calls to SK. Despite an outward appearance of warming North-South relations with the recent high-level talks occurring between the Koreas, anti-S.Korean domestic policies remain unchanged. (Kang Mi-jin, *Daily NK*)
- NK's "army of beauties" appears set for another charm offensive in SK during next month's Winter Olympics, spicing up the political rapprochement across the border and possibly helping soften the image of the belligerent regime of KJU. (*Yonhap*)
- NK could emulate the Taliban in becoming one of the world's most prolific dealers in illicit drugs if it feels trapped by economic sanctions and diplomatic talks fail, the author of a new book on the hermit kingdom has warned. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- NK has just announced the opening of the Kanggye Ski Resort. (Lucy Aspden,*Telegraph)*
- A reporter dealing with S. Korean affairs in Pyongyang was part of the North Korean delegation taking part in vice-ministerial-level talks with the South, Wed. The KCNA reporter's appearance Wed could indicate that the North may send a number of journalists to PyeongChang. (Choi Ha-young, *Korea Times*)
- Who will represent KJU in Pyeongchang? Speculation in S. Korean circles is focusing on the N. Korean leader's right-hand man, Choe Ryong-hae, 67, or his twenty-something younger sister, Kim Yo-jong, whose star is rising in the ruling Worker's Party. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- NK's first known dissident writer still living in the country has become unreachable since his book has been published in the US and translated into 21 languages. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- For much of the world, vinylon/vinalon is a niche product. In NK, where winter temperatures are frigid and which cannot produce enough cotton or wool for clothing, the synthetic fibre was glorified as a revolutionary invention. (*Reuters)*
- Recent satellite imagery showed ongoing work on NK's second submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) test stand barge off its western coast (*Yonhap*)
- NK's hoping to grab as much of the spotlight as it can with what might be an Olympic first in ice hockey and a flamboyantly crowd-pleasing all-female cheering section. (Eric Talmadge, AP)

In South Korea:

- Many S. Koreans are up in arms over a plan to field a single Korean women's hockey team at next month's Winter Olympics, viewing it as a step too far in the government's attempt to bring about a thaw in relations between the two Koreas. (Anna Fifield, *Washington Post)*

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- SK and NK on Wed. agreed to form a joint women's hockey team at the upcoming Winter Olympics south of the border, an unprecedented breakthrough in the history of sporting exchanges between the two. (Yoo Jee-ho,*Yonhap*)

- NK's lead delegate Ri Son Kwon allowed the South to mention denuclearization without any particular reaction, but later appeared incensed by the topic, probably due to direction from Pyongyang. (Ahn Jong-sik, *Daily NK*)
- The recent round of talks between SK and NK are unlikely to break the stalemate on denuclearization, SK experts told UPI on Wednesday. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- The ongoing talks between SK and NK do not run counter to international economic sanctions imposed on the North, the top SK diplomat said Tues following a multilateral meeting focused on NK in Vancouver, Canada. (*Yonhap*)
- The joint Korean march to start the 2018 Winter Olympics, as agreed to by the two sides on Wed, has been a long time coming for two countries that have been technically at war for over six decades. (Yoo Jee-ho,*Yonhap*)
- SK and NK agreed Wed to field a joint women's ice hockey team for the PyeongChang Winter Olympics and march together under a "unified Korea" flag at the opening ceremony. (*Yonhap*)
- The Korean martial art of taekwondo brought the divided Koreas together, if only briefly, south of the tense border last summer and it will do so again. NK is sending a taekwondo demonstration team of about 30 to perform in PyeongChang and Seoul. (*Yonhap*)
- Despite public criticism that Seoul's push for an inter-Korean team is robbing S.Korean athletes of a rare chance to play in PyeongChang, Moon urged players on Wed. to consider the importance of improving ties with the North. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- NK is set to make its first ever Winter Paralympic Games appearance after Pyongyang decided to send its delegation to the multi-sport event for disabled athletes in SK following an inter-Korean meeting Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- NK plans to send a 230-member cheering squad as part of its delegation to next month's Winter Olympics in SK, officials said Wed, as Moon announced his support of a proposal for the rivals' first unified Olympic team. (Kim Hyung-jin, AP)
- The landmark agreement Wed on NK's participation in the PyeongChang Winter Olympics raised hopes for the reconnection of inter-Korean road links for the first time in two years. (Kim Soo-yeon, *Yonhap*)
- A fan of SK's women's ice hockey team has filed a petition with the National Human Rights Commission against the government move to form a unified women's ice hockey team with NK for the upcoming Olympics. (Kim Jae-heun, *Korea Times)*
- SK's ski governing body said Wed it is considering sending national team reserves and promising younger skiers for joint training with NK at a resort north of the border, after the two Koreas agreed to the unprecedented sports exchange ahead of the Olympics (*Yonhap*)

International:

- The panic the Hawaii alert sowed was immeasurable, reviving the terror sparked by similar false alerts during the Cold War. And given the state of tensions with NK and the rogue regime's demonstrated weapons capabilities, the prospect of ballistic missiles raining down on Hawaii can't be shrugged away. (Ishaan Tharoor, *Washington Post*)
- China said on Wed a just concluded meeting in Canada about NK showed a Cold War mentality and would only undermine a settlement of the NK issue. (*Reuters*)
- Mac Thornberry, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said that the US was looking into ammunition and deployment issues linked to military involvement against NK. (Ben, Riley-Smith,*Telegraph*)
- Police discovered a wooden ship carrying the corpses of seven men on a beach in Ishikawa prefecture last week. It is believed the vessels are coming from NK, based on markings and

belongings found on the boats, as well as a handful of crew who have survived. Hunger and desperation are thought to be driving them further out to the choppy seas between the Korean Peninsula and Japan. (Yoko Wakatsuki, Ivan Watson, CNN)

- Foreign ministers of 20 countries, including the US, SK and Canada, on Tues. expressed their support for ongoing inter-Korean talks, hoping that they will lead to steady eased tensions going forward. (*Yonhap*)
- The Japanese government called on public broadcaster NHK on Wednesday to make sure a false alarm warning of a N.Korean missile launch will not be repeated, with tensions still high because of the NK's missile and nuclear programs. (*Reuters*)
- 20 nations agreed on Tuesday to consider tougher sanctions to press NK to give up its nuclear weapons and Tillerson warned Pyongyang it could trigger a military response if it did not choose negotiations. (David Brunnstrom, David Ljunggren, *Reuters*)
- Recorded Future said it believes attacks late last year on S. Korean cryptocurrency exchanges and their users were carried out by Lazarus, a hacking group that has previously been tied to NK. (Sherisse Pham, CNN)
- Tillerson on Tues warned that the crisis over NK's nuclear weapons is at a "tenuous stage" and said the time for Pyongyang to show a willingness to talk about denuclearization is now. (Carol Morello,*Washington Post*)
- NK rejects as a "provocation" a U.S.-led meeting in Vancouver that discussed tougher sanctions that Pyongyang will fight, a senior NK diplomat told Reuters on Wed. (Reuters, NYT)
- The US Air Force has deployed six nuclear-capable B-52 Stratofortress bombers to Guam, according to US Pacific Air Forces, adding more firepower to the region just hours after N. Korean state media mocked Trump's tweet referencing the size of his nuclear button as the "spasm of a lunatic."(Zachary Cohen, CNN)
- Russia hit out on Wed at a U.S.-led effort to increase international pressure on NK, saying it was making the situation worse and undermining the UN. (*Reuters*)
- The foreign ministers of SK and Japan met to discuss cooperation on NK and other issues of mutual concern, including friction over Japan's wartime sexual enslavement of Korean women on Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- The top diplomats of SK, the US and Japan reaffirmed their shared goal of peacefully resolving NK's nuclear problem during a trilateral meeting in Vancouver, on Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- As SK is pushing for a joint women's hockey team with NK for the upcoming Winter Olympics, Switzerland thinks that giving only the Korean team extra players would create an uneven playing field. (Yoo Jee-ho,*Yonhap*)
- Trump said Tues. that he and the president of Kazakhstan are united in a shared determination to prevent NK from threatening the world with nuclear devastation. (Darlene Superville, AP)
- Trump accused Russia of helping NK skirt international sanctions aimed at curbing NK's nuclear and ballistic missile programs on Wed.(Jeremey Diamond, CNN)
- Secretary-General Guterres said Tues he believes war over NK's nuclear weapons is avoidable, but he's still worried and thinks peace isn't guaranteed. (Edith M. Lederer, AP)
- SK pressed ahead with talks to include its northern neighbor in next month's Winter Olympics Wednesday, but Seoul's allies are voicing concern Pyongyang may be using the talks to buy time to pursue its weapons program. (Joshua Berlinger,Taehoon Lee, CNN)
- Passengers on a commercial flight from San Francisco to Hong Kong could see a NK intercontinental ballistic missile flying through the Nov. sky, Tillerson told a gathering of

foreign ministers in Vancouver, Canada, Tues, highlighting what he called the "recklessness" of KJU's regime. (Nike Ching, VOA)

- As relations get hotter between the US and NK, U.S. officials say they are trying to cut off Pyongyang's income sources any way they can, especially on the African continent. (Anita Powell, VOA)
- Freedom House, a U.S. human rights watchdog has evaluated NKas one of the least free nations in the world in their annual report, "Freedom in the World 2018." (*Yonhap*)

Prepared by Emma Stubblefield, HRNK Research Intern

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Thursday, January 18, 2018

Crackdown on South Korean media continues despite North-South 'thaw'; Seoul defends joint training at N.K. ski resort as part of efforts for 'Peace Olympics'

In North Korea:

Behind the curtain of Ri Son Kwon's change of tune during high-level talks (*Daily*NK, 01/17/2018)
Crackdown on South Korean media continues despite North-South 'thaw' (*Daily*NK, 01/17/2018)
Despite stacked deck, North Koreans use private education to climb social ladder (*Daily*NK, 01/18/2018)
Merchants trying to keep shops open despite forced mobilization and mandatory lectures (*Daily*NK, 01/18/2018)
N. Korea introduces highway toll system (*Yonhap*, 01/18/2018)
North Korea's long, complicated Olympic history (*The Washington Post*, 01/18/2018)
The strange history of the Pyongyang Teacher Training College (NK *Econ Watch*, 01/17/2018)
Why is North Korea sending the Samjiyon Orchestra to the Olympics? (*Daily*NK, 01/18/2018)

In South Korea:

(LEAD) Seoul defends joint training at N.K. ski resort as part of efforts for 'Peace Olympics' (*Yonhap*, 01/18/2018)
Cheong Wa Dae hails outcome of inter-Korean dialogue on Olympics (*Yonhap*, 01/18/2018)
Ice hockey moms aren't angry, just disappointed (*Joongang Ibo*, 01/18/2018)
Joint Olympic Flag Deal Angers Conservatives in South Korea (NYT, 01/18/2018)
PyeongChang, not Pyongyang (*Joongang Ibo*, 01/18/2018)
S. Koreans divided over use of single flag during two Koreas' Olympic march: poll (*Yonhap*, 01/18/2018)
Stoking division (*Joongang Ibo*, 01/18/2018)
United Korea Hockey Team Divides South (VOA, 01/18/2018)
Who will watch the watchers? (*Joongang Ibo*, 01/17/2018)

With joint team talks behind, S. Korean figure skating duo vows good performance at PyeongChang (*Yonhap*, 01/18/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
A Tricky Reunion on the Ice for North and South Korean Hockey (NYT, 01/17/2018)
N. Korea to participate in four sports at PyeongChang 2018: top organizer (*Yonhap*, 01/18/2018)
North Korea crisis: South to continue talks with 'clear eyes' (BBC, 01/18/2018)
North and South Korea to march under same flag at Winter Olympics in diplomatic breakthrough (*The Telegraph*, 01/17/2018)
Olympic Win in View From Korean Unity at Pyeongchang Games (NYT, 01/181/2018)
Two Koreas' 'one flag' emblematic of once better ties (*Reuters*, 01/18/2018)
Unified table tennis duo may meet again in Pyeongchang (*Joongang Ibo*, 01/18/2018)

International:
'Pyongyang Olympics?' Backlash reveals changing attitudes in South Korea (*Reuters*, 01/18/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea, U.S. affirm no daylight between sides (*Yonhap*, 01/18/2018)
(News Focus) Trump builds global consensus on N.K. pressure, sows confusion over policy (*Yonhap*, 01/18/2018)
Australian PM in Japan to Boost Military, Economic Ties (VOA, 01/18/2018)
Australia PM says Olympic Unity Won't Denuclearize N. Korea (VOA, 01/18/2018)
China might be able to help with North Korea — but only if President Trump switches tactics (*The Washington Post*, 01/18/2018)
Column: Kim Jong Un Plays the Olympics Like a Champion (NYT, 01/17/2018)
North Korea Demands US Apology for Not Using Official Name (NYT, 01/17/2018)
North Korea going to the Olympics: 5 things to know (CNN, 01/18/2018)
North Korea's Olympic move a chance for U.S. talks, analyst says (UPI, 01/18/2018)
Olympic Détente Upends U.S. Strategy on North Korea (NYT, 01/17/2018)
Russia rejects Trump allegation it violating U.N. sanctions on North Korea: Ifax (*Reuters*, 01/18/2018)
S. Korea with enough talent to fight distraction in women's Olympic hockey (*Yonhap*, 01/18/2018)
Tillerson: Evidence sanctions 'really starting to hurt' North Korea (*Reuters*, 01/17/2018)
Tillerson blames North Korea for its sanctions suffering (*The Washington Post*, 01/18/2018)
Tillerson Says Russia Not Implementing All North Korea Sanctions, May Be Frustrating Some Steps (NYT, 01/17/2018)
Trump: Predecessors left North Korea to a president 'that scored the highest on tests' (CNN, 01/18/2018)
Two Koreas' joint cultural events, training cause stir (*The Korea Times*, 01/18/2018)
White House: Joint Olympics march could give N. Koreans taste of freedom (*Yonhap*, 01/18/2018)

In North Korea:

- On Jan. 9, NK's lead delegate Ri Son Kwon suddenly appeared incensed at the end of the day by the topic of denuclearization after allowing the S.Korean press to mention the topic earlier in the afternoon without any particular reaction. (Ahn Jong Sik, *DailyNK*)
- Sources inside NK have reported on a recent decision by the authorities to hand down severe punishment to six people charged with spying and treason for making phone calls to SK. (Kang Mi Jin, *DailyNK*)
- As NK enters the school winter holidays, private for-profit education services are kicking into high gear. Although the NK proclaims its educational system is equal for all, the reality on the ground is quite different. (Unification Media Group, *DailyNK*)

- The N.Korean people are showing signs of great adaptability, and the developments in the current market trend reflect their ability to survive through self-reliance. (Unification Media Group, *DailyNK*)
- NK has decided to collect highway tolls starting later this week in an apparent bid to obtain badly needed hard currency amid international sanctions on its nuclear and missile provocations, a US broadcaster reported Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- N.Korean involvement in the Olympic Games is nothing new. Pyongyang has a long and surprisingly successful history at sporting events such as the Olympics, but these events have sometimes been a source of international tension, too. (Adam Taylor, Nick Kirkpatrick, *The Washington Post*)
- N.Korean media reports that KJU visited the newly renovated Pyongyang Teacher Training College. Despite the glowing description of the model school in the official KWP paper, its history has been a textbook case of "Our-style economic mismanagement" [(CR) Curtis Melvin 2018]. (*NK Econ Watch*)
- Talks over the Pyeongchang Olympics continue between NK and SK this week, and an agreement for NK to send 140-members of the Samjiyon Orchestra members to the games was reached on Jan. 15. (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)

In South Korea:

- The news of SK and NK's agreement to conduct joint training at a ski resort in NK sparked a heated debate as critics say the joint exercise would promote the ski resort, which is one of the N.Korean leader KJU's pet projects. (*Yonhap*)
- The presidential office Cheong Wa Dae on Thurs. welcomed the outcome of inter-Korean dialogue over NK's participation in the PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games, calling it a chance to reduce tension between the divided Koreas. (*Yonhap*)
- The decision by NK and SK to field a joint women's ice hockey team in the upcoming PyeongChang Winter Olympics may have pleased government officials, but the S.Korean players' mothers feel like they've been left out in the cold. (Kim Won, Park Rin, Kang Yoo-rim, *Joongang Ibo*)
- After the two Koreas reached a package of Olympics-related rapprochement deals including marching together at the opening ceremony behind a single flag, many conservatives in SK are asking why their athletes cannot carry their own national flag during the first Winter Olympics on their soil. (*AP*)
- The PyeongChang Olympics should be a chance to improve relations with NK. The determination is understandable, but should we stage the show of a joint team? (Ko Jung-ae, *Joongang Ibo*)
- Only 4 out of 10 S.Koreans are in favor of using a unified flag when SK and NK athletes march together at the opening and closing ceremonies of the upcoming Winter Olympics in SK, a survey showed Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- We welcome a harmonious Olympics, but we must not over-glorify N.Korean participation, which could stoke division among the S.Korean people. (*Joongang Ibo*)
- The S.Korean public has been generally supportive of N.Korean participating in the upcoming Olympics, but they are divided over the decision to field a joint women's hockey team that critics say places politics over competitive fairness. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- The government recently announced a plan to transfer the National Intelligence Service's mission of investigating pro-communist activities to the police; however, transferring the

NIS's authority to investigate pro-communist activities would critically weaken its function. (Song Bong-sun, *Joongang Ibo*)

- S.Korean figure skating pair Kim Kyu-eun and Kam Kang-chan said Thursday they will compete in good faith with their N.Korean rivals at the PyeongChang Olympics, with talks of a possible joint Korean team for their sport finally behind them. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The S.Korean hockey team has a little over three weeks to figure out how to incorporate new N.Korean teammates into its style of play without disrupting chemistry. While there are hopes that the IOC approves the measure with the caveat that no S.Korean players be cut from the team, some original members of the roster would most likely not dress for every game. (Seth Berkman, NYT)
- The two Koreas have agreed on four sports in which N.Korean athletes will compete at the PyeongChang Winter Olympics, the event's top organizer revealed Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- SK says it will continue high-level talks with NK with "clear eyes" amid global warnings that Pyongyang might be playing for time to continue its nuclear-arms programme. (BBC)
- NK and SK have agreed to form a joint women's hockey team and march under the same flag for a parade at next month's Winter Olympics, in a major step towards easing tensions on the peninsula. (*The Telegraph*)
- Uniting athletes from SK and NK at the Pyeongchang Games next month offers hope of an Olympic victory for all parties. (AP)
- NK and SK's plan to march together under the same blue-and-white Korean peninsula flag at the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics next month marks the revival of an emblem of warmer ties between the old foes from years past. (Joyce Lee, Ju-min Park, *Reuters*)
- Two former table tennis players from Seoul and Pyongyang who forged a historic inter-Korean team back in 1991 are likely to be reunited in Mar., as NK on Wednesday vowed to send a delegation to the PyeongChang Paralympics in SK. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- An agreement between SK and NK to march under a unity flag and field a joint ice hockey team at next month's Olympics was met by sharp criticism from many in the SK on Thurs., highlighting changing attitudes toward the country's northern neighbor. (Heekyong Yang, Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- SK and the US said Thurs. that there will be no letup in the rotational deployment of high-profile US defense assets to and around the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- US President Donald Trump's first year in office established a global pressure campaign to curb NK's nuclear ambitions, but also left many alarmed over what they saw as inconsistent policies and reckless rhetoric toward the provocative regime. (*Yonhap*)
- Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull traveled to Japan Thurs. on a mission to boost defense ties amid China's aggressive maritime expansion and NK's escalating nuclear weapons program. (VOA)
- Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said Thurs. he welcomed the recent dialogue between NK and SK but marching together at the Winter Olympics won't denuclearize the Korean Peninsula. (AP)

- As much as the power relations between China and NK make it difficult for China to intervene successfully, there are currents in Chinese politics that Trump could take advantage of to prod Xi into acting. (John Harney, *The Washington Post*)
- When the Olympic flame has been extinguished, KJU will continue to use every tool at his disposal, including his gulags and thought police, to maintain his iron grip on power, demanding unfailing loyalty from each and every N.Korean. (*The Associated Press*)
- NK demanded an apology from the US on Wed. for what it called "insolent outrageous behavior" in refusing to refer to the country by its official name — the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. (*The Associated Press*)
- With a 140-piece orchestra, 230-strong performance squad and its athletes walking under a unified Korean flag, NK will be hoping to grab the limelight at next month's Winter Olympics. How could N.Korean participation at the Games play out? (Evan McKirdy, CNN)
- NK is pursuing a dangerous path of nuclear weapons development, but that does not mean the US should dismiss an opportunity to deescalate tensions during the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, a US analyst said Wed. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- NK and SK reached an agreement Wed. for their athletes to march together under one flag at the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics next month, further complicating President Trump's strategy for dealing with the nuclear-armed regime of KJU. (Choe Sang-Hun, Mark Landler, NYT)
- Moscow regards an allegation by US President Donald Trump that it is in breach of UN sanctions on NK as absolutely groundless, the Interfax news agency cited an unnamed source at the Russian Foreign Ministry as saying on Thurs. (Reuters Staff, *Reuters*)
- Despite facing some unexpected distractions, S.Korean women's hockey team has enough talent to keep its focus on the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics, as the International Olympic Committee will determine the size of the unified roster on the weekend. (Yoo Jee-ho, *Yonhap*)
- US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said on Wed. the US is getting evidence that international sanctions are "really starting to hurt" NK, even as he accused Russia of not implementing all of the measures. (David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)
- Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Wed. that NK is responsible for the suffering of its people from international economic sanctions imposed over its nuclear weapons. He voiced skepticism that humanitarian aid to alleviate that suffering would reach the people who need it. (Matthew Pennington, AP)
- US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson accused Russia on Wed. of not implementing all UN sanctions on NK over its nuclear weapons program and said Moscow "may be frustrating" some of the steps. (*Reuters*)
- Discussing the issue of NK's nuclear ambitions in an interview Wed. with Reuters, Trump took a swing at his predecessors, former Presidents Obama, Bush, and Clinton for their approaches to the rogue nation. (Eli Watkins, CNN)
- The Koreas' agreement Wed. to hold a joint cultural event at Mount Geumgang and an inter-Korean athlete training at Masikryong Ski Resort in NK is stirring controversy over whether it breaches the international community's sanctions on Pyongyang over its military provocations. (Kim Bo-eun, *The Korea Times*)
- The White House expressed hope Wed. that N.Koreans will get "a small taste of freedom" when they march together with S.Koreans at the opening ceremony of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, HRNK Research Intern

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Friday, January 19, 2018

N.K. abruptly cancels trip by advance team to S. Korea for performances; S.K. to push for regular high-level talks with N.K.; IOC: More initiatives coming to promote Korean unity

In North Korea:
American Illusions and Korean Realities: Preventing Conflict on the Korean Peninsula (*38 North*, 01/19/2018)
Collective farm authorities ransack homes for food in midst of shortage (*DailyNK*, 01/19/2018)
Kim Jong Il's birthday poses propaganda opportunity (*DailyNK*, 01/19/2018)
North Korea may hold military parade on eve of Olympics, analysts say (*Reuters*, 01/19/2018)
North Korea Orders Nursing Homes Built, Passes on The Cost (RFA, 01/18/2018)
North Korea plans military parade on eve of the Olympics, diplomats say (CNN, 01/19/2018)
Quick Takes: No Signs of Recent Tests at the Magunpo Engine Test Facility (*38 North*, 01/19/2018)
Singer will check out arrangements for North's troupe (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/19/2018)

In South Korea:
(Yonhap Feature) Gangneung hopes to promote peace through Winter Olympics (*Yonhap*, 01/19/2018)
Honeymoon no more (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/19/2018)
Listen to the people (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/19/2018)
Military to cut troops to 500,000 by year 2022 (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/19/2018)
Moon's support among youth shows decline (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/19/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) Foreign ministry to focus diplomatic efforts on inducing N.K., U.S. into 'dialogue process' (*Yonhap*, 01/19/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea to push for regular high-level talks with N.K. (*Yonhap*, 01/19/2018)
(2n LD) Seoul vows support for N.K. Olympic participation within sanctions regime (*Yonhap*, 01/19/2018)
(3rd LD) N.K. abruptly cancels trip by advance team to S. Korea for performances (*Yonhap*, 01/19/2018)
Frosty reception for South Korea's Winter Olympics detente with North (*Guardian*, 01/19/2018)
N.Korea cancels S.Korea visit by advance team for art troupe (*Washington Post*, 01/19/2018)
North Korea Cancels Visit to South by Arts Delegation (VOA, 01/19/2018)
North Korea last-minute cancels planned trip to South (UPI, 01/19/2018)
S. Korea to send 12-member advance team to inspect N. Korea's ski resort, cultural facilities (*Yonhap*, 01/19/2018)

S. Korea working on N. Korea's Olympic participation not running afoul of int'l sanctions: FM (*Yonhap*, 01/19/2018)
South, North agree to joint Olympics team, common flag (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/19/2018)
'The Pyongyang Olympics' - Backlash in South Korea over plans to march with North at Winter Olympics (*Telegraph*, 01/19/2018)

International:
Amid nuclear tensions, South Korea tops Trump's long list of unfilled diplomatic posts (CNN, 01/19/2018)
China denies violating shipping sanctions against North Korea (UPI, 01/18/2018)
Families of missing Japanese to urge prosecution of North Korean leader at Hague court (*Reuters*, 01/19/2018)
IIHF welcomes unified inter-Korean ice hockey team (*Yonhap*, 01/19/2018)
IOC: More initiatives coming to promote Korean unity (*Washington Post*, 01/19/2018)
Mattis unveils new strategy focused on Russia and China, takes Congress to task for budget impasse (*Washington Post*, 01/19/2018)
Pentagon Puts Countering China, Russia At Center Of US Defense Strategy (VOA, 01/19/2018)
Russian official: U.S. campaign of North Korea pressure 'deeply concerning' (UPI, 01/19/2018)
Trump's defense strategy sees China and Russia as biggest threats (CNN, 01/19/2018)
U.S. lawmakers ask Trump to re-establish military communication with N.K. (*Yonhap*, 01/19/2018)
U.S. won't meet N.K. officials during Olympics: report (*Yonhap*, 01/19/2018)

In North Korea:

- The Trump administration's policy of maximum pressure and engagement has significantly increased the risk of a disastrous war while offering few prospects for meaningful dialogue that could reverse the spiraling crisis. (Stephen J. Blank, *38 North*)
- Conflicts have recently been breaking out between N.K. authorities and residents in drought-hit regions due to continued demands for food and bribes. (*DailyNK*)
- There is concern that North Korea may try to promote Kim Jong Il's birthday for propaganda purposes during the games since the day – February 16 – coincides with the Olympics. (*DailyNK*)
- N.K. may be preparing to hold a military parade on the eve of next month's winter Olympics in S.K., analysts and diplomats say, even as the two countries have sought to mend ties. (Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- N.K. government has ordered the country's provinces to build nursing homes for senior citizens as part of a New Year's push to complete showcase projects, but is passing the cost of labor and construction on to local citizens who are already strapped for cash (*RFA*)
- Invitations sent to diplomats and satellite imagery suggest Pyongyang is preparing for a major military parade on the eve of the Pyeongchang games (Will Ripley, Tim Schwarz and James Griffiths, CNN)
- Commercial satellite imagery from January 10 shows no indications of any recent solid-fuel engine tests at the Magunpo Solid-fuel Rocket Engine Test Facility. (*38 North*)
- A delegation led by N.K. singer Hyon Song-wol, head of the well-known Moranbong Band, will be visiting Seoul and Gangneung to check conditions for the North Korean artistes coming to the Olympics. (Esther Chung, Han Young-hye, *Joongang Ilbo*)

In South Korea:

- The rare visit by North Koreans will not only be a boon for Gangneung's ice events but will also provide an opportunity to reckon with a darker past when tensions flared between the two Koreas. (*Yonhap*)
- The young are turning their backs on Moon they put in power because of flip-flopping on policy on the cryptocurrency trade and controversy over forcing to form a joint female hockey team with N.K. for the Olympics. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- South Koreans increasingly disapprove of the consensus sought by the liberal Moon administration for the sake of achieving harmony and peace on the Korean Peninsula. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- S.K.'s military will reduce the number of troops to half a million by 2022 as part of a new round of defense reforms according to the Ministry of National Defense. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon's approval rating has fallen as his traditional supporters, liberals in their 20s and 30s, oppose government attempts to regulate cryptocurrencies and form an inter-Korean team for the upcoming Winter Olympics. (Huh Jin, Ser Myo-ja, *Joongang Ilbo*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- S.K. will work hard to induce N.K. and the US into a "dialogue process" based on the peaceful momentum created by the resumption of inter-Korean talks on Pyongyang's participation in the upcoming Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- S.K.'s unification ministry said that it will push to regularize high-level talks with N.K. and provide humanitarian aid to vulnerable people there, as it makes inter-Korean reconciliation a policy priority for this year. (*Yonhap*)
- S.K. said it plans to financially support N.K.'s participation in the PyeongChang Olympics in a way that doesn't weaken tough international sanctions on the North. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K. on Friday canceled its plan to send an advance team over the weekend to prepare for a trip by an art troupe to S.K. during the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- S.K. is facing a public backlash over its sports rapprochement with N.K., with critics accusing the government of turning next month's Pyeongchang Winter Olympics into the "Pyongyang Olympics". (Justin McCurry, *Guardian*)
- N.K. abruptly canceled plans to send a delegation led by the head of a hugely popular girl band to S.K. over the weekend to check preparations for a trip by a North Korean art troupe. (Hyung-Jin Kim, AP)
- N.K. abruptly canceled plans to send a delegation led by the head of a hugely popular girl band to S.K. over the weekend to check preparations for a trip. (AP)
- N.K. may be canceling a trip planned for its leading performing artists to the South, only 12 hours after Pyongyang agreed to send the delegation to check S.K. facilities ahead of the Winter Olympics. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- The S.K. government said it will send a 12-member advance team to inspect facilities in N.K. next week for joint training and cultural events. (*Yonhap*)
- S.K.'s top diplomat said Seoul is working closely with the international community to make sure N.K.'s Olympic participation does not run afoul of international sanctions imposed on the North. (*Yonhap*)
- North and South Korea agreed to form a joint women's ice hockey team for the PyeongChang Winter Olympics next month. (*Joongang Ilbo*)

- A landmark decision to unify the Korean Peninsula under a common flag and by fielding a joint ice hockey team at the Winter Olympics in February has sparked a sharp public backlash in the South. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)

International:

- Key diplomatic posts remain unfilled a year into the Trump administration, chief among them the US ambassador to S.K. (Kevin Liptak and Nicole Gaouette, CNN)
- China denied it is in violation of UNSC sanctions resolutions, following a WSJ report six cargo ships with ties to China were loading N.K. coal while flying under different foreign flags. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- The families of Japanese abducted by N.K., and those believed to have been taken, will urge the International Criminal Court to prosecute KJU, saying the lack of information about their loved ones is a human rights abuse. (*Reuters*)
- The International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) has expressed support for the creation of a unified inter-Korean women's ice hockey team for the upcoming PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- Olympics organizers welcomed an agreement between N.K. and S.K. to unite athletes at the upcoming Olympics, and promised that "much more exciting initiatives" promoting Korean unity will emerge this weekend. (Jamey Keaten, AP)
- The US must build up its military to prepare for the possibility of conflict with Russia and China, according to a new Pentagon strategy. (Dan Lamothe, *Washington Post*)
- US military has put countering China and Russia at the heart of a new national defense strategy, the latest sign of shifting American priorities after more than a decade and a half of focusing on the fight against Islamist militants. (*Reuters*)
- Russian officials may be more concerned about U.S. deployment of strategic assets to Asia than they are focused on increasing pressure on N.K. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- The Pentagon now sees China and Russia as "the central challenge" facing the US military, according to the unclassified pages of the Trump administration's new National Defense Strategy. (Ryan Browne, CNN)
- A group of U.S. lawmakers asked President Trump on Thursday to re-establish military-to-military communication with North Korea to avert a conflict between the sides. (*Yonhap*)
- The U.S. State Department has reconfirmed that it will not make contact with N.K. officials on the sidelines of the upcoming PyeongChang Olympics. (*Yonhap*)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

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Saturday, January 20, 2018

N.K. Agrees, Again, to Pre-Olympic Visit to S.K.; 22 North Koreans to compete in Winter Olympics; U.S. defense chief says N.K. threatens global stability

In North Korea:
Making North Korea Great Again. How realistic are Kim's new year plans? (CNN, 01/19/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) N. Korea to send 22 athletes in three sports to PyeongChang Winter Olympics: IOC (*Yonhap*, 01/20/2018)
(2nd L) N.K's advance team for Olympic art performance to visit S. Korea Sunday (*Yonhap*, 01/20/2018)
22 North Koreans to compete in Winter Olympics (*Telegraph*, 01/20/2018)
Canceled North Korean visit to prep for Olympics 'not permanent': South Korea ministry (*Reuters*, 01/19/2018)
IOC meeting on N. Korea's participation in PyeongChang Olympics begins (*Yonhap*, 01/20/2018)
Koreas to march together as one at PyeongChang Olympics opening ceremony (*Yonhap*, 01/20/2018)
North Korea Agrees, Again, to Pre-Olympic Visit to South Korea (NYT, 01/20/2018)
North Korea offers to resume pre-Olympic visit to South (*Washington Post*, 01/20/2018)
North Korea says to send delegation to prepare for Olympics on Sunday: South Korea ministry (*Reuters*, 01/20/2018)
North Korea to send 22 athletes to Pyeongchang (*Reuters*, 01/20/2018)
North Korean athletes will compete at Winter Olympics (CNN, 01/20/2018)
S. Korea, U.S. agree to stay unified against N.K. nukes (*Yonhap*, 01/20/2018)

International:
(LEAD) U.S. defense chief says N. Korea threatens global stability (*Yonhap*, 01/20/2018)
At One-year Mark, Trump Foreign Policy Seen as Conventional (VOA, 01/19/2018)
Chinese Investors in North Korea Suffer Heavy Losses (RFA, 01/19/2018)
Confronting China and Russia, not tackling terrorism, is now America's top security priority (*Telegraph*, 01/19/2018)
Hawaii Governor Takes 15 Minutes to Announce Missile Alert Is False (VOA, 01/19/2018)
IOC permits North Korea to ski and skate at Olympics (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/20/2018)
IOC says North Korea to have 22 athletes in 5 Olympic sports (*Washington Post*, 01/20/2018)
Olympics-Talks under way to finalise North Korea participation (*Reuters*, 01/20/2018)
President Trump made 2,140 false or misleading claims in his first year (*Washington Post*, 01/20/2018)
Russia, U.S. likely to discuss North Korea in Moscow: Minister to TASS (*Reuters*, 01/20/2018)
The Pentagon says China and Russia are bigger problems for U.S. than terrorists. American voters may not agree (*Washington Post*, 01/20/2018)
US competitive warfighting edge has slipped, says Mattis (*Washington Post*, 01/20/2018)
U.S. military puts 'great power competition' at heart of strategy: Mattis (*Reuters*, 01/19/2018)

In North Korea:

- KJU shared various goals during his New Year's address including factory jobs and coal, textiles and scientific research, domestic production of consumer goods, and even green initiatives. Are they realistic? (Joshua Berlinger, CNN)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- N.K. will send 22 athletes to compete in three sports at the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Games in S.K., the International Olympic Committee (IOC) said Saturday. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K. will send an advance team next week in preparation for a trip by its art troupe to the South during the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- 22 North Korean athletes will take part in Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, competing and marching together with their S.K. counterparts under a unified flag. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- S.K.'s Unification Ministry said that the sudden cancellation of a N.K. delegation's planned visit to the South to prepare for the North's art troupe during the Winter Olympics was "not a permanent cancellation". (*Reuters*)
- An International Olympic Committee (IOC) meeting on N.K.'s participation in the Winter Games in S.K. opened here Saturday. (*Yonhap*)
- S.K. and N.K. will march together as one at the opening ceremony of the upcoming Winter Games south of the border, a move that the world Olympic chief said will be "a very emotional moment" for the world. (*Yonhap*)
- After keeping S.K. in suspense, N.K. will send an advance team of officials, including a well-known singer, a day later than scheduled to prepare for cultural performances during the Winter Olympics. (Choe Sang-hun, NYT)
- N.K. proposed sending a delegation led by the leader of a hugely popular girl band to S.K. to check preparations for a trip by a N.K. art troupe during the Winter Olympics. (Tong-Hyung Kim, AP)
- N.K. will send a delegation to S.K. to prepare for a trip by an art troupe during next month's Winter Olympics, pushing the visit back a day after earlier cancelling it. (Joyce Lee, *Reuters*)
- N.K. will send 22 athletes to the Winter Games in the neighbouring South next month and compete in three sports and five disciplines, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) said. (Brian Homewood, *Reuters*)
- N.K. decided to send 22 athletes who will compete in three sports and five disciplines following a meeting between delegations from the two Koreas and Olympic officials in Switzerland. (Laura Smith-Spark, CNN)
- S.K. and the US agreed Friday to stay unified and work together to rid N.K. of its nuclear weapons program. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Friday that N.K. threatens global stability with its nuclear and ballistic missile programs as it oppresses its own people. (*Yonhap*)
- International opinion polls indicate that one year into Trump's presidency, America's standing in the world is at a low point. Analysts say, Trump's foreign policy has turned out to be mostly conventional. (Peter Heinlein, VOA)

- Chinese businessmen with investments in N.K. are suffering heavy losses as China tightens sanctions on the nuclear-armed state in response to its provocative weapons tests and missile launches. (RFA)
- Countering China and Russia is a bigger focus for US national security than defeating terrorism, the American administration announced yesterday. (Ben Riley-Smith, *Telegraph*)
- The Hawaii National Guard's top commander said Friday he told Gov. David Ige that a missile alert was a false alarm two minutes after it went out statewide. But the governor didn't tell the public until 15 minutes later. (AP)
- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced that 22 N.K. athletes will be competing in three sports and five disciplines in the upcoming Olympics. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- A Korean unity deal for the Pyeongchang Olympics will see 22 N.K. athletes cross the border with S.K. to compete and march together under a unification flag at the opening ceremony. (Graham Dunbar, AP)
- Talks began at the International Olympic Committee (IOC) headquarters to finalise details on N.K.'s participation at the Winter Olympics in the neighbouring South next month. (Brian Homewood, *Reuters*)
- One year after taking the oath of office, Trump has made 2,140 false or misleading claims, an average of nearly 5.9 claims a day. (Glenn Kessler and Meg Kelly, *Washington Post*)
- Diplomats from Russia and US are likely to hold their next round of consultations on N.K. in Moscow on a date yet to be decided, TASS news agency quoted Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Morgulov. (*Reuters*)
- A newly released Pentagon strategy document proposes that competition with China and Russia is more important to the US than the fight against international terrorism. Do American voters agree? (Adam Taylor, *Washington Post*)
- Countering China's rapidly expanding military and an increasingly aggressive Russia are now the U.S. military's top national security priorities, says Mattis. (Lolita C. Baldor, AP)
- The U.S. military has put countering China and Russia at the center of a new national defense strategy unveiled on Friday, the latest sign of shifting priorities after more than a decade and a half of focusing on the fight against Islamist militants. (Idrees Ali, *Reuters*)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

Sunday, January 21, 2018

North Korean Pop Singer Leads Pre-Olympic Delegation to South; Not all South Koreans are happy about unified hockey team

In North Korea:

Legendary N. Korean folk singer dies (*Korea Times*, 01/21/2018)
Medals unlikely as 22 North Koreans head to Winter Olympics (*Washington Post*, 01/20/2018)
Meet Hyon Song-wol, North Korea's 'Spice Girl' whose execution was greatly exaggerated (*Telegraph*, 01/21/2018)
N. Korea may televise PyeongChang Olympics (*Korea Times*, 01/21/2018)
N. Korea prepares military parade on eve of Olympics (*Korea Times*, 01/21/2018)
Preparation underway to send 'army of beauties' to S. Korea (*Korea Times*, 01/21/2018)

In South Korea:
Joint ice hockey team turns young South Koreans hostile toward North (*Korea Times*,01/21/2018)
Not all South Koreans are happy about unified hockey team (*Washington Post*, 01/20/2018)
Rival parties collide over N.K.'s participation in PyeongChang Olympics (*Yonhap*, 01/21/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Beware wishful thinking (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/21/2018)
(LEAD) Joint Korean hockey team to play at least 3 N. Koreans at PyeongChang Olympics(*Yonhap*, 01/20/2018)
(3rd LD) N. Korea accepts S. Korean advance team's planned visit for joint ski training(*Yonhap*, 01/21/2018)
(6th LD) N. Korean delegation wraps up 1st day of concert venue inspection (*Yonhap*, 01/21/2018)
(LEAD) N.K Olympic participation to ease tensions, S. Korean presidential office says(*Yonhap*, 01/21/2018)
North Korean Pop Singer Leads Pre-Olympic Delegation to South (NYT, 01/21/2018)
Propaganda posters underscore inter-Korean cooperation (*Korea Times*, 01/20/2018)
S. Korean presidential office welcomes IOC decision on N.K. Olympic participation (*Yonhap*, 01/20/2018)
Unification flag harks back to friendlier times (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/21/2018)

International:
How the seizure of a US spy ship by North Korea nearly sparked nuclear war (CNN,01/20/2018)
Nations Seek the Elusive Cure for Cyberattacks (NYT, 01/21/2018)
Trump asked Moon to give him public credit for pressuring North Korea into talks (*Washington Post*, 01/20/2018)

In North Korea:

- Kim Kwang-suk, a well-known N. Korean folk singer in the 1980s and 1990s died last week, according to Pyongyang's state-controlled Korean Central News Agency (KCNA). They didn't give details on her cause of death (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- The 22 N. Korean athletes are unlikely to bring home any medals; only the figure skating pair met the qualifying standard on merit. (Graham Dunbar, AP)
- Hyon Song-wol, rumored to have been KJU's girlfriend, was reportedly executed by firing squad. Her alive appearance in Seoul on Sun. was greeted by a barrage of camera flashes and reporters. (Chris Graham, *Telegraph*)
- N. Korean media outlets will supposedly broadcast the Olympics. If this happens, N. Koreans will get a rare glimpse of SK's first Winter Games amid a thaw in cross-border relations. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)

- There are signs that NK is preparing to hold a large-scale military parade on Feb. 8 to mark the anniversary of the founding of its regular armed forces (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- NK is preparing to send a 230-member cheering squad to the Olympics.NK has been scouting and training candidates for the cheering squad since Jan. 10, a day after the two Koreas agreed on the North's participation in the Olympics. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)

In South Korea:

- Young S. Koreans have a growing sense of hostility toward NK, viewing a recent decision by the two Koreas to form a joint ice hockey team as giving the North a "free ride" in the upcoming Olympics. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- S. Koreans seem generally happy they'll see the N.Koreans at their Olympics, but aren't as pleased about sharing a team with them. The unified women's hockey team has triggered a debate in SK, where there's no longer strong public clamor for reunification. (Kim Tong-hyung, AP)
- SK's ruling and opposition parties clashed on Sun. over the formation of a unified, inter-Korean team, as Seoul and Pyongyang are speeding up discussions about the details of NK's participation in the 2018 Olympics. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The S. Korean government must have a balanced sense of reality. We urge the administration to not make too many concessions towards NK and allow the rouge state to take control of the "driver's seat." (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- The historic joint Korean women's hockey team will feature at least three players from NK, as per a decision reached by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Sat. (*Yonhap*)
- NK consented Sun. to SK's plan to send an advance team later this week to its ski resort in preparations for joint training ahead of the upcoming Olympics. (*Yonhap)*
- A N. Korean delegation on Sun. wrapped up its first day of checking venues for its proposed art performances at next month's Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's presidential office's Cheong Wa-dae said Sun. that N. Korean athletes' participation in the upcoming Olympics will help ease tensions on the peninsula and serve as a stepping stone to establishing peace.(*Yonhap*)
- Gates on the heavily fortified border between NK and SK swung open for the first time in two years on Sun., allowing in a team of officials from NK, led by one of its most celebrated singers, Hyon Song-wol, to help plan for next month's Olympics. (Choe Sang-hun, NYT)
- NK has released posters that promote inter-Korean cooperation, in the lead-up to its participation in the Olympics. Pyongyang's move comes amid speculations that it is reaching out to Seoul to dampen the growing alliance between SK and US.(Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- SK's presidential office on Sun. welcomed the IOC's approval of N. Korean athletes' participation in the upcoming Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- The Koreas marched as one in several sports events during the early 2000s, until Lee Myung-bak was elected in 2008 and Park Geun-hye in 2013. Under Moon, and amidst both

positive and negative responses, the two Koreas will again march together. (Kim Hyo-kyung, Park Rin, Chae Hye-seon, *Joongang Ilbo*)

International:

- A recounting of when 83 Americans were held captive inside NK, following the seizure of the USS Pueblo spy ship in international waters, on Jan. 23, 1968. What avoided war in 1968 could be what avoids it today: sitting down and talking; which NK and SK just did. (James Griffiths, CNN)
- NK has been a case study in how a nation learns to make use of its cyber weapons for disruption, revenge or profit, without fear of serious retaliation. It has learned how to station hackers around the world and has gotten away with bolder and bolder attacks. (David E. Sanger, NYT)
- Trump is claiming (and getting) most of the credit for the sudden burst of Olympics-related diplomacy between the two Koreas. But Moon is trying to manipulate Trump into effectively undermining his own militaristic policy towards NK. (Anna Fifield, *Washington Post*)

Prepared by Emma Stubblefield, HRNK Research Intern

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Monday, January 22, 2018

HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu on Al Jazeera; For South Korean Hockey Team, Unity With North Is a Sacrifice

Top News:
HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu on Al Jazeera (*Al Jazeera*, 01/17/2018)

In North Korea:
'Executed' North Korean pop diva takes Olympic spotlight (*Washington Post*, 01/22/2018)
Kim Jong-un promotes sister to senior post at major agency (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/22/2018)
North Korean security agents to make up large part of Olympic group (*Daily NK*, 01/22/2018)
Resident tortured on trumped up charges, foreign communications crackdown (*Daily NK*, 01/22/2018)

In South Korea:
South Korean media show split opinion on North's Olympic participation (UPI, 01/22/2018)
South Korea went gaga over a North Korean singer. Just wait until the rest arrive. (*Washington Post*, 01/22/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

An Olympic spectacle (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/22/2018)
Delegation finishes inspection of venues (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/22/2018)
Dreamers, or delusional? (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/22/2018)
For South Korean Hockey Team, Unity With North Is a Sacrifice (NYT, 01/22/2018)
Kim Jong-un 'handed propaganda victory' over North Korea's luxury ski resort (*Telegraph*, 01/22/2018)
Korea DMZ Sends Olympic Peace Messages (VOA, 01/22/2018)
(LEAD) Moon urges support for N. Korea's participation in Olympics (*Yonhap*, 01/22/2018)
(3rd LD) N. Korea accepts S. Korean advance team's planned visit for joint ski training(*Yonhap*, 01/22/2018)
N. Korea promotes Masik ski resort ahead of S. Korea's inspection (*Yonhap*, 01/22/2018)
N.K.'s high-level delegation trip to South expected to be good chance to discuss peace (*Yonhap*, 01/22/2018)
Olympics: South Korea ice hockey put in tough situation, says coach (*Reuters*, 01/22/2018)
Protesters burn picture of N.K. leader in rally against Olympic participation (*Yonhap*, 01/22/2018)
Protesters greet North Korean Olympic delegation touring Seoul (*Reuters*, 01/22/2018)
Ski lift: North Korea may capitalize on joint Olympics training visit (*Reuters*, 01/22/2018)
S. Korean hockey director looks for 'solutions' with joint women's team (*Yonhap*, 01/22/2018)
S. Korean inspection team to visit N. Korean venues for joint Olympic events this week (*Yonhap*, 01/22/2018)
The chimera of unification (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/22/2018)
(LEAD) Women's hockey coach has 'mixed feelings' over joint Korean Olympic team (*Yonhap*, 01/22/2018)

International:
Japanese capital holds first North Korean missile attack drill (*Reuters*, 01/22/2018)
Malaysian prosecutors to call final witnesses in Kim Jong Nam murder trial (*Reuters*,01/22/2018)
Report: North Korea ships blocked in China head to Russia (*UPI*, 01/22/2018)
South Korea's Moon hopes inter-Korean thaw 'opens door' for nuclear talks with U.S.(*Reuters*, 01/22/2018)
The Latest: EU slaps sanctions on 17 more North Koreans (*Washington Post*, 01/22/2018)

Top News:

- HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu discusses various N. Korean issues, including the recent Vancouver meetings and the absence of Russia and China, international sanctions, and the motives behind the talks between the two Koreas. (*HRNK*)

In North Korea:

- A few years ago Hyon Song-wol was reportedly executed by a N. Korean firing squad due to a porn scandal. Now, she's a senior ruling party official and a surprise headliner in the run-up to the S. Korean Olympics. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- KJU's sister, Kim Yo-jong, has been promoted to first deputy director of the powerful Organization and Guidance Department within the Central Committee, another sign that

KJU is solidifying his grip on power by replacing remnants of the former leadership with his own picks. (Jeong Yong-soo, Heo Jin, *Joongang Ilbo*)

- N. Korean security staff will be among the group NK is sending to Pyeongchang. They will monitor N. Korean participants and keep them from escaping or saying anything disparaging about NK. (Jang Seul-gi, *Daily NK*)
- A N. Korean resident has had two toes amputated after contracting frostbite and gangrene while serving prison time. He was arrested by the Ministry of State Security unit for making international telephone calls, which KJU has cracked down on since coming to power. (Seol Song-ah, *Daily NK*)

In South Korea:

- S. Korean media on Mon. showed split opinions on the government accommodating NK's participation in the Olympics. Many are criticizing Seoul for being overly obliging toward the North, while others express approval of the talks. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- Hyon Song Wol's appearance and the upcoming N. Korean Cheering Squad are soft propaganda tools for NK to represent a side different from the rampant starvation and human rights abuses that is the reality for most N. Koreans. (Anna Fifield, *Washington Post*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- 23 S. Koreans and 12 N. Koreans will compete as one ice hockey team after the IOC allowed the roster to expand to 35 instead of the usual 23. The joint team is raising questions of fairness against the normal sized teams and more joint teams in later in summer sporting events. (Chang Hye-soo, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- The 7 member delegation from NK that crossed over the border Sun. to check local facilities for two concerts next month traveled back to Seoul on Mon. visiting 3 venues before returning to NK. (Lee Song-un, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Over 80% of people in their 20s and 30s, core supporters of the Moon administration, are expressing not only opposition to the joint team, but also serious disappointment. (Lee Hoon-beom, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- SK's scrappy women's ice hockey team has worked hard to earn the right to challenge tougher opponents at the Olympics. But after years of effort to build unity among the players, the S. Korean team is frustrated at suddenly being made a pawn in a geopolitical drama. (Mokoto Rich, Seth Berkman, NYT)
- Joint training could be used as a propaganda tool to rationalize how far-sighted KJU was in making what was actually an anachronistic decision to build the ski resort at a time when ordinary citizens are starving to death. (Nicola Smith,*Telegraph*)
- Olympic hosts in SK are working to transform the heavily militarized border area, just north of Pyeongchang, into a tourist attraction emphasizing the theme of inter-Korean peace (Brian Padden, VOA)
- Moon on Mon. urged public support for NK's participation in the Olympics, calling it a rare chance to restart international talks on ending NK's nuclear ambitions. (*Yonhap*)
- NK consented Sun. to SK's plan to send an advance team later this week to its ski resort in preparations for joint training ahead of the upcoming Olympics. (*Yonhap*)

- NK promoted Masikryong Ski Resort, one of KJU's signature achievements, 1 day ahead of S. Korean on-site inspection group's visit there for joint training of non-Olympic national skiers.(*Yonhap*)
- SK's unification minister said Mon. that it will be a "good opportunity" for the two Koreas to discuss peace and inter-Korean relations when the North's high-level delegation makes a trip to join next month's Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- Sarah Murray, head coach of the S. Korean women's ice hockey team, said that while she had been given no choice about coaching a joint Korean team, there's been no pressure on her to play the N. Koreans in actual games. (Peter Rutherford, *Reuters*)
- Conservative protesters on Mon. burned a picture of KJU and the North's national flag, in a rally against NKs participation in next month's Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- Small, vocal groups of S. Korean demonstrators on Mon. protested NK's participation in next month's Olympics, as a delegation of N. Korean officials visited Seoul and venues. (Shin Hyon-hee, Yuna Park, *Reuters*)
- SKs offer to send athletes to a N. Korean ski resort for joint training ahead of the Olympics risks giving KJU's regime legitimacy and some much needed cash (Shin Hyon-hee, *Reuters*)
- S. Korean national hockey director Jim Paek said that he is trying to "look for solutions, not problems" when it comes to the joint Korean women's team at the upcoming Olympics. (*Yonhap*).
- A S. Korean delegation is set to travel to NK this week to inspect the venues where the two Koreas will hold joint cultural and sports events ahead of the upcoming 2018 Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- History shows that reunification of a divided nation normally takes some external cataclysm, not the mere will of the people- marching under the same flag won't be enough. (Harold Piper, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- S. Korean women's national hockey coach Sarah Murray said it's "exciting" to coach the first-ever unified Korean team in any sport at the Olympic Games, though she wished it didn't have to come at the expense of her own players. (Yoo Jee-ho,*Yonhap*)

International:

- Tokyo held its first missile evacuation drill on Mon. with participants taking cover in subway stations and other underground spaces that would double as shelters in the event of a N. Korean missile strike. (*Reuters*)
- Malaysian prosecutors in the trial of two women accused of the poison murder of Kim Jong-nam will call their final witnesses in coming weeks as the defense attempts to discover their motive. (*Reuters*)
- More N. Korean ships are heading to Russia as sanctions take root and Chinese ports are under scrutiny for trade with Pyongyang. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Moon claimed that a thaw in relations between the two Koreas ahead of the Olympics presented a "precious chance" for the US and NK to discuss the North's weapons programs. (Shin Hyon-hee, Yuna Park, *Reuters*)
- The EU slapped travel bans and asset freezes on 17 N. Koreans accused of illegal trading activities and side-stepping sanctions imposed on Pyongyang over its nuclear program. (AP)

Prepared by Emma Stubblefield, HRNK Research Intern

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Tuesday, January 23, 2018

'The Seoul Syndrome' and the 'Pyongyang Olympics'? S.K. on Thin Ice; S.K. government urges public to restrain from provoking N.K.; U.S. has no plans to meet N.K. officials around Olympics

Top News:
'The Seoul Syndrome' and the 'Pyongyang Olympics'? South Korea on Thin Ice (*Daily Beast*, 01/22/2018)
Cheong Wa Dae urges public to restrain from provoking N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 01/23/2018)

In North Korea:
Experts: Kim Jong Un aims to step out of predecessors' shadows (*UPI*, 01/23/2018)
N. Korea to mark new army founding day just before PyeongChang Olympics (*Yonhap*, 01/23/2018)
North's army founding day shifted to eve of Olympics (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/23/2018)
North Korea denounces burning of Kim Jong-un picture (*Korea Times*, 01/23/2018)
North Korea Signals It Might Hold Military Parade on Eve of Olympics (NYT, 01/23/2018)
North Korea ski resort: South Korean officials to visit Masikryong (BBC, 01/23/2018)
North Korea tops list of world's most neglected humanitarian crises (*Guardian*, 01/23/2018)
North Koreans, forced onto winter worksites, turn to markets for protection (*DailyNK*, 01/23/2018)
Remembering the Pueblo: How Internal Imperatives Shape North Korean Decisions (*38 North*, 01/23/2018)

In South Korea:
Defense minister urges faster transfer of wartime Opcon (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/23/2018)
'Harmony and convergence' are Olympic themes (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/23/2018)
Ice hockey coach has 'mixed feelings' over unified team (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/23/2018)
S. Korea to coordinate closely with U.S. amid inter-Korean talks: envoy (*Yonhap*, 01/23/2018)
S.Korean officials discussing N.Korea taekwondo performance (*Washington Post*, 01/23/2018)
South Korea rejects 'Pyongyang Olympics' criticism (*Reuters*, 01/23/2018)
South Korea to file complaint to WTO over U.S. safeguard measures (UPI, 01/23/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) Presidential office urges public to welcome Olympic participants including North Korea (*Yonhap*, 01/23/2018)
(2nd LD) S. Korean team begins field survey on N. Korea venues for joint Olympic events (*Yonhap*, 01/23/2018)

(4th LD) N. Korean delegation returns home after wrapping up 2-day inspection stay (*Yonhap*, 01/23/2018)
Controversial Olympic Outreach Sparks Korean Unification Debate (VOA, 01/23/2018)
Envoys from Koreas Exchange Visits Ahead of Pyeongchang Winter Olympics (VOA, 01/23/2018)
Ex-North Korean spy recounts Olympic plot to blow up plane (CNN, 01/22/2018)
Former K-pop entrepreneur among S. Korean team to arrange Olympic show in N.K. (*Yonhap*, 01/23/2018)
Joint hockey team coach gets wish with early arrival of N. Korea players (*Yonhap*, 01/23/2018)
N. Korea selects 2 concert venues in S.K. ahead of Olympics (*Yonhap*, 01/23/2018)
North Korea musician expresses rare gratitude to South for 'cooperation' (UPI, 01/23/2018)
North Korea participation to highlight opening ceremony (*Reuters*, 01/23/2018)
North Korean pop star finds fame in South Korea during Games tour (CNN, 01/22/2018)
Pyeongchang Winter Olympics may open with North Korean performance (UPI, 01/23/2018)
Seoul proposes N.K. art team perform on eve or opening day of PyeongChang Olympics (*Yonhap*, 01/23/2018)
S. Korean advance team goes to North for pre-Olympic events (*Washington Post*, 01/23/2018)
South Korean delegates visit Mt. Geumgang, Masikryong ski resort (*Korea Times*, 01/23/2018)
South sends delegation to resort in North (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/23/2018)
Skirting sanctions (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/23/2018)
Teamwork at risk (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/23/2018)
What will budget procurement look like in post-unification Korea? (*Daily*NK, 01/23/2018)

International:
China Sends Top Economic Adviser to Davos as Trade War Concerns Grow (VOA, 01/23/2018)
CIA: North Korea moving 'ever closer' to putting US at risk (*Washington Post*, 01/23/2018)
Did Trump just start a trade war with China? (CNN, 01/23/2018)
Hawaii's governor couldn't correct the false missile alert sooner because he forgot his Twitter password (CNN, 01/23/2018)
IOC President Bach says PyeongChang Olympics can send 'message of peace' to world (*Yonhap*, 01/23/2018)
Malaysia: Technicians Testify about CCTV Tapes of Kim Jong Nam Attack (RFA, 01/22/2018)
Most Americans don't trust President Trump with the 'nuclear button' (*Washington Post*, 01/23/2018)
NBC News President arrives in North Korea (*Korea Times*, 01/22/2018)
N. Korea 'handful of months' away from ability to nuke U.S.: CIA chief (*Yonhap*, 01/23/2018)
North Korea, U.S. clash at disarmament forum over nuclear arms (*Reuters*, 01/23/2018)
Report: China's maritime surveillance extends to Guam (*UPI*, 01/23/2018)
Tokyo stages missile drill as fears linger of North Korean attack (CNN, 01/22/2018)
U.S. defense chief says N. Korea a topic on Asia trip (*Yonhap*, 01/23/2018)
U.S. has no plans to meet N.K. officials around Olympics: State Department (*Yonhap*, 01/23/2018)
U.S., Japan, Britain reportedly opposed S. Korea's proposal to resume humanitarian aid to N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 01/23/2018)

Top News:

- HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu: "After the Olympics, N.K. will continue to stay in the driver's seat in inter-Korean relations, aim to control the agenda, extract maximum benefits, and also drive a wedge between S.K. and the US." (Gordon G. Chang, *Daily Beast*)

- The Blue house called on the public to show more respect to all countries that will participate in the upcoming Winter Olympic Games, including N.K., one day after a group of conservative activists staged a violent protest against N.K. (*Yonhap*)

In North Korea:

- KJU is attempting to step out of his predecessors' shadows by building up his own military might, according to S.K. experts. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- N.K. said that it has designated Feb. 8 as the new founding anniversary of its army and will prepare "practical" steps to mark the "historic" occasion, which will come one day before S.K. opens the Winter Olympic Games. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K. announced Tuesday it would return to celebrating Feb. 8 as its army founding day and hold “diverse events” - on the eve of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (Lee Sung-eun, Lee Chul-jae, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- N.K. has condemned a S.K. far-right group's burning of a picture of its leader KJU and the national flag, calling them "unforgivable atrocities." (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- N.K. announced that Feb. 8, the day before the Winter Olympics open in S.K., will be a national holiday honoring its army, raising the possibility of a large military parade. (Choe Sang-hun, NYT)
- S.K. officials are visiting Masikryong ski resort in the North, ahead of the Winter Olympics. (BBC)
- Study says N.K.’s severe food shortages are ignored by global media, with emergencies in Eritrea and Burundi similarly overlooked. (Rebecca Ratcliffe, *Guardian*)
- Despite temperatures below freezing, N.K. authorities continue to exacerbate the situation by forcing residents to participate in uncompensated outdoor work on state projects. (Kang Mi Jin, *DailyNK*)
- For a reminder of how indigenous forces can shape DPRK behavior, contemporary policymakers could do worse than turn the clock back to 1968 and “Remember the Pueblo.” (Mitchell Lerner, *38 North*)

In South Korea:

- Defense Minister Song Young-moo urged the military’s top brass on Tuesday to hasten preparations to take back S.K.’s wartime operational control from the US. (Ser Myo-Ja, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- “Harmony and convergence” are the overall themes of the upcoming Olympics and will be used to express a message of “passion and peace.” (Kang Yoo-rim, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- S.K. women’s national hockey coach Sarah Murray said she has “mixed feelings” about having to coach the joint Korean team at the upcoming PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- S.K. will closely coordinate with the US as it pursues dialogue with N.K., Seoul's top envoy to the UN has said. (*Yonhap*)
- S.K. Olympic organizers say it’s too late to include a N.K. taekwondo performance in the opening ceremony of the Pyeongchang Winter Games, but it might still occur at the Olympic Stadium on Feb. 9. (Kim Tong-Hyung, AP)

- The Blue House rejected criticism that next month's Winter Games had been hijacked by N.K., saying the event will help defuse tensions over N.K.'s nuclear and missile programs. (Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)
- Seoul plans to file a complaint to the World Trade Organization against the US' safeguard measures on S.K. washing machines and solar panels. (Jennie Oh, UPI)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The Blue House urged the public to welcome all participating countries in the upcoming Winter Olympic Games, including N.K., calling it a rare chance to ease tension between the divided Koreas and also restart denuclearization dialogue. (*Yonhap*)
- A S.K. delegation began their three-day field survey of N.K. venues where the two Koreas will hold joint cultural and sports events ahead of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- A N.K. delegation led by the powerful female head of a national orchestra returned home late Monday after touring concert halls in Seoul to inspect candidate venues for planned art performances during next month's PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- Concessions being made to accommodate N.K.'s participation in the upcoming Olympics have reignited the debate in S.K. over the benefits of working towards unification with N.K. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- N.K. and S.K. are engaged in a flurry of cross-border visits ahead of next month's Winter Olympics, as the bitter rivals press ahead with an agreement for N.K. to take part in the games. (VOA)
- Ex-N.K. spy Kim Hyun-hui: "N.K. is using S.K. to overcome their difficulties ... to achieve their goal they execute their own people, siblings, families, do not be fooled, N.K. has not changed at all." (Paula Hancocks and Jake Kwon, CNN)
- A prominent K-pop guru is among S.K.'s delegation visiting the North's mountain resort to arrange a joint cultural event to mark the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- Sarah Murray, head coach of the joint Korean women's hockey team got her wish on Tuesday, with the news of an earlier-than-expected arrival of N.K. players. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K. has selected two concert venues in S.K. for its proposed art performances celebrating the PyeongChang Winter Olympics next month. (*Yonhap*)
- The leader of N.K.'s Samjiyon Orchestra expressed gratitude to S.K. officials after touring venues ahead of the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- N.K.'s participation at the next month's Winter Olympics will form an integral part of an opening ceremony that will highlight a key message of peace. (Jane Chung, *Reuters*)
- In a country where K-pop reigns supreme, Hyon's trip appears to have created the perfect storm for the S.K. media: a young, attractive musician whose visit carries geopolitical implications. (Ivan Watson and Joshua Berlinger, CNN)
- Seoul proposed the North's cultural delegation stage one of its two performances on the eve of the Pyeongchang Olympics or on the opening day in the sub-host city of Gangneung. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- S.K. has suggested that a N.K. art troupe hold one of its two proposed performances on the eve of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics or on opening day. (*Yonhap*)
- A team of S.K. officials traveled to N.K. to check logistics for joint events ahead of next month's Winter Olympics in the South, as the rivals exchanged rare visits to each other amid signs of warming ties. (Hyung-Jin Kim, AP)

- A S.K. delegation arrived in N.K for a three-day tour of Mount Geumgang and the Masikryong Ski Resort, where inter-Korean events will take place ahead of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics next month. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- A 12-member delegation from S.K. entered the North Tuesday to examine facilities at a symbolic mountain resort and ski range, marking another historic moment in inter-Korean relations. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- While N.K. is gearing up with its charm offensive, its intention in engaging in talks while adhering to nuclear missile development could be an attempt to seek financial assistance and have sanctions lifted. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- Forming a joint women's national hockey team with N.K. has generated a very heated controversy as people believe the authorities did not consider that ice hockey requires teamwork perhaps more than any other sport. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- A federal government overseeing a united peninsula could finance its budget using one or a combination of three different sources: taxation, government bonds, and loans. (*DailyNK*)

International:

- China is sending a top economic adviser and rising politician to lead its largest entourage to date to attend the World Economic Forum this week. He is also expected to warn Washington against the dangers of a possible trade war. (Bill Ide, VOA)
- CIA said that N.K. is moving "ever closer" to putting Americans at risk with a nuclear-tipped missile and KJU won't rest until he's able to threaten multiple nuclear attacks against the U.S. at the same time. (Deb Riechmann, AP)
- Trump's decision Monday to slap tariffs on imports of solar panels and washing machines risks inflaming tensions with China and other big U.S. trade partners. (Daniel Shane, CNN)
- When Hawaii pushed out a ballistic missile alert earlier this month, Gov. David Ige knew within two minutes it was a false alarm. But he couldn't hop on Twitter and tell everybody -- because he didn't know his password. (Doug Criss, CNN)
- With the two Koreas having agreed to march in together at their opening ceremony, the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Games can send "the message of peace" to the rest of the world. (*Yonhap*)
- Returning to court on Monday after a seven-week hiatus, the prosecutors of two Southeast Asian women charged with murdering KJN called computer technicians to verify CCTV footage taken during and after last year's chemical attack. (*RFA*)
- About half of Americans are concerned that Trump might launch a nuclear attack without justification. (Emily Guskin, *Washington Post*)
- NBC News President is believed to be arranging to cover N.K. athletes and envoys participating in the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics. (Ko Dong-hwan, *Korea Times*)
- N.K. is only a "handful of months" away from being able to strike the mainland US with a nuclear weapon, and Washington is working to extend that timeline. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K. said it had a "powerful and reliable" nuclear deterrent to thwart any attack and accused the US of deploying military assets nearby under the pretext of ensuring security at the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics. (Stephanie Nebehay, *Reuters*)
- Chinese acoustic sensors may be picking up signals between U.S. submarines in the South China Sea and their command base. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

- Despite the appearance of warmer Korean ties, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe warned his countrymen to remain vigilant, describing the threat of N.K.'s nuclear and missile development as "unprecedented" and "imminent." (Will Ripley, CNN)
- US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said he is sure to discuss the N.K. nuclear crisis when he meets with his counterparts in Indonesia and Vietnam this week. (*Yonhap*)
- US has no plans to meet with N.K. officials around the PyeongChang Winter Olympics amid hopes of a breakthrough in their nuclear impasse. (*Yonhap*)
- The US, Japan and Britain voiced their opposition to S.K.'s proposal to resume humanitarian assistance to N.K. during a recent foreign ministerial meeting in Canada. (*Yonhap*)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

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Wednesday, January 24, 2018

On Inter-Korean Talks — B.R. Myers; Gaps remain in CIA's understanding of N. Korean nukes, spy chief says; NK gearing up for massive military parade

Top News:
On Inter-Korean Talks — B.R. Myers (*Sthele Press*, 01/24/2018)

In North Korea:
North Korea gearing up for massive military parade (*Yonhap*, 01/24/2018)
Olympics become hot issue in North Korean market gossip (*Daily NK*, 01/24/2018)

In South Korea:
South Korean human rights groups eager for launch of new foundation (*Daily NK*, 01/24/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
A flurry of exchanges, protests: What's next for Koreas? (*Washington Post*, 01/24/2018)
Activists Rip Kim Jong Un's Photo in Olympic Protest (NYT, 01/23/2018)
Bobsleigh coach rejects joint Korean Olympic team idea (*Yonhap*, 01/24/2018)
Cheong Wa Dae denounces ideological offensive over Olympics (*Korea Times*, 01/23/2018)
Main opposition party calls on N. Korea to delay military parade (*Yonhap*, 01/24/2018)
North Korea says protesters who burned Kim Jong-un image are 'stinking conservative riff-raff' (*Telegraph*, 01/23/2018)
North Korean ice hockey players to visit Seoul Thursday (*Korea Times*, 01/24/2018)
North Korean singer's visit part of strategy to rattle South (UPI, 01/24/2018)
South Korea mulling over gift options for North Korean Olympic delegation (UPI, 01/24/2018)

S. Korean businessmen pushing to visit N. Korea after PyeongChang Olympics (*Yonhap*,01/24/2018)
(Yonhap Feature) S. Koreans view N.K. participation in Olympics with mixed feelings
(*Yonhap*,01/24/2018)
(LEAD) Two Koreas agree on dates, venues for N. Korea's art performances (*Yonhap*,01/24/2018)
What will budget procurement look like in post-unification Korea? (*Daily* NK, 01/23/2018)

International:
CIA believes North Korea weapons aimed at coercion, not just defense: Pompeo
(*Reuters*,01/24/2018)
CIA chief draws new 'red line' on North Korea nuclear buildup (*Guardian*, 01/24/2018)
Gaps remain in CIA's understanding of North Korean nukes, spy chief says (*Washington Post*,01/24/2018)
Japan tells U.N. of North Korean tanker suspected of sanctions busting (*Reuters*, 01/24/2018)
Lavrov, Tillerson discuss North Korea, Syria by phone: Russian foreign ministry (*Reuters*,01/24/2018)
Lessons From a Spy Ship's Seizure (NYT, 01/24/2018)
Mattis praises Vietnam's 'leadership' on North Korea sanctions (*Reuters*, 01/24/2018)
N. Korea Olympic Pause Delays Talk of US 'Bloody Nose' Strategy (VOA, 01/24/2018)
N. Korea seeks ability to simultaneously fire multiple nuclear missiles: CIA chief (*Yonhap*,01/23/2018)
North Korea, U.S. clash at disarmament forum over nuclear arms (*Reuters*, 01/24/2018)
(LEAD) Now is the 'best time' for N.K. to come out for talks with U.S.: Seoul official
(*Yonhap*,01/24/2018)
Remembering the Pueblo: How Internal Imperatives Shape North Korean Decisions (*38 North*, 01/23/2018)
South, U.S. hold military talks before Games (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/24/2018)
US Congress may ban 'unilateral' N. Korea strike (*Korea Times*, 01/23/2018)
US Treasury official presses Hong Kong, Beijing on NKorea (*Washington Post*, 01/24/2018)

Top News:

- Talks have progressed quickly because the Koreas share the short-term goal of making the North look better despite its refusal to disarm. The Moon administration will continue to push its inter Korean agenda even though the public itself is still divided. (B.R. Myers, *Sthele Press*)

In North Korea:

- A massive movement of N. Korean soldiers, apparently preparing for a grand parade to mark the new military founding anniversary, has been captured by a commercial satellite. (*Yonhap*)
- NK's participation in the S. Korean hosted Olympics have reportedly become a hot topic of conversation in the markets of Kangwon Province. (Kang Mi-jin, *Daily NK*)

In South Korea:

- While the international community condemns NK for its rights abuses, the launch of SK's N. Korean Human Rights Foundation, which aims to serve as a central hub in supporting research into N. Korean human rights, investigations, and civic groups, has been held up by political bickering. (Kim Ji-seung, *Daily NK*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Moon hopes to engage in nuclear talks, NK, however, has insisted it won't discuss its nuclear program during its ongoing talks with SK, and some experts warn that tensions could flare again after the Olympics. (Kim Hyung-jin, AP)
- Anti-Pyongyang activists on Wed. ripped photos of KJU in the latest protests in Seoul against SK's outreach to NK over next month's Olympics. (AP)
- S. Korean bobsleigh head coach Lee Yong on Wed. rejected a recent proposal for a joint Korean team for test runs at the Olympics, saying the idea would only embarrass the sport. (Yonhap)
- Cheong Wa Dae has expressed discontent at an escalating political offensive over North Korea's participation in the Olympics, reiterating the need for unified efforts to successfully host the Games. (Kim Rahn, Korea Times)
- SK's main opposition Liberty Korea Party called Wed. for NK to delay its reported plan to hold a military parade on the eve of the Olympics next month. (Yonhap)
- NK has demanded SK apologize for "despicable conservative riff-raff" protesters who burned an image of KJU in Seoul. (Nick Allen,Telegraph)
- N. Korean female ice hockey players will arrive in Seoul Thurs. for joint training with their S. Korean counterparts ahead of next month's Olympics, as part of a larger delegation that will inspect facilities for the Games. (Kim Bo-eun, Korea Times)
- International media attention on a N. Korean musician who recently visited the South is enabling a N. Korean strategy to secure more power in future negotiations. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- With more than 700 N. Koreans expected to attend the Olympics next month, the S. Korean government is seeking ways to give North Korean gifts or sporting equipment for the Olympics. without violating international sanctions. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- S. Korean businessmen are pushing for a trip to NK around the end of next month to inspect their facilities at the now-shuttered joint factory park in the North's border city of Kaesong, the head of a private task force said Wed. (Yonhap)
- S. Koreans have mixed feelings over NK's participation in the games, which has both raised hope of reconciliation on the divided peninsula and sparked outrage over what is seen as a disguised charm offensive meant to weaken the brunt of international sanctions. (Yonhap)
- SK has agreed to NK's recent offer on the dates and venues for the North's planned art performances to celebrate next month's Olympics. NK's art troupe will hold performances at Gangneung Arts Center in Gangneung on Feb. 8 and the National Theater of Korea in Seoul on Feb. 11. (Yonhap)
- Tax collection alone will be insufficient to fund reunification, the new state would likely need to take out loans and go into debt. (Daily NK)

International:

- The CIA believes NK's missile program is aimed at coercion, not just self-defense, and that Pyongyang's next logical step would be to develop an arsenal of weapons and the capability to fire multiple missiles at the US. (David Brunnstrom, Warren Strobel, Reuters)
- The Trump administration is intent on preventing NK from being able to fire multiple nuclear missiles at the US, apparently sketching out a new red line for the regime in Pyongyang. (Julian Borger, Guardian)
- The CIA has a better understanding of NK's efforts to develop nuclear missiles that can reliably hit targets in the US, but is still working to make up for what he described as

insufficient attention to the country under previous administrations. (Shane Harris, *Washington Post*)

- Japan has told the UN about a N. Korean tanker spotted in the East China Sea that it suspects was engaged in a transfer of goods with another Dominican tanker in defiance of UN sanctions. (*Reuters*)
- Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and his U.S. counterpart Rex Tillerson on Wed. and agreed on the need for NK to strictly comply with the demands of the U.N. Security Council. (*Reuters*)
- Through Johnson's patience, apologies, and diplomacy, the crew of the Publeo returned home. But, one wonders if Trump possesses sufficient reserves of patience and restraint to cope with NK's provocation today. (Jack Cheevers, NYT)
- U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis praised Vietnam on Wed. for adhering to sanctions against NK, saying that its leadership on the issue came despite the costs associated with lost trade. (Phil Stewart, James Pearson, *Reuters)*
- NK's recent Olympic peace offensive has reduced talk that the U.S. is preparing to give Pyongyang a "bloody nose" the next time it is provoked. But the controversial U.S. strategy to respond to continued N. Korean missile or nuclear tests with a limited military strike reportedly remains an option under consideration. (Brian Patten, VOA)
- NK is pushing to acquire the capability to fire multiple nuclear missiles at the same time, increasing the threat posed to the US, the head of the CIA said Tues. (*Yonhap)*
- NK said on Tues. it had a "powerful and reliable" nuclear deterrent to thwart any attack and accused the US of deploying military assets nearby under the pretext of ensuring security at the Olympics. (Stephanie Nebehay, *Reuters*)
- Now is the "best time" for NK to hold dialogue with the US on its nuclear and missile programs, a high-ranking S. Korean diplomatic official anonymously said Wed., adding that the Seoul government does not oppose their bilateral talks. (*Yonhap*)
- When analyzing the history behind the Publeo incident, it can be seen that NK acted alone and that Kim used it to rally N. Koreans against the external US threat in order to distract them from economic troubles. (Mitchell Lerner, *38 North*)
- National Defense Minister Song Young-moo and U.S. Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis will meet in Hawaii this Sat. to discuss NK's Olympic participation and how Washington can help Seoul ensure a successful Olympics. (Lee Chul-jae, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Congress has proposed a bill to prohibit the government from conducting any preemptive strikes against NK, but it comes with a clause under which the US can launch a preemptive strike against NK when the attack is aimed at rescuing U.S. citizens or stopping Pyongyang from attacking the US and its allies. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- A U.S. Treasury official has urged officials in Hong Kong and Beijing to step up measures to counter N. Korean smuggling and financing, as part of Washington's fine tuning of efforts to shut down Pyongyang's nuclear program. (Kelvin Chan, AP)

Prepared by Emma Stubblefield, HRNK Research Intern

Thursday, January 25, 2018

Timeline of North Korean Military Parade Preparations; Preventing a Post-Collapse Crisis in North Korea: How to Avoid Famine and Mass Migration; US announces new sanctions over NK weapons program

Top News:
Timeline of North Korean Military Parade Preparations (*38 North*, 01/24/2018)
Preventing a Post-Collapse Crisis in North Korea: How to Avoid Famine and Mass Migration (*Foreign Affairs*, 01/25/2018)

*Please scroll to the bottom to view an excerpt from "Preparing a Post-Collapse Crisis in North Korea: How to Avoid Famine and Mass Migration"

In North Korea:
50 Years Later, USS Pueblo on Display as North Korean Prize (VOA, 01/25/2018)
N. Korea Planning Military Event on Eve of Pyeongchang Games (NY *Times*, 01/25/2018)
North's army founding day shifted to eve of Olympics (*Joongang Ibo*, 01/24/2018)
North Korea Tightens Security Before Major Military Parade (RFA, 01/24/2018)
North Korea to show off military prowess on eve of PyeongChang Olympics (*Korea Times*, 01/25/2018)
North Korea trumpets 'world-level' tourist project ahead of Olympics (*Reuters*, 01/25/2018)
North plans concerts in South on Feb. 8 and 11 (*Joongang Ibo*, 01/25/2018)
The unchecked corruption of Chairman Pak: graft, rent-seeking, and false imprisonment (*Daily NK*, 01/24/2018)

In South Korea:
Exclusive: South Korea's foreign minister says has 'all contingency scenarios' for inter-Korean talks (*Reuters*, 01/25/2018)
Improving Inter-Korean Ties Could Strain US Alliance (VOA, 01/25/2018)
NK soldier's defection motive under scrutiny (*Korea Times*, 01/25/2018)
Moon's approval at 59.8%, lowest since taking office (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/26/2018)
President's birthday riles up supporters and detractors (*Joongang Ibo*, 01/26/2018)
Seoul waiting for inspection results of ski resort in N.K. for joint training (*Yonhap*, 01/25/2018)
South Korea Minister Says Military Option 'Unacceptable' on North Korea Crisis (NY *Times*, 01/25/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
'Olympic option': Winter Games could be a win for Korean unity (UPI, 01/24/2018)
Don't mess with PyeongChang (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/26/2018)
Korean Hockey Players Arrive for Joint Olympics Practice as North Korea Calls for Unity (NY *Times*, 01/24/2018)
(2nd LD) N.K. women's ice hockey players, Olympic advance team travel to S. Korea(*Yonhap*, 01/25/2018)
N. Korea's Olympic participation opens up 'tiny' window for denuclearization talks: Ban Ki-moon (*Yonhap*, 01/25/2018)

(LEAD) N. Korean women's hockey players join S. Korean team for Olympic training (*Yonhap*, 01/25/2018)
N. Korean officials inspect Olympic venues in Gangneung (*Yonhap*, 01/25/2018)
North, South Korea Hockey Players Team Up for Olympics (NY *Times*, 01/25/2018)
North's ice hockey players arrive (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/26/2018)
North Korea calls for reunification as hockey teams unite ahead of joint effort at Winter Olympics (*Telegraph*, 01/25/2018)
North Korea calls for unity with South as hockey players begin Olympics training (*Reuters*, 01/24/2018)
North Korea Missile Threat Revives Talk of 'Star Wars' (VOA, 01/25/2018)
North Korea sends rare announcement to all Koreans, calls for unification (*Reuters*, 01/24/2018)
(2nd LD) S. Korean team returns after checking venues for joint events in N.K. (*Yonhap*, 01/25/2018)
S. Korea willing to consider joint cross-country skiing team with N.K. (*Yonhap*, 01/25/208)

International:
China barely exports any oil products to North Korea in December: customs (*Reuters*, 01/25/2018)
China Says Evidence Needed to Punish Entities Tied to NKorea (NY *Times*, 01/25/2018)
Japan accuses Dominican Republic tanker of passing fuel to North Korea (*Telegraph*, 01/24/2018)
(Yonhap Interview) Mexican Senate chief expresses hope for improved inter-Korean ties through Olympics (*Yonhap*, 01/25/2018)
NBC's Holt says he approached North Korea with eyes open (*Washington Post*, 01/25/2018)
North Korean ship caught likely violating sanctions, Japan says (CNN, 01/24/2018)
Peace and nukes don't mix (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/26/2018)
Pro-N.K. residents in Japan getting ready to cheer N. Korean Olympic athletes (*Yonhap*, 01/24/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea's nuke envoy, U.S. Treasury official discuss pressure on N.K. (*Yonhap*, 01/25/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea, U.S. defense chiefs to meet in Hawaii Friday (*Yonhap*, 01/25/2018)
Senior U.S. Treasury official visits S. Korea (*Yonhap*, 01/25/2018)
Ship That Took Russian Fuel to North Korea Hit by U.S. Sanctions (NY *Times*, 0125/2018)
Singaporean-owned ship defies sanctions in contacting N. Korean tanker (*Yonhap*, 01/25/2018)
Tillerson stresses urgency of implementing U.N. sanctions on N.K. (*Yonhap*, 01/25/2018)
Treasury targets North Korea again, sanctions illicit Chinese and Russian actors (CNN, 01/24/2018)
Trump Administration Slaps New Sanctions on North Korea (NY *Times*, 01/24/2018)
(2nd LD) U.S. announces new sanctions over N.K. weapons program (*Yonhap*, 01/25/2018)
U.S. imposes more North Korea sanctions; urges China, Russia expulsions (*Reuters*, 01/24/2018)
U.S. sanctions people, firms, ships for aiding N. Korean arms industry -Treasury (*Reuters*, 01/24/2018)
U.S. slaps sanctions on more entities, people (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/26/2018)
US Imposes New Sanctions on North Korea (VOA, 01/24/2018)
US Lawmaker: Curtail US-South Korea Drills in Exchange for North's Denuclearization (VOA, 01/25/2018)
US official warns Hong Kong over North Korea smuggling, money laundering (CNN, 01/25/2018)

Top News:

- Featuring analysis from Joseph S. Bermudez Jr.: NK recently announced that to celebrate the founding of the KPA, a parade will be held on Feb. 8. Commercial satellite imagery has suggested that preparations for this military parade, a parade frequently used to showcase new military equipment and the latest N.Korean weapons systems, are already underway.

Should the parade happen as announced, there will likely be criticism from inter-Korean dialogue skeptics, especially as the parade coincides with the opening of the Pyeongchang Olympics. (38 North)

- Written by Andrew Natsios, HRNK Co-chair Emeritus and Joonbum Bae, "Preventing a Post-Collapsse Crisis in North Korea" explores the potential ramifications of a post-KJU regime collapse in NK. (Andrew Natsios, Joonbum Bae, *Foreign Policy*)

In North Korea:

- Fifty years after it was seized by NK, the USS Pueblo is the only US Navy ship held captive by a foreign government. And though mostly forgotten in the US, the "Pueblo Incident" for NK remains a potent symbol of military success. (AP)
- NK is preparing to stage a major event to mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of its military on Feb. 8—just one day before the opening ceremony of the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics in SK. (AP)
- NK announced Tues. it would return to celebrating Feb. 8 as its army founding day and hold "diverse events" on the eve of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. NK did not specify what events it had in mind, but the news came as local military and intelligence officials said they've detected signs Pyongyang is preparing a military parade. (Lee Sung-eun, Lee Chul-jae, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- N.Korean authorities have initiated a special month-long security mobilization period in the run-up to a military parade on Feb. 8, the day before the opening of the Winter Olympics in SK, sources inside the country said. (Sunghui Moon, Leejin Jun, Roseanne Gerin, RFA)
- NK is apparently preparing to show off its combat prowess by holding a large military parade on the eve of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics, in a move that will revive tension in the thaw in inter-Korean relations. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- NK advertised a new "world-level" tourist project in coastal Kangwon province on Thurs., a statement that coincides with plans by Winter Olympics host SK to participate in joint sporting and cultural events in the area. (Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- A N.Korean orchestra will hold a concert on Feb. 8, the eve of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics, in Gangneung, Gangwon, the first time since Aug. 2002 that N.Koreans will perform in SK—and the first time ever outside Seoul. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Ilbo)*
- The County Party Chairman of Kimjongsuk County in Ryanggang Province, Pak Chol Ho, has been abusing his power to increase his own wealth in foreign currency. The vice chairman who had brought up the charges against Pak in Jan. 2015, lost his position after Pak requested a personnel change, which allowed Pak to continue to accumulate power. (Unification Media Group, *Daily NK*)

In South Korea:

- SK has prepared "all contingency scenarios" in case NK stages another weapons test even as the two countries hold a series of talks and mutual visits around next month's Winter Olympics, SK's foreign minister said. (Soyoung Kim, *Reuters*)
- NK's conciliatory message sent out Thurs. may indicate SK's Olympic outreach is working, but there are concerns that improving inter-Korean relations could undermine the US maximum pressure strategy. (Brian Padden, VOA)

- Moon's weekly approval rating plunged to 59.8 percent, marking the lowest since he took office in May 2017, as his policy to invite NK to the upcoming Winter Olympics failed to generate public support. (Ser Myo-ja, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- The National Intelligence Service (NIS) is reportedly looking into allegations that a N.Korean soldier who escaped to SK through the Joint Security Area had caused a traffic accident under the influence of alcohol just before the defection. (Choi Ha-young, *Korea Times*)
- As Moon's birthday approached last Wed., the national divide over his policies became more rancorous. His supporters celebrated with a ringing endorsement of his efforts to make the PyeongChang Games a "peace Olympics" while his critics typed in "Pyongyang Olympics" to denounce the government's concessions to NK during the weeks leading up to the Games. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- SK has yet to be informed of the current state of a ski resort on NK's east coast, which will be used for joint skiing training by the two Koreas' non-Olympic skiers, government officials said Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's foreign minister said on Thurs. the standoff over NK's nuclear programme must be resolved diplomatically, and she was certain Washington would consult her government first if a military option were to be considered. (*Reuters*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Over the past few weeks, news from the Korean peninsula took a sharp turn from the "nuclear option" to the "Olympic option." The recent rapprochement around the Olympics is a step in building consensus and identity as Koreans first, and could help resolve the Korean division. (Kate Tsubata, UPI).
- The S.Korean government must demand that Pyongyang not hold a military parade before the Olympics period and also explain NK's military movements to the people as the conservative community is already mad about NK stealing the limelight during the Olympics. Pyongyang could lose big if it goes ahead with a military parade on the eve of the Olympics. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- A delegation of N.Korean officials and ice hockey players crossed the heavily guarded border into SK on Thurs. for joint Olympics training, as Pyongyang called for all Koreans to seek unification of the two nations. (*Reuters*)
- N.Korean women's ice hockey players and an advance team of sports officials arrived in SK Thurs. in preparation for their country's participation in next month's PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (Kim Soo-yeon and Joint Press Corps, *Yonhap*)
- NK's participation in the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics opens up a window of opportunity to resume long-suspended talks to discuss the country's denuclearization, former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- A dozen N.Korean women's hockey players joined the S.Korean team Thurs. to start preparing for next month's Winter Olympics together. (*Yonhap*)
- N.Korean officials on Thurs. began their inspection of major venues of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics to prepare for NK's participation in the games, a rare sign of reconciliation with SK. (*Yonhap*)
- Female hockey players from the NK and SK were paired up with each other Thurs. to form their first-ever Olympic squad during next month's Pyeongchang Winter Games, as their countries press ahead with rare reconciliation steps following a period of nuclear tensions. (AP)

- Twelve women's ice hockey athletes from NK crossed the border Thurs. to start training with S.Korean teammates on a joint Olympic team. Their teamwork will get a pre-Olympics test in a friendly match against Sweden in Incheon on Feb. 4. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- The arrival of N.Korean ice hockey players came as NK issued a statement calling for unification on the peninsula, in contrast with its more bellicose declarations in recent months following soaring tensions over its nuclear weapons programme. (Danielle Demetriou, *Telegraph*)
- Early on Thurs., NK sent a rare announcement addressed to "all Koreans at home and abroad," saying they should make a "breakthrough" for unification without the help of other countries, its state media said. (Christine Kim, Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- Scientists and NASA officials who spearheaded development of a space-based missile defense system in the 1980s are urging its revival to counter emerging nuclear threats from NK and other rogue states. (Martin Arostegui, VOA)
- NK sent a rare announcement addressed to "all Koreans at home and abroad" on Thurs., saying they should make a "breakthrough" for unification without the help of other countries. (Reuters Staff, *Reuters*)
- An advance team of S.Korean officials returned home from NK on Thurs. after inspecting venues for joint events on the occasion of next month's PyeongChang Winter Olympics in SK. (*Yonhap*)
- SK is willing to review the possibility of forming a joint cross-country skiing team with NK for next month's PyeongChang Winter Olympics, a senior official at the Korea Ski Association (KSA) said Thurs. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- China exported no oil products to NK in Dec. except for a tiny cargo of jet fuel, data showed on Thurs., the latest sign that Beijing has kept up pressure on its isolated neighbor amid tensions over its nuclear and missile program. (Reuters Staff, *Reuters*)
- China on Thurs. promised to take action against US-sanctioned companies if it sees "solid evidence" they illegally helped NK, while cautioning against the imposition of foreign laws on Chinese citizens. (AP)
- A Japanese patrol plane spotted a Dominican Republic tanker apparently transferring fuel to a N.Korean vessel in the East China Sea in violation of UN sanctions. (Danielle Demetriou, *Telegraph*)
- Mexican Senate President Ernesto Cordero has voiced hopes that NK's participation in next month's PyeongChang Winter Olympics will mark a "new beginning" of cross-border ties long strained by its continued provocations. (*Yonhap*)
- Despite facing criticism for presenting an air-brushed view of the N.Korean dictatorship, NBC News anchor Lester Holt thought positively of his trip to NK, despite being shown what the regime wanted him to see and operating under the assumption that everything that was said was being monitored. (David Bauder, AP)
- Photographs taken by a Japanese spy plane show a N.Korean tanker likely violating UN sanctions, Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Wed. (Joshua Berlinger, Yoko Wakatsuki, CNN)
- NK insists that peace can still be maintained even if it retains nuclear weapons. The S.Korean government is trying to take advantage of the Games to pave the way to dialogue and denuclearization of NK; however, the US is tightening its sanctions on the N.Korean regime

in its belief that only strong pressure on NK can change the regime. Dialogue is good, but it must be accompanied by resolute sanctions and peace is impossible with nuclear weapon in NK. (*Joongang Ilbo*)

- Chongryon, a pro-Pyongyang association of Korean residents in Japan, is stepping up work to create a cheering squad for NK athletes who will take part in SK's Winter Olympics, sources well-versed in the organization said Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's nuclear envoy and a senior US Treasury official discussed cooperation in maintaining pressure on NK to stop its nuclear and missile development, the foreign ministry said Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- The SK and US defense chiefs will meet in Hawaii Fri. to discuss issues related to the bilateral alliance, including NK. (*Yonhap*)
- A senior US Treasury official has visited SK amid Washington's announcement of enhanced sanctions against NK for its nuclear and missile programs, diplomatic sources said Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- The US has imposed sanctions on the Kum Um San, a vessel that Reuters revealed last year was delivering oil products from Russia to NK. (*Reuters*)
- The real owner of a Dominican-flagged tanker, which was recently spotted while engaging in an illicit transfer of goods to a N.Korean tanker on the East China Sea, is a Singaporean energy company, a US broadcaster reported Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson spoke by phone with his Russian counterpart Wed., stressing the urgency of implementing UN sanctions against NK, the State Department said. (*Yonhap*)
- The Trump administration on Wed. targeted a swath of illicit actors in China, Russia and elsewhere working on behalf of the NK regime. (Donna Borak, CNN)
- The Trump administration unfurled new sanctions on Wed. targeting NK and its weapons program, underscoring the aggressive approach that President Trump has promised to take against the government of KJU. (Alan Rapport, *NY Times*)
- The US on Wed. imposed new sanctions on 9 entities including 2 Chinese firms, 16 N.Korean individuals, and 6 N.Korean vessels over their links to the N.Korean nuclear and ballistic missile programs. (*Yonhap*)
- The US announced new sanctions on Wed aimed at stopping NK's nuclear weapons development and urged China and Russia to expel N.Koreans raising funds for the programs. (David Brunnstrom, David Alexander, *Reuters*)
- The US tightened its economic crackdown on NK over its nuclear arms program on Wed., imposing sanctions on nine entities, 16 people and six ships it accused of helping Pyongyang develop weapons of mass destruction. (Reuters Staff, *Reuters*)
- The US Department of the Treasury on Wed. levied new sanctions on 9 additional entities and 16 individuals linked to NK's nuclear and missiles program. The sanctions were slapped on 2 Chinese trading companies, 6 vessels, and N.Korean representatives of companies and banks, mostly based in China and Russia (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- The administration of U.S. President Donald Trump imposed new sanctions Wed. aimed at halting NK's nuclear and missile development programs. (VOA)
- The US should consider curtailing the US-SK joint military exercises held annually on the condition that NK agrees to give up its nuclear weapons and intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) that Pyongyang claims can reach the US mainland, a US lawmaker said. (Joeun Lee, VOA)

- Hong Kong needs to do more to combat N.Korean smuggling and money laundering in the city, a top US official has warned. (Joshua Berlinger, CNN)

Excerpt from Top News Item, "Preventing a Post-Collapse Crisis in North Korea: How to Avoid Famine and Mass Migration" by Andrew Natsios, HRNK Co-chair Emeritus and Joonbum Bae

- "If the regime of North Korean Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un was to collapse, whether from internal problems or external force, one of the most pressing problems facing the United States, China, and South Korea—as well as one of the most promising avenues for cooperation—would be how to respond to the resulting humanitarian crisis. A collapse of the regime would likely exacerbate the chronic food shortages North Koreans have endured for 25 years and worsen the country's problems with infectious disease and public health. This would in turn provoke mass population movements from North Korea into China. To prevent these large-scale refugee flows, the United States, China, and South Korea would need to work together to provide food, clean water, and basic medical treatment for the North Korean population."

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, HRNK Research Intern

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Friday, January 26, 2018

S.K. and US to conduct joint military exercises 'normally' after Olympics; N.K. likely to hold 'intimidating' military parade on Feb. 8; S.K. Foreign Minister calls for peace efforts at Davos

In North Korea:
Captured ship is North's propaganda prize (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/26/2018)
Exclusive: Despite sanctions, North Korea exported coal to South and Japan via Russia-intelligence sources (*Reuters*, 01/26/2018)
Former North Korean national athlete describes Olympic selection and training procedure (*DailyNK*, 01/26/2018)
Interesting new underground facility (*nkeconwatch*, 01/26/2018)
Kim Jong Un orders war simulation training amidst 'peace Olympics' (*DailyNK*, 01/26/2018)
Kim Jong Un Slush Fund 'Running Out' as North Korea Tests Weapons Despite Sanctions (*RFA*, 01/25/2018)
Kim Jong-un's young sister elevated to powerful position controlling North Korea state security (*Telegraph*, 01/26/2018)
KJU and RSJ Visit Pyongyang Pharmaceutical Factory (*NKleadershipwatch*, 01/26/2018)
N.K. newspaper says nuke war clouds lingering on Korean Peninsula (*Yonhap*, 01/26/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) S. Korea, U.S to conduct joint military exercises 'normally' after Olympics: Seoul (*Yonhap*, 01/26/2018)
Moon's landing (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/26/2018)
South Korea's Moon drops in polls amid Olympic cooperation with North (UPI, 01/26/2018)
Vice unification minister met with U.S. Treasury official over Olympics (*Yonhap*, 01/26/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) N.K. likely to hold 'intimidating' military parade on Feb. 8: Seoul minister (*Yonhap*, 01/26/2018)
(2nd LD) S. Korea finds N.K. ski resort good enough for joint training (*Yonhap*, 01/26/2018)
FM calls for peace efforts at Davos (*Korea Times*, 01/26/2018)
N.K. officials continue inspection of Olympics venues on 2nd day of trip (*Yonhap*, 01/26/2018)
N. Korean visit Olympic venues for second day (*Korea Times*, 01/26/2018)
North Korean Skaters Say They'll Treat Olympics Just Like Any Other Competition (NYT, 01/26/2018)
North readies 'threatening' parade (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/26/2018)
S. Korean foreign minister in Davos stresses PyeongChang Olympics' role in easing tensions with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 01/26/2018)
South offers K-pop concert for joint show at Kumgang (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/26/2018)
Teamwork at risk (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/26/2018)
Unification and its contradictions (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/26/2018)

International:
(LEAD) Kissinger rejects 'freeze-for-freeze' with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 01/26/2018)
China envoy says "complex" reasons why has not been to North Korea (*Reuters*, 01/26/2018)
Dominican Republic denies ship transferred goods to N.K. tanker (*Yonhap*, 01/26/2018)
Hockey sisters Hannah and Marissa Brandt to represent US and Korea in PyeongChang (CNN, 01/26/2018)
It's 'complicated:' China's NKorea envoy on lack of visit (*Washington Post*, 01/26/2018)
Kissinger, Shultz Warn of Rising Nuclear Perils (VOA, 01/25/2018)
Mattis says a U.S. aircraft carrier is likely to visit Vietnam amid Chinese tension (*Washington Post*, 01/26/2018)
Mattis: U.S. could 'fight tonight' if S. Korea attacked (*Yonhap*, 01/26/2018)
North Korea sanctions are strangling this Chinese city (CNN, 01/25/2018)
Pentagon: U.S. not contemplating suspension of S. Korea military drills (*Yonhap*, 01/26/2018)
Russia 'hub for North Korean sanctions-busting coal shipments' (*Telegraph*, 01/26/2018)
Russia Says No Obligation to Comply With U.S. Sanctions on North Korea (NYT, 01/26/2018)
Top US general warns of 'tough' North Korean ground war (CNN, 01/26/2018)
Unease mixes with excitement as Pyeongchang awaits the world (*Washington Post*, 01/26/2018)
US, South Korea to resume military exercises after Winter Olympics (CNN, 01/26/2018)
U.S. supports inter-Korean talks on Olympics (*Yonhap*, 01/26/2018)

In North Korea

- Fifty years after it was seized by N.K., the USS Pueblo is the only U.S. Navy ship held captive by a foreign government. The “Pueblo Incident” for N.K. remains a potent symbol of military success. (AP)
- N.K. shipped coal to Russia last year which was then delivered to S.K. and Japan in a likely violation of U.N. sanctions. (Guy Faulconbridge, Jonathan Saul, Polina Nikolskaya, *Reuters*)
- With the final announcement coming only two weeks before the opening of the games, former national athlete for N.K. Lee Ji Young, now living in S.K., about the Olympic selection and training procedure in the North. (Jang Seul Gi, *DailyNK*)
- An underground facility seems to be constructed in an abandoned railway tunnel, construction of which was halted at a time that pre-dates commercial satellite imagery. (*nkeconwatch*)
- An order for a new round of ideological training and combat preparation for the entire military was handed down by KJU on January 19. KJU is taking action to prevent a lapse in discipline in the midst of warming inter-Korean relations. (Kim Chae Hwan, *DailyNK*)
- A critical slush fund controlled by KJU is nearly depleted following a series of nuclear weapon and missile tests, and the nation’s decision to participate in the upcoming Winter Olympic Games is part of a plot to bolster its failing economy. (RFA)
- KJU may have put his younger sister Kim Yo-jong in charge of the pariah nation’s powerful state security apparatus, it has emerged. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- KJU and his wife Ri Sol Ju visited and inspected Pyongyang Pharmaceutical Factory. (*NKleadershipwatch*)
- A N.K. newspaper said Friday that a "dark vortex of a nuclear war" is lurking on the Korean Peninsula, citing what it calls the U.S. hostile policy toward the regime. (*Yonhap*)

In South Korea:

- S.K. and the US plan to resume their delayed joint military exercises after the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics and Paralympics. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon’s approval rating slipped below 60 percent in just two weeks. Yet his administration said nothing about Pyongyang’s plan of holding a massive military parade on the eve of the Olympics. The administration must check itself before it’s too late. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- A S.K. decision to allow N.K. and S.K. athletes to march together under a unified Korea flag at the opening ceremony of the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics may be costing President Moon support. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- S.K.'s vice unification minister and a senior U.S. Treasury official have discussed inter-Korean ties and N.K.'s participation in the upcoming Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- N.K. is likely to hold a military parade on an "intimidating" scale to mark the 70th founding anniversary of its military, one day before the opening of the Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- S.K. officials good enough condition to host joint ski training ahead of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha called for global support for S.K.'s efforts to ease regional tension through talks with N.K. in a speech at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)

- N.K. officials on Friday visited PyeongChang, the host town of the 2018 Winter Games, in preparation for their country's landmark participation in next month's event. (*Yonhap*)
- An eight-member N.K. delegation visited venues for the PyeongChang Winter Olympics on Friday, the second day of their visit. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- N.K.'s figure skating team took bronze in a competition in Taipei on Friday and opened a window on what life is like for sports people in the world's most isolated country as they head for next month's Olympics in the rich, democratic S.K. (*Reuters*)
- N.K. is gearing up for an "extremely large-scale" military parade that will likely fall on Feb. 8, its army founding day and the eve of the Winter Olympics. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha used her attendance at the World Economic Forum's (WEF) annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, to promote the upcoming Winter Olympics as a chance to ease tensions with N.K. (*Yonhap*)
- A senior S.K. government official who visited N.K. earlier this week to examine the Mount Kumgang resort offered to hold a K-pop concert there for pre-Olympic celebrations. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- The joint team cannot be changed. For the best possible outcome, both S.K. and N.K. athletes need to be convinced of the tough situation, and the joint team needs to meet as soon as possible to build their teamwork. (Nam Jeong-ho, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Unification and peaceful coexistence can be contradictory. The two Koreas must be able to overcome their enormous gap after living isolated from each other for over 70 years. (*Joongang Ilbo*)

International:

- Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said he does not believe N.K. will abandon its nuclear weapons in exchange for a suspension of U.S. joint military exercises with S.K. (*Yonhap*)
- China's special envoy for N.K. said there were "complex" reasons why he has yet to visit the country, but that China's efforts to help bring about the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and foster peace were relentless and unchanged. (Philip Wen, *Reuters*)
- The Dominican Republic denied suspicions that a Dominican tanker has transferred fuel to a N.K. tanker in the East China Sea in violation of U.N. sanctions. (*Yonhap*)
- Brandt sisters will be representing different countries in the Olympics; Hannah will play for the US team while Marissa, who was born in S.K. but adopted when she was just four-months-old, will play for a unified Korea team. (Eoghan Macguire, CNN)
- China's chief envoy for N.K. affairs said the reasons he hasn't visited Pyongyang are "complicated" but that China remains committed to finding a diplomatic solution to tensions over the North's nuclear weapons program. (Christoper Bodeen, AP)
- Two former U.S. secretaries of state on Thursday warned lawmakers of a marked rise in nuclear dangers stemming from N.K.'s race to develop atomic weapons and the means to deliver them. (Michael Bowman, VOA)
- The US is finalizing plans to dock an aircraft carrier in the south of Vietnam this March, part of growing military cooperation between the nations and a 1,092-foot-long signal to China to rethink its aggressive expansion. (Alex Horton, *Washington Post*)
- U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has reaffirmed his country's commitment to the defense of S.K., saying his troops could "fight tonight" if S.K. was to come under attack. (*Yonhap*)

- For decades, Dandong has been a key trading hub that helped the N.K. regime cash in on China's spectacular economic rise. But now it's suffering due to N.K. sanctions. (Matt Rivers and Steven Jiang, CNN)
- The US has no plans to postpone joint military exercises with S.K. beyond the end of the Winter Olympics and Paralympics, the Pentagon said. (*Yonhap*)
- Russia has become a transit hub for illicit N.K. coal shipments in an apparent breach of UN sanctions. (Ben Farmer, *Telegraph*)
- Russia has no obligation to carry out sanctions set by the US, including those on N.K. (*Reuters*)
- The head of the US Marine Corps warned Thursday that a conflict with N.K. could involve an exceptionally bloody ground war. (Barbara Starr, CNN)
- Just weeks before the Olympics, an unusual culture clash is taking place in Pyeongchang, and it's only partly about the anticipatory jitters in this remote, mountainous region before a swarm of foreigners arrives. (Foster Klug, AP)
- Joint military exercises involving tens of thousands of troops from the US and S.K. are set to resume after the 2018 Winter Olympics. (Ben Westcott, CNN)
- The US supports inter-Korean talks about the Olympics but does not believe it is time to hold negotiations on the North's nuclear weapons program. (*Yonhap*)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

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Saturday, January 27, 2018

N.K. slams U.S. sanctions as wild violation of international law; N.K. says S.K.'s military alliance with U.S. may end momentum for dialogue

In North Korea:
N. Korea slams U.S. sanctions as wild violation of int'l law (*Yonhap*, 01/27/2018)
North Korea condemns latest U.S. sanctions (*Reuters*, 01/27/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) N. Korean delegation returns home after inspection visit to S. Korea (*Yonhap*, 01/27/2018)
N. Korean cheering squad to support S. Korean athletes during PyeongChang Olympics (*Yonhap*, 01/27/2018)
N. Korea reports visit of S. Korean advance team for joint Olympics training (*Yonhap*, 01/27/2018)
N. Korea says Seoul's military alliance with U.S. may end momentum for dialogue (*Yonhap*, 01/27/2018)
No clash of egos between coaches on joint women's hockey team: officials (*Yonhap*, 01/27/2018)
North Korean officials wrap up Olympic inspection in South (*Washington Post*, 01/27/2018)
Trump touts campaign to denuclearize N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 01/27/2018)

International:
Charities see nail clippers, shovels are North Korean no-nos (*Washington Post*, 01/27/2018)
In Hawaii, Mattis Praises Renewed Talks Between South, North Korea (VOA, 01/27/2018)
Mattis Promises to 'Hold the Line' on North Korea (VOA, 01/26/2018)
Mattis says Korea talks can't distract from denuclearization (*Washington Post*, 01/26/2018)
U.S.'s Mattis: Diplomacy should impose reason on North Korea's Kim (*Reuters*, 01/27/2018)

In North Korea:

- N.K. strongly condemned the US Saturday for passing its own sanctions against the North, calling the sanctions a clear and reckless violation of its sovereignty. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K. on Saturday condemned the latest U.S. sanctions announced this week aimed at curbing the isolated nation's development nuclear weapons. (*Reuters*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- An official N.K. delegation returned home Saturday after a three-day visit to inspect venues for the upcoming Winter Olympic Games and accommodations for a N.K. delegation to the event. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K. cheerleaders, who are set to visit PyeongChang for the Winter Games, will support S.K. athletes in addition to their own Olympians. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K. reported a recent visit of S.K. officials to the reclusive nation to inspect venues for the countries' joint cultural events and joint training sessions for their Olympic skiers. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K. strongly condemned the ROK-US alliance Saturday, accusing their joint defense efforts of being aimed at toppling its communist regime and saying such efforts may also lead to an end of ongoing dialogue between the two Koreas. (*Yonhap*)
- There has been no clash of egos between the coaches of the two Korean women's ice hockey teams, as their players try to get on the same page for the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K. officials wrapped up a three-day visit to S.K. where they examined Olympic stadiums, hotels and concert halls that will potentially be used by N.K. athletes and other delegates during the Olympics. (Kim Tong-Hyung, AP)
- Trump praised his administration's efforts to rally international support to squeeze N.K. over its nuclear and ballistic missile programs. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- Two shipping containers full of hygiene kits languish for weeks in a Chinese port, unable to reach N.K. (Matthew Pennington, AP)
- Defense Secretary Jim Mattis praised the talks between N.K. and S.K. but said they do not address the overarching issues in the standoff over Pyongyang's nuclear and ballistic missile programs. (William Gallo, VOA)
- U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis says the US will continue to "hold the line and provide credible military options" to diplomats working to de-escalate tensions on the Korean Peninsula and address Pyongyang's nuclear and missile threat. (William Gallo, VOA)
- U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said that Olympics talks between two Koreas should not distract from the internationally agreed goal of denuclearizing the North. (AP)
- U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis stressed diplomacy as the way to deal with the N.K. crisis on Friday during talks with his S.K. counterpart in Hawaii, a day after Seoul's top diplomat said a military solution would be unacceptable. (Phil Stewart, *Reuters*)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

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Sunday, January 28, 2018

3.2 magnitude-quake detected in N. Korea: weather agency; S.Korea pondering whether to provide N.Korea oil for cultural event; The effect of sanctions

In North Korea:
3.2 magnitude-quake detected in N. Korea: weather agency (*Yonhap*, 01/28/2018)
Kim Jong Un's real Pyeongchang Olympics strategy, as told through official state media (*Daily* NK, 01/27/2018)

In South Korea:
Pyongyang's fuel request puts Seoul in a quandary (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/28/2018)
South Korea pondering whether to provide North Korea oil for cultural event (UPI, 01/28/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Inter-Korean Olympic events begin this week (Korea Times, 01/28/2018)
Joint Korean women's hockey team has first practice together (*Yonhap*, 01/28/2018)
Koreas try out Olympic diplomacy at North Korean ski resort (*Washington Post*, 01/28/2018)
North Korea: U.S. is trying to ruin inter-Korean relations (UPI, 01/28/2018)
Pandering to Pyongyang (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/29/2018)
The effect of sanctions (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/28/2018)

International:
Defense chiefs confer at meeting in Honolulu (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/28/2018)
Made in North Korea – a unique glimpse of life inside a closed society (*The Guardian*, 01/27/2018)
S. Korea, U.S. defense chiefs reaffirm 'no wedge' in alliance (*Yonhap*, 01/28/2018)
(LEAD) (Yonhap Interview) Schroeder voices support for inter-Korean talks (*Yonhap*, 01/28/2018)

In North Korea:

- A 3.2 magnitude earthquake was detected in NK on Sun., Seoul's weather agency said. The tremor occurred at 8:07 p.m. and the depth at its epicenter was six kilometers, according to the Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA). (*Yonhap*)
- NK state media often provides hints as to the true intentions behind the NK's participation in the Pyeongchang Olympics. Following KJU's New Year's address, there was a considerable lack of further information on NK's participation, but after staying quiet on the matter for nearly 20 days, the state-run Rodong Sinmun ran a story on Jan. 18. (uJung Kyo Jin, *Daily NK*)

In South Korea:

- The government is agonizing over whether it should send refined petroleum products to North Korea for upcoming joint cultural events in the midst of tough international sanctions over Pyongyang's missile tests, officials said Sunday. (Yonhap)
- SK is considering a move to ship refined petroleum to NK to power an inter-Korean cultural event next week as "the North's oil supplies aren't in good condition." However, there has been criticism that such a decision would "go against the flow of international sanctions on Pyongyang." (Jennie Oh, UPI)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Joint events hosted by NK and SK, including the inter-Korean ski training at Masikryong resort in NK and the inter-Korean cultural at Mount Geumgang, will begin this week ahead of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics to be held next week, according to related ministries, Sun. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- The joint Korean women's ice hockey team had their first practice session together Sun. It consists of 35 players, with 12 N.Koreans joining 23 S.Koreans, following the recent inter-Korean agreement and the IOC's stamp of approval granting extra roster spots for the Korean team. (Yonhap)
- NK's only luxury ski resort is getting a taste of the Olympic spotlight, having been chosen to host joint training for N. and S. Korean skiers ahead of the Games' Feb. 9 opening date in SK. It has become something of a symbol of a budding detente between the two Koreas after a year of particularly high tensions over the NK's nuclear weapons and long-range missile tests. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- NK has accused the US of devising ways to "intentionally" harm inter-Korean relations, accusing the US of "creating instability in an intentional and calculated manner at a time when the world is welcoming dialogue between the North and South." (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- Despite a warning fro the US Defense secretary James Mattis that ongoing inter-Korean talks for the North's participation in the Pyeongchang Games should not hamper the international goal of denuclearizing NK, the SK government is keeping a low profile on the delayed joint military exercises, citing the need to not provoke NK amid eased tension in the lead up to the Games. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- To change the NK's course permanently, the S.Korean government must not pollute its NK policy as part of an ideological battle. Rather, it must understand the North through an objective analysis through the data that suggests the ultimate effects of the sanctions. (Kim Byung-yeon, *Joongang Ilbo*)

International:

- A top US defense official warned Fri. that talks between the two Koreas on the Olympic Games must not disrupt the international campaign to pressure the North to give up its nuclear arms. (See Myo-ja, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Glimpses of normal life in NK, something few outsiders ever sample, are to go on show in a London exhibition next month, including many items on display for the first time outside the communist republic. (Vanessa Thrope, *The Guardian*)
- The defense chiefs of SK and the US have reaffirmed that NK will not succeed in driving a wedge in the bilateral alliance, the Pentagon said Sat., addressing concerns that NK could be seeking to weaken the SK-US alliance through its recent talks with SK. (Yonhap)
- Former German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder has voiced strong support for the recently resumed inter-Korean dialogue, saying talks between the two Koreas should be pursued under any circumstances. (Yonhap)

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, HRNK Research Intern

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Monday, January 29, 2018

NK cancels joint performance with SK, blames South media: Seoul; Influenza A kills 4 in North Korea: Red Cross

In North Korea:
Influenza A kills 4 in North Korea: Red Cross (*Yonhap*, 01/29/2018)
Kim Jong-un's 'inheritance dwindling' after expensive missile tests and vanity projects (*Telegraph*, 01/29/2018)
N. Korean newspaper warns of danger of game addiction (*Yonhap*, 01/28/2018)
North Korean paralympians used for propaganda (*Daily NK*, 01/29/2018)
Pak Pong Ju Inspects C1 Chemical Industry Construction Site (*NK Leadership Watch*, 01/28/2018)
Seoul: North Korea mobilizes 50,000 for upcoming military parade (UPI, 01/29/2018)

In South Korea:
S. Korea's foreign ministry to beef up email security (*Yonhap*, 01/29/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
A missed opportunity to promote peace : South Korean orchestras will not perform with North for Winter Games (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/29/2018)
Bad politics stands in way of sports (*Korea Times*, 01/29/2018)
Communication is key (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/29/2018)
(2nd LD) Defense chief says N. Korea's use of nuke would be 'suicidal (*Yonhap*, 01/29/2018)
Korean Women's Ice Hockey Teams Unite Before 2018 Winter Olympics (VOA, 01/29/2018)
Koreas Try Out Olympic Diplomacy at North Korean Ski Resort (NYT, 01/29/2018)
North Korea cancels joint performance with South Korea, blames South media: Seoul (*Reuters*, 01/29/2018)
Olympic Dreams of a United Korea? Many in South Say, 'No, Thanks' (NYT, 01/29/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea to use chartered flight for ski training with N.K. (*Yonhap*, 01/29/2018)
S. Korean military expects 'similar pattern' of N. Korea's military parade (*Yonhap*, 01/28/2018)
South Korean skiers to spend 2 days in the North this week (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/29/2018)

International:
A demand too far (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/29/2018)
Aid groups feel heat as sanctions on North Korea intensify (*Washington Post*, 01/29/2018)
Lessons from Lee Kuan Yew (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/29/2018)
N. Korea most important midterm issue for Republicans: poll (*Yonhap*, 01/28/2018)
Police Witness: Kim Jong Nam Met American Before His Murder (NYT, 01/29/2018)
Trump not likely to provoke N. Korea in State of the Union speech (*Yonhap*, 01/28/2018)

In North Korea:

- 4 people have died and more than 81,000 have been infected with Influenza A (H1N1) virus in NK since last month, according to a report from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). (*Yonhap*)
- Two Chinese sources with connections to N. Korean government officials said that KJU has been exhausting his inheritance on a series of missile and nuclear tests, and extravagant vanity projects. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- The official newspaper of NK's ruling party on Mon. warned of the danger of game addiction across the world. (*Yonhap*)
- There is a renewed focus on the environment for people living with disabilities in NK, but observers are questioning whether or not conditions for the disabled are improving. (Seol Song-ah, *Daily NK*)
- DPRK state media reported on January 25, 2018 that State Affairs Commission vice chair and Premier Pak Pong Ju inspected the C1 chemical industry construction site. (*NK Leadership Watch*)
- NK appears to have mobilized tens of thousands of troops and civilians for a massive military parade next week, S. Korean officials said Mon. (Jennie Oh, UPI)

In South Korea:

- SK's foreign ministry, one of the government agencies that is most targeted by hackers, often from NK. is to introduce an enhanced email verification feature this week to counter growing threats of hacking, sources said Mon. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The Korean government recently confirmed that the N. Korean Samjiyon Orchestra will hold two solo concerts on Feb. 8 and Feb. 11, letting down many S. Koreans, especially musicians, who expected a scene of peace and harmony through a joint orchestra. (Yim Seung-hye, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Nobody has stopped NK's athletes from competing fairly and equally like the athletes on other national teams. But many ask: Is this the moral way for the two Koreas to form an integrated team? Is this good sportsmanship? (Park Hyong-ki, *Korea Times*)
- S. and N. Korean players should display consideration, concession and communication for better harmony and the SK. must continue to support the women's team after the Olympics. (Hyun Jung-hwa, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- S. Korean Defense Minister Song Young-moo voiced doubt Monday that NK will use its nuclear weapons, saying that such an act would be "suicidal." (*Yonhap*)
- The N. Korean women's ice hockey team is in SK to prepare for the Olympics. The 2 governments reached an agreement to play together wearing the same jerseys and march under a unified peninsula flag. (Arash Arabasadi, VOA)
- NK's Masik Pass ski resort, a popular stop for tourists, will be the site of the joint training for N. and S. Korean skiers, and is gaining international attention for it. (AP)

- NK has canceled a joint cultural performance with SK scheduled for Feb. 4 blaming S. Korean media for encouraging "insulting" public sentiment regarding the North, SK's unification ministry said on Mon. (Christine Kim, *Reuters*)
- The Koreas are cooperating in unheard-of ways, including their first joint Olympic team. But S. Koreans, especially younger ones, are far less interested in reconciliation, to say nothing of reunification. (Choe Sang-hun, NYT)
- SK will use a chartered plane to fly its skiers to NK for joint training and will not pay the airport fee to the North, as such a payment would violate international sanctions, Seoul officials said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- NK is likely to stage a major military parade next month similar to the previous one in April last year to mark the birth anniversary of late founding leader Kim Il-sung. , South Korean defense authorities said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- A team of S. Korean skiers will take a chartered plane to NK's Kalma Airport in Wonsan, Kangwon Province this week to train with N. Korean athletes at the Masikryong Ski Resort, the Unification Ministry announced Mon. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Ilbo*)

International:

- The Moon administration is considering the idea of supplying diesel oil to help NK supply electricity for a joint performance between the two Koreas, breaking US and UN sanctions, risks alienating the US, an important ally. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- As sanctions on NK intensify, the few aid groups operating in NK are facing sometimes bewildering economic restrictions and bureaucratic hurdles that could cripple life-saving work. (Matthew Pennington, AP)
- SK needs to follow the example of Singaporean PM Lee Kuan Yew, and decisively become a mediator to facilitate discussion between the US and NK. (Ko Soo-suk, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Republican voters in the US are most interested in hearing congressional candidates talk about the situation with NK during this year's midterm elections, according to a recent poll. (*Yonhap*)
- A police witness said Mon. that Kim Jong-nam met with an unidentified Korean American man on a Malaysian resort island four days before he was murdered, as the trial of 2 women accused of killing him resumed. (AP)
- Trump is likely to refrain from using provocative language to address NK's nuclear and missile threats in his first State of the Union address this week, according to a senior U.S. government official. (*Yonhap*)

Prepared by Emma Stubblefield, HRNK Research Intern

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Tuesday, January 30, 2018

N.K. cancels joint cultural performance with S.K.; Refugees From 11 Countries Will Face Extra Screening in the US; S.K. pressing ahead with joint ski training in N.K. amid uncertainty

In North Korea:
60,000 North Korean children may starve, sanctions slow aid: UNICEF (*Reuters*, 01/30/2018)
Authorities initiate nationwide crackdown on Chinese products in the markets (*DailyNK*, 01/30/2018)
Defectors: North Koreans train in extreme cold for upcoming military parade (UPI, 01/30/2018)
Is North Korea scaling back winter exercises because it lacks fuel and food? (*nkeconwatch*, 01/30/2018)
N.K. stepping up preparations for military parade: report (*Yonhap*, 01/30/2018)
N. Korean diplomat accuses White House of seeking confrontation at the Olympics (*Washington Post*, 01/30/2018)
North feels the pain of sanctions, says report (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/30/2018)
North Korea has stepped up executions, says top US commander (*Telegraph*, 01/30/2018)
North Korea places Hyon Song Wol in inspection team as distraction (*DailyNK*, 01/30/2018)
North Korea producing garments at closed inter-Korean industrial park: report (*Yonhap*, 01/30/2018)
North Korea's push for ski resorts reveals its hopes for a life after isolation (*Washington Post*, 01/30/2018)
North Korea's Solid-propellant Rocket Engine Production Infrastructure: The No. 17 Factory in Hamhung (*38 North*, 01/30/2018)
Report: North Korea selling clothes made from Kaesong Industrial Complex (*UPI*, 01/30/2018)

In South Korea:
IOC president arrives, eager to get started (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/30/2018)
Seoul to continue preparations for inter-Korean ski training (UPI, 01/30/2018)
S. Korean nuke envoy to leave for Russia for discussion on N.K. issues (*Yonhap*, 01/30/2018)
With Olympics set to begin, South Korea is still working to eradicate the avian flu (*Washington Post*, 01/29/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) S. Korea pressing ahead with joint ski training in N.K. amid uncertainty (*Yonhap*, 01/30/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korean nuke envoy to leave for Russia for discussion on N.K. issues (*Yonhap*, 01/30/2018)
(3rd LD) N. Korea calls off joint Olympic event at Mount Kumgang: Seoul (*Yonhap*, 01/30/2018)
Defectors Torn by North Korean Olympic Charm Offensive (VOA, 01/30/2018)
Koreas to have hectic joint training sessions ahead of Olympics (*Korea Times*, 01/29/2018)
North Korea calls off joint cultural event with South (*Korea Times*, 01/29/2018)
North Korea Cancels Pre-Olympic Event, Blaming South Korean Media (NYT, 01/29/2018)
North Korea cancels joint performance with South Korea, blames South media: Seoul (*Reuters*, 01/30/2018)
North Korea cancels joint cultural performance with South (BBC, 01/30/2018)
North Korea Cancels Joint Cultural Performance with South Korea (VOA, 01/29/2018)
North Korea's cancellation overshadows future talks (*Korea Times*, 01/30/2018)
North pulls out of joint performance at Mt. Kumgang (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/30/2018)
North, South Korea Hit by Flu Outbreaks Ahead of Olympics (VOA, 01/29/2018)

Rekindle the dialogue (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/30/2018)
Seoul: North Korea cancels pre-Olympic joint cultural event (*Washington Post*, 01/30/2018)
Skepticism grows over dialogue with NK (*Korea Times*, 1/30/2018)
South Korea says still pushing forward on other projects with North Korea (*Reuters*, 01/30/2018)
Stop pandering to Pyongyang (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/30/2018)
Two Koreas' ice hockey team struggles with language gap as detente stalls between North and South (*Telegraph*, 01/30/2018)

International:
(LEAD) N.K. ambassador to China makes first public appearance in two months (*Yonhap*, 01/30/2018)
Alleged Kim Jong Nam killer was hired for 'Japanese prank show' (CNN, 01/30/2018)
Angola ends contracts with N.K. builder, orders workers to leave (*Yonhap*, 01/30/2018)
Kim Jong Nam met mystery American days before he was murdered (CNN, 01/29/2018)
Kim Jong-un's brother 'met US agent' days before VX nerve agent attack (*Telegraph*, 01/30/2018)
New Scrutiny Coming for Refugees From 11 "High-Risk" Nations (NYT, 01/30/2018)
N. Korea 'spooked' by Trump's threats of military strike: ex-CIA official (*Yonhap*, 01/30/2018)
Top U.S. Air Force officials vow 'extended deterrence' for S. Korea (*Yonhap*, 01/30/2018)
U.S. general says North Korea not demonstrated all components of ICBM (*Reuters*, 01/30/2018)
US increases vetting and resumes processing of refugees from 'high-risk' countries (CNN, 01/30/2018)
US: Refugees From 11 Countries Will Face Extra Screening (VOA, 01/29/2018)
Vladimir Putin calls US potential sanctions list an 'unfriendly act' (*Telegraph*, 01/30/2018)
White House says there's no need for new Russia sanctions (*Washington Post*, 01/30/2018)
Witness: Kim Jong Nam Met With an American Days Before Assassination (VOA, 01/29/2018)

In North Korea:

- An estimated 60,000 children face potential starvation in N.K., where international sanctions are exacerbating the situation by slowing aid deliveries, UNICEF said on Tuesday. (Stephanie Nebehay, *Reuters*)
- The N.K. authorities have reportedly begun a nationwide crackdown on Chinese products in the country's markets. The unprecedented change now puts them in the same category as S.K. products, which are illegal to buy and sell. (Kang Mi Jin, Kim Sung Il, *DailyNK*)
- North Koreans would have to endure more than ten hours of outdoor rehearsals every day for the regime's upcoming military parade. (Jennie Oh, *UPI*)
- Much has been made of N.K.'s apparent decision to scale back its annual winter military exercises. Some have concluded it's a sign that sanctions are working as the army lacks both fuel and food. (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, *nkeconwatch*)
- Fully-dressed preparations for a grand military parade to mark the new founding anniversary of N.K.'s military have been spotted at Kim Il-sung Square in Pyongyang by a commercial satellite. (*Yonhap*)
- A N.K. official this week accused the White House of advocating for a "confrontation at the sacred place of Olympic Games" in S.K. next month. (Jenna Johnson, *Washington Post*)
- Global sanctions are expected to take a toll on the N.K. economy, particularly since China has been more strict, which could lead to political unrest. (Lee Ho-jeong, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- N.K. has stepped up its executions, the top commander of US troops on the Korean Peninsula said on Monday, amid increasing strain on the its military from international economic sanctions. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)

- The N.K. authorities have recently ordered cadres to attend lectures focused on explaining and celebrating the strategy behind the recent decision to send Hyon Song Wol to high-level Olympics talks and an inspection mission to S.K. (Lee Sang Yong, *DailyNK*)
- N.K. is covertly producing garments at a shuttered inter-Korean industrial park and distributing them in its local markets. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K. spent much of the past year pursuing new long-range missiles and nuclear bombs. But in the coming weeks, Pyongyang will be proudly displaying a very different program: its luxurious ski resorts. (Adam Taylor, *Washington Post*)
- While a number of potential production facilities have been identified in N.K., the No. 17 Explosives Factory and its branch factories have been identified as being the most probable site for the manufacture of solid-propellant rocket engines. (*38 North*)
- N.K. appears to be running clothing factories in Kaesong Industrial Complex, an inter-Korean zone that was supposed to have shut down two years ago. (Jennie Oh, UPI)

In South Korea:

- IOC President Thomas Bach arrived in S.K. on Tuesday to inspect preparations the upcoming PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- Seoul will continue to prepare for a joint training session of S.K. and N.K. skiers, despite the North abruptly calling off an inter-Korean cultural event. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- S.K.'s top nuclear envoy will travel to Russia this week to discuss cooperation in dealing with N.K.'s nuclear and missile ambitions. (*Yonhap*)
- With the PyeongChang Winter Olympics set to begin on Feb. 9, S.K. confirmed the presence of a highly pathogenic strain of the H5N6 avian influenza virus at two chicken farms south of Seoul. (Matt Bonesteel, *Washington Post*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- S.K. is preparing for joint skiing training with N.K. at a ski resort in the North as earlier agreed, as Pyongyang has not said anything unusual following its cancellation of a planned cultural event. (*Yonhap*)
- S.K.'s top nuclear envoy will travel to Russia this week to discuss cooperation in dealing with N.K.'s nuclear and missile ambitions. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K. has called off a joint cultural event scheduled to be held in its country to celebrate the upcoming Winter Olympic Games in S.K. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K. defectors are voicing concern that the North's Olympic delegation featuring its "army of beauties" will score deceptive propaganda points. (Brian Padden, Kim Hyunjin, VOA)
- The two Koreas will engage in hectic sports and cultural exchanges in the lead-up to the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (Choi Ha-young, *Korea Times*)
- N.K. abruptly called off a joint cultural event with S.K. artists ahead of the forthcoming PyeongChang Winter Olympics, blaming Seoul's media for encouraging "insulting" public sentiment regarding the North. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- N.K. canceled a joint cultural event it had planned to hold with S.K. early next month, blaming "insulting" S.K. news media coverage of its participation in the Olympics. (Choe Sang-hun, NYT)
- N.K. has canceled a joint cultural performance with S.K. scheduled for Feb. 4 blaming S.K. media for encouraging "insulting" public sentiment regarding the North. (Christine Kim, *Reuters*)

- N.K. has abruptly cancelled a cultural event scheduled to be held jointly with the S.K., blaming "biased" and "insulting" media coverage in the South. (BBC)
- N.K. has cancelled a joint cultural performance with the South planned ahead of the winter Olympic Games. (VOA)
- The government is taking a cautious stance on N.K.'s sudden cancellation of a joint cultural event, being wary of the possible negative impact the North's decision may have on the future inter-Korean exchange programs for the Olympics. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- N.K. is no longer taking part in the joint cultural event both countries had agreed to hold at Mount Kumgang and blamed S.K. for insulting its sincerity regarding the Winter Olympics and taking issue with an internal celebration. (Lee Sung-eun, Lee Chul-jae, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- N.K. and S.K. are reporting outbreaks of different strains of influenza, less than two weeks before thousands of visitors from around the world arrive for the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics in the South. (Brian Padden Kim Hyunjin, VOA)
- N.K.'s nuclear program is the biggest threat for S.K. Rather than waiting for what the US and N.K. have to say, S.K. needs to rekindle the dialogue at the PyeongChang Olympics. (Kim Sung-tak, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- N.K. sent a message saying it won't hold a joint cultural event at the North's Diamond Mountain on Feb. 4, which was one of two pre-Olympic events in N.K. the countries had agreed to. (Hyung-Jin Kim, AP)
- N.K.'s sudden cancellation of a joint inter-Korean cultural event at Mount Geumgang has again brought concerns about the effectiveness of holding dialogue with the unpredictable KJU regime. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- S.K. will go ahead with other Winter Olympics projects with N.K. despite Pyongyang calling off a joint cultural performance that was less than a week away. (Christine Kim, *Reuters*)
- S.K. wants to draw a dialogue between N.K. and US through inter-Korean talks, but it only created a schism in the alliance. S.K. government must deal with N.K. confidently. If not, it will have to succumb to its unreasonable demands constantly. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- The two Koreas' united women's ice hockey team is in danger of falling flat on its face because the players cannot understand each other. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)

International:

- N.K.'s ambassador to Beijing attended a New Year's reception that China's foreign minister hosted for foreign diplomats Tuesday, his first public appearance in about two months. (*Yonhap*)
- One of the two women accused of murdering KJN, the exiled brother of KJU, was hired to take part in a Japanese prank show in the weeks prior to his death. (Ben Westcott and King Chai Woon, CNN)
- Angola has terminated all its contracts with a N.K. construction company and asked its workers to leave the country in line with UNSC sanctions on Pyongyang. (*Yonhap*)
- Kim Jong Nam, the elder half-brother of KJU, met with an American man five days before he was murdered, a court in Malaysia heard Monday. (Sandi Sidhu and Hilary Clarke, CNN)
- Kim Jong-nam, the half-brother of KJU, reportedly met with an American intelligence agent just days before he was killed. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- The Trump administration said that it is resuming the admission of refugees from 11 countries including N.K. with additional screening. (Miriam Jordan, NYT)

- N.K. appears to have reached out to S.K. after being "spooked" by President Trump's threats of a military strike, a former CIA official said. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson assured S.K. on Tuesday of an extended deterrence commitment, during a meeting with a top defense official here. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K.'s nuclear program has made some strides in recent months but the country has not yet demonstrated all the components of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), including a survivable re-entry vehicle. (*Reuters*)
- The Trump administration announced new security screening measures meant to further vet refugees applying to enter the US from certain high-risk countries, including N.K. (Laura Koran and Tal Kopan, CNN)
- The Trump administration is hardening refugee admissions to the US by looking deeper into the background of applicants from 11 "high-risk" countries, including N.K. (Victoria Macchi, VOA)
- Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday the release of a U.S. list of Russian businessmen close to the Kremlin was an unfriendly act, but Moscow did not currently plan to retaliate. (*Reuters*)
- The Trump administration, under fire from lawmakers for not punishing Moscow over election meddling, said it will not implement Russia-related sanctions mandated by Congress last year because the threat itself is acting as a "deterrent." (Carol Morello, *Washington Post*)
- The half brother of KJU met with an unidentified American in Malaysia four days before he was assassinated, a police official told a court hearing Monday. (VOA)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

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Wednesday, January 31, 2018

In State of the Union, Trump Goes Where Kim Jong Un Fears Most; NGO Committee | will the UN benefit from full participation of NGOs expert on North Korea?

Top News:
In State of the Union, Trump Goes Where Kim Jong Un Fears Most (*Daily Beast*, 01/31/2018)
(Gordon Chang, Daily Beast)
NGO Committee | will the UN benefit from full participation of NGOs expert on North Korea? (*ISHR*, 01/31/2018)
The Uncrushable Courage of Ji Seong-Ho (*NED*, 11/23/2017)

In North Korea:
Even Party officials put to work in North Korea's manure marathon (*DailyNK*, 01/31/2018)
N.K. lacks accessible infrastructure for disabled persons: expert (*Yonhap*, 01/31/2018)
Tens of thousands mobilized for Wonsan beach tourist project (*DailyNK*, 01/31/2018)

In South Korea:

South Korea sends athletes for joint training at North Korean ski resort (Reuters, 01/30/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Inter-Korean ski training still up in the air: official (*Yonhap*, 01/31/2018)
(Olympics) Koreas to hold four joint taekwondo events to celebrate Olympics (*Yonhap*, 01/31/2018)
Pro-N. Korean newspaper warns of 'Olympics of confrontation' (*Yonhap*, 01/31/2018)
(5th LD) N. Korean Olympic athletes to use S. Korean plane to travel to PyeongChang (*Yonhap*, 01/31/2018)
Over 20 pct of N.K. defectors have thought about returning to North: survey (*Yonhap*, 01/31/2018)
(EDITORIAL from Korea Times on Jan. 31) Pyongyang should do its part for 'Peace Olympics' (*Yonhap*, 01/31/2018)
(3rd LD) S. Korean skiers visit N. Korea for joint training (*Yonhap*, 01/31/2018)
Skiers train at Masikryong (*Korea Times*, 01/31/2018)

International:
Ambassador candidate dropped over stark warning on North Korea (CNN, 01/30/2018)
Analysts Say Trump Comments Bad News for North Korea (NYT, 01/31/2018)
Crutches, Tears Humanize North Korean Threat in Trump Speech (NYT, 01/31/2018)
Ending North Korea oil supplies would be seen as act of war, says Russia (*Reuters*, 01/31/2018)
Ji Seong-ho: North Korean defector praised by Donald Trump (*The Guardian*, 01/31/2018)
North Korea accuses US of rights violations against its own people in 'white paper' (*Telegraph*, 01/31/2018)
North Korea Hits Back at U.S., Calls Trump Administration 'Racist' (NYT, 01/31/2018)
North Korea Paid Kim Murder Suspect for Pranks, Malaysian Investigator Testifies (RFA, 01/31/2018)
North Korea to parade dozens of long-range missiles before Winter Olympics (CNN, 01/31/2018)
North Korean defector attends State of the Union (CNN, 01/30/2018)
North Korean Defector, Honored by Trump, Has a Remarkable Escape Story (NYT, 01/31/2018)
President Trump talked tough on North Korea in the State of the Union. Here's where things stand. (*Washington Post*, 01/31/2018)
Russia to send home tens of thousands of North Korean laborers (UPI, 01/31/2018)
Russia's ambassador: Oil deliveries to N.Korea should not stop -RIA (Reuters, 01/31/2018)
Russian envoy has never made direct contact with N.K. leader: report (*Yonhap*, 01/31/2018)
S. Korea wins U.S. sanctions exemption to fly its skiers to N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 01/31/2018)
Senior diplomat discusses N.K., alliance in meetings with U.S. officials (*Yonhap*, 01/31/2018)
Skiers get clearance to take off for Masikryong (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/31/2018)
Source: Trump to give 'eye-opening' remarks on North Korea (CNN, 01/30/2018)
Taiwan Citizens Accused of Violating U.N. Sanctions on North Korea (NYT, 01/31/2018)
The Latest: Japan Praises Trump for Pressuring North Korea (NYT, 01/31/2018)
Trump calls N. Korean leadership 'depraved'; nuke missile threat to US looms 'very soon' (*Korea Times*, 01/31/2018)
Trump calls Pyongyang a clear, present danger (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/31/2018)
Trump Condemns "Depraved" North Korea In State of the Union (VOA, 01/31/2018)
Trump pushes hardline immigration policies even as he urges unity (Reuters, 01/30/2018)
(LEAD) Trump says N.K. nukes could 'very soon' threaten U.S. (*Yonhap*, 01/31/2018)
Trump warns Americans of nuclear threat from 'depraved' North Korea (Reuters, 01/30/2018)
U.S. reaffirms close coordination with S. Korea over N.K. participation in Olympics (*Yonhap*, 01/31/2018)
US serious about precision strike on N. Korea (*Korea Times*, 01/31/2018)

Victor Cha: Giving North Korea a 'bloody nose' carries a huge risk to Americans (*Washington Post*, 01/31/2018)
Victor Cha no longer being considered for ambassador to Seoul (*Joongang Ilbo*, 01/31/2018)
Victor Cha opposes military strike against N.K. (*Yonhap*, 01/31/2018)
White House 'Embarrassed' By NBC's Pre-Olympic Coverage from North Korea (VOA, 01/30/2018)

Top News:

- HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu on last night's State of the Union: "This is an historic event. The presence of the Warmbier family and disabled North Korean escapee activist Ji Seong-ho clearly signals that North Korean human rights is at the top of the Trump administration's agenda.The message sent to the Moon Jae-in government in South Korea is clear: Protect and support North Korean escapees and groups working to improve the North Korean human-rights situation, give North Korean escapees a voice, do not muffle them." (Gordon Chang, Daily Beast)
- HRNK's application for consultative status with the NGO Committee, after having repeatedly been deferred since May 2016, will be considered once again at tomorrow's session. (*ISHR*)
- Starvation, loss of limbs, government persecution, near drowning – any of these would have stopped most people, but not Ji Seong-ho, a North Korean activist and NED grantee who was recognized by Trump during last night's State of the Union, calling his story ""a testament to the yearning of every human soul to live in freedom." (*NED*)

In North Korea:

- Every year, NK mobilizes its population to contribute manure to the state. As part efforts to counter the country's chronic shortages, the policy is a combination of forced labor and taxation. This year, the authorities have put both ordinary residents and workers associated with the Party and judicial agencies to work. (Kang Mi Jin, *DailyNK*)
- The U.N. Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, Catalina Devandas-Aguilar, has pointed out the inadequacy of infrastructure for persons with disabilities in NK, a U.S. broadcaster reported Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- N. Korean authorities are mobilizing ordinary citizens and military conscripts alike in a push to accelerate construction of the "Wonsan Kalma Shore Tourist Zone." Inside sources report that the authorities have conveyed their intentions to complete the project before the July 27 "Victory Day" holiday. (Lee Sang Yong, *Daily NK*)

In South Korea:

- SK will begin a joint training program at the Masikryong ski resort in NK on Wed. as had been initially planned, the South's Ministry of Unification said, with a 45-person delegation engaging in a two-day trip. (Christine Kim, Reuters)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- An agreed-upon ski training of S. and N. Korean skiers is still in limbo amid concerns about a possible negative impact on U.S.-led sanctions on the nuclear-armed communist nation, an official here said Wed. (*Yonhap*)

- The two Koreas will hold a total of 4 joint taekwondo demonstrations in the South to celebrate the first Winter Olympics in South Korea next month, organizers said Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- A pro-N. Korean newspaper in Japan said Wed. Pyongyang's recent cancellation of a joint Olympic celebration with Seoul is a warning against conservative media and politicians in the South over their "reckless remarks" against its planned army anniversary event. (*Yonhap*)
- 10 N.Korean Olympic athletes will board a S. Korean chartered airplane on Thurs. when it carries a S. Korean delegation home after two days of joint ski training in the North ahead of the Olympics, according to S. Korean pool reporters on Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- More than 20% of N. Korean defectors who resettled in SK said they have thought about returning to their country of origin, a survey showed on Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- The Olympics are less than 10 days away and NK is making last-minute preparations harder by issuing abrupt changes to the inter-Korean agreement on cultural exchanges for Pyeongchang eached earlier this month. (*Korea Times*)
- Two dozen S. Korean skiers began a two-day trip to NK on Wed. for a joint training, keeping alive the mood of inter-Korean cooperation ahead of the Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- Skiers from the two Koreas began a 2-day joint training at the North's Masikryong Ski Resort ahead of the Olympics, Wed., amid lingering concerns about Pyongyang's cancellation of an inter-Korean event at Mount Geumgang two days earlier. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)

International:

- A former candidate to be the Trump administration's ambassador to SK has issued a direct challenge to the White House over its consideration of a pre-emptive strike against NK. (Elise Labott, Kevin Liptak, Nicole Gaouette, CNN)
- Trump's fiery comments on NK reflected confidence that his campaign of pressure and sanctions on the country is working, S. Korean analysts said Wed. (AP)
- Trump put a human face on the threat posed by NK in his State of the Union address Tues., sharing the powerful story of a defector now living in SK and the pain of parents who lost their child after his imprisonment. (AP)
- The delivery of oil and oil products to NK should not be reduced, Moscow's ambassador to Pyongyang was cited as saying by RIA news agency on Wed, adding that a total end to deliveries would be interpreted by NK as an act of war. (Reuters Staff, Reuters)
- Some of the loudest applause during Trump's state of the union address greeted his introduction to Ji Seong-ho, a human rights and disability campaigner who must now be the world's most recognizable N. Korean defector. After paying tribute to Otto Warmbier, Trump devoted several lines to Ji's dramatic flight to freedom. (Justin McCurry, *The Guardian*)
- NK has accused the US of a raft of human rights violations against its own citizens, including racial discrimination, erosion of the freedom of the press and gender inequality. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- NK struck back at the US on Wed., accusing the Trump administration of being a billionaires' club that harbors a "policy of racism" while denying freedom of the press and health coverage to citizens. (Reuters)

    - A Southeast Asian woman charged with murdering Kim Jong-nam, the N. Korean dictator's estranged half-brother, was paid for performing pranks at a mall in the weeks prior to his killing, a Malaysian court heard Tues. (BenarNews, RFA)
    - NK is planning to show off dozens of long-range missiles at a Feb. 8 parade, the day before the Olympics is set to begin in SK, two diplomatic sources with deep knowledge of NK's intentions told CNN Wed. (Will Ripley, Joshua Berlinger, CNN)
    - Ji Seong-ho, a N. Korean man who made it out of the rogue nation and now resides in SK, received a standing ovation at Trump's first State of the Union address Tuesday night. (Eli Watkins, Madison Park, CNN)
    - Ji Seong-ho, the N. Korean defector honored by Trump last night, has a remarkable escape story, even by the standards of N. Korean defectors, making it across South Asia on crutches. (Choe Sang-hun, NYT)
    - 4 different takes on the US/NK situation, in the end, but NK still shares a border with China and faces a formidable foe in the US. War would be costly. These structural pressures constrain any U.S. or N. Korean leader — and may indicate why preemptive wars or miscalculation spirals are historically rare. (Elizabeth Saunders, *Monkey Cage*)
    - Moscow plans on sending home all N. Korean workers within its border by the end of 2019, Russian media reported Wed. (Jennie Oh, *UPI*)
- Russia's ambassador to NK said on Wed. it was better not to cut deliveries of oil and oil products to NK, RIA news agency reported. (Reuters Staff, Reuters)
- Russia's Ambassador to Pyongyang Alexander Matsegora has never made face-to-face contact with KJU since he began his service in the North five years ago, a US broadcaster reported Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- SK won an exemption from US sanctions Wed. to fly its athletes on a chartered passenger jet so the two Koreas could conduct joint ski training in NK, according to the foreign ministry. (*Yonhap*)
- A senior SK diplomat has discussed NK and other pending issues with high-ranking US government officials in recent back-to-back meetings, the foreign ministry here said Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- A delegation of 45 S. Korean skiers and officials kicked off a trip to the Masikryong Ski Resort in NK Wednesday after Seoul wrangled with Washington up to the last minute over American sanctions barring planes that visit North Korea from traveling to the United States. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Trump will give "eye-opening" remarks Tues. on US efforts to curb NK's nuclear weapons program, a source familiar with the Trump's State of the Union speech said. (Jim Acosta, CNN)
- Prosecutors in Taiwan have accused a former judge and his son of violating UN sanctions on trade with NK, the second such case involving citizens of Taiwan so far this year. Both cases also involve Chinese nationals. (Chris Horton, NYT)
- Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga says Japan "highly praises President Trump for sending a powerful message in his own words" as NK continues to pursue its ambitions. (AP)
- Branding NK's leadership "depraved," Trump told Americans on Tues. that Pyongyang's pursuit of nuclear missiles could "very soon threaten our homeland" and vowed a continued campaign of maximum pressure to keep that from happening. (*Korea Times*)
- Trump said Tuesday that North Korea's nuclear weapons could "very soon" threaten the American homeland but that his administration is working to stop that from happening. (*Yonhap*)

- Calling NK a “depraved” and “cruel dictatorship,” Trump, in his first State of the Union address, again promised to exert “maximum pressure” to prevent Pyongyang from developing nuclear missiles that can threaten the U.S. mainland. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- Trump urged lawmakers on Tues. to work toward bipartisan compromises, but pushed a hard line on immigration, insisting on a border wall and other concessions from Democrats as part of any deal to protect the children of illegal immigrants. (Steve Holland, Jeff Mason, Reuters)
- Trump said Tues. that NK's nuclear weapons could "very soon" threaten the American homeland but that his administration is working to stop that from happening. (*Yonhap*)
- Branding NK’s leadership “depraved,” Trump told Americans on Tues. that Pyongyang’s pursuit of nuclear missiles could “very soon threaten our homeland” and vowed a continued campaign to prevent that. (Matt Spetalnick, David Brunnstrom, Reuters)
- The US remains in close coordination with SK, the State Department said Tues., amid persisting concerns about NK's participation in the PyeongChang Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- It seems the US thinks a precision strike against NK is one of its serious options, despite concerns about catastrophic results it might trigger, as the Trump administration withdrew its nominee for ambassador to Seoul who opposed the idea. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- Victor Cha offers an alternative coercive strategy that involves enhanced and sustained U.S., regional and global pressure on Pyongyang to denuclearize. His strategy is likely to deliver the same potential benefits as a limited strike, along with other advantages, without costing American and S. Korean lives.(Victor Cha, *Washington Post*)
- Victor Cha, a former White House National Security Council (NSC) official, is no longer being considered for the post of U.S. ambassador to SK, according to multiple sources, at least in part due to a split with the White House over NK policy.(Sarah Kim, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Victor Cha, a NK expert whom the US withdrew from consideration as ambassador to SK, has voiced strong opposition to preventive strikes against NK. (*Yonhap*)
- An American news outlet that made a rare visit to NK to cover the country's Olympic team is being criticized by the Trump administration for coverage that, in the words of one official, depicted "the most totalitarian country on the planet ... as a cheerful winter holiday resort."(William Kim, VOA)

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, Emma Stubblefield, HRNK Research Interns

2. FEBRUARY

Thursday, February 1, 2018

PRESS RELEASE-SOTU Address to the World: Protect and Support N.Korean Escapees; HRNK's EXCLUSIVE First Interview with Ji Seong-ho after SOTU Appearance as Guest of FLOTUS Melania Trump; Why Trump Was Right to Slam NK in SOTU

Top News:
PRESS RELEASE: State of the Union Address to the World: Protect and Support North Korean Escapees! (*HRNK*, 02/01/2018)
HRNK's EXCLUSIVE First Interview with Ji Seong-ho after SOTU Appearance as Guest of FLOTUS Melania Trump (*HRNK Insider*, 02/01/2018)
Why Trump Was Right to Slam North Korea in State of the Union (*PJ Media*, 01/31/2018)

In North Korea:
(2nd LD) N.K. vice sports minister to lead delegation traveling to S. Korea via air (*Yonhap*, 02/01/2018)
(LEAD) (Olympics) N. Korean athletes check in to athletes' village for PyeongChang 2018 (*Yonhap*, 02/01/2018)
Increased Personnel and Vehicles Present at the Mirim Parade Training Facility (*38North*, 01/31/2018)
KJU Visits Pyongyang Trolley Bus Factory (*NK Leadership Watch*, 02/01/2018)
NK leader wants 'thorough' military parade (*Korea Times*, 01/31/2018)
North Korea's athletes arrive for Games (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/02/2018)
North Korea's athlete factories: how they work (*DailyNK*, 02/01/2018)
North Korea figure skating pair to arrive in South Korea with other Olympians (*Reuters*, 01/31/2018)
North Korea Installs New Radio Devices to Catch Citizens Illegally Calling Abroad (RFA, 02/01/2018)
North Korea relishes world's interest in its high-level Olympic delegation (*DailyNK*, 02/01/2018)
North Korean leader calls for world-class trolley bus factory (UPI, 02/01/2018)
North Korean Olympians to travel to Pyeongchang on Thursday (UPI, 01/31/2018)
N.Korean athletes competing in the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics will travel to SK Thurs. on a chartered plane, along with S.Korean skiers returning from a two-day joint training session. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
Remaining N.K. Olympic athletes set to come to S. Korea on plane (*Yonhap*, 02/01/2018)
Satellite images show preparations for Pyongyang's parade (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/02/2018)
Wonsan Kalma Peninsula construction verified (*NK Economy Watch*, 02/01/2018)

In South Korea:
(Yonhap Feature) Resignation, skepticism: Life in civilian-restricted Unification Village (*Yonhap*, 02/01/2018)
Defectors 'easy target' for abuses due to lack of legal knowledge, access to counsel (*DailyNK*, 02/01/2018)

Fans will pay a lot to watch the joint ice hockey team (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/02/2018)
Heading for a collision course? (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/02/2018)
Lottery to give free tickets to see Samjiyon Orchestra (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/02/2018)
N.K. art troupe's Olympic concerts to involve no financial rewards: Seoul (Yonhap, 02/01/2018)
North Korean arts troupe concert tickets to be won on lucky draw (UPI, 02/01/2018)
S. Korea lauds Trump address for pledging firm will to resolve N. Korean nukes (*Yonhap*, 02/01/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(4th LD) Koreas' skiers conduct rare joint training amid hope for better sports exchange (*Yonhap*, 02/01/2018)
Analyst: Winter Olympics could make Korean history (*UPI*, 02/01/2018)

International:

Amid global turmoil, Trump leaves ambassador posts empty (CNN, 01/31/2018)
An ominous signal (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/01/2018)
AP Interview: New Zealand Urges North Korea 'De-escalation' (NYT, 02/01/2018)
Bracing for post-PyeongChang (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/01/2018)
Cha's warning on North divides experts (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/02/2018)
Communication gap (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/02/2018)
Me and my crutches - a North Korean defector's story (*Reuters*, 02/01/2018)
North Korean defector Ji Seong-ho never looked back - but some wish to return (*Telegraph*, 02/01/2018)
North, South Korea report flu outbreaks ahead of Winter Olympics (CNN, 02/02/2018)
Russia supports S. Korea's efforts to improve inter-Korean ties for peace on peninsula (*Yonhap*, 02/01/2018)
S. Korea, U.S. hold joint combat training (*Yonhap*, 02/01/2018)
S. Korean, Canadian diplomats discuss N.K. issues, cooperation (*Yonhap*, 02/01/2018)
Seoul, U.S. hold training as North Korea preps for parade (UPI, 02/01/2018)
Trump's foolish decision on South Korea (CNN, 01/31/2018)
Trump advisers clash over 'bloody nose' strike on North Korea (CNN, 02/01/2018)
Unpacking a US Decision to Use Force Against North Korea: Issues, Options, and Consequences (*38North*, 01/31/2018)
U.S. hails Olympics security plan; opposes North Korea military parade (*Reuters*, 01/31/2018)
U.S. missile defense test unsuccessful: official (*Reuters*, 01/31/2018)
U.S. Says Military Option Not Believed to Be Close for Solving North Korea Crisis (NYT, 02/01/2018)
U.S. seeks S. Korea's understanding of delayed appointment of top envoy (*Yonhap*, 02/01/2018)
U.S. Test of Missile Interceptor Fails Off Hawaiian Coast, Officials Say (NYT, 01/31/2018)
US Officials: No Specific Threats to Pyeongchang Winter Olympics (VOA, 01/31/2018)
US Envoy for North Korea Says Military Option 'Not Close' (NYT, 02/01/2018)

Top News:

- President Trump's State of the Union (SOTU) Address on Tues. sent a clear message to the world: protect and support N.Korean escapees and give them a voice. Trump displayed his administration's commitment to the N.Korean people and the "American resolve" to confronting the Kim regime by inviting Ji Seong-ho as well as Fred and Cindy Warmbier, the parents of Otto Warmbier, to appear as the First Lady Melania Trump's special guests during

the SOTU. HRNK Co-Vice-Chair Suzanne Scholte notes: "Much congratulations go to HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu for leading the effort to make it possible for Ji to be there for this historic occasion" as we at HRNK will never forget those who have suffered and died due to the Kim regime, and continue to call for the regime to dismantle its political prison camps. (HRNK)

- In an HRNK exclusive first interview with Ji Seong-ho conducted by HRNK Director of Programs and Editor Rosa Park, Ji recounts his escape from NK, his life in SK and work in NK human rights, as well as his experiences at the State of the Union Address Tues. night. He also gives his thoughts of the impact and significance that this event will have on his life going forward. (*HRNK Insider*)
- In facing down NK, a major problem for the US today is that Pyongyang has plenty of reasons to write off US threats as bluffs and discount the US military as fundamentally impotent to stop NK's rogue nuclear program. The US, over many years and under previous US presidents has repeatedly blinked in this game of chicken against NK. In particular, President Obama, whose eight years in the White House were marked by precious little interest in deterrence, a great squandering abroad of US credibility, and virtually no serious effort to stop NK, snubbed US allies and stretched out its hands to its enemies on an eight-year binge of apology and appeasement, largely sidelined the issue and packed his neglect of American security as "strategic patience." (Claudia Rosett, *PJ Media*)

In North Korea:

- NK's vice sports minister is set to travel to SK on Thurs., leading a 32-member delegation, including 10 athletes, aboard a S.Korean chartered plane, Seoul's unification ministry said. (*Yonhap*)
- N.Korean Olympic athletes checked in to their living quarters for the upcoming PyeongChang Winter Games amid tight security on Thurs. (Yoo Jee-ho, *Yonhap*)
- Analysis by Joseph S. Bermudez Jr. shows that new commercial satellite imagery indicates military parade preparation and training continues to gradually expand at the Mirim Parade Training Facility, with a noticeable increase in the number of personnel and vehicles present. (*38North*)
- DPRK state media reported on Feb. 1 (Thurs.) that KJU visited the Pyongyang Trolley Bus Factory. (*NK Leadership Watch*)
- N.Korean leader KJU reportedly ordered low-key celebrations for his birthday to focus on preparing for a "thorough" military parade next week, according to media reports Wed. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- NK's Olympic delegation flew into SK Thurs. on a chartered plane and checked in at the Gangneung Olympic Village Thurs. night, with local media jostling to catch every image and comment. (Kang Jin-kyu, Choi Hyung-jo, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Since the inception of his reign, KJU has focused on development of the country's athletics programs, marking a change from the Kim Jong Il era, which encouraged artistic pursuits. (Seol Song Ah, *DailyNK*)
- A N.Korean figure skating pair—the only N.Koreans to have secured a spot at the Winter Games through the conventional qualifying competition—will arrive in SK later on Thurs. by airplane with eight other athletes, set to compete in the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics that will begin next week. (Christine Kim, *Reuters*)

- NK has installed new Russian-made radio locators along sections of its 880-mile border with China to detect citizens placing illegal mobile-phone calls to friends and relatives outside the isolated authoritarian country, sources said. (Jieun Kim, Leejin Jun, Roseanne Gerin, RFA)
- In recent days, NK and SK have explored exchanges and cooperation for the 2018 Olympics, which will continue in the coming weeks as the planned joint event draws near. However, NK has yet to reveal details of the top-level delegation it plans to send to the Olympics, which analysts believe will be structured to grab as much attention from the international community as possible and maximize the benefits of any further announcements. (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)
- N.Korean leader KJU emphasized the importance of domestic production, as he toured a trolley bus factory in Pyongyang, the North's state-run media reported. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- Ten N.Korean Olympic athletes are set to travel to SK aboard a S.Korean chartered plane Thurs., together with the South's skiers who will come home after a two-day joint ski training in the North. (*Yonhap*)
- Satellite images of NK's preparations for a military parade were released Wed. by 38 North—a website that specializes in NK analysis—showing at least 12,000 troops and 110 artillery pieces, tanks and other armored vehicles practicing on training grounds on the outskirts of Pyongyang. (Lee Sung-eun, Jeong Yong-soo, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Although it is still difficult to see any significant construction taking place on the northern end of the peninsula, recent planet imagery taken of a plot of land on the south end of the Kalma Airport runway shows construction activity for a recent construction project occurring in the area. (*NK Economy Watch*)

In South Korea:

- Living in Tongilchon, which is only 4.5 kilometers south of the Military Demarcation Line (MDL) and within the Civilian Access Control Line, means one has to live with many inconveniences, such as the around-the-clock background noise as well as the unpredictable, volatile cycle of security situations at the front line, including a near-war experience. (Woo Jae-yeon, *Yonhap*)
- N.Korean defectors are often the targets of legal scams in SK, and are also often unprepared for how to deal with them, which can break illusions of proper justice in S.Korean society. By publicizing her story, Kim Hye Eun (alias) hopes to warn other defectors and prevent similar incidents from occurring. (Kim Ji Seung, *DailyNK*)
- Demand is so hot for tickets to the inter-Korean women's ice hockey team games at the PyeongChang Winter Olympics that sports fans are offering double the regular price to get them, since tickets have been sold out since mid-Jan. (Kim Won, Esther Chung, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- If Trump's decision to abandon Victor Cha's nomination to be the US Ambassador to SK was because of Cha's disagreement with the hawks in the White House to enact a "bloody-nose" strategy on NK, the Korean Peninsula could well be headed into a disaster, despite Cha getting approval from the Moon administration. (Kang Hiok, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Over 1,000 tickets for a N.Korean orchestra concert in Seoul and Gangneung, Gangwon, will be available to the public for free through an online lottery system, the Unification Ministry announced Thursday. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Ilbo)*
- SK said Thurs. a N.Korean art troupe's planned performances in the South will not involve any provision of financial rewards, such as performance fees, as it is not allowed to provide

bulk cash to the North under a set of U.N. sanctions on Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programs. (*Yonhap*)

- The SK Unification Ministry announced Thurs. that it will hold a lucky draw for S.Korean citizens wishing to attend either of the performances. From Fri. midnight local time, S.Koreans will have 36 hours to enter a draw on a ticketing website to win a pair of seats at one of the concerts. 1,060 tickets will be given away to 530 randomly drawn citizens next Tues. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- SK on Thurs. lauded US President Donald Trump's recent congress address for displaying "strong determination" to resolve N.Korean nuclear weapons issues. (*Yonhap*, 02/01/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- S. and N.Korean skiers conducted joint training at a ski resort in the North on Thurs., expressing hope that both sides can keep building strong friendship in the sports field. (Kim Soo-yeon, Joint Press Corps, *Yonhap*)
- US policy against NK has not helped ease tensions on the peninsula and the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics is an opportunity for change, a S.Korean sports historian said Thurs. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

International:

- The Trump administration's decision to drop plans to nominate Victor Cha as ambassador to SK—which prompted him to issue a direct challenge to the White House over its consideration of a pre-emptive strike against NK—is the latest decision that leaves a crucial diplomatic post in limbo. (Laura Koran, Joyce Tseng, Aaron Kessler, CNN)
- Despite Cha's hardline stance towards NK, the Trump administration chose not to appoint him US Ambassador to SK. If the S.Korean government continues to act like a puppet to Pyongyang, the reaction of the US can be easily guessed—it will be tempted to take military actions. The Moon administration must be very careful about its next steps. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern expressed support Thurs. for economic sanctions against NK while also urging a "de-escalation" on the Korean Peninsula, and said her country should maintain a close relationship with the US even if they don't always agree. (AP)
- After the Olympics, Moon hopes to follow the resumed inter-Korean talks with US-NK talks. However, Washington seems to be cold on that idea and even the inter-Korean talks as the Secretary of Defense, CIA director and marine commanders underscore that military options against NK are still on the table, that SK-US joint military exercises would resume after the Olympics, and preparations for ground warfare in SK are in progress. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- Following ex-White House official Victor Cha's warning against Washington taking a "bloody nose" strategy on NK, US lawmakers and experts have been speaking out against such a preventive military strike. (Sarah Kim, Kim Hyun-ki, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- A lack of communications between Seoul and Washington volatile situation rings alarms about the security of SK. No one knows if or when the US may strike NK. The government must maintain close communication with the US if it really does not want to be ignored at times of true peril. (*Joongang Ilbo*)

- Ji Seong-ho, 35, a N.Korean defector who appeared at President Trump's State of the Union address this week, is from Hoeryong, near the border with China. He told Reuters last year about the wooden crutches that he left NK with in 2006. (Seung-Woo Yeom, *Reuters*)
- North Korea threats spur U.S. search for new radiation therapies (*Reuters*, 01/31/2018)
  The escalating threat of a potential nuclear war between NK and the US has led the Department of Defense to join hands with a clutch of companies in developing more effective medical treatments for acute radiation syndrome. (Divya Grover, *Reuters*)
- More than 20 percent of N.Korean defectors who have made their way to safety in SK have contemplated returning to their homeland, according to a new study. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- As athletes and tourists arrive in SK ahead of the 2018 Winter Olympic Games in Pyeongchang, health officials on the Korean Peninsula are battling two strains of influenza. Flu outbreaks in both NK and SK have raised concerns for those traveling to the region. (Robert Jamison, CNN)
- Russia has voiced its support for SK's ongoing efforts to improve inter-Korean relations to secure peace on the Korean Peninsula, the S.Korean foreign ministry said Thurs. SK and Russia also agreed to cooperate in making the current "positive" momentum turn into talks, including contacts between the US and NK, which could result in solving the NK's nuclear problems, according to the ministry. (*Yonhap*, 02/01/2018)
- SK and the US pressed ahead with a regular joint military exercise this week amid renewed inter-Korean exchanges ahead of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics, a defense official here said Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- Senior diplomats of SK and Canada have discussed ways to enhance cooperation in many areas, including the N.Korean nuclear issue, the foreign ministry in Seoul said Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- SK and US conducted joint military training aimed at detecting and removing N.Korean weapons of mass destruction in the event of conflict, amid reports that Pyongyang continues to prepare for a massive military parade. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- Cha's ghosting comes in the context of increased talk of war, his dismissal adding to the narrative that Washington is gearing up for a "bloody nose" strike that nobody in the region wants, and that the US doesn't need. The impact of this decision could result in a reorientation away from the US by our allies and increase the likelihood that KJU misperceives a joint SK-US drill or exercise as an attack. (Jonathan Cristol, CNN)
- The tabled nomination of a widely-respected diplomat is bringing renewed focus to divisions inside the Trump administration over how tough the US should be in positioning against NK with nuclear tests expected to resume after the upcoming Olympics. (Zachary Cohen, Nicole Gaouette, Barbara Starr, Kevin Liptak, CNN)
- Although there is no formula for evaluating the likely efficacy of using force against NK, there are a number of factors, dilemmas, and trade-offs that should be considered. These factors include asking what is the objective we hope to achieve, why do we expect the proposed measures to achieve it, what are the likely side effects and costs we can anticipate and how they might be mitigated, and what should we do if our measures fail to have the intended results. (Jervis, *38North*)
- The US State Department voiced displeasure Wed. over N.Korean plans to stage a military parade on the eve of the Winter Olympics, but assured Americans going to the games the SK's security plan considered all contingencies. (Reuters Staff, *Reuters*)
- The US military carried out an unsuccessful test to shoot down an incoming dummy missile from Hawaii on Wed., a US official said, amid heightened concerns about NK's developing missile and nuclear program. (Idrees Ali, *Reuters*)

- A US special envoy said on Thurs. all options remain on the table for solving the nuclear standoff with NK but that he did not think the military option was close. (AP)
- The US has sought SK's "understanding" with regard to Washington's recent withdrawal of Victor Cha from consideration for ambassador to Seoul, the foreign ministry in Seoul said Thurs., adding that the allies continue to cooperate on filling the long-vacant post as soon as possible. (*Yonhap*)
- An US interceptor missile missed its target in a test off the Hawaiian coast on Wed., Defense Department officials said, renewing concerns of how the US will defend itself in the event of a missile attack by NK or another adversary. (Helene Cooper, Eric Schmitt, NYT)
- The United States says it is not aware of any specific threats to the Winter Olympics in South Korea next month, despite nuclear tensions with neighboring North Korea. (Cindy Saine, VOA)
- The US special envoy for NK said Thurs. that US is not close to taking military action against the North. Joseph Yun said US policy is to apply pressure and leave the door open for dialogue, while keeping all options open. (AP)

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, HRNK Research Intern

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Friday, February 2, 2018

Why a Defector Hoisted His Crutches Over His head at Trump's State of the Union; Trump to meet with N.K. defectors in Oval Office in bid to raise pressure on KJU; N.K. Human Rights in the State of the Union

Top News:
Why a Defector Hoisted His Crutches Over His head at Trump's State of the Union (CBN, 02/01/2018)
Trump to meet with North Korean defectors in Oval Office in bid to raise pressure on Kim Jong Un (*Washington Post*, 02/02/2018)
North Korean Human Rights in the State of the Union (*Sino*-NK, 01/31/2018)

In North Korea:
A Few Facts on North Korea's Army Day (*38 North*, 02/01/2018)
Hot heads or cold feet? North Korea's mixed Olympic messages (*Washington Post*, 02/02/2018)
Market conditions worsen in Sinuiju following crackdowns on both sides of the border (*Daily*NK, 02/02/2018)
NK urges UN to stop 'US nuclear war provocation' (*Korea Times*, 02/02/2018)
No. of swine flu-infected N. Koreans rose to 110,000 last month: report (*Yonhap*, 02/02/2018)
North Korea slams US for 'human rights abuses' (*Korea Times*, 02/02/2018)

North Korea warns against U.S.-South Korea military drills after Olympics (*Reuters*, 02/02/2018)
South Korean press 'insults' not the real reason for North Korea's Mt. Kumgang event cancellation (*DailyNK*, 02/02/2018)
Why did North Korea cancel the Mt. Kumgang joint performance? (*DailyNK*, 02/02/2018)
'Victory in all fronts' - North Korea releases new propaganda posters and stamps for 70th anniversary (*Telegraph*, 02/02/2018)

In South Korea:
(3rd LD) (Olympics) N. Korean short track skater suffers ankle injury in training (*Yonhap*, 02/02/2018)
(Olympics) N. Korean athletes sport large flag at dorm in Gangneung (*Yonhap*, 02/02/2018)
[Olympics] Two N. Korean staffers have no IOC accreditation (*Korea Times*, 02/02/2018)
Air Force general picked to oversee defense ministry's N. Korea policy (*Yonhap*, 02/02/2018)
Geniuses think alike (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/02/2018)
Korea and Japan should renew their partnership: Aide (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/02/2018)
N. Korea Olympic skaters begin training in South; 1 injured (*Washington Post*, 02/02/2018)
We are all Olympic hopefuls (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/02/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(Yonhap Feature) Inter-Korean joint training offers rare glimpse into luxury ski resort in N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 02/02/2018)
Bracing for post-PyeongChang (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/02/2018)
Extending North Korea Olympic Truce Seems Unlikely (VOA, 02/02/2018)
N.K. art troupe to play many S. Korean songs during performances: ministry (*Yonhap*, 02/02/2018)
North Korean athletes under observation as they arrive in South ahead of Winter Olympics (*Telegraph*, 02/02/2018)
PyeongChang may be no game changer for nuclear standoff (*Korea Times*, 02/02/2018)
Remaining Group of North Korean Athletes Arrives for Pyeongchang Games (VOA, 02/01/2018)
South, North skiers train together at Masikryong (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/02/2018)

International:
(LEAD) Top U.S. nuke envoy says Washington wants 'credible dialogue' with N.K. for denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 02/02/2018)
(News Focus) Cha's withdrawal raises concerns about preventive strike on N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 02/02/2018)
As Olympics approach, Trump tries to pressure North Korea (*Washington Post*, 02/02/2018)
Jordan cuts diplomatic ties with N.K. in line with policies of allies: reports (*Yonhap*, 02/02/2018)
North Korean Defector: Trump Sent Warning to Kim in State of Union Address (VOA, 02/02/2018)
No Samsung phones, Nike uniforms for North Koreans? Sanctions cloud Olympic perks (*Reuters*, 02/02/2018)
Pentagon downplays N. Korea military parade (*Yonhap*, 02/02/2018)
Trump invites 9 defectors to White House: RFA (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/02/2018)
UN Chief: Denuclearization of Korean Peninsula Is Objective (*Washington Post*, 02/02/2018)
US missile defense test failed in Hawaii, officials say (*Guardian*, 02/01/2018)
US Missile Defense Test Fails (VOA, 02/01/2018)
Top News:

- Christians in China made Ji Seong-ho realize a universal truth.There's someone else outside the world that sympathizes with him and loves him. After he got to know God, his life changed significantly. And he says now he's living for spreading love. (Paul Strand, CBN)
- Trump is expected to meet with eight N.K. defectors including Ji Seong-ho who was praised by Trump during STOU. This meeting was arranged with the help of HRNK's Executive Director, Greg Scarlatoiu. (David Nakamura, *Washington Post*)
- Trump's STOU speech elaborated two stories involving N.K. human rights record, including the story of a N.K. escapee Ji Seung-ho, who is now a human rights advocate in Seoul. Mr. Ji was invited to STOU as an honored guest. (Leif-Eric Easley, *Sino-NK*)

In North Korea:

- While N.K. has reinstituted February 8 as Army Day this year, thus giving it an excuse for a military parade the day before the opening of the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, there are a few facts about the Army Day. (Robert Carlin, *38 North*)
- Despite all the attention N.K. is getting for its conciliatory gestures ahead of the S.K. Winter Olympics, it is stepping up some unusually pointed verbal attacks on Trump's administration and conservatives in the S.K. government and media. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- Economic conditions are reportedly worsening in the N.K.'s border city of Sinuiju due to the intensification of international sanctions enforcement by China. (Kim Sung Il, *DailyNK*)
- N.K. has sent a letter to the UN, urging for efforts to be made to halt what it referred to as the U.S. 's nuclear war provocation scheme. (*Korea Times*)
- The number of patients infected with H1N1 influenza, also known as swine flu, in N.K. rose to 110,000 last month. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K., one of the world's most notorious regimes for human rights abuses, says President Trump's administration is a "gross violator of human rights." (Jung Min-ho, *Korea Times*)
- N.K. has warned that if the US goes ahead with delayed military exercises with S.K. after the Winter Olympics it will not "sit idle." (Christine Kim, *Reuters*)
- Despite the North abruptly canceling a joint cultural performance, the ski event went forward as planned. Concerns have been raised that the North is exploiting their participation in the Olympics as an opportunity to promote the Masik Pass ski facilities. (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)
- N.K. has cancelled a joint North-South cultural performance that was set to be held at Mt. Kumgang, blaming negative S.K. media coverage. Analysts have raised the possibility that the move was pre-planned and part of a wider strategy. (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)
- Pyoungyang has released a new series of propaganda posters to encourage its citizens, workers, and the military to carry out the demands set out by KJU to mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of the nation. (*Telegraph*)

In South Korea:

- N.K. short track speed skater Choe Un-song was treated for a right ankle injury he suffered during his first training session at Gangneung Ice Arena in Gangneung. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K. athletes participating in the 2018 Winter Games put up a large national flag at their dormitory in the sub-host city of Gangneung on Friday. (*Yonhap*)

- Two N.K. staff members, who were not registered with the International Olympic Committee (IOC), have been staying here since Jan. 25 for the PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games. (*Korea Times*)
- S.K.'s defense ministry has chosen a two-star Air Force general to lead its N.K. policy team, despite speculation that a retired military official or a civilian would be installed in the new post. (*Yonhap*)
- S.K. government must make meticulous and relentless efforts to resolve the nuclear crisis. A peace with nuclear weapons cannot exist on the Korean Peninsula. Appointing like-minded people to top posts will not resolve the nuclear crisis. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- A top aide to President Moon said it is desirable for Korea and Japan to announce a new joint declaration to renew their partnership. (Ser Myo-ja, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- N.K. skaters attending this month's Winter Olympics in S.K. began their training Friday, and one was injured during his first practice. A giant N.K. flag hanging from a N.K. apartment in the athletes' village also captured the media spotlight. (Hyung-Jin Kim, AP)
- Pyongyang still poses a menacing threat, and many worry about post-PyeongChang Korea. Will the Games burn away these uncertainties? (Park Jeong-ho, *Joongang Ilbo*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The recent joint ski training between the two Koreas offered a rare glimpse into a ski resort in N.K., which leader KJU aspires to develop as a lavish sports tourism attraction. (*Yonhap*)
- S.K. needs to focus on what comes after the Olympics. Moon hopes to follow the resumed inter-Korean talks with U.S.-North Korea talks. But Washington seems to be cold on that idea and even the inter-Korean talks. (Kim Young-hie, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- A N.K. military parade and talk of a possible U.S. military strike cast an ominous shadow over S.K.'s diplomatic efforts to extend an Olympic truce. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- N.K.'s art troupe will play many S.K. songs during their performances in the South to celebrate the upcoming Winter Olympic Games, the unification ministry said. (*Yonhap*)
- The first 10 N.K. athletes have checked into their living quarters for the upcoming Pyeongchang Winter Olympic Games, watched closely by both S.K. security guards and agents embedded into Pyongyang's delegation. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- Four columnists of The Korea Times got together for a round table discussion Tuesday to discuss post-Olympics consequences. (Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)
- The last group of N.K. athletes has arrived in S.K. to complete preparations for the Winter Olympics Games, set to begin next week in Pyeongchang. (VOA)
- S.K. and N.K. skiers conducted joint training at a ski resort in the North on Thursday, expressing hope that both sides can keep building strong friendship in the sports field. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- The top U.S. nuclear envoy said Friday that Washington wants to open dialogue with N.K. for its denuclearization. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump's withdrawal of his pick for ambassador to S.K. has fanned concerns that the administration is seriously considering a military strike on N.K. (*Yonhap*)

- Trump is trying to pressure Pyongyang just a week before the Olympic Games begin. He called the leaders of S.K. and Japan on Friday to ask them to keep up the pressure on N.K. (Jonathan Lemire and Jill Colvin, AP)
- Jordan has cut diplomatic ties with N.K. amid global efforts to put pressure on Pyongyang to give up its missile and nuclear programs. (*Yonhap*)
- A N.K. double amputee who fled N.K. on crutches says President Trump sent a warning when he spoke of human rights violations in N.K. (Lee Yeon Cheol, VOA)
- All of the almost 3,000 athletes competing at the upcoming Pyeongchang Winter Olympics are set to get perks including the latest $1,100 Samsung smartphones, top of the range new equipment to take home and sleek Nike uniforms. (Hyunjoo Jin, Christine Kim, *Reuters*)
- The Pentagon on Thursday played down the significance of N.K.'s military parade reportedly set for next week. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump is inviting nine N.K. defectors to the White House to discuss human rights abuses by the Pyongyang regime. (Esther Chung, Chou Ik-jae, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Secretary-General Antonio Guterres says he is encouraged by the improvement of relations between the two Koreas, but the UN's objective is the peaceful denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. (AP)
- The US military carried out an unsuccessful test to shoot down an incoming dummy missile from Hawaii on Wednesday, a US official said, amid heightened concerns about N.K.'s developing missile and nuclear program. (*Guardian*)
- The Pentagon says the military conducted an unsuccessful missile defense test over Hawaii on Wednesday. (Carla Babb, VOA)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

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Saturday, February 3, 2018

Trump hosts North Korea defectors at WH; Moon, Trump discuss N.K. human rights issue; N.K. made $200m flouting sanctions

Top News:

'Like leaving another universe': North Korean defectors tell Trump what it's like to escape (*USA Today*, 02/03/2018)

Trump hosts North Korea defectors at WH (CNN, 02/02/2018)

Trump will meet North Korean defectors in the Oval Office — here's why that's a big threat to Kim Jong Un (*Business Insider*, 02/02/2018)

Will North Korea attack the Olympics? Countries think not (*Global News*, 02/03/2018)

In North Korea:

State media image of Hyon Song Wol front and center surprises residents (*DailyNK*, 02/03/2018)

Winter Olympics: North Korea presses ahead with military parade (*BBC*, 02/03/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) (Olympics) N. Korean athletes stay guarded in build-up to Olympics (*Yonhap*, 02/03/2018)
(LEAD) Over 150,000 apply for free tickets to N.K. concerts (*Yonhap*, 02/03/2018)
(Olympics) Head of N. Korean delegation attends training for 1st time (*Yonhap*, 02/03/2018)
Conservative civic groups hold rally against N.K.'s participation in Olympics (*Yonhap*, 02/03/2018)
N. Korea skaters draw applause during Olympic practice (*Washington Post*, 02/03/2018)
Training was tougher in North Korea, say defectors (*Reuters*, 02/03/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
N. Korea defends army anniversary parade slated for day before Olympic opening (*Yonhap*, 02/03/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) Moon, Trump discuss N.K. human rights issue (*Yonhap*, 02/03/2018)
Exclusive: North Korea earned $200 million from banned exports, sends arms to Syria, Myanmar - U.N. report (*Reuters*, 02/02/2018)
German intel chief: North Korea used embassy for procurement (*Washington Post*, 02/03/2018)
North Korea is dodging sanctions with fish and front firms in Mozambique (CNN, 02/03/2018)
North Korea made $200m flouting sanctions, UN told (*BBC*, 02/03/2018)
North Korea flouts UN sanctions earning millions, say experts (*Telegraph*, 02/03/2018)
North Korea supplied arms to Syria and Myanmar, UN sanctions report finds (*Guardian*, 02/02/2018)
North Korean Escapees Tell Trump About Their Ordeals (VOA, 02/02/2018)
Pentagon Adding New Nuclear Capabilities, Keeping Nuclear Triad to Deter Attacks (VOA, 02/03/2018)
Trump hopes 'something good' comes from Olympics despite North Korean warning (*Reuters*, 02/02/2018)
Trump meets with N.K. defectors at White House (*Yonhap*, 02/03/2018)
Trump taking tougher stance on Russia nuclear threat (*Washington Post*, 02/03/2018)
UN chief welcomes Korea dialogue, but says political settlement needed (CNN, 02/03/2018)
UN experts: North Korea flouts UN sanctions earning millions (*Washington Post*, 02/02/2018)
UN report accuses North Korea of earning $200 million by violating sanctions (CNN, 02/03/2018)
U.S. denies existence of 'bloody nose' strategy for N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 02/03/2018)
U.S. vows 'end of regime' if N. Korea launches nuclear attack (*Yonhap*, 02/03/2018)
With an eye on Russia, U.S. to increase nuclear capabilities (*Reuters*, 02/03/2018)

Top News:

- HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu discusses President Trump's meeting with N.K. defectors. (Oren Dorell, *USA Today*)
- President Trump hosts N.K. defectors including Ji Seung-ho and HRNK Fellow Kim Kwang-jin at the White House as tensions with KJU continue to rise. (Brian Todd, CNN)
- Though Trump has made news repeatedly with bellicose language threatening war with N.K., his SOTU address advanced another offensive against Pyongyang — raising the issue of human rights. (Alex Lockie, *Business Insider*)

- HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu shares his thought on a potential N.K. attack during the Olympics. (Leslie Young, *Global News*)

In North Korea:

- N.K. residents have been voicing their opinions after the state-run newspaper Rodong Sinmun published photos of Samjiyon Orchestra leader Hyon Song Wol's visit to S.K. on January 23. (Seol Song Ah, *DailyNK*)
- N.K. has defended plans for a large-scale military parade scheduled for the day before the Winter Olympics in S.K. (BBC)

In South Korea:

- Coming from a reclusive nation, N.K. athletes have remained guarded in their preparations for the upcoming Winter Olympics in S.K. (*Yonhap*)
- More than 150,000 people have applied for free tickets to a N.K. art troupe's performances slated for next week in Seoul and Gangneung to celebrate the opening of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- The head of the N.K. delegation to the PyeongChang Winter Olympics attended his athletes' practice for the first time. (*Yonhap*)
- Conservative civic groups held a massive rally against N.K.'s participation in the Winter Olympics, with some members burning N.K.'s flag and photos of KJU. (*Yonhap*)
- A pair of smiling N.K. skaters carried out lifts, death spirals and other difficult moves during practices ahead of the Winter Olympics, drawing applause from S.K. spectators. (Hyung-Jin Kim, AP)
- Hwangbo Young, a N.K. ice hockey player who defected to S.K. in 1997, says the first time she played in the South “it felt like a joke”. (Jane Chung, *Reuters*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- N.K. on Saturday defended its plan to celebrate the country's army anniversary with a military parade next week, refuting outside speculations that the military parade set for the day before the opening of the Olympics may involve military provocations. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- Moon and Trump spoke by phone Friday and resolved to work together to address human rights abuses in N.K., the White House said. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K. violated UN sanctions to earn nearly $200 million in 2017 from banned commodity exports, according to a confidential report by independent UN monitors, which also accused N.K. of supplying weapons to Syria and Myanmar. (Michelle Nichols, *Reuters*)
- The head of Germany's domestic intelligence agency says N.K. has used its embassy in Berlin to acquire equipment apparently intended for its missile or nuclear programs. (AP)

- Pyongyang's interest in a couple of aging African trawlers may seem odd at first. But fishing is big business in Mozambique. N.K. seems to want a slice of that much-needed cash, and boats are easy to move and conceal. (David McKenzie, CNN)
- N.K. earned nearly $200m (£141m) last year by exporting banned commodities in breach of international sanctions, a UN report says. (BBC)
- N.K. is flouting UN sanctions on oil and gas, engaging in prohibited ballistic missile cooperation with Syria and Burma, and illegally exporting commodities that brought in nearly $200 million in just nine months last year, according to UN experts. (AP)
- N.K. has supplied weapons to Syria and Myanmar, according to a confidential report by independent UN monitors which also said Pyongyang violated UN sanctions to earn nearly $200m in 2017. (*Guardian*)
- After phone calls with the leaders of Japan and S.K., Trump spoke Friday in the Oval Office with a group of N.K. escapees. (Steve Herman, VOA)
- The Pentagon has released its 2018 Nuclear Posture Review, adding nuclear capabilities and updating the US current arsenal in order to deter nuclear attacks. (Carla Babb, VOA)
- Trump expressed hope that "something good" could come from N.K.'s participation in the Winter Olympics in S.K., even after N.K. warned it would not "sit idle" if US and S.K. resumed military exercises after the Games. (Steve Holland, Christine Kim, *Reuters*)
- Trump met with a group of N.K. defectors at the White House Friday, drawing further attention to the human rights abuses of the communist regime. (*Yonhap*)
- The Trump administration on Friday announced it will continue much of the Obama administration's nuclear weapons policy, but take a more aggressive stance toward Russia. (Robert Burns, AP)
- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told Friday he is pleased that relations have improved between two Koreas, but the key challenge continues to be achieving the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. (Richard Roth, CNN)
- N.K. is flouting UN sanctions on oil and gas, engaging in prohibited ballistic missile cooperation with Syria and Myanmar, and illegally exporting commodities that brought in nearly $200 million last year, according to U.N. experts. (Edith M. Lederer, AP)
- N.K. earned nearly $200 million from exporting coal and other banned commodities last year in violation of UN sanctions, according to a new UN report. (Richard Roth, CNN)
- US denied Friday that it has considered a so-called "bloody nose" strategy to deliver a limited military strike on N.K. over its nuclear weapons program. (*Yonhap*)
- The US vowed Friday to bring an end to N.K.'s regime if it launches a nuclear attack on the U.S. or its allies. (*Yonhap*)
- Concerned about Russia's growing tactical nuclear weapons, the US will expand its nuclear capabilities, a policy document released on Friday said, a move some critics say could increase the risk of miscalculation between the two countries. (Idrees Ali, *Reuters*)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

Sunday, February 4, 2018

North Korea's ceremonial leader to visit South Korea for Winter Olympics on February 9-11: Seoul; (LEAD) (Olympics) Joint Korean women's hockey team loses to Sweden 3-1 in pre-Olympic tuneup

In North Korea:
Defectors speak on freezing reality of North Korea's winter (*Korea Times*, 02/04/2018)
KJU and RSJ Participate in a Test Drive of a Trolley Bus (*NK Leadership Watch*, 02/04/2018)
Ri Yong Ho Sends Letter to UNSG (*NK Leadership Watch*, 02/04/2018)

In South Korea:
South Korea city celebrates Winter Olympics as views clash on North Korea (UPI, 02/03/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
150,000 apply to see Samjiyon Orchestra (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/04/2018)
(Olympics) Captain says joint Korean hockey team coming together (*Yonhap*, 02/04/2018)
Fans flock to cheer joint Korean ice hockey team (*Reuters*, 02/04/2018)
(Olympics) Four N. Koreans to play in 1st game for joint women's hockey team (*Yonhap*, 02/04/2018)
(Olympics) Joint hockey team head coach 'proud' of N. Koreans (*Yonhap*, 02/04/2018)
(LEAD) (Olympics) Joint Korean women's hockey team loses to Sweden 3-1 in pre-Olympic tuneup (*Yonhap*, 02/04/2018)
Koreas' combined women's hockey team debuts in friendly (*Washington Post*, 02/04/2018)
N. Korea art troupe, cheering squad to visit South this week (*Yonhap*, 02/04/2018)
North Korea derides South's criticism over military parade before Olympics (CNN, 02/04/2018)
North Korea's ceremonial leader to visit South Korea for Winter Olympics on February 9-11: Seoul (*Reuters*, 02/04/2018)
North Korea threatens inter-Korean relations could suffer amid criticism (UPI, 02/04/2018)
(Olympics) N. Korean coach, player have faith in power of joint hockey team (*Yonhap*, 02/04/2018)
(2nd LD) (Olympics) N. Korean IOC member arrives in S. Korea (*Yonhap*, 02/04/2018)
N.K.'s ceremonial leader to lead high-level delegation to S. Korea (*Yonhap*, 02/04/2018)
(Olympics) N. Koreans make little impact in joint women's hockey team debut (*Yonhap*, 02/04/2018)
(LEAD) Seoul hopes N. Korea will send 'highest-level' officials to PyeongChang (*Yonhap*, 02/04/2018)
(Olympics) Supporters, opponents of joint Korean hockey team assemble before 1st game (*Yonhap*, 02/04/2018)
(Olympics) Two Koreas' figure skaters may practice together (*Yonhap*, 02/04/2018)

International:
A critical week (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/04/2018)
China criticizes US for nuclear adversary claims (*Washington Post*, 02/04/2018)
Exclusive: North Korea earned $200 million from banned exports, sends arms to Syria, Myanmar - U.N. report (*Reuters*, 02/04/2018)
Kim regime will be over if it launches nuclear attack: U.S. (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/04/2018)
Moon, Trump agree to resolve North Korea's human rights abuses (*Korea Times*, 02/03/2018)
Nordpolitik 2.0 (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/04/2018)
N. Korea denounces Trump's 'arrogant' address (*Yonhap*, 02/04/2018)

North Korea 'uses Berlin embassy to get missile parts' (BBC, 02/04/2018)
North Korea slams Trump's State of the Union address (*Washington Post*, 02/04/2018)
North Koreans have tasted freedom through the markets. Sanctions could put that at risk. (*Washington Post*, 02/04/2018)
Pence Intent to Counter North Korea's Olympic Charm Offensive (VOA, 02/04/2018)
Trump blesses Games, remains stern on North (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/04/2018)
U.N. report: China, Russia not abiding by sanctions against N. Korea (UPI, 02/04/2018)
(News Focus) U.S. nuclear posture document sends stern warning to N. Korea: experts(*Yonhap*, 02/04/2018)
U.S. nuclear review reaffirms commitment to extended deterrence for allies: Seoul official (*Yonhap*, 02/04/2018)

In North Korea:

- Three female N. Korean defectors recount their lives in NK during the freezing winter. (Casey Lartigue Jr, *Korea Times*)
- DPRK state media reported on Feb 4 that KJU and his wife Ri Sol-ju rode around Pyongyang on a newly manufactured trolley bus. (*NK Leadership Watch*)
- DPRK Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho sent a letter to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres condemning the US for coming in between peaceful Korean reconciliation talks. (*NK Leadership Watch*)

In South Korea:

- Opinions on NK differ between older and younger S.Koreans in Gangneung, one of the two cities hosting the Olympic Games. Some older S. Koreans hold more hostile views while younger S. Koreans are more welcoming. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- More than 150,000 people applied for free tickets to the N. Korean Samjiyon Orchestra concert this week in Seoul and Gangneung. A massive turnout after the Unification Ministry announced it would select 530 audience members from the public through an online lottery system, offering two tickets to each winner. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- They may all come from different backgrounds, but players from SK and NK are coming together nicely on their joint Olympic women's hockey team, its captain said Sun. (*Yonhap*)
- S. Korean fans chanting, "We are one" and wearing shirts with the unification flag emblazoned on the front packed into a freezing ice hockey arena on Sun to cheer on the joint Korean women's team in a tune-up for this month's Olympics. (Jin Hyun-joo, *Reuters*)
- Four North Koreans will play in the first game for the joint women's hockey team on Sunday. (*Yonhap*)
- Even though they didn't really make their presence felt on the joint Korean women's hockey team on Sun, head coach Sarah Murray said she was still proud of her N. Korean players. (*Yonhap*)
- The joint Korean women's hockey team fell to Sweden 3-1 in its only tuneup game before the Olympics on Sun. (*Yonhap*)

- Wearing a powder-blue logo of a map symbolizing peace between the Koreas, the most talked-about team at this year's Olympics finally saw game action Sun in a friendly match that drew thousands of spectators in a country that never previously showed much passion for ice hockey. (Kim Tong-hyung, AP)
- NK's art troupe and cheering squad for the upcoming Olympics will travel to SK this week, with details about its high-level delegation yet to be confirmed, officials here said Sun. (*Yonhap*)
- NK dismissed SK's "improper remarks" over the country's plans to hold a military parade before the Olympics begin this week, N. Korean state newspaper Rodong Sinmun reported. (Sophie Jeong, Nicole Chavez, CNN)
- NK's ceremonial leader Kim Yong-nam will visit SK this week as the head of the country's high-level delegation for the Olympics, Seoul's Unification Ministry said on Sun. (*Reuters*)
- N. Korean media has warned its relations with the South could suffer, heavily criticizing Seoul's position on denuclearizing the Korean peninsula. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- When it comes to competing in the women's hockey tournament at the upcoming Olympics, two hearts will always be better than one, N. Korean members of a historic joint Korean team said on Sun. (*Yonhap*)
- Chang Ung, NK's representative to the International Olympic Committee, expressed his wish for the success of the Olympics as he arrived in SK on Sun, five days before the games' opening. (*Yonhap*)
- NK's ceremonial leader Kim Yong-nam will travel to SK this week as the head of NK's high-level delegation for the Olympics, Seoul officials said Sun. (*Yonhap*)
- The historic joint Korean women's hockey team made its much-anticipated debut against Sweden on Sun, with 18 S. Koreans joined by four N. Koreans in their only tuneup game before the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. None of those four players made much of an impact, as Sweden prevailed 3-1. (*Yonhap*)
- An anonymous S.Korean presidential aide expressed hope Sun that NK will send its "highest-level" officials to lead its delegation at the upcoming Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- Supporters and Conservative opponents of the joint Korean women's ice hockey team both assembled outside the venue for the squad's first game on Sun. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's figure skating duo of Kim Kyu-eun and Kam Kang-chan may share the ice with their N. Korean counterparts Ryom Tae-ok and Kim Ju-sik in an official practice session for the upcoming 2018 Olympic Games, officials said Sun. (Kim Bo-ram,*Yonhap*)

International:

- With five days left before the opening of the Olympics, the Korean Peninsula is heading to a watershed moment. What kind of diplomacy will Moon play out in his meetings with leaders of 14 nations, including the US, China and Japan, to address the unstoppable nuclear threats from NK? (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- China on Sun criticized a US government report that cast Beijing as a potential nuclear adversary and called on Washington to reduce its own much larger arsenal and join in promoting regional stability. (Joe McDonald, AP)
- NK violated UN sanctions to earn nearly $200 million in 2017 from banned commodity exports, according to a confidential report by independent U.N. monitors, which also accused Pyongyang of supplying weapons to Syria and Myanmar. (Michelle Nichols, *Reuters*)

- In the latest Nuclear Posture Review, the US vowed to bring an end to NK's regime if it launches a nuclear attack on the US or its allies. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon and Trump agreed to work together to address human rights abuses in NK during a phone conversation on Fri, according to the White House. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- Moon has taken significant flak both in the US and SK for his effort to reopen the long-closed North-South channel.While a majority still view his administration favorably, his poll numbers have fallen. We should allow the president's effort to play out before reaching premature conclusions. (Stephan Haggard, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- NK has denounced Trump's recent State of the Union speech as the "height of arrogance" and "arbitrariness," its state media said Sun. (*Yonhap*)
- NK has been acquiring technology for its nuclear and weapons programs through its Berlin embassy, Germany's head of intelligence says. (BBC)
- NK on Sun slammed Trump's State of the Union address and said its nuclear capabilities would "deter Trump and his lackeys from showing off on the Korean peninsula." (AP)
- International sanctions will set back the development of markets and make it harder for money to flow within the private economy and as markets contract it will also make it harder for isolated N. Koreans to get information from the outside world. (Anna Fifield, *Washington Post*)
- US VP Mike Pence embarks on a trip this week to Northeast Asia meant to enhance his profile and to help counter NK's charm offensive at the Winter Olympics. (Steve Herman, VOA)
- In a phone conversation with Trump one week before the Olympics on Fri, Moon emphasized hope for improved relations with NK, while Trump indicated more caution. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Ilbo)*
- China, Russia, Malaysia and other nations are failing to curb sanctioned financial dealings and trade conducted by NK in their countries, according to a UN report. (Allen Cone, UPI)
- The latest US nuclear posture document has sent a clear warning to NK that Washington could opt for preventive strike options with more easily usable nuclear weapons, experts said Sun. (*Yonhap*)
- SK sees the US' latest review of its nuclear posture as a reaffirmation of its commitment to providing extended nuclear deterrence for its allies in the face of increasing threats from NK, a foreign ministry official said Sun. (*Yonhap*)

Prepared by Emma Stubblefield, HRNK Research Intern

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Monday, February 5, 2018

NK appoints top defense official to lead its military's General Political Bureau; NK sends Winter Olympics propaganda fliers to

Seoul: website; Pence to stop North Korea 'hijacking' Winter Olympics, aide says

In North Korea:
(2nd LD) N. Korea appoints top defense official to lead its military's General Political Bureau (*Yonhap*, 02/05/2018)
(Olympics) North Korean IOC member wishes country's Olympians to 'do their best' (*Yonhap*, 02/05/2018)
Authorities focus on Kangwon Province in push to prevent defections by sea (DailyNK, 02/05/2018)
Cabinet Plenary Meeting 2018 (*NK Leadership Watch*, 02/05/2018)
Delegation from North to be led by its head of state (*Joongang Daily*, 02/06/2018)
Kim Jong-un's luxury ski resort appears unaffected by UN sanctions (*Korea Times*, 02/04/2018)
N. Korea steps up events for Armed Forces Day (*Korea Times*, 02/04/2018)
N. Korean military tightens defection surveillance (*Korea Times*, 02/04/2018)
North Korea's Would-Be Olympics: A Tale of a Cold War Boondoggle (NY *Times*, 02/04/2018)
North Korean market update (*NK Econ Watch*, 02/05/2018)
Swine flu sweeps N. Korea (*Korea Times*, 02/04/2018)
Tenants bear up-front costs for apartment construction in Pyongyang (*Korea Times*, 02/04/2018)
Veteran diplomat Kim Yong-nam ceremonial N.K. leader (*Yonhap*, 02/05/2018)

In South Korea:
Ex-U.S. army base Camp Page begins new South Korea chapter (*UPI*, 02/05/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(3rd LD) N.K. offers to send art troupe to S. Korea by ferry this week (*Yonhap*, 02/05/2018)
(LEAD) Cheong Wa Dae welcomes planned visit by N. Korea's titular head of state (*Yonhap*, 02/05/2018)
(LEAD) Moon considering meeting one-on-one with N. Korea's ceremonial leader: Cheong Wa Dae (*Yonhap*, 02/05/2018)
[Olympics] N. Korea may send high-level delegation (*Korea Times*, 02/04/2018)
Chang Ung hopes for a successful Games (*Joongang Daily*, 02/06/2018)
Hopes for talks grow with North Korea's ceremonial leader to visit South Korea for Olympics (*Reuters*, 02/04/2018)
Linguistic Divide Poses Problem to Korea Olympic Hockey Team (VOA, 02/05/2018)
N. Korean official unlikely to oversee Olympic breakthrough (*Washington Post*, 02/05/2018)
'NK hacked cryptocurrency trading system in South' (*Korea Times*, 02/05/2018)
North Korea head of state Kim Yong-nam to visit South for first time (*Telegraph*, 02/05/2018)
North Korea sends Winter Olympics propaganda fliers to Seoul: website (*Reuters*, 02/05/2018)
North Korea to send head of state to Seoul for first time in years (*The Guardian*, 02/04/2018)
North Korea to send highest level official ever to South Korea (BBC, 02/05/2018)
North Korean art troupe to perform at Olympics under sanctions exemption: South Korea (*Reuters*, 02/04/2018)
North Korean technicians cross into South for Olympics prep (*Washington Post*, 02/05/2018)
North Korean Troupe Is Cleared to Enter South's Waters Before Games (NY *Times*, 02/05/2018)
Olympics: Bach hails North, South Korea for harnessing Olympic spirit (*Reuters*, 02/05/2018)
PyeongChang Olympics Puts Spotlight on North Korea (VOA, 02/05/2018)

S. Korea seeks to arrange high-level talks with with N. Korean delegates: ministry (*Yonhap*, 02/05/2018)
South Korea says North stole cryptocurrency worth billions of won last year (*Reuters*, 02/05/2018)
Top North Korean Official Will Visit South Korea During Olympics (NY *Times*, 02/04/2018)
Unified Korean women's ice hockey team play debut match (02/04/2018)

International:
(3rd LD) S. Korean, U.S. nuke envoys discuss ways to resume denuclearization talks (*Yonhap*, 02/05/2018)
(News Focus) Will PyeongChang Olympics pave way for N.K.-U.S. talks? (*Yonhap*, 02/05/2018)
[Olympics] Olympics to set stage for North Korea-US talks: experts (*Korea Times*, 02/05/2018)
A hole in sanctions (*Joongang Daily*, 02/06/2018)
Axios: Pence will try to disrupt normalization of North Korea at the Olympics (CNN, 02/05/2018)
China says to ban export of more dual-use goods to North Korea (*Reuters*, 02/05/2018)
Dad of North Korea detainee to be guest of Pence at Olympics (*Washington Post*, 02/05/2018)
Democratic senators: Trump lacks 'legal authority' for preemptive, 'bloody nose' strike on North Korea (*Washington Post*, 02/05/2018)
Father of Otto Warmbier will attend Olympic Opening Ceremony with Pence (CNN, 02/04/2018)
Free from int'l sanctions, N. Korean ferry needs nod from Seoul to sail to South: officials (*Yonhap*, 02/05/2018)
Mike Pence to stop North Korea 'hijacking' Winter Olympics, aide says (*The Guardian*, 02/4/2018)
North Korea criticises Trump's 'sinister' State of the Union address (*The Guardian*, 02/04/2018)
North Korea is using its Berlin embassy to acquire nuclear tech, intel chief says (CNN, 02/05/2018)
North Korea to Send High-level Delegation to Winter Olympics in South Korea (VOA, 02/04/2018)
Sanctioned NK ferry to bring troupe to South (*Korea Times*, 02/05/2018)
Pence leaves for Asia, focused on increasing pressure on North Korea (*Washington Post*, 02/05/2018)
Pence wants to 'control the message' at PyeongChang (*Joongang* Daily, 02/06/2018)
S. Korean, U.S. nuke envoys to meet to discuss N.K. (*Yonhap*, 02/05/2018)
Taiwan calls on its firms not to break North Korea sanctions (*Reuters*, 02/05/2018)
The dangers of a 'bloody nose' for North Korea (*Washington Post*, 02/04/2018)
Trump's rhetoric threatens peace-making in Korean peninsula (*The Guardian*, 02/05/2018)
US and North Korea's political games threaten to overshadow the Olympics (CNN, 02/05/2018)

In North Korea:

- NK has appointed a senior defense official to lead the military's powerful General Political Bureau after dismissing its former head following an inspection, Seoul's spy agency said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- Chang Ung, the lone N.Korean member of the International Olympics Committee (IOC), said Mon. he wishes athletes from his country to "do their best" at the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (Chang Dong-woo, *Yonhap*)
- As NK continues its charm offensive coinciding with the Pyeongchang Olympics, sources inside the country are reporting that the authorities have initiated yet another crackdown on defections. The dramatic escape of a N.Korean soldier through the DMZ late last year, caught on camera and broadcast around the world, served as a wake-up call to the authorities for their inability to prevent defections. (Lee Sang Yong, *DailyNK*)

- An expanded plenary meeting of the DPRK Cabinet was held on or around January 19, 2018. The agenda item was "measures to carry out the programmatic tasks set forth by respected and beloved supreme leader Comrade KJU in his 2018 New Year's Address" while also emphasizing "priority issues and putting forth methodological issues." (NK Leadership Watch)
- NK has chosen Kim Yong-nam—president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, NK's rubber-stamp legislature—to lead a high-level delegation to the PyeongChang Winter Games this week, a sign that the regime is emphasizing pomp and ceremony at the international gathering instead of sending a nitty-gritty negotiator. (Lee Sung-eun, Jeong Yong-soo, Joongang Daily)
- The Masikryong Ski Resort near NK's east coast city of Wonsan in (North) Gangwon Province appears unaffected by UN Security Council (UNSC) sanctions on the repressive state. (Yi Whan-woo, Joint Press Corps, Korea Times)
- NK appears to be trying to enliven the mood for the 70th anniversary of its armed forces, Feb. 8, the day before the opening of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (Yi Whan-woo, Korea Times)
- NK is tightening surveillance of its soldiers to prevent them from fleeing to SK in the lead-up to the PyeongChang Winter Olympics, according to sources familiar with Pyongyang (Yi Whan-woo, Korea Times)
- After SK hosted the Summer Olympics in 1988, NK, which has been "interlocked with an invisible rope with one side's victory meaning the other's failure," tried to do SK one better in 1989. It spent $4 billion on the World Festival of Youth and Students, a kind of socialist quasi-Olympics and cultural extravaganza, which—according to analysts and N.Korean defectors—played a part in the economic catastrophe that engulfed the country. (Choe Sang-hun, NY Times)
- This post is a quick, English version of the update of information provided to *Radio Free Asia* (in Korean) regarding the changes in formal N.Korean markets under the KJU regime. These changes include two-dozen newly established markets, as well as the relocation, renovations, and expansions of hundreds more. (NK Econ Watch)
- Over 110,000 N.Koreans are infected with a potentially deadly strain of flu, raising concerns that it my have spread to SK following cross-border visits of the delegations in preparation for the PyeongChang Olympics that start this week. (Yi Whan-woo, Korea Times)
- State-run real estate developers in Pyongyang are asking prospective tenants to bear a part of the costs of a new apartment building even before construction begins, according to sources familiar with the matter. (Yi Whan-woo, Korea Times)
- NK's nominal head of state Kim Yong-nam is an elite veteran diplomat who has represented the North according to its constitution for two decades as the head of the parliament's presidium. (Yonhap)

In South Korea:

- A US military base that once sat 60 miles from the NK border is one step closer to being converted into an ambitious park, and for one of its S.Korean planners, the transformation holds personal significance. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- NK has proposed sending its art troupe to SK on a ferry this week for performances to mark the PyeongChang Winter Olympics, Seoul officials said Mon.The S.Korean government also said that it will consider exempting their trip from SK's 2010 sanctions that ban N.Korean ships from making a port call in SK. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae on Mon. welcomed NK's plan to send its nominal head of state as leader of a high-level delegation to the PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games, saying it shows the communist state's sincere efforts to improve inter-Korean ties. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon is considering holding a one-on-one meeting with NK's ceremonial head of state set to visit SK this week to attend the PyeongChang Winter Olympics, officials said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- A Cheong Wa Dae official expressed hope, Sun., that NK will send its "highest-level" officials to lead its delegation at the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- NK's International Olympic Committee (IOC) member Chang Ung landed in SK Sun. to attend an IOC meeting later this week in Pyeongchang County, Gangwon, saying he hoped for a successful Winter Games. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Daily*)
- NK's ceremonial leader will make an unprecedented visit to SK this week, officials said on Mon., as hopes grow for high-level inter-Korean talks during the Winter Olympics that begin in four days. (Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)
- NK and SK face a widening linguistic divide after 70 years of division, and that is a challenge for the rivals' first-ever joint Olympic team as it prepares for the Pyeongchang Winter Games. (AP)
- NK's head of state is coming to archrival SK, but it's the wrong one—at least if the goal is peace on the volatile Korean Peninsula. (Foster Klug, AP)
- NK has hacked one of the online virtual currency trading systems in SK, the National Intelligence Service (NIS) claimed Mon., without revealing the name of the system. Through the cyberattack, tens of billions of won were stolen and transferred to NK, the spy agency told the National Assembly Intelligence committee. (Choi Ha-young, *Korea Times*)
- NK is to send its highest ranking official ever to the SK, amid an ongoing thaw in relations over the Winter Olympic Games. (Nicola Smith, Danielle Demetriou, *Telegraph*)
- Propaganda leaflets from NK marking the start of the 2018 Winter Olympics have been found in mountains in the S.Korean capital, Seoul, a NK specialist news website reported on Mon. (Reuters Staff, *Reuters*)
- NK will send its nominal head of state and other senior officials to SK this week. Kim Yong-nam, the head of the NK's parliament, will be the highest-level N.Korean official to visit SK since the North sent then-No. 2 Hwang Pyong So at the close of the 2014 Asian Games in Incheon, SK. (*Reuters*)
- NK confirmed Kim Yong-nam's attendance at the opening ceremony, set for Fri. Although this signals a thaw in relations between the Koreas, experts say it is unlikely to have any impact on the North's nuclear ambitions. (BBC)
- A N.Korean art troupe will likely travel by ship to stage a performance in SK for this week's Winter Olympics under an exemption from bilateral sanctions, SK's Unification Ministry said on Mon.. (Reuters Staff, *Reuters*)
- A 23-member advance team of N.Koreans arrived in SK on Mon. to prepare for the North's participation in the Pyeongchang Olympics, S.Korean officials said. (AP)

- A 140-member arts troupe from NK plans to travel to SK this week by ferry, forcing the SK to temporarily lift its ban on all N.Korean ships entering its waters, officials said on Mon. (Choe Sang-hun, NY Times)
- NK and SK will send a "powerful message of peace" to the world when they march together under one flag at the opening ceremony of the Pyeongchang Winter Games, International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach said on Mon. (Peter Rutherford, Reuters)
- The announcement on Mon. that one of the highest-ranking officials in NK will attend the PyeongChang Olympics in SK is raising expectations for a diplomatic breakthrough at the games. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- SK will strive to arrange high-level inter-Korean talks during a N.Korean government delegation's visit later this week to attend the Olympic opening ceremony, the Unification Ministry said Mon. (Yonhap)
- SK said on Mon. that NK last year stole cryptocurrency from SK worth billions of won and that it was still trying to hack into its exchanges. (Reuters Staff, Reuters)
- NK plans to send a high-level government delegation to SK to attend the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics this week, S.Korean officials said on Sun. (Choe Sang-hun, NY Times)
- Wearing a blue logo of a map symbolising peace between NK and SK, the most talked-about team at the Winter Olympics was in action on Sunday in a friendly that drew thousands of spectators. (AP)

International:

- The top nuclear envoys of SK and the US discussed ways to channel the reconciliatory mood created by NK's participation in the upcoming Winter Olympics into resumption of talks aimed at "peacefully" resolving the nuclear stalemate, the foreign ministry said Mon. (Yonhap)
- NK's plan to send its titular head of state to SK for the upcoming Winter Olympics has drawn fresh attention to whether the sports event will set the stage for direct contact between Pyongyang and Washington. (Koh Byung-joon,Yonhap)
- There is a possibility that the PyeongChang Winter Olympics will set the stage for direct talks between the US and NK. (Lee Min-hyung, Korea Times)
- The Winter Games are a critical moment for NK as well. The recalcitrant regime faces two choices: whether to confront even-tougher international sanctions through more provocations after the Olympics or find a breakthrough in its tense relations with the US through dialogue. (Joongang Daily)
- Vice President Mike Pence will deride any notion of normalizing NK's relationships with the outside world while he leads the US delegation at the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, SK, this week, a Pence aide told Axios on Sun. (Maegan Vazquez, CNN)
- China released a further list of goods banned for export to NK on Mon., saying the items could be used to build weapons of mass destruction, amid a standoff between NK and the US over its weapons programs. (Reuters Staff, Reuters)
- The father of the US college student who died after being jailed in NK will visit SK this week to attend the opening ceremonies of the Olympics as a guest of Vice President Mike Pence. (AP)
- A group of Democratic senators is warning President Trump that he lacks the "legal authority" to carry out a preemptive strike on NK, amid questions over whether the White House is considering a risky "bloody nose" attack. (David Nakamura, Washington Post)

- The father of the late Otto Warmbier, an American student who was jailed in NK, will attend the Olympic opening ceremony in Pyeongchang, SK. (Aileen Graef, CNN)
- The 9,700-ton N.Korean ferry Mangyongbong-92 is set to carry a N.Korean art troupe across the inter-Korean border for the 2018 Winter Olympics in SK, having been cleared of questions over whether it would violate international sanctions. But it needs an exemption from S.Korean sanctions in order to enter a S.Korean port, while Seoul said it is ready to approve. (*Yonhap*)
- The US vice-president, Mike Pence, will stop NK "hijacking" the Winter Olympics, an aide said on Sun., by using his own presence at the Games to remind the world that "everything the N.Koreans do at the Olympics is a charade to cover up the fact that they are the most tyrannical and oppressive regime on the planet." (Martin Pengelly, *The Guardian*)
- NK has hit back at Donald Trump after he criticised the regime for its human rights abuses in his State of the Union address, with Pyongyang describing the speech as the "screams of Trump" who was "terrified" by its power. (Agence France-Presse, *The Guardian*)
- NK has been acquiring technology for its nuclear weapons program through its Berlin embassy, according to Germany's intelligence chief. (Susanna Capelouto, Sara Mazloumsaki, and Sheena McKenzie, CNN)
- NK's ceremonial head of state will lead a high-level Pyongyang delegation to the Winter Olympics in SK later this week, officials in Seoul said Sun. (Ken Bredemeier, VOA)
- NK informed SK that it could send a large-scale artistic troupe to the South for performances ahead of the PyeongChang Olympics via the sanctioned ferry Mangyongbong-92, Tues. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- Vice President Pence departs Mon. for a five-day trip to Japan and SK, a visit to Asia intended to focus almost entirely on rallying allies to ratchet up their pressure on KJU's repressive regime, as well as directly pressing NK to stop its nuclear ambitions. (Ashley Parker, *Washington Post*)
- US Vice President Mike Pence is expected to use his presence at the PyeongChang Winter Games to prevent NK from "hijacking" the message of the Olympics, his aide was reported as saying on Sun. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)
- Top nuclear envoys of SK and the US will meet in Seoul on Mon. to discuss NK's nuclear and missile problems, the S.Korean foreign ministry said. (*Yonhap*)
- Taiwan on Mon. called on its companies not to carry out any trade with NK in violation of UN sanctions and said it was keeping a close watch, after a report found a network of ships supplying petroleum products based in Taiwan. (Reuters Staff, *Reuters*)
- The argument for preemptive action is that the US cannot suppose that it can deter the KJU regime from using its weapons, because it is irrational. It follows that allowing the dictator to acquire the capacity to strike the homeland is intolerable and the infliction of a "bloody nose" would convince him that the US is serious about preventing it. But, Mr. Cha asks, "if we believe that Kim is undeterrable without such a strike, how can we also believe that a strike will deter him from responding in kind?" (Editorial Board, *Washington Post*)
- Despite the painstaking efforts of Moon to use this week's opening of the Winter Olympics to build bridges with NK, Donald Trump remains locked on a dangerous collision course with what he calls KJU's "depraved regime." (Simon Tisdall, *The Guardian*)
- SK may be touting the Winter Games as the "Peace Olympics," but that hasn't stopped the US and NK seeking to score political points against each other. (James Griffiths, CNN)

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, HRNK Research Intern

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Tuesday, February 6, 2018

UN Committee Blocks Qualified American NGOs, Protects Iran and North Korea Human Rights Abuses; (4th LD) N.K. art troupe arrives in S. Korea for Olympic celebrations

Top News:
Press Release: UN Committee Blocks Qualified American NGOs, Protects Iran and North Korea Human Rights Abuses (*US Mission to the UN*, 02/05/2018)

In North Korea:
2.6-magnitude quake detected in N. Korea in aftermath of September nuke test (*Yonhap*, 02/06/2018)
Advance payments in the Pyongyang housing market (*NK Econ Watch*, 02/05/2018)
More Troops Practice for Upcoming Military Parade (*38 North*, 02/05/2018)
North Korea launches 'exclusive' new beer (*BBC*, 02/06/2018)
North Koreans Venting Over Forced 'Donations' For National Projects (*RFA*, 02/05/2018)
North nixes plan to invite foreign press to military parade (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/06/2018)
Real estate companies in Pyongyang use advance payments to fund construction (*Daily NK*, 02/06/2018)
Report: Kim Jong Un ordering officials to attract foreign investment (*UPI*, 02/06/2018)
Renewed grievances over forced labor for Masik Pass Ski Resort construction (*Daily NK*, 02/06/2018)

In South Korea:
Main opposition party rebukes gov't for allowing N.K. ferry entry (*Yonhap*, 02/05/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(Yonhap Feature) Joint Korean hockey team coming together before PyeongChang Olympics(*Yonhap*, 02/05/2018)
(LEAD) N.K.'s 280-member delegation to travel to S. Korea this week ahead of Olympics (*Yonhap*, 02/06/2018)
(4th LD) N.K. art troupe arrives in S. Korea for Olympic celebrations (*Yonhap*, 02/06/2018)
N. Korea dominates pre-Olympic media coverage at Pyeongchang (*Washington Post*, 02/06/2018)
North Korean orchestra steals the limelight as fans shun Winter Olympics (*Telegraph*, 02/06/2018)
North stealing cryptocurrency via hacks: NIS (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/06/2018)
(Olympics) Competition for ice time in full swing on joint Korean hockey team (*Yonhap*, 02/05/2018)
(Olympics) Head of N. Korean delegation hails good weather for PyeongChang (*Yonhap*, 02/06/2018)
(Olympics) N. Korean participation in PyeongChang 2018 to lay foundation for improving inter-Korean relations: top organizer (*Yonhap*, 02/05/2018)
(2nd LD) (Olympics) Regulars return to practice for joint Korean hockey team (*Yonhap*, 02/06/2018)

(Olympics) South, North Korean figure skating pair teams hold practice session together (*Yonhap*, 02/05/2018)
(Olympics) Two N.K. taekwondo athletes part of North's women's hockey staff (*Yonhap*, 02/06/2018)
(Olympics) Uncertainty hangs over joint Korean hockey team as Olympic roster takes shape(*Yonhap*, 02/06/2018)
(Olympics) Won Yun-jong to bear Korean Unification Flag during PyeongChang opener (*Yonhap*, 02/06/2018)
Olympic truce is not everything (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/06/2018)
Orchestral maneuvers: South Korean protesters greet North Korean Olympics ferry (*Reuters*, 02/06/2018)
Pyongyang's orchestra arrives on ferry (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/06/2018)
Satellite images reveal new North Korean bases for fleet of assault hovercraft (*Telegraph*, 02/06/2018)
She killed 115 people before the last Korean Olympics. Now she wonders: 'Can my sins be pardoned?' (*Washington Post*, 02/06/2018)
The Olympic Moment When South Korea Left the North Behind (NYT, 02/06/2018)

International:
Alpine skiing: Ligety pleased to see North Koreans compete in Pyeongchang (*Reuters*, 02/06/2018)
Between Kim and hard-line Trump (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/06/2018)
China says mid-course missile interceptor test successful (*Washington Post*, 02/06/2018)
China says senior foreign policy adviser to meet Tillerson (*Washington Post*, 02/06/2018)
Danger of a 'bloody nose' (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/06/2018)
(LEAD) Leaders of S. Korea, Estonia agree to boost ties, cooperation (*Yonhap*, 02/06/2018)
(LEAD) Moon says PyeongChang Olympics will mark start of building peace in Asia (*Yonhap*, 02/05/2018)
North Korea 'months away' from ability to hit U.S. with nuclear weapon: U.S. envoy (*Reuters*, 02/06/2018)
N. Korea on track to complete new hovercraft base: U.S. expert (*Yonhap*, 02/05/2018)
North Korea says U.S. considering limited pre-emptive strike (*Reuters*, 02/06/2018)
N. Korea warns South, U.S. against resumption of joint military drill (*Yonhap*, 02/06/2018)
Pence heads to Olympics leaving open chance of talks with North Korea officials (*Reuters*, 02/05/2018)
Pence leaves for Asia with stern message on North Korea (*Reuters*, 02/05/2018)
Pence won't rule out NKorea meeting, will 'see what happens' (*Washington Post*, 02/06/2018)
South Korean intelligence says N. Korean hackers possibly behind Coincheck heist - sources(*Reuters*, 02/06/2018)
The Latest: Pence in Japan to boost pressure on North Korea (*Washington Post*, 02/06/2018)
Tillerson says 'we'll see what happens' on potential North Korea meeting (*Reuters*, 02/05/2018)
U.S. senators ask Trump to explain Cha's withdrawal (*Yonhap*, 02/05/2018)
U.S. Vice President Pence leaves for PyeongChang Olympics (*Yonhap*, 02/05/2018)
USS Pueblo: Crew of US Navy ship seized by North Korea sues Pyongyang (CNN, 02/06/2018)
Washington sends message to North Korea as Pence heads to Winter Olympics (*Telegraph*, 02/06/2018)

Top News:

- The UN Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) voted against granting consultative status to HRNK despite having a long track record of success and having amply demonstrated that they would add value to the UN system. US Ambassador Nikki Haley and the US stand behind HRNK however, and the decision could be reversed by a vote in the entire UN Economic and Social Council in April 2018. (*US Mission to the UN*)

In North Korea:

- A 2.6-magnitude earthquake shook NK's northern area on Tues in the aftermath of the communist country's latest nuclear test, in Sept last year, the S. Korean weather agency said. (*Yonhap*)
- Daily NK reports an interesting trend on the Pyongyang real estate market of construction companies selling apartment units before construction is finished, requiring what sounds like a regular deposit. (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, *NK Econ Watch*)
- A new Planet image of NK's Mirim Parade Training Facility shows expanded preparations for the military parade expected to be held on Feb 8 to celebrate the foundation of the KPA. (*38 North*)
- NK has launched a new beer made using an "exclusive" new brewing technique. (BBC)
- Residents of two cities in NK's North Hamgyong province are grumbling over a government directive requiring them to provide funds and supplies to aid the construction of the latest historic site to memorialize the country's founder Kim Il-sung. (RFA)
- NK aborted plans to invite foreign journalists and envoys to a military parade that is intended to highlight the 70th anniversary of its army founding day this Thurs, saying it will celebrate the event on its own. (Yeh Young-june, Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Real estate companies in Pyongyang are pushing ahead with construction projects in the new year after receiving permission from the N.Korean authorities. These companies are reportedly securing construction funds by demanding upfront payments for spaces in the buildings. (Seol Song-ah, *Daily NK*)
- KJU may be strapped for cash and could be ordering his subordinates to seek out investors, using the momentum on the peninsula that is building before the Winter Games. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Joint ski training events held at NK's Masik Pass ski resort this week have received coverage by the international press. According to inside sources there have been complaints about the forced labor mobilization that soldiers were subjected to by the regime to construct the ski facilities. (Kang Mi-jin, *Daily NK*)

In South Korea:

- The main opposition Liberty Korea Party (LKP) on Tues decried the government's decision to allow the entry of a N. Korean ferry carrying an art troupe, warning it could weaken Seoul's sanctions for Pyongyang's past provocations. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- It's difficult to tell how well the joint team, first of its kind, hastily assembled only two weeks ago, will perform at the Olympics. But at the very least, its 35 players have shown signs of coming together in time for the games. (Yoo Jee-ho, *Yonhap*)
- A 280-member N. Korean delegation including cheerleaders and taekwondo demonstrators will travel to SK this week ahead of the Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
  NK's art troupe arrived in SK by ferry Tues to perform in celebration of the Olympics as Seoul temporarily lifted its ban on N. Korean ships' travel. (*Yonhap*)
- NK is again stealing the show in pre-Olympic media coverage, although none of its 22 athletes is expected to win a medal at the Winter Games. (Kim Hyung-jin, AP)
- While there has been a rush of enthusiasm for the new star attraction of the Olympics, the N. Korean Orchestra, it has not been matched for actual sports events at the Games, where despondent officials for months have urged the public to boost sluggish ticket sales. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- Suh Hoon, director of the National Intelligence Service (NIS) blamed Pyongyang for hacking attacks on local cryptocurrency exchanges that stole tens of billions of won. (Kim Min-seok, Sarah Kim, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- 35 players (23 from SK, 12 from NK) on the joint hockey team are competing for 22 spots. And under the IOC's terms, head coach Sarah Murray must use at least three N. Koreans in each game at the Olympics. (Yoo Jee-ho, *Yonhap*)
- The head of the N. Korean delegation to the Olympics said Tues that the cold but sunny weather is likely to support the South as it hosts the world's biggest winter sporting event. (Kim Boram, *Yonhap*)
- NK's participation in the 2018 Olympics will "lay the foundation for improving inter-Korean relations," Lee Hee-beom, head of the PyeongChang Organizing Committee for the 2018 Olympic & Paralympic Games said Tues. (Yoo Jee-ho, *Yonhap*).
- Regular members of the Korean women's hockey team returned to practice Tues, with the squad's first game at the Olympics only four days away. (Yoo Jee-ho, *Yonhap*)
- The figure skating pair teams of the two Koreas -- Kim Kyu-eun and Kam Kang-chan from the South and Ryom Tae-ok and Kim Ju-sik from the North -- had their first joint practice session in a "good atmosphere" on Mon ahead of the Olympics. (Kim Boram, *Yonhap*)
- Two members of NK's taekwondo squad that will perform in the South during the Olympics were found to have made their way across the border earlier than initially expected, as supporting members of the country's women's hockey team, officials said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- The Olympic roster for the joint Korean women's hockey team appears to be taking shape, as a shroud of mystery came over the 35-deep squad on Tues. (Yoo Jee-ho, *Yonhap*)
- Olympic athletes of the two Koreas will march together behind a Korean Unification Flag carried by Won Yun-jong, a bobsledder from the South, at the opening ceremony of the Olympics this week, but his northern counterpart has yet to be chosen. (*Yonhap*)
- In a supposed Olympic Truce, NK continues to perform nuclear tests, stage military parades, use the Olympics for the propaganda of the North Korean regime and its leader Kim Jong-un. with performances of the North Korean art troupe and cheering squad. (Park Sung-soo, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- A N. Korean ferry arrived in SK on Tues carrying a 140-strong orchestra to perform during the Olympics, taking advantage of a rare sanctions exemption from Seoul 16 years after its previous visit but greeted by angry protests. (Shin Hyon-hee, Elaine Lies, *Reuters*)

- Members of NK's Samjiyon Orchestra arrived in SK Tues afternoon on a passenger ship after Seoul lifted unilateral sanctions banning any N. Korean vessels from sailing in domestic waters. (Lee Sung-eun, Jeong Yong-soo, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- NK is developing bases for its fleet of assault hovercraft that will be able to deploy elite special forces troops on S. Korean soil in half an hour. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- The reminders of Kim Hyon-hui's role in the bombing of Korean Air Lines Flight 858 seem to be everywhere. SK is hosting the Winter Olympics this month, and even seeing the Olympic rings gives her flashbacks to 30 years ago, the other time this country was preparing to host the Games. (Chico Harlan, *Washington Post*)
- The Olympics in Seoul in 1988 ended up being a turning point. Over the past 30 years, the two Koreas have diverged sharply — economically, politically and culturally. (Mokoto Rich, Choe Sang-hun, Audrey Carlsen, Megan Specia, NYT)

International:

- US ski racer Ted Ligety is all in favor of N. Korean athletes competing at this month's Winter Games and says one of the key goals of the Olympics is to help countries overcome their differences through sport. (Peter Rutherford, *Reuters*)
- SK must strengthen its diplomacy following US's hard-line stance and NK's potential provocations. Seoul should make efforts to facilitate talks between the US and NK before the start of the Olympics on Fri. (Kim Hyun-wook, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- China said Tues it successfully tested a mid-course anti-missile defense system within its own territory, a move that comes amid tensions over NK's nuclear weapons program and China's own military developments in disputed regional waters. (Christopher Bodeen, AP)
- China's senior foreign policy adviser will meet with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson later this week, state media reported, amid concerns over NK and growing trade tensions. (AP)
- SK must give Trump the strong conviction that SK remains a reliable ally of the US. If Seoul continues to kowtow to Pyongyang with blind hopes for improving inter-Korean relations, like with the Olympics, it will only push the US closer to the "bloody nose" option. (Nam Jeong-ho, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- President Moon and Estonian President Kersti Kaljulaid agreed Tues to enhance the countries' bilateral cooperation in various areas, including cyber defense and fostering startup businesses, Seoul's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon reaffirmed his efforts Mon to make the upcoming Olympic Games a success, saying the event will mark the start of establishing peace in the region. (*Yonhap*)
- NK is only months away from obtaining the capability to hit US territory with a nuclear weapon and must be disarmed, a US envoy said on Tues, dismissing Pyonyang's diplomatic thaw with SK as a "charm offensive" that fooled no one. (Stephaine Nebehay, *Reuters*)
- NK appears to be on track to complete a new hovercraft base, with some of the key facilities being constructed next year, Joseph Bermudez, a NK defense analyst said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- NK accused the US on Tues of seeking to aggravate the situation on the divided Korean peninsula by "deploying large nuclear assets" nearby and lay the ground for a possible pre-emptive strike against it. (*Reuters*)
- NK warned Tues that a resumption of SK and the US' annual joint military exercises will throw the Korean Peninsula back into a state of confrontation. (*Yonhap*)

- US VP Mike Pence arrived in Japan on Tues at the start of an Asia trip that takes him to the Winter Olympics in SK, saying he had no plans to talk to N. Korean officials but leaving open the chance of a meeting. (Tim Kelly, Shin Hyonhee, *Reuters*)
- Pence departed for a trip to Japan and SK on Mon with a stark message that countries should not be fooled by what the White House sees as a N. Korean attempt to overshadow the 2018 Olympics with propaganda. (Jeff Mason, *Reuters*)
- Pence said he has not ruled out the possibility of meeting with N. Korean officials at the upcoming Olympics in SK. (Zeke Miller, AP)
- SK's intelligence agency told lawmakers N. Korean hackers could have been behind the $530 million theft of virtual coins from a Japanese cryptocurrency exchange last month. (*Reuters*)
- Pence has arrived in Japan on the second stop of his Asia swing that he says will boost pressure on NK over its nuclear program during the Winter Olympic games in the South. (AP)
- US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said on Mon "we'll have to see what happens" when asked whethere Pence or other officials would meet N. Koreans at the Winter Olympic Games next week. (*Reuters)*
- A group of 17 independent and democrat US senators asked Trump Mon to explain his withdrawal of Victor Cha from consideration for ambassador to SK, saying it is "shocking" that the post remains vacant. (*Yonhap*)
- US VP Pence left Mon to visit Japan and SK, where he will attend the Olympics and deliver a message of resolve against NKs nuclear weapons. (*Yonhap*)
- Survivors of the USS Pueblo are suing NK, 50 years after the American spy ship was seized off the Korean Peninsula and its crew held hostage and tortured for 11 months. (James Griffiths, CNN)
- Pence will arrive in SK for the opening of the Winter Olympic Games accompanied by Fred Warmbier, his presence is being seen as a signal to Pyongyang that Washington has no intention of easing the pressure on the KJU regime over its human rights record. (*Telegraph*)

Prepared by Emma Stubblefield, HRNK Research Intern

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Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Who is the heroic Ji Seong-ho of the SOTU moment of waving crutches?; NK Human Rights, 4 Years After the UN Inquiry; NK to send KJU's sister to S. Korea for Olympics; Pence says US to unveil 'toughest' sanctions on NK

Top News:

Who is the heroic Ji Seong-ho of the SOTU moment of waving crutches? Greg Scarlatoiu, executive director of the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea. @GordonGChang @TheDailyBeast (*The John Batchelor Show*, 01/31/2018)
North Korea Human Rights, 4 Years After the UN Inquiry (*The Diplomat*, 02/06/2018)

In North Korea:
Curious About the Lives of North Korea's Isolated Athletes? Here's a Glimpse (NY *Times*, 02/07/2018)
Foreign Ministry Institute for American Studies Issues Spox Statement on Nuclear Posture Review (*NK Leadership Watch*, 02/07/2018)
Keeping up with the Kims: North Korea's elusive first family (BBC, 02/07/2018)
Kim Jong-un's Influential Sister to Visit South Korea for Olympic Ceremony (NY *Times*, 02/07/2018)
Kim Jong-un's sister is coming for Olympics opening ceremony (*Joongang Daily*, 02/07/2018)
Kim Jong Un's younger sister, a gatekeeper on charm offensive (CNN, 02/07/2018)
Kim Yo Jong Sees Off Samjyo'n Orchestra as it Heads for ROK (*NK Leadership Watch*, 02/07/2018)
N. Korea university learns to cope under U.S. travel ban, sanctions (*Yonhap*, 02/07/2018)
North Korea Prohibits Travel Amid Military Anniversary Preparations (*RFA*, 02/06/2018)
North Korea's winter military parade full of cold, beatings, and exhaustion (*Daily NK*, 02/07/2018)
North Korean merchant says trade and smuggling slashed by sanctions (*Daily NK*, 02/07/2018)
Parade Drills Continue, No Signs of Missile Launchers Yet (*38North*, 02/06/2018)
Powerful sister likely to relay Kim Jong-un's views to Seoul (*Yonhap*, 02/07/2018)
KJU's sister, Kim Yo-jong, is set to become the first member of NK's ruling dynasty to set foot in SK this week. The Unification Ministry in Seoul announced Wed. that Kim Yo-jong will be part of a high-ranking government delegation attending the Winter Olympic opening ceremony slated for Fri. (*Yonhap*)
PPJ Visits Dental Hygiene Products Factory (*NK Leadership Watch*, 02/07/2018)
DPRK state media reported on Feb. 2 (Fri.) that Premier and State Affairs Commission Vice Chairman Pak Pong Ju inspected the Pyongyang Dental Hygiene Products Factory. (*NK Leadership Watch*)
Why North Korean hackers are targeting Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies (*Telegraph*, 02/07/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) Seoul welcomes planned visit of N. Korean leader's sister (*Yonhap*, 02/07/2018)
At the DMZ, Korean reunification seems an impossible task for these 'Peace Olympics' (*Washington Post*, 02/07/2018)
South Mulls Meeting N. Korean Request to Fuel Artists' Ship (NY *Times*, 02/06/2018)
To give or not Samsung phone to North Korean Olympians (*Washington Post*, 02/07/2018)
VIP seating plan a headache for Pyeongchang's opening party (*Reuters*, 02/07/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(3rd LD) N.K. to send leader Kim Jong-un's sister to S. Korea for Olympics (*Yonhap*, 02/07/2018)
(4th LD) N.K. cheerleaders travel to S. Korea ahead of Olympics (*Yonhap*, 02/07/2018)
(LEAD) N.K. asks S. Korea to offer fuel for ship that carried art troupe (*Yonhap*, 02/07/2018)
(Olympics) Head of N. Korean delegation hails good weather for PyeongChang (*Yonhap*, 02/06/2018)
(Olympics) Officials of N. Korean taekwondo body arrive in Seoul (*Yonhap*, 02/07/2018)
A rare visitor (*Joongang Daily*, 02/07/2018)
Can Korea ever truly find peace? (*Joongang Daily*, 02/07/2018)
Commentary: Winter Olympics thaw won't warm young South Koreans to unity (*Reuters*, 02/06/2018)

Figure skaters rekindle friendship (*Joongang Daily*, 02/07/2018)
Inter-Korean Olympic Sports Exchange Could Undermine 'Spirit of Sanctions' (VOA, 02/06/2018)
Kim Jong Un to send his sister to South Korea as part of Olympic delegation (*Washington Post*, 02/07/2018)
Kim Jong-un's sister to attend the Winter Olympics: what Kim Yo-jong's visit means for Korean relations (*Telegraph*, 02/07/2018)
NK artistic troupe arrives in South (*Korea Times*, 02/07/2018)
North Korea cheer squad arrives for Olympic games in South (*Washington Post*, 02/07/2018)
North Korea leader's sister to come to PyeongChang Friday (*Korea Times*, 02/07/2018)
North Korea leader's sister to make landmark visit to South for Olympics (BBC, 02/07/2018)
Olympic peace unlikely to result in denuclearization, says head of unification research center (*Daily NK*, 02/07/2018)
Pyongyang slams S. Korean conservatives' rally against N.K. art troupe (*Yonhap*, 02/07/2018)
Sister of North Korean leader to come to South for Olympics (*Washington Post*, 02/07/2018)

International:
(LEAD) Pence: U.S. soon to unveil toughest-yet sanctions on N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 02/07/2018)
(Olympics) Pro-Pyongyang body's cheering squad not allowed to join N.K. cheerleaders: report (*Yonhap*, 02/07/2018)
A dangerous encounter (*Joongang Daily*, 02/07/2018)
A Korean Olympic Dilemma: Do Hockey Sticks Violate U.N. Sanctions? (*NY Times*, 02/07/2018)
Family of American Held in North Korea Speaks Out (VOA, 02/07/2018)
In Asia, Pence pressures North Korea ahead of Olympics (CNN, 02/07/2018)
Kim Jong Un's sister joins North Korean Winter Olympics delegation (CNN, 02/07/2018)
Kim Jong-un's sister to attend Winter Olympics opening ceremony (*Guardian*, 02/07/2018)
Mattis vows to bolster Guam defense against N.K. threat (*Yonhap*, 02/07/2018)
Mike Pence announces 'toughest sanctions ever' on North Korea and vows not to let Pyongyang hijack Winter Olympics (*Telegraph*, 02/07/2018)
Mongolia lawmakers to consider strict immigration cap (*Reuters*, 02/07/2018)
Mozambique Denies Doing Business with North Korea (VOA, 02/07/2018)
North Korea at the Winter Olympics: All you need to know (BBC, 02/07/2018)
North Korea leader's sister takes 'real power' south to Olympics (BBC, 02/07/2018)
North Korea to face harshest U.S. sanctions yet, Pence vows (*Washington Post*, 02/07/2018)
North Korean Defector Aims to 'Wake Up' Compatriots (VOA, 02/06/2018)
North Korean leader's sister to visit South Korea for winter Olympics (*Reuters*, 02/06/2018)
Pence, Abe stand strong against North (*Joongang Daily*, 02/07/2018)
Pence Announces US to Issue 'Toughest, Most Aggressive' North Korea Sanctions (VOA, 02/07/2018)
Pence promises 'toughest' economic sanctions ever for North Korea (UPI, 02/07/2018)
Pence says U.S. will work closely with allies to denuclearize N.K. (*Yonhap*, 02/07/2018)
Pence says US to unveil 'toughest' sanctions on N. Korea (*Washington Post*, 02/07/2018)
Pence's fateful choice at the Olympics (CNN, 02/07/2018)
Pope praises joint Korean Olympic teams, Vatican willing to back peace initiatives (*Reuters*, 02/07/2018)
Pope Francis praises Koreas' Olympic cooperation (*Washington Post*, 02/07/2018)
Russian, North Korean diplomats discussed Korean peninsula at a Moscow meeting: Ifx (*Reuters*, 02/07/2018)
S. Korea in consultations with U.S on planned trips by N.K. leader's sister (*Yonhap*, 02/07/2018)
Sanctions Test Limits of North Korea Olympic Participation (VOA, 02/06/2018)

Showdown in PyeongChang? Kim Jong Un's sister and VP Pence both head to Olympics.(*Washington Post*, 02/07/2018)
South Korea's ultimate goal: U.S., North Korea dialogue (UPI, 02/07/2018)
Trump, Britain's May discuss North Korea by phone: White House (*Reuters*, 02/07/2018)
U.S. vows new North Korea sanctions ahead of Olympics face-off (*Reuters*, 02/07/2018)
Unified Korea hockey team is not just window dressing: Bach (*Reuters*, 02/07/2018)
US to impose 'toughest ever' sanctions on North Korea, Pence warns (CNN, 02/07/2018)
Winter Olympics bring peace to Korean peninsula – for now (*Guardian*, 02/06/2018)

Top News:

- In this segment on *The John Batchelor Show* with John Batchelor and Gordon Chang of the *Daily Beast*, HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu discusses Ji Seong-ho's appearance at the State of the Union, Ji's work in SK, and what it means for the people who are left behind in NK who cannot escape the country easily. (John Batchelor, Gordon Chang, Greg Scarlatoiu, *The John Batchelor Show*)
- In this new op-ed on *The Diplomat* following the launch of CSW's new report, Benedict Rogers concludes— after surveying more than 100 respondents that include recent N.Korean escapees, UN officials, and human rights experts—that in the past decade, the people of NK have changed, while the nature of the regime has not. NK has changed in three ways: the economy, human rights, and flow of information, all of which are interconnected. (Benedict Rogers, *The Diplomat*)

In North Korea:

- NK's state athletic program is obscured by propaganda and limited access. But cobbling together information from the country's state news media, analysts, defectors and athletes who have competed alongside N.Koreans has given the NY *Times* some insights. (Motoko Rich, *NY Times*)
- The American Studies Institute of the DPRK Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a spokesman's statement on Feb. 6 (Tues.) on the US Nuclear Posture Review. (*NK Leadership Watch*)
- This piece from *BBC* explores the elusive nature of the Kim family. Members mentioned in this article include, KJU, his wife, and other members of his immediate family. (BBC)
- The only sister of the N.Korean leader, KJU, will visit SK this week, the first immediate member of the North's ruling family ever to set foot in the South, officials said on Wed. (Choe Sang-hun, *NY Times*)
- N.Korean leader KJU's younger sister, Kim Yo-jong, will visit SK on Fri. for the PyeongChang Winter Olympics opening ceremony. The younger Kim will be part of a 23-member high-level delegation led by Kim Yong-nam, president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, NK's rubber-stamp legislature. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Daily*)
- While she is often seen in the background of her powerful brother's public inspections, silently taking notes, holding bouquets of flowers from admirers or removing herself from the camera's gaze altogether, N.Korean leader KJU's younger sister Kim Yo Jong will not be able to avoid the flashing lights of the cameras as she to the Olympics in SK this month. (Sheena McKenzie, CNN)
- Musicians and singers in a delegation headed by Ministry of Culture Department Director Kwon Hak Byong were seen off on the train platform by officials including Kim Yo Jong, as

well as other senior DPRK arts functionaries and officials as they headed to the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics on Feb. 5th. (*NK Leadership Watch*)

- NK's only private university has been learning to cope with a travel ban and sanctions imposed by the US but could face an uncertain future if the restrictions continue, its president said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- NK's regime has issued a directive limiting long-distance travel for the entire month of Feb. to prevent any "incidents" that could overshadow an anniversary marking the foundation of the country's military, according to sources. (Jieun Kim, Leejin Jun, Joshua Lipes, RFA)
- *Daily NK* recently spoke with Kim Jong Ah, a defector with past experience participating in N.Korean military parades who commented that the Feb.8 parade will be the first time in NK's history that it has conducted a military parade in the winter. She imagines that the KPA soldiers are now at the Mirim Airfield practicing for the performance and suffering in the cold. (Jang Seul Gi, *Daily NK*)
- *Daily NK* recently spoke with a N.Korean merchant in the border city of Dandong to understand what sort of impact the international sanctions campaign is having on business. The interviewee noted that the damage to trade has been significant, and N.Koreans who are doing business in China are all worried about their future. (Kim Sung Il, *Daily NK*)
- In an analysis by Joseph S. Bermudez, Jr., satellite images from NK's Mirim Parade Training Facility on Feb. 6 indicates that NK has continued practice drills for an upcoming military parade expected to be held Feb. 8. (*38North*)
- DPRK state media reported on Feb. 2 (Fri.) that Premier and State Affairs Commission Vice Chairman Pak Pong Ju inspected the Pyongyang Dental Hygiene Products Factory. (*NK Leadership Watch*)
- Accusations from SK intelligence that N.Korean hackers may be guilty of the theft of $530 million of virtual coins from a Japanese cryptocurrency exchange last month have added to fears that Pyongyang may be shifting its formidable cyber prowess towards digital currency markets. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)

In South Korea:

- SK's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae on Wed. welcomed the planned visit of N.Korean leader KJU's sister, noting it reflects the communist state's willingness to reduce tension on the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- The PyeongChang Winter Olympics will start Fri. in SK. These Olympics are being promoted by the organizers as the "Peace Olympics." However, this is an oversimplified sentiment; while the Olympics could well be an athletic, commercial and even cultural success, by themselves, they are not going to bring peace between NK and SK—countries that have been divided, initially against their will, since the end of World War II. (Barry Svrluga, *Washington Post*)
- SK said Wed. its reviewing whether to meet NK request to provide fuel to the ferry that transported more than 100 N.Korean artists for performances at the Pyeongchang Olympics. (AP)
- Olympic Partner Samsung Electronics has donated some 4,000 Galaxy Note 8 phones for athletes and officials at the International Olympic Committee so that they can document every moment and share their memories with the world. However, the SK is in limbo whether giving the device that costs at least $1,000 to N.Koreans would violate global

sanctions designed to punish their government's nuclear ambitions. It's also unclear if the phones would work on networks inside NK. (Youkyung Lee, AP)

- SK wants to use the Games to re-engage with NK and encourage friendly encounters between Pyongyang and Washington, but is also anxious to avoid any awkward moments, which complicates the planning of VIP seating arrangements for the opening ceremony for the Pyeongchang Winter Olympic Games. (Soyoung Kim, James Pearson, *Reuters*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- NK has offered to send the younger sister of leader KJU as a member of its high-level delegation for the PyeongChang Winter Olympics, Seoul officials said Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- Hundreds of N.Korean female cheerleaders arrived in SK on Wed. for a trip that will mark their first appearance in 13 years at an international sports event hosted by the SK. (*Yonhap*)
- NK has asked SK to supply fuel to its ship that carried NK's art troupe to SK a day earlier as the ferry will be used for its lodging, Seoul's unification ministry said Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- The head of the N.Korean delegation to the PyeongChang Olympics said Tues. that the cold but sunny weather is likely to support SK as it hosts the world's biggest winter sporting event. (*Yonhap*)
- High-ranking officials from Pyongyang's taekwondo governing body arrived in SK on Wed., as two Koreas prepare for joint taekwondo demonstrations to celebrate the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- NK has decided to send its leader KJU's younger sister Kim Yo-jong to SK as a member of its high-level delegation to the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. According to security experts, the reasons for her selection may include KJU's view of the Olympics as the last opportunity to break the ice with the US, not to mention improving inter-Korean relations, especially as the Trump administration's NK policy is tougher than that of any past US administration. (*Joongang Daily*)
- If Washington affairs are unpredictable, the same can be said about the entirety of the Korean Peninsula. As such, there are various ideas and theories of what is the fundamental thinking and strategy of NK, although the wedge theory—supported by hostile undercurrents that still flow below the surface as concerned nations pursue long-term, competing geopolitical goals—is the most plausible. (Tom Coyner, *Joongang Daily*)
- The long-lasting effect of the Winter Olympics that start in SK on Feb. 9 may bring that message home to her compatriots in NK – and those on the S.Korean left. Pyongyang's charm offensives on SK will longer work; younger S.Koreans just don't care that much about unification. (Andray Abrahamian, *Reuters*)
- The N.Korean and S.Korean figure skating pairs promised each other they'd meet up at the 2018 PyeongChang Olympics. After a few months of uncertainty, they were finally reunited at Gangneung Ice Arena in Gangwon on Mon. (Park So-young, *Joongang Daily*)
- With just days before the opening ceremony for the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics, some US experts are voicing concern that the highly publicized inter-Korean sports exchanges could undermine international sanctions intended to tighten the flow of cash into NK and pressure it to renounce its nuclear weapons and missiles programs. (Jiha Ham, VOA)
- SK dream of making the Winter Olympics the "peace games" began taking shape Wed., with bus loads of N.Koreans arriving and an announcement that KJU's sister would follow soon. (Anna Fifield, *Washington Post*)

- Kim Yo-jong will the first member of NK's ruling family to visit SK since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War. Analysts say that her inclusion in the Olympics delegation shows NK's ambition to use the Olympics to break out from diplomatic isolation by improving relations with SK, which could then be used as a bride for approaching the US. (Neil Connor, *Telegraph*)
- A N.Korean artistic troupe arrived in SK on the ferry Mangyongbong-92, Tues. for performances ahead of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- A 229-member strong, all-female cheering section arrived from NK on Wed. for the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- N.Korean leader KJU's sister, Kim Yo-jong, will be a member of the high-level delegation that will arrive in the South, Fri., for the PyeongChang Winter Olympics, the unification ministry said Wed. (Kim Bo-eun, Joint Press Corps, *Korea Times*)
- Kim Yo-jong, a senior Workers' Party official promoted to the politburo last year, will be the first immediate Kim family member to cross the border.It is being seen as a sign that KJU is serious about improving ties with SK. Kim Yo-jong is one of KJU's closest aides and some are speculating that she might be bringing a message from her brother. (BBC)
- Despite the current thaw in NK-SK tensions through diplomatic activity surrounding the Pyeongchang Olympic Games and the participation of N.Korean athletes, analysts are cautioning against over-expectations They caution that as the games draw to a close and the US-ROK military exercises kick back into gear, there is a chance that tensions will flare up again. (Jang Seul Gi, *Daily NK*)
- NK slammed anti-NK activists Wed. for having held a rally against NK's participation in the PyeongChang Winter Olympics when its art troupe arrived in SK a day earlier for performances. (*Yonhap*)
- N.Korean leader KJU's sister, an increasingly prominent figure in the country's leadership, will be part of the NK's delegation to the S.Korean Winter Olympics, officials said Wed. (Kim Tong-Hyung, AP)

International:

- US Vice President Mike Pence said Wed. that the US will soon unveil its toughest-ever economic sanctions on NK in a bid to spur the country's denuclearization. (*Yonhap*)
- A cheering group from a pro-Pyongyang organization in Japan has not been allowed to join cheerleaders from NK at the opening ceremony of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics this week, a US broadcaster reported Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- The weeks after the Games could be pivotal. SK has made too many concessions and may have pushed Washington's patience to its limits by weakening hard-won sanctions. It must not take lightly Washington's rejection of Cha and President Trump's introduction of N.Korean defector Ji Seong-ho to underscore the cruelties of Pyongyang's regime in his first State of the Union address. It must not become an imposing and insensitive host; otherwise, it may have to pay a dear or humiliating price after the Games. The N.Korean threat is too grave to be solved through a pretentious handshake. (Kim Hyun-ki, *Joongang Daily*)
- One question that has been tormenting S.Korean officials is the question of whether to give or not to give. S.Korean officials are struggling to be good Olympic hosts for the N.Korean delegation without violating the international sanctions punishing the NK for its nuclear weapons program. (Choe Sang-hun, *NY Times*)

- The family of Tony Kim (Sang-duk Kim), and American held by NK, is going public with its appeal for help. (Steve Redisch, VOA)
- Vice President Mike Pence kicked off his swing through Asia Wed. by vowing to intensify pressure on NK over its growing nuclear threat and show solidarity with US allies in the region. (Elise Labott, CNN)
- KJU is sending his younger sister to SK for the Winter Olympics, the first time any member of the Kim dynasty has visited the country. (James Griffiths, Sophie Jeong, CNN)
- The sister of the N.Korean leader, KJU, will attend the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics in SK on Fri., becoming the first member of Kim's immediate family to cross the border. (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)
- US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis vowed Tues. to bolster the defense of Guam against NK's ballistic missile threats, stating that the Pentagon was looking at "all the systems," including the land-based component, Aegis Ashore, as well as the reinforcement of the existing THAAD system and the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense US Navy warship to ensure future protection of the Pacific area. (*Yonhap*)
- US Vice President Mike Pence said Wed. Washington would soon unveil its "toughest sanctions ever" on NK, adding that the regime in Pyongyang would not be allowed to "hijack" the upcoming Olympics. (*Telegraph* Foreign Staff, *Telegraph*)
- Mongolian lawmakers have proposed a new immigration cap, looking to protect domestic workers, even as citizens increasingly seek opportunities abroad, following last year's decision to cut its foreign workforce in half, and sending home about 1,200 N.Korean workers to comply with the sanctions. (Reuters Staff, *Reuters*)
- Mozambique is denying allegations that it continues to do business with NK in violation of U.N. sanctions. (Salem Solomon, VOA)
- This *BBC* piece discusses the significance and impact of NK's presence in the Pyeongchang Games, from the diplomatic aspect to athlete performance. (BBC)
- By dispatching his sister Kim Yo-jong as part of the delegation, KJU is demonstrating a high degree of confidence in his position in NK and that that whomever the DPRK delegation interacts with can rest assured that their message, or even proposal, will be taken directly to KJU. Kim Yo-jong's visit to SK gives her valuable experience representing NK publicly in another country. (Michael Madden, BBC)
- Vice President Pence said Wed. that the Trump administration plans to roll out its harshest sanctions yet against NK. (Ashley Parker, Anna Fifield, *Washington Post*)
- Kim Joo Il, a former captain in the N.Korean army before he defected, now edits the newspaper *Free NK* from London, through which he aims to expose the reality of life in the isolated state and the abuses carried out by its government. (Jason Godman, VOA)
- N.Korean leader KJU's 28-year-old sister will make her debut on the world stage when she visits SK to attend the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics on Fri., Seoul's Unification Ministry said. (Hyonhee Shin, Christine Kim, *Reuters*)
- Vice President Mike Pence and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe emphasized maximizing pressure on NK over its nuclear and missile programs during their meeting Wed. in Tokyo, before heading to the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)
- Vice President Mike Pence said Wed. the US will soon announce its "the toughest and most aggressive" economic sanctions ever against NK. (Steve Herman, VOA)
- US Vice President Mike Pence visited Japan's defense ministry Wed. While there, he also pledged that the Trump administration is committed to aiding Japan handle any future threats from Pyongyang. (Sarah Shayanian, UPI)

- US Vice President Mike Pence said Wed. the US will "stand shoulder to shoulder" with its allies, including Japan and SK, to achieve its goal of denuclearizing NK, foreign media reported. (*Yonhap*)
- Vice President Mike Pence said the US is preparing to announce the "toughest and most aggressive" economic sanctions against NK in the coming days, boosting pressure on the bellicose government during the Winter Olympics. (Zeke Miller, AP)
- Vice President Mike Pence is on his way to the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, SK. But he's not just going to cut ribbons and watch sports. The fateful question is whether he's going there to improve the chances of a diplomatic solution to the confrontation between the US and NK—or essentially to give KJU the finger. (John Kirby, CNN)
- Pope Francis said on Wed. the participation of N.Korean athletes in the Olympics raised hopes for reconciliation on the Korean peninsula and that the Vatican was ready to back any peace initiative. (Philip Pullella, *Reuters*)
- Pope Francis is praising the decision of NK and SK to compete alongside each other at the Winter Olympics, saying it shows that conflicts can be resolved peacefully through dialogue and mutual respect. (AP)
- Diplomats from Russia and NK discussed their relationship as well as the situation on the Korean peninsula at a meeting in Moscow, the Interfax news agency reported on Wed, citing a source at Russia's Foreign Ministry. (*Reuters*)
- SK is having consultations with the US to allow ranking officials, including the younger sister of the N.Korean leader, to travel to the SK in time for the opening of the upcoming PyeongChang Winter Olympics, a government official said Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- The S.Korean Foreign Ministry is in close consultation with the international community, including the US, to uphold the basic principle that NK's participation in the PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games should not cause controversy related to international sanctions against NK. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- Kim Yo Jong will become the first member of NK's ruling Kim family to visit SK in any capacity, and her presence is likely to draw great attention during the Olympic Games being held there at a time of heightened tension between Pyongyang and Washington. (Jason Rezaian, *Washington Post*)
- Facilitating dialogue between the US and NK is the ultimate goal of the inter-Korea détente being pursued in Seoul, a S.Korean foreign ministry official said Wed. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- US President Donald Trump and British Prime Minister Theresa May, in a telephone conversation on Tues., agreed that "all responsible nations must increase pressure on NK until it turns to the path of denuclearization," the White House said. (Reuters Staff, *Reuters*)
- US Vice President Mike Pence vowed tough new sanctions against NK and called it the world's most tyrannical regime on Wed., two days before he is due to attend the winter Olympics, along with two of the NK's most senior officials. (Hyonhee Shin, Tim Kelly, *Reuters*)
- A unified women's ice hockey team from NK and SK at the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics is not just political window-dressing, International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach said on Wed. (Karolos Grohmann, *Reuters*)
- US Vice President Mike Pence says the US plans to unveil the "toughest and most aggressive" sanctions yet against NK. (Joshua Berlinger, CNN)
- Pyeongchang's underground evacuation centres symbolise fears felt by S.Korean officials as they worked on the site of the Games, just 50 miles (80km) from the N.Korean border. However, a surprise announcement during N.Korean leader KJU's New Year's address set the

stage for a significant cooling of tensions, and now the focus has shifted from potential doom to maintaining the first signs of dialogue in years. (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, HRNK Research Intern

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Thursday, February 8, 2018

Pyongyang holds parade but keeps it low-key; Diplomacy or mere decorum for Kim Yong Nam-led Olympic delegation?; NK says it has no willingness to meet with US at Olympics

In North Korea:
(5th LD) N. Korea displays ICBMs during low-key military parade (*Yonhap*, 02/08/2018)
2.7-magnitude quake occurs in N. Korea in aftermath of September nuke test (*Yonhap*, 02/08/2018)
A guide to North Korea's Olympic concert, playlist version (*Washington Post*, 02/08/2018)
As Kim Jong-un stages a purge within his 'unruly' military, could the North Korean leader face a coup threat? (*Telegraph*, 02/08/2018)
Kim Jong Un watches parade of North Korean tanks, missiles and troops (CNN, 02/08/2018)
N.K. first lady, top military, party grandees attend military parade (*Yonhap*, 02/08/2018)
N. Korea apparently holds military parade: gov't source (*Yonhap*, 02/08/2018)
N. Korea set to hold military parade on eve of PyeongChang Olympics' opening (*Yonhap*, 02/08/2018)
North Korea holds low-key military parade (*Korea Times*, 02/08/2018)
North Korea holds military parade ahead of Winter Olympics (BBC, 02/08/2018)
North Korea Holds Military Parade on Eve of South Korean Winter Olympics (VOA, 02/08/2018)
North Korea's parade held without live television coverage (*UPI*, 02/08/2018)
Ordinary residents ordered to provide ingredients for use in Kim Jong Il birthday snack manufacturing (*Daily NK*, 02/08/2018)
Pyongyang holds parade but keeps it low-key (*Joongang Daily*, 02/08/2018)
Report: North Korea's military parade to include fighter jets, artillery (UPI, 02/07/2018)
Who is Kim Yo Jong? Here's what we know about the North Korean 'princess.' (*Washington Post*, 02/08/2018)

In South Korea:
Along fortified Korean border, Olympics bring more VIPs, tourists (*Reuters*, 02/08/2018)
South Korea conservatives planning boycott over North Korea (UPI, 02/07/2018)
What South Koreans Really Think of the Olympic Thaw (NY *Times*, 02/08/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) N.K.'s high-level delegation to fly to S. Korea (*Yonhap*, 02/08/2018)
(LEAD) (Olympics) Two Koreas conduct joint short track training ahead of Olympics (*Yonhap*, 02/08/2018)

(LEAD) Moon to meet N. Korean delegates to PyeongChang on Saturday: Cheong Wa Dae(*Yonhap*, 02/08/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korean art troupe expected to perform popular S. Korean songs (*Yonhap*, 02/08/2018)
(Olympics) N. Korea declines to accept conditional handout of Samsung phone (*Yonhap*, 02/08/2018)
Analysis: As Olympics begin, 2 Koreas navigate an odd moment (*Washington Post*, 02/08/2018)
Diplomacy or mere decorum for Kim Yong Nam-led Olympic delegation? (*Daily* NK, 02/07/2018)
Fragile peace on the Korean peninsula - can it last? (*Daily* NK, 02/07/2018)
Gov't mulls special envoy to North (*Joongang Daily*, 02/08/2018)
In small interactions before Olympics, Korean unity emerges (*Washington Post*, 02/08/2018)
Kim Jong Un's sister to arrive in Incheon airport on Friday: South Korea government (*Reuters*, 02/08/2018)
Moon will meet Kim Yo-jong on Saturday (*Korea Times*, 02/08/2018)
N.K. art troupe charms South Koreans on eve of PyeongChang Olympics (*Yonhap*, 02/08/2018)
North's delegates fly in today on a private plane (*Joongang Daily*, 02/08/2018)
North Korea sends clear message with missile parade on eve of Olympics (CNN, 02/07/2018)
North Korean cheerleaders travel to South Korea ahead of Olympics (*Korea Times*, 02/08/2018)
North Korean delegation, including Kim Jong-un's sister, will lunch with President Moon(*Joongang Daily*, 02/08/2018)
North Korean leader's sister, No. 2 man to arrive in Seoul on chartered flight Friday (*Korea Times*, 02/08/2018)
S. Korea offers drinking water to those aboard N.K. ferry (*Yonhap*, 02/08/2018)
Sea change in Korean relations? Not at this beachside villa (*Reuters*, 02/07/2018)
South Korea says can discuss resuming tourism to the North when nuclear, other conditions met (*Reuters*, 02/08/2018)
South Korea's Moon to Meet Sister of North Korea's Kim (VOA, 02/08/2018)
South Korea's president to host North Korean officials, including Kim Jong Un's sister (*Washington Post*, 02/08/2018)
South Korea's President Moon to meet Kim Jong Un's sister at Olympics (CNN, 02/08/2018)
South Korean Leader to Meet Kim Jong-un's Sister in Highest-Level Contact in Years (NY *Times*, 02/08/2018)
Two Koreas, Split by War, Use Olympics to Make Rare Shows of Unity (NY *Times*, 02/08/2018)
Two sticking points in inter-Korean ties (*Korea Times*, 02/07/2018)
We Need to Go Back'-South Korean Firms Dream of Returning North (NY *Times*, 02/08/2018)

International:
'Protocol headache' for Winter Olympics as Mike Pence and Kim Jong-un's sister arrive (*Guardian*, 02/08/2018)
(2nd LD) N.K. says it has no willingness to meet with U.S. at Olympics (*Yonhap*, 02/08/2018)
(2nd LD) UNSC may permit exemption on N.K. official's visit to South for Winter Olympics: AP(*Yonhap*, 02/08/2018)
(3rd LD) S. Korea says exemptions to N.K. sanctions temporary during Olympics (*Yonhap*, 02/08/2018)
(LEAD) Moon, Pence reaffirm 'maximum pressure' approach to bring N.K. to denuclearization talks (*Yonhap*, 02/08/2018)
(Olympics) Cheering squad of Japan-based pro-Pyongyang body arrives in S. Korea (*Yonhap*, 02/08/2018)

(Olympics) N.K. team, cheering band draw intense coverage at village welcome event (*Yonhap*, 02/08/2018)
(Olympics) N. Korean charm offensive goes operational at PyeongChang Olympics (*Yonhap*, 02/08/2018)
(Yonhap Interview) Dutch PM says exemptions to N.K. sanctions possible if they further intended objective (*Yonhap*, 02/08/2018)
Dangers of a 'bloody nose' (*Joongang Daily*, 02/08/2018)
The reality is that despite the generally successful expansion of sanctions and application of "maximum pressure," the US and SK are very likely to face a NK that continues arming itself with nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities. That will require a joint strategy of containment and deterrence. (Michael Green, *Joongang Daily*)
Experts question whether Yo-jong will meet Pence (*Joongang Daily*, 02/08/2018)
Mattis: N. Korea efforts remain 'firmly in diplomatic lane' (*Yonhap*, 02/08/2018)
Moon, Pence reaffirm strong alliance, joint efforts to denuclearize N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 02/08/2018)
N. Korea's star skaters (*Korea Times*, 02/07/2018)
North scoffs at meetings with Americans in PyeongChang (*Joongang Daily*, 02/08/2018)
North Korea does not intend to meet U.S. officials during Olympics: KCNA (*Reuters*, 02/08/2018)
North Korea says no U.S. talks planned at Olympics, Pence vows continued pressure (*Reuters*, 02/08/2018)
North Korea says it's not interested in meeting US VP Pence (*Washington Post*, 02/08/2018)
North Korean official facing sanctions may get exemption (*Washington Post*, 02/07/2018)
Pence, Moon play down differences over North Korea on eve of Games (CNN, 02/08/2018)
Pence, Returning to Tough Stance on North Korea, Announces New Sanctions (NY *Times*, 02/07/2018)
Pence Counters South Korea's Olympic Engagement Efforts with North Korea (VOA, 02/08/2018)
Pence Pledges Vigilance, Resolve Against North Korea Threats (VOA, 02/08/2018)
Pence pouring cold water on warming ties between 2 Koreas (*Washington Post*, 02/08/2018)
Pence pushes S. Korea toward more hawkish N. Korea policy (*Washington Post*, 02/08/2018)
Pence says U.S. wants peaceful solution to North Korea crisis, but warns not to underestimate U.S. (*Reuters*, 02/08/2018)
Pence steps into a more prominent role on the world stage (*Washington Post*, 02/07/2018)
Prevention is the best medicine (*Joongang Daily*, 02/08/2018)
ROK-US joint drills could be delayed further after Olympics (*Korea Times*, 02/07/2018)
Russia sends North Korean 'slave' labourers home (*Telegraph*, 02/07/2018)
Seoul officials tackle 'protocol headache' as North Korea rules out meeting Mike Pence at Olympics ceremony (*Telegraph*, 02/08/2018)
S. Korea gets flexible with N. Korea sanctions for Olympics (*Washington Post*, 02/08/2018)
South Korea, Canada vow cooperation on North Korea issue, trade (*Korea Times*, 02/07/2018)
South Korea asks U.N. to allow sanctioned North Korea official to attend Olympics (*Reuters*, 02/08/2018)
Tillerson says N. Korea an equal player at PyeongChang Olympics (*Yonhap*, 02/08/2018)
The United States and South Korea now openly disagree on North Korea (*Washington Post*, 02/08/2018)
U.N. chief Guterres: N. Korea-U.S. talks 'absolutely necessary, urgent' (*Yonhap*, 02/08/2018)
US asks Korea to block cryptocurrency theft by North (*Korea Times*, 02/07/2018)
Why, despite America's might, Trump's military parade can't compare to North Korea's (*Washington Post*, 02/08/2018)
With military parade, Kim Jong Un thumbs nose at US (*Washington Post*, 02/08/2018)

In North Korea:

- NK showed off its latest long-range missile during a military parade in Pyongyang on Thurs., a day before the opening of the Winter Olympics in SK. A trailer carrying the Hwasong-15 intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), which NK claims is capable of reaching the mainland US, rolled through Kim Il-sung Square in front of leader KJU, while other weapons on display also included the Hwasong-12 and Hwasong-14 ballistic missiles, various types of artilleries, tanks and armored vehicles. (Lee Chi-dong, Song Sang-ho Dong-woo, *Yonhap*)
- A 2.7-magnitude earthquake occurred near NK's nuclear test site, apparently caused by the communist nation's last nuclear explosion in Sept, SK's state weather agency said Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- As media access to the Moranbong-Samjiyon concert is sharply restricted, broadcast and clips won't be broadcast until Fri. However, the following is a line-up of songs they performed so that readers can make their own Moranbong-Samjiyon concert at home. (Yoonjung Seo, *Washington Post*)
- As sanctions feed public disillusionment and KJU battles a growing resentment within the military, cracks may be appearing in the N.Korean leader's footing, as the head of the N.Korean army's politburo has been purged and three other senior officers have been either removed from office and are undergoing "re-revolutionisation education." Analysts suggest that such a wide-ranging clear-out of its top ranks could harden the army's resistance to Kim's leadership. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- Troops, missiles and tanks rolled into NK's historic Kim Il Sung Square Thurs. in a highly anticipated parade of military might on the eve of SK's Winter Olympics. (Joshua Berlinger, CNN)
- A military parade in Pyongyang on Thurs. offered a rare glimpse into KJU's inner circles in the military and party, with high-ranking officials flanking the N.Korean leader on the podium. (*Yonhap*)
- NK appears to have staged a military parade in Pyongyang on Thurs. to mark the founding day of its armed forces, the day before the Winter Olympics begin in SK, a government source here said. (*Yonhap*)
- NK is set to hold a military parade to mark the 70th anniversary of its armed forces' foundation Thurs., one day before the PyeongChang Winter Olympics' opening. (*Yonhap*)
- NK staged a military parade in Pyongyang Thurs. to mark the founding day of its armed forces, a government source in SK said. (Jung Min-ho, Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- This year's military parade in NK, which consisted of the traditional goose-steeping and show of heavy weapons, was held on Thurs. and was reportedly smaller than recent years. Rather than a live broadcast of the event, delayed and unscheduled footage of the event only appeared on NK state TV at 8:30 GMT, with the footage showing KJU inspecting troops, alongside his wife Ri Sol-ju. (BBC)
- NK staged a military parade in Pyongyang Thurs., one day before the opening ceremonies of the Winter Olympics in rival SK. (VOA)
- NK's military parade on Thurs. took place without live state broadcasts of the event, but no one outside the regime could confirm why Pyongyang never aired live footage of the military procession on state television. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- As NK prepares traditional snack packages for children in celebration of Kim Jong Il's birthday on Feb. 16, sources in Ryanggang Province has revealed that the authorities are

demanding local residents provide the ingredients needed to manufacture these snacks. (Kang Mi Jin, *Daily NK*)

- NK held a military parade Thurs. on the eve of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics to mark its 70th army founding day, but S.Korean military officials thought the regime made efforts to keep it low-key—and no new weapons were rolled out. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Daily*)
- The easing of tensions that has come with détente between NK and SK may hit a bump in the road on Thurs., when Pyongyang holds a large-scale military parade. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- KJU's younger sister, Kim Yo Jong, will be coming to the PyeongChang Winter Olympics on Fri., making her the first member of the ruling Kim family to ever cross into SK. Although we know very little about Kim Yo Jong, in this article from the *Washington Post*, Anna Fifield discusses what we do know about N.Korean leader KJU's younger sister. (Anna Fifield, *Washington Post*)

In South Korea:

- S.Korean tour operators say tours of the JSA and DMZ are up to 20 to 30 percent above average for this icy time of year, a spike they attribute to the surge of Olympic visitors and the thaw in tensions. (Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- SK's political opposition is objecting to the rapidly evolving détente between Seoul and Pyongyang and could stage a boycott on Thurs. ahead of the first performance of NK's Samjiyon Orchestra. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- In this NY *Times* article, 700 readers give their perspectives (in both Korean and English; all responses translated, condensed and edited by the *Times* for clarity) on their view of thaw of inter-Korean relations and how it is affected their ambitions to host and successfully compete in the Olympics. (Kelly Virella, *NY Times*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- NK will send its high-level delegation by plane to SK this week for the PyeongChang Winter Olympics, Seoul's unification ministry said Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- Short track speed skaters from the two Koreas conducted joint training on Thurs. at Gangneung Ice Arena, the first time the athletes have warmed up together. (Kang Yoon-seung, *Yonhap*)
- S.Korean President Moon will meet N.Korean government delegates to the PyeongChang Olympic Games this week, his office Cheong Wa Dae said Thurs., highlighting the recent rapprochement between the two Koreas facilitated by NK's participation in the Winter Olympic Games. (*Yonhap*)
- Popular S.Korean songs are said to be included in the set list for a N.Korean art troupe's performance in SK on Thurs. in celebration of the PyeongChang Winter Games. (*Yonhap*)
- N.Korean athletes participating in the PyeongChang Winter Olympics declined to accept Samsung smartphones, which were offered under condition of returning them after the competition, a source said Thurs. (Kang Yoon-seung, *Yonhap*)
- Two of The Associated Press' top Koreas journalists — Seoul bureau chief Foster Klug and Pyongyang bureau chief Eric Talmadge — are in Pyeongchang to cover the political maneuverings around the Olympics. On Thurs. evening, they sat at a table across from each

other and considered how the Olympics-related political maneuverings are playing in their areas of responsibility. (Foster Klug, Eric Talmadge, AP)

- NK has announced that Kim Yong Nam, President of the Supreme People's Assembly, will lead a high-level delegation set to attend the Feb. 9 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics opening ceremony. While Kim is officially the country's second-most powerful figure behind KJU, it is widely believed that he wields less power than Vice Chairman of the Workers' Party Choe Ryong Hae and KJU's younger sister Kim Yo Jong, for example, and has little influence over the country's politics. (Ha Yoon Ah, *Daily NK*)
- Tensions on the Korean peninsula have simmered in the midst of a flurry of diplomatic engagement after NK accepted a S.Korean government invitation to participate in the Pyeongchang Winter Olympic Games, which begin this week. However, despite the improvements, the possibility remains that the NK could engage in further provocative behavior. (Ha Yoon Ah, *Daily NK*)
- The Blue House is considering possibly dispatching a special envoy to NK if Pyongyang sends a letter from N.Korean leader KJU through its delegation for the PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games, a senior presidential aide told the *JoongAng Ilbo* on Wed. (Wi Moon-hee, *Joongang Daily*)
- A selfie taken by smiling N.Korean and S.Korean skaters and posted on Instagram illustrates yet another moment of reconciliation between the rivals, whose decades-long animosities could easily erupt again after the Pyeongchang Olympics. (Hyung-Jin Kim, AP)
- The sister of N.Korean leader KJU will arrive at Incheon International Airport on Fri. afternoon, becoming the first member of NK's ruling family to visit SK since the end of the Korean War, the government in Seoul said. (Reuters Staff, *Reuters*)
- Moon will have talks with N.Korean leader KJU's sister, Kim Yo-jong, and other high-level N.Korean delegates Sat. on the sidelines of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- A N.Korean art troupe staged a rare performance in front of hundreds of S.Koreans on Thurs. night to celebrate the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (Woo Jae-yeon, Joint Press Corps, *Yonhap*)
- The high-level delegation coming from NK, including KJU's younger sister, will take a private plane today from Pyongyang to Incheon International Airport and arrive at 1:30 p.m. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Daily*)
- NK is expected to put on a show to rival SK's Olympic spectacle when it parades hundreds of missiles through the streets of Pyongyang Thurs., despite the arrival of hundreds of N.Koreans in SK to take part in the 2018 PyeongChang Games, billed as the "Peace Olympics." (Joshua Berlinger, CNN)
- Hundreds of N.Korean female cheerleaders arrived SK on Wed. for a trip that will mark their first appearance in 13 years at an international sports event hosted by SK. (*Korea Times*)
- The high-level delegation coming from NK, including KJU's younger sister, will take a private plane tomorrow from Pyongyang to Incheon International Airport and arrive at 1:30 p.m., the South's Unification Ministry announced Thurs. After participating in the PyeongChang Winter Olympics opening ceremony Fri. night, the delegation will have a lunch with Moon on Sat., said the Blue House. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Daily*)
- NK's high-level delegation, including KJU's younger sister and the regime's No.2 man Kim Yong-nam will arrive in SK on a chartered flight on Fri., Seoul's unification ministry said. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- SK has provided drinking water to those aboard the N.Korean ship that carried NK's art troupe to SK earlier this week, a Seoul official said Thurs. (*Yonhap*)

- Local officials of Gosong County in SK, proposed that Seoul invite a visiting N.Korean Olympics delegations to pay a visit to a villa this month as a gesture of peace. Built in the 1930s, the villa was used as a coastal getaway before the outbreak of the Korean war in 1950 by N.Korean leader Kim Jong Un's grandfather and father who both spent holidays there with the families of Soviet commanders. It is now in SK as a result of the war and is a tourist attraction of Goseong County. (James Pearson, Hyunjoo Jin, *Reuters*)
- SK's unification ministry said on Thurs. it would be open to discuss resuming tours to NK's Mt Kumgang once the security of tourists was guaranteed and conditions relating to NK's nuclear program are met. (Reuters Staff, *Reuters*)
- S.Korean President Moon plans to meet N.Korean leader KJU's sister and other senior N.Korean officials who are coming to SK on Fri. for the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang. (AP)
- S.Korean President Moon will meet N.Korean leader KJU's sister on Sat., following the opening of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics and amid a growing detente between the estranged neighbors.
  (Anna Fifield, *Washington Post*)
- S.Korean President Moon will lunch with the sister of N.Korean leader KJU when he meets NK's Olympic delegation on Sat., his spokesman announced. (Will Ripley, James Griffiths, Sophie Jeong, CNN)
- In the highest-level contact between the two Koreas in years, President Moon of SK plans to meet Sat. with the sister of the N.Korean leader, KJU, and the North's nominal head of state, officials said on Thurs. (Choe Sang-hun, *NY Times*)
  For years, the rival Koreas used the Games to showcase their competing claims to represent the Korean people, and try to one up each other. More recently, however, NK and SK have come to see international sporting events as a chance to defuse tensions, including the current standoff over NK's nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs. They have also learned to use Olympic diplomacy to achieve in a small, symbolic way a much bigger goal that eludes them in the real world: a show of unity across the divided Korean Peninsula. Choe Sang-hun, *NY Times*)
- The key to any progress on Korea has always been to first address sanctions and military exercises. Now that KJU has begun to talk with his S.Korean counterpart, Moon must decide how much he wants to impact SK-NK relations. If he wants to have some real impact on the peninsula's security and economic development, then he will have to confront and squarely address the two sticking points. (Stephen Costello, *Korea Times*)
- The Kaesong complex, funded by S.Korean firms and manned by workers from NK, shut in 2016 after SK accused NK of taking workers' wages to fund its arms programme. But now SK is in the mood to re-engage with its old enemy, using its first Winter Olympics this month to attempt a thaw in relations—giving former investors in Kaesong some hope that the industrial park can be revived. (*Reuters*)

International:

- US and senior N.Korean officials say they have no intention of meeting each other at the Winter Olympics – even though vice-president Mike Pence and KJU's younger sister will be seated just metres apart at the opening ceremony. Fri.'s VIP seating arrangements are seen as a "protocol headache" for the S.Korean hosts, who have been pushing for the Games in Pyeongchang to be known as a "peace Olympics". (Daniel Hurst, *Guardian*)

- NK's high-level delegation for the PyeongChang Winter Olympics has no willingness to meet with its US counterpart when it travels to SK this week, the North's state media said Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- The head of the U.N. committee monitoring sanctions on NK has proposed permitting a blacklisted N.Korean official to visit SK to attend the upcoming PyeongChang Winter Olympics, the Associated Press reported Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- Exemptions to global sanctions imposed on NK will be temporary and only during the PyeongChang Winter Olympics, the foreign ministry said Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- S.Korean President Moon and US Vice President Mike Pence on Thurs. reasserted the "stronger than ever" alliance between the two countries and their unity in bringing NK to denuclearization talks through "maximum pressure." (*Yonhap*)
- A cheering group from a pro-Pyongyang organization in Japan arrived in SK on Thurs. to support the Olympic teams of SK and NK in the PyeongChang Winter Games. (*Yonhap*)
- A welcome event for NK's Olympic team was held Thurs. at the athlete's village for the PyeongChang Winter Olympics, one day before the opening of the first Winter Games in SK. (Chang Dong-woo, *Yonhap*)
- Many came to get a glimpse of the closely guarded athletes of the N.Korean Olympic team. What they got instead was their first taste of NK's charm offensive at the imminent Winter Games as an all-female N.Korean cheerleader contingent that arrived in SK for the Games Olympics officially launched its charm offensive campaign Thurs., performing in front of the international media at Gangneung Olympic Village (Chang Dong-woo, *Yonhap*)
- Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said Thurs. that exemptions to UUN Security Council sanctions on NK would be possible if they help further the resolutions' intended objective. (Koh Byung-joon, *Yonhap*)
- Chinese FM hopes two Koreas can open door to peace (*Korea Times*, 02/08/2018)
  China's foreign minister Wang Yi said on Thurs. Beijing hopes NK and SK can keep the momentum of interaction going and gradually open the door to peace on the peninsula. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- Washington has not openly objected to Kim Yo-jong, a member of the N.Korean dynasty, attending the PyeongChang Winter Olympics, but experts are divided as to whether it suggests a possibility of high-level dialogue between N.Korean and US officials. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)
- US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Wed. that efforts to denuclearize NK remain "firmly in the diplomatic lane," with military options as a backup. (*Yonhap*)
- S.Korean President Moon reaffirmed his commitment to the alliance with the US as the pillar for denuclearizing NK during his meeting with US Vice President Mike Pence on Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- The N.Korean figure skating pair of Ryom Tae-ok and Kim Ju-sik, who arrived in SK last week as part of their country's Olympic delegation, are emerging as the stars of PyeongChang 2018, even though they are unlikely to medal in the Games. (Do Je-hae, *Korea Times*)
- NK said Thurs. it has no intention to engage in talks with the US on the sidelines of the Winter Olympics as Moon started an aggressive diplomatic campaign to broker dialogue between Pyongyang and Washington. (Ser Myo-ja, *Joongang Daily*)
- NK has no intention of meeting US officials during the Winter Olympics that begin on Fri., the official KCNA news agency quoted a senior N.Korean official as saying. (Hyonhee Shin, Christine Kim, *Reuters*)

- NK has no intention of meeting US officials during the Winter Olympics that start in SK on Fri., state media said, dampening hopes the Games will help resolve a tense standoff over NK's nuclear weapons program. (Christine Kim, Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)
- NK says it is not interested in meeting US Vice President Mike Pence while he is in SK for the Pyeongchang Olympics. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- The head of the UN committee monitoring sanctions against NK on Wed. proposed granting an exemption for a senior official from Pyongyang to attend the Winter Olympics in SK with his country's high-level delegation though he is subject to a travel ban and asset freeze. (Edith M. Lederer, AP)
- Vice President Mike Pence on Thurs. sought to tamp down SK's conciliatory stance toward NK on the eve of the Olympic Games but papered over differences between the two allies on their approach toward Pyongyang. (Elise Labott, CNN)
- Vice President Mike Pence, dispatched to Asia to blunt a N.Korean charm offensive at SK's Olympic Games, said Wed. that the US planned to levy the toughest sanctions yet on NK over its nuclear and missile programs. (Mark Landler, *NY Times*)
- U.S. Vice President Mike Pence assured SK the US will stand shoulder to shoulder with its allies to bring "maximum pressure" on NK to end its nuclear and ballistic missile program. (Brian Padden, Steve Herman, VOA)
- Vice President Mike Pence said Thurs. the US will act with "vigilance and resolve" in the face of NK's nuclear and ballistic missile threats, and he reiterated the Trump administration's warning that while it seeks peace, "all options are on the table." (Steve Herman, VOA)
- US Vice President Mike Pence is pouring cold water on the warming ties between NK and SK just as the two still-warring countries are joining up to compete together in the Winter Olympics. (Zeke Miller, AP)
- US Vice President Mike Pence is pushing SK to adopt a more hawkish stance toward NK, as he arrived in the country Thurs. ahead of the Winter Olympics. (Zeke Miller, AP)
- US Vice President Mike Pence said on Thurs. the US wants to peacefully dismantle NK's nuclear program but warned Pyongyang not to underestimate US military strength or resolve. (Reuters Staff, *Reuters*)
- During his first year in President Trump's administration, Pence primarily took on a behind-the-scenes, supporting role. But now, the vice president is taking a more prominent posture, at home and abroad, and is using this Asia trip to help drive the administration's hard-line policy on NK. (Ashley Parker, *Washington Post*)
- Cyberattackers such as NK may have already infiltrated their targeted systems, allowing them to possibly access government or corporate networks and steal datasets. Government and business networks that could be targets for NK must implement a system to trace and monitor attackers preemptively. (Chun Soo-hong, *Joongang Daily*)
- Speculation is growing that joint military drills between SK and the US could face further delays after the Olympics to extend the ongoing inter-Korean peace momentum (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- Russia has begun sending home thousands of N.Korean labourers who have worked in "slave-like" conditions to fund KJU's regime. (Alec Luhn, *Telegraph*)
- NK has no intention of meeting US officials during the Winter Olympics that start on Fri., the KCNA news agency reported, presenting a "protocol headache" for those planning seating arrangements for the opening ceremony. (Telegraph Foreign Staff, *Telegraph*)
- The international community has been imposing tougher sanctions designed to punish NK's economy in an effort to rein in its nuclear program. But SK has been flexible with these rules as it accommodates the N.Koreans to the Pyeongchang Games as a result of its desire to

show the Olympic spirit as it welcomes hundreds of N.Koreans for the Winter Games. (Kim Tong-Hyung, Youkyung Lee, AP)

- Moon expressed gratitude to Canadian Governor General Julie Payette for supporting SK's efforts to peacefully resolve the issues of NK's nuclear and missile programs, Cheong Wa Dae said Wed. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- SK asked the United Nations on Wed. for an exemption to allow a sanctioned N.Korean official to attend the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics on Fri. with N.Korean leader KJU's younger sister Kim Yo Jong. (Michelle Nichols, *Reuters*)
- NK will be participating in the Winter Olympics as an equal player, not to win concessions from the S.Korean government, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has said. (*Yonhap*)
- The behind-the-scenes break between Washington and Seoul over NK has now spilled into public view. One day ahead of the Winter Olympics Opening Ceremonies, the two governments are sending out contradictory messages about whether the Games are the beginning or the end of engagement with Pyongyang. (Josh Rogin, *Washington Post*)
- United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Thurs. dialogue between NK and the US is "absolutely necessary" and "urgent" to fend off any possibility of tensions escalating into a sudden crisis on the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- A senior US government official asked SK's financial authorities to take measures to block attempts by NK to steal crypto-assets, sources as the Financial Services Commission (FSC) said. (Kim Yoo-chul, *Korea Times*)
- The problem with US President Donald Trump's desired military parade is that an American military parade will not really compete well with classic examples seen around the world, such as parades in China, Russia and NK. NK had another parade Wed., with all of the pomp and circumstance that we've come to expect from such affairs. (Philip Bump, *Washington Post*)
- N.Korean leader KJU presided over an extravagant military parade in Pyongyang's Kim Il Sung Square on Thurs., grabbing the spotlight on the eve of the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics in SK to thumb his nose at Washington while making a point of showing off his new-found restraint toward Seoul. (Eric Talmadge, AP)

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, HRNK Research Intern

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Friday, February 9, 2018

Haley: UN Committee 'Steamrolled by Countries With Terrible Human Rights Records'; What S.K. and the U.S. Need To Understand About N.K.; Pence Avoids 'Interaction' with N.K. Officials at Olympics

Top News:
Haley: UN Committee 'Steamrolled by Countries With Terrible Human Rights Records' (CNS, 02/07/2018)
What South Korea And The US Need To Understand About North Korea (*Task&Purpose*, 02/08/2018)

In North Korea:
Ideological purity demanded for embedded agents in Olympic group, but bribes remain key factor (*Daily*NK, 02/09/2018)
Kim Jong Un sees propaganda opportunity in sending sister to Olympics (*Daily*NK, 02/09/2018)
Kim Jong-un's new model farms (*nkeconwatch*, 02/08/2018)
N. Korea says won't beg for talks with US (*Korea Times*, 02/09/2018)
North Korea got what it wanted from the Winter Olympics (BBC, 02/09/2018)
North Korea sends message with symbolic red outfits for Olympic orchestra (*Daily*NK, 02/09/2018)
North's parade seating decoded (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/09/2018)
State companies irked by Kim Jong Un order to find foreign investors amid 'Peace Olympics' (*Daily*NK, 02/09/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) Moon makes first encounter with N. Korean leader's sister (*Yonhap*, 02/09/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea completes consultation with int'l community over fuel supply to N.K. ship (*Yonhap*, 02/09/2018)
(2nd LD) Chief delegates of U.S., N. Korea meet briefly at Olympic reception (*Yonhap*, 02/09/2018)
(2nd LD) Pence meets defectors to underscore brutality of North Korean regime (*Yonhap*, 02/09/2018)
(3rd LD) Pence avoids encountering N.K. nominal head of state (*Yonhap*, 02/09/2018)
After the Olympics, the real games with North Korea begin (*Washington Post*, 02/09/2018)
Art troupe leader likely to emerge as key player in N.K. charm offensive (*Yonhap*, 02/09/2018)
As North Koreans arrive at Olympics, Pence points to defectors to counter regime (CNN, 02/09/2018)
At Olympic Games, Kim Jong Un's sister takes VIP seat (*Washington Post*, 02/09/2018)
Awkward diplomacy on show as 'peace' Games begin (*Reuters*, 02/09/2018)
Japan Wants to Avert New 'Comfort Women' Controversy (VOA, 02/09/2018)
Kim's Sister, North Korean Delegation Arrive for Olympics (VOA, 02/09/2018)
Kim Jong-un's sister in South for historic 3-day trip (*Korea Times*, 02/09/2018)
Mike Pence avoids North Korean official at Olympic reception (UPI, 02/09/2018)
Moon fails to bring Pence, Kim together at reception (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/09/2018)
N.K. leader's sister sits among world leaders at Olympic opening ceremony (*Yonhap*, 02/09/2018)
Olympics Open With Koreas Marchng Together, Offering Hope for Peace (NYT, 02/09/2018)
Opposition party urges gov't to be wary of N. Korea's intentions (*Yonhap*, 02/09/2018)
Pence avoids Olympics encounter with North Korean official as Korean athletes march together (*Reuters*, 02/09/2018)
Pence Avoids 'Interaction' with North Korean Officials at Olympics (VOA, 02/09/2018)
Pence condemns NK brutality in meeting with defectors (*Korea Times*, 02/09/2018)
Pence, Kim Jong Un's sister sat feet away from each other at Games' opening ceremony (CNN, 02/09/2018)
Pence skips Olympics dinner in snub to North Korean officials (*Guardian*, 02/09/2018)
Pence, Warmbier's father meet with North Korean defectors (UPI, 02/09/2018)
Pyeongchang Winter Olympics open with theme of peace (UPI, 02/09/2018)

Ruling party calls for effective use of Olympics to promote peace with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 02/09/2018)
Samjiyon Orchestra woos audience with gala performance (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/09/2018)
Visitors React to 'Peace Games' on Olympics Opening Day (VOA, 02/09/2018)
Winter Games Highlight Different Strategies on North Korea for US, South Korea (RFA, 02/09/2018)
Winter Olympics begin with powerful message of peace (*Guardian*, 02/09/2018)
With Extraordinary Political Optics, Winter Olympics Begin (VOA, 02/09/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) N. Korea's high-level Olympic delegation arrives in S. Korea (*Yonhap*, 02/09/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korean leader's sister highlights 'charm offensive' (*Yonhap*, 02/09/2018)
(2nd LD) N.Korea rescinds fuel request for ferry (*Yonhap*, 02/09/2018)
(2nd LD) N.K. leader's sister embarks on peace offensive on rare trip to S. Korea (*Yonhap*, 02/09/2018)
A cornerstone for peace (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/09/2018)
A military parade nevertheless (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/09/2018)
Avoiding a trap (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/09/2018)
Foreign Ministry Issues Statement about DPRK-US Interaction at Pyeongchang Olympics (*38 North*, 02/09/2018)
'Good chance' South Korean President will be invited to North Korea (CNN, 02/09/2018)
Koreas Share Historic Handshake at Opympic Opening Ceremony (NYT, 02/09/2018)
N. Korean cheering squad chants slogans symbolic of unification (*Yonhap*, 02/09/2018)
Questions over lasting effect of 'Peace Olympics' on Korean Peninsula (*DailyNK*, 02/09/2018)
This selfie of North and South Korean athletes is one for the ages (CNN, 02/09/2018)
Younger sister of North Korea's leader flies into South (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/09/2018)
Winter Olympics opening ceremony sees historic handshake (CNN, 02/09/2018)

International:
(LEAD) German president calls for dialogue, pressure to build peace with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 02/09/2018)
(LEAD) U.N. clears N.K. official's visit to S. Korea (*Yonhap*, 02/09/2018)
Chinese FM hopes two Koreas can open door to peace (*Korea Times*, 02/08/2018)
Former U.S. ambassador calls for U.S. to open dialogue with N.K. after Olympics (*Yonhap*, 02/09/2018)
Olympic phone snub angers Iran (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/09/2018)
Pence's Olympic mission — rebuff North Korea's propaganda (*Washington Post*, 02/09/2018)
Pence still open to meeting with N. Koreans (*Yonhap*, 02/09/2018)
Pence uses Olympics to push tougher stance on N. Korea (*Washington Post*, 02/09/2018)
State Dept: No One Drives a Wedge Between US, South Korea (VOA, 02/08/2018)
The Latest: UN chief urges denuclearization to North Korea (*Washington Post*, 02/09/2018)
Trump again cites N. Korean defector story (*Yonhap*, 02/09/2018)
UN chief: North Korea-US talks 'absolutely necessary, urgent' (*Korea Times*, 02/08/2018)
UN Permits North Korean Officials to Visit South Korea (VOA, 02/09/2018)

]Top News:

- Haley criticized the UN NGO Committee's rejection of HRNK's recent application to obtain "consultative status" at the UN, saying HRNK has a long track record of success and demonstrated that they would add value to the U.N. system. (Patrick Goodenough, *CNS*)
- HRNK author Robert Collins discusses what the ROK and the U.S. need to understand in order to deal with N.K. successfully; the collapse of Kim regime takes a lot more than the death of KJU. (Robert Collins, *Task&Purpose*)

In North Korea:

- Curiosity is growing over the presence of N.K. state security agents embedded within the groups of athletes and supporting staff visiting S.K. this month. (Kang Mi Jin, *DailyNK*)
- KJU's younger sister would be visiting the Pyeongchang Olympics as part of the planned high-level delegation, and analysts are calling the move an overt sign that the North is planning to use the occasion for propaganda purposes. (Ha Yoon Ah; Jang Seul Gi, *DailyNK*)
- The most recent issue of Kumsugangsan highlighted the renovation work of Poman-ri. A satellite imagery indicates that there was a new health complex built, new apartment buildings constructed, and a school appears to have been renovated. (*nkeconwatch*)
- N.K. is not interested in talks with the US during the Winter Olympics that kicks off Friday in PyeongChang, S.K., a ranking North Korean diplomat said Wednesday. (Choi Ha-young, *Korea Times*)
- The Pyeongchang 2018 Winter Olympics is getting underway and already the state of relations between two Koreas is dominating the narrative about the Games. That in itself is a small victory for Pyongyang. (*BBC*)
- An image of the country's art troupe and Samjiyon Orchestra lining up to board a train on their way to S.K. shows the black scarves and long red coats worn by the group, which has invoked comparisons to attire worn by communist armies. (Seol Song Ah, *DailyNK*)
- The seating of a high podium at Kim Il Sung Square, when N.K.'s military held a sprawling parade to celebrate its 70th army founding day, showed several changes in the rise and fall of KJU's inner orbit. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- To ease sanctions and attain recognition as a normal member of the global community, N.K. has recently ordered high-level organs to use the Olympics as a basis to identify foreign investors and establish new foreign currency-earning operations. (Kang Mi Jin, *DailyNK*)

In South Korea:

- S.K. President Moon briefly encountered N.K. leader KJU's sister on Friday at the opening of the Winter Olympic Games in PyeongChang. (*Yonhap*)
- S.K. has completed its consultation with the international community over whether to provide fuel to a N.K. ship that carried its art troupe earlier this week. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. Vice President Mike Pence briefly encountered N.K.'s ceremonial head of state, Kim Yong-nam, Friday at a reception dinner hosted by S.K. President Moon ahead of the opening of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. Vice President Mike Pence on Friday met a group of N.K. defectors in an apparent effort to highlight the brutality of the repressive regime and abject human rights conditions in the reclusive state. (*Yonhap*)

- U.S. Vice President Mike Pence avoided encountering N.K.'s ceremonial leader Kim Young-nam during a reception dinner ahead of the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics, underscoring chilly relations between Washington and Pyongyang. (*Yonhap*)
- While Pence has been trying to beat back N.K.'s charm offensive while working to repair the break between the U.S. government and S.K., that challenge is set to intensify when the Olympics end. (Josh Rogin, *Washington Post*)
- As a N.K. art troupe staged a performance on Thursday, receiving favorable responses from S.K. audiences, the spotlight is now being shifted to Hyon Song-wol, who has been behind all the related preparations and planning. (*Yonhap*)
- As S.K. President Moon prepared to host the N.K. delegation, including KJU's sister Kim Yo Jong, Pence and his wife met with four N.K. defectors who shared heartbreaking stories of famine, torture and hardship. (Elise Labott, CNN)
- KJU's younger sister took her place among dignitaries from around the world, including U.S. Vice President Mike Pence, at the opening ceremony of the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics on Friday in an unprecedented visit to S.K. (AP)
- The Winter Olympics sparked to life in a vivid, colorful ceremony of fire and ice in S.K. on Friday, though the diplomacy was tougher to choreograph in the stadium where leaders from nations that are sworn enemies sat close together. (James Pearson, Hyunjoo Jin, *Reuters*)
- Moon met with Abe on Friday to discuss renewed criticism of the "comfort women" agreement, which aimed to settle grievances for atrocities committed during World War II. Abe is in S.K. to attend the opening ceremony of the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- The sister of KJU became the first member of her family to visit S.K. since the 1950-53 Korean War as part of a high-level delegation attending the opening ceremony of the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics. (AP)
- A private jet carrying N.K.'s high-level delegates for the PyeongChang Winter Olympics, including leader KJU's younger sister and the reclusive state's nominal president Kim Young-nam, landed Friday in S.K. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- U.S. Vice President Mike Pence avoided encountering North Korea's ceremonial leader Kim Yong Nam during a reception dinner ahead of the opening ceremony of the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, underscoring chilly relations between N.K. and U.S. (UPI)
- President Moon's ambitious attempt to stage an encounter between top leaders of N.K. and the U.S. on the sidelines of the Winter Olympics fell through Friday after U.S. Vice President Mike Pence walked out of an event. (Ser Myo-ja, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- KJU's younger sister sat among world leaders, including those from the U.S. and Japan, during the opening ceremony of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics on Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- The opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics unfurled in frigid temperatures and high spirits on Friday, as athletes from two Koreas marched into the stadium together. (Motoko Rich, NYT)
- The main opposition Liberty Korea Party stepped up accusations Friday that N.K. is attempting to blunt international sanctions with its peace overtures, as a high-level delegation from Pyongyang, including KJU's sister, began an unprecedented trip to the South. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. Vice President Mike Pence made only a brief appearance at a reception marking the start of the Winter Olympics on Friday, avoiding a potentially awkward encounter with the ceremonial leader of N.K. attending the same event (Christine Kim, Hyunjoo Jin, *Reuters*)

- U.S. Vice President Mike Pence, the leader of S.K., and top representatives from N.K. shared a VIP box at Friday's opening of the 2018 Winter Olympics, although Pence avoided interaction with the N.K. officials. (Steve Herman, VOA)
- U.S. Vice President Mike Pence denounced the oppressive state of N.K. in a meeting with four N.K. defectors, Friday, on his visit to S.K. for the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- U.S. Vice President Mike Pence, who has been vocal in his criticism of N.K. in the run-up to the Games, sat in close proximity to the sister of KJU at the opening ceremony of the PyeongChang Games. (Saeed Ahmed and Jake Tapper, CNN)
- Pence has skipped a dinner before the Winter Olympics opening ceremony, where he was expected to share a table with N.K.'s head of state, in a sign of Washington's intention to snub Pyongyang's officials at the Games. (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)
- U.S. Vice President Mike Pence met with N.K. defectors-- accompanied by the father of Otto Warmbier, an American who died after his release from captivity there last year. (Sara Shayanian, UPI)
- The 2018 Winter Olympic Games in Pyeongchang started Friday with a theme of peace, as nations from around the world were introduced in a grand opening ceremony that kicked off the peninsula's first Olympics in 30 years. (Susan McFarland, UPI)
- The ruling Democratic Party called for using the PyeongChang Winter Olympics as effectively as possible to promote peace with N.K. as a high-level delegation from the communist nation, including KJU's sister, was due in the South on Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- After days of wrangling with Seoul over its playlist, N.K.'s Samjiyon Orchestra held the first of two planned concerts in S.K. on Thursday night at the Gangneung Arts Center in Gangwon, assuaging local jitters that it might blast propaganda music. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- A sense of détente, at least for the time being, prevailed in and around the Pyeongchang Olympic Stadium Friday as the Winter Games opened in a ceremony where N.K. and S.K. Korean athletes marched under a unified flag. (Bruce Harrison, VOA)
- On the eve of the Winter Olympics, U.S. and S.K. vowed to work in tandem towards denuclearization of N.K., but delivered messages suggesting very different approaches in dealing with the threat of N.K. and its weapons development program. (Joshua Lipes, RFA)
- Opening ceremony full of symbolism brings strong emotions in Pyeongchang, and an even more important gesture was taking place in the stands, with Moon turning round to shake hands with N.K. delegates Kim Yong-nam and Kim Yo-jong. (Sean Ingle, *Guardian*)
- In an extraordinary show of unexpected unity, N.K. and S.K. sat side by side under exploding fireworks that represented peace, not destruction, as the 2018 Winter Olympics opened on a Korean Peninsula riven by generations of anger and suspicion. (AP)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The powerful sister of KJU and other senior officials arrived in S.K. on Friday for the opening of the PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games and a meeting with President Moon. (*Yonhap*)
- The influential sister of N.K. leader KJU on Friday stepped into the spotlight at the Winter Olympics taking place in S.K., becoming the first member of N.K.'s ruling dynasty to cross the border since the 1950-53 Korean War. (*Yonhap*)
- A N.K. ship, which carried its art troupe to the South, will return home over the weekend without Seoul's fuel supply. (*Yonhap*)

- Kim Yo-jong, the younger sister of KJU, made a rare visit to S.K. Friday, drawing attention to what message she would bring from her brother over inter-Korean ties. (*Yonhap*)
- As all eyes are on the 23rd Olympic Winter Games and 12th Paralympic Winter Games in Pyeongchang this February, sports diplomacy may lower tensions on the Korean Peninsula itself. (Shamshad Akhtar, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- N.K. held a massive military parade to celebrate the founding of its armed forces on the eve of the opening of the Winter Olympics. With the event, N.K. threw cold water on S.K.'s expectation for a peaceful Olympics. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- Holding an inter-Korean summit could be important for peace. But S.K. must be careful not to be tricked. Pence on Friday toured the Cheonan warship destroyed in a N.K. attack and talked with N.K. defectors. The government must read his message. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- DPRK Ministry of Foreign Affairs Department Director-General Jo Yong Sam issued a statement about potential interactions between US government officials and the DPRK's high-level delegation on the sidelines of the opening ceremonies of the Winter Olympics (*38 North*)
- There is a "good chance" Kim Yo Jong, the sister of N.K. leader KJU, will invite S.K. President Moon to visit Pyongyang "sometime this year." (CNN)
- As Moon and his wife greeted VIPs in their dignitary vox to watch the opening ceremony, they turned to shake hands with KJU's sister. (AP)
- An hour before the opening ceremony of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics, a group of N.K. cheerleaders drew the attention of S.K. spectators with a short yet impactful chant: "We are one." (*Yonhap*)
- Despite the appearance of peace surrounding N.K.'s participation in the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, the war of nerves with the U.S. continues. (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)
- The selfie of N.K. and S.K. athletes shows the two country's athletes sporting identical blue hats and white coats, emblazoned with a Korean unification badge, similar to the Korean unification flag they marched in under. (Doug Criss, CNN)
- Kim Yo-jong, the younger sister of KJU, landed in S.K. Friday afternoon as a member of a high-level delegation to the Winter Olympic Games. (Ser Myo-ja, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- In a ceremony infused with themes of peace and harmony, S.K. President Moon twice shook hands with the sister of KJU. US Vice President Mike Pence, sitting a few seats away, looked stony faced as the extraordinary scenes unfolded. (James Masters and Aimee Lewis, CNN)

International:

- German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier said Friday that dialogue is the only way to ease tensions and seek peace and reunification between the two Koreas. (*Yonhap*)
- A UN committee on Thursday cleared a blacklisted N.K. official to visit S.K. for the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- China's foreign minister Wang Yi said on Thursday Beijing hopes two Koreas can keep the momentum of interaction going and gradually open the door to peace on the peninsula. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- Former U.S. Ambassador to S.K. Alexander Vershbow has called on Washington to smartly cope with N.K.'s charm offensive and open its door for denuclearization talks beyond the PyeongChang Olympic Games. (*Yonhap*)

- Iran has rejected the IOC's decision to allow its athletes to take away the Olympic edition of the Samsung Galaxy Note8, the latest escalation in a diplomatic row over the IOC's earlier decision to block the Iranian team from receiving the limited edition phone. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- Nearly every one of Pence's actions during his five-day trip to Japan and S.K. this week — his public declarations, private murmurings and scripted meetings and visits — have been aimed at combating N.K.'s shiny propaganda with gritty talk of his own. (*Washington Post*)
- U.S. Vice President Mike Pence said Thursday he would be open to meeting with N.K. officials in S.K., although he would have to "wait and see." (*Yonhap*)
- After meetings with Moon and Abe, Pence said there should be no consideration of using the Games as an opening for substantive talks with the North until its nuclear program is up for negotiations. (Zeke Miller, AP)
- With the launch of the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, S.K., State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert is dismissing any concerns that U.S. efforts to counter N.K.'s "charm offensive" could create a rift with S.K. (Cindy Saine, VOA)
- The U.N. says Secretary-General Antonio Guterres had a brief exchange with N.K.'s nominal head of state and "reiterated his expectation and hope that all parties will use dialogue to achieve the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula." (AP)
- Trump again talked about the plight of North Koreans Thursday as he referenced the story of a defector who suffered abuse under the totalitarian regime. (*Yonhap*)
- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Thursday dialogue between N.K. and the US is "absolutely necessary" and "urgent" to fend off any possibility of tensions escalating into a sudden crisis on the Korean Peninsula. (*Korea Times*)
- The UN has given approval for a high-level N.K. delegation to travel to S.K. for the Olympics, granting an exemption on sanctions against the repressive regime. (Smita Nordwall, VOA)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

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Saturday, February 10, 2018

North Korean leader invites South Korea's Moon to the North: president's office; Joint Korean hockey team routed by Switzerland in 1st Olympic game

In North Korea:
"Key Vulnerability" in North Korea's ICBM Force? What We Can and Can't Learn from a North Korean Military Parade (*38 North*, 02/09/2018)
(News Focus) N.K.'s bold summit proposal seen as strategy to weaken sanctions (*Yonhap*, 02/10/2018)
North Korea is winning the Olympics - and it's not because of sports (CNN, 02/10/2018)
(2nd LD) N. Korean leader's sister says Seoul feels familiar (*Yonhap*, 02/10/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korean media report on PyeongChang Olympics opening ceremony (*Yonhap*, 02/10/2018)

(Olympics) 3 N. Koreans dress for joint team's 1st game vs. Switzerland (*Yonhap*, 02/10/2018)
Parade Held to Mark the 70th Anniversary of the KPA's Foundation (*NK Leadership Watch*, 02/10/2018)
Wreath Laying Ceremonies Held for KPA Foundation Day (*NK Leadership Watch*, 02/10/2018)

In South Korea:
Don't mention nukes: South Koreans learn how to talk to the enemy (*Reuters*, 02/10/2018)
(LEAD) Parties show mixed reactions to North Korean leader's summit proposal (*Yonhap*, 02/10/2018)
Protesters tear N. Korean flags, leader's photos in Seoul (*Yonhap*, 02/10/2018)
The 'Ivanka Trump of North Korea' captivates people in the South (*Washington Post*, 02/10/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Awkward diplomacy on show as 'peace' Games begin (*Reuters*, 02/09/2018)
Kim Jong Un invites South Korean president for summit: South Korea (*Reuters*, 02/10/2018)
Kim Yo-jong - weapon of choice in North Korea's charm offensive (*Korea Times*, 02/10/2018)
Korea's united Olympic squad: symbol of hope or mere political stunt? (*Guardian*, 02/10/2018)
Moon holds near 3-hour meeting with N. Korean delegates (*Yonhap*, 02/10/2018)
(3rd LD) Moon holds rare meeting with N. Korea's titular head of state, leader's sister (*Yonhap*, 02/10/2018)
More Than Just a Game, Koreans Win in Lopsided Olympic Loss (NYT, 02/10/2018)
North Korean Cheerleaders Sing 'We Are One!' in Games Culture Clash (NYT, 02/10/2018)
North Korean leader invites South Korea's Moon to the North: president's office (*Reuters*, 02/10/2018)
N.K. leader's sister wishes for closer ties with S. Korea in guest book memo (*Yonhap*, 02/10/2018)
(News Focus) N.K. summit offer heralds strides in inter-Korean ties but nuclear impasse clouds prospects (*Yonhap*, 02/10/2018)
(4th LD) N. Korean leader proposes inter-Korean summit with Moon (*Yonhap*, 02/10/2018)
(Olympics) Final flame event before Kim Yu-na's cauldron lighting unrehearsed: director (*Yonhap*, 02/10/2018)
(Olympics) Joint Korean hockey coach wishes team came together sooner (*Yonhap*, 02/10/2018)
(LEAD) (Olympics) Joint Korean women's hockey team embarrassed before dignitaries (*Yonhap*, 02/10/2018)
(LEAD) (Olympics) Joint Korean hockey team routed by Switzerland in 1st Olympic game (*Yonhap*, 02/10/2018)
(Olympics) Moon watches joint hockey team game with N.K. leader's sister, nominal head of state (*Yonhap*, 02/10/2018)
(Olympics) N.K. cheerleaders heat up hockey arena rooting for joint Korean team (*Yonhap*, 02/10/2018)
(Olympics) N. Korean cheerleaders root for speed skaters from both Koreas (*Yonhap*, 02/10/2018)
(Olympics) N. Korean taekwondo head touched by joint demonstration (*Yonhap*, 02/10/2018)
Olympics unite Koreas after 65 years, but will it spark real change? (UPI, 02/10/2018)
The Latest: Kim's sister says hopes to see Moon in N. Korea (*Washington Post*, 02/10/2018)
These displays of unity at the Olympics fill us with hope (CNN, 02/10/2018)
Unification minister to host dinner with N.K. high-level delegation (*Yonhap*, 02/10/2018)
Unified Korean ice hockey team proves that 'winning isn't everything' (CNN, 02/10/2018)

International:

American fans calm in Korea with worried relatives back home (*Washington Post*, 02/10/2018)
China's top diplomat tells Trump hopes to increase coordination on North Korea (*Reuters*, 02/09/2018)
Heading home, Pence insists 'no daylight' on North Korea (*Washington Post*, 02/10/2018)
Joint Korean march gave me goosebumps, says IOC boss (*Reuters*, 02/10/2018)
(LEAD) Moon rejects Abe's call to resume Korea-U.S. military drills (*Yonhap*, 02/10/2018)
NBC mistakenly calls North Korea host of PyeongChang Games (*Korea Times*, 02/10/2018)
No Olympic truce for US, North Korea in Pyeongchang (*Washington Post*, 02/10/2018)
North Korea Says Unable to Pay U.N. Dues, Blames Sanctions (NYT, 02/10/2018)
N. Korea vows to step up nuclear posture against U.S. (*Yonhap*, 02/10/2018)
(Olympics) IOC hails two Koreas' handshakes at opening ceremony as 'historic moment'(*Yonhap*, 02/10/2018)
(Olympics) 'Politics will continue,' IOC reacts to Pence's apparent ignoring of joint march (*Yonhap*, 02/10/2018)
Pence avoids Olympics encounter with North Korean official as Korean athletes march together (*Reuters*, 02/10/2018)
Pence didn't snub North Koreans deliberately, officials say (*Yonhap*, 02/10/2018)
Pence leaves S. Korea after three-day visit (*Yonhap*, 02/10/2018)
Pence upstaged by 2 Koreas' efforts to warm ties (*Washington Post*, 02/10/2018)
Pence: US, Allies to 'Intensify' Campaign to End North Korea's Nuclear Program (VOA, 02/10/2018)
Pence, Warmbier's father meet with North Korean defectors (UPI, 02/09/2018)
Tensions barely concealed as North and South Korea march under one flag (*Telegraph*, 02/09/2018)

In North Korea:

- A recent article on CNBC concerning the Feb. 8 military parade in Pyongyang describes what appears to be a "key vulnerability" in NK's intercontinental ballistic missile force. While the article provides a reasonable overview of the subject it does, however, mischaracterize a number of critical points, leaving readers with an inaccurate understanding of the issue. (Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., *38 North*)
- KJU has taken a huge diplomatic gamble by proposing an inter-Korean summit, which analysts view as aimed at using ties with Seoul to come break of its isolation and weaken international sanctions. (Kim Soo-yeon, *Yonhap*)
- It might be SK's Games, but Pyongyang has ensured it is commanding the spotlight. Every snippet of news crossing the de-militarized zone, every glimpse of a N. Korean athlete in Pyeongchang, or the arrival of a glamorous pop star, has captured the attention of a world hungry for details about life in the Hermit Kingdom. (Jamie Tarabay, CNN)
- Kim Yo-jong, KJU's sister, said Seoul felt familiar even though it was her first-ever visit to the South, at an official dinner Sat., according to a pool report. (Yonhap)
- NK's official media on Sat. carried reports on the opening of the PyeongChang Olympics in SK on Fri. and the North's ceremonial head of state Kim Yong-nam's meeting with Moon during the opening events. (*Yonhap*)
- Three N. Koreans dressed for the joint Korean female team's first game against Switzerland at the Winter Olympics on Sat. (Yoo Jee-ho, *Yonhap*)
- A fabulous military parade was held in Kim Il-sung Square in central Pyongyang during the late morning of Feb. 8 to mark the 70 anniversary of the foundation of the Korean People's Army [KPA]. (*NK Leadership Watch*)

- Floral wreath-laying ceremonies were held at the Revolutionary Martyrs' Cemetery, the Patriotic Martyrs' Ceremony and the Fatherland Liberation War Martyrs' Cemetery in Pyongyang on Feb. 7. (*NK Leadership Watch*)

In South Korea:

- When a hotel on SK's east coast was asked at short notice to host nearly 280 N. Korean visitors, the problem wasn't finding enough rooms. It was to learn how not to offend them. (Jin Hyunjoo, Kim Soyoung, *Reuters*)
- SK's political parties showed mixed reactions Sat. to KJU's proposal to hold an inter-Korean summit in Pyongyang at an early date. (*Yonhap*)
- Conservative activists tore photos of KJU and attempted to burn its national flags in demonstrations in Seoul on Sat. against Pyongyang's participation in the Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- Kim Yo Jong was an enigma. A woman with a sphinx-like smile who gave nothing away during her three-day Olympic-related visit to SK as her brother KJU's special envoy. She's "the Ivanka Trump of North Korea" because of her family connections and her ability to be a compelling saleswoman. (Anna Fifield, *Washington Post*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The Winter Olympics sparked to life in a vivid, colorful ceremony of fire and ice in SK on Fri., though the diplomacy was tougher to choreograph in the stadium where leaders from nations that are sworn enemies sat close together. (James Pearson, Jin Hyunjoo, *Reuters*)
- KJU invited Moon for talks in Pyongyang, S. Korean officials said on Sat., setting the stage for the first meeting of Korean leaders in more than 10 years. (Shin Hyonhee, Kim Soyoung, *Reuters*)
- Kim Yo-jong, the younger sister KJU, has hijacked the media's attention after the PyeongChang Winter Olympics started Friday. (Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)
- It was supposed to be a moment of celebration – the first time in history that athletes from NK and SK had played together in an Olympics. But as the loss deepened – Korea finally lost to Switzerland 8-0 – it was hard to find a silver lining. (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)
- Moon held a near three-hour meeting Sat. with high-level N. Korean officials, including KJU's sister, who was widely believed to carrying a letter for Moon from the N. Korean leader. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon held a meeting Sat. with a group of high-profile N. Korean officials including the country's ceremonial head of state and a younger sister of KJU. (*Yonhap*)
- For a few hours N. Korean cheerleaders chanted and sang, S. Korean fans waved unification flags and the team from Korea played like it was united even though the two countries are far from it. (AP)
- As Switzerland demolished a unified Korean hockey team at the Pyeongchang winter Olympics on Saturday, despondent home fans at least had another contest to distract them; a clash of cultures featuring N. Korean and S. Korean cheerleaders. (*Reuters*)
- KJU invited Moon to Pyongyang "at an early date", the presidential Blue House in Seoul said on Sat., potentially setting up the first meeting of Korean leaders in more than 10 years.(*Reuters*)

- N. Korean leader KJU's sister expressed a wish for closer inter-Korean relations in her writing in the visitor's book at SK's presidential office prior to her meeting with Moon there on Saturday. (Yonhap)
- NK's surprise proposal for an inter-Korean summit will pave the way for a dramatic advancement in bilateral ties, but its prospects hinge on future progress in the nuclear stand-off and an improvement in relations with the US, experts said. (Koh Byung-joon, Yonhap)
- NK's reclusive leader KJU has asked Moon to visit Pyongyang at the "earliest date" possible for what will be a third inter-Korean summit, Kim's sister told the S. Korean leader Sat. (Byun Duk-kun, Yonhap)
- The final torch-carrying event right before the climactic Olympic cauldron lighting at the Winter Olympics' opening went ahead without a single rehearsal, according to organizers Sat. (Chang Doo-woo, Yonhap)
- She only had about two weeks to work with the hastily-assembled joint Korean women's hockey team, and head coach Sarah Murray now wishes the team would have been put together much sooner. (Yoo Jee-ho, Yonhap)
- Perhaps no other athletes or team received as much time in the spotlight on Sat. at the Olympics as the joint Korean women's hockey team. But the players on the ice melted under that spotlight. (Yoo Jee-ho, Yonhap)
- The joint Korean women's hockey team was routed by Switzerland 8-0 in its historic first game at the Olympics on Sat., a disastrous performance before a packed house that included a few dignitaries. (Yoo Jee-ho, Yonhap)
- Moon watched the joint Korean women's ice hockey team's opening match at the Winter Olympics on Sat. along with high-ranking N. Korean officials, including leader KJU's sister, Kim Yo-jong. (Joo Kyung-don, Yonhap)
- Spicing up political rapprochement, N. Korean cheerleaders and S. Korean spectators rooted together for the joint women's ice hockey team in its first match at the PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games on Sat. (Joo Kyung-don, Yonhap)
- N. Korean cheerleaders made their first appearance at an Olympic competition on Sat, rooting for short track speed skaters from both SK and NK. (Kim Boram, Kang Yoon-seung, Yonhap)
- The head of NK's taekwondo governing body said Sat. he was touched by the joint demonstration by the two Koreas' athletes ahead of the opening ceremony of the Olympics a day earlier. (Yonhap)
- The show of unity between the two Koreas reflects the recent change of atmosphere in cross-border relations, with the Moon administration eagerly accommodating NK's participation in the Games. However, public opinion in SK is divided on whether relations with NK will actually improve once the Olympics are over. (Jennie Oh, Danielle Haynes, UPI)
- The sister of KJU says a summit between her brother and Moon would pave the way for a fast improvement in ties that would make “yesterday seem like a long time ago.” (AP)
- In this year's Games, the two rival Koreas joined to form a united team, leaving many dreaming of a world where they are not feuding. A series of photos are rare displays of unity have been a welcome relief from the tensions between the two Koreas. (Faith Karimi, CNN)
- Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon is set to host a dinner for NK's high-level delegation on Sat. in the sub-host city of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics, Seoul officials said. (Yonhap)

- The unified Korean ice hockey team made its Olympic debut and in comprehensive defeat sent a message to the world that winning is not always the be all and end all. (Aimee Lewis, CNN)

International:

- Many American tourists are arriving in Pyeongchang calm and excited for the games, but with stories of family and friends so frightened by the ratcheting tension between the US and NK they had warned them to stay at home. (Claire Galofaro, AP)
- China hopes both it and the US can increase their coordination on the NK issue, China's top diplomat Yang Jiechi told Trump during a meeting in Washington, China's Foreign Ministry said on Sat. (*Reuters*)
- As SK appeared to look favorably on warming ties on the Korean Peninsula, Pence insisted Saturday "there is no daylight" among the US and allies SK and Japan in intensifying pressure on NK over its nuclear and missile programs. (Zeke Miller, AP)
- N. and S. Koreans marching together under a unified peninsula flag gave Thomas Bach goosebumps, the International Olympic Committee president told Reuters on Sat. (Iain Axon, *Reuters*)
- Moon has dismissed a call from Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to quickly resume SK's joint military drills with the US, calling it a violation of his country's sovereignty, an official from Seoul's presidential office said Sat. (*Yonhap*)
- The US television network NBC identified PyeongChang as being in NK in a subtitle during its broadcast of the Olympic opening ceremony. (Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)
- Forget an Olympic truce. The rhetoric war between NK and the Trump administration hasn't skipped a beat in Pyeongchang. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- NK is unable to pay its share of the 2018 UN budgets because of international sanctions on its foreign exchange bank and has asked a senior UN official for help, the country's UN mission said in a statement. (*Reuters*)
- NK said Sat. that it will further reinforce its nuclear deterrence against the US in response to Washington's renewed nuclear commitment to its allies. (*Yonhap*)
- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) said Sat. that representatives of the two Koreas shaking hands at the opening ceremony of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics was a "historic moment." (Joo Kyung- don, *Yonhap*)
- Despite efforts toward peace through sport, politics will always continue, the IOC commented Sat., in reaction to VP Pence's apparent ignoring of a historic joint march by the two Koreas at the Olympics. (Chang Dong-woo, *Yonhap*)
- Pence made only a brief appearance at a reception marking the start of the Winter Olympics on Fri., avoiding a potentially awkward encounter with the ceremonial leader of NK attending the same event. (Christine Kim, Jin Hyunjoo, *Reuters*)
- Pence did not deliberately snub N. Koreans at an Olympic reception, according to US officials who pushed back on S. Korean reports that Pence deliberately came late to a VIP gathering Fri. evening and then snubbed officials from Pyongyang. (Elise Labott, CNN)
- Pence wrapped up his three-day visit to SK late Sat., dashing expectations that there could be some high-level interactions between Washington and Pyongyang on the sidelines of the Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- Pence's efforts to keep NK from stealing the show at the Olympics proved to be short-lived, quickly drowned out by the images of the two Koreas marching and competing together, as

SK appeared to look favorably on warming ties on the Korean Peninsula. (Zekke Miller, Matthew Pennington, AP)
- Pence left SK Sat. saying the US and its allies are more committed than ever to dismantle NK's nuclear and missile development programs. (Steve Herman, VOA)
- In SK for the start of the Olympics Fri, Pence met with defectors from NK accompanied by the father of Otto Warmbier, an American who died after his release from captivity there last year. (Sara Shayanian, UPI)
- Beneath outward celebrations of the two Koreas marching together, the complex international fault-lines underpinning the Olympic détente were beginning to show. Before the ceremony, Mike Pence, had already skipped a dinner reception with the N. Korean delegation. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)

Prepared by Emma Stubblefield, HRNK Research Intern

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Sunday, February 11, 2018

N.K. leader's sister, delegation head back to Pyongyang after rare S.K. trip; Pence says he and his 'friend' Moon reaffirmed commitment against N.K. nukes; U.S. IOC Member Suggests Joint Korean Team for Nobel Peace Prize

In North Korea:
N.K. media carries detailed report about meeting between Moon, N.K. delegation (*Yonhap*, 02/11/2018)
North Korea says unable to pay U.N. dues, blames sanctions (*Reuters*, 02/10/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) PM hosts lunch for high-level N. Korean delegation (*Yonhap*, 02/11/2018)
(4th LD) PM calls for Koreas to work together to create right conditions for inter-Korean summit (*Yonhap*, 02/11/2018)
Kim Yo-jong's historic 3-day stay here (*Korea Times*, 02/11/2018)
North Korean cheer masks spark outrage (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/11/2018)
Seoul to work for continued inter-Korean dialogue: unification ministry (*Yonhap*, 02/11/2018)
Unification ministry denies report about mask worn by N.K. cheerleaders (*Yonhap*, 02/11/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) N. Korean leader's sister, delegation head back to Pyongyang after rare S. Korea trip (*Yonhap*, 02/11/2018)
(LEAD) Moon, N. Korean leader's sister attend N.K. art troupe's performance (*Yonhap*, 02/11/2018)
Don't get fooled again (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/11/2018)

'Humble' Kim Yo-jong has charmed the media, but the glow is unlikely to last (*Guardian*, 02/11/2018)
Kim Jong Un invites South Korean president for summit: South Korea (*Reuters*, 02/11/2018)
Kim Jong Un's sister heads home after whirlwind SKorea visit (*Washington Post*, 02/11/2018)
Kim's summit invite puts Moon in a tough spot (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/11/2018)
North and South Korea celebrate peace through taekwondo show (*Reuters*, 02/10/2018)
North Korea judged winner of diplomatic gold at Olympics (*Reuters*, 02/11/2018)
North Korea keeps mum on summit invite as its delegation completes South visit (*Reuters*, 02/11/2018)
North Korea's Summit Offer Could Test US-South Korea's United Nuclear Front (VOA, 02/11/2018)
South Korea's Moon May Be on Brink of Legacy-Defining Moment (NYT, 02/11/2018)
South Korean president invited to North Korea (*Korea Times*, 02/10/2018)
The Olympics could help solve the Korean crisis — if South Korea allows it (*Washington Post*, 02/11/2018)

International:
A hypocrite on human rights (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/11/2018)
Exclusive: U.S. IOC Member Suggests Joint Korean Team for Nobel Peace Prize (NYT, 02/11/2018)
Mike Pence insists 'no daylight' between US and South Korea over talks (*Telegraph*, 02/11/2018)
NBC apologizes to Koreans for Olympics coverage that praised Japan's brutal occupation (*Washington Post*, 02/11/2018)
North Korea: US says 'no daylight' between allies despite warmer ties (BBC, 02/11/2018)
Pence says he and his 'friend' Moon reaffirmed commitment against N.K. nukes (*Yonhap*, 02/11/2018)

In North Korea:

- N.K.'s state media reported in detail Sunday on a meeting between the country's high-level delegation and S.K.President Moon, saying the two sides had "a frank and candid talk about improving inter-Korean relations in "a sincere and cordial atmosphere." (*Yonhap*)
- N.K. is unable to pay its share of the 2018 U.N. budgets because of international sanctions on its foreign exchange bank and has asked a senior U.N. official for help. (*Reuters*)

In South Korea:

- Prime Minister Lee Nak-yon hosted lunch Sunday for a high-level N.K. delegation, including the sister of leader KJU and the country's ceremonial head of state. (*Yonhap*)
- Prime Minister Lee Nak-yon said Sunday that S.K. and N.K. should work actively together to create the right conditions for a meeting between President Moon and KJU. (*Yonhap*)
- KJU's sister stole the limelight at the PyeongChang Winter Olympic during her historic three-day stay in S.K. Her presence in S.K. was enough to draw much attention from both South Koreans and the international community. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- N.K.s cheerleading squad sparked a fracas between opposing S.K. lawmakers when the cheerleaders used masks depicting a Korean man that resembled young Kim Il-sung. It later turned out to be a false assumption by S.K. lawmakers. (Esther Chung, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- S.K.'s unification ministry said Sunday that the government will make efforts to help continue inter-Korean dialogue sparked by the North's high-level delegation visit, expecting relations to take a drastic turn if certain conditions are created. (*Yonhap*)

- The unification ministry on Sunday denied a local news report that the image of N.K.'s late founding leader Kim Il-sung appeared on the mask worn by N.K. cheerleaders during an ice hockey match involving the unified team of the two Koreas. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Kim Yo-jong, the younger sister of KJU and a high level delegation, wrapped up a rare three-day trip to S.K. on Sunday, which Seoul describes a sign of improving bilateral relations despite skepticism expressed by the U.S. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon attended a N.K. art troupe's concert in Seoul on Sunday, expressing hopes that the reconciliatory mood for inter-Korean dialogue would be maintained going forward. (*Yonhap*)
- Pyongyang's about-face shows that international sanctions are working. Seoul must not deviate from the sanctions front. Otherwise, it cannot take the driver's seat in the peninsula issue. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- With her 'deadly side-eye' and 'nimble' ways, the sister of KJU has been the centre of attention since she arrived at the Winter Games. As her brother's envoy, she has been deployed to show a softer side of N.K. Did this strategy work? (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)
- KJU invited Moon for talks in Pyongyang, setting the stage for the first meeting of Korean leaders in more than 10 years. (Hyonhee Shin, Soyoung Kim, *Reuters*)
- KJU's sister headed home Sunday night after a whirlwind three days in S.K., where she sat among world dignitaries at the Olympics and tossed a diplomatic offer to the South aimed at ending seven decades of hostility. (Kim Tong-Hyung, AP)
- KJU's summit invite will test Moon's arbitration ability as he's caught between his desire to engage with KJU and the U.S.' continued stance that N.K. ought to face tougher pressure and harsher sanctions. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- Taekwondo athletes from N.K. and S.K. produced a stunning demonstration in Gangwon as sporting diplomacy took center stage alongside kicking, screaming and flying planks of wood on Saturday. (*Reuters*)
- N.K. has emerged as the early favorite to grab one of the Winter Olympics' most important medals: the diplomatic gold. N.K. has used the Games to drive a wedge between S.K. and the U.S. and to potentially ease pressure on its sanctions-crippled state. (*Reuters*)
- N.K.'s delegation sent to the Winter Olympics held "frank and candid" talks with Moon, but it made no mention of the North's invitation to Moon to Pyongyang for a summit. (Christine Kim, *Reuters*)
- KJU's invitation to Moon to visit Pyongyang could complicate the Trump administration's diplomatic efforts to pressure the reclusive communist state to abandon its nuclear weapons program. (Jong Su Oh, VOA)
- With an invitation to meet KJU in Pyongyang, personally delivered by KJU's sister during the first-ever peacetime visit to S.K. by a member of the N.K. ruling family, Moon may be on the brink of a legacy-defining moment. (AP)
- KJU has invited S.K. President Moon Jae-in to visit Pyongyang. The invitation was delivered via a verbal message from Kim's sister, Kim Yo-jong. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- The N.K. delegation extended an invitation for Moon to visit Pyongyang — as fortuitous an opportunity for dialogue as one might hope for under the circumstances. (Sergey Radchenko, *Washington Post*)

International:

- Is Trump really qualified to discuss human rights when his immigration policy separates so many families and causes such great pain to so many immigrants in the U.S.? (Shim Jae-woo, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- A senior American member of the IOC called on Sunday for N.K. and S.K.'s joint women's ice hockey team to be nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. (*Reuters*)
- Mike Pence has insisted "there is no daylight" among the U.S. and allies S.K. and Japan over their stance on Pyongyang. (*Telegraph*)
- NBC apologized to Koreans for its comment “every Korean will tell you that Japan as a cultural and technological and economic example has been so important to their own transformation.” (Avi Selk, *Washington Post*)
- US Vice-President Mike Pence has said his country and S.K. are in complete agreement on the need to maintain pressure on N.K. (BBC)
- U.S. Vice President Mike Pence said he and his "friend," S.K. President Moon Jae-in, reaffirmed their commitment to denuclearizing N.K. (*Yonhap*)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

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Monday, February 12, 2018

Most N.Koreans think unification is necessary: U.S. study; Kang eyes creative post-Olympics diplomacy following N.K. summit proposal; Pence says talks with Pyongyang could be possible

In North Korea:
How Kim Yo Jong signals a change in North Korea's strategy (*Daily* NK, 02/12/2018)
Most N. Koreans think unification is necessary: U.S. study (*Yonhap*, 02/12/2018)
North Korean army oil embezzler sentenced to execution (*Daily* NK, 02/12/2018)
North Koreans finally hear about defector soldier's dash across DMZ (*Daily* NK, 02/12/2018)

In South Korea:
Kang eyes creative post-Olympics diplomacy following N.K. summit proposal (*Yonhap*, 02/12/2018)
Parties divided over inter-Korean summit (*Yonhap*, 02/12/2018)
President wobbling on tightrope (*Joongang Daily*, 02/13/2018)
Younger South Koreans are deeply skeptical of North Korea’s diplomatic offensive (*Washington Post*, 02/12/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) N.K. art troupe returns home after holding Olympic performances (*Yonhap*, 02/12/2018)

(LEAD) N.K. says high-level delegation made 'meaningful' S. Korea trip for better ties (*Yonhap*, 02/12/2018)
(LEAD) Two Koreas united in taekwondo demonstration in Seoul (*Yonhap*, 02/12/2018)
Moon mulls envoy to Pyongyang (*Joongang Daily*, 02/13/2018)
North Korea's Olympic Offensive Opens Door for Diplomacy (VOA, 02/12/2018)
North Korean media shows optimism for inter-Korean ties (*UPI*, 02/12/2018)
Seohyun sings with North Korean orchestra (*Joongang Daily*, 02/13/2018)
Seoul expresses optimism amid possibility of holding inter-Korean summit (UPI, 02/12/2018)
UPDATE 1-Seoul seeks communication, lower military tension ahead of possible N.Korea summit (*Reuters*, 02/11/2018)
What Moon should have said (*Joongang Daily*, 02/13/2018)

International:
Bach on Koreas: 'Now it's for politics to take over' (*Washington Post*, 02/12/2018)
China's envoy met with N. Korean delegation during Olympic visit: Beijing (*Yonhap*, 02/12/2018)
Disconnect between US and South Korea grows amid rapprochement with North (*Guardian*, 02/12/2018)
Exclusive: IOC boss to visit North Korea after winter Games (*Reuters*, 02/12/2018)
Exclusive: U.S. IOC member suggests joint Korean team for Nobel Peace Prize (*Reuters*, 02/11/2018)
Head held high, Kim's sister returns to North Korea (*Reuters*, 02/12/2018)
In Olympic corner of Asia, web of relationships is complex (*Washington Post*, 02/12/2018)
Is North Korea really winning the soft power Olympics? (*Washington Post*, 02/12/2018)
It's not Olympics but Polympics (*Korea Times*, 02/12/2018)
Mattis: North Korea cannot drive wedge between the US and South Korea (CNN, 02/11/2018)
Mattis says too early to tell if Olympic thaw between Koreas will lead to results (*Reuters*, 02/11/2018)
Mike Pence says US is willing to talk to North Korea as Japan warns against 'smile diplomacy' (*Telegraph*, 02/12/2018)
Moon, Abe clash over military drill, comfort women (*Korea Times*, 02/11/2018)
NK-US dialogue essential for inter-Korean summit (*Korea Times*, 02/11/2018)
North Korea's Olympics delegation leaves thorny questions behind (CNN, 02/12/2018)
North Korea heads for diplomacy gold medal at Olympics: analysts (*Reuters*, 02/11/2018)
North Korea won Pyeongchang political gold, but what's next? (*Washington Post*, 02/12/2018)
Nukes can't win peace (*Joongang Daily*, 02/13/2018)
Pence: U.S. ready for talks with North Korea (UPI, 02/12/2018)
Pence's Olympic trip a 'missed opportunity' for North Korea diplomacy, source says (CNN, 02/12/2018)
Pence could have done better (*Korea Times*, 02/11/2018)
Pence raises prospect of talks with North Korea alongside 'intensified' pressure (*Reuters*, 02/12/2018)
Pence raises prospect of U.S. talks with North Korea: Washington Post (*Reuters*, 02/11/2018)
Pence says he and his 'friend' Moon reaffirmed commitment against N.K. nukes (*Korea Times*, 02/12/2018)
Pence says talks with Pyongyang could be possible (*Joongang Daily*, 02/13/2018)
Real challenge after PyeongChang (*Korea Times*, 02/11/2018)
Rushing headlong (*Joongang Daily*, 02/13/2018)
Tillerson says it's 'up to North Korea' to engage in talks with US (CNN, 02/12/2018)
US's Tillerson: 'too early to tell' if Koreas really talking (*Washington Post*, 02/12/2018)

In North Korea:

- While Kim Yo Jong may not technically hold the same power as her great uncle, Kim Yong Ju did in 1972, some experts believe that KJU relies heavily on her for advice and that her visit should thus be considered significant. Furthermore, undertaking a potential risk to her personal safety in traveling to the SK, among other logistical issues, is a sign of a breakthrough in NK-SK relations. (*Daily NK*)
- Most N.Koreans think reunification with SK is necessary, with many of them citing shared ethnicity as the main reason, according to a recent US study. (*Yonhap*)
- A N.Korean military officer has been sentenced to execution on charges of embezzling state property. The officer, a rear guard supply head in the Second Division of the First Corps, was stationed in Ipo-ri, Kumgang County, Kangwon Province. (Kim Chae-Hwan, *Daily NK*)
- News of the N.Korean soldier who made a daring escape across the heavily militarized Korean border has just broken in NK and is captivating residents, reports an inside source. (Kang Mi Jin, *Daily NK*)

In South Korea:

- SK's top diplomat promised to pull through new diplomatic challenges actively and creatively Mon. after NK invited the SK's president to an inter-Korean summit. (*Yonhap*)
- The leader of the ruling Democratic Party said Mon. that a summit between Moon and N.Korean leader KJU would serve as a meaningful first step toward denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula. But conservative parties voiced opposition to a summit unless denuclearization is agreed. (*Yonhap*)
- S.Korean President Moon was involved in a lot of diplomacy on the sidelines of the Winter Olympic Games, but concerns are being raised that he failed to achieve a balance in his dealing with NK and the US. (Yoo Jee-hye, Ser Myo-ja, *Joongang Daily*)
- There has been a pronounced shift in attitudes in SK. Unlike their parents and grandparents, younger S.Koreans don't see unification as a clear national goal—despite a national education curriculum that presents it as such. Instead, they worry about what will happen to their own standards of living if SK is suddenly tethered to one of the world's economic weaklings. (Chico Harlan, Yoonjung Seo, *Washington Post*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- A N.Korean art troupe returned home Mon. after holding two rare performances in SK in celebration of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- NK's state media said Mon. its high-level delegation has made a "meaningful" trip to SK that improved stalled inter-Korean relations. (*Yonhap*)
- S.Korean and N.Korean taekwondo teams jointly demonstrated the traditional martial art in Seoul on Mon. as part of a celebration for the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- Now that N.Korean leader KJU has invited President Moon to Pyongyang for a summit, sources in the Blue House said they are contemplating how, and in what format, Seoul is going to formally respond. (Wi Moon-hee, Kim Hyoung-gu, *Joongang Daily*)
- NK's Olympic charm offensive has worked to improve its image among many S.Koreans, while the US indicates new openness to dialogue. (Brian Padden, VOA)

- N.Korean media says the visit of Pyongyang officials to SK proved to be a "meaningful momentum in improving inter-Korean relations." (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- The S.Korean singer Seohyun of pop group Girls' Generation made a surprise appearance during NK's Samjiyon Orchestra's performance, singing "Our Hope," which expresses hopes for reunification, and the N.Korean song "Until We Meet Again" in a collaboration that was decided the day of the performance after persuasion from officials at the Blue House. (Hong You-kyoung, *Joongang Daily*)
- The S.Korean government says it will cooperate with NK to arrange President Moon's trip to Pyongyang, expressing hope for continued progress in improving inter-Korean relations. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- SK said on Mon. it will try to arrange more reunions for families divided by the Korean War and seek to lower military tensions with NK as the first steps towards establishing grounds for a rare summit between the two Koreas. (Reuters Staff, *Reuters*)
- Moon's response of "Let's create the environment to make that happen" and request to NK to "more actively seek dialogue with the US" was an ambiguous answer to KJU's summit proposal. The author, Chun Young-gi argues that Moon should have been more firm and active when accepting the summit proposal. (Chun Young-gi, *Joongang Daily*)

International:

- President Thomas Bach believes the IOC has done its part in getting North Korea and South Korea together at the Pyeongchang Olympics. The ball's now in the court of the divided nation. (Stephen Wade, AP)
- A high-ranking Chinese official met with Kim Yong-nam, the president of the Presidium of the N.Korean assembly, during their visits to SK last week, China's foreign ministry confirmed Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- SK has announced it will press ahead with improving ties with NK, arranging family reunions between those divided by the Korean war and seeking to cool military tensions–despite the US's commitment to a policy of "maximum pressure" on KJU. (*Guardian*)
- International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach plans to visit NK after the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, cementing ties with the reclusive state which used the event to restart political dialogue with SK. (Karolos Grohmann, *Reuters*)
- A senior American member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) called on Sun for NK and SK's joint women's ice hockey team to be nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. (Karolos Grohmann, *Reuters*)
- In her first appearance on the global stage, Kim Yo Jong, the sister of N.Korean leader KJU, had her every move closely scrutinized. Crowds applauded as she stood for the S.Korean anthem during the opening ceremony for the start of the Winter Olympic Games, while her big smiles and relaxed manner left a largely positive impression on the S.Korean public. But her sometimes aloof expression and high-tilted chin also spoke of someone who sees herself "of royalty" and "above anyone else", leadership experts and some critics said. (Christine Kim, *Reuters*)
- The political relationships between the two Koreas, China, Japan, along with the US are complex and fraught with the weight of history. The Associated Press' experts prepared a background briefing of the percolating politics in this region where the Olympics are unfolding. (*The Associated Press*)

- While in SK, the DPRK delegation participated in diplomatic niceties with the S.Korean government, most notably by extending an invitation to S.Korean President Pyongyang for a summit with N.Korean despot KJU while Pence made headlines for doing three things: warning about the horrors of the NK regime, not standing when the unified Korean team entered the Olympic Stadium for the Opening Ceremonies and largely snubbing the main reception dinner. (Daniel W. Dresser, *Washington Post*)
- The PyeongChang Olympics deserves to be called "Polympics" with a capital P standing for politics of a complicated brand — with fierce, divisive, unifying and confusing elements — which may reset the existing order on the Korean Peninsula and affect the global one, as well. (Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)
- Secretary of Defense James Mattis says "there's no wedge" between the US and SK, despite recent overtures between SK and NK. (Aileen Graef, CNN)
- US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said on Sun. it was too early to tell whether a diplomatic detente between the two Koreas at the Winter Olympics would lead to results, but the move had not driven a wedge between Washington and Seoul. (Idrees Ali, *Reuters*)
- US vice president Mike Pence has raised the prospect of direct talks between Washington and NK, outlining a stance of "maximum pressure and engagement at the same time." (Danielle Demetriou, *Telegraph*)
- Longstanding tension between Korea and Japan is unlikely to ease, with President Moon and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe clashing over serious diplomatic and historic issues—again. (Choi Ha-young, *Korea Times*)
- NK has invited President Moon to visit there, but it may not happen unless Pyongyang shows willingness toward denuclearization in talks with Washington. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- NK's delegation to the Winter Olympics returned to Pyongyang on Sun., ending a three-day visit that amounted to a remarkable diplomatic breakthrough for the S.Korean government but left big questions about whether it could lead to a solution to the decades-long military standoff between the two nations. (Sheen McKenzie, Joshua Berlinger, CNN)
- An assessment of a former S.Korean government minister and political experts who say NK has used the Games to drive a wedge between SK and the US and to potentially ease pressure on its sanctions states that NK has emerged as the early favorite to grab one of the Winter Olympics' most important medals: the diplomatic gold. (Soyoung Kim, James Pearson, *Reuters*)
- NK won the political gold medal at Pyeongchang just by showing up as KJU scored some badly needed publicity points by sending his little sister to the games and extending an invitation to S.Korean President Moon to come to Pyongyang in the near future. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- The world's attention is now on the two Koreas after Kim Yo-jong delivered her brother's written invitation to Moon to attend a summit in Pyongyang, to which the S.Korean leader politely suggested would be possible when conditions are right. Seoul, Pyongyang and Washington have all laid down their cards as the peninsula once again enters a testing time at the crossroads of peace and war. (Lee Ha-kyung, *Joongang Daily*)
- Amid SK's efforts to promote dialogue between the US and NK, US Vice President Mike Pence reportedly signaled that Washington is ready for talks, marking a notable change of stance. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- US Vice President Mike Pence's trip to SK for the PyeongChang Winter Olympics has been called "a missed opportunity" by a senior diplomatic source close to NK. (Will Ripley, CNN)

- US Vice President Mike Pence snubbing Kim Yo-jong, sister of NK's leader KJU, and the nominal head of NK, Kim Yong-nam—for whatever Pence's reasons—does not reflect well on him or on the US. (Lyman McLallen, *Korea Times*)
- Comments by US Vice President Mike Pence suggest the US may be looking more favorably at diplomatic engagement with NK as SK considers a rare summit with its neighbor and long-time foe. (Christine Kim, Matt Spetalnick, *Reuters*)
- The US and SK have agreed on terms for further diplomatic engagement with NK, first with Seoul and then possibly leading to direct talks with Washington without pre-conditions, Vice President Mike Pence said in a newspaper interview published on Sun. (Reuters Staff, *Reuters*)
- US Vice President Mike Pence said he and his "friend," S.Korean President Moon, reaffirmed their commitment to denuclearizing NK. (*Korea Times*)
- US Vice President Mike Pence indicated that he and President Moon came to some agreement behind the scenes that could lead to direct talks without preconditions between Washington and Pyongyang after the Winter Olympics. (*Joongang Daily*)
- The real challenge for the alliance will follow the closure of the Olympics. The first test will begin with discussions to resume joint military exercises suspended until after the Olympics. The discussions could deal with the timing, scale, or duration of resumed joint drills. KJU has already demanded an end to them. (Tong Kim, *Korea Times*)
- This time, a summit must achieve the goal of denuclearization. In that sense, what is more important for the Moon administration is sending an envoy to Washington, not Pyongyang. SK's diplomacy with the US does not seem to follow the remarkable pace of inter-Korean contacts. Washington harbors strong suspicions about the Moon administration being dragged into NK's peace offensives. Without progress in Washington-Pyongyang relations, inter-Korean summits cannot achieve much. (*Joongang Daily*)
- Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Mon. it will be "up to NK" to decide when it is ready to engage in serious and meaningful diplomatic talks with the US. (Michelle Kosinski, Maegan Vazquez, CNN)
- US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson says "it's too early to tell" if recent signs of overture between NK and SK at the Olympics mean that a genuine political process is beginning. (*Associated Press*)

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, HRNK Research Intern

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Tuesday, February 13, 2018

N.K. slams U.N. sanctions days after attempted Olympics charm offensive; Kim Jong Un 'impressed' with South Korea's efforts; Pence raises prospect of talks with N.K. while applying 'maximum pressure'

Top News:
North Korea slams U.N. sanctions days after attempted Olympics charm offensive (*CBS News*, 02/12/2018)
North Korea: US criticism of its rights shows fear of nukes (*Washington Post*, 02/12/2018)

In North Korea:
Corruption blamed for poor quality of snacks distributed to children for leader's birthday (*DailyNK*, 02/13/2018)
How Kim Jong Un's sister fueled Trump's war on the media (*Washington Post*, 02/13/2018)
Kim Jong-un is 'impressed' by recent trip: KCNA (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/13/2018)
Kim Jong Un 'impressed' with South Korea's efforts, state media says (CNN, 02/13/2018)
Kim Jong Un Meets High-Level Delegation (*nkleadershipwatch*, 02/13/2018)
Kim Jong-un praises South Korea's warm welcome for Winter Olympics after sister's visit (*Telegraph*, 02/13/2018)
Kim Jong-un praises 'sincere, impressive' South Korea (*Guardian*, 02/12/2018)
Kim Yo-jong and North Korea's secret weapon (BBC, 02/13/2018)
KJU Attends Photo-op with Samjiyo'n Orchestra (*nkleadershipwatch*, 02/13/2018)
North Korea dials down border propaganda after Games open (*Reuters*, 02/13/2018)
North Koreans 'lap up reports of soldier's daring defection' (*Telegraph*, 02/13/2018)
PPJ Visits Construction of Wo'nsan Tourist Zone (*nkleadershipwatch*, 02/13/2018)
What Kim Jong-un's new photo tells us about North Korea (BBC, 02/13/2018)
Year after Kim's killing, suspected masterminds evade trial (*Washington Post*, 02/13/2018)

In South Korea:
Confidante of disgraced South Korean president sentenced to 20 years in prison (*Washington Post*, 02/13/2018)
Human rights activists defy North Korea's Olympics charm offensive (UPI, 02/13/2018)
Olympic uniforms combine form and function (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/13/2018)
N.K. cheering squad stages surprise performance during trip to tourist attraction (*Yonhap*, 02/13/2018)
North Korea's cheerleaders amaze and appeal at Winter Olympics (*Guardian*, 02/12/2018)
North Korean defector at State of Union speech touts Trump (*Washington Post*, 02/13/2018)
Ruling party calls for reunions of separated families amid warming inter-Korean ties (*Yonhap*, 02/13/2018)
Seoul to review plan to bankroll N. Korea's Olympic participation (*Yonhap*, 02/13/2018)
South Korea's Olympic Diplomacy Makes Slow but Steady Progress (VOA, 02/13/2018)
Sweden eliminates inter-Korean team (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/13/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) Kim Jong-un vows to continue reconciliation between Koreas (*Yonhap*, 02/13/2018)
(News Focus) N. Korea's summit offer builds pressure on Moon (*Yonhap*, 02/13/2018)
A double-edged sword (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/13/2018)
Military talks likely to be first inter-Korean dialogue following visit by N.K. leader's sister: official (*Yonhap*, 02/13/2018)
Moon in dilemma over joint drills (*Korea Times*, 02/13/2018)
North and South Koreans develop friendships on the ice (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/13/2018)
North and South Korea must remember that Trump is watching them (CNN, 02/13/2018)
North Korean leader bolsters peace offensive (*Korea Times*, 02/13/2018)

Never Mind the Minders: United Korea Team Bonds to K-pop (*Reuters*, 02/13/2018)
S. Korea: N. Korea holds key to military talks (*Yonhap*, 02/13/2018)
The prodigal Kim (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/13/2018)

International:
(Olympics) (Yonhap Interview) IOC boss discussed N. Korean sports with Pyongyang's top Olympic delegation (*Yonhap*, 02/13/2018)
IOC President to Visit North Korea After Games (VOA, 02/12/2018)
Japan PM Abe: Confirmed with Moon need for maximum pressure on North Korea (*Reuters*, 02/12/2018)
Mattis: Too early to judge inter-Korean talks (*Yonhap*, 02/13/2018)
Pence raises prospect of talks with North Korea while applying 'maximum pressure' (*Reuters*, 02/13/2018)
State Dept., NSC say U.S. open to engagement (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/13/2018)
The Latest: Intel chief testifies about North Korean nukes (*Washington Post*, 02/13/2018)
Tillerson: Up to N. Korea to choose talks with U.S. (*Yonhap*, 02/13/2018)
Tillerson: Up to North Korea to Engage in Talks (VOA, 02/12/2018)
Trump tells Putin more steps needed to scrap North Korea nuclear program (*Reuters*, 02/13/2018)
U.S. intelligence chief says North Korea 'decision time' is near (*Reuters*, 02/13/2018)
US intel chief says risk of global conflict highest since Cold War (CNN, 02/13/2018)

Top News:

- N.K.'s U.N. mission expressed displeasure with Trump's invitation of Ji Seung-ho, a N.K. defector, to the STOU address and Nikki Haley's critique of a U.N. committee that rejected non-government status to HRNK. (Pamela Falk, *CBS News*)
- The DPRK's U.N. Mission criticized Trump for inviting a N.K. defector to the STOU address and Nikki Haley for trying to reverse a U.N. committee's denial of accreditation to HRNK. (Edith M. Lederer, *AP*)

In North Korea:

- The tradition of giving snacks and clothes to children has continued since 1977 in N.K. However, as the economy ran into difficulties, mostly due to corruption, the quality of snacks and clothes have been increasingly poor. (Seol Song Ah, *DailyNK*)
- Kim Yo Jong went to the Olympics on a propaganda mission for her brother KJU, but her trip also helped advance a favorite narrative of President Trump's — that the media is his enemy. (Callum Borchers, *Washington Post*)
- N.K.s state-run media said that KJU expressed "satisfaction" over the outcome of his sister's recent visit to the South and that he gave "important instructions" for the improvement of inter-Korean relations. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- KJU has praised S.K. for its "very impressive" and "sincere" efforts in hosting the North's high-level delegation during the opening of the Winter Olympics. (Steve George, *CNN*)
- KJU held a meeting in central Pyongyang on Monday with members of the high-level DPRK delegation that visited ROK to attend the opening of the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics. (*nkleadershipwatch*)

- KJU has praised the welcome the South gave his sister and said it was important to build on the Olympics-driven momentum for dialogue on the divided peninsula. (Agence France-Presse, *Telegraph*)
- KJU has praised the "warm climate of reconciliation and dialogue" after a delegation returned from their three-day visit to the South for the Winter Olympics. (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)
- It turns out KJU doesn't need to fire off a missile to get the world's attention. He has a number of far more powerful weapons in his arsenal: his female envoys. (BBC)
- KJU's last observed appearance was a commemorative photo-op on February 12 with the high-level delegation that attended the Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony. (*nkleadershipwatch*)
- N.K. has lowered the volume of its border propaganda broadcasts at the inter-Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) since Friday's Winter Olympics opening ceremony. (James Pearson, *Reuters*)
- North Koreans have been "captivated" after finally learning of the daring defection of a soldier through the Joint Security Area at Panmunjom in November. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- DPRK state media reported that Premier and State Affairs Commission Vice Chairman Pak Pong-chun visited the construction of the Wo'nsan-Kalma tourist zone. (*nkleadershipwatch*)
- N.K.'s state media indicated that KJU was delighted with the outcome of his country's attendance at the Winter Olympics. Accompanying the report was an unusually relaxed picture of KJU with his sister and the head of state. (BBC)
- Two women stand accused of a crime that could send them to the gallows — the stunning assassination of KJU's estranged half-brother. (Eileen Ng and Eric Talmadge, AP)

In South Korea:

- Choi Soon-sil, the confidante of former S.K. president Park Geun-hye was sentenced to 20 years in prison and fined almost $17 million for her role in a huge corruption scandal that led to Park's impeachment. (Anna Fifield, *Washington Post*)
- The visit from a high-profile N.K. delegation during the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics is not a sign of progress on the peninsula, human rights activists and S.K. politicians said Tuesday. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Uniforms are not a core part of the Games, but their designs representing each country offer a bit of color to the event. (Song Kyoung-son, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- N.K.'s cheerleaders visiting S.K. for the PyeongChang Winter Olympics staged a surprise performance Tuesday during their trip to a tourist attraction in Gangneung, a sub-host city of the Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K. outnumber the North's athletes and captured global attention at Winter Olympics but a cultural chasm remains. (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)
- Ji Seong-ho, who was singled out by Trump as a living example of the North's atrocities said Tuesday that Trump had set a milestone in international efforts to improve N.K.'s human rights situation when he invited him and other defectors to his office. (Youkyung Lee, AP)
- The floor leader of the ruling Democratic Party called for reunions of separated families between two Koreas, saying it is the most urgent issue to address in expanding cooperation and exchanges between the two sides. (*Yonhap*)
- S.K. will this week review a motion to bankroll N.K.'s ongoing participation in the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games. (*Yonhap*)

- Moon's persistent outreach effort to reduce tensions with N.K. helped bring about the North's participation in the PyeongChang Winter Olympics, and a pause in Pyongyang's provocative missile and nuclear tests. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- The inter-Korean women's hockey team was eliminated in the preliminary round at the PyeongChang Winter Olympics on Monday, following its 0-8 loss to Sweden. (*Joongang Ilbo*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- KJU pledged efforts to continue the reconciliatory mood with S.K. as he welcomed back a high-ranking N.K. delegation from their trip to the PyeongChang Winter Olympics in S.K. (*Yonhap*)
- KJU's surprise invitation to S.K. President Moon to visit Pyongyang has created additional pressure for the South to be tough with the provocative regime. (*Yonhap*)
- The conciliatory mood between the two Koreas through the momentum of the Olympics is a double-edged sword for Moon. The question is whether Moon and his team have the diplomatic capabilities to use the double-edged sword in S.K.'s favor. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- Military talks are expected to be the first formal dialogue between S.K. and N.K. following an unprecedented visit to the South by a high-level delegation that included the sister of KJU. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon is facing a growing dilemma over S.K.'s planned military exercises with the U.S., with N.K. offering a rare gesture for warmer inter-Korean relations. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- The Olympic rapprochement between two Koreas came so suddenly last month that women's hockey players on both sides barely had time to get to know each other when they had to hit the ice last week for their first match against Switzerland. (Park Rin, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- KJU's invitation of Moon to N.K. could not have been unanticipated, but it nevertheless puts S.K. in a difficult position. It is likely impossible for Moon to decline, but there are major risks involved in any talks with N.K. (Jonathan Cristol, CNN)
- KJU's peace offensive is raising speculation of further progress in inter-Korean relations. KJU is known to provide a detailed plan on developing inter-Korean relations after being briefed by his high-level delegation that visited S.K. recently. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- They sleep in separate dorms, travel in different buses and government minders watch over them, but N.K. members of the united Korean women's ice hockey team are bonding with their team-mates from the South, thanks partly to K-pop. (Hyunjoo Jin, Dan Burns, *Reuters*)
- S.K.'s defense ministry said Tuesday it's still waiting for N.K.'s response to its months-old offer of military talks, maintaining its strategic ambiguity about the future of joint war games with the US. (*Yonhap*)
- An inter-Korean summit without understanding and cooperation from the US will be a one-time stunt at best. That is why Moon said "conditions should be met" before accepting Kim's invitation and urging N.K. to talk with the US. (Lee Hoon-beom, *Joongang Ilbo*)

International:

- Thomas Bach, president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), said he discussed the state of sports in N.K. with a top delegation from Pyongyang, which included KJU's sister, at the PyeongChang Winter Games in S.K. (*Yonhap*)

- Olympics chief Thomas Bach will visit N.K. after the PyeongChang Winter Olympics, the International Olympic Committee said in a statement Monday. (VOA)
- Abe said on Tuesday that he and Moon had agreed that it was necessary to keep up maximum pressure on N.K. (*Reuters*)
- U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis expressed reservations about recent talks between two Koreas, saying it's "too early" to say whether the talks are a positive sign from Pyongyang. (*Yonhap*)
- The US has appeared to endorse deeper post-Olympics engagement between two Koreas that could lead to direct U.S. talks, but has agreed with Seoul that sanctions must be intensified to push N.K. to denuclearize. (Christine Kim, Matt Spetalnick, *Reuters*)
- U.S. Vice President Mike Pence, the National Security Council (NSC) and the Department of State have been signaling a N.K. approach that combines maximum pressure alongside engagement, a slight shift in tone from before. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- The Trump administration's intelligence chief says N.K.'s development of nuclear weapons poses a potentially existential threat to the US. (AP)
- U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson on Monday left open the door to dialogue with N.K., saying it will be up to Pyongyang to decide when they are ready. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Monday any possible negotiations with N.K. over its nuclear and ballistic missile programs can only happen if N.K. shows it is ready to engage in meaningful talks. (VOA)
- Trump, who complained last month that Moscow was "not helping us at all with N.K.," told Putin on Monday that more needs to be done to scrap Pyongyang's nuclear program. (*Reuters*)
- The U.S. director of national intelligence warned on Tuesday that time was running out for the US to act on the threat posed by N.K.'s nuclear weapons program. (Patricia Zengerle, Doina Chiacu, *Reuters*)
- US Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats warned Tuesday that the current risk of a global conflict is higher than at any time since the end of the Cold War. (Zachary Cohen, CNN)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

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Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Korean Kontext: President Trump and North Korean Human Rights; South Korea approves record $2.6 million budget for North Koreans' Olympic visit

Top News:
Korean Kontext: President Trump and North Korean Human Rights (KEI, 02/13/2018)

In North Korea:

Choe Ryong Hae Visits South Hwanghae (NK *Leadership Watch*, 02/14/2018)
Jang Song-thaek photo-shopped out of guidance picture (NK *Econ Watch*, 02/13/2018)
Kim Jong Un taking cues from Hitler's 1936 Olympic strategy (*Daily* NK, 02/14/2018)
Loyalty Oath Meeting at Mt. Paektu (NK *Leadership Watch*, 02/14/2018)
N. Korea prepares for modest celebration of late leader's birthday this week: Seoul (*Yonhap*, 02/14/2018)
North Korean Border Guards Rotated Every Half Hour in New Security Push (RFA, 02/14/2018)
N. Korean Cheerleaders Are Tightly Controlled to Prevent Defections (VOA, 02/14/2018)
North Korean figure skaters revel in starring role on Olympic ice (CNN, 02/14/2018)
North Korean pair given warm welcome on Pyeongchang debut (*Reuters*, 02/13/2018)
Olympics inspire hope for increased access to South Korean goods (*Daily* NK, 02/14/2018)
What North Korea's Olympic delegation saw for the first time (CNN, 02/14/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) Leaders of new centrist party show differences over N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 02/14/2018)
Leader of new party calls for sending special envoy to U.S. before N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 02/14/2018)
LKP leader: Ex-President Lee rejected N. Korea's summit proposal (*Yonhap*, 02/14/2018)
South Korea cuts down screening period for North Korean defectors (*UPI*, 02/13/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) (Olympics) Joint Korean hockey team shows signs of life in loss to Japan (*Yonhap*, 02/14/2018)
(LEAD) (Olympics) Joint Korean team loses to Japan in women's hockey (*Yonhap*, 02/14/2018)
Bill for North's participation in Games mounts (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/14/2018)
Ice Hockey: Do you believe in Miracles? Korea score a goal (*Reuters*, 02/14/2018)
Ice Hockey: Japan win as unified Korea enjoy special moment (*Reuters*, 02/14/2018)
Ice hockey: Korea scores political win but loses on ice (*Reuters*, 02/14/2018)
Japan preparing schools for North Korea missiles (UPI, 02/14/2018)
Japan's worries about North Korea's 'charm offensive' (BBC, 02/14/2018)
N.K. cheering squad stages surprise performance during trip to tourist attraction (*Yonhap*, 02/13/2018)
North Korean cheerleaders caught off guard by fake Kim Jong Un (*Reuters*, 02/14/2018)
(Olympics) Joint Korean hockey coach calls hard-fought loss to Japan 'best game we've played in the Olympics' (*Yonhap*, 02/14/2018)
(Olympics) N. Korean cheerleaders make trip to alpine venue in PyeongChang (*Yonhap*, 02/14/2018)
(Olympics) N. Korean forward back in lineup for joint hockey team vs. Japan (*Yonhap*, 02/14/2018)
(Olympics) Women's hockey forward has mixed emotions after scoring momentous goal in loss (*Yonhap*, 02/14/2018)
Seoul approves fund to pay N. Korea's Olympic bills (*Yonhap*, 02/14/2018)
'So proud': Parents' views on joint Korea hockey team evolve (*Washington Post*, 02/14/2018)
South Korea approves record $2.6 million budget for North Koreans' Olympic visit (*Reuters*, 02/13/2018)
The AP Asks: What would South Koreans ask a North Korean?(*Washington Post*, 02/13/2018)
'We are one!' - Korean chanting is only show at the slalom (*Reuters*, 02/13/2018)
You know those North Korean cheering squads? South Korea will pay their bills. (*Washington Post*, 02/14/2018)

International:

(LEAD) Investigation underway into Latvian bank suspected of illegal dealing with N. Korea(*Yonhap*, 02/14/2018)
(LEAD) Ministry briefs Chinese envoy on inter-Korean ties (*Yonhap*, 02/14/2018)
(LEAD) Moon: U.S. expresses willingness to talk to N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 02/13/2018)
Admiral Says North Korea Aiming to Reunify Korean Peninsula (NYT, 02/14/2018)
A Trojan horse (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/14/2018)
'Deep Down': Rivalry Between Koreas, Japan Transcends Sports (NYT, 02/14/2018)
Don't push Washington (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/14/2018)
Facing US Pressure, North Korea Turns to Sports Diplomacy (VOA, 02/14/2018)
Goals on the Ice and Politics in the Air as Japan Beats Unified Korean Team (NYT, 02/14/2018)
Has North Korea's week at the Winter Olympics diminished the nuclear threat? (*Guardian*, 02/14/2018)
Newest target of U.S. sanctions is Latvian bank (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/14/2018)
North Korean cheerleaders baffle IOC (*Korea Times*, 02/14/2018)
(Olympics) Japanese coach 'surprised' with joint Korean hockey team's struggles (*Yonhap*, 02/13/2018)
(Olympics) Ex-U.N. chief says unified Korean team can play a big role in easing tension (*Yonhap*, 02/13/2018)
S.Korea, Estonia agree to increase cooperation in cybersecurity (*Yonhap*, 02/14/2018)
S. Korean, Swedish foreign ministers to discuss ties, N. Korean nuclear issue (*Yonhap*, 02/14/2018)
S. Korea's top diplomat considers attending U.N. rights council meeting (*Yonhap*, 02/14/2018)
U.S. experts assess Pyongyang's invitation (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/14/2018)
U.S. intel chief says decision time on N.K. 'ever closer' (*Yonhap*, 02/13/2018)
US Official: N. Korea Will Be 'Most Confrontational' Mass Destruction Threat to US, Allies (VOA, 02/13/2018)
White House: U.S. open to engaging N. Korea on denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 02/13/2018)

Top News:

- HRNK's Director of Programs and Editor Rosa Park, joins the Korean Economic Institute's podcast Korean Kontext to discuss HRNK's recent work and Trump's focus on North Korean human rights. (*KEI*)

In North Korea:

- Workers' Party of Korea [WPK]Vice Chairman, State Affairs Commission Vice Chairman and WPK Organization Guidance Department Director Choe Ryong Hae visited sites in South Hwanghae Province. (*NK Leadership Watch*)
- A photo from Kim Jong-il's and KJU's guidance trip to the Jagang Machine Plant on 2011-4-8 on display in a N. Korean apartment had Jang Song-thaek photoshopped out. (*NK Econ Watch*)
- 1936 Olympics, Nazi Germany forced the world to question whether Hitler's intentions had been misinterpreted. But just 3 years later, Hitler plunged Europe and eventually the world into World War II. The international community may therefore be more wary of despots trying to take advantage of international sporting events to spread deceptive propaganda. (*Daily NK*)
- Members of the DPRK central leadership traveled up to Samjiyo'n and to Mt. Paektu on February 12 (Monday).During the day, senior officials delivered flowers to the statues and

monuments overlooking Lake Samji. At the night there was a loyalty oath meeting. (NK Leadership Watch)

- NK appears to be preparing modest celebratory events for late leader Kim Jong-il's birthday this week, the unification ministry said Wednesday. (Yonhap)
- N. Korean security measures along the border with China have been further tightened in recent days, following authorities' failure to stop smuggling and defections during a previously declared period of special vigilance. (Jieun Kim, RFA)
- The cheering faces of NK's Olympic charm offensive are carefully groomed and under constant surveillance to ensure they present an engaging image to the world, and to prevent any of them from trying to defect. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- Skating to "A Day in the Life" by The Beatles, N. Korea's figure skaters received huge cheers as they took to the ice at the Gangneung Ice Arena at the Winter Olympics in South Korea. (James Griffiths, Euan McKirdy, CNN)
- N. Korean pair skaters Ryom Tae-ok and Kim Ju-sik made their long-awaited debut at the Olympics on Wed. in front of a crowd of euphoric spectators cheering on every jump and lift. (Gabrielle Tetrault-Farber, Reuters)
- Residents in the North had expressed limited interest in the events of weeks past, but it appears that Kim Yo-jong's visit and her delivery of a handwritten note from KJU to Moon has sparked the public's curiosity. Ordinary people in NK are interested in the potential for improving inter-Korean relations if it brings an end to the current crackdown on S. Korean products in the markets as well as harsh punishment for viewing S. Korean movies and dramas. (Kang Mi Jin, Daily NK)
- Some of North Korea's delegation to the PyeongChang Olympics stepped into a very different world from the sheltered and tightly controlled version of reality they're accustomed to at home. (Paul P. Murphy, Will Ripley, Sophie Jeong, CNN)

In South Korea:

- Differences over NK, one of the most divisive issues in SK, have been cited as a key challenge facing the new Bareun Future party that was created Tues. through the merger of the center-left People's Party and the center-right Bareun Party. (Yonhap)
- A leader of the newly created minor opposition Bareun Future Party said Wed. the government should send a special envoy to the US first to further solidify the alliance with Washington before sending one to NK. (Yonhap)
- Kim Jong-il proposed holding a summit with then-S. Korean President Lee Myung-bak on condition that SK recognize the NK's nuclear weapons, but Lee rejected the proposal, the leader of the main opposition Liberty Korea Party said Wed. Hong Joon-pyo disclosed the alleged proposal, which was not mentioned even in Lee's memoir, published in January 2015, as part of efforts to underscore his point that Moon should not pursue a summit with NK without discussion on denuclearization. (Yonhap)
- The S. Korean government will reduce the screening period for N. Korean defectors from 180 days to a maximum of 90 days after entry to the South. (Jennie Oh, UPI)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Another game, another loss for the joint Korean women's hockey team at the Olympics. But in falling to Japan 4-1 to close out Group B play on Wed., Korea showed some signs of life. And that's encouraging because the team still has two more games left to play. (Yoo Jee-ho,*Yonhap*)
- The joint Korean women's hockey team suffered its third straight loss at the Olympics on Wed, falling to Japan 4-1. (Yoo Jee-ho, *Yonhap*)
- In addition to the 2.86 billion won, the Unification Ministry already approved money for the N. Korean advance teams' visits last month. The ministry approved 27 million won on Jan. 26 to cover the trip of Hyon Song-wol, leader of North Korea's Samjiyon Orchestra, on Jan. 21 and 22, and an advance team of athletes who visited the South from Jan. 25 to 27. More money will later be approved and spent to accommodate 150 N. Korean athletes who will participate in the Paralympic Games from March 9 to 18. (Chun Su-jin, Jeong Yong-soo, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- It is rare the US and NK have reason to celebrate together but Randi Heesoo Griffin gave them one on Wed when she scored the united Korean women's ice hockey team's first and only Olympic goal in a 4-1 loss to Japan. (Steve Keating, *Reuters*)
- Japan carried the day on Wed. when the long-time national rivalry with North Asian neighbors NK and SKspilled on to Olympic ice, beating Korea's unified women's ice hockey team 4-1 in a game of firsts for both teams. (Dan Burns, Steve Keating, *Reuters*)
- With talk of a gold medal in diplomacy and a Nobel Peace Prize the united Korean women's ice hockey team bowed out of the Olympics proper on Wed. with a handshake and a sense of achievement but without a win. (Steve Keating, *Reuters*)
- The Japanese government has decided to add guidelines on missile evacuation for schools in a move that signals ongoing wariness about NK despite an inter-Korea detente on the peninsula. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's foreign minister, Taro Kono, told BBC he was worried S. Koreans could be taken in by the North's "charm offensive". (Rupert Wingfield-Hayes, *BBC*)
- NK's cheerleaders visiting the South for the Olympics staged a surprise performance Tues. during their trip to a tourist attraction in Gangneung, a sub-host city of the Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- A group of N. Korean cheerleaders were briefly wowed by the apparent, sudden arrival of their leader, KJU at an Olympic ice hockey game on Wed. But it was just an impersonator named Howard who smiled and waved to crowds that came to watch a unified Korean team play Japan. (James Pearson, Jin Hyon-joo, *Reuters*)
- The joint Korean women's hockey team played so well in a loss to Japan at the Winter Games on Wed. that its coach called it "the best game we've played in the Olympics." (Yoo Jee-ho, *Yonhap*)
- N. Korean cheerleaders on Wed. made their way to an alpine skiing venue at the Olympics in SK, though they didn't get to watch their compatriot's performance due to the event being rescheduled. (Joo Kyung-don, *Yonhap*)
- N. Korean forward Jong Su-hyon returned to the lineup of the joint Korean women's hockey team at the Olympics on Wednesday. (Yoo Jee-ho, *Yonhap*)
- After scoring a momentous goal in a loss, joint Korean women's hockey team forward Randi Heesoo Griffin was feeling a mixed bag of emotions on Wed. It was the first goal by a Korean hockey team, male or female, in the Olympics. (Yoo Jee-ho, *Yonhap*)

- SK on Wed. approved a plan to use a government fund to support NK's participation in the Olympics. 2.86 billion won (US$2.64 million) in spending from the government budget for inter-Korean cooperation to pay the Olympic bills was passed.(*Yonhap*)
- When the Koreas suddenly began the push to form a joint Olympic team in women's hockey, angry parents of S. Korean players considered public demonstrations against the notion. Once the Olympics opened, though, attitudes started changing with the amount of attention the team was getting. (Kim Hyung-jin, AP)
- SK approved on Wed. the use of a record 2.86 billion won ($2.64 million) to bankroll the cost of hosting hundreds of visiting N. Koreans during the Olympics. (*Reuters*)
- Embedded in a crowd of excited South Korean Olympic fans waiting to get into a united Korea women's ice hockey match, The Associated Press posed a question:If you had the chance, what would you ask a North Korean? (Eric Talmadge, Kim Tong-hyun, AP)
- A friendly chanting exchange between N. Korean cheerleaders and S. Korean fans was the only show on offer at the women's slalom on Wed. as high winds wreaked more havoc on the Alpine skiing schedule. (Mark Trevelyan, *Reuters*)
- The S. Korean government will pick up the $2.6 million tab for NK's participation at the Olympics, agreeing Wed. to cover the costs accrued by the 500 cheerleaders, musicians, taekwondo performers and journalists. (Anna Fifield, *Washington Post*)

International:

- Latvia is investigating a local bank suspected of illegal trading related to NK's weapons system, the Latvian top diplomat said Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- A senior S. Korean official in charge of NK affairs met Wed. with the top Chinese envoy here to update him on inter-Korean relations amid an Olympics-led thaw. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon said Tues. the US has expressed a willingness to talk to NK. (*Yonhap*)
- The senior US Navy officer overseeing military operations in the Pacific says N. Korean leader KJU's long-term goal is to reunify the divided Korean Peninsula under his totalitarian regime. (AP)
- Unless the nuclear issue nears resolution, the post-PyeongChang situation won't be any different. We need to look at the bare face of KJU, not his mask. (Kim Byung-yeon, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- The fierce grudges over historical persecution and a thousand perceived national and cultural slights cannot be untwined from the sports for many Koreans. These swirling emotions were front and center Wed. as a combined team of N. and S.Koreans played regional power Japan in women's hockey. (AP)
- Seoul must not nag at Washington. We must not forget that NK is the source of the problem. If Pyongyang insists it cannot yield, Seoul must demand it come up with a third option. That is the only way to get US. officials to sit across from N. Koreans.(Kim Hyun-ki, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- The North's decision to participate in the Olympics came amid increasing international sanctions, which called for Seoul to engage in a flurry of diplomatic maneuvers to seek a temporary lifting of sanctions against Pyongyang, raising concern in Washington that Seoul was playing into the North's ploy to use the Olympics to ease sanctions. (Christy Lee, VOA)
- But for the only team to compete here with athletes from both N. and S. Korea, a 4-1 loss against Japan on Wed. night was the most painful defeat. In what has been an Olympics rife with geopolitical undertones, the game between Japan and Korea was the most political of

all, pitting the unified Korean team's players against rivals from the country of their former colonial occupiers. (Mokoto Rich, AP)

- KJU's decision to send his sister Kim Yo-jong and 200 -strong cheerleading squad to the winter Olympics has has been seized upon by some as a sign of NK coming in from the cold to seek peace and even reunification. But are there really grounds for such optimism? (Tania Branigan, *Guardian*)
- Washington is putting sanctions on Latvia's ABLV Bank for money laundering and activities linked to NK's nuclear and missile programs, announced the US Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) on Tues. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- N. Korean cheerleaders have embarrassed the International Olympic Committee (IOC) as they turned a deaf ear to a recommendation to stop using flags that the Olympic governing body believes carries political statements. (Kang Hyun-kyung, *Korea Times*)
- On the eve of his team's showdown against the joint Korean team in women's hockey tournament at the Olympics, Japanese assistant coach Yuji Iizuka said Tues. he has been "surprised" with Korea's struggles so far. (Yoo Jee-ho, *Yonhap*)
- Former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Tues. that the unified Korean women's ice hockey team and the two Koreas' joint parade at the Olympics will play a big role in easing tension on the Korean Peninsula. (Joo Kyung-don, *Yonhap*)
- Prime Minister Lee Nak-yon agreed Wed. to increase cooperation with Estonia in cyber security and other areas during talks with his Estonian counterpart, Juri Ratas. (*Yonhap*)
- S. Korean and Swedish foreign ministers will hold a meeting next week to discuss bilateral ties and cooperation on security issues, including NK's nuclear threats. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's top diplomat may attend a meeting of the UN Human Rights Council this month where she is expected to touch on the issues of the N. Korean human rights situation and Japan's wartime sexual slavery, informed sources said Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- American experts weighed in on N. Korean leader KJU's invitation for a summit with Moon, delivered by his younger sister and special envoy, Kim Yo-jong, with many expressing skepticism over whether it could lead to talks between Pyongyang and Washington. (Kim Hyun-ki, Jung Hyo-sik, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- US intelligence chief Dan Coats said Tues. that the time for a decision on Washington's response to NK's nuclear and ballistic missile programs is drawing "ever closer." (*Yonhap*)
- US National Intelligence Director Dan Coats told the Senate Intelligence Committee Tues. during its annual worldwide threats hearing that NK's weapons of mass destruction will pose a significant danger to the US and its allies in the near future. (VOA)
- The US is willing to engage NK to make clear the regime must give up its nuclear weapons, a White House National Security Council spokesperson said Tues. (*Yonhap*)

Prepared by Emma Stubblefield, HRNK Research Intern

Thursday, February 15, 2018

Kim Yo Jong is a Twisted Sister; The Pyeongchang Olympics is N.K.'s Winter Offensive; Pence: Any U.S. talks with N.K. would press denuclearization demand

Top News:
Kim Yo Jong is a Twisted Sister (WSJ, 02/13/2018)
The Pyeongchang Olympics is North Korea's Winter Offensive (*The National Interest*, 02/13/2018)
Some suggested reading following North Korea's 'PR triumph' at the Olympics (*Washington Post*, 02/14/2018)

In North Korea:
(LEAD) N. Korean taekwondo team returns home after four-show tour in S. Korea (*Yonhap*, 02/15/2018)
FinCEN designates Latvian Bank for North Korea links (*nkeconwatch*, 02/14/2018)
Ideological lectures say nuclear power brought together two Koreas at Olympics (*DailyNK*, 02/15/2018)
KPA Promotions Order Issued for the Day of the Shining Star (*nkleadershipwatch*, 02/15/2018)
N.K. leader fears U.S. preventative strike: defector (*Yonhap*, 02/15/2018)
North Korea cheerleader: 'We were on the frontline' (BBC, 02/15/2018)
North Korean ship spotted likely violating sanctions a third time (CNN, 02/14/2018)
TV footage suggests possible comeback of senior N. Korean official (*Yonhap*, 02/15/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) Over 60 pct of S. Koreans support proposed inter-Korean summit: poll (*Yonhap*, 02/15/2018)
(LEAD) Moon calls for international support for N. Korea-U.S. dialogue (*Yonhap*, 02/15/2018)
Government approves $2.6 million spending for North Koreans' stay (*Korea Times*, 02/14/2018)
North Korean pair charm the South in Games adventure (*Reuters*, 02/15/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
'Denuclearization' should be top of agenda (*Korea Times*, 02/14/2018)
North Korean Cheerleaders Appear at South Korean Men's Game (NYT, 02/15/2018)

International:
(LEAD) U.S. commander: N.K. seeks reunification under communist system (*Yonhap*, 02/15/2018)
Admiral says North Korea aiming to reunify Korean Peninsula (*Washington Post*, 02/14/2018)
Any U.S. talks with North Korea would press denuclearization demand: Pence (*Reuters*, 02/14/2018)
At Olympics, North Korean Atrocities Overlooked by South, Overplayed by US (VOA, 02/15/2018)
Japan's Abe, Trump Agree to Keep Up Pressure on North Korea (NYT, 02/15/2018)
Mike Pence says he 'ignored' Kim Jong-un's sister at Olympics to send a message (*Telegraph*, 02/14/2018)
North Korean threat could require new missile defenses for western U.S. (*Washington Post*, 02/14/2018)
Pence draws line between talks, negotiations with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 02/15/2018)
Trump Administration Denies Plan for Strike on North Korea (NYT, 02/15/2018)
US may talk with N. Korea (*Korea Times*, 02/14/2018)
US Vice President Mike Pence says he ignored Kim Jong Un's sister (CNN, 02/14/2018)

VOA Interview: UN Chief Antonio Guterres (VOA, 02/14/2018)

Top News:

- HRNK's latest publication *From Cradle to Grave: The Path of North Korean Innocents* stated that N.K.'s Propaganda and Agitation Department, where KJU's sister has served as a deputy director, plays a key role in justifying Kim family rule through propaganda and controlling the public at all levels. (Claudia Rosett, WSJ)
- HRNK Board Member Nicholas Eberstadt argues that N.K. sent a high-level delegation to S.K. with a purpose to entice S.K. to break ranks on sanctions, weaken the U.S.-ROK alliance, and earn the "breathing space" it needs to complete its nuke-missile quest. (Nicholas Eberstadt, *The National Interest*)
- HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu commented on a N.K. defector Shin Dong-hyuk's admission of altering some parts of his escaping story that what truly matters is that he is a political prison camp survivor, regardless of the details of his story. (Sonny Bunch, *Washington Post*)

In North Korea:

- More than two dozen N.K. taekwondo performers returned home Thursday following a rare show tour in S.K. organized to mark the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- The U.S. Department of the Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) issued a finding and notice of ABLV Bank's illegal dealing with N.K. (*nkeconwatch*)
- The N.K. regime has recently ordered ideological training for its citizens emphasizing that the unified Korean team is a result of N.K.'s nuclear capabilities. Sources inside the country say that the training sessions are already underway. (Seol Song Ah, *DailyNK*)
- KJU issued a military promotions order for the occasion of the birthday of his father, late DPRK leader Kim Jong Il on February 13. (*nkleadershipwatch*)
- KJU has been reaching out to S.K. out of fear the U.S. will launch a preventative strike on his country, a N.K. defector who worked for the regime said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- Former N.K. cheerleader Han Seo-hee, who defected to S.K. several years ago, describes what it was like being in the "army of beauties". (BBC)
- A N.K. tanker has likely violated UN sanctions for the third time in recent months, according to authorities in Japan. (Joshua Berlinger and Yoko Wakatsuki, CNN)
- A former N.K. top military officer, who appears to be Hwang Pyong-so, was seen standing and clapping along with key officials at the ceremony in Pyongyang, a possible sign that he has made a political comeback. (*Yonhap*)

In South Korea:

- Six out of ten South Koreans think the two Koreas should hold another round of bilateral summit talks amid an inter-Korean rapprochement driven by the Olympic Games currently under way in PyeongChang. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon called for international support to possible talks between N.K. and the U.S. as he expressed hopes that inter-Korean dialogue forged by the Winter Olympics could help set the stage for talks between the two nations. (*Yonhap*)

- The S.K. government decided to use the Inter-Korean Cooperation Fund to cover the cost of the North Koreans' stay in the South during the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (Choi Ha-young, *Korea Times*)
- N.K. pair Ryom Tae Ok and Kim Ju Sik ended their Olympic adventure in S.K. on Thursday, winning over the home crowd's hearts even if they fell well short of a medal. (Hyunjoo Jin, Gabrielle Tetrault-Farber, *Reuters*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- S.K. President Moon should make it clear that N.K. should place denuclearization on the agenda if it really wants an inter-Korean summit, according to a former high-ranking U.S. diplomat. (Kim Jae-kyoung, *Korea Times*)
- N.K.'s cheerleading squad made an unexpected appearance at the S.K. men's hockey game against the Czech Republic, marking their first attendance at an Olympic event not featuring a N.K. athlete. (*Reuters*)

International:

- A top U.S. military commander said Wednesday he believes KJU is intent on reunifying the Korean Peninsula under a single, communist system. (*Yonhap*)
- KJU's long-term goal is to reunify the divided Korean Peninsula under his totalitarian government, the senior U.S. Navy officer overseeing military operations in the Pacific told lawmakers Wednesday. (Richard Lardner, AP)
- The U.S. is open to talks with N.K., but only to convey the U.S. stance that "the most tyrannical and oppressive regime on the planet" must give up its nuclear weapons, U.S. Vice President Mike Pence said. (Roberta Rampton, *Reuters*)
- S.K.'s Olympic outreach to N.K. has raised concerns that Seoul is willing to overlook N.K. human rights abuses, while the U.S. focus on N.K. atrocities could mean to justify increased sanctions or even military action to end the N.K. nuclear threat. (VOA)
- Abe and Trump agreed to keep up pressure on N.K. until Pyongyang abandons its nuclear and missile programs, Japan's foreign ministry said. (*Reuters*)
- Mike Pence, the US vice president, said he deliberately "ignored" the sister of KJU at the Winter Olympics in S.K. and it would not have been proper for him to acknowledge her. (Nick Allen, *Telegraph*)
- N.K.'s growing missile and nuclear capability may require new U.S. investments in missile defense for the western-most U.S., the top U.S. military official for the Pacific said. (Missy Ryan, *Washington Post*)
- U.S. Vice President Mike Pence on Wednesday drew the line between talks and negotiations with N.K., saying President Trump "believes in" the former. (*Yonhap*)
- The Trump administration doesn't have a "bloody nose" strategy focused on a military strike against N.K.'s nuclear program without provoking a full-scale war. (AP)
- The U.S. appears to be cautiously considering dialogue with N.K. over denuclearization as Pyongyang has stepped up a peace offensive including a proposal for an inter-Korean summit. (Kim Jae-kyung, Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- US Vice President Mike Pence said he actively chose to ignore KJU's sister at the Opening Ceremony for the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (Joshua Berlinger, CNN)

- UN Chief Antonia Guterres: "N.K. must understand that they have to accept denuclearization, but the others must understand that denuclearization needs to be accompanied by the security guarantees that allow for it to be acceptable for N.K." (Margaret Besheer, VOA)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

Friday, February 16, 2018

Kim Yo Jong does not accurately represent North Korea. Here is the reality; KJU visits mausoleum of late leader to mark birthday; NK says US to pay dear price for raising human rights issue

Top News:
Kim Yo Jong does not accurately represent North Korea. Here is the reality. (*Washington Post*, 02/16/2018)

In North Korea:
(LEAD) Kim Jong-un visits mausoleum of late leader to mark birthday (*Yonhap*, 02/16/2018)
[Photos] More North Korean overseas workers return home (*Daily* NK, 02/16/2018)
Central Report Meeting Marking KJI's Birthday (NK *Leadership Watch*, 02/16/2018)
Did Kim Jong Un's 'historic' missile get a boost from old Soviet weapons? (*Washington Post*, 02/16/2018)
Hwang Pyong So Back after Four Month Public Absence (NK *Leadership Watch*, 02/16/2018)
Ideological lectures say nuclear power brought together two Koreas at Olympics (*Daily* NK, 02/16/2018)
KJU Visits Ku'msusan on the Day of the Shining Star (NK *Leadership Watch*, 02/16/2018)
Most North Koreans Can't Actually Watch the Olympic Games (NY *Times*, 02/15/2018)
North Korea's Kim Jong Un pays tribute on father's birth anniversary (UPI, 02/15/2018)
TV footage suggests possible comeback of senior N. Korean official (*Yonhap*, 02/16/2018)

In South Korea:
Majority of South Koreans back summit with North Korea (*Korea Times*, 02/15/2018)
Moon's chief of staff takes center stage in inter-Korean detente (*Reuters*, 02/15/2018)
Nearly 3,800 S. Koreans died of old age last year without reuniting with families in the North (*Yonhap*, 02/16/2018)
Seoul footing record tab for North Korea at 2018 Olympics (*Washington Post*, 02/16/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) N. Korean taekwondo team returns home after four-show tour in S. Korea (*Yonhap*, 02/16/2018)

(LEAD) Unification minister presses N. Korea to hold reunion of separated families (*Yonhap*, 02/16/2018)
(Olympics) Korean Olympic athletes mark Lunar New Year with joint traditional ceremony (*Yonhap*, 02/16/2018)
Red Cross on Korean Peninsula could be preparing for reunions (UPI, 02/16/2018)
The leaders of both Koreas feel like they won gold medals this week (*Washington Post*, 02/16/2018)
Winter Olympics: North Korea cheerleaders support South's ice hockey team (BBC, 02/15/2018)
With Koreas Olympic thaw, war-split families want reunions (*Washington Post*, 02/16/2018)

International:
(LEAD) U.S. will achieve N.K. denuclearization 'one way or another': top diplomat (*Yonhap*, 02/16/2018)
N. Korea says U.S. to pay dear price for raising human rights issue (*Yonhap*, 02/16/2018)
No 'bloody nose' plan for North Korea: U.S. official, senators (*Reuters*, 02/15/2018)
North Korea denounces 'Trump group' for bringing up Otto Warmbier during Olympics charm offensive (*Washington Post*, 02/16/2018)
Report: Ship making illicit North Korea transfer is of Chinese origin (UPI, 02/16/2018)
Seeing Bounty Abroad, Will North Koreans Change Their Homeland? (NY *Times*, 02/16/2018)
Sweet Distraction? North Korea's feminine touch at Olympics (*Washington Post*, 02/16/2018)
The Latest: Guterres urges peaceful solution on North Korea (*Washington Post*, 02/16/2018)
U.S. planning radars in Hawaii to deter North Korea missile (UPI, 02/15/2018)
U.S. says S. Korea followed proper procedure to pay N. Korea's Olympic bills (*Yonhap*, 02/16/2018)

Top News:

- Kim Yo Jong, a sister of KJU, is not the "N.Korean Ivanka." She is the deputy director of the Propaganda and Agitation Department, a senior leader of the most brutal repressive totalitarian regime on the face of the Earth. She represents the brutality of the Kim regime, yet despite this cruel reality, media outlets could not help fawning over the N.Korean delegation. (Marc A. Thiessen, *Washington Post*)

In North Korea:

- N.Korean leader KJU visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, a national mausoleum, as the country marks the birthday of Kim's father and former leader, NK's state-run news agency reported Fri. (*Yonhap*)
- Ahead of the Lunar New Year holiday, Daily NK obtained photos of employees of a recently-closed N.Korean restaurant called Pyongyang Koryo Pavilion in the Chinese border city of Dandong returning home to NK. (Seol Song Ah, *Daily NK)*
- A central report meeting commemorating the birth anniversary of the late DPRK leader Kim Jong Il, the Day of the Shining Star, was held on the afternoon of Feb. 15 (Thurs.) at Pyongyang Indoor Stadium in central Pyongyang. Similar report meetings were held in provincial capitals, cities, county seats and at large industrial factories throughout the country. (*NK Leadership Watch*)
- The powerful intercontinental missile tested by NK late last year is "highly likely" to have been built with foreign blueprints or parts, according to a new technical analysis that

describes multiple similarities between Pyongyang's new missile and ones built by the Soviet Union decades ago. (Joby Warrick, *Washington Post*)

- Hwang Pyong So has returned to an unknown position in the Workers' Party of Korea Central Committee, as he was observed in the front row at a Feb. 15 central report meeting marking KJI's birth anniversary and later joined other WPK Central Committee officials accompanying KJU on a midnight visit to Ku'msusan to pay their respects to Kim Jong Il. Hwang's last public appearance was in mid-Oct. when he attended a central report meeting marking the foundation anniversary of the DPRK's revolutionary high schools. (*NK Leadership Watch*)
- The N.Korean regime has recently ordered ideological training for its citizens emphasizing that the unified Korean team is a result of NK's nuclear capabilities. Sources inside the country say that the training sessions, led by the Organization and Guidance Department of the Korean Workers' Party, are already underway. (Seol Song Ah, *Daily NK*)
- KJU visited the Ku'msusan Memorial Palace of the Sun at midnight (NKST) on Feb. 16 (Fri.), the birth anniversary of his father, late DPRK leader Kim Jong Il. (*NK Leadership Watch*)
- While NK technically has free access to Olympic broadcasts, its isolated people are unlikely to watch any broadcasts from Pyeongchang, said officials and N.Korean defectors in SK. (Choe Sang-Hun, *NY Times*)
- NK's KJU made a public appearance on state television on Fri., to mark the birth anniversary of father Kim Jong Il, who passed away in Dec. 2011. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- A man who appears to be a disgraced former N.Korean top military officer attended a party ceremony to commemorate the birthday of late leader Kim Jong-il, footage from NK's state broadcaster indicated Thurs. (*Yonhap*)

In South Korea:

- Six in 10 S.Koreans favored holding an inter-Korean summit, a recent opinion poll showed. The survey of 500 people by pollster Realmeter for tbs radio Wed. showed 61.5 percent approved of the summit as a starting point for establishing peace on the Korean Peninsula. (Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)
- The liberal S.Korean president is banking on Im Jong-Seok, his Chief of Staff, and a handful of other key players, to rebuild inter-Korean ties strained by nearly a decade of conservative rule in the South and the North's accelerating nuclear and missile programs. (Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)
- Nearly 3,800 S.Koreans died of old age last year without a chance to reunite with their separated families in NK, government data showed Fri. (*Yonhap*)
- According to SK's Unification Ministry, that's the record amount the country has allotted to pay the bills of more than 400 N.Koreans, only 22 of whom were athletes, at the Pyeongchang Games. (Eric Talmadge, AP)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- More than two dozen N.Korean taekwondo performers returned home Thurs. following a rare show tour in SK organized to mark the PyeongChang Winter Olympics, the authorities in Seoul said. (*Yonhap*)

- Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon on Fri. called on NK to accept SK's proposal to arrange a reunion event for families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War. (*Yonhap*)
- S.Korean Olympic athletes took part in a joint ceremony on Fri. to mark the Lunar New Year, when Koreans pay respects to their ancestors and eat a family meal with traditional soup. (*Yonhap*)
- The N.Korean and S.Korean Red Cross have been in regular contact since fall, and the organizations have been confirming the status of separated family members, according to Japanese news services. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- The leaders of both Koreas have reason to celebrate as they mark the start of the Lunar New Year holiday. (Anna Fifield, *Washington Post*)
- NK's cheerleading squad made an unexpected appearance at SK men's ice hockey game against the Czech Republic on Thurs. It was their first attendance at an Olympic event in Pyeongchang not featuring a N.Korean athlete. (BBC)
- SK wants full-fledged, regular reunions, but NK has used the programs in the past as a way to win aid and concessions from SK. Experts say NK also worries expanded reunions would expose its citizens to influence from the more affluent South. (Hyung-jin Kim, AP)

International:

- The US will achieve the denuclearization of NK "one way or another" even though it prefers a diplomatic solution, a top US diplomat said Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- NK has warned that the US will pay dearly for bringing up the topic of its human rights record, as it accused the US of kicking up a defamation campaign against Pyongyang by attributing the death of Otto Warmbier to NK. (*Yonhap*)
- The senior US diplomat for Asia, Susan Thornton, said on Thurs. she understood the Trump administration had no strategy for a so-called bloody nose strike on NK, but Pyongyang would be forced to give up its nuclear weapons “one way or another.” (David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)
- NK clearly did not appreciate Warmbier’s efforts, or the broader efforts by the Trump administration, to remind the world of its rampant human rights abuses just as it was trying to paper over them. The Trump administration was “kicking up a fuss” about NK and trying to “tarnish” its international image by talking about Otto Warmbier’s death, the unnamed official said in the statement, published by the NK's Korean Central News Agency Fri. (Anna Fifield, *Washington Post*)
- A Chinese firm is the proprietor of the Belize-registered tanker seen transferring cargo to a N.Korean ship in the East China Sea on Tues., according to a recent press report. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- With 22 athletes and an entourage of around 500 cheerleaders, arts performers, journalists and security minders at the Winter Games, the N.Koreans have been subjected to endless scrutiny about what they are seeing here, and whether it is, well, blowing their minds. More broadly, analysts and officials wonder if engaging with the outside world could have a political effect back home. (Motoko Rich, *NY Times*)
- To pour on the charm at the Pyeongchang Olympics, NK has turned to ball-gown clad singers, pompom-waving cheerleaders and two of its most influential women. And the media, the S.Korean public and the Olympic audience worldwide seem to be thoroughly enjoying the spectacle. (Eric Talmadge, Youkyung Lee, AP)

- U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is urging policymakers "not to miss the opportunity of a peaceful resolution" to the standoff over NK's nuclear program, saying a military solution would have "catastrophic consequences." (Associated Press)
- The US is to deploy radars in Hawaii by 2023 that could enhance efforts to deter NK missiles, a Japanese newspaper reported Thurs. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- SK followed due process to pay for NK's participation in the PyeongChang Olympics despite sanctions against the regime, the US State Department said Thurs. (Yonhap)

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, HRNK Research Intern

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Saturday, February 17, 2018

Moon says mood for inter-Korean summit not yet ripe; Lost in translation? GM plant shutdown shocks S.Korea; S.Korea joins US, Thailand in military landing drill

In North Korea:
N. Korean art troupe plays South Korean songs in Pyongyang: N. Korean media (*Yonhap*, 02/17/2018)
N. Korea newspaper says Pyongyang 'not thirsty' for dialogue with U.S. (*Yonhap*, 02/17/2018)
North Korean Holidays Drive Prices Up in Local Markets (RFA, 02/16/2018)
North Korea's largest overseas restaurant closed down (*nkeconwatch*, 02/16/2018)
The Myth of North Korea, the USS Pueblo, and Nuclear War (*38 North*, 02/16/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) (Olympics) N. Korean cheerleaders visit exhibition, perform in PyeongChang(*Yonhap*, 02/17/2018)
INTERVIEW: Governor Choi explains how Olympic diplomacy works (*Korea Times*, 02/17/2018)
Lost in translation? GM plant shutdown shocks South Korea (*Reuters*, 02/16/2018)
South Korea joins US, Thailand in military landing drill (*Washington Post*, 02/17/2018)
South Korea's Choi Min-Jeong wins women's 1,500m short track speed skating (UPI, 02/17/2018)
South Korean Official Floats Idea of Co-Hosting Asian Games With North (NYT, 02/17/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) Moon says mood for inter-Korean summit not yet ripe (*Yonhap*, 02/17/2018)
Moon won't discuss possible summit with North Korea's Kim (*Washington Post*, 02/17/2018)
South Korean president says Olympics have lowered tensions with North (*Washington Post*, 02/17/2018)
South Korea's Moon puts brakes on hopes for quick talks with North (CNN, 02/17/2018)

International:
As US Signals Openness to Talks With North Korea, Uncertainties Loom (VOA, 02/17/2018)
NATO Chief Warns of Growing Nuclear Threat From North Korea, Russia (VOA, 02/17/2018)

In North Korea:

- A N.K. art troupe, which held rare concerts in S.K. last week in commemoration of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics, performed in Pyongyang this week. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K. media said it is "not thirsty" for talks with the U.S., vilifying Vice President Mike Pence who showed skepticism toward an inter-Korean thaw during his visit to the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- The price of food products sold at local markets in N.K. has risen in recent weeks as rice, corn, and fruit are being requisitioned for gifts made to children and ruling party executives during state-ordered holiday celebrations. (RFA)
- The largest of N.K.'s overseas restaurants has closed, and its workers have been returning home in stages since sanctions passed by the UNSC last September forbade joint ventures with N.K. (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, *nkeconwatch*)
- While the notion that the Pueblo seizure almost sparked a nuclear war, a close look at the internal deliberations within the Johnson White House demonstrates quite clearly that the administration never seriously considered a nuclear response. (Mitchell Lerner, *38 North*)

In South Korea:

- N.K. cheerleaders toured an exhibition on a historic royal palace and staged a woodwind and brass band performance in PyeongChang. The cheer squad is currently staying in South Korea to support N.K. athletes. (*Yonhap*)
- S.Korea's Gangwon Province Governor Choi Moon-soon eases worries about inter-Korean relations at the expense of South Korea's US, Japan ties. (*Korea Times*)
- Following GM's shutdown of its Gunsan plant, the government seeks to prevent further job losses and provide support for the manufacturing sector. There is also a concerning voice that this could potentially have a negative impact on the US-ROK relationship. (*Reuters*)
- Troops from S.K. joined their Thai and U.S counterparts on Saturday in an amphibious vehicle landing drill as part of Southeast Asia's largest multinational military exercise. (Tassanee Vejpongsa, AP)
- S.K.'s Choi Min-jeong claimed her first Olympic title Saturday in women's 1,500 meter short track speed skating at the Pyeongchang Games. (*Yonhap*)
- A South Korean province is considering a proposal to co-host the 2021 Asian Winter Games with N.K. in a bid to strengthen inter-Korean ties. (*Reuters*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- President Moon said Saturday that it may be too early to discuss when or if he may hold a summit with KJU. (*Yonhap*)
- S.K. President Moon avoided answering questions regarding a potential Inter-Korean summit, saying "let's not get too far ahead." (AP)
- S.K. President Moon said that the Games have helped to lower tensions on the Korean Peninsula, and he expressed hope that the rapprochement would "lead to dialogue between the U.S. and N.K." (Chico Harlan, *Washington Post*)

- S.K. President Moon said Saturday it was too early to talk about hosting a summit with KJU, hinting he would not rush the matter. (Taehoon Lee and Laura Smith-Spark, CNN)

International:

- Despite recent inter-Korean engagement at the Winter Olympics that has created a thaw in diplomacy between the U.S. and N.K., the resumption of talks between the two sides remains elusive, former U.S. officials and analysts say. (Christy Lee, VOA)
- The head of NATO has said the alliance is determined to avoid a new arms race with Russia, but he warned that Moscow is developing new nuclear weapons that pose a threat to the West. (Henry Ridgwell, VOA)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

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Monday, February 19, 2018

Despite the Olympic glow, half of Korea remains in darkness; N.K. warns against resumption of S.K.-U.S. drills; US Open to Discussing Talks With N.K.

Top News:
Despite the Olympic glow, half of Korea remains in darkness (*ocregister*, 02/18/2018)
Realities of life in North Korea should be focus (*abqjournal*, 02/19/2018)

In North Korea:
As Athletes Struggle, Kim Jong Un Dreams of Olympic Glory (NYT, 02/19/2018)
DPRK Government Officials Visit Ku'msusan on DOTSS (*nkleadershipwatch*, 02/19/2018)
Events Held for Day of the Shining Star (*nkleadershipwatch*, 02/19/2018)
Former North Korean cheerleader describes orders to penetrate 'heart of the enemy' (*Telegraph*, 02/19/2018)
N. Korea offers condolences to Iranian leader over deadly plane crash (*Yonhap*, 02/19/2018)
North Korean authorities use trolleys to recapture transport market share (*DailyNK*, 02/19/2018)

In South Korea:
A sacrifice for Detroit (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/19/2018)
Blue House denies it had secret talks in Pyongyang (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/19/2018)
How a plot to kill Kim Il Sung ended in mutiny and murder (CNN, 02/19/2018)
Inter-Korean ties still precarious ahead of military talks, N. Korea blames U.S. (UPI, 02/19/2018)
Moon scrambles over GM plan (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/19/2018)
Seoul denies report on inter-Korean contacts in Pyongyang (*Korea Times*, 02/19/2018)
South Korea army division to conduct exercises near DMZ (UPI, 02/19/2018)

South Korea's Moon bemoans GM plant closure move, calls on government to help workers (*Reuters*, 02/19/2018)
S. Korea, five central American countries to discuss cooperation (*Yonhap*, 02/19/2018)
S. Korea's top diplomat calls for Sweden's cooperation in resolving N.K. nuke issue (*Yonhap*, 02/19/2018)
S. Korean president calls for urgent measures to respond to GM factory closure (UPI, 02/19/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Head in the sand (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/19/2018)
Ice Hockey: Unified Korean Team Could Be Beijing-Bound (NYT, 02/19/2018)
Latvia's banking sector rocked by U.S. probe, central bank chief's detention (*Reuters*, 02/19/2018)
N.K. warns against resumption of S. Korea-U.S. drills (*Yonhap*, 02/19/2018)
The EU and the 'Peace Olympics' (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/19/2018)

International:
150 North Koreans in Canada face deportation (*Korea Times*, 02/19/2018)
'Bad guy' Russia emerges as central player in Western diplomacy (*Reuters*, 02/18/2018)
Clash with North will be 'biblical': Risch (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/19/2018)
ECB stops all ABLV Bank payments amid U.S. corruption probe (*Reuters*, 02/19/2018)
Freeing 3 detainees could lead to U.S.-North Korea talks (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/19/2018)
Tillerson says he is listening for N.K. to tell him if it is ready to talk (*Yonhap*, 02/19/2018)
Top U.S. officials tell the world to ignore Trump's tweets (*Washington Post*, 02/18/2018)
US Open to Discussing Talks With North Korea (VOA, 02/19/2018)
Why Alleged North Korean Links Froze a Baltic Bank: QuickTake (*Washington Post*, 02/19/2018)

Top News:

- N.K.'s system of "re-education" camps, recently mapped by satellite by HRNK, is the most extensive in the world. Under three generations of Kims, hundreds of thousands, if not millions, have been imprisoned and killed in these camps. (Marc Thiessen, *ocregister*)
- N.K.'s "re-education" camps, where not just the offender, but three generations of his or her relatives would be sent, are mapped in *The Parallel Gulag: North Korea's "An-Jeon-Bu" Prison Camps*, one of HRNK's recent publications. (Marc Thiessen, *abqjournal*)

In North Korea:

- KJU wants to turn his country into an international sports power. He is pouring resources into training and infrastructure. N.K. athletes are getting more recognition than ever and the country now even has an all-sports TV channel. (AP)
- Senior DPRK Government officials visited Ku'msusan Palace of the Sun to mark the birth anniversary of late leader Kim Jong Il. Their visit began a series of similar visits by Korean People's Army service members and other DPRK citizens. (*nkleadershipwatch*)
- A variety of meetings and cultural events were held to mark the birth anniversary of the late DPRK leader Kim Jong Il, the Day of the Shining Star. (*nkleadershipwatch*)
- Revelations by Han Seo-hee, a defector living in S.K., that she was psychologically trained to promote N.K.'s 'Juche' ideology will fuel criticisms that the cheering squad has been deployed by Pyongyang as a tool for political manipulation. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)

- N.K.'s ceremonial head of state has expressed deep condolences to Iranian president Hassan Rouhani over a deadly plane crash in Iran. (*Yonhap*)
- The number of trolley cars and their hours of operation have expanded in N.K.. While it represents an improvement for N.K.'s public transport, some residents are seeing it as a way for the authorities to make more money from the people. (Seol Song Ah, *DailyNK*)

In South Korea:

- Trump is planning to make GM dump Gunsan and give the jobs to Detroit. In addition, the U.S. has announced measures to block Korean steel imports, Moon must get his priorities straight and pay more attention to solving economic problems. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- The Blue House issued an unusually lengthy and emotional denial on Monday against a Japanese newspaper's report that the South had two secret contacts with the North in Pyongyang at the end of last year. (Ser Myo-ja, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- S.K.'s "Unit 684," created in 1968 as a team of would-be assassins, ended in disaster. This story resonates today as S.K. embarks on the creation of a new decapitation unit, which could be a much-needed defense against N.K. (Ivan Watson and Jake Kwon, CNN)
- N.K. says U.S. is to blame if anything dampens the mood for improving inter-Korean relations, while observers voice concern that cross-border military talks may generate sparks. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- President Moon urged government departments including the Finance Ministry and Industry and Energy Ministry to come up with measures to help the economy of Gunsan, when GM Korea closes a factory there. (Jin Eun-soo, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Cheong Wa Dae has denied a Japanese media report that S.K. intelligence officials visited Pyongyang at least twice at the end of last year to discuss N.K.'s participation in the PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- S.K.'s military is planning to conduct tactical training drills near the DMZ, in border towns of Paju, Yangju, and Yeoncheon, on Tuesday and Wednesday. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- S.K. President Moon said on Monday that GM's decision to shut down a factory south of Seoul will hurt that region, and called upon his administration to take measures to boost economic activity there. (Christine Kim, *Reuters*)
- S.K. Vice Foreign Minister Cho Hyun will have a lunch meeting this week with top trade negotiators from five central American countries when they visit Seoul to sign a free trade agreement. (*Yonhap*)
- S.K.'s top diplomat called on Sweden for joint efforts to resolve N.K.'s nuclear issue, as she held talks with her Swedish counterpart on Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- S.K. President Moon has urged the government to actively respond to General Motors' decision to close down a plant in a southern city, which will impact thousands of local jobs. (Jennie Oh, UPI)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- S.K.'s absence at the 2018 Munich Security Conference shows the government is burying its head in the sand. As the US is reacting to the nuclear threat more sensitively than ever, S.K. must focus on denuclearization along with the global community. (*Joongang Ilbo*)

- The prospect of seeing a unified Korean women's ice hockey team return to action at the 2022 Olympics would be welcomed by International Ice Hockey Federation, who believe it would keep alive the message of peace and hope. (*Reuters*)
- Latvia's third-biggest bank sought emergency financial support on Monday after U.S. officials accused it of helping breach N.K. sanctions, hours after the central bank governor was arrested over separate bribery allegations. (Gederts Gelzis, *Reuters*)
- N.K. warned the U.S. on Monday against resuming joint military drills with Seoul, which have been postponed until after the PyeongChang Winter Games. (*Yonhap*)
- The EU sees this year's Olympics as a promotion of peace and universal values, such as non-discrimination, solidarity, gender equality and cultural diversity, through sport, a path S.K. has chosen as its engagement strategy with N.K. (Michael Reiterer, *Joongang Ilbo*)

International:

- About 150 N.K. defectors in Canada are under imminent threat of deportation due to false statements in their asylum application forms, Al Jazeera reported Monday. (Jung Min-ho, *Korea Times*)
- Despite the transatlantic show of anger at Russia during the Munich Security Conference, Western officials and diplomats also acknowledged an uncomfortable truth: that Russia is critical to resolving many of the world's worst conflicts. (*Reuters*)
- Rather than a "bloody nose" preventive military strike on N.K., any conflict between the U.S. and N.K. will be of "biblical proportions," a U.S. senator warned at an annual international security conference in Munich. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- The European Central Bank stopped all payments by Latvian lender ABLV Bank on Monday as its liquidity position has deteriorated after accusations by U.S. authorities of breaching sanctions against N.K. (*Reuters*)
- N.K.'s release of three Americans it has detained could play a crucial role in facilitating talks between Washington and Pyongyang. (Kang Tae-hwa, Ser Myo-ja, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has reiterated the U.S.' willingness to engage N.K. diplomatically, saying he is listening for Pyongyang to tell him if it is ready to talk. (*Yonhap*)
- Amid global anxiety about Trump's approach to world affairs, U.S. officials had a message for a gathering of Europe's foreign policy elite this weekend: Pay no attention to the man tweeting behind the curtain. (Michael Birnbaum and Griff Witte, *Washington Post*)
- The U.S. is indicating a new willingness to talk with N.K., but it is still difficult to see a peaceful resolution to the nuclear crisis on the Korean peninsula in the near future. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- ABLV has been plunged into crisis after the U.S. accused it of money laundering for N.K., leading the ECB urged Latvia to freeze payments by ABLV after some of the bank's clients fled. How has such incident happened? (Nicholas Comfort and John Glover, *Bloomberg*)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

Sunday, February 18, 2018

U.S. is ‘listening’ for signs North is ready to talk: Tillerson; Joint Korean hockey team still 'hungry for win' after another hard-fought loss

In North Korea:
(LEAD) (Olympics) N. Korean skiers thank cheerleaders, look forward to next Olympics (*Yonhap*, 02/18/2018)
Hwang Pyong-so comes back from being purged (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/18/2018)

In South Korea:
Ruling party chief urges N. Korea to show will to denuclearize (*Yonhap*, 02/18/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) (Olympics) N. Korean IOC member leaves PyeongChang for health reasons (*Yonhap*, 02/18/2018)
North Korea likely to seek weakening of global sanctions amid fuel crisis (UPI, 02/18/2018)
N. Korean defector arrested for sending rice to Pyongyang (*Yonhap*, 02/18/2018)
(Olympics) 3 N. Koreans dress for joint hockey team's classification match (*Yonhap*, 02/18/2018)
(Olympics) Joint Korean hockey team still 'hungry for win' after another hard-fought loss: coach (*Yonhap*, 02/18/2018)
Seoul said to have softened anti-North loudspeaker broadcasts during Olympics (*Yonhap*, 02/18/2018)
South Korean filmmaker hopeful Olympics will improve ties with North (*Reuters*, 02/17/2018)
Swiss women beats Korea, Japan wins 1st OT game of Olympics (*Washington Post*, 02/17/2018)
The frame of Kim’s masks (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/18/2018)

International:
Anticipation for inter-Korean talks, U.S.-North Korea dialogue builds (UPI, 02/18/2018)
Maximum pressure means peace (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/18/2018)
Moon urges U.S., North to talk (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/18/2018)
U.S. commander '100 pct' confident in defeating N.K. missile threat: report (*Yonhap*, 02/18/2018)
U.S. is ‘listening’ for signs North is ready to talk: Tillerson (*Yonhap*, 02/18/2018)
US Warns of ‘Critical Time for Humanity’ at Tense Security Conference (VOA, 02/18/2018)

In North Korea:

- Two N. Korean alpine skiers who competed in the men's giant slalom at the Olympics said Sun. they received a big boost from their compatriots' avid support. (Joo Kyung-don, *Yonhap*)
- Hwang Pyong-so, former director of the N. Korean Army’s General Political Bureau, whom SK’s spy agency believed was fired from his post for “impure attitudes” toward leader KJU, reemerged in NK media last week attending state events with other officials, fanning speculation he is back in the power circle, though with a lower rank. (Jeong Yong-soo, Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Ilbo*)

In South Korea:

- The chief of SK's ruling Democratic Party has said that inter-Korean relations will improve on the premise that NK ceases its provocations and shows its will to denuclearize, her office said Sun. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Chang Ung, the lone N. Korean member of the International Olympics Committee (IOC), returned home Sun. a week before the closing of the ongoing Winter Olympics due to health reasons. (*Yonhap*)
- NK will aim to cushion the impact of global sanctions by strengthening ties with SK, a NK expert told News 1 on Sun. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- A N. Korean defector has been arrested and indicted on charges of supporting the North and preparing to defect back to Pyongyang in violation of the National Security Law. (*Yonhap*)
- Three N. Koreans, including one new face, will dress for the joint Korean female hockey team's first classification match against Switzerland at the Winter Olympics on Sunday. (Yoo Jee-ho, *Yonhap*)
- The unified Korean women's hockey team had another hard-fought loss in the Olympic tournament Sun., falling to Switzerland 2-0 in the first classification match. (Yoo Jee-ho, *Yonhap*)
- SK appears to be toning down its loudspeaker-based propaganda broadcasts against NK in light of cross-border relations improved on the occasion of the Olympics, informed lawmakers and officials said Sun. (Yonhap)
- S. Korean filmmaker Kim Ki-duk said on Sat. he hoped for an improvement in relations between NK and SK given both countries were taking part in the Olympics on the southern part of the peninsula. (*Reuters*)
- Switzerland was better in its 2-0 win against Korea on Sunday, but the gap was nowhere near as wide as it was the first time the teams met at the Pyeongchang Games — an 8-0 rout in an Olympic opener that had everyone's attention one day after the opening ceremony. (Teresa M. Walker, AP)
- The "Kim Il-sung" masks that the N. Korean cheerleaders were wearing is a frame that offers insights into how many S. Korean young people view NK. (Ko Jung-ae, *Joongang Ilbo*)

International:

- Inter-Korean relations will improve on the condition that NK halts its nuclear and missile provocations and shows intentions of denuclearizing, according to Choo Mi-ae, Chairwoman of SK's ruling Democratic Party on Sun. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- SK cannot live with a nuclear presence in the North. Peace will come when you are resolved for war. Maximum pressure on NK means peace. (Kang Won-sik, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- President Moon said Sat. it is premature to talk about an inter-Korean summit, making clear that Washington and Pyongyang have to get closer to talking before that can take place. (Ser Myo-ja, Wi Moon-hee, *Joongang Ilbo*)

- Gen. Lori J. Robinson, the commander of the US Northern Command has said that she is "100 percent confident" in defending the US against a N. Korean missile attack, a media outlet reported Sunday. (*Yonhap*)
- US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said he was "listening" for cues from NK that it was ready to engage in direct talks with the US, adding no incentives will be used to bring the regime back to the discussion table. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- NK's nuclear weapons program has featured throughout the Munich Security Conference. In a thinly veiled warning to China, the United States' National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster called on those countries that continue to offer an economic lifeline to Pyongyang to respect global sanctions. (Henry Ridgwell, VOA)

Prepared by Emma Stubblefield, HRNK Research Intern

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Tuesday, February 20, 2018

One Kim to rule them all; South Korea to announce joint military drill plan with U.S. before April;(LEAD) N.K. IOC member says 'possible' to co-host Asian Winter Games with S. Korea

Top News:
One Kim to rule them all (*AEI*, 02/18/2018)

In North Korea:
Calls mounting to focus on North Korea's crimes against humanity amidst charm offensive(*Daily NK*, 02/20/2018)
Here's a new North Korean hacking threat to worry about (*CNN*, 02/20/2018)
Holiday cheer in low supply despite North Korean double holiday (*Daily NK*, 02/20/2018)
Kim Jong Un's sports focus scores points for regime at home and abroad (*Daily NK*, 02/20/2018)
North Korea poised to launch large-scale cyberattacks, says new report (*Washington Post*, 02/20/2018)
North Korean journalists to join world sports press (*Korea Times*, 02/20/2018)
Progress at North Korea's Experimental Light Water Reactor at Yongbyon (*38 North*, 02/19/2018)
Power and water supply in North Korea worsens in winter (*NK Econ Watch*, 02/19/2018)
Speculation grows over N.K. leader's sister's pregnancy (*Yonhap*, 02/20/2018)
Study reveals North Korean cyber-espionage has reached new heights (*Guardian*, 02/20/2018)

In South Korea:
FM Kang mulls attending UN human rights meeting (*Yonhap*, 02/20/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) N.K. IOC member says 'possible' to co-host Asian Winter Games with S. Korea(*Yonhap*, 02/20/2018)

(LEAD) (Olympics) Hockey players from two Koreas burst into tears after final match (*Yonhap*, 02/20/2018)
(LEAD) (Olympics) Joint Korean women's hockey team loses final match to Sweden (*Yonhap*, 02/20/2018)
Have the Winter Olympics repaired North-South Korea relations? (BBC, 02/20/2018)
Joint Koreas hockey team ends historic Olympic run (*Washington Post*, 02/20/2018)
(Olympics) Even with losses piling up, unified Korean hockey team hailed as symbol of peace (*Yonhap*, 02/20/2018)
(Olympics) Joint Korean hockey team coach 'proud' of players for making it all work (*Yonhap*, 02/20/2018)
(Olympics) N.K. athletes, cheerleaders to return home after Olympics closing ceremony(*Yonhap*, 02/20/2018)
Unified Korean Hockey Team Finishes Winless. So Why All the Cheering? (NYT, 02/20/2018)

International:
(LEAD) Leaders of S. Korea, Slovenia agree to boost bilateral cooperation (*Yonhap*, 02/20/2018)
Defense minister promises joint drills but gives no dates (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/20/2018)
Former US military commander warns against 'bloody nose' strike on North Korea (*Guardian*,02/20/2018)
Latvian central bank chief says victim of smear campaign after detention (*Reuters*, 02/20/2018)
Lessons from Helmut Kohl (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/20/2018)
MP accuses British overseas territories of undermining US North Korea sanctions (*Guardian*, 02/20/2018)
S. Korea Opposes US Tariff Hikes, But Military Alliance Remains United (VOA, 02/20/2018)
S. Korea, U.S. to announce timing of joint military exercises by end of March: defense minister (*Yonhap*, 02/20/2018)
(2nd LD) S. Korean military to press ahead with joint drills with U.S. this year (*Yonhap*, 02/20/2018)
Scale down the drills (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/20/2018)
Seoul preps for Ivanka's trip to Games this week (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/20/2018)
South Korea to announce joint military drill plan with U.S. before April (*Reuters*, 02/20/2018)
The world has a right to know about Trump's war powers (CNN, 02/20/2018)
Time for dialogue (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/20/2018)
U.S. could ask to use troop upkeep fund to pay for maintaining THAAD unit (*Yonhap*, 02/20/2018)
U.S.-N. Korea talks can be part of discussion during Ivanka's visit to S. Korea: ministry (*Yonhap*, 02/20/2018)
US preparing 'bloody nose' cyber attacks on North Korea (*Telegraph* 02/20/2018)

Top News:

- We underestimate the North Korean regime at our peril. The DPRK is very difficult for us to understand, not least because three generations of dictators have so very successfully managed to close the country off from the world. But catastrophic events quite possibly await us if we do not make the effort. (Nicholas Eberstadt, AEI)

In North Korea:

- Leaders from the human rights community in Seoul have been calling attention to continued human rights violations being committed by the Kim regime, pushing back against NK's latest "peace offensive" surrounding the Olympics and the S. Korean government's warming attitude towards NK. (Jang Seul-gi, *Daily NK*)
- Another group of N. Korean hackers is now targeting major international companies, according to a new report. The group, dubbed Reaper, stepped up its efforts to spy on big S. Korean conglomerates last year, cybersecurity research firm FireEye said in a report published Tues. (Sherisse Pham, CNN)
- Despite both the Lunar New Year and Kim Jong Il's birthday falling on the same day this year, celebrations are more difficult due to international sanctions targeting the country and increased propaganda. (Kang Mi-jin, *Daily NK*)
- Although NK's economy is reeling under targeted international sanctions, KJU continues to pour resources into the training of the nation's athletes and the development of facilities, creating domestic and international benefits. (Ha Yoon-ah, *Daily NK*)
- NK is quietly expanding both the scope and sophistication of its cyberweaponry, laying the groundwork for more devastating attacks. (Anna Fifield, *Washington Post*)
- NK's sports journalists, having come to SK to monitor the PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games, will soon join the world's sports press group.(Ko Dong-hwan, *Korea Times*)
- Commercial satellite imagery from 2017 through February 11, 2018 indicates steady progress has been made towards the operationalization of the Experimental Light Water Reactor (ELWR) at NK's Yongbyon Nuclear Scientific Research Center. (Frank V. Pabian, Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., Jack Liu, *38 North*)
- Reportedly, NK's electricity and water supply have sharply deteriorated since mid-January this year. (*NK Econ Watch*)
- SK's unification ministry said Tues. that it has no information about speculation that N. Korean leader KJU's younger sister is pregnant with her second child.(*Yonhap*)
- An increasingly sophisticated N. Korean cyber-espionage unit is using its skills to widen spying operations to aerospace and defence industries, a new study has revealed. (David Taylor, *Guardian*)

In South Korea:

- S. Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kung-wha is considering attending a meeting of the UN Human Rights Council to be held this month, her spokesman said Tues. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Chang Ung, the N. Korean member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), said Tues. that it is "possible" for the two Koreas to jointly hold the 2021 Asian Winter Games. (*Yonhap*)
- The joint women's ice hockey team of the two Koreas completed its matches at the Olympics by losing against Sweden in the seventh-place classification event on Tues. with players bursting into tears as their farewell approached closer. (Kang Yoon-seung, *Yonhap*)
- The joint Korean hockey team lost its final game at the Olympics on Tuesday, falling to Sweden 6-1 in the seventh place match. (Yoo Jee-ho, *Yonhap*)

- A sporting event is unlikely to have much bearing on the deep political divides between NK and SK. Decades of talks have not yet brought reconciliation and the likelihood is that relations will return to form - tense, uncomfortable and worrisome, but also stable. (Prof Robert Kelly, BBC)
- The Korean women's hockey team, which included players from both North and South, ended its historic Olympic run on Tues. with a fifth straight loss but a host of unforgettable feel-good sparks. (Hyung-jin Kim, Kim Tong-hyung, AP)
- The once-improbable Olympic journey has come to an end for the unified Korean women's hockey team, which, even with losses piling up, has been hailed in many corners as a symbol of peace. (Yoo Jee-ho, *Yonhap*)
- Politicians may have made the decision to combine women's ice hockey teams from the two Koreas, but it's the players that actually made it work on and off the ice, their head coach said Tues. (Yoo Jee-ho, *Yonhap*)
- N. Korean athletes and cheerleaders will return home after the closing ceremony of the Olympics, a government official said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- The unified Korean women's hockey team skated onto the ice for the last time and losing, 6-1 to Sweden and closing out its Olympic run without winning a single matchup. But for the hordes of cheering fans, the score was beside the point. (Mokoto Rich, NYT)

International:

- Moon and Slovenian President Borut Pahor agreed Tues. to enhance their countries' bilateral cooperation in various areas, including global efforts to denuclearize NK. (*Yonhap*)
- SK and US will jointly announce a new schedule for annual military exercises, which were postponed for the Olympics, soon after the Games end in March, said S. Korean Minister of National Defense Song Young-moo Tuesday. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Retired Admiral Dennis Blair said Washington needed to be ready to respond militarily if NK attacked the US or its allies in the region, but not to strike pre-emptivley. (Daniel Hurst, *Guardian*)
- Latvia's central bank chief, who was held in custody over the weekend on suspicion that he solicited a bribe, said on Tues. he was the victim of a smear campaign because he has been leading a drive to stamp out corruption. (Gederts Gelzis, *Reuters*)
- The success of inter-Korean meetings may not be feasible without the support and agreement of the US and Japan. (Lee Sang-ryeol, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- A prominent Labour MP has accused British overseas territories of undermining the security services by helping North Korea breach US sanctions. (David Pegg, *Guardian*)
- A looming trade dispute could cause friction in the US-SK military alliance, but leaders in Washington and Seoul maintain their economic disagreements will not impact their continued security cooperation to deal with the N. Korean nuclear threat. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- SK and the US will announce by the end of March when they will hold annual joint military exercises that have been postponed to avoid coinciding with the Olympics, Seoul's defense chief said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's defense ministry affirmed Tues. that the country's troops will conduct combined command-post drills with the US this year despite Olympics-driven rapprochement with NK. (*Yonhap*)

- US and SK joint military exercises can take place without provoking Pyongyang. (Nam Jeong-ho, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Korea will receive another important guest later this week as part of Moon's Olympics diplomacy, with Ivanka Trump, the daughter of Donald Trump, scheduled to attend the closing ceremony of the international sports event. (Ser Myo-ja, Wi Moon-hee, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- SK and the US will announce plans before April for a postponed joint military drill, SK's defense minister said on Tues. (Christine Kim, Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)
- Since 9/11, American presidents have been operating under the assumption that they could effectively take the nation to war with virtual impunity. Now, Trump has tried to enshrine this concept in a secret memo without any approval by Congress. There are concerns that this could turn into a "bloody nose" option against NK. (David A. Andelman, CNN)
- NK is only inviting harsher sanctions and tougher lives with such a belligerent attitude. Instead of waging a war of nerves with the US, NK should stop circling the well and instead go to the right place to get hot water. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- The US could ask to pay for the cost of maintaining a THAAD missile defense battery in SK with money to be raised by the two countries for the upkeep of American troops stationed here, Seoul's defense minister said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- Diplomatic efforts to arrange rare talks between the US and NK could be part of the topics of discussion when Ivanka Trump visits SK and talks with officials this week, the foreign ministry hinted Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- The US is drawing up plans for cyber attacks on NK in an effort to bring the regime of KJU to heel, according to intelligence sources, as NK says it is ready for "both dialogue and war" as the Winter Olympics draws to a close. (Julian Ryall, Danielle Demetriou, *Telegraph*)

Prepared by Emma Stubblefield, HRNK Research Intern

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Wednesday, February 21, 2018

Exemption from forced labor offered as incentive to have more children; S. Korea sees inter-Korean talks as key to North's denuclearization; North Korea cancelled Mike Pence meeting last minute, White House says

In North Korea:

Exemption from forced labor offered as incentive to have more children (*Daily* NK, 02/21/2018)
Kim Jong Un eyes harsh punishment for soldier accused of attacking high-level cadre (*Daily* NK, 02/21/2018)
N. Korea's hard currency reserves expected to dry up by October: lawmaker (*Yonhap*, 02/21/2018)
North Korea steps up cyber powers with shadowy 'Reaper' hacker group (*Telegraph*, 02/20/2018)
North Korea's state factories plagued by theft from workers, managers (*Daily* NK, 02/20/2018)

North Korean media slams Pence amid reports of canceled secret meeting (UPI, 02/21/2018)
North Koreans appear more relaxed at Pyeongchang Olympics, but caveats remain (*Daily* NK, 02/21/2018)
North Korean leader's sister pregnant, reports say (*Korea Times*, 02/21/2018)
PPJ Visits Ch'o'llima Iron Works (*NK Leadership Watch*, 02/21/2018)
Report: North Korea mine struggling as sanctions squeeze regime (UPI, 02/21/2018)

In South Korea:
North Korea's Kim Yo-jong baby rumours fascinate South (BBC, 02/21/2018)
S. Korea spends 240 mil. won for high-level N.K. delegation (*Yonhap*, 02/21/2018)
South Korean politicians bicker over 'pro-North Korea' policy, U.S. trade relations (UPI, 02/21/2018)
South Korean presidential adviser: Many hurdles ahead to resolving North Korea issue (UPI, 02/21/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) S. Korea sees inter-Korean talks as key to North's denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 02/21/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea to work actively to realize 'constructive' talks between U.S., N. Korea: official (*Yonhap*, 02/21/2018)
NK remains silent over inter-Korean military talks (*Korea Times*, 02/20/2018)
S. Korea can do more to address NK human rights, says NGO leader (*Daily* NK, 02/21/2018)
The next 'Korea problem' may be about the growing identity divide on the peninsula (*Washington Post*, 02/21/2018)

International:
(Yonhap Interview) Slovenian president strongly supports S. Korea's push for dialogue with N.K. (*Yonhap*, 02/21/2018)
After Kim Jong-un's sister, South Korea prepares for Ivanka Trump visit (*Guardian*, 02/21/2018)
China's opportunism with North Korea (*Korea Times*, 02/20/2018)
Getting closer (*Joongang Daily*, 02/22/2018)
Japan Says China Illegally Transferred Cargo to North Korea (VOA, 02/21/2018)
Japan sees transfer at sea that may violate NKorea sanctions (*Washington Post*, 02/20/2018)
North Korea cancelled Mike Pence meeting last minute, White House says (*Guardian*, 02/20/2018)
North Korea canceled planned meeting with Pence (*Reuters*, 02/20/2018)
North Korea canceled planned meeting with US Vice President, Mike Pence (*Telegraph*, 02/21/2018)
North Korea Dropped Out of Meeting With Pence at Last Minute, U.S. Says (NY *Times*, 02/20/2018)
North Korean journalists to join world sports press (*Korea Times*, 02/20/2018)
Pence almost met Kim, says Post (*Joongang Daily*, 02/22/2018)
Pence was set to meet with North Korean officials during the Olympics before last-minute cancellation (*Washington Post*, 02/20/2018)
Pentagon to release details on resumption of allied drills after Olympics (*Yonhap*, 02/21/2018)
State Department says NKorea passed up meeting with Pence (*Washington Post*, 02/21/2018)
Trump Admin Says North Korea Scrapped Meeting with Pence (VOA, 02/21/2018)
Trump's 'hard line' on North Korea is soft symbolism (*Korea Times*, 02/20/2018)
U.S.-N. Korea talks can be part of discussion during Ivanka's visit to S. Korea: ministry (*Yonhap*, 02/20/2018)
US Vice President Mike Pence was set to meet with North Korean officials, but they canceled (CNN, 02/21/2018)

In North Korea:

- Like SK and Japan, NK is also grappling with a low birthrate problem, which the N.Korean government fears could lead to a weakening of the party and military. To address this problem, authorities have introduced new incentive measures for families to have more children in exchange for honorary titles, inclusion in special distribution lists, and exemptions from mass mobilizations and other mandatory collection assignments. (Kang Mi Jin, *Daily NK*)
- Sources inside NK's capital city have revealed details of an incident involving an assault on a high-level cadre by a senior-ranked soldier belonging to KJU's Supreme Guard Command (SGC). It is expected that the military authorities will make an example out of the soldier to reign in military discipline more broadly. (Kim Chae Hwan, *Daily NK*)
- NK's hard currency reserves are expected to dry up around Oct. if international sanctions on the communist nation hold, the chairman of the parliamentary intelligence committee said Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- NK is stepping up its cyber capabilities to target international aerospace and defence industries through a shadowy and sophisticated hackers group called Reaper, a new report revealed on Tues. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- Due to labor shortages, some N.Korean workers are being forced to do both the day and night shifts. However, N.Korean laborers being forced to work the double shifts aren't even complaining. The extra shifts give them the chance to steal more raw materials from the factory, an opportunity they do not want to squander. (Unification Media Group, *Daily NK*)
- N.Korean media Wed. criticized US Vice President Mike Pence's visit to South Korea for the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics amid reports that the North had canceled a meeting with him. (Jennie Oh, *UPI*)
- Outside of NK's participation in various performances and Olympic competitions, the activities of the N.Korean athletes, cheer squad, arts troupe, and other participants have remained challenging for the media to cover. Despite this, some are pointing out that the facial expressions and actions of the N.Koreans at these Games appear to be more relaxed than during past trips abroad. (Jang Seul Gi, *Daily NK*)
- The N.Korean leader's sister, Kim Yo-jong, 30, was rumored to be pregnant when she visited SK for the opening ceremony of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. The rumor was sparked by her enlarged stomach, seen in the silhouette of her winter coat. (Cho Se-yong, Park Si-soo, *Korea Times)*
- DPRK Premier and State Affairs Commission Vice Chairman Pak Pong Ju visited the Ch'ŏllima Steel Complex near Namp'o, the Pot'onggang Organic Compound Fertilizer Factory and Pyongyang Automation Appliances Factory. (*NK Leadership Watch*)
- N.Korean laborers at a large mine in northeastern NK have given up hope the regime will deliver on promises of trade revitalization owing to ongoing corruption and "smuggling" activities as UN Security Council sanctions resolutions have hit Musan mine, one of the largest iron ore reserves in the country, Daily NK reported Wed. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)

In South Korea:

- There has been no confirmation from SK of Kim Yo-jong's reported comments, which are attributed to unnamed government sources. But the intense speculation highlights the

fascination with NK's opaque power structures and whether or not Ms. Kim is indeed expecting shows just how little is known about NK's ruling dynasty. (Andreas Illmer, BBC)

- SK has spent some 240 million won (US$223,048) for NK's high-level delegation during their recent three-day visit for the PyeongChang Winter Olympics, Seoul's unification ministry said Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- Rival party lawmakers in SK clashed sharply over the Moon administration's coordination of its NK policy and trade relations with the US, News 1 reported. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- A S.Korean presidential security adviser has cautioned there is a long road ahead to resolving the NK crisis, amid optimism that inter-Korean relations have improved, Maeil Business Daily reported. (Jennie Oh, UPI)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- SK's foreign ministry said Wed. that it sees inter-Korean and US-NK talks as "major pillars" of any dialogue aimed at denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- SK will work actively to help realize talks between the US and NK while strengthening cooperation with the international community based on the strong alliance with Washington, a top security official said Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- NK remains silent over resuming inter-Korean military talks, S.Korean officials said Tues. Last month, Seoul and Pyongyang agreed to resume such talks during a high-level dialogue. But no meaningful progress has since been made, with the North maintaining its taciturn posture. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times)*
- Lee Young Hwan, president of a non-profit group called Transitional Justice Working Group (TWJG) sat down with Unification Media Group studio for an in-person interview to talk about the Trump administration's approach to NK's human rights abuses. (*Daily NK*)
- Behind the images of N.Korean cheerleaders and the united flag in the 2018 Winter Olympics, there is a growing identity divide on the Korean Peninsula—and a different kind of "NK problem." How N.Koreans and S.Koreans come to see each other — as one of "us" or "them" — is going to matter a great deal in whether and how democracy ultimately shakes out on the peninsula. (Aram Hur, *Washington Post*)

International:

- Slovenian President Borut Pahor has expressed strong support for SK's push for dialogue aimed at resolving NK's nuclear stalemate. He, however, worried that NK might not easily give up its nuclear weapons, which must be its "only leverage," saying global cooperation is very important to put more pressure on the reclusive state to abandon its nuclear ambitions. (*Yonhap*)
- The S.Korean president, Moon, will welcome Ivanka Trump, daughter of the US president, to SK for the Winter Olympics closing ceremony on Sun.–a trip that analysts have likened to an appearance by KJU's sister earlier this month. (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian)*
- Ever since China's intervention in the Korean War, both Chinese and N.Korean leaders called the two countries' relationship "chun chi xiang yi (as close as lips and teeth)" and "chun wang chi han (if the lips are gone, the teeth will be cold)," and defined Sino-N.Korean relations as such for the ensuing decades. These maxims symbolized NK's strategic importance for the

security of China, implying that China would protect NK at all costs whenever the latter's security would be in grave peril. (Lee Seong-hyon, *Korea Times)*

- The Washington Post reported Tues. that a meeting between US Vice President Mike Pence and N.Korean leader KJU's sister Kim Yo-jong, which was arranged by the Moon administration, was not held after the N.Koreans backed out at the last minute. The paper said that discussions about the meeting began after the CIA in late Jan. received information that NK wanted to meet with Pence. The Post also reported that only a few people—including President Donald Trump and National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster—decided to approve contact with NK. (*Joongang Daily*)
- Japan says its military has witnessed a cargo transfer between China and NK on the high seas that it suspects violates United Nations economic sanctions on Pyongyang. (VOA)
- Japan's military has witnessed a ship-to-ship transfer on the high seas that it "strongly suspects" violates U.N. sanctions on NK, in the third such incident reported by Japan in the past month. (AP)
- N.Korean officials "dangled" a historic meeting with the US vice-president Mike Pence during the Winter Olympics but pulled out at the last minute, the White House claimed on Tues. (David Smith, *Guardian*)
- US Vice President Mike Pence was scheduled to meet with N.Korean officials, including leader KKJU's sister, while in SK for the Winter Olympics this month but the N.Koreans canceled at the last minute, US officials said on Tues. (Matt Spetalnick, Christine Kim, *Reuters*)
- Mike Pence and N.Korean officials had planned to meet secretly during the 2018 Winter Olympic Games, but Pyongyang scrapped the talks after the US vice president denounced abuses from the "murderous regime," US officials said Tues. (Telegraph Reporters, *Telegraph*)
- Vice President Mike Pence had planned to secretly meet with a high-level delegation of N.Korean leaders while he was at the Winter Olympics in SK this month, but the N.Koreans canceled at the last minute, according to the State Department. (Gardiner Harris, Choe Sang-hun, NY *Times*)
- Pyongyang is hoping that its sports journalists, having come to SK to monitor the PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games, will soon join the world's sports press group, according to the International Sports Press Association (AIPS). (Ko Dong-hwan, *Korea Times*)
- The Blue House declined to confirm a media report Wed. that it mediated a meeting between US Vice President Mike Pence and Kim Yo-jong, sister of N.Korean leader KJU, after the opening ceremony of the Olympics, which collapsed after the N.Koreans pulled out at the last minute. (Ser Myo-ja, Kang Tae-hwa, *Joongang Daily*)
- Vice President Pence departed for a five-day, two-country swing through Asia earlier this month having agreed to a secret meeting with N.Korean officials while in SK at the 2018 Winter Olympic Games. But on Feb. 10, less than two hours before Pence and his team were to meet with Kim Yo Jong, the younger sister of KJU, and Kim Yong Nam, North Korea's nominal head of state, the N.Koreans pulled out of the scheduled meeting, according to Pence's office. (Ashley Parker, *Washington Post*)
- The Pentagon said Tues. that details on currently suspended SK-US military exercises will be released after the Olympics end next month. (*Yonhap*)
- Vice President Mike Pence was all set to hold a history-making meeting with N.Korean officials during the Winter Olympics in SK, but KJU's government canceled at the last minute, the Trump administration said Tues. (Joshua Lederman, AP)
- US officials say Vice President Mike Pence was scheduled to meet with officials from NK earlier this month, but NK canceled the meeting at the last minute. (VOA)

- Although one could be forgiven for thinking the symbolism at the Olympics signaled a hard line from the Donald Trump administration on NK, the symbols masked an important concession that was made to avert a break with the Moon government in SK, which wants to turn the Olympic thaw into more substantive negotiations with the KJU regime. (Eli Lake, *Korea Times*)
- Diplomatic efforts to arrange rare talks between the US and NK could be part of the topics of discussion when Ivanka Trump visits SK and talks with officials this week, the foreign ministry hinted Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- US Vice President Mike Pence was set to meet with N.Korean officials, including KJU's sister, during his politically charged visit to the Winter Olympics in SK earlier this month, his office confirmed on Tues. (Kevin Liptak, Joshua Berlinger, CNN)

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, HRNK Research Intern

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Thursday, February 22, 2018

North Korea sends university students to work in China via sanctions loophole; Figure behind Cheonan attack leads delegation; Ivanka won't meet North Koreans on trip

In North Korea:
[Photos] North Korea sends university students to work in China via sanctions loophole (*Daily* NK, 02/22/2018)
Despite charm offensive, potential for North Korean Olympics cyber attack (*Daily* NK, 02/22/2018)
North Korea slams U.S.-Japan joint drill (*Yonhap*, 02/22/2018)
US Dollars Become Currency of Choice Among Well-Heeled North Koreans (RFA, 02/21/2018)

In South Korea:
(2nd LD) Main opposition protests N.K. official's planned visit to South (*Yonhap*, 02/22/2018)
Lawmakers bicker over North Korea (*Korea Times*, 02/21/2018)
Minor opposition party calls for Ivanka Trump's visit to be turning point in U.S.-N.K. relations (*Yonhap*, 02/22/2018)
My goal is to resolve NK nuclear crisis': Moon (*Korea Times*, 02/22/2018)
On Ivanka's wavelength (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/22/2018)
Roh's vs. Moon's formula (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/22/2018)
S. Korean, Finnish foreign ministers discuss cooperation on N. Korean nukes (*Yonhap*, 02/22/2018)
South Korea's Moon says relations with U.S. are 'rock solid': media (*Reuters*, 02/22/2018)
South Korea splurges on sister of Kim Jong Un; drops his name from border broadcasts (*Reuters*, 02/22/2018)

South Koreans: Humanitarian aid to North Korea key to fighting rights abuses (UPI, 02/22/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) Moon likely to meet N. Korean delegation to Olympics: official (*Yonhap*, 02/22/2018)
(4th LD) N.K. to send high-level delegation to Olympics' closing ceremony (*Yonhap*, 02/22/2018)
Figure behind Cheonan attack leads delegation (*Joongang Daily*, 02/22/2018)
Mastermind of attacks on the South to head North Korean delegation to Olympic closing ceremony (*Telegraph*, 02/22/2018)
NK at PyeongChang - politics overshadow sports (*Korea Times*, 02/22/2018)
North to send another senior delegation for Olympic closer (*Washington Post*, 02/22/2018)
North Korea's new Olympics delegation to be led by man blamed for deadly ship attack (CNN, 02/22/2018)
North Korea to send delegation to Olympics closing ceremony, meet South Korea's Moon (*Reuters*, 02/22/2018)
North Korean closing Olympics delegation includes man blamed for deadly sinking (*Reuters*, 02/22/2018)
S. Korea's military ditches N. Korean leader's name in border propaganda broadcasts (*Yonhap*, 02/22/2018)
US, S. Korea Military Exercises Could End Outreach to Nuclear North (VOA, 02/22/2018)
Winter Olympics 2018: North Korea's General Kim Yong-chol to attend (BBC, 02/22/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) Too early to predict U.S.-N.K. contact at Olympics: Seoul minister (*Yonhap*, 02/22/2018)
An Envoy Who Can Rival 'North Korea's Ivanka' (NY Times, 02/21/2018)
China probes report of possible North Korea sanctions breach at sea (*Reuters*, 02/22/2018)
China probing possible violation of UN sanctions on N. Korea (*Washington Post*, 02/22/2018)
Commentary: At Olympics, U.S. and Korean leaders revive familiar roles (*Reuters*, 02/21/2018)
Commentary: South Korea's Olympic gambit traps both Kim and Trump (*Reuters*, 02/21/2018)
Defectors tell all on special YouTube program (*Joongang Daily*, 02/22/2018)
First Person: How Pyeongchang might feel to a North Korean (*Washington Post*, 02/22/2018)
Five reasons the Olympics haven't solved the North Korea problem (*Washington Post*, 02/22/2018)
Former Spymaster to Lead North Korea's Olympic Ceremony Delegation (NY Times, 02/21/2018)
Former UN chief says Koreas dialogue must be kept alive (*Washington Post*, 02/21/2018)
Ivanka rekindles hopes for US-North Korea talks (*Korea Times*, 02/22/2018)
Ivanka won't meet North Koreans on trip (*Joongang Daily*, 02/22/2018)
Ivanka Trump plans to focus on U.S. athletes, not North Korea, during trip to Winter Olympics(*Washington Post*, 02/21/2018)
Joint drill to complicate US-North Korea dialogue (*Korea Times*, 02/22/2018)
Moves on the chessboard (*Korea Times*, 02/22/2018)
N. Korea seeks nukes to reunify peninsula under its control: Bolton (*Yonhap*, 02/22/2018)
North Korea's propaganda victory at the Winter Olympics (*Washington Post*, 02/21/2018)
Point man on N. Korean nukes discusses 'dialogue momentum' with China envoy (*Yonhap*, 02/22/2018)
Police: No video showing Indonesian attacking Kim Jong Nam (*Washington Post*, 02/22/2018)
S. Korea in close consultation with U.S. on N.K delegation's trip (*Yonhap*, 02/22/2018)
Slovenian leader praises Moon's NK approach (*Korea Times*, 02/21/2018)
Trying to make sense of our North Korea policy may be fruitless (*Washington Post*, 02/22/2018)
Unprepared and outclassed, North Korea wraps up Olympics (*Washington Post*, 02/22/2018)

In North Korea:

- Daily NK has learned that the N.Korean regime is now sending female students from Pyongyang's Jang Chol Gu University of Commerce to earn foreign currency in restaurants in the Chinese border city of Dandong. (*Daily NK*)
  Daily NK recent spoke with Senior Security Research Choi Sang Myung from Hauri Inc.'s Security Research Intelligence Team for an expert opinion on the cyberattack on the organizing committee for this year's Olympics on Feb. 9, as the IOC did not provide information as to the suspected culprit when it confirmed the cyberattacks. Choi said that "while many suspect the attack on the Olympic organizations to be the work of Russian hackers or some third-party group, we cannot exclude the possibility of NK's involvement." (Jang Seul Gi, *Daily NK*)
- A NK committee on Thurs. blasted the US and Japan for conducting a joint missile drill, branding it as a "ferocious gangster-like act." (*Yonhap*)
- Wealthy N.Koreans and high-ranking regime officials in Pyongyang are quickly exchanging Chinese yuan they have acquired into much-coveted US dollars or euros, because the two Western currencies are giving them a bigger bang for their buck, sources inside the country said. (Jieun Kim, Leejin Jun, Roseanne Gerin, RFA)

In South Korea:

- The main opposition Liberty Korea Party (LKP) strongly protested a planned visit to SK by a senior N.Korean official accused of masterminding the communist regime's two deadly attacks on SKK in 2010, which claimed the lives of a total of 50 people. (*Yonhap*)
- Rival parties clashed over the government's handling of NK during the National Assembly House Steering Committee, Wed. (Choi Ha-young, *Korea Times*)
- President Moon's goal while in office is to resolve the NK nuclear issue peacefully, he said in an interview with the Monocle, a UK global affairs magazine, published Thurs. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- Even if Ivanka does not carry messages from Trump, her remarks can give a clue to grasping what Trump really thinks. If the S.Korean government helps her understand SK's situation on the peninsula, it could help improve Seoul-Washington ties. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- Moon has been capitalizing on the PyeongChang Olympics momentum with his administration hoping to ease tensions on the Korean Peninsula and find a breakthrough in the deadlock by mediating between Washington and Pyongyang and improving inter-Korean relations. However, he seems to be changing his gear in the driver's seat of inter-Korean affairs, saying that that talking of an inter-Korean summit at the current stage was like "looking for hot water around a well." (Park Bo-gyoon, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- The head of the minor opposition Justice Party said Thurs. she hopes an upcoming visit to SK by US President Donald Trump's daughter will serve as a turning point in relations between the US and NK. (*Yonhap*)
- Finland's foreign minister reaffirmed his support for SK's policy on NK in a meeting with his S.Korean counterpart in Seoul on Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- S.Korean President Moon said relations with the US are "rock solid" and "as strong and robust as ever" in a media interview, as his administration gears up for a possible summit with N.Korean leader KJU. (Reuters Staff, *Reuters*)

- SK spent around 240 million won ($223,237) on the younger sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and her entourage during their three-day visit for the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, a government official said on Thursday. (Christine Kim, *Reuters*)
- NK's nuclear weapons provocations have often been blamed for stealing attention from human rights and responsible for decisions to cut off international food aid. But S.Koreans who are no strangers to N.Korean belligerence told UPI on Thurs. they still favor providing humanitarian assistance to N.Koreans as a way to alleviate some of the regime's gravest human rights abuses. (Elizabeth Shim, Jennie Oh, *UPI*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- President Moon will likely hold a meeting with NK's delegation to the closing ceremony of the PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games, an official from the presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- NK said Thurs. it will send a high-level delegation to the PyeongChang Winter Olympics' closing ceremony, Seoul officials said. Kim Yong-chol, head of the ruling party's United Front Department, will lead the eight-member delegation that includes Ri Son-gwon, the head of the North's agency in charge of inter-Korean affairs, for a three-day trip that will start Sun. (*Yonhap*)
- Pyongyang told Seoul Thurs. that it would send its second high-level delegation to the PyeongChang Winter Olympics to participate in the closing ceremony Sun. and it will be led by the figure blamed by past administrations for masterminding the 2010 torpedoing of SK's Cheonan warship, killing 46 sailors. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Daily*)
- Pyongyang has announced that a hawkish general who is widely considered to have orchestrated a number of attacks on SK will lead the N.Korean delegation to the closing ceremony of the Pyeonchang Winter Olympic Games on Sun. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- The N.Korean athletes at the PyeongChang Winter Olympics have finished their scheduled events, while political issues are getting more attention than their athleticism during their visit to SK. (Nam Hyun-woo, *Korea Times*)
- SK's Unification Ministry says NK will send a high-level delegation led by Kim Yong Chol, a senior party official suspected of leading two deadly attacks on SK in 2010, to the closing ceremony of the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics. (Eric Talmadge, *AP*)
- NK is sending another high-level delegation to SK for the Winter Olympics Closing Ceremony this Sun., led by a man widely believed to have masterminded the sinking of a S.Korean navy ship that killed 46 sailors. (Taehoon Lee, *CNN*)
- NK will send another high-level delegation to SK in time for the closing ceremony of the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, SK's Ministry of Unification said on Thurs. (Reuters Staff, *Reuters*)
- NK will send a high-level delegation to SK for the Winter Olympics closing ceremony, officials said on Thurs, including the man blamed for the 2010 sinking of a S.Korean navy ship that killed 46 sailors. (Christine Kim, Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)
- The S.Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) instructed its psychological warfare unit last year to discontinue the use of N.Korean leader KJU by name in its cross-border propaganda broadcasts using high-decibel loudspeakers, an opposition lawmaker said Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- The resumption of US-SK joint military exercises, which were postponed until after the PyeongChang Olympics and Paralympics end in late Mar., could also mark the end of the current diplomatic outreach to NK. (Brian Padden, *VOA*)

- NK will send one of its highest ranking figures, General Kim Yong-chol, to the closing ceremony of the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang. His delegation will stay in SK for three days and is expected to meet S.Korean President Moon. (BBC)

International:

- SK's unification minister said Thurs. that it is too early to say whether officials from the US and NK will meet on the sidelines of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics' closing ceremony. (*Yonhap*)
- When the sister of KJU made her historic visit to the Winter Olympics in SK two weeks ago, saying nothing but commanding noisy press coverage, the S.Korean news media quickly called her "NK's Ivanka." Now, US President Trump is sending the real Ivanka. (Mark Landler, *NY Times*)
- China said on Thurs. it is investigating a Japanese report that a Chinese ship may have carried out a ship-to-ship transfer with a N.Korean vessel in breach of UN sanctions. (Reuters Staff, *Reuters*)
- China is "highly concerned" about a reported ship-to-ship transfer on the high seas that could violate UN. sanctions on NK and has launched an investigation, the foreign ministry said Thurs. (Christopher Bodeen, AP)
- KJU is not so much trying to divide SK from the US as he is seeking to influence Washington through Seoul. For their part, today's S.Korean and American leaders are acting out familiar good cop, bad cop parts, perhaps best exemplified by S.Korean President Moon's hospitality to the visiting N.Korean delegation, and by Vice President Pence's passive-aggressive stance, sitting next to but not looking at Kim's sister while refusing to cheer when the all-Korean women's hockey team entered the arena. (James Dobbins, *Reuters*)
- By taking part in the Winter Olympics so visibly alongside South Korea, Pyongyang has been able to present itself as a credible global and regional power in a way that has eluded N.Korean leaders since the war that divided the peninsula. The real strategic winner, however, is the S.Korean government, which has shrewdly used the games to reshape the diplomatic landscape. (Peter Apps, *Reuters*)
- BeNaMu is a non-profit organization for multi-ethnic families in Korea started by Jang Won-jae. Based in Seoul's cultural hub of Hyehwa-dong, central Seoul, BeNa TV is a YouTube channel (with the username "bnatv1004") that introduces immigrants to Korea to local viewers in a talk show format. The most popular program on the channel is "Tal-Tal-Tal," in which a defector from NK gets a full two hours to tell his or her story, with the host being defectors themselves. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Daily*)
- The AP's Pyongyang Bureau chief gives his take on how a N.Korean might feel about their experience in Pyeongchang. These observations are based off of his back-to-back trips from NK to SK—which gives him the rare chance to experience SK with his "still-fresh-out-of Pyongyang eyes," as well as his experience in examining how elite N.Koreans have been dealing with a massive dose of the "other" Korea. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- Both during the run-up to the PyeongChang Olympics and during the Winter Games, the tensions over NK's nuclear weapons have appeared to relax significantly. Reports that Vice President Pence's bellicose rhetoric derailed diplomacy with the North, however, reveal a harsher reality. After the Olympics are over, there are five reasons why the temperature between Washington and Pyongyang will almost certainly spike again. (Mira Rapp-Hooper, *Washington Post*)

- NK said on Thurs. that a high-ranking official, who many in the South believe orchestrated a deadly attack in 2010, would lead a delegation to Sun.'s Winter Olympics closing ceremony in the South, another sign the two Koreas are trying to work out a road map toward improving ties. (Choe Sang-hun, NY Times)
- Former UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon said Wed. the dialogue between the two Koreas that began during the Winter Olympics must be kept alive so it can hopefully lead to reconciliation, peace and the denuclearization of NK. (Edith M. Lederer, AP)
- The chances of Washington-Pyongyang talks over the latter's nuclear program seem to be growing, with high-level officials from the two countries coming to SK for the closing ceremony of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (Kim Rahn, Korea Times)
- Ivanka Trump, who will lead a US delegation to the closing ceremony of the Winter Olympics in SK, has no plan to have any contact with N.Korean delegates, officials from the White House and the Blue House said Thurs. (See Myo-ja, Jung Hyo-sik, Joongang Daily)
- As Ivanka Trump prepares to travel with a presidential delegation to the Winter Olympics in SK this week, White House officials are making clear that the senior aide to the president does not plan to focus any of her attention on NK. (Jenna Johnson, Washington Post)
- SK remains in a dilemma over when and how to resume the joint military drill with the US, as its proper handling can lead to a possible resumption of the long-suspended dialogue between Washington and Pyongyang. (Lee Min-hyung, Korea Times)
- With the 2018 PyeongChang Olympics coming to a close, the real games— the interplay between North and South Korea and between the U.S. and both Koreas—begin. Although the players may have shifted some of the pieces around the chessboard during these most political of Winter Olympics, it is much too early to know what happens next, much less the final moves. (Donald Kirk, Korea Times)
- NK is pursuing nuclear weapons as a means to reunify the Korean Peninsula under its control, not just for self-defense, John Bolton, former US ambassador to the United Nations, said Wed. (Yonhap)
- The Olympics has been a PR dream come true for the murderous Kim dictatorship. SK's Moon administration claims to be using the games to foster goodwill, but the reality is that NK has taken this opportunity to stage one of history's great whitewashing operations, where the breathless focus is on the fashion style of the Dear Leader's sister instead of his forced labor camps and police state. (Garry Kasparov, Thor Halvorssen, Washington Post)
- SK's top negotiator on N.Korean nuclear issues met with the Chinese ambassador to Seoul on Thurs. to discuss a growing momentum for engagement with NK following its participation in the PyeongChang Winter Olympics, the foreign ministry said. (Yonhap)
- A police witness told a Malaysian court Thurs. that there is no video evidence that shows an Indonesian woman smearing a nerve agent on the face of the estranged half-brother of NK's leader as part of an airport attack that killed him. (Eileen Ng, AP)
- SK is in close consultation with the US on whether to allow a blacklisted N.Korean official to travel to SK for the closing ceremony of the PyeongChang Olympics, the foreign ministry said Thurs. (Yonhap)
- Slovenian President Borut Pahor praised SK for its dialogue-oriented NK policy, calling the move "worthy enough to inspire the world." (Lee Min-hyung, Korea Times)
- if our own people cannot figure out what we are trying to accomplish and how we are going to get there, how do we think the S.Koreans, the Japanese or, for that matter, the N.Koreans will? (Jennifer Rubin, Washington Post)

- Unprepared and outclassed, NK's 22 athletes wrapped up their competition at the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics on Thurs. without a finish higher than 13th. (Eric Talmadge, AP)

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, HRNK Research Intern

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Friday, February 23, 2018

Trump says launching 'largest-ever' package of sanctions against North Korea; Ivanka Trump, in South Korea, Calls for Pressure on the North

In North Korea:
Authorities demand money from residents for Musan Mine operation (*Daily* NK, 02/23/2018)
DPRK-Cuba Solidarity Committee Meets (NK *Leadership Watch*, 02/23/2018)
Entry ban, sanctions interrupt running of only int'l university in North Korea (*Yonhap*, 02/23/2018)
Forestry and Environmental Officials Meet (*NK Leadership Watch*, 02/23/2018)
From paper to fuel, North Koreans endure widespread shortages as sanctions take their toll (*Telegraph*, 02/23/2018)
North Korean agents demanding more bribes from defector networks (UPI, 02/23/2018)
Quick Takes: New Structure at Sohae's Launch Pad Gets a Roof or Second Floor (*38 North*, 02/22/2018)

In South Korea:
(2nd LD) Main opposition party rallies against planned visit by N.K. official accused of sinking Cheonan (*Yonhap*, 02/23/2018)
Moon's approval rating rebounds to 68 pct (*Yonhap*, 02/23/2018)
Moon slammed for accepting North's visitor (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/23/2018)
NSC convenes to discuss N. Korean delegation's visit (*Yonhap*, 02/22/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) Koreas to hold talks next week on N.K's participation in Paralympics (*Yonhap*, 02/23/2018)
(2nd LD) Seoul says it is difficult to pinpoint mastermind of North's 2010 naval attack (*Yonhap*, 02/23/2018)
Kim's cheer squad 'charm offensive' (*Reuters*, 02/23/2018)
Nauert: North Korea's Kim Yong Chol should visit warship memorial (UPI, 02/22/2018)
North and South Korea to meet to discuss taking part in Paralympics (CNN, 02/23/2018)
North Korea's Kim Yong Chol 'right person' for inter-Korean, denuclearisation talks: Yonhap citing spy agency (*Reuters*, 02/22/2018)
Nukes can't win peace (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/23/2018)
S. Korean firms to seek visit to joint factory park in N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 02/23/2018)

South Korea's Moon says Seoul cannot acknowledge North Korea as nuclear state: Blue House (*Reuters*, 02/23/2018)
S.Korea says approved visit by sanctioned North Korean to pursue peace on peninsula (*Reuters*, 02/23/2018)
U.S. hopes N.K. official pays tribute to slain S. Korean sailors (*Yonhap*, 02/22/2018)

International:
(LEAD) Moon, Ivanka stress need for peace, but differ on how to achieve goal (*Yonhap*, 02/23/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea to deepen military ties with Switzerland, Latvia (*Yonhap*, 02/23/2018)
2 Trump Children in Asia; 2 Approaches to the World (NYT, 02/23/2018)
(3rd LD) Ivanka Trump says visit to Korea is to reaffirm 'commitment' to ally (*Yonhap*, 02/23/2018)
AP EXPLAINS: What's N. Korea Up to With Provocative Visit? (NYT, 02/23/2018)
China January trade with North Korea falls to lowest since at least June 2014 (*Reuters*, 02/22/2018)
Ivanka Trump arrives in South Korea, but Seoul says no meeting with North planned (*Washington Post*, 02/23/2018)
Ivanka Trump Brings Star Power to Olympics (VOA, 02/23/2018)
Ivanka Trump gets red-carpet welcome for Winter Olympics visit (*Guardian*, 02/23/2018)
Ivanka Trump heads to S. Korea amid speculation over N.K. contact (*Yonhap*, 02/22/2018)
Ivanka Trump, in South Korea, Calls for Pressure on the North (NYT, 02/23/2018)
Ivanka Trump reaffirms U.S. commitment to 'maximum pressure' on North (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/23/2018)
Japanese Men Nabbed in Shooting at De Facto N. Korea Embassy (NYT, 02/23/2018)
North Korea Criticizes UN Chief Over Support for Sanctions (NYT, 02/23/2018)
North Korea sanctions: Donald Trump announces 'largest ever' package (*Guardian*, 02/23/2018)
North Korea slams U.S.-Japan joint drill (*Yonhap*, 02/22/2018)
Pence almost met Kim, says Post (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/23/2018)
Pence: N.K. leader's sister is a 'central pillar' of oppressive regime (*Yonhap*, 02/22/2018)
S. Korean, Finnish foreign ministers discuss cooperation on N. Korean nukes (*Yonhap*, 02/22/2018)
S. Korean president to host Ivanka, U.S. delegates in welcome dinner (*Yonhap*, 02/23/2018)
Shots fired at North Korea-linked group HQ in Japan (*Reuters*, 02/23/2018)
Trump administration to impose 'largest ever' set of sanctions against North Korea(*Washington Post*, 02/23/2018)
Trump says launching 'largest-ever' package of sanctions against North Korea (*Reuters*, 02/23/2018)
Trump to Announce Harsh New Sanctions Against North Korea (NYT, 02/23/2018)
While Korean tensions ease, 3 Americans remain 'prisoners of war' in the North (*Washington Post*, 02/23/2018)

In North Korea:

- The N. Korean authorities are attempting to collect money from locals to inject some life back into the Musan iron mine after it took a major hit from international sanctions recently. But residents are reportedly pushing back against the order, according to sources in the region. (Kang Mi-jin, *Daily NK*)
- The DPRK Committee for Solidarity with Cuba held its annual meeting. The committee supports the Cuban people struggling for independence against imperialism and for socialism under the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba. (*NK Leadership Watch*)

- The US government ban on the entry of Americans into NK, coupled with international sanctions, is disrupting the only foreign-operated university in NK, Pyongyang University of Science and Technology. (*Yonhap*)
- A meeting of environmental protection and forestry officials was held in Pyongyang.The meeting "analyzed and reviewed the results in carrying out the first-phase tasks for the forest restoration campaign and the successes and lessons gained in last year's general mobilization for land management." (*NK Leadership Watch*)
- There are growing indications that international sanctions are taking a toll in NK, with even paper for the country's main publication running short. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- NK state security agents are increasingly profiting from money defectors in the South are wiring to their families, a sign bribery and corruption is rising among state authorities. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Recent commercial satellite imagery indicates notable progress has been made on a new structure approximately 50 meters southeast of the launch pad at NK's Sohae Satellite Launching Station. While it is too early to determine the purpose of this new structure, its close proximity to the launch pad strongly suggests that it is related to launch operations support.(Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., *38 North*)

In South Korea:

- Members of the Liberty Korea Party held a protest rally in front of the presidential office on Fri. to oppose a planned visit to SK by a top N. Korean official accused of masterminding the deadly 2010 sinking of a S. Korean warship. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon's approval rating sharply increased to a six-week high this week, a poll showed Fri., amid continued dialogue and reconciliation with NK over the Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- The Moon administration is fighting snowballing criticism that it has agreed to welcome NK's Kim Yong-chol to the closing ceremony of the Olympics despite his reputation of having masterminded the 2010 torpedoing of SK's Cheonan warship that killed 46 sailors. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's presidential office on Thurs. convened a National Security Council session to discuss preparations for the upcoming visit by senior N. Korean officials for the closing ceremony of the Olympics. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- SK and NK agreed Fri. to hold working-level talks next week to discuss NK's participation in the 2018 Winter Paralympics, which will be held in the South next month. (*Yonhap*)
- SK government said Fri. that it is difficult to pinpoint who led NK's deadly sinking of the warship Cheonan in 2010, amid controversy surrounding a planned visit by a senior Pyongyang official widely suspected of masterminding the attack. (*Yonhap*)
- NK's "Army of Beauties", an all-female cheerleading team, have fascinated and perplexed S. Koreans since the squad arrived at the Olympics in Pyeongchang. (*Reuters*)
- U.S. State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said Kim Yong-chul, who may have ordered an attack on a South Korean warship in 2010, should visit the memorial in the South built for the victims of the torpedo attack. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

- Representatives from NK and SK will meet Mon. to discuss NK's participation in the upcoming Pyeongchang Paralympic Games, according to Seoul. (Will Ripley, James Griffiths, CNN)
- The official NK is sending to SK's Olympics closing ceremony, Kim Yong Chol, is the "right person" for inter-Korean and denuclearization talks, the South's Yonhap news agency reported on Friday citing a lawmaker briefed by the country's spy agency. (*Reuters*)
- If Pyongyang is really serious about summit talks with Seoul, it must make sincere move towards denuclearization. Otherwise the truce ends with the Olympics. Nuclear armaments cannot buy peace. (Lee Ha-kyung, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- S. Korean companies that operated factories at the now-shuttered joint industrial park in NK will ask the SK government next week to travel to the border city of Kaesong to inspect their facilities, a private task force representing the firms said Fri. (*Yonhap*)
- SK cannot acknowledge NK as a nuclear state and talks with NK on denuclearization and improving inter-Korean relations must go hand in hand, Moon Jae-in said on Fri. (*Reuters*)
- SK said it had approved the Winter Olympic visit by a sanctioned N. Korean official, blamed for the 2010 sinking of a S. Korean ship that killed 46 sailors, in the pursuit of peace and asked for public understanding. (*Reuters*)
- The US said Thurs. that a ranking N.Korean official should use his planned visit to US to pay tribute to the victims of 2010 attacks that he is said to have masterminded. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- Moon reiterated the need to maintain the ongoing mood of dialogue and reconciliation between SK and NK on Fri. while Ivanka Trump, daughter of US President Trump, currently leading a US delegation to the closing of the Olympics, stressed the need to continue putting maximum pressure on NK. (*Yonhap*)
- SK agreed Fri. to strengthen military cooperation with Switzerland and Latvia as the countries' defense chiefs met in Seoul. (*Yonhap*)
- Ivanka Trump's appearance at this weekend's closing ceremony of the Olympics on behalf of the White House and the US is a softer bookend to US VP Pence's awkward visit during the opening ceremony. (AP)
- Ivanka Trump said Fri. that she came to SK to reaffirm the "strong and enduring commitment" to the people of the US' ally. (*Yonhap*)
- As SK's liberal president seeks to use the Olympics to improve ties, NK has chosen to send the alleged mastermind of two attacks that killed 50 S. Koreans in 2010 to the games' closing ceremony, a rather strange move on their part. (AP)
- China's Jan. trade with NK fell to the lowest level since at least June 2014, the latest sign that China has kept up pressure on its isolated neighbor in line with UN trade sanctions. (*Reuters*)
- Even with Ivanka Trump now in SK, the Blue House said that there were no plans for a meeting or even an encounter between the US and NK delegations while they overlap in PyeongChang. (Anna Fifield, *Washington Post*)
- Ivanka Trump, daughter and senior White House advisor arrived in Seoul on Fri. on a commercial flight. Apart from attending a formal dinner hosted by Moon, Trump is expected to stay away from politics, and will instead spend her time attending Olympic events. (Brian Padden, VOA)

- Ivanka Trump has received a red-carpet welcome on arrival in SK for a visit that will seek to reaffirm the US' "strong and enduring commitment" to SK, amid deep uncertainty over relations with NK after the Winter Olympics. (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)
- Ivanka Trump departed for SK Thurs. to attend the closing of the Olympics as speculation swirled over her possible contact with N. Korean officials during the trip. (*Yonhap*)
- Ivanka Trump channeled her father's call for "maximum pressure" on NK on Fri., as she started a highly anticipated trip to SK, two weeks after KJU sent his sister here on a mission seen as an attempt to undermine SK's alliance with the US. (Choe Sang-hun, NYT)
- During her meeting with Moon on Fri., Ivanka Trump, the elder daughter of U.S. President Donald Trump and a presidential assistant and advisor, reaffirmed the US' determination to step up pressure on NK to end its nuclear arms program. (Ser Myo-ja, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Police said they arrested two Japanese men believed to be right-wing activists for shooting early Fri. at NK's de facto embassy in Tokyo. (AP)
- NK sharply criticized UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Thurs. for supporting sanctions to pressure the country into negotiations with the US on denuclearization, saying he appears to be acting as a "henchman" representing the US. (AP)
- Trump announced on Fri. a new package of sanctions against NK aimed at cutting off the smuggling routes the regime is using to evade a UN embargo and fund its nuclear weapons program. (Julian Borger, *Guardian*)
- A N. Korean committee on Thurs. blasted the US and Japan for conducting a joint missile drill, branding it as a "ferocious gangster-like act." (*Yonhap*)
- The Blue House declined to confirm a media report Wed. that it mediated a meeting between Pence and Kim Yo-jong, sister of KJU, after the opening ceremony of the Olympics, which collapsed after the N. Koreans pulled out at the last minute. (Lee Moo-young, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Pence blasted the sister of KJU on Thurs., calling her a "central pillar" of a regime accused of serious human rights abuses. (*Yonhap*)
- Finland's foreign minister reaffirmed his support for SK's policy on NK in a meeting with his S. Korean counterpart in Seoul on Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon is set to meet Ivanka Trump as well as other U.S delegates to the PyeongChang Olympic Games on Fri. (*Yonhap*)
- Japanese police arrested two men on Fri. after several bullets were fired at the Tokyo headquarters of a group linked to NK, a spokesman and media said. (*Reuters*)
- Trump on Fri. plans to announce the "largest ever" set of sanctions on NK as his administration intensifies efforts to starve Pyongyang of resources it can use for its nuclear program. (Missy Ryan, *Washington Post*)
- Trump said on Fri. the US would launch the "largest-ever" package of sanctions against NK, intensifying pressure on the reclusive country to giving up its nuclear and missile programs. (Christine Kim, Steve Holland, *Reuters*)
- Trump announced harsh new shipping sanctions against NK on Fri., a clear signal, coming near the end of an Olympic Games marked by a rapprochement on the Korean Peninsula, that his pressure campaign against NK would not relent. (Mark Landler, NYT)
- For the families of 3 Americans being held in NK, there has been no Olympics-related breakthrough. They don't know when they'll see their father or brother or husband again. (Anna Fifield, *Washington Post*)

Prepared by Emma Stubblefield, HRNK Research Intern

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Saturday, February 24, 2018

South Korea says U.S. sanctions on North will bolster U.N. resolutions; N.K. high-level delegation to arrive in S. Korea Sunday morning

In North Korea:
As Olympics Wrap Up, Still No Coverage in North Korea (NYT, 02/23/2018)
Design and dictatorship: exhibition celebrates North Korean graphics (*Reuters*, 02/23/2018)
Kim Yong-chol: North Korea's controversial Olympics delegate (*BBC*, 02/23/2018)
N.K. delegation includes diplomats in charge of nuclear issue, diplomacy with U.S.: source (*Yonhap*, 02/24/2018)
North Koreans Working in China Hustle For Extra Yuan Before Returning Home (RFA,02/23/2018)

In South Korea:
(2nd LD) Ruling party hopes Ivanka's visit will help reduce military tensions in Korea (*Yonhap*, 02/24/2018)
Lawmakers stage sit-in near border over visit by N. Korean general blamed for warship sinking(*Yonhap*, 02/24/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) N.K. high-level delegation to arrive in S. Korea Sunday morning (*Yonhap*, 02/24/2018)
(Olympics) (Yonhap Interview) Everyone gained something from joint Korean hockey team: head coach (*Yonhap*, 02/24/2018)
'Peace Games' are no game-changer for South Koreans (*Reuters*, 02/24/2018)
Two Koreas continue consultations over N.K. high-level delegation's visit (*Yonhap*, 02/24/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) U.S. will continue 'campaign of maximum pressure' on N. Korea: White House(*Yonhap*, 02/23/2018)
(3rd LD) Trump announces 'heaviest ever' sanctions on N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 02/23/2018)
AP Fact Check: Toughest Sanctions on North Korea Ever? Not Likely (VOA, 02/23/2018)
China exports barely any fuel to North Korea in January: customs (*Reuters*, 02/24/2018)
China Says New U.S. Sanctions Threaten Cooperation Over North Korea (NYT, 02/24/2018)
Dispatches From the DMZ: My Three Trips to the Last Cold War Frontier (NYT, 02/24/2018)
Donald Trump announces 'largest ever' North Korea sanctions (*Telegraph*, 02/23/2018)
European Central Bank says Latvia's ABLV failing, to wind up (*Washington Post*, 02/24/2018)
Exclusive: U.S. prepares high-seas crackdown on North Korea sanctions evaders - sources(*Reuters*, 02/23/2018)
Ivanka Trump calls for 'maximum pressure' on North Korea (*Guardian*, 02/24/2018)
Ivanka Trump practices diplomacy on South Korea Olympics trip (CNN, 02/24/2018)
Money-laundering watchdog: Close North Korean banks (*Washington Post*, 02/23/2018)

N. Korea attacks reported U.S. preparations for cyberattacks (*Yonhap*, 02/24/2018)
N. Korean media says nuke arsenal only aimed at U.S. (*Yonhap*, 02/24/2018)
New U.S. sanctions target virtually all ships North Korea is using: Mnuchin (*Reuters*, 02/23/2018)
Rescued from Korean War by US ship, now Olympic volunteers (*Washington Post*, 02/24/2018)
Russia calls for talks with U.S. on North Korea - TASS (*Reuters*, 02/24/2018)
Seoul sees new U.S. sanctions on N.K. as part of ongoing effort to peacefully settle nuke standoff (*Yonhap*, 02/24/2018)
South Korea says U.S. sanctions on North will bolster U.N. resolutions (*Reuters*, 02/23/2018)
U.S. imposes more North Korea sanctions, Trump warns of 'phase two' (*Reuters*, 02/23/2018)
U.S. levies heaviest-ever sanctions on the North (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/24/2018)
U.S. pushes more U.N. sanctions targeting North Korea oil, coal smuggling (*Reuters*, 02/23/2018)
US tightens sanctions on North Korean shipping (*Washington Post*, 02/23/2018)

In North Korea:

- The only reports in North Korea from the Winter Olympics as of Saturday afternoon were about the visit of Kim's younger sister and North Korea's nominal head of state to attend the opening ceremony. This blackout is a bit mysterious. (AP)
- NK makes headlines with its military parades and nuclear program but a new London exhibition puts a spotlight on graphic design in the country. (*Reuters*)
- General Kim Yong-chol will head NK's delegation to the Winter Olympics closing ceremony on Feb 25. He is a controversial figure and his upcoming visit has been met with hostility in SK. (BBC)
- NK's high-level delegation to the closing ceremony of the Olympics includes multiple officials in charge of nuclear issues and diplomacy with the US. (*Yonhap*)
- N. Korean workers in China are trying to earn extra income before they are forced to return home under tough international sanctions imposed on their nation for recent nuclear tests and missile launches. (Kim Joon-ho, Jun Lee-jin, Roseanne Gerin, RFA)

In South Korea:

- SK's ruling Democratic Party voiced hopes Sat. that the visit by Ivanka Trump, the US president's daughter and senior advisor, will help improve inter-Korean relations and reduce tensions on the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- 6 lawmakers of the main opposition Liberty Korea Party (LKP) are staging an all-night sit-in on Sat. near the border with NK to protest a planned visit to SK by a top Pyongyang official accused of masterminding the deadly 2010 sinking of a Navy warship. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- NK's high-level delegation will arrive in SK as scheduled to attend the closing ceremony of the Winter Olympics, the S. Korean government said Sat. (*Yonhap*)
- It wasn't easy at first to bring the women's hockey teams from the two Koreas together only days before the start of the Olympics, but in the end, everyone involved gained something from the experience, the team's head coach said. (Yoo Jee-ho, *Yonhap*)

- SK's self-styled "Peace Games" have been a sporting success but public reaction suggests it may have failed its bigger test to generate the support its president needs to make bold moves to improve ties with old enemy NK. (Soyoung Kim, Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- SK's unification ministry said Sat. that it is continuing consultations with NK to fine-tune the details of a visit by NK's high-level delegation to the upcoming closing ceremony of the Olympics. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- The US will continue to put pressure on NK to give up its nuclear weapons program despite a growing mood of reconciliation between the two Koreas, the White House said Sat. (Chang Dong-woo, *Yonhap*)
- Trump announced the "heaviest ever" sanctions on NK Fri., ratcheting up pressure on the regime to give up its nuclear weapons program despite a growing mood of reconciliation between the Koreas. (*Yonhap*)
- The Trump administration used "heaviest" to describe its latest sanctions against NK. But were the Treasury Department designations of more than 50 companies and ships accused of illicit trading with the pariah nation really the toughest action yet by the US and the wider world? Probably not. (AP)
- China exported barely any fuel to NK in Jan., data showed on Sat., deepening months-long cuts in trade with its isolated neighbor amid growing tensions over NK's nuclear and missile program. (*Reuters*)
- China reacted with anger on Sat. to new US sanctions aimed at increasing pressure on nuclear-equipped NK, saying the unilateral targeting of Chinese firms and people risked harming cooperation on the problem. (*Reuters*)
- After 3 trips to the DMZ the experience has never lost its sense of marvel or menace. To stand at ground zero of a once and possibly future war with North Korea brings home the threat of what can otherwise seem a very distant danger. (Mark Landler, NYT)
- Trump has announced the "largest ever" sanctions against NK as the Winter Olympics truce appeared to come to an abrupt halt. (Ben Riley-Smith, Rozina Sabur, *Telegraph*)
- The European Central Bank said Sat. it has determined that Latvia's crisis-struck ABLV Bank is failing or likely to fail, amid U.S. accusations of money laundering and breaching sanctions on North Korea. (AP)
- The Trump administration and key Asian allies are preparing to expand interceptions of ships suspected of violating sanctions on NK, a plan that could include deploying US Coast Guard forces to stop and search vessels in Asia-Pacific waters. (Matt Spetalnick, Phil Stewart, David Burnnstrom, *Reuters*)
- Ivanka Trump is leading a US delegation to the Olympics in SK in an effort to show a softer side of US diplomacy on the peninsula while calling for maximum pressure to be put on NK. (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)
- Ivanka Trump is leading the US delegation to the Olympics closing ceremony, and the trip has thus far proved to be an exercise in diplomacy for the first daughter and senior adviser to the President. (Betsy Klein, CNN)
- The watchdog that monitors global and illicit misuse of funds cited NK as a top source of "ongoing and substantial" money laundering and terrorist financing in a report issued Fri. and urged countries to keep NK at arm's length and close its banks. (Elaine Ganley, AP)

- NK on Sat. denounced reported U.S. preparations for possible cyberattacks against the communist nation, saying it is ready and willing to respond to "any type of warfare." (*Yonhap*)
- NK's state run media said Sat. that the country's nuclear arsenal is only aimed at the US and suggestions that it will be used to reunify the Korean Peninsula by force are a ploy to disrupt efforts to improve cross-border relations. (*Yonhap*)
- New measures to block supplies and money from going to NK's work on developing nuclear arms target virtually all shipping that the country is currently using to evade international restrictions, US Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin said on Fri. (*Reuters*)
- Sohn Yang Young and Lee Gyeong Pil were among five babies born on an American ship that ferried 14,000 Korean refugees from NK in one of the world's largest humanitarian evacuation operations ever. Now the two are making their way around the Olympics, promoting peace and reminding younger generations of S. Koreans of their Korean War history. (Kim Hyung-jin, AP)
- Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Morgulov called on Sat. for direct talks between the US and Russia on NK, according to TASS news agency. (*Reuters*)
- SK said Sat. that the latest package of US unilateral sanctions on NK reaffirmed the US's ongoing aim to peacefully and diplomatically resolve the long-running nuclear standoff with NK. (*Yonhap*)
- SK said on Sat. new US sanctions on NK will bolster international community compliance with UN resolutions aimed at pressing the isolated state to give up its development of nuclear weapons. (*Reuters*)
- The US said on Fri. it was imposing its largest package of sanctions to pressure NK to give up its nuclear and missile programs, and Trump warned of a "phase two" that could be "very, very unfortunate for the world" if the steps did not work. (Steve Holland, Christine Kim, *Reuters*)
- The US revealed its latest sweeping sanctions on NK on Friday, targeting 27 entities, 28 vessels and one individual.Trump described the package as its "heaviest" measures to isolate the regime to date. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- The US proposed a list of entities on Fri. to be blacklisted under UN sanctions on NK, a move it says is "aimed at shutting down NK's illicit maritime smuggling activities to obtain oil and sell coal." (Michelle Nichlos, *Reuters*)
- The Trump administration escalated pressure on NK Fri. by slapping sanctions on scores of companies and ships accused of illicit trading with NK. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said the US. has now blacklisted virtually all ships being used by the NK. (Matthew Pennington, Zeke Miller, AP)

Prepared by Emma Stubblefield, HRNK Research Intern

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Sunday, February 25, 2018

N.K.'s high-level delegation comes to S. Korea for Olympics' closing ceremony; N.Korea condemns sanctions, but seen open to talks with US; China reacts angrily to new US sanctions against N.Korea

In North Korea:
(4th LD) Chief N. Korean delegate says Pyongyang willing to hold talks with U.S. (*Yonhap*, 02/25/2018)
(2nd LD) N. Korea calls tougher U.S. sanctions an act of war (*Yonhap*, 02/25/2018)
N.K. diplomat in charge of U.S. affairs included in high-level delegation (*Yonhap*, 02/25/2018)
N. Korea denounces shooting at its de-facto embassy in Tokyo (*Yonhap*, 02/25/2018)
North Korea condemns sanctions, but seen open to talks with U.S. (*Reuters*, 02/25/2018)
North Korea has 'enough willingness' to talk with US, says delegation (*Korea Times*, 02/25/2018)
North Korea has expressed willingness to talk to the United States, South Korean presidential office says (*Washington Post*, 02/25/2018)
North Korea Is Willing to Talk With U.S., South's Leader Says (NYT, 02/25/2018)
North Korea Open to Talks with US According to S. Korean Presidential Office (VOA, 02/25/2018)
North Korea willing to start direct talks with US, says South Korea (*Guardian*, 02/25/2018)
North Korea willing to hold talks with US, says South Korea (*BBC*, 02/25/2018)
North Korea willing to talk to US, South Korea says (CNN, 02/25/2018)
North Korean delegation says it is willing to talk with U.S. (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/25/2018)
North Korean envoy, in South, opens door to US talks (*Washington Post*, 02/25/2018)

In South Korea:
(2nd LD) N.K.'s high-level delegation comes to S. Korea for Olympics' closing ceremony (*Yonhap*, 02/25/2018)
Controversial North Korean general met with protests ahead of Olympics closing ceremony (*Telegraph*, 02/25/2018)
Foreign Minister Kang leaves for Geneva to attend U.N. human rights meeting (*Yonhap*, 02/25/2018)
High-level North Korean delegation arrives in South amid controversy (*Korea Times*, 02/25/2018)
Ivanka Trump may greet North Korean official at Pyeongchang closing ceremony (UPI, 02/25/2018)
Ivanka Trump stands and claps for North and South Korean Olympic Athletes (CNN, 02/25/2018)
North Korean Ice Hockey Player Who Defected Lauds Effort of Joint Women's Team (VOA, 02/25/2018)
North Koreans arrive for PyeongChang Games closing ceremony (CNN, 02/25/2018)
Protesters target North Korean VIPs heading for Games ceremony (*Reuters*, 02/24/2018)
PyeongChang Games end with spectacular closing ceremony -- and calls for peace (CNN, 02/25/2018)
S. Korea to focus on holding further inter-Korean talks after Olympics (*Yonhap*, 02/25/2018)
South Korea brings curtain down on 'Peace Games' (*Reuters*, 02/25/2018)
The future of our society (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/25/2018)
Why did North Korean delegation choose Walkerhill Hotel? (*Korea Times*, 02/25/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) Moon meets N. Korean delegation chief in PyeongChang (*Yonhap*, 02/25/2018)

(LEAD) N.K. official accused of masterminding 2010 naval attack visits S. Korea amid protest (*Yonhap*, 02/25/2018)
A meaningful meeting (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/25/2018)
Pyongyang's delegation arrives in South (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/25/2018)
With Olympics Over, Team Korea Goes Back to Being 2 Countries (NYT, 02/25/2018)

International:
As Winter Games close, Olympics chief lauds diplomatic thaw between the Koreas (*Washington Post*, 02/25/2018)
China Reacts Angrily to New US Sanctions Against North Korea (VOA, 02/24/2018)
China Will Deal 'Seriously' With N.Korea Sanctions Breaches (NYT, 02/25/2018)
U.S. levies heaviest-ever sanctions against North Korea (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/25/2018)

In North Korea:

- N.K. has "enough" willingness to hold talks with the US, a ranking N.K. official told S.K. President Moon Sunday. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K. accused the Trump administration Sunday of elevating a war crisis on the peninsula through a set of tougher sanctions on Pyongyang despite Olympics-driven inter-Korean exchanges. (*Yonhap*)
- Choe Kang-il, a senior N.K. diplomat handling affairs with the US, was included in N.K.'s high-level delegation to the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K.urged the Japanese government to be serious about protecting pro-Pyongyang people on its soil, strongly criticizing a recent shooting incident at the communist nation's de-facto diplomatic mission in Tokyo. (*Yonhap*)
- Senior officials from Pyongyang visiting S.K. on Sunday said N.K. was open to talks with the US, hours after it accused Washington of trying to stir up conflict on the peninsula with new sanctions. (Yuna Park, Christine Kim, *Reuters*)
- N.K. is willing to have a dialogue with the U.S., its delegation told President Moon in a meeting ahead of the closing ceremony of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- The N.K. delegation to the Closing Ceremonies of the Winter Olympics said that Pyongyang was "willing to have talks" with the US, S.K.'s presidential Blue House said. (Anna Fifield, *Washington Post*)
- President Moon said that high-ranking officials from N.K. told him their country was willing to start a dialogue with the US, a potential diplomatic victory for Moon who has been urging the two countries to talk. (Choe Sang-hun, NYT)
- The Moon administration said the meeting between President Moon and N.K. delegation led to an agreement that inter-Korean relations and N.K.-U.S. relations should go hand in hand. (VOA)
- N.K. is willing to start direct talks with the US, with the move coming as a high-level delegation from Pyongyang, headed by a controversial general, arrived for the Winter Olympics closing ceremony. (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)
- N.K. is willing to hold talks with the US. The announcement came after Kim Yong-chol met President Moon before the closing ceremony. Trump's daughter Ivanka also attended the ceremony, but US officials have ruled out meeting the N.K. delegation. (BBC)

- Moon said he'd met with the N.K. delegation in Pyeongchang before the closing ceremony of the Winter Olympic Games, and told them that N.K.-US talks should happen "as soon as possible." (Hilary Whiteman and Sophie Jeong, CNN)
- An eight-member high-level delegation from N.K. told S.K.'s President Moon Sunday afternoon before attending the Olympics closing ceremony that it was interested in talking with the US. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- A N.K. envoy making a rare visit to S.K. said that his country was willing to open talks with the US, a rare step toward diplomacy between enemies. (Hyung-Jin Kim and Kim Tong-Hyung, AP)

In South Korea:

- N.K.'s high-level delegation led by a top official accused of having masterminded the 2010 sinking of a S.K. warship arrived in the South to attend the closing ceremony of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)
- Protesters attempted to block vehicles carrying a controversial N.K. delegation to the closing ceremony of the Pyeongchang Winter Olympic Games as they crossed the DMZ into S.K. on Sunday morning. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- S.K. Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha left for Geneva, Switzerland, on Sunday to attend a U.N. meeting on human rights where she will likely touch on N.K. and the wartime sexual slavery of Korean women by Japan. (*Yonhap*)
- The N.K. delegation led by Kim Yong-chol, head of the Workers' Party of Korea's United Front Department, arrived in the South and attended the closing ceremony of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- President Trump's daughter Ivanka Trump may rub shoulders with N.K.'s former intelligence official Kim Yong-chol at the closing ceremony of the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- Ivanka Trump stood up and clapped alongside S.K. President Moon and his wife as North and South Korean athletes entered the 2018 Winter Olympics' closing ceremony. (Kelly McCleary and Jennifer Hauser, CNN)
- A N.K. women's ice hockey player who defected in 1997 was flooded with memories of her tough sports training as she watched a team from two Koreas skate through their Olympic matches earlier this month. (Hyung Jin Kim, Christy Lee, VOA)
- A high-level N.K. delegation has arrived in S.K. for the closing ceremony of the PyeongChang Winter Games and scheduled talks with S.K. officials. (Taehoon Lee and Hilary Whiteman, CNN)
- S.K. protesters tried and failed on Sunday to block a motorcade carrying N.K. delegation to the Winter Games closing ceremony, accusing the delegation's leader of being behind a deadly 2010 attack on a S.K. worship. (*Reuters*)
- The PyeongChang Olympics have ended with a spectacular closing ceremony that once again saw athletes from both Koreas marching together. (Danielle Rossingh, CNN)
- S.K.'s unification ministry said Sunday that it will make efforts to hold further talks with N.K. as the PyeongChang Winter Olympics helped revive momentum for inter-Korean dialogue. (*Yonhap*)
- S.K. brought the curtain down on its "Peace Games" on Sunday, with winter sports athletes dancing and singing together at a vibrant closing ceremony, though there was little warmth between dignitaries from the US and N.K. (James Pearson, Jane Chung, *Reuters*)

- The PyeongChang Winter Olympics has been an exciting drama series. Will the Olympics drama end as a one-time show, or place the country on a new level toward matured democracy and lasting peace? (Jang Hoon, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- N.K. again chose Seoul's Walkerhill Hotel for its high-level delegation's lodgings. A question then arises: why does the North prefer the hotel out of numerous luxury five-star hotels in Seoul? (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- S.K. President Moon held a surprise meeting Sunday with N.K.'s chief delegate to the closing ceremony of the PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games. (*Yonhap*)
- A top N.K. official accused of having orchestrated the North's sinking of a S.K. warship in 2010 made a high-profile trip to the South on Sunday amid fierce opposition from conservatives here. (*Yonhap*)
- While Kim Yong-chol is visiting S.K., the Moon administration must persuade him to talk with the U.S. on denuclearization. Otherwise, the meeting with Kim Yong-chol will be marked as a diplomatic defeat in dealing with Pyongyang's peace charms. (*Joogang Ilbo*)
- N.K.'s second high-level delegation for the Olympics arrived in S.K. to attend the closing ceremony, as conservatives vehemently protested the arrival of Kim Yong-chol, who allegedly oversaw fatal attacks on the South that killed dozens. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- The Winter Olympics came to a festive close on Sunday, with athletes from the two Koreas marching into the stadium together, but wearing different uniforms and waving the flags of their own countries. (Motoko Rich, NYT)

International:

- Thomas Bach, the president of the IOC, lauded the cooperation between the Koreas, saying both Koreas shared their faith in a peaceful future, as athletes from the two Koreas walked into the opening and closing ceremonies together. (Anna Fifield, *Washington Post*)
- China responded angrily Saturday to new sanctions the US imposed on N.K., maintaining they were counterproductive to efforts to halt Pyongyang's nuclear and long-range missile development programs. (VOA)
- China will "seriously" deal with any breaches of UNSC resolutions on N.K. should they be found, a Chinese official said, soon after the third report this month of a ship-to-ship transfer suspected of violating sanctions. (AP)
- Washington revealed its latest sanctions on N.K. on Friday, targeting 27 entities, 28 vessels and one individual. President Trump described the package as its "heaviest" measures to isolate the regime to date. (Sarah Kim, Shin Kyung-jin, *Joongang Ilbo*)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

Monday, February 26, 2018

North Korea says again it's open to talks with U.S.: South Korea's presidential office; White House: Talks with North Korea must lead to ending nuclear program

In North Korea:
(LEAD) (Olympics) N.K. athletes, cheerleaders return home as Olympics end (*Yonhap*, 02/26/2018)
A North Korean defector analyzes North Korea's Olympic cheerleaders (*Daily* NK, 02/26/2018)
In blackout North Korea, authorities export electricity to China for cash (*Daily* NK, 02/26/2018)
Visiting athletes less stony as they head home (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/26/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) Political clash escalates over controversial N.K. official's visit (*Yonhap*, 02/26/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) Gov't says no problem with N. Korean official's visit route (*Yonhap*, 02/26/2018)
(LEAD) Moon's top security aide holds talks with N. Korean delegates in Seoul (*Yonhap*, 02/26/2018)
(3rd LD) N.K. delegate reiterates door open for dialogue with U.S.: Cheong Wa Dae (*Yonhap*, 02/26/2018)
After North and South Korea's Olympic rapprochement, a reality check (CNN, 02/25/2018)
Beware fake peace (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/26/2018)
Gov't dismisses reports of discord between Olympic athletes of two Koreas (*Yonhap*, 02/26/2018)
Korean Peace Olympics End on Hopeful Note (VOA, 02/26/2018)
N.K. unveils list of its delegates for talks with South on Paralympics (*Yonhap*, 02/26/2018)
Need for clarity (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/26/2018)
(Olympics) S. Korean female hockey players bid teary farewell to N. Korean teammates (*Yonhap*, 02/26/2018)
Rude awakenings ahead as Pyeongchang 2018 draws to a close (*Guardian*, 02/26/2018)
S. Korean firms seek gov't approval to visit joint factory park in N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 02/26/2018)
Something's gotta give (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/26/2018)
South Korea urges North to abandon nuclear weapons, allow family visits (*Reuters*, 02/26/2018)
The next step (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/26/2018)

International:
(LEAD) Moon urges U.S. to lower bar for dialogue with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 02/26/2018)
(2nd LD) U.S. 'will see' if N.K. willingness for talks is commitment to denuclearize (*Yonhap*, 02/26/2018)
After revelation over canceled US-NK talks, questions over purpose of talks in first place(*Daily* NK, 02/26/2018)
In U.N. speech, S. Korean FM calls on N. Korean regime to improve human rights (*Yonhap*, 02/26/2018)
Ivanka Trump had no interaction with N. Koreans: White House (*Yonhap*, 02/26/2018)
N. Korea, U.S. warm toward talks with North voicing willingness to talk (*Yonhap*, 02/26/2018)
North's delegates insist they want talks with U.S. (*Joongang Ilbo*, 02/26/2018)

North Korea is a bigger cyber-attack threat than Russia, says expert (*Guardian*, 02/26/2018)
North Korea says again it's open to talks with U.S.: South Korea's presidential office (*Reuters*,02/26/2018)
North Korea wants dialogue with US without preconditions (*Korea Times*, 02/26/2018)
North Korea willing to start direct talks with US, says South Korea (*Guardian*, 02/26/2018)
Russian hackers posed as North Koreans to launch cyberattack on Winter Olympics, claims US (*Telegraph*, 02/25/2018)
S. Korea hopes for 'constructive' dialogue between U.S. and N.K. (*Yonhap*, 02/26/2018)
South Korean Leader Urges U.S. and North Korea to Make Talks Possible (NYT, 02/26/2018)
South Korea's president urges both Washington and Pyongyang to be pragmatic (*Washington Post*, 02/26/2018)
US 'must lower the bar' for direct talks with North Korea (*Telegraph*, 02/26/2018)
U.S., North Korea should lower threshold for talks, says South (*Reuters*, 02/26/2018)
US ties any North Korea talks to nuclear arms (BBC, 02/25/2018)
US: 'We Will See' if N. Korea Willingness to Talk is Denuclearization First Step (VOA, 02/25/2018)
White House Takes Cautious Approach on North Korea Overeture (NYT, 02/26/2018)
White House: Talks with North Korea must lead to ending nuclear program (*Reuters*, 02/26/2018)

In North Korea:

- N. Korean athletes and cheerleaders returned home Mon. after NK sent a record size delegation to the Olympics, which ended the previous day. (*Yonhap*)
- A N. Korean defector analyzes the behavior, outfits, and cheers of the N. Korean cheerleaders at an Alpine Skiing event. (SeolSong-ah, *Daily NK*)
- The NK State Affairs Commission revealed that some of the electricity being produced by a hydroelectric dam is being sold to China. Although NK struggles with electricity shortages, the export of hydropower is seen as an attempt by the regime to maintain its financial lifelines. (Seol Song-ah, *Daily NK*)
- A N. Korean delegation of 299 athletes and cheerleaders headed home by road Mon. after the closing of the historic Olympics in Gangwon the previous evening. (Sarah Kim, Chun Su-jin, *Joongang Ilbo*)

In South Korea:

- S. Korean political parties collided Mon. over a controversial visit to Seoul by N. Korean official Kim Yong-chol, who is accused of masterminding deadly military attacks in 2010. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- SK's defense ministry dismissed concerns Mon. that some border security-related information might have been leaked to NK as its top officials were allowed to use a strategically important road to visit here. (*Yonhap*)
- Chung Eui-yong, Moon's top security aide held talks Mon. with high-level N. Korean delegates to the Olympic Games. (*Yonhap*)

- A senior N. Korean official, Kim Yong-chol, said Mon. that the reclusive state is willing to hold talks with the US, noting the door for dialogue between the two countries remains open. (*Yonhap*)
- After the end of the historical, Olympic moment of unity, NK and SK are still technically at war, and there's no consensus in SK on how to deal with this issue, just as there's no real consensus in the US on how to deal with NK. (Jamie Tarabay, CNN)
- Even if Kim Yong-chol makes various arguments about peace, we cannot overlook the crimes he committed against the S. Korean people. He must feel the outrage of the S. Korean people who cannot accept fake peace supported by a nuclear program. (Chun Young-gi, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- The S. Korean government on Monday dismissed reports of a possible dispute with NK at the Olympic Games, which was evident to some in the separate entry of their athletes at the closing ceremony, saying there had been no plans for a joint entry in the first place. (*Yonhap*)
- The "Peace" Olympics has succeeded in creating diplomatic momentum toward resolving the nuclear standoff on the Korean Peninsula, but it is unclear whether it can be sustained. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- NK on Mon. unveiled a list of its three-member delegation for SK and NK's talks on NK's participation in next month's Paralympics, Seoul officials said. (*Yonhap*)
- We need to clarify the situation. We cannot weaken sanctions when NK does not show genuine actions towards denuclearization. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- S. Korean women's ice hockey players on Mon. bid a teary farewell to their N. Korean teammates on the unified Korean team for the Olympics, a day after they marched in together at the closing ceremony. (Yoo Jee-ho, *Yonhap*)
- The legacy of Pyeongchang 2018 is on course to mirror many of the woes that have plagued other hosts of the Olympics, but There is another rude awakening ahead: the rapprochement between NK and SK is unlikely to last. (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)
- S. Korean companies that operated factories at the now-shuttered joint industrial park in NK asked the Seoul government Mon. to allow their trip to the border city of Kaesong to inspect their facilities, a private task force representing the firms said.(*Yonhap*)
- By choosing to send Kim Yong-chol we can only suspect the North is up to its old tricks of trying to stoke conflict among S. Koreans. If NK continues in its ways, public opinion will disapprove of Moon's approach. (Lee Ha-kyung, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- NK must heed the call by major powers to abandon its nuclear and ballistic missile programs and allow peace to take root on the divided peninsula, SK's foreign minister Kang Kyung-wha said to the UN Human Rights Council on Mon. (*Reuters*)
- The truce between SK and NK during the Olympics should extend to lasting peace. It could turn out to be another propaganda stunt by NK if there are no concrete moves toward easing tension and ensuring peace after the Olympics. (*Joongang Ilbo*)

International:

- Moon said on Mon. the US should lower its bar for bilateral talks with NK, adding that it is important to have such dialogue moving forward first. (*Yonhap*)
- The US "will see" if NK's stated willingness to hold talks is a commitment to abandon its nuclear weapons program, the White House said Sun.(*Yonhap*)
- After the canceled meeting between Kim Yo-jong and Mike Pence, it is clear that the nuclear issue remains a key obstacle. But both sides should continue to work towards establishing

dialogue and establish a plan for what to do in case talks fail to materialize. (Ahn Jong-sik, *Daily NK*)

- Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha on Mon. called on the N. Korean regime to improve the human rights of its people at her key-note speech to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland. (*Yonhap*)
- Ivanka Trump has had no interaction with N. Korean officials during her visit to SK, a White House official said Sun. amid keen interest in whether the two sides will resume dialogue. (*Yonhap*)
- NK and the US appear to have moved one step closer to holding much-needed bilateral talks to put a lid on NK's nuclear weapons program after Kim Yong-chol, said in Seoul last week that his country is willing enough to talk to the US. (*Yonhap*)
- NK repeatedly stressed that it is open to dialogue with the US, a Blue House official said Mon., Moon continued his efforts to bring NK and US together to resolve the security crisis over the KJU's regime's nuclear and missile threats. (Ser Myo-ja, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- NK poses a bigger threat of large-scale cyber-attacks than Russia, according to the co-founder of the information security firm that investigated the 2016 Democratic National Committee hacks, Crowdstrike. (Alex Hern, *Guardian*)
- Kim Yong-chol said again that NK was open to talks with the US, the South's Yonhap news agency said, citing the presidential office. (*Reuters*)
- A N. Korean delegation visiting SK reaffirmed that NK was willing to talk with the US, adding that there would be no preconditions in opening the dialogue. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- NK has said it is willing to start direct talks with the US, with the move coming as a high-level delegation from Pyongyang, headed by a controversial general, arrived for the Olympics closing ceremony. (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)
- Russian hackers attacked S. Korean government computers during the Olympics, but made it look like the attack was carried out by the North, US intelligence agencies believe. (Harriet Alexander, Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- SK's unification ministry expressed hope Mon. that the US and NK could open "constructive" talks as the Olympics helped create a mood for rapprochement. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon urged the US and NK on Mon. to soften their uncompromising stances so that talks could start on defusing the crisis prompted by NK's nuclear program and the US's threats to stop it with military force. (Choe Sang-hyun, NYT)
- The US must "lower its bar for dialogue" and NK must signal that denuclearization is on the agenda, SK's president said Mon. as he tried to keep the momentum going in an Olympics-inspired detente. (Anna Fifiled, *Washington Post*)
- Moon has called on the US to "lower the bar" for discussions with NK, suggesting that the US should drop its insistence that NK's nuclear arsenal must be part of any future talks. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- Moon said on Mon. the US and NK should both give ground so they can sit down to talks to try to resolve a nuclear standoff, a day after Pyongyang expressed willingness for dialogue. (Christine Kim, *Reuters*)
- Amidst NK's requests for talks with the US, the US says any dialogue with NKmust have nuclear disarmament as the end goal. (BBC)
- The Trump administration is responding tepidly following NK's expression of willingness to hold talks with the US. (Steve Herman, VOA)
- The White House says it will wait and see whether a new overture by NK for talks with the US means it is serious about disarming, a step Trump and other world leaders agree must be the outcome of any future dialogue. (AP)

- The White House said any talks with NK must lead to an end to its nuclear program after senior officials from Pyongyang visiting SK said on Sun. their government was open to talks with the US. (Yuna Park, Roberta Rampton, *Reuters*)

Prepared by Emma Stubblefield, HRNK Research Intern

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Tuesday, February 27, 2018

NK to send athletes to Paralympics next Wed.; SK says sanctions do not aim to bring down NK; State Department point man on NK, Joseph Yun, to retire Fri.

In North Korea:
(2nd LD) N.K. to send athletes to Paralympics next Wednesday (*Yonhap*, 02/27/2018)
(3rd LD) N.K.'s high-level delegation led by controversial official returns home (*Yonhap*, 02/27/2018)
(LEAD) N.K.'s high-level delegation to return home after voicing openness for talks with U.S. (*Yonhap*, 02/27/2018)
North's delegation returns home (*Joongang Daily*, 02/27/2018)
North Korea 'refuses talks with US if they come with preconditions' (*Telegraph*, 02/27/2018)
North Korean delegation returns home after Olympics outreach (*Washington Post*, 02/27/2018)
North Korean state security agents extort borderland cash brokers (*Daily* NK, 02/27/2018)
State Security agents blackmailing defectors in China into joining expanding informant network (*Daily* NK, 02/27/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) In U.N. speech, S. Korean FM calls on N. Korean regime to improve human rights (*Yonhap*, 02/26/2018)
FM Kang urged int'l unity for peaceful resolution of N. Korean nukes in Geneva disarmament conference (*Yonhap*, 02/27/2018)
Kang calls on Pyongyang to abandon its nukes (*Joongang Daily*, 02/27/2018)
S. Korea vows efforts to broker U.S.-N. Korea talks (*Yonhap*, 02/27/2018)
SKorea minister: North's tests 'blatant affront' to treaty (*Washington Post*, 02/27/2018)
South Korea says sanctions do not aim to bring down North Korea (*Reuters*, 02/27/2018)
South Korea Urges US Support for North Korea Nuclear Talks (VOA, 02/27/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) Koreas hold talks on N.K.'s participation in Paralympics (*Yonhap*, 02/27/2018)
N.K. unveils list of its delegates for talks with South on Paralympics (*Yonhap*, 02/26/2018)
North Korea to send athletes to next month's Paralympics in South Korea: report (*Reuters*, 02/27/2018)
North Korean officials return home after agreeing to continue improving ties with South Korea (UPI, 02/26/2018)

Winter Paralympics: North Korea to send team following talks (BBC, 02/27/2018)

International:

'My life is in danger,' North Korea leader's half-brother quoted as saying months before poisoning (*Reuters*, 02/27/2018)
(2nd LD) Trump says talks with N. Korea only under right conditions (*Yonhap*, 02/27/2018)
(3rd LD) N.K. delegate reiterates door open for dialogue with U.S.: Cheong Wa Dae (*Yonhap*, 02/26/2018)
(LEAD) Foreign Minister Kang discusses N. Korean denuclearization with Swiss, Hungarian counterparts (*Yonhap*, 02/27/2018)
(LEAD) Top U.S. envoy on N. Korean nukes to retire this week: report (*Yonhap*, 02/27/2018)
Donald Trump says he is willing to talk to North Korea only under 'right conditions' (*Telegraph*, 02/26/2018)
Experts cautious over prospects for NK-US talks (*Korea Times*, 02/26/2018)
EU steps up sanctions against N. Korea in line with U.N. resolution (*Yonhap*, 02/27/2018)
Japan suspects yet another North Korea sanctions breach at sea (*Reuters*, 02/27/2018)
Joint military drills may be delayed further as North Korea turns to dialogue (*Korea Times*, 02/26/2018)
Key US Diplomat on North Korea Matters to Retire (VOA, 02/27/2018)
New Zealand prime minister creates new cabinet post for disarmament (*Reuters*, 02/26/2018)
Police: Kim Jong Nam told friend he feared for his life (*Washington Post*, 02/27/2018)
Senior U.S. diplomat for North Korea to retire (*Reuters*, 02/26/2018)
State Department point man on North Korea, Joseph Yun, to retire Friday (*Washington Post*, 02/27/2018)
Top U.S. policy expert on North Korea announces retirement (UPI, 02/27/2018)
Top US negotiator to North Korea in surprise resignation (*Telegraph*, 02/27/2018)
Trump: U.S. would like talks with Pyongyang but 'we'll see what happens' (*Reuters*, 02/26/2018)
Trump: US Willing to Talk With N. Korea Under Right Conditions (VOA, 02/26/2018)
Trump calls out Bush, Obama on North Korea (CNN, 02/26/2018)
Trump sees talks with NKorea only under 'right conditions' (*Washington Post*, 02/26/2018)
Trump Opens Door, Just Slightly, to Talking With North Korea (*NY Times*, 02/27/2018)
Trump willing to talk to North (*Joongang Daily*, 02/27/2018)
U.S. diplomatic efforts on N.K. to continue despite envoy's retirement: State Department (*Yonhap*, 02/27/2018)
US envoy on North Korea policy is retiring (*Washington Post*, 02/27/2018)
US' top North Korea diplomat announces surprise retirement (CNN, 02/27/2018)
White House official had no contact with N. Koreans in S. Korea (*Yonhap*, 02/27/2018)
With N. Korean ICBMs posing direct threat, U.S. president could react unilaterally: expert (*Yonhap*, 02/27/2018)

In North Korea:

- NK will send athletes next week to take part in the PyeongChang Paralympics, which will be held in SK in March, Seoul's unification ministry said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- NK's high-level delegation led by a controversial official returned home Tues., after a three-day visit to SK, during which it expressed the NK's willingness to hold talks with the US. (*Yonhap*)

- NK's high-level delegation led by a controversial official is set to return home Tues. after it expressed NK's willingness to hold talks with the US. (*Yonhap*)
- NK's high-level delegation to the Olympics closing ceremony returned home Tues. after meeting with authorities in the intelligence, diplomatic and inter-Korean relations sectors as the Moon administration takes on the big challenge of brokering talks between Pyongyang and Washington. (Lee Sung-eun, Kim Kyung-hee, *Joongang Daily*)
- NK and the US remain deadlocked over the prospect of direct peace talks as it emerged on Tues. that Pyongyang's delegation in SK has repeated that it will not consider any American preconditions. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- NK's delegation to the closing ceremony of the Winter Olympics left SK on Tues. after a visit in which the former general suspected of masterminding deadly 2010 military attacks told Seoul officials the North is willing to talk with Washington. (Kim Tong-Hyung, AP)
- N.Korean Ministry of State Security officers are reportedly extorting wire-transfer brokers in the border region of North Hamgyong Province. Defectors who escape the country often try to send money back to their relatives inside NK, but such transactions are complicated and difficult. To assist with the transfers, a clandestine industry of wire-transfer brokers has emerged to facilitate the cash infusions. Ministry of State Security (MSS) officers have long understood the opportunity for personal gain by threatening these brokers, offering to look the other way in exchange for bribes. (Kang Mi Jin, *Daily NK)*
- Recent reports suggest that the N.Korean authorities have ramped up efforts to recruit undercover informants in China to assist in the identification and capture of defectors. (Lee Sang Yong, *Daily NK*)

In South Korea:

- Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha on Mon. called on the N.Korean regime to improve the human rights of its people during her keynote speech to the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland, her ministry said. (*Yonhap*)
- Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha called for international unity for a peaceful resolution of NK's nuclear issue at the Conference on Disarmament held in Geneva, Switzerland on Mon., her ministry said. (*Yonhap*)
- S.Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha called on Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear and missile programs and invest more of its resources in its people to protect and promote their rights at the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva Mon. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)
- SK pledged on Tues. to continue its efforts to broker dialogue between the US and NK as the two countries still differ on the conditions for opening talks. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's foreign minister says NK's sixth nuclear test and 20 ballistic missile launches last year amount to a "blatant affront" to the United Nations' nuclear test ban treaty. (*Associated Press*)
- Sanctions on NK aim to pressure it to give up its nuclear ambitions, not to bring down the government, S.Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha told the Conference on Disarmament at the United Nations in Geneva on Tues. (Reuters Staff, *Reuters*)
- S.Korean President Moon is continuing efforts to broker talks between the US and NK to reduce tensions over NK's nuclear program, despite facing reluctance from Washington and Pyongyang, and increasing concerns at home. (Brian Padden, VOA)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- SK and NK held working-level talks Tues. to discuss details of NK's participation in the Paralympics to be held in SK next month. (*Yonhap*)
- NK on Mon. unveiled a list of its three-member delegation for SK and NK's talks on NK's participation in next month's Paralympics, Seoul officials said. (*Yonhap*)
- NK plans to send athletes to compete in next month's Paralympic Games in SK, following its high profile participation in the Olympic games that wrapped up on Sun., Yonhap news agency said. (Reuters Staff, *Reuters*)
- S.Korean and N.Korean officials agreed to continue making efforts to improve cross-border relations and achieve peace on the peninsula, Seoul said Tues. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- NK will participate in the Winter Paralympic Games in Pyeongchang, according to SK's news agency. (BBC)

International:

- Kim Jong Nam, the poisoned half-brother of N.Korean leader KJU, told a friend in Malaysia his life was in danger six months before he was killed, a police official told a court on Tues. (Reuters Staff, *Reuters*)
- US President Donald Trump said Mon. that talks with NK are possible only under the right conditions. (*Yonhap*)
- A senior N.Korean official said Mon. that the reclusive state is willing to hold talks with the US, noting the door for dialogue between the two countries remains open, according to an official from Seoul's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae. (*Yonhap*)
- Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha has discussed ways to open denuclearization talks with NK with her Swiss and Hungarian counterparts in Geneva, Switzerland, the foreign ministry said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- The top US negotiator on the N.Korean nuclear issue will retire this week, a foreign news report said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- President Donald Trump said on Mon. that the US would like to have talks with NK, but "only under the right conditions", as he offered his first, cautious response to Pyongyang's offer of negotiations. (Julian Ryall, Rob Crilly, *Telegraph*)
- Analysts generally gave positive assessments on NK's softening stance toward talks with the US, but remained cautious over the prospects for their talks. (Choi Ha-young, *Korea Times*)
- The European Union (EU) said it has tightened its sanctions against NK in line with the latest resolution adopted by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) over the communist country's nuclear and missile programs. (*Yonhap*)
- Japan has discovered another N.Korean tanker it suspects of transferring goods with a vessel in defiance of U.N. Security Council resolutions, the Foreign Ministry said on Tues. (Reuters Staff, *Reuters*)
- Joint military exercises between SK and the US can be postponed further amid growing signs of the resumption of the long-suspended dialogue between Washington and Pyongyang. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- Joseph Yun, the US State Department's special representative for N.Korean policy, is leaving his post later this week. (VOA News, VOA)

- New Zealand's Prime Minister on Tues. used her first major foreign policy address to announce she is establishing a ministerial position for disarmament amid tensions in the Asia-Pacific region over NK's weapons programs. (Reuters Staff, *Reuters*)
- A police investigator testified Tues. that the estranged half brother of NK's leader told a friend in Malaysia that his life was in danger six months before he was killed at an airport. (*Associated Press*)
- The US State Department's special representative for NK policy, Joseph Yun, plans to retire on Fri., just as signs are emerging that Pyongyang may be willing to talk with Washington. (Josh Smith, David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)
- The State Department's point man on NK, Joseph Yun, will leave his post on Fri., amid glimmers of hope that Pyongyang might finally be willing to sit down for talks with Washington. (Anna Fifield, *Washington Post*)
- Joseph Yun, the top U.S. diplomat in charge of N.Korean policy, announced his surprise retirement on Tues. (Sara Shayanian, *UPI*)
- One the US' top diplomats in charge of NK policy has announced his abrupt retirement, leading to fears of a dearth of expertise at a crucial time in Washington's relations with Pyongyang. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- President Donald Trump said on Mon. that the US, which has been ramping up pressure on NK over its nuclear and missile programs, would like to have talks with Pyongyang but only under the right conditions. (Reuters Staff, *Reuters*)
- US President Donald Trump is expressing a willingness to talk with NK, but "only under the right conditions," while warning that if Pyongyang doesn't abandon its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs there could be a potentially tremendous "loss of lives, numbers that nobody's ever contemplated, never thought of." (Steve Herman, VOA)
- President Donald Trump on Mon. criticized Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama for their handling of the N.Korean threat during remarks Mon. to state governors at the White House. (Jeremy Diamond, CNN)
- President Donald Trump on Mon. responded to an overture from NK for talks with the U.S., saying that will happen only "under the right conditions." (Darlene Superville, AP)
- NK's declaration at the end of the Winter Olympics of its willingness to start a dialogue with the US offered a sliver of optimism that the political pageantry of the Games would lead to more substantial results. (Motoko Rich, *NY Times)*
- US President Donald Trump said Mon. he is willing to talk with NK, but "only under the right conditions," after Pyongyang relayed that it is open to dialogue with Washington. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)
- The US will continue diplomatic efforts to dismantle NK's nuclear weapons program despite the retirement of its top official handling the issue, the State Department said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- The senior US diplomat who has retained back-channel contacts with NK amid high tension over the pariah nation's nuclear program is retiring. (*Associated Press*)
- The US State Department's top diplomat in charge of NK policy is retiring at the end of the week. (Ellana Lee, Joshua Berlinger, CNN)
- A White House official in charge of Korea affairs did not meet with N.Korean officials during her trip to SK, a spokesperson said Mon. as interest mounts over whether the two sides will resume dialogue. (*Yonhap*)
- With NK's intercontinental ballistic missiles posing a direct threat to the US mainland, the US president could respond directly to the threat without having to consult his S.Korean counterpart in advance, an US expert on the N.Korean nuclear issue said Tues. (*Yonhap*)

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, HRNK Research Intern

3. MARCH

Thursday, March 1, 2018

Greg Scarlatoiu, HRNK Executive Director: "Fake passports part of plan to escape from accountability for human rights violations"; SK's Moon tells Trump of plan to send envoy to NK; Pro-American Rally in SK Denounces NK Appeasement

Top News:
Greg Scarlatoiu, HRNK Executive Director: "Fake passports part of plan to escape from accountability for human rights violations" (CNN, 02/28/2018)

In North Korea:
5 N. Korean workers found dead in container in Russia (*Yonhap*, 03/01/2018)
A small update on the Nampho leadership boat (*NK Econ Watch*, 03/01/2018)
Deadly gas leak kills five North Koreans in Russia (UPI, 03/01/2018)
North Korea and the Brazil passports: Why were they used by the Kims? (BBC, 03/01/2018)
North Korean authorities encourage ordinary people to make up for sanctions-related production losses (*Daily*NK, 03/01/2018)
Report: North Korea aims to expand illegal trade network (UPI, 03/01/2018)
Sanctions and Marketization in North Korea: Lessons from Myanmar (38*North*, 02/28/2018)

In South Korea:
Kim Yong-chol's link to Cheonan attack unproven: Defense minister (*Korea Times*, 02/28/2018)
Naive words (*Joongang Daily*, 03/02/2018)
Pro-American Rally in South Korea Denounces North Korea Appeasement (VOA, 03/01/2018)
Seek a census (*Joongang Daily*, 03/01/2018)
South Korea defense minister confirms Kim Yong Chol behind attack (UPI, 03/01/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) Moon to send special envoy to N. Korea: Cheong Wa Dae (*Yonhap*, 03/02/2018)
N.K. delegation repeats negative position on S. Korea-U.S. military exercises: official (*Yonhap*, 03/01/2018)
North 'cannot accept' joint drills (*Joongang Daily*, 03/02/2018)
South Korea's Moon tells Trump of plan to send envoy to North Korea (*Reuters*, 03/01/2018)

International:
(LEAD) Pro-N.K. newspaper: U.S. should create 'right conditions' for talks with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 03/01/2018)
Between Ivanka and Kim Yo-jong, it's no draw (*Korea Times*, 02/28/2018)

Foreign minister will ask US to reach out to NK (*Korea Times*, 02/28/2018)
Hill slams Trump administration over handling of N.K. threat (*Yonhap*, 03/01/2018)
Maldives denies Japan's allegation that it breached North Korean sanctions (*Reuters*, 02/28/2018)
Moon, Trump hold talks over possible dialogue with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 03/01/2018)
Pro-North Korea paper: U.S. should make the right move for dialogue (UPI, 03/01/2018)
Pyongyang sells military gear to Syria, Myanmar (*Joongang Daily*, 03/01/2018)
US-North Korea talks up to Kim Jong-un's decision on nukes (*Korea Times*, 02/28/2018)
US accuses North Korea of using talks to 'buy time' for nuclear program (*Telegraph*, 03/01/2018)
U.S. Banks on Diplomacy With North Korea, but Moves Ahead on Military Plans (*NY Times*, 02/28/2018)
Why does the U.K. deport North Korean asylum seekers? (UPI, 03/01/2018)

Top News:

- In this CNN segment, HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu and Ken Gause, North Korean Leadership expert at CNA, analyze the rationale behind KJU and his late Kim Jong-il's acquisitions of fake Brazilian passports. According to Scarlatoiu, the fake passports were meant for an "underground escape to enable the Kims to escape danger in case the regime is on the brink of collapse and also to escape accountability and responsibility for the egregious human rights violations and crimes against humanity committed by the regime." Scarlatoiu also commented on Kim Jong-il's reaction at the time when his eldest son, Kim Jong-nam was caught with a falsified passport in Japan, noting that Kim Jong-il was "absolutely furious and banished his son [Kim Jong-nam] to Macau." (CNN)

In North Korea:

- Five N.Korean workers have been found dead in a shipping container at a construction site in Russia's southern city of Ufa, an official said Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- Contemporary NK watchers first noticed the boat docked in the Nampho area in a Google Earth satellite image dated 2015-20-4. Despite only being recently "discovered" by the open source community, the boat appears to have been around for some time, and it does not appear to violate the UNSC prohibition on the export of luxury goods to NK. (*NK Econ Watch*)
- Five N.Korean workers may have suffocated to death during a gas leak near the Ural mountains, according to a S.Korean press report on Thurs. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Fresh evidence emerged this week that the N.Korean leader KJU, and his father and predecessor Kim Jong-il, obtained fraudulent Brazilian passports in the 1990s. This article from the BBC explores the question of why would KJU and Kim Jong-il obtain these false passports and why passports from Brazil. (Becky Branford, BBC)
- NK's Party-run publication Rodong Sinmun launched a diatribe against international sanctions, calling the measures an "economic blockade" that is destroying the country's ability to develop, as the N.Korean authorities are squarely blaming the US and the

international community for their economic difficulties and shifting the burden of the problem on to ordinary people. (Seol Song Ah, *DailyNK*)

- NK has been aiming to expand its illegal trade network in order to circumvent global sanctions against its nuclear and missile program, various media reports showed Thurs. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- Sanctions on NK may have started to "bite," but mainly in unintended ways. There is a risk that sanctions will hamper the creation of more diverse medium-sized enterprises and make it easier for major companies close to powerful state institutions to protect their dominant role in the DPRK economy, especially at a time when the N.Korean government is attempting to diversify the economy and introduce more market-oriented incentives. The case of Myanmar, where sanctions led to the creation of sprawling corporate empires dependent on and very close to the state, offers an instructive lesson on the unintended and often negative effects of sanctions. (Andray Abrahamian, *38North*)

In South Korea:

- Defense Minister Song Young-moo said Wed. it is impossible to prove N.Korean official Kim Yong-chol's direct involvement in the torpedo attack on the Navy ship Cheonan in 2010, which claimed the lives of 46 sailors. (Choi Ha-young, *Korea Times*)
- In his first Independence Movement Day address, President Moon mentioned independence 23 times, the Republic of Korea 20 times, and peace 11 times. However, Moon didn't mention NK. There is a huge difference between the president and his people on the issue of NK. Many people are doubtful of that Pyongyang will ever change its spots. But the government remains idealistic and optimistic. (*Joongang Daily*)
- Thousands of S.Korean conservatives rallied in Seoul on Thurs. to protest President Moon's Olympic outreach to NK, and in support of impeached President Park Geun-hye, who faces a possible 30-year prison sentence for corruption charges related to the scandal that ousted her from office. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- The presence of high-profile N.Korean officials, including a blacklisted figure in SK for the PyeongChang Winter Olympics in Gangwon, has aggravated the divide in political circles. However, one important element has been absent from all the discussions and topics around NK and unification. We know little about the N.Korean demographic status quo. (Cho Young-tae, *Joongang Daily*)
- SK's defense ministry confirmed a visiting N.Korean official was behind the attack on the Cheonan and that NK attacked the S.Korean warship by deploying a reconnaissance submarine. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- S.Korean President Moon said that he will send a special envoy to NK during his first phone conversation with his US counterpart, Donald Trump, following rare high-level contact between the two Koreas. (*Yonhap*)

- A high-level N.Korean delegation reiterated the country's existing position on joint military exercises between SK and the US when they visited SK for the closing ceremony of the PyeongChang Olympics, the unification minister was quoted Thurs. as saying. (Yonhap)
- When S.Korean authorities told NK's recent high-level delegation that Seoul and Washington intend to resume their postponed military drills after the Paralympics end on Mar. 18, the officials from Pyongyang responded they "cannot accept" the exercises and forewarned heavy backlash, multiple sources from the ruling Democratic Party exclusively told the JoongAng Ilbo. (Ha Jun-ho, Jeong Yong-soo, Chun Su-jin, Joongang Daily)
- SK plans to send a special envoy to NK in response to an invitation from leader KJU, S.Korean President Moon told his US counterpart Donald Trump in a phone call on Thurs. (Reuters)

International:

- A pro-N.Korean newspaper in Japan said Thurs. that the US should create the right conditions if it wants talks with NK, claiming Pyongyang never begged for dialogue with the US. (Yonhap)
- The Ivanka Trump—Kim Yo-jong comparison should start with the fact of they cannot be compared. If the PyeongChang metaphor is borrowed, it would be like comparing skier to skater or, more subtly, between speed skater and figure skater and deciding who is the winner. (Oh Young-jin, Korea Times)
- Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha plans to talk with US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to mediate possible talks between the US and NK. (Lee Min-hyung, Korea Times)
- A former senior US diplomat slammed the Donald Trump administration Wed. for what he called a lack of recognition of the SK-US alliance in the face of NK's growing nuclear threat. (Yonhap)
- Maldives on Wed. denied a Japanese foreign ministry statement that said a Maldives-flagged vessel was used to illegally transfer goods from a N.Korean-flagged tanker in defiance of U.N. Security Council resolutions. (Reuters)
- S.Korean President Moon and US President Donald Trump held a telephone conversation Thurs., Seoul's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said. (Yonhap)
- Washington should make the right move if it wants dialogue with Pyongyang, a pro-NK newspaper based in Japan said. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- NK sent items used in ballistic missile and chemical weapons programs to Syria along with missile technicians in violation of United Nations (UN) sanctions, and sent banned ballistic missiles systems to Myanmar, UN experts said. (AP, Joongang Daily)
- The position of the US on dialogue with NK remains unchanged, despite the resignation of Washington's nuclear envoy Joseph Yun, who supported diplomatic efforts to resolve the North's pursuit of nuclear weapons, a US diplomat in Seoul said Wed. (Kim Bo-eun, Joint Press Corps, Korea Times)
- Clear differences of opinion are emerging between SK and the US over how to deal with NK, with the US accusing Pyongyang of attempting to "buy time" to further advance its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes. (Julian Ryall, Telegraph)

- A classified military exercise last week examined how US troops would mobilize and strike if ordered into a potential war on the Korean Peninsula, even as diplomatic overtures between NK and the Trump administration continue. (Helene Cooper, Eric Schmitt, NY *Times*)
- The UK hosts one of the largest N.Korean populations outside northeast Asia. Since 2003, more than 1,300 N.Koreans have applied for asylum in the UK—and 544 have been granted asylum. The Home Office, which decides who stays and who's turned away, has rejected almost one-third of applicants (Markus Bell, UPI)

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, HRNK Research Intern

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Friday, March 2, 2018

S.Korea to send special envoy to N.Korea; N.Korea denies chemical weapons link with Syria; U.S., S.Korea in close contact on Seoul's envoy to N.Korea

In North Korea:

'My life is in danger,' said NK leader's brother (*Korea Times*, 03/02/2018)
North Korea denies chemical weapons link with Syria: state media (*Reuters*, 03/01/2018)
N.K. denies supplying Syria with chemical weapons equipment (*Yonhap*, 03/02/2018)
NK estimated to have made up to US$210 mln with bitcoin: report (*Yonhap*, 03/02/2018)
North's delegates insist they want talks with U.S. (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/02/2018)
North Korea claims reports it sent chemical weapons equipment to Syria are 'cooked up' by US (*Telegraph*, 03/02/2018)
North Korean Freight Carriers Suffer Growing Losses Under Sanctions (RFA, 03/01/2018)
North Koreans flock to markets for spring full moon holiday (*Daily*NK, 03/02/2018)

In South Korea:

Moon's special envoy facing tough task of persuading N.K. to hold talks with U.S. (*Yonhap*, 03/02/2018)
Moon to hold meeting on North (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/02/2018)
Moon to meet party leaders next week over N. Korea ties (*Yonhap*, 03/02/2018)
Seoul to encourage thaw by sending envoy to North Korea (*Guardian*, 03/01/2018)
S.Korean President Lashes Japan Over Wartime Use of 'Comfort Women' (VOA, 03/01/2018)
South Korea could send special envoy to North next week (UPI, 03/02/2018)
South Korea's Moon plans to send envoy to North Korea soon (*Washington Post*, 03/01/2018)
South Korea Tells U.S. It Will Send Envoy to North Korea (NYT, 03/02/2018)
South Korea to send special envoy to North Korea, president tells Donald Trump (*Telegraph*, 03/01/2018)
South Korea to send special envoy to North Korea: Cheong Wa Dae (*Korea Times*, 03/02/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Moon will send envoy to North (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/02/2018)
S. Korea previously sent special envoys to N.K. for summits, nuclear issue (*Yonhap*, 03/02/2018)

International:
Is Rex Tillerson pivoting on human rights? (*Washington Post*, 03/02/2018)
U.S., S. Korea in close contact on Seoul's envoy to N.K.: State Dept. (*Yonhap*, 03/02/2018)
US serious about attacking North Korea: CNN (*Korea Times*, 03/02/2018)
When Billy Graham's North Korea legacy: From 'witch doctor' to honored guest (CNN, 03/02/2018)

In North Korea:

- Kim Jong-nam, the poisoned half-brother of KJU, told a friend in Malaysia his life was in danger six months before he was killed. (*Reuters*)
- N.K. denied reports it had cooperated with Syria on chemical weapons, dismissing them as a fabrication by the US to pressure the country. (*Reuters*)
- N.K. slammed a U.N. probe Friday that says Pyongyang has been providing Syria with materials that can be used to manufacture chemical weapons, claiming it has not developed and produced them. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K. is believed to have raked in more than US $200 million via digital cryptocurrency transactions last year amid international sanctions over its nuclear and missile programs. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K. repeatedly stressed that it is open to dialogue with the US as Moon continued his efforts to bring Pyongyang and Washington together to resolve the security crisis over the KJU regime's nuclear and missile threats. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- N.K. has hit back at claims that it supplied Syria with equipment to manufacture chemical weapons, accusing the US and the UN of "cooking up" allegations as part of the effort to tighten international sanctions on Pyongyang.(Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- N.K. freight carriers hit hard by sanctions on cross-border trade are now running empty trucks to the border with China before returning with full loads, leading to further costs for the already struggling companies. (RFA)
- Shoppers and merchants in N.K. are hitting the markets in large numbers this week in celebration of the March 2 "Daeboreum" holiday marking the first full moon of the year, according to the lunar calendar. (Seol Song Ah, *DailyNK*)

In South Korea:

- Moon's special envoy should focus on figuring out ways to narrow the seemingly unbridgeable gap between Washington and Pyongyang on nuclear issues and persuade N.K. to step out for talks to discuss its nuclear and missile programs. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon plans to hold a meeting with ruling and opposition party leaders next week to update them on recent developments in N.K. ties. (*Yonhap*)

- Moon plans to hold a meeting with ruling and opposition party leaders next week to update them on recent developments in N.K. ties. (*Yonhap*)
- S.K. plans to send a special envoy to N.K. as Moon works to encourage direct talks between Washington and Pyongyang on ending the nuclear programme of KJU regime. (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)
- Moon described Japan's wartime use of "comfort women" as "crimes against humanity" on Thursday in some of his strongest comments yet, sparking an immediate protest from his key ally in containing N.K. (*Reuters*)
- S.K. is ready to send a special envoy to N.K. next week, following a late-evening phone call between Trump and Moon. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Moon plans to send a special envoy to N.K. soon to set up more meaningful dialogue between the rivals that Seoul hopes will eventually include discussions over disarming the North of nuclear weapons. (Kim Tong-Hyung, AP)
- Moon told Trump on Thursday that he planned to send a special envoy to N.K. as part of his effort to broker talks between the U.S. and N.K. on ending its nuclear weapons program. (Choe Sang-hun, NYT)
- S.K. plans to send a special envoy to N.K. in response to an invitation from KJU, Moon told his US counterpart Trump in a phone call on Thursday. (*Telegraph*)
- Moon will soon send a special envoy to N.K. in response to an invitation from KJU. The announcement came after Moon had a 30-minute phone conversation with Trump. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Moon will send a special envoy to N.K. possibly this month to discuss an inter-Korean summit and to confirm KJU's desire for N.K.-U.S. dialogue. (Ser Myo-ja, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- As Moon has unveiled a plan to send a special envoy to N.K., attention is being paid to what purposes S.K. dispatched special emissaries in the past. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- Tillerson has sent conflicting signals on his department's approach to human rights. If he releases the upcoming edition of the State Department's annual country reports, it could mean that he is returning to the traditional approach of U.S. foreign policy. (Sarah B. Snyder, *Washington Post*)
- The U.S. State Department has said that Washington and Seoul are in close contact for a "unified response" to N.K. in relation to S.K.'s plan to send a special envoy to N.K. (*Yonhap*)
- The U.S. government is considering military action against N.K. if the regime finishes building a nuclear missile capable of reaching the U.S. mainland. (Jung Min-ho, *Korea Times*)
- N.K. initial impression of Graham in 1973 was that a witch doctor from America performing a witch act. But two decades later, in 1992, the anti-communist Graham was invited to Pyongyang as an honored guest of N.K.'s late President Kim Il Sung. (Will Ripley, CNN)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

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Saturday, March 3, 2018

N.Korea rejects U.S. preconditions for holding talks; N.Korea issues warning over U.S. military provocations; U.S. determines N.Korea used chemical weapons

In North Korea:
Majority of N. Koreans negative about nuclear program: U.S. survey (*Yonhap*, 03/03/2018)
N.K. rejects talks with U.S. 'under preconditions' (*Yonhap*, 03/03/2018)
N. Korea issues warning over U.S. military provocations (*Yonhap*, 03/03/2018)
North Korea Rejects US Preconditions for Holding Talks (NYT, 03/03/2018)
North Korea rejects US preconditions for holding talks (*Washington Post*, 03/03/2018)
North Korea threatens to 'counter' U.S. over military drills (*Reuters*, 03/03/2018)

In South Korea:
Moon to name special envoy to NK next week (*Korea Times*, 03/02/2018)

International:
At U.N., China delays U.S. bid to blacklist ships, companies over North Korea (*Reuters*, 03/02/2018)
China champions South Korean leader sending envoy to North Korea (*Korea Times*, 03/03/2018)
North Korea war could 'kill 10,000 US troops within days' (*Telegraph*, 03/02/2018)
Putin, before vote, unveils 'invincible' nuclear weapons to counter West (*Reuters*, 03/02/2018)
Senator: Kim Jong Un Must Realize Trump Is 'Very Different' From Obama (VOA, 03/02/2018)
Trump administration weighed sanctions against major Chinese banks tied to North Korea (*Washington Post*, 03/02/2018)
Trump risks more than a trade war by targeting China (CNN, 03/03/2018)
US determines North Korea used chemical weapons (*Washington Post*, 03/02/2018)
U.S. determines N.K. used chemical weapons: reports (*Yonhap*, 03/03/2018)
US official says North Korea is making progress on missile guidance (CNN, 03/02/2018)

In North Korea:

- The majority of N.Koreans are negative about their country's nuclear weapons program, with many of them saying it is not a source of national pride or prosperity, a U.S. survey showed Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K. said Saturday there will be no talks with the US if they come with any "preconditions," reasserting that it has no intent to abandon its nuclear and missile programs in exchange for dialogue with Washington. (*Yonhap*)

- N.K.'s representative told the UN-sponsored Conference on Disarmament in Geneva last month that Pyongyang stands ready to fight back against any military provocation from the US. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K. stated that though it is willing to have talks with the U.S., it rejects preconditions and Washington's demands of first demonstrating its willingness for denuclearization. (AP)
- N.K. said Saturday it is willing to have talks with the U.S., but that it rejects preconditions and Washington's demands that it must first demonstrate its willingness to denuclearize. (AP)
- N.K. threatened on Saturday to"counter the U.S." if the U.S. holds joint military exercises with S.K., and said it would not beg for talks with Washington. (*Reuters*)

In South Korea:

- S.K. President Moon will name a special envoy to N.K. soon, Cheong Wa Dae said Friday. The envoy to the North is expected to call for Pyongyang to talk with Washington about denuclearization before inter-Korean talks are held. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea TImes*)

International:

- China delayed a U.S. request for a United Nations Security Council committee to blacklist 33 ships, 27 shipping companies, and a Taiwan man for violating international sanctions on N.K. (*Reuters*)
- China is welcoming the news of S.K. President Moon's plan to send a special envoy to N.K., calling it a move that will "help ease the situation" on the Korean peninsula. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- A war with N.K. could result in about 10,000 American combat-related casualties in the first few days alone, according to US military planners. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- Putin announced an array of new nuclear weapons on Thursday, in one of his most bellicose speeches in years, saying they could hit almost any point in the world and evade a U.S.-built missile shield. (Andrew Osborn, *Reuters*)
- KJU must realize that Trump is a "very different" U.S. president with a different policy than that of the previous administration, an influential U.S. lawmaker says. (Joeun Lee, VOA)
- When Trump announced new sanctions against N.K. last week, he called them the "strongest . . . we have ever put on a country." Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin called them "the largest set of sanctions ever imposed" on N.K. (Peter Whoriskey, *Washington Post*)
- Trump's latest tough talk risks stoking an adversarial economic standoff with Beijing that could prompt geopolitical retaliation on issues ranging from N.K. to the South China Sea. (Zachary Cohen and Nicole Gaouette, CNN)
- The U.S. has determined that N.K. used chemical weapons, an apparent reference to the killing of leader KJU's half-brother last year. (Matthew Pennington, AP)
- The U.S. has determined that N.K. used chemical weapons, foreign media reported Saturday, adding it is apparently pointing to the death of the half-brother of KJU. (*Yonhap*)

- The latest US intelligence assessment about N.K.'s nuclear ballistic missile program judges that KJU regime has continued to make progress on improving the guidance of their missiles that would allow them to hit specific targets. (Barbara Starr, CNN)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

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Sunday, March 4, 2018

Moon's special envoys to visit N.Korea this week over dialogue with U.S.; N.Korea threatens to 'counter' U.S. over military drills; N.Korea criticizes S.Korea foreign minister's remarks on human rights

In North Korea:

50 people in North asked about nuclear program (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/04/2018)
'N. Korea raked in up to $200 million last year from cryptocurrencies': US expert (*Korea Times*, 03/04/2018)
North Korea criticizes Kang's remarks on human rights (*Yonhap*, 03/04/2018)
North Korea, Seeking 'Equal Footing,' Rejects Preconditions for U.S. Talks (NYT, 03/03/2018)
North Korea threatens to 'counter' U.S. over military drills (*Reuters*, 03/03/2018)
Pyongyang's state security ministry asks military to cooperate in government-run smuggling (*Korea Times*, 03/04/2018)
Pyongyang steps up campaign for coastal resort project (*Korea Times*, 03/04/2018)
Pyongyang Warns It Will 'Counter US' if It Holds Joint Drills With Seoul (VOA, 03/03/2018)
Why is North Korea not sending cheering squad to Paralympics? (*Korea Times*, 03/04/2018)

In South Korea:

(profile) Security adviser Chung known for close communication with U.S. (*Yonhap*, 03/04/2018)
(profile) Spy chief Suh: Secret negotiator for past inter-Korean summits (*Yonhap*, 03/04/2018)
Defector proud to represent South (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/04/2018)
South Korea Names 2 Envoys to Meet With Kim Jong-un (NYT, 03/04/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

(3rd LD) Moon's special envoys to visit N. Korea this week over dialogue with U.S. (*Yonhap*, 03/04/2018)
Clear answers needed (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/04/2018)
High-level Seoul officials to head to North Korea for talks (*Washington Post*, 03/04/2018)
High-level South Korean Delegation to Hold Discussions With the North (VOA, 03/04/2018)
Moon sends five special envoys to Pyongyang today (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/04/2018)
Moon to send special envoys to North Korea on Monday (*Korea Times*, 03/04/2018)

Moon to send top security adviser, intelligence chief as special envoys to Pyongyang (*Yonhap*, 03/04/2018)
South Korea sending high-level delegation to Pyongyang (CNN, 03/04/2018)
South Korea sending envoys to North Korea as Trump suggests U.S. willing to talk (*Reuters*, 03/04/2018)
South Korea to send envoys to North Korea to discuss ties, talks (*UPI*, 03/04/2018)

International:
(News Focus) Guarded optimism rises over prospect of U.S.-N.K. dialogue (*Yonhap*, 03/04/2018)
At a white-tie Gridiron dinner, President Trump tries joking: 'I like chaos' (*Washington Post*, 03/04/2018)
At joke-filled dinner, Trump suggests U.S. will meet with North Korea (*Reuters*, 03/04/2018)
China says lifting term limits is about protecting authority of party (*Reuters*, 03/04/2018)
High seas shell game: How a North Korean shipping ruse makes a mockery of sanctions (*Washington Post*, 03/03/2018)
Trump says North Korea 'called up,' seeking talks with the United States (*Washington Post*, 03/04/2018)
Trump tells Gridiron: North Korea 'called up' and 'would like to talk' (CNN, 03/04/2018)
UN report to shed new light on Egypt's role in North Korean weapons sales (*Telegraph*, 03/04/2018)
Unlimited Xi presidency looms over China political gathering (*Washington Post*, 03/04/2018)

In North Korea:

- A poll, conducted through individual conversations with 50 N.K. citizens in summer and fall last year, found that 43 of the respondents were ambivalent to highly negative about the nuclear development. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K. is believed to have earned up to $200 million last year from cryptocurrencies, estimated to have obtained at least 11,000 bitcoins through mining and hacking last year. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- N.K. has criticized South Korea's foreign minister for addressing its human rights conditions at a recent U.N. meeting. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea said Saturday that it would be willing to begin a dialogue with the US on "issues of mutual concern' but that it would not accept any preconditions for starting such talks. (Choe Sang-hun, NYT)
- N.K. threatened on Saturday to"counter the U.S." if the U.S. holds joint military exercises with S.K., and said it would not beg for talks with Washington. (*Reuters*)
- N.K.'s Ministry of State Security has ordered military units on the North-China border to facilitate government-run smuggling, guiding to an assumption that the party has been lacking cash since China began supporting international sanctions. (*Korea Times*)
- North Korea is stepping up its publicity campaign for leader Kim Jong-un's luxury tourist project on its east coast amid its recent invitation to International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach to visit the North. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- N.K. warned it would respond if the U.S. holds joint military drills next month with S.K., contending they would hinder a recent thaw in relations between the two Koreas. (VOA)

- Speculation is rife about why N.K. has decided not to send an art troupe or cheerleaders to the Winter Paralympics in PyeongChang this week after sending the groups to the Winter Olympics. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)

In South Korea:

- National Security Office (NSO) chief Chung Eui-yong, picked as Moon's special envoy to N.K., is known for his extensive experience in multilateral diplomacy and close policy coordination with the US. (*Yonhap*)
- National Intelligence Service (NIS) chief Suh Hoon, picked as Moon's special envoy to N.K., is known for his role in secret negotiations with Pyongyang to arrange two inter-Korean summits in the 2000s. (*Yonhap*)
- Growing up in N.K., para ice hockey player Choi Kwang-hyouk was left homeless at the age of nine. But after defecting to S.K. in his teenage years, Choi will represent the host country for the 2018 PyeongChang Paralympics. (Kim Hyo-kyung, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- S.K. President Moon has selected two of his closest aides to go to N.K. to meet KJU, in an attempt to defuse tensions on the peninsula. (Choe Sang-hun, NYT)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Moon on Sunday named his top security adviser and the chief of the country's spy agency as his special envoys to visit N.K. this week for talks that are widely expected to focus on resuming dialogue between N.K. and the US. (*Yonhap*)
- KJU should therefore provide clear answers to the S.K. envoys. Otherwise, all of the focus on him sending his sister to Seoul and the trouble over the charm offensive during the Olympics would turn out to be nothing. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- S.K.'s president will send a delegation led by his national security director to N.K. this week for talks on how to ease nuclear tensions and help arrange the restart of dialogue between Pyongyang and Washington. (Hyung-Jin Kim, AP)
- S.K. President Moon will send a high-level special delegation to N.K. on Monday to discuss ways in which relations can be improved and to ease tension on the peninsula. (VOA)
- A 10-member delegation of S.K. officials will visit N.K. today and tomorrow to discuss improvement of South-North relations and the preconditions for a N.K.-U.S. dialogue. Among the delegation are five special envoys tapped by Moon. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- President Moon will send envoys to Pyongyang, Monday, for talks on resuming dialogue between N.K. and the US on denuclearization. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- Moon has picked National Intelligence Service (NIS) chief Suh Hoon and National Security Office (NSO) head Chung Eui-yong as his emissaries to N.K.. (*Yonhap*)
- S.K. President Moon is sending a high-level delegation for talks in Pyongyang. The delegation will focus on inter-Korean relations and establishing conditions for a US-N.K. dialogue. (Jungeun Kim and Susannah Cullinane, CNN)

- S.K. will dispatch a delegation led by senior security officials for a two-day visit to N.K. starting Monday, as President Trump hinted that he is ready to talk to Pyongyang. (Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- S.K. President Moon will send a special delegation to N.K. on Monday to discuss inter-Korean relations as well as the possibility of dialogue between Washington and Pyongyang. (Jennie Oh, UPI)

International:

- Guarded optimism is emerging for possible dialogue between the US and N.K., as S.K. pushes to broker talks through a rare dispatch of special emissaries to the communist state this week. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump's joke about meeting with N.K. was another close-to-the-bone quip. He mused that the country's supreme leader, KJU, faced "the risk of dealing with a madman" if such a confab occurred. (Emily Heil, *Washington Post*)
- In the midst of a joke-filled monologue at a dinner with journalists, President Trump suggested on Saturday that the US will be meeting with N.K. but has told Pyongyang it must first "denuke." (Makini Brice, *Reuters*)
- Removing presidential term limits in the state constitution is about protecting the authority of the ruling Communist Party with President Xi Jinping at its center, prompting accusations that China is set to become another N.K. (*Reuters*)
- Kholmsk is one of the sleepiest harbors in Russia's Far East. Yet the harbor was witness to a kind of magic trick: Illicit North Korean coal was transformed into Russian coal, which can be legally sold anywhere. (Joby Warrick, *Washington Post*)
- President Trump said Saturday that N.K. has recently sought talks with the US and that he "won't rule out direct talks with KJU," the N.K. leader. (Anne Gearan, *Washington Post*)
- President Trump said in his speech to the mostly joke-filled Gridiron Club Dinner on Saturday night that N.K. had recently reached out about possible talks. (Kevin Bohn, CNN)
- A new UN report will shed renewed light on Egypt's role as the trans-shipment point for N.K. weapons throughout North Africa and the Middle East and, it is anticipated, increase pressure on Cairo to curb the trade. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- China's embattled liberal intellectuals have universally panned the move. They've registered their opposition in brief postings on social media that have been heavily censored, comparing the situation to that of N.K. (Christopher Bodeen, AP)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

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Monday, March 5, 2018

South Koreans meet North Korean leader Kim for talks about talks; Trump suggests meeting with N. Korea if it denuclearizes

In North Korea:
N.K. sends members list for its delegation to Paralympics (*Yonhap*, 03/05/2018)
North Korea earned hundreds of millions through sanction-busting schemes (*UPI*, 03/05/2018)
North Korea may have made as much as $200 million from Bitcoin, according to expert (*Telegraph*, 03/05/2018)
North Korea Sanctions Impact Mitigated By Illicit Trade (VOA, 03/05/2018)

In South Korea:
Moon to meet party leaders on North Korea (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/05/2018)
S. Korea starts annual training for 2.75 mln reservists (*Yonhap*, 03/05/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) S. Korean envoys arrive in Pyongyang: N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 03/05/2018)
(3rd LD) N. Korean leader meets with S. Korean envoys: Cheong Wa Dae (*Yonhap*, 03/05/2018)
Kim Jong-un in surprise move to personally host South Korean delegation as talks continue(*Telegraph*, 03/05/2018)
Kim Jong Un meeting South Korean officials in Pyongyang, Seoul says (CNN, 03/05/2018)
Moon envoys meet Kim Jong-un (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/05/2018)
North Korean leader holds first direct talks with delegation from rival South (*Washington Post*, 03/05/2018)
South Korea delegation meets Kim in Pyongyang before historic talks (*Guardian*, 03/05/2018)
South Korea sends envoys to North Korea to discuss denuclearization, talks with Washington(UPI, 03/05/2018)
South Koreans meet North Korean leader Kim for talks about talks (*Reuters*, 03/05/2018)
South Korean Envoys to Meet With North Korean Leader (VOA, 03/05/2018)
The Latest: S. Korean delegation heads to N. Korea for talks (*Washington Post* 03/05/2018)
The other nuclear option (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/05/2018)

International:
(LEAD) S. Korea's special envoys to visit N.K. to broker Pyongyang-Washington dialogue(*Yonhap*, 03/05/2018)
(3rd LD) Moon's envoy says trip aimed at facilitating U.S.-N.K. denuclearization talks (*Yonhap*, 03/05/2018)
At joke-filled dinner, Trump suggests U.S. will meet with North Korea (*Reuters*, 03/04/2018)
Gallup: North Korea, cyberterrorism considered top threats to U.S. (UPI, 03/05/2018)
Internal Kim Jong Un memo reveals no desire for talks with US (*Daily* NK, 03/05/2018)
S. Korea, Russia form consultative body for economic cooperation (*Yonhap*, 03/05/2018)

S. Korean special envoy hopes to explore N. Korea's intention for talks with U.S.: FM(*Yonhap*, 03/05/2018)
South Korea Envoys Picked With Eye on Both North Korea and U.S. (NYT, 03/05/2018)
Trump suggests meeting with N. Korea if it denuclearizes (*Yonhap*, 03/04/2018)
Trump talks up chance of talking with North (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/05/2018)
US-North Korea talks face roadblock in continuing differences over denuclearization (*Daily* NK, 03/05/2018)
U.S. says denuclearization remains goal of any engagement with N.K. (*Yonhap*, 03/04/2018)
Why North Korea will never attack the United States (*Washington Post*, 03/05/2018

In North Korea:

- A vice chairman of NK's agency for protecting disabled athletes will lead NK's 20-member athletic delegation to the PyeongChang Paralympics in SK, Seoul officials said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- NK has been curbing global sanctions through elaborate maritime trade operations, a Japanese daily reported Sun. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- NK may have raked in more than $200 million in digital cryptocurrency transactions last year, diluting the impact of stiff international sanctions over its nuclear and missiles program. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- It is difficult to gauge the impact of the increased sanctions imposed on NK. There are reports of plummeting exports in the last year, but increasing illicit trade of banned minerals and arms. (Brian Padden, VOA)

In South Korea:

- Moon will meet with leaders of five major political parties on Wed. to discuss issues concerning national security and NK, the Blue House said Mon. (Ser Myo-ja, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- SK began its regular training session Mon. for the nation's 2.75 million-strong reserve forces, according to the Ministry of National Defense. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Moon's special envoys to NK arrived in Pyongyang on Mon., NK's state media reported, shortly after the 10-member delegation left for NK for a two-day visit. (*Yonhap*)
- KJU hosted a welcome dinner for Moon's special envoys on Monday, Seoul's presidential office said. (*Yonhap*)
- NK's reclusive leader KJU is hosting a dinner for a top level S. Korean delegation to Pyongyang, in an unprecedented boost to an ongoing diplomatic détente that has raised hopes of future talks over NK's nuclear program. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- KJU is meeting with a high-ranking S. Korean delegation in Pyongyang Mon., according to a S. Korean government official. (Joshua Berlinger, Sophie Jeong, CNN)
- Moon's envoys met with KJU in Pyongyang on Mon., the Blue House said. (Ser Myo-ja, *Joongang Ilbo*)

- The reclusive KJU hosted a S. Korean presidential delegation for dinner in Pyongyang on Mon., the latest surprising development in a burst of diplomacy that both Koreas hope will stave off threats from the US. (Anna Fifield, *Washington Post*)
- A high-ranking S. Korean delegation has met KJU in Pyongyang on a historic visit aimed at reducing nuclear tensions and paving the way for US talks. (Daniel Hurst, *Guardian*)
- Moon's special envoys to NK departed for a two-day trip to Pyongyang on Mon. afternoon. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- A S. Korean delegation met KJU on Mon., a S. Korean official said, after arriving in NK on a visit aimed at encouraging NK and the US to talk. (Christine Kim, *Reuters*)
- Special envoys from Moon reportedly met with KJU on Monday. Media reports say Kim hosted a dinner for the S. Koreans. (VOA)
- A group of high-level S. Korean officials has left for NK for talks on NK's nuclear program and ways to help resume talks between Pyongyang and Washington. (AP)
- Moon could propose to KJU that SK could help convert nuclear facilities into safe sources of commercial fuel. (Chun Young-gi, *Joongang Ilbo*)

International:

- Moon's special envoys will embark on a two-day visit to NK on Mon. afternoon aimed at brokering dialogue between Washington and Pyongyang, officials here said. (*Yonhap*)
- SK seeks to persuade NK to resume denuclearization dialogue with the US and the international community, the chief of a S. Korean delegation to NK said of his mission Mon., hours before the five-member team left for the reclusive state. (*Yonhap*)
- In the midst of a joke-filled monologue at a dinner with journalists, Trump suggested on Sat. that the US will be meeting with NK but has told Pyongyang it must first "denuke." (*Reuters*)
- More than 80% of Americans think NK and cyber-based terrorism are the most critical threats to the US, a new Gallup Poll Mon. showed. (Ed Adamczyk, UPI)
- Communicating through the N. Korean delegation's recent visit to SK, KJU conveyed a message that his country has "enough" willingness to engage in talks with the US. Internal sources, however, report that a signed memo has been dispatched within the country saying that the regime has no intention of restarting meaningful dialogue. (Lee Sang-yong, *Daily NK*)
- South Korea and Russia have launched a consultative body to push for joint economic projects in various areas, including energy, shipbuilding, fishery and transportation, to create new growth drivers, a presidential committee here said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's special envoy who was to visit NK on Mon. hopes to further explore NK's intentions for talks with the US after both sides expressed their willingness to engage each other during the recent Olympics, Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha said. (*Yonhap*)
- The make-up of the S. Korean delegation that set off on Mon. for talks in NK underscores SK's main objective, not just to ease tension between the two Koreas but to nudge NK and the US into talks. (*Reuters*)
- Trump has suggested the US will meet with NK, but only if the regime first abandons its nuclear weapons program. (*Yonhap*)

- Trump indicated he would not rule out direct talks with KJU at an annual dinner event in Washington, adding, "we will be meeting," but only if the regime denuclearizes. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Following a period of easing tensions in NK SK relations surrounding the Olympics, the possibility of NK sitting down for talks with the US has increased. While the two countries are both making overtures towards dialogue, the potential outcome of any such talks remains unclear considering the disparate positions of the two sides over NK's nuclear program. (Ha Yoon-ah, *Daily NK*)
- Denuclearization will remain the goal of any engagement with NK, the US State Department said Sun., as SK prepared to send a high-level delegation to the reclusive regime. (*Yonhap*)
- NK has two consistent, explicitly stated goals: consolidating and protecting the regime's control in NK, and eventually unifying Korea under Kim rule. The failure to understand that NK is flexible about anything but these fundamental goals keeps people from understanding another crucial truth: NK won't attack the US unless attacked first. (Clint Work, *Washington Post*)

Prepared by Emma Stubblefield, HRNK Research Intern

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Tuesday, March 6, 2018

NK leader willing to discuss denuclearization with US: Seoul; Rodong Sinmun says regime will keep nukes; NK nuclear reactor shows signs of operation: 38 North; White House: Trump did not have call with N. Koreans

In North Korea:

(LEAD) N. Korean leader, wife host Moon envoys at Workers' Party headquarters (*Yonhap*, 03/06/2018)
Internal Kim Jong Un memo reveals no desire for talks with US (*Daily* NK, 03/05/2018)
Kim Jong Un willing to talk about denuclearization (*UPI*, 03/06/2018)
N.K. leader expresses understanding about S. Korea-U.S. military drills: Seoul (*Yonhap*, 03/06/2018)
N.K. nuclear reactor shows signs of operation: 38 North (*Yonhap*, 03/06/2018)
N. Korea reports departure of S. Korean envoys from Pyongyang (*Yonhap*, 03/06/2018)
N. Korean TV airs footage of Kim's meeting with S. Korean envoys (*Yonhap*, 03/06/2018)
North agrees to talks with U.S. (*Joongang Daily*, 03/07/2018)
North Korea is willing to discuss disarmament, says South (BBC, 03/06/2018)
North Korea open to relinquishing nuclear weapons, says Seoul (*Guardian*, 03/06/2018)
North Korea Signals Willingness to 'Denuclearize,' South Says (NY *Times*, 03/06/2018)
North Korea willing to talk to US about giving up nuclear weapons, Seoul says (CNN, 03/06/2018)
North Korea's grain imports tripled in 2017 (NK *Econ Watch*, 03/05/2018)

North Korea's Yongbyon Nuclear Complex: 5 MWe Reactor is Likely Operating, New Military Encampment Established (38North, 03/05/2018)
Reclusive Kim Jong-un's sudden softening has left the world baffled about his next move (*Telegraph*, 03/06/2018)
Rodong Sinmun says regime will keep nukes (*Joongang Daily*, 03/06/2018)
Satellite images reveal signs North Korea has resumed producing plutonium for weapons (*Telegraph*, 03/06/2018)
South Korea meeting gives Kim Jong Un new role: Statesman (*Washington Post*, 03/06/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) Moon calls for dialogue with N. Korea, increased deterrence (*Yonhap*, 03/06/2018)
Moon to seek bipartisan cooperation on N. Korea (Korea Times, 03/05/2018)
South Korea Races Against Time to Foster Nuclear Talks (VOA, 03/06/2018)
South Korea's Moon says Seoul must bolster defense against North (*Reuters*, 03/06/2018)
South Korea's Moon vows to bolster defenses while talking peace with North (CNN, 03/06/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
'Agreement' made on inter-Korean summit, says KCNA (*Joongang Daily*, 03/06/2018)
(2nd LD) N.K. leader reaches 'satisfactory' agreement with S. Korean envoys over summit with Moon (*Yonhap*, 03/06/2018)
(5th LD) Koreas agree to hold third summit in April, reaffirm resolve to denuclearize (*Yonhap*, 03/06/2018)
(LEAD) Moon's special envoys return home after two-day trip to N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 03/06/2018)
A Look at Significant Meetings Between the Koreas (*Washington Post*, 03/06/2018)
Europe
Analysis: Summit would be rite of passage for Kim Jong Un (*Washington Post*, 03/06/2018)
In Pyongyang's court (*Joongang Daily*, 03/07/2018)
Kim Jong-un holds 1st direct talks with South Korean envoys [PHOTOS] (*Korea Times*, 03/05/2018)
Kim Jong Un holds first direct talks with delegation from South Korea (*Washington Post*, 03/05/2018)
Kim Jong Un Meets High-Level ROK Delegation (NK *Leadership Watch*, 03/06/2018)
Kim Jong-un wants to 'write new history' with South Korea as diplomatic thaw continues (*Telegraph*, 03/05/2018)
Moon takes the driver's seat (*Korea Times*, 03/06/2018)
N.K.'s delegation to Paralympics to come to S. Korea Wed. morning (*Yonhap*, 03/06/2018)
N.K. apparently attaches importance to S. Korean envoy's trip: Seoul (*Yonhap*, 03/06/2018)
N.K. leader exchanges views on easing tensions, spurring dialogue with S. Korean envoys (*Yonhap*, 03/06/2018)
N. Korea invites S. Korean taekwondo demonstration team in latest show of rapprochement (*Yonhap*, 03/06/2018)
North Korea 'willing to give up nuclear weapons' as summit agreed between Kim Jong-un and South Korean president (*Telegraph*, 03/06/2018)
North Korea Willing to Scrap Nuclear Program if Threats Removed (VOA, 03/06/2018)

REFILE-N.Korea leader wants to advance Korea ties, makes agreement with South -KCNA (*Reuters*, 03/06/2018)
Seoul envoys meet N. Korea's Kim during Pyongyang trip (*Washington Post*, 03/05/2018)
South, North Korea to hold summit in April: South Korea says (*Reuters*, 03/06/2018)

International:
(LEAD) N.K. leader willing to discuss denuclearization with U.S.: Seoul (*Yonhap*, 03/06/2018)
(LEAD) Trump on N. Korea: We will see what happens (*Yonhap*, 03/06/2018)
'They'll think I'm a traitor': North Korean defector makes Winter Paralympics debut (*Guardian*, 03/06/2018)
China asks for hold on UN ban of North Korea traders (*Washington Post*, 03/06/2018)
China says hopes North, South Korea can continue reconciliation efforts (*Reuters*, 03/06/2018)
China welcomes South Korea meeting with Kim Jong Un (*UPI*, 03/06/2018)
Japan: 'Desperate' North Korea bowing to economic pressure (*UPI*, 03/06/2018)
Latest U.S. sanctions on N.K. likely to help peacefully resolve nuclear problem: official(*Yonhap*, 03/06/2018)
North Korea reportedly willing to hold nuclear talk with US (*Washington Post*, 03/06/2018)
North Korea says it will halt nuclear and missile tests while talking with U.S., Seoul says (*Washington Post*, 03/06/2018)
North Korea says willing to hold talks with U.S., halt nuclear tests: South (*Reuters*, 03/06/2018)
Pentagon 'cautiously optimistic' about talks between North, South Korea (*Reuters*, 03/05/2018)
Picking the right carrots (*Joongang Daily*, 03/06/2018)
Planned meeting between U.S. and North Korea boosts stock market recovery (*Reuters*, 03/06/2018)
Trump hails 'possible progress' in North Korea talks (CNN, 03/06/2018)
Trump on Korean news: Could be 'progress' or 'false hope' (*Washington Post*, 03/06/2018)
Trump sees 'possible progress' in North Korea talks (*Reuters*, 03/06/2018)
Trump was talking about call from South Korea in vague Gridiron remarks (CNN, 03/06/2018)
Trump's 'madman' approach to North Korea is getting real credit (*Washington Post*, 03/06/2018)
U.S. intelligence chiefs wary of reported North Korea offer (*Reuters*, 03/06/2018)
U.S. sanctions N. Korea over use of chemical weapons (*Yonhap*, 03/06/2018)
U.S. to Keep Pressure on North Korea Until Denuclearization: Pence (*NY Times*, 03/06/2018)
Washington sanctions Pyongyang for chemical weapons (*Joongang Daily*, 03/07/2018)
White House: Trump did not have call with N. Koreans (*Yonhap*, 03/06/2018)
World to get rare glimpse into NK leadership (*Korea Times*, 03/05/2018)

In North Korea:

- N.Korean leader KJU hosted S.Korean envoys in what NK called a "satisfactory" meeting and dinner at the headquarters of the North's ruling Workers' Party, a spokesman for Seoul's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- Communicating through the N.Korean delegation's recent visit to SK, KJU conveyed a message that his country has "enough" willingness to engage in talks with the US. Internal sources, however, report that a signed memo has been dispatched within the country saying

that the regime has no intention of restarting meaningful dialogue. (Lee Sang Yong, *Daily NK*)

- N.Korean leader KJU is willing to discuss denuclearization with the US and halt its nuclear and missile provocations while dialogue is ongoing, a Seoul official said Tues. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- N.Korean leader KJU has expressed his understanding about SK and the US' plan to conduct their postponed joint military drills in Apr. at a similar level to last year's excercises, a Seoul official said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- A N.Korean nuclear reactor has recently shown signs of operation, suggesting the regime has resumed production of plutonium for its nuclear weapons program, a US website said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- S.Korean President Moon's special envoys left Pyongyang Tues., NK's state media reported, ending their two-day trip to the N.Korean capital that included an unprecedented meeting with reclusive N.Korean leader KJU. (*Yonhap*)
- NK's state TV broadcaster on Tues. unveiled footage of leader KJU's meeting and dinner with a delegation of S.Korean special envoys a day earlier. (*Yonhap*)
- NK expressed its intention to have a candid dialogue with the US to discuss denuclearization and promised a moratorium on nuclear and ballistic missile tests during the period of talks, President Moon's special envoy to Pyongyang said Tues. (Ser Myo-Ja, *Joongang Daily*)
- NK is willing to talk about getting rid of its nuclear weapons but only if its own safety can be guaranteed, SK says. SK says the subject was raised when its officials met with the North's leader, KJU, in Pyongyang on Mon., during a rare visit. (BBC)
- NK is willing to discuss relinquishing its nuclear weapons, and will freeze its nuclear and missile programmes if it begins direct talks with the US, in a dramatic easing of tensions after a visit by senior S.Korean politicians. (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)
- NK's leader, KJU, has told S.Korean envoys that he is willing to negotiate with the US on abandoning his country's nuclear weapons, officials from SK said on Tues. Mr. Kim also said he would suspend all nuclear and missile tests while such talks were underway. (Choe Sang-hun, Mark Landler, *NY Times*)
- NK is willing to talk to the US about giving up its nuclear weapons, SK said Tues., in a remarkable development that followed unprecedented meetings in Pyongyang. (Joshua Berlinger, Jungeun Kim, CNN)
- NK's grain imports from China last year showed a threefold increase over the same period of the previous year. Having analyzing a set of data released by the Chinese General Administration of Customs, Tae-jin Kwon, a S.Korean expert on N.Korean agriculture and the head of the Center for North Korea and North East Asia Studies of the GS & J Institute, disclosed this analysis to the Voice of America on Feb. 14th. (*NK Econ Watch*)
- Commercial satellite imagery of NK's Yongbyon Nuclear Scientific Research Center from Feb. 25 indicates that the 5 MWe reactor continue to show signs of operation as indicated by steam vapor plumes emanating from the generator hall and river ice melt near the reactor. (38North)
- In his six years in power, NK's reclusive leader, KJU, has tested more missiles than his father and grandfather combined, before abruptly stopping on Nov. 28 with a final shot of a

Hwasong-15. As a result, his recent attempts to transition from strongman to statesman has left the world nervously second-guessing his next move. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)

- NK's latest rebuff to denuclearize was issued in an editorial run by the state-run Rodong Sinmun newspaper Tues., indicating the yawning chasm between NK and the US as Trump refuses to engage in any official dialogue with the regime unless it was willing to end its nuclear program. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Daily*)
- Satellite images indicate that NK has restarted its nuclear reactor at Yongbyon and is once again producing plutonium for its atomic weapons programme, a move that analysts suggest is a "political manoeuvre" designed to put more pressure on SK for the recent outbreak of détente to succeed. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- KJU's chance to play the senior statesman on the Korean Peninsula with a roomful of visiting S.Koreans has afforded the him a whole new raft of propaganda and political opportunities. He'll get another major chance to shine next month: Seoul says that Kim has agreed to hold a summit meeting—the rivals' third-ever—with S.Korean President Moon. (Foster Klug, AP)

In South Korea:

- S.Korean President Moon reiterated his call for dialogue with NK on Mon. but also stressed the need to strengthen the combined defense capabilities with the US, noting peace cannot last without strong military power. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon will hold a meeting with the leaders of the major political parties at Cheong Wa Dae, Wed., to discuss pending political and security issues, said Han Byung-do, chief presidential secretary for political affairs. (Choi Ha-young, *Korea Times*)
- S.Korean President Moon voiced optimism on Tues. that improving inter-Korean relations can foster denuclearization talks between NK and the US. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- S.Korean President Moon said on Tues. the military should focus "all its power" to boost its defense capabilities to counter NK's missile and nuclear programs, even while it engages Pyongyang in dialogue. (*Reuters*)
- S.Korean President Moon has vowed to bolster military defenses at the same time as pursuing diplomatic avenues with Pyongyang, after a historic meeting between envoys from his government and N.Korean leader KJU. (Joshua Berlinger, Sophie Jeong, CNN)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- In a more than four-hour meeting Mon. night, N.Korean leader KJU and five special envoys from SK discussed how to improve inter-Korean relations and work toward an inter-Korean summit, Seoul and Pyongyang said Tues. (Ser Myo-ja, *Joongang Daily*)
- N.Korean leader KJU has reached a "satisfactory" agreement with S.Korean special envoys over a summit with Moon, NK's state media said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- SK and NK have agreed to hold a summit of their leaders late next month, S.Korean President Moon's top security adviser said Tues. on the outcome of his trip to the communist North. (*Yonhap*)

- S.Korean President Moon's special envoys returned home Tues. following their two-day trip to reclusive NK on an apparent mission to broker talks between the communist state and the US. (*Yonhap*)
- S.Korean officials say N.Korean leader KJU has agreed to meet with S.Korean President Moon next month, reviving hopes for a diplomatic approach to dealing with NK's nuclear threat. (Kim Tong-Hyung, *Associated Press*)
- SK's presidential office announced Tues. evening that the two countries had agreed to hold a summit next month at a truce village inside the Demilitarized Zone that divides their countries. And they plan to do so on the South's side of the village, which would be a first. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- Denuclearization is a national agenda that cannot be compromised.The nuclear threat is more real than these emotional embraces and figurative talks about peace. Seoul must stick to the international commitment that it can hold dialogue but cannot compromise on the easing of sanctions unless Pyongyang acts toward "complete, verifiable, and irreversible" denuclearization. (*Joongang Daily*)
- President Moon's special envoys had a dinner meeting with N.Korean leader KJU, Mon., after arriving in Pyongyang earlier in the day for their two-day mission of persuading NK to resume talks with the US over denuclearization. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- Reclusive N.Korean leader KJU hosted a S.Korean presidential delegation for "openhearted" talks over dinner in Pyongyang on Mon., according to the NK's state media, the latest surprising development in a burst of diplomacy that both Koreas hope will stave off threats from the US. (Anna Fifield, *Washington Post)*
- KJU met and dined with a high-level delegation from the ROK on the evening of Mar. 5. He shook hands with the members of the ROK delegation and "warmly welcomed them on their visit to Pyongyang" and was "courteously handed over the personal letter" of ROK President Moon by Chung Eui-yong. The two parties then "had an openhearted talk with the party of special envoy delegation of the south side over the issues arising in actively improving the north-south relations and ensuring peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula." (*NK Leadership Watch)*
- KJU, NK's reclusive leader, said he wanted to "vigorously advance" national reunification during his first ever meeting with officials from SK, providing a further fillip to an ongoing diplomatic détente. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- It is not yet clear that Moon can arrange for a meaningful gesture from his DPRK counterpart so that NK-US discussions can take a small step forward. And it's not yet clear that Moon knows he must lead both the SK-NK process and the international coalition-building that will be required to support further rapprochement. But if he does, he will finally squeeze himself into the "driver's seat" regarding Korean Peninsula policy. (Stephen Costello, *Korea Times*)
- SK's unification ministry said Tues. that NK's 24-member delegation to the PyeongChang Winter Paralympics will come to SK the following morning. (*Yonhap*)
- NK appears to highly regard S.Korean envoys' visit to Pyongyang, given the state media's unusually broad coverage of their activities, Seoul's unification ministry said Tues. (*Yonhap*)

- N.Korean leader KJU has exchanged views with S.Korean special envoys over ways to ease military tensions on the divided peninsula and spur various dialogue and cooperation, NK's media said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- NK has invited a S.Korean taekwondo demonstration team to Pyongyang, the latest show of detente on the heels of the two sides' Olympic cooperation. (*Yonhap*)
- NK has vowed to halt nuclear and missile tests if it holds talks with the US, in a major diplomatic breakthrough that could lead to a peaceful resolution of military tensions on the Korean peninsula. (Nicola Smith, Rozina Sabur, *Telegraph*)
- A S.Korean official says NK signaled there was no need to keep its nuclear program if military threats against the country are eliminated and indicated it is willing to hold talks with the US. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- N.Korean leader KJU told a visiting delegation from SK that it is his "firm will to vigorously advance" inter-Korean ties and "write a new history of national reunification," the North's official news agency said on Tues. (*Reuters*)
- N.Korean leader KJU held an "openhearted talk" with envoys for S.Korean President Moon on Mon., NK said Tues., the first time S.Korean officials have met with the young N.Korean leader in person since he took power after his dictator father's death in late 2011. (Foster Klug, AP)
- NK and SK will hold their first summit in more than a decade in late Apr., SK's presidential office said on Tues. after a senior delegation returned from a visit to NK where they met leader KJU. (*Reuters*)

International:

- N.Korean leader KJU has expressed a willingness to talk to the US to discuss denuclearization, an official of SK's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- US President Donald Trump said Tues. he will "see what happens" after NK floated its willingness to give up its nuclear weapons in return for a security guarantee. (*Yonhap*)
- Choi Kwang-hyouk has been unable to escape his past, and every new encounter conjures the same images from his previous life: N.Korean refugee, vagrant, amputee. While Choi will not play against any of his former compatriots, he expects any meetings to be potentially awkward. "I will be happy to see them, but I don't think they will be happy to see me," he said. "They'll think I'm a traitor." (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)
- China's government said Tues. it asked for a hold on a US request for United Nations sanctions against ships accused of helping NK evade sanctions imposed over its weapons programs while it looks into who would be affected. (*Associated Press*)
- China's Foreign Ministry said on Tues. it hopes NK and SK can continue efforts to advance reconciliation after they agreed to hold their first summit in more than a decade next month. (*Reuters*)
- China is endorsing the inter-Korea talks held in Pyongyang on Tues., following reports N.Korean leader KJU expressed interest in denuclearization and showed "understanding" of the need for joint US-SK drills on the peninsula. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

- Japan sees the inter-Korea talks as a sign of N.Korean "desperation" but is also waiting to hear from the S.Korean government regarding the latest developments, according to a Japanese press report. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- SK on Tues. expressed hope that the US' recent imposition of sanctions on NK for its alleged use of chemical weapons will help efforts to peacefully resolve the NK's nuclear stalemate. (*Yonhap*)
- N.Korean leader KJU has expressed a willingness to discuss nuclear disarmament with the US and impose a moratorium on nuclear and missile tests during such talks, a senior S.Korean official said Tues. after returning from NK. (Hyung-Jin Kim, Kim Tong-Hyung, AP)
- NK has vowed not to test missiles or nuclear weapons during proposed talks with the US and SK, officials from SK said Tues. after returning from surprisingly productive meetings in Pyongyang. (Anna Fifield, *Washington Post*)
- NK is willing to hold talks with the US on denuclearization and will suspend nuclear tests while those discussions are under way, SK said on Tues. after a delegation returned from meeting NK's leader KJU. (Christine Kim, *Reuters*)
- The Pentagon is "cautiously optimistic" about talks between Seoul and Pyongyang, a US military spokesman said on Mon. after a 10-member S.Korean delegation met N.Korean leader KJU. (*Reuters*)
- Offering the wrong carrots is another problem. In the past, the US offered carrots for signs of peaceful resolution. However, much has changed. NK promised to stop provocations but sold missile technologies and developed nuclear weapons. Washington is firm that it won't be fooled again. As Moon said, making vain promises out of impatience is worse than not meeting at all. And the US, which is leading the sanctions, may refuse to offer carrots such as postponing the joint drills. (Nam Jeong-ho, *Joongang Daily*)
- World share markets regained ground on Tues. as news that the US and NK will meet for talks next month came on top of hopes that President Donald Trump's political allies would convince him to avoid a global trade war. (Marc Jones, *Reuters*)
- President Donald Trump hailed "possible progress" Tues. in talks between NK and SK, hours after the US ally said that NK is willing to talk to the US about giving up its nuclear program. (Maegan Vazquez, CNN)
- A cautious President Trump spoke of possible progress Tues. after SK announced that NK would halt nuclear weapons and missile tests and put its entire atomic arsenal up for discussion if the US agrees to enter a negotiation. It could also be "false hope," the American leader said. (Darlene Superville, Matthew Pennington, AP)
- US President Donald Trump said on Tues. he saw "possible progress" after SK said NK is willing to hold talks with the US on denuclearization and will suspend nuclear tests while those talks are under way. (*Reuters*)
- President Donald Trump was referring to his S.Korean counterpart on Sat. evening when he cryptically recounted a telephone call he'd taken about opening talks with NK. (Kevin Liptak, CNN)
- Some foreign policy experts say Trump has helped move the needle — however temporarily or tentatively — because of his "madman" approach to NK and/or the sanctions spurred by the Trump administration's efforts. (Aaron Blake, *Washington Post*)

- US Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats said on Tues. that Washington would have to know far more before assessing NK's reported willingness to hold talks with the US on denuclearization. (*Reuters*)
- The US on Mon. imposed new sanctions on NK for its alleged use of chemical weapons, a move that follows the suspected nerve agent assassination of the N.Korean leader's half-brother. (*Yonhap*)
- The US remains committed to applying maximum pressure against NK, a position that will not change until Pyongyang takes steps toward denuclearization, US Vice President Mike Pence said on Tues. (*Reuters*)
- The US imposed yet another set of sanctions on NK Mon. as Seoul tries to bring the two countries to the discussion table, this time saying NK used chemical weapons against its own nationals in violation of international law. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Daily*)
- US President Donald Trump has not had a phone call with the N.Korean regime, a White House official said Mon., commenting on his remarks that suggested such a possibility. (*Yonhap*)
- N.Korean leader KJU's scheduled meeting with presidential envoys from SK will provide a rare glimpse of his personality and leadership, analysts said Mon., as the meeting will serve as the reclusive leader's de facto debut on the diplomatic scene. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, HRNK Research Intern

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Wednesday, March 7, 2018

Congressmen Conaway and Connolly introduce Resolution Condemning NK Labor Camps, Quoting HRNK's "Hidden Gulag IV."; South Korean officials to visit Washington with message from North's leader: South Korea official

Top News:

Congressmen Conaway and Connolly introduce Resolution Condemning NK Labor Camps, Quoting HRNK's "Hidden Gulag IV." (Gerry Connolly, 03/06/2018)

In North Korea:

AP Explains: What to make of N. Korean offer for nuke talks (*WaPo*, 03/07/2018)
Analysis: Korean summit a rite of passage for Kim Jong Un (*WaPo*, 03/07/2018)
Ex-U.N. ambassador says N. Korea's Paralympic participation can improve disability rights(*Yonhap*, 03/07/2018)
Kim Jong-un, a Mystery to the World, Surprises in Diplomatic Debut (NYT, 03/07/2018)
Kim Jong Un: Is North Korea's leader desperate or confident? (*WaPo*, 03/07/2018)
Kim Jong Un is suddenly talking about peace. Here's why. (*WaPo*, 03/07/2018)

North's media passes over latest deal in silence (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/07/2018)
North Korea Places Strategic Defense Zone Within Pyongyang's Administrative District (RFA, 03/06/2018)

In South Korea:
As talks with North near, South Korea sees familiar hurdles ahead (*Reuters*, 03/07/2018)
Moon to meet party leaders over outcome of inter-Korean talks (*Yonhap*, 03/07/2018)
Parties give mixed reactions to inter-Korean agreement (*Yonhap*, 03/06/2018)
S. Korean president says talks won't ease pressure on North (*WaPo*, 03/07/2018)
South Korea's Moon says sanctions on North to stay, too early to be optimistic (*Reuters*, 03/07/2018)
South Korea president assures rivals of continued pressure on North (*Reuters*, 03/07/2018)
South Korean receives prison term for North Korea praise (UPI, 03/06/2018)
'Too early to be optimistic' on North Korea, says South's president Moon Jae-in (*Telegraph*, 03/07/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) N. Korean delegation to Paralympics arrives in S. Korea (*Yonhap*, 03/07/2018)
(LEAD) (Yonhap Feature) Will Korean Wave help bring two Koreas closer to reunification?(*Yonhap*, 03/07/2018)
(2nd LD) Moon says N. Korea issue still at critical juncture (*Yonhap*, 03/07/2018)
(3rd LD) Moon reiterates denuclearization goal, rules out eased sanctions on N.K. (*Yonhap*, 03/07/2018)
Inter-Korean agreement to pave way for reduced tensions: experts (*Yonhap*, 03/06/2018)
Koreas summit a major step, but much work will remain (*WaPo*, 03/07/2018)
Moon says South won't ease up on sanctions just yet (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/07/2018)
N. Korean paper justifies nuclear arsenal despite recent inter-Korean agreement (*Yonhap*, 03/07/2018)
N. Koreans enter Paralympic Village in PyeongChang (*Yonhap*, 03/07/2018)
North Korean leader to visit South for first time (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/07/2018)
North, South Korea to inaugurate presidential hotline (UPI, 03/07/2018)
S. Korea vows efforts for better inter-Korean ties (*Yonhap*, 03/07/2018)

International:
(3rd LD) Moon says conditions now right for U.S.-N. Korea talks (*Yonhap*, 03/07/2018)
(4th LD) Trump sees 'possible progress' in talks with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 03/07/2018)
(6th LD) Trump believes N. Korea is sincere about talks after sanctions (*Yonhap*, 03/07/2018)
A 'nuclear' summit (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/07/2018)
Analysis: Caution likely to guide next steps in Koreas talks (*WaPo*, 03/07/2018)
Analysis: Is North Korea's nuke offer too good to be true? (*WaPo*, 03/06/2018)
FM Kang says U.S. and N.K. willing to sit and talk (*Yonhap*, 03/07/2018)
Japan defense minister says North Korea's intentions unclear, careful analysis needed (*Reuters*, 03/06/2018)
Japan's Suga: North Korea must show commitment to denuclearization (*Reuters*, 03/06/2018)
India tightens curbs on trade with North Korea (*Reuters*, 03/07/2018)

Moon's security adviser to visit U.S. with 'undisclosed' message from N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 03/07/2018)
(News Focus) N.K. willing to talk with U.S. but doubts remain over denuclearization: experts(*Yonhap*, 03/06/2018)
(News Focus) N. Korea's offer marks progress in nuclear standoff with U.S. (*Yonhap*, 03/06/2018)
North Korea's Kim Jong Un Floats Talks With US Over Nuclear Disarmament (RFA, 03/06/2018)
North Korea overture seen as tiny step on rocky, unpromising road (*Reuters*, 03/06/2018)
North Korea Nuclear Talks – Approach With Caution, Analysts Say (VOA, 03/07/2018)
Not there yet (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/07/2018)
Pope praises Pyeongchang Olympics as bridge to peace (*WaPo*, 03/07/2018)
Pro-N.K. paper urges U.S. to ditch hostile policy toward N.K. for dialogue (*Yonhap*, 03/07/2018)
Possibility of North Korea detente stirs diplomatic angst in Japan (*Reuters*, 03/07/2018)
Raising Hopes, North Korea Offers to Talk About Its Nuclear Arsenal (NYT, 03/07/2018)
Reflections on Korea in Washington: a personal perspective (*Korea Times*, 03/07/2018)
Russia condemns new U.S. sanctions on North Korea (*Reuters*, 03/07/2018)
Russia endorses North Korea 'Olympic reconciliation' on Facebook (UPI, 03/06/2018)
Seoul: U.S.-North Korea talks may precede inter-Korean dialogue in April (UPI, 03/06/2018)
South Korean officials to visit Washington with message from North's leader: South Korea official (*Reuters*, 03/06/2018)
Talks With North Korea? China Approves (No Matter the Outcome) (NYT, 03/07/2018)
The prospect of talks about talks (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/07/2018)
Trump believes Kim Jong-un is being 'sincere' (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/07/2018)
Trump calls North Korea 'sincere' on possible nuclear talks, others skeptical (*Reuters*, 03/06/2018)
Trump declines to identify preconditions for North Korea talks, eyes progress (*Reuters*, 03/06/2018)
Trump's 'maximum pressure' on North Korea is working. Now what? (*WaPo*, 03/07/2018)
Trump says North Korea is 'sincere' on reported offer to hold nuclear talks (*WaPo*, 03/07/2018)
Trump teeters on the edge of a familiar North Korean trap (CNN, 03/07/2018)
Trump: US 'Willing to Go Either Way' with North Korea (VOA, 03/07/2018)
U.S. is open-minded but skeptical about North Korea overture: official (*Reuters*, 03/06/2018)
U.S. sanctions North Korea for killing of leader's half-brother with VX chemical (*Reuters*, 03/06/2018)
US Sanctions N. Korea over Poisoning Death of Estranged Brother (VOA, 03/07/2018)
US says North Korea assassinated Kim Jong-nam with chemical weapon (*Guardian*, 03/07/2018)
US slaps more sanctions on North Korea 'for using VX nerve agent to kill Kim Jong-nam' in Malaysia (*Telegraph*, 03/07/2018)

Top News:

- Monday, Congressman Mike Conaway (TX-11) and Congressman Gerry Connolly (VA- 11) introduced a resolution calling upon the leadership of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to dismantle its labor camp system. The resolution quotes HRNK's "Hidden Gulag IV." (conaway.house.gov)

In North Korea:

- Experts reading between the lines believe NK may be falling back on a well-worn position when confronting the US. Essentially: You want our nukes? Then give us credible security guarantees. (Kim Hyung-jin,Kim Tong-hyung, AP)
- More than six years after assuming power, KJU has yet to complete one of the defining rituals of a world leader: hosting another head of state, or being welcomed by one on an official visit abroad, but Moon's office said that NK and SK had agreed to hold a summit next month at a truce village inside the DMZ. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- Oh Joon, former S. Korean Ambassador to the UN, said Wed. he believes NK's participation in the Paralympics can be an opportunity to improve the rights of disabled people. (*Yonhap*)
- When senior S. Korean envoys sat down this week with KJU, they had a series of talking points in hand for a man whose diplomatic experience was limited to meetings with officials from China, Cuba and Syria. S. Korean officials said the envoys were not prepared for how "forthcoming and daring" he was. (Choe Sang-hun, NYT)
- KJU was all broad smiles and hearty handshakes during an unprecedented meeting with S. Korean envoys this week. Were they the smiles of an authoritarian leader under pressure? Or were they the smiles of an authoritarian leader who feels supremely confident in his position? (Anna Fifield, *WaPo*)
- With the announcement of a summit between SK and NK leaders as a possible prelude to talks with the Trump administration, KJU has maneuvered within view of a victory his forefathers only dreamed of: membership in the world community, on NK's terms. Many things can still go wrong, but his path forward seems pretty clear. (David Von Drehle, *WaPo*)
- A day after SK announced a 6-point agreement with NK that included NK's nod to hold denuclearization talks with the US, the regime made no mention of the deal Wed. through its state-run media, but flaunted its nuclear stockpile as a "legitimate deterrence" against US' "nuclear threat scheme." (Lee Sung-eun, Jeong Yong-soo, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- NK has placed a strategic industrial defense zone within the administrative district of Pyongyang so missile technicians and researchers can have access to the better benefits enjoyed by those who reside in the capital. (Kim Joon-ho, Jun Lee-jin, Roseanne Gerin, RFA)

In South Korea:

- With the specter of two past summits that failed to blunt NK's nuclear ambitions, S. Korean officials planning talks next month now face the thorny task of overcoming familiar sticking points with the threat of war looming over any failure. (Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)
- Moon is set to meet with the leaders of political parties Wed. on security issues that will likely include his scheduled summit with KJU. (*Yonhap*)
- S. Korean political parties on Tues. demonstrated mixed reactions to the results of the high-stakes visit to NK by Moon's special envoys, which included an agreement to hold a cross-border summit next month. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon on Wed. downplayed concerns that the resumption of inter-Korean dialogue will be accompanied by an easing of international sanctions and pressure on NK over its nuclear program. (Kim Tong-hyung, AP)

- Moon said on Wed. sanctions on NK will not be eased for the sake of a summit between the two sides as Chinese state media repeated Beijing's line that talks are the only way to end the nuclear standoff. (Christine Kim, Jeff Mason, *Reuters*)
- SK will continue imposing sanctions on NK, despite warmer relations between the two states which agreed to hold an inter-Korean summit for the first time in more than a decade. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- A S. Korean man in his 50s was sentenced to prison for praising NK and calling for the abolishment of Seoul's anti-communist National Security Law on his personal blog. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Moon sounded a note of caution Wed. over NK's offer of denuclearization talks, saying it was "too early to be optimistic", even as Trump welcomed the development. (Agence France-Presse, *Telegraph*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- A 24-member N. Korean delegation to the PyeongChang Paralympics crossed the border into SK on Wed., according to pool reporters. (*Yonhap*)
- The Korean Wave is expected to serve as an incentive for N. Korean people to aspire to unification and to learn about their southern neighbor. (Koh Byung-joon, *Yonhap*)
- Moon said Wed. that inter-Korean relations and efforts to restart talks on ending NK's nuclear ambitions are still in a critical condition, despite his agreement to hold a summit with the KJU next month. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon reiterated Wed. that SK won't settle for anything short of the ultimate goal of the denuclearization of NK. (*Yonhap*)
- The agreement between the two Koreas announced Tues., including NK's offer of conditional suspension of nuclear and missile provocations, is expected to pave the way for reduced tensions on the peninsula, experts said. (*Yonhap*)
- Now that NK and SK have agreed to hold their first summit in more than a decade, here's a word to the wise: Success isn't always defined by quick fixes to big, fundamental problems. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- Moon on Wed. vowed that SK will not ease its sanctions on NK for the upcoming summit with KJU. (Ser Myo-ja, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- NK's state newspaper on Wed. justified the country's nuclear weapons development and said it cannot be subject to dispute, one day after SK's unveiled a landmark agreement with the regime to ease tensions on the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- NK's delegation to the Paralympic Games entered the athletes' village in the South Korean alpine town of PyeongChang on Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- KJU will become the first N. Korean leader to cross the border and visit SK since the Korean War broke out in 1950, as SK and NK agreed to hold a summit in April on the southern side of the truce village of Panmunjom. (Ser Myo-ja, Lee Chul-jae, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- A phone line connecting KJU and Moon is being pursued as part of an agreement reached Mon. during inter-Korea talks in Pyongyang, S. Korean newspaper Hankyoreh reported Wed. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

- The S. Korean government will make efforts to keep alive the current reconciliatory mood between the two Koreas to improve inter-Korean ties and bring peace to the divided peninsula, SK's pointman on NK said Wed. (Yonhap)

International:

- Moon expressed hope for the start of US-NK dialogue Wed., insisting that NK's recent offer to freeze its nuclear and missile activities have created the right conditions for at least what he called "preliminary" talks on the resumption of denuclearization talks. (Yonhap)
  Trump said Tues. there is "possible progress" in talks with NK after the regime floated its willingness to give up its nuclear weapons. (Yonhap)
- Trump said Tues. he believes NK is sincere about talking with the US because of sanctions that were imposed on the regime. (Yonhap)
- SK government must tell NK that an inter-Korean summit will be equally in vain unless it clearly defines what denuclearization really means in its meeting with the US. If NK and the US can find a breakthrough, it will help the April inter-Korean summit to deliver some achievements. If not, the summit should not be held. (Joongang Ilbo)
- A look at why the Korean summit matters, even if it doesn't produce an immediate promise by NK to denuclearize, and what some of the next moves for the two Koreas and the US might be. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- Trump appears to have gotten what he wanted from NK: a willingness to suspend nuclear testing and a promise to put its entire arsenal of atomic weapons on the negotiating table. But is it too good to be true? (Matthew Pennington, AP)
- SK's top diplomat has said that she is sure that both the US and NK are willing to hold dialogue, which is crucial to denuclearizing NK. (Yonhap)
- Japanese Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera said on Wed. that NK's intentions were unclear and careful analysis was needed, when asked by reporters about plans for a summit by North and South Korea. (Reuters)
- Japan's top government spokesman said on Wed. that it is "extremely important" that NK show its commitment and concrete actions toward abandonment of its nuclear missile development in a complete, verifiable and irreversible way. (Reuters)
- India has imposed new restrictions on trade with NK, a government statement said on Wed., in line with UN Security Council sanctions slapped on the reclusive country for its nuclear and missile programs. (Nidhi Verma, Reuters)
- Moon's top security adviser will head to the US this week to brief US officials on the outcome of his recent trip to NK that he earlier said included an undisclosed message from the communist state. (Yonhap)
- NK appears to be willing, if not desperate, to resume its long stalled dialogue with the US as demonstrated by a series of exceptional steps it has agreed to take to make that happen, but how sincere and willing it is to denuclearize still remains questionable. (Yonhap)
- NK's offer to discuss its nuclear weapons program with the US marks a possible end to the two countries' impasse, but it remains to be seen what the regime's intentions are, according to US analysts Tues. (Yonhap)

- KJU has suggested his country is willing to discuss nuclear disarmament with the US and would suspend all nuclear and missile tests during the proposed talks, S. Korean officials said Tues. following meetings with him in Pyongyang. (Hee Jung Yang, Joshua Lipes, RFA)
- In floating the possibility of nuclear talks with the US, NK took a first step on a road likely to be long, more arduous and just as prone to failure as past efforts. (Arshad Mohammed, David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)
- NK's agreement to enter into talks with the US could be a diplomatic breakthrough to reach a peaceful resolution to the nuclear crisis, or a ruse to weaken sanctions, or both. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- The critical moment to lower the asking price for the denuclearization of NK hasn't come. It seems that at least six to nine more months will be needed until sanctions have their desired impact. Talks should continue, but we need to wait while keeping up the sanctions. (Kim Byung-yeon, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Pope Francis has praised the Pyeongchang Olympics for showing that sport can "build bridges between countries in conflict and give a valid contribution to peace." (AP)
- A pro-N. Korean newspaper in Japan said Wed. the US should give up its hostile policy toward NK for possible dialogue between NK and the US. (*Yonhap*)
- An agreement between NK and SK to hold a summit and signals about possible talks between NK and the US are stirring concern in Japan about its diplomatic nightmare - being left out in the cold. (Linda Sieg, *Reuters*)
- NK's sudden willingness to bargain with the Trump administration over scrapping its atomic arsenal surprised the world on Tues., setting in motion an unpredictable diplomatic dance with the US and SK, but raising hopes that one of the most dangerous confrontations of the nuclear age could be defused. (Choe Sang-hun, Mark Lander, NYT)
- The US-SK alliance indeed has endured many disagreements on a variety of issues, and present concerns over the joint response to NK and on trade issues are only the latest in a long series of contentions. Surely there will be more, and surely they will need careful review, dialogue, understanding and compromise. (David Steinburg, *Korea Times*)
- The Russian Foreign Ministry on Wed. condemned new US sanctions imposed on NK after the US concluded that NK had used the chemical warfare agent VX to kill the half-brother of leader KJU in Malaysia in 2017. (*Reuters*)
- The Russian ambassador to NK met with N. Korean foreign ministry official Choi Sun-hee, a sign NK's efforts at engagement may be taking place with other members of the stalled six-party talks, according to the embassy's Facebook post. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
  Dialogue between the US and NK could precede the inter-Korean summit in April, a S. Korean presidential official said. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- Two senior S. Korean officials who met with KJU this week will depart for Washington on Thurs. to brief U.S. officials on the outcome of their meeting, a S. Korean administration official said on Wed. (*Reuters*)
- As the Trump administration decides how to deal with NK's new offer to talk, China is a bystander. Even so, analysts say, Beijing is sure to be pleased by the prospect of a drawn-out diplomatic process that delays the possibility of war on its border, even if the talks ultimately come to nothing. (Jane Perlez, NYT)

- The US should follow SK's lead and offer to send a high-level delegation to Pyongyang. (Ralph Cossa, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Trump said he believes NK is "sincere" about talks with the US on Tues. and hopes for a peaceful breakthrough after NK signaled it is up for discussions with Washington about giving up its nuclear weapons. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Feeling the pressure of sanctions, NK seems "sincere" in its apparent willingness to halt nuclear tests if it held denuclearization talks with the US, Trump said on Tues. as US, S. Korean and Japanese officials voiced skepticism about any discussions. (Jeff Mason, Christine Kim, *Reuters*)
- Trump on Tues. declined to say whether he had any preconditions for talks with NK and said there had been progress with the country. (*Reuters*)
- If Pyongyang agrees to denuclearize, the shift of position would mark a success for the Trump administration's policy of applying "maximum pressure" to NK and open the possibility of a needed reduction of tensions on the Korean Peninsula. The question is whether Trump is prepared to capitalize on the opportunity. (Editorial Board, *WaPo*)
- The White House responded with cautious optimism Tues. to NK's reported proposal to hold "candid talks" with the US and SK, and to put its nuclear weapons and missile testing programs on hold while engaged in dialogue. Trump think's NK's sincere. (Karen DeYoung, Anna Fifield, *WaPo*)
- Trump frequently scorches the last three presidents for leaving him a nightmare scenario on NK, but as a thaw takes hold ahead of the first NK-SK summit in a decade, Trump could be about to be dragged down the same frustrating and inconclusive diplomatic path as his predecessors. (Stephan Collison, CNN)
- Trump said the US is "willing to go either way" in response to NK's development of nuclear-tipped missiles, adding "hopefully it's going to be the proper way." (Peggy Chang, Steve Herman, VOA)
- NK has earned US skepticism for breaking all previous agreements over its nuclear program but the Trump administration is open-minded about potential talks with Pyongyang, a senior administration official said on Tues. (*Reuters*)
- The US has determined Pyongyang used the chemical warfare agent VX to assassinate the half-brother of KJU in Malaysia in 2017 and has imposed sanctions in response, the US State Department said on Tues. (*Reuters*)
- The US says it will impose new economic sanctions on NK for using a lethal chemical nerve agent in last year's assassination of the estranged half-brother of KJU. (VOA)
- The US has determined NK used a banned chemical weapon to assassinate the half brother of leader KJU in Malaysia last year, with the claim coming just hours after Pyongyang signalled it was willing to give up its nuclear weapons. (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)
- US formally concluded on Tues. that NK ordered the murder of a half-brother and potential rival to ruler KJU with the VX nerve agent. (Chris Graham, *Telegraph*)

Prepared by Emma Stubblefield, HRNK Research Intern

Thursday, March 8, 2018

S.Korean special envoys head to U.S. to explain outcome of N. Korea trip; S.Korea Defense Chief's 'joke' adds to speculation about scaled-down drills; Koreas will not march together at opening of Winter Paralympics

In North Korea:

Choe Son-hui, N.K. diplomat on U.S. affairs, promoted to vice minister (*Yonhap*, 03/08/2018)
For Pyongyang, Mideast offers cautionary nuclear tale (*Washington Post*, 03/08/2018)
North Korea to launch new TV soap operas (BBC, 03/08/2018)
North Korean intel agency to oversee expanded smuggling ops (*Daily*NK, 03/08/2018)
North Korean women have plenty of reason to say 'Me Too' — but no hope of a reckoning (*Washington Post*, 03/08/2018)
Rice demand down, price steady in North Korean markets (*Daily*NK, 03/07/2018)
Sexual violence against women and girls 'rampant' in North Korea (*Telegraph*, 03/08/2018)
While in Pyongyang, Moon's envoys watched S. Korean TV channels freely (*Korea Times*, 03/08/2018)

In South Korea:

(LEAD) Defense chief's 'joke' adds to speculation about scaled-down drills (*Yonhap*, 03/08/2018)
(LEAD) Moon's special envoys head to U.S. to explain outcome of N. Korea trip (*Yonhap*, 03/08/2018)
(LEAD) PM: Sanctions on N. Korea cannot be lifted in exchange for talks (*Yonhap*, 03/08/2018)
Joint drills may start on April 1 (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/08/2018)
Korean officials go to Washington to arrange talks (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/08/2018)
Ko Un dismissed from post on unified Korean dictionary panel (*Yonhap*, 03/08/2018)
Moon notes many obstacles ahead to denuclearization and peace (*Yonhap*, 03/08/2018)
Moon's approval rating dips over Me Too case (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/08/2018)
S. Korea leader sees more obstacles ahead to disarm N. Korea (*Washington Post*, 03/08/2018)
South Korea to deliver secret message from Kim Jong Un to Trump (UPI, 03/08/2018)
South Korea to brief US on meeting with North Korea's Kim (*Washington Post*, 03/08/2018)
South Korean Envoys Head to US to Discuss North Korean Offer (VOA, 03/08/2018)
South Korean officials leave for US with message from North Korea to Trump (CNN, 03/08/2018)
South Koreans in Washington to brief on talks with North Korean leader (*Reuters*, 03/08/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

Alliance outweighs dialogue (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/08/2018)
Analysts: Trump Administration Lacks Experts Needed for North Korea Talks (VOA, 03/08/2018)
Kim's calculations (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/08/2018)
Koreas Will Not March Together at Opening of Winter Paralympics (VOA, 03/08/2018)
Mission (half) accomplished (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/08/2018)
North Korea's Paralympic presence raises eyebrows as winter games open (*Guardian*, 03/08/2018)

North, South Korea won't march together at Paralympics amid flag row (*Reuters*, 03/08/2018)
Potential breakthrough but long way to go (*Korea Times*, 03/08/2018)
S. Korea Leader Sees More Obstacles Ahead to Disarm N. Korea (VOA, 03/07/2018)

International:
Analyst: North Korea weapons a 'political deterrent' for regime (UPI, 03/08/2018)
China eyes greater global leadership role, downplays fears (*Washington Post*, 03/08/2018)
China's senior foreign policy adviser to visit S. Korea this month (*Yonhap*, 03/08/2018)
China Urges North, US to Talk Soon (VOA, 03/08/2018)
House resolution urges N. Korea to close labor camps (*Yonhap*, 03/08/2018)
North Korea talks: China cautiously 'cheering on' Koreas (*BBC*, 03/08/2018)
North Korea wants nuclear talks but does Trump know what he wants to say? (*Guardian*, 03/07/2018)
Olympics hack highlights emerging 'false flags' threat: researcher (*Reuters*, 03/08/2018)
S. Korea, Singapore top diplomats discuss recent inter-Korean agreement (*Yonhap*, 03/08/2018)
The Latest: US: 'potentially positive symbols' from N. Korea (*Washington Post*, 03/08/2018)
U.S. wary of North Korea weapons advances while talks take place (*Reuters*, 03/08/2018)
Victor Cha says no breakthrough yet with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 03/08/2018)

In North Korea:

- N.K. has promoted Choe Son-hui, a senior female diplomat in charge of U.S. relations, to the post of vice foreign minister. (*Yonhap*)
- As N.K. considers negotiating over its nukes, it may find lessons in the Middle East, where leaders imperiled, paranoid or pugnacious have long used the doomsday weapon threat to secure a wobbly perch. (AP)
- N.K.'s state-run television is set to launch two slick soap operas revisiting familiar themes of patriotism and loyalty in time of war. (BBC)
- N.K.'s intelligence and security agency has ordered troops stationed along the Chinese border in Ryanggang Province to engage in smuggling operations. (Seol Song Ah, *DailyNK*)
- Sexual assault and harassment are rife across all sectors of N.K.'s misogynistic society, according to a new report based on testimony from more than 40 women who have escaped from N.K. (Anna Fifield, *Washington Post*)
- Market reports from inside N.K. reveal that food prices across the country continue to remain steady despite intensifying international sanctions. (Kang Mi Jin, *DailyNK*)
- Sexual assault and harassment are entrenched in all sectors of N.K.'s "misogynistic" society, reveals a report based on the testimony of more than 40 female defectors. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- Moon's envoys to N.K. could watch S.K. and foreign broadcasts and use S.K. portal sites at their lodging. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)

In South Korea:

- S.K. Defense Minister Song Young-moo "jokingly" said Thursday the US does not need to send a nuclear submarine and other strategic assets to Korea for the upcoming joint military drills. (Yonhap)
- Moon's top security adviser left Thursday for the US to explain the outcome of his recent trip to N.K. that led to what many here have called "exceptional" concessions from the communist state, such as plans for an inter-Korean summit. (Yonhap)
- Sanctions on N.K. cannot be lifted just because the communist nation agreed to hold talks and there must be convincing progress in those talks before any reward can be considered, PM Lee Nak-yon said Thursday. (Yonhap)
- The US-ROK joint military exercises could begin as early as April 1, amid a detente on the peninsula and an inter-Korean summit planned for later that month. (Sarah Kim, Joongang Ilbo)
- Korea's top security officials left for the US to brief the Trump administration about their recent meeting with KJU, and to persuade Washington to start talks with Pyongyang. (Ser Myo-ja, Joongang Ilbo)
- Ko Un, a once-revered S.K. poet, has been removed from his position as head of a government-funded commission to compile a unified Korean dictionary amid allegations of his "habitual" sexual misconduct. (Yonhap)
- S.K. still faces many obstacles in its efforts to denuclearize N.K. and establish lasting peace, Moon said, despite what he and many others have called "exceptional" concessions from N.K. that include a suspension of military provocations. (Yonhap)
- Moon's approval rating fell despite his triumphs in diplomacy with N.K. as a result of a sex scandal plaguing a former high-profile member of the Democratic Party. (Ser Myo-ja, Heo Jin, Joongang Ilbo)
- S.K.'s president said Thursday that many "critical moments" still lie ahead to end the nuclear crisis despite N.K.'s recent outreach to Seoul and Washington. (Hyung-Jin Kim, AP)
- The S.K. presidential delegation that met with KJU in Pyongyang on Monday is arriving in Washington on Thursday and is expected to deliver top-secret communication from KJU to Trump. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- S.K. officials are to brief the White House Thursday on the outcome of their pathfinding meeting with KJU. (Matthew Pennington, AP)
- Two S.K. envoys are heading to the US to brief Trump administration officials about their talks with KJU. (VOA)
- Top S.K. negotiators left for the US to brief their American counterparts on the outcome of their historic meeting with KJU earlier this week. (Ben Westcott, CNN)
- Two senior S.K. officials arrived in the US on Thursday to brief US officials on their meeting this week with KJU and Pyongyang's apparent willingness to discuss denuclearization with Washington. (Steve Holland, Christine Kim, Reuters)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- N.K. intends to scrap its nuclear weapons only when a condition like the withdrawal of U.S. Forces in Korea is met. But S.K. cannot accept such demands. Two S.K. envoys must not make the mistake of shaking the foundations of the alliance. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- While Trump reacted positively to an unexpected willingness from N.K. to conduct talks on freezing its nuclear program, the Trump administration might not have the experts needed to prepare and conduct such difficult negotiations. (Cindy Saine, VOA)
- KJU seems to have many strategic calculations on his mind. Seoul must use sophisticated diplomatic and negotiating skills on not only Pyongyang, but also Washington and other allies in order not to fall back into the past vicious cycle. (Kim Yeol-su, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Two Koreas will not march together at Friday's opening ceremony of the Winter Paralympics because of a disagreement over whether to include islands which are in a dispute with Japan on a united flag. (VOA)
- Moon's envoys returned from their mission in N.K. As anticipated, the news on inter-Korean relations, including the Inter-Korean summit, was satisfactory, but the topics of denuclearization and talks with the US still loomed at large. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- The Paralympics opens on Friday in Pyeongchang in what will be the largest winter Games to date, with 240 medals up for grabs and N.K. making its debut, part of a wider cooling of tensions. (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)
- Two Koreas will not march together at the opening ceremony of the Winter Paralympics, as they did at the Olympics last month, because they cannot agree on a united flag that erases islands disputed with Japan. (Dahee Kim, *Reuters*)
- The latest agreement between the two Koreas for an inter-Korean summit is paving the way to find a potential breakthrough in the N.K. nuclear crisis. (Kim Jae-kyoung, *Korea Times*)
- Moon said Thursday that many "critical moments" still lie ahead to end the nuclear crisis despite N.K.'s recent outreach to Seoul and Washington. (AP)

International:

- Insufficient evidence that N.K. has fully developed long-range missile systems could mean Pyongyang is mainly using its weapons program as a political deterrent, a U.S. analyst said. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- The world can only benefit as China marches toward "irresistible" national rejuvenation and assumes greater global leadership under Xi Jinping, China's top diplomat said. (Gerry Shih and Christopher Bodeen, AP)
- A Chinese senior foreign policy adviser is expected to visit S.K. this month to discuss issues of mutual concern, including N.K.'s nuclear problem. (*Yonhap*)
- China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi has urged N.K. and the US to hold talks as soon as possible, calling on all parties to take steps to move the situation forward and, as he put it, fight for peace. (Bill Ide, VOA)
- Two U.S. lawmakers have introduced a resolution calling for the dismantlement of N.K.'s labor camp system. The document details the human rights abuses committed inside the regime's labor camps. (*Yonhap*)

- China has said it is "cheering on" North and South Korea after they agreed to hold a leaders' summit on reducing tensions on the peninsula. (BBC)
- The Trump administration is considering how to respond to the N.K. offer of talks on its nuclear weapons program at a time when its capacity to engage with Pyongyang has been hamstrung by the departure of its top Korea experts. (Julian Borger, *Guardian*)
- The "Olympic Destroyer" computer virus used to attack last month's Pyeongchang Winter Games was embedded with forged code to make investigators believe the attack was done by hackers linked to N.K. (Jim Finkle, *Reuters*)
- The top diplomats of S.K. and Singapore discussed Thursday cooperation on a range of issues, including Seoul's efforts to open dialogue with North Korea for a peaceful resolution of the North's nuclear issues. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said there are "potentially positive symbols" coming from N.K. but that N.K. and U.S. are a long ways from negotiations. (AP)
- N.K. could buy time to build up and refine its nuclear arsenal, including a warhead able to survive re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere, if it manages to drag out any talks with Washington. (Matt Spetalnick, David Brunnstrom, Phil Stewart, *Reuters*)
- Victor Cha, a former White House official who was recently dropped from consideration for U.S. ambassador to Seoul, expressed skepticism Wednesday about N.K.'s offer to discuss its denuclearization with the US. (*Yonhap*)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

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Friday, March 9, 2018

Trump, Kim agree to meet by May: Seoul envoy; Trump and NK talks: S.Korean statement in full; N.Korean defectors warn Donald Trump, 'KJU is lying' on nuclear deal

In North Korea:

"Maximum pressure" and the North Korean economy: what do market prices say? (*NK Econ Watch*, 03/09/2018)

A North Korean propaganda film foretold proposed talks between Trump and Kim Jong Un (*WaPo*, 03/09/2018)

Kim Jong Un: Talks with Trump could produce 'great achievement' (*UPI*, 03/09/2018)

North Korea Touts Federal Unification Plan to Party Executives (RFA, 03/08/2018)

North Korea's nuclear weapons: What you need to know (*WaPo*, 03/09/2018)

Sexual violence against women and girls 'rampant' in North Korea (*Telegraph*, 03/08/2018)

In South Korea:

S. Korea approves fund to support N. Korea's Paralympic participation (*Yonhap*, 03/09/2018)

S. Korean envoys to travel to Japan next week for briefing on N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 03/09/2018)
S. Korean minister speaks well of N. Korea's ruling family (*Yonhap*, 03/09/2018)
South Korean president lauds Trump, Kim move toward dialogue (UPI, 03/09/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Korea 2018: The Beginning of the End of the Post-1990 World Order? (*38North*, 03/08/2018)

International:
'Diplomatic shock and awe': Here's how people are reacting to Trump's move to meet Kim Jong Un (*WaPo*, 03/09/2018)
'Shocking, incredible': what the experts say about a Trump meeting with Kim (*Guardian*, 03/08/2018)
(2nd LD) S. Korea, U.S. to make 'major announcement' on N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 03/09/2018)
(3rd LD) Trump, Kim agree to meet by May: Seoul envoy (*Yonhap*, 03/09/2018)
(LEAD) (News Focus) U.S., N.K. ready for historic summit, but uncertainty looms over nuclear diplomacy (*Yonhap*, 03/09/2018)
(LEAD) China welcomes planned summit between U.S. and N.K. (*Yonhap*, 03/09/2018)
5 reasons why Donald Trump's massive North Korea gamble makes total and complete sense (CNN, 03/09/2018)
7 Big Things to Understand About Trump's Talks With North Korea (NYT, 03/09/2018)
A Look at What's Ahead in a Landmark Trump-Kim Summit (NYT, 03/09/2018)
Abe: Maximum pressure on North Korea to continue (UPI, 03/08/2018)
Abe says he appreciates N. Korea's shift to talks, will continue pressure (*Yonhap*, 03/09/2018)
An opportunity and a risk (*Joongang Daily*, 03/10/2018)
Australia probes company tied to illicit North Korea coal sale - U.N. (*Reuters*, 03/08/2018)
Before Trump: 6 past high-level US visits to North Korea (*WaPo*, 03/09/2018)
Cheong Wa Dae denies report N.K. leader called himself short and fat (*Yonhap*, 03/09/2018)
China likely to greet Trump-Kim talks with hope and trepidation (*Guardian*, 03/09/2018)
Closer than lips and teeth (*Joongang Daily*, 03/09/2018)
Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un believe they are winning – and the risks of that are epic (*Guardian*, 03/09/2018)
Donald Trump to meet Kim Jong-un by May after invitation from North Korea (*Guardian*, 03/08/2018)
Envoy: Trump says he'll meet Kim Jong Un by May (UPI, 03/08/2018)
Families of Japanese abductees welcome Trump, Kim summit (UPI, 03/09/2018)
For Trump, a meeting with Kim is the ultimate test (CNN, 03/08/2018)
Former Australian prime minister Keating says Trump 'surprisingly' good at foreign policy (*Guardian*, 03/08/2018)
How Trump caught his White House and the world by surprise (CNN, 03/08/2018)
How Would U.S. Verify That North Korea Is Disarming? (NYT, 03/09/2018)
In his fight with North Korea, Trump may end up with no allies (CNN, 03/08/2018)
Japan PM says he and Trump agree maximum pressure needed on North Korea (*Reuters*, 03/08/3018)

Japan says North Korea must commit to abandoning nuclear development completely (*Reuters*, 03/08/3018)
Kim Dynasty Sat Down With a U.S. Leader Before, With Few Results (NYT, 03/09/2018)
Kim Jong-un, Trump to meet by May to discuss denuclearization (*Korea Times*, 03/09/2018)
Kim Jong Un's invitation and Donald Trump's response (UPI, 03/09/2018)
Kim Jong Un wants to be seen as Donald Trump's equal. A meeting would do that. (*WaPo*, 03/09/2018)
Markets in Asia gain after Trump, Kim announcement (UPI, 03/09/2018)
Merkel sees 'glimmers of hope' on North Korea (*Reuters*, 03/09/2018)
Meeting with Kim Jong Un could be a good thing. But Trump will probably screw it up. (*WaPo*, 03/09/2018)
N.K. leader: Moon will no longer have to wake up early to discuss N.K. missile launches (*Yonhap*, 03/09/2018)
North agrees to talks with U.S. (*Joongang Daily*, 03/09/2018)
North Korea and South Korea snooker Trump (*WaPo*, 03/08/2018)
North Korea talks: China cautiously 'cheering on' Koreas (BBC, 03/08/2018)
North Korea talks: Where will Donald Trump meet Kim Jong-un? (*Guardian*, 03/08/2018)
North Korea won't give up its nuclear weapons. The U.S. has three good reasons to talk anyway. (*WaPo*, 03/09/2018)
North Korea's Paralympic presence raises eyebrows as winter games open (*Guardian*, 03/08/2018)
North Korean defectors warn Donald Trump, 'Kim Jong-un is lying' on nuclear deal (*Telegraph*, 03/09/2018)
Not there yet (*Joongang Daily*, 03/09/2018)
On North Korea, Donald Trump Does the Right Thing, for Once (NYT, 03/09/2018)
Only two people have met both Trump and Kim Jong Un. One is Dennis Rodman. (*WaPo*, 03/09/2018)
Over hotpot and soju, North Korea's Kim Jong Un joked about himself - South Korea officials (*Reuters*, 03/09/3018)
President Trump plans to meet Kim Jong Un for nuke talks (*WaPo*, 03/09/2018)
Projected Kim, Trump summit preceded by other landmark meets (*WaPo*, 03/09/2018)
Rex Tillerson said talking to Kim Jong Un wouldn't be 'realistic' or prudent yet. Hours later, Trump said he'd do it. (*WaPo*, 03/09/2018)
Road to Talks Between the U.S. and North Korea Has Been Bumpy (NYT, 03/09/2018)
South Korea and White House on talks with North: full transcript (*Guardian*, 03/08/2018)
Talks bombshell sets up stunning Kim-Trump summit (CNN, 03/09/2018)
The Man Bringing Trump and Kim Jong-un Together (NYT, 03/09/2018)
There are very high, very scary stakes in the Trump-Kim faceoff (CNN, 03/08/2018)
Tillerson changes tune after Trump accepts meeting with North Korea's Kim (CNN, 03/09/2018)
Tillerson professes no surprise at Trump's plans to meet Kim Jong Un (*WaPo*, 03/09/2018)
Tillerson says 'talks,' but no 'negotiations' with NKorea (*WaPo*, 03/09/2018)
Trump Kim talks: US surprised at 'dramatic' North Korea shift (*BBC*, 03/09/2018)
Trump-Kim talks 'some weeks' away: Tillerson (*Reuters*, 03/09/2018)
Trump, Kim to hold summit by May (*Joongang Daily*, 03/09/2018)
Trump-Kim Jong Un Summit News Met With Cautious Optimism (VOA, 03/09/2018)

Trump accepts invitation to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (*WaPo*, 03/08/2018)
Trump accepts offer to meet Kim Jong Un (CNN, 03/08/2018)
Trump agreed to meet Kim because he is North Korea's decision-maker: official (*Reuters*, 03/08/2018)
Trump and Kim: Where will they meet and what will they say? (CNN, 03/09/2018)
Trump and Kim Jong-un, and the Names They've Called Each Other (NYT, 03/09/2018)
Trump and North Korea talks: South Korean statement in full (*BBC*, 03/09/2018)
Trump and North Korea talks: Strange optics of the North Korea announcement (BBC, 03/09/2018)
Trump and North Korea's Kim Jong-un to meet 'as soon as possible' (BBC, 03/09/2018)
Trump has gotten credit on North Korea. But a Kim Jong Un meeting presents an unprecedented challenge. (*WaPo*, 03/08/2018)
Trump meeting Kim Jong-un is a half-baked idea – and a dangerous one (*Guardian*, 03/09/2018)
Trump plans to meet Kim Jong-un by May (*Joongang Daily*, 03/09/2018)
Trump says he'll meet with North Korea's Kim Jong Un (*WaPo*, 03/08/2018)
Trump says SKorea to make 'major statement' on NKorea (*WaPo*, 03/08/2018)
Trump teases big news; it arrives in the dark, on driveway (*WaPo*, 03/09/2018)
Trump to Meet With Kim in Visit to North Korea (VOA, 03/09/2018)
Trump will accept invitation to meet North Korea's Kim: White House (*Reuters*, 03/08/2018)
Trump's bellicosity secures a diplomatic coup — for now (*WaPo*, 03/08/2018)
Trump's Meeting With Kim Jong-un Is Another Pledge to Do What Nobody Else Can (NYT, 03/08/2018)
Trump's North Korea gambit blindsides U.S. diplomats (*WaPo*, 03/08/2018)
Trump's seat-of-his-pants style and lack of message control loom over meeting with Kim Jong Un (*WaPo*, 03/09/2018)
U.S.-South Korea military exercises are on, despite Trump's planned meeting with Kim. Here's what will happen. (*WaPo*, 03/09/2018)
U.S. not yet talking about 'negotiations' with N.K.: official (*Yonhap*, 03/09/2018)
US, N. Korea go from threats to possible summit in a flash (*WaPo*, 03/09/2018)
US officials say North Korea invites Trump to meet (CNN, 03/08/2018)
What could go wrong? Pitfalls pose risks in Trump, Kim talks (*WaPo*, 03/09/2018)
What Will Trump Give Up for Peace with North Korea? (NYT, 03/09/2018)
White House: Trump Accepts North Korean Invitation for Talks (VOA, 03/08/2018)
Why Congress is cautiously optimistic on Trump's talks with North Korea (*WaPo*, 03/09/2018)
Will Kim Jong Un — like every other dictator — sucker Trump? (*WaPo*, 03/09/2018)
Wisecracks, cold noodles and soju: Is this what Trump could expect from a Kim summit? (CNN, 03/09/2018)
Word of Trump-Kim Summit Meeting Stirs Concern in Asia (NYT, 03/09/2018)

In North Korea:

- With the news today about a summit between KJU and Trump tentatively planned for the end of May, there has been much debate about the role of the US policy of "maximum pressure" through economic sanctions. The efficacy of the policy is difficult to evaluate, particularly since it often takes many months or even years for the full effect of sanctions to

play out. Whether the policy has been effective or not depends on, well, how you judge success or failure. (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, NK Econ Watch)

- The news that President Trump had accepted an offer to meet KJU to talk about N.Korean denuclearization took many people by surprise. But this scenario may have been foretold. As Jeffrey Lewis, an expert on NK's nuclear program at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey has noted, there was a preview of a similar line of events—in a N.Korean propaganda film aired years ago. (Adam Taylor, WaPo)
  As Lewis put it in tweets Thursday evening, the North Korean film "The Country I Saw" envisaged a scenario where "an American President visits Pyongyang, compelled by North Korea's nuclear and missile programs to treat a Kim as an equal."
- N.Korean leader KJU said if he meets US President Trump, there could be "great achievements," Seoul's presidential spokesman Kim Eui-kyeom said Fri. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- NK is holding mandatory lectures for Workers' Party executives to promote leader KJU's decision to pursue the unification of the divided Koreas following a breakthrough in relations between NK and SK at the Pyeongchang Olympics, sources inside the country said. (Jieun Kim, Leejin Jun, Roseanne Gerin, RFA)
- On Thurs., SK national security adviser announced that President Trump is willing to meet N.Korean leader KJU by the end of May. The stunning declaration follows months of divisive back-and-forth rhetoric between the two leaders that, at one point, led Trump to proclaim Kim is a "madman with nuclear weapons." (Joby Warrick, Julie Vitkovskaya, WaPo)
- If NK's women had the chance, they would also be saying #MeToo, according to a new report released on Thurs. that documents endemic sexual violence against N.Korean women and girls. Based on the testimony of more than 40 female defectors, a report by London-based Korea Future Initiative revealed that sexual assault and harassment are entrenched in all sectors of NK's "misogynistic" society. (Nicola Smith, Telegraph)

In South Korea:

- SK approved a plan to use a government fund to financially support NK's participation in the PyeongChang Winter Paralympics, the unification ministry said Fri. (Yonhap)
- The chief of SK's state intelligence agency and a deputy national security adviser will visit Japan next week to brief the neighboring nation on the results of a visit to NL by a delegation of special envoys. (Yonhap)
- The S.Korean minister in charge of NK affairs publicly spoke highly of the communist neighbor's leader KJU and his influential sister Fri., an assessment that reflects Pyongyang's surprising peace overtures. (Yonhap)
- S.Korean President Moon said talks between the US and NK would mark a "historic milestone for establishing peace on the Korean Peninsula." (Jennie Oh, UPI)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- How the latest instance of inter-Korean rapprochement proceeds will provide observers with clues to determine where the involved parties actually stand in the above scenario. One

option is that Seoul will at some point stop its cooperative efforts towards NK to prevent a collision with existing sanctions, and Beijing will remain silent. That means we will be back to an unpleasant normal with more N.Korean nuclear and missile tests, US military maneuvers, and mutual threats and accusations. Or this might just be the beginning of the end of the post-1990 world order. (Ruediger Frank, 38North)

International:

- The White House's surprise announcement Thurs. that President Trump had agreed to meet N.Korean leader KJU "at a place and time to be determined" has upended expectations about how disarmament talks with the regime would unfold. (Paul Sonne, WaPo)
- Donald Trump has agreed to meet N.Korean leader KJU before May, a S.Korean official said after a meeting at the White House. It would be the first time a sitting US president has met the leader of NK. The *Guardian*'s Benjamin Haas gets the reactions of five analysts to this news. (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)
- SK and the US plan to make a "major announcement" on NK on Thurs., officials said, after the two sides met over S.Korean officials' recent meeting with N.Korean leader KJU. (*Yonhap*)
- US President Donald Trump and N.Korean leader KJU have agreed to meet by May to discuss the denuclearization of the regime, a S.Korean envoy said Thurs. SK's national security adviser, Chung Eui-yong, told reporters at the White House that Trump told him he would accept Kim's invitation to meet with him as soon as possible. (*Yonhap*)
- As the leaders of the US and NK have made a surprise agreement to hold an unprecedented summit, expectations are growing for a breakthrough in the nuclear stalemate. (Koh Byung-joon, *Yonhap*)
- China welcomed US President Donald Trump's plan to meet with N.Korean leader KJU on Fri., calling it a "positive" message and a step in the right direction. (*Yonhap*)
- President Donald Trump caught the world by surprise late Thurs. with his stunning announcement that he would accept N.Korean dictator KJU's invitation to meet sometime between now and May. It is a massive, massive gamble—the likes of which we haven't seen from an American president, diplomatically speaking, but in retrospect, it actually makes perfect sense that Trump is willing to roll the dice on such a massive stage. The move to meet with Kim is actually something very close to the Platonic ideal of Trumpism. (Chris Cillizza, CNN)
- Here are seven things Max Fisher learned in the past few years from covering NK diplomacy and, more recently, the Trump administration's unusual approach to foreign policy. (Max Fisher, *The Interpreter*)
- Here's a look at what may lie ahead in Trump-KJU summit and the challenges that remain. (AP)
- Tokyo responded with caution and guarded optimism on NK's offer to hold denuclearization talks with the US, saying it will continue to impose maximum pressure on the reclusive regime. (Jennie Oh, UPI)

- Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Fri. he appreciates NK's shift to talks for denuclearization but that maximum pressure will continue until Pyongyang takes concrete steps to give up nuclear weapons. (*Yonhap*)
- A summit between NK and the US can lead to crisis as well as opportunity. Guaranteeing the regime's security in return for denuclearization could be complicated. The US may have to remove strategic assets, including the nuclear umbrella, and even pull out soldiers from SK. A peace treaty between NK and the US is also an end to the security alliance between SK and the US. If NK's nuclear capabilities are not completely and irreversibly dismantled, SK can come under a grave security danger. Unexpected bumps are to be expected. (*Joongang Daily*)
- Australian authorities are investigating a Sydney-based property company accused of breaching United Nations sanctions on NK by brokering an illicit sale of coal, according to a confidential UN report seen by Reuters. (Michelle Nichols, Byron Kaye, *Reuters*)
- President Donald Trump could become the first sitting US president to visit NK if plans for a summit with KJU hold. But other prominent US political figures have visited Pyongyang, NK's capital, in the past, many with a similar goal of trying to stop its nuclear program. (Haruka Nuga, AP)
- The presidential office Cheong Wa Dae denied a newspaper report Fri. that N.Korean leader KJU cracked a joke calling himself short and fat when he met with S.Korean special envoys earlier this week. (*Yonhap*)
- China has welcomed the announcement that Trump and KJU are plotting an unprecedented summit to discuss NK's weapons programmes but experts believe Beijing will also greet the news with trepidation and bitterness. (Tom Phillips, Daniel Hurst, *Guardian*)
- If China and NK proclaim their relationship as being as "close as teeth and lips," the US and SK's relationship may be described as being as "close as fist and wrist." The two countries, after being grafted together by the Korean War, are much more integrated and mutually dependent than most people realize. To put it simply, the Korean Ministry of Defense is an extension of the Pentagon and the Pentagon is very much dependent on SK as well as on the defense infrastructures of the US' key allies, such as Japan, the United Kingdom and Germany, to name just a few. (Tom Coyner, *Joongang Daily*)
- If a summit between Trump and KJU really takes place in May, it will count as one of the most remarkable and unexpected pieces of theatre in diplomatic history. Having invested so much personal capital in the meetings, there is a significant danger of a backlash from either or both men if they do not get their way under the glare of international attention. (Julian Borger, *Guardian*)
- Donald Trump has accepted an invitation from the N.Korean leader KJU, to hold an unprecedented summit meeting to discuss the future of the embattled regime's nuclear and missile programme. (Julian Borger, *Guardian*)
- President Donald Trump agreed to meet N.Korean leader KJU for denuclearization talks by May, a S.Korean envoy who facilitated communication between the two said Thurs. (Danielle Haynes, UPI)
- Families of Japanese nationals who were abducted to NK are welcoming news of a planned summit between US President Trump and NK's KJU, according to a Japanese press report. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

- Acceptance of Kim's invitation means reversing a long string of threats and calumny Trump has heaped on the N.Korean leader—all of which he appeared to believe in devoutly until now. And that will require some remarkable and utterly uncharacteristic restraint. (David A. Andelman, CNN)
- Donald Trump is "surprisingly" good at foreign policy, according to former Australian prime minister Paul Keating, who says the US was directionless under the previous three administrations. (*Australian Associated Press*)
- President Donald Trump sent shock waves across the globe when he accepted an invitation from N.Korean dictator KJU for talks. No sitting US president has ever met with a leader from NK. The move represents the largest gamble to date for two truculent leaders who have engaged in a harrowing nuclear stare-down. It also caught presidential advisers off-guard. (Kevin Liptak, CNN)
- Not only would NK have to make a complete declaration of exiting stocks — we would also need a mechanism to access suspected sites, which is something NK has never agreed to. (David E. Sanger, NYT)
- KJU entering talks is not a success in and of itself. The outcome and what tangible, verifiable change they may produce will matter far more, which will ultimately rely on Trump's ability to swing a coalition behind whatever emerges from these talks. This itself will be a far greater test. While looking for allies, Trump will be dogged by his past insults and the impending trade war he seems intent on triggering. He could find himself back in the ring with KJU, sparring again using innuendo and insults, with no one holding the towel in his corner. (Nic Robertson, CNN)
- Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Fri. he confirmed in telephone talks with US President Donald Trump that the international community needed to continue to put maximum pressure on NK. (*Reuters*)
- Japanese Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera said on Fri. NK must commit to abandoning nuclear development completely in order for meaningful talks to take place with Pyongyang. (*Reuters*)
- Trump is not the first top US official to negotiate face to face with a Kim. At the end of Bill Clinton's presidency, his secretary of state, Madeleine K. Albright, flew to Pyongyang, NK's capital, and spent six hours trying to persuade Kim Jong-il to suspend his missile tests, with no progress. (Jane Perlez, NYT)
- N.Korean leader KJU has expressed willingness to meet US President Trump for talks over denuclearization as soon as possible, S.Korean officials visiting Washington said, Fri. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- Given the stakes, risks and blowback that inevitably will accompany a Trump-Kim hamburger summit, a safer course, if indeed a summit is inevitable, would be to retain S.Korean involvement by securing an invitation for Trump to join the inter-Korean summit already announced for the end of Apr. at Panmunjom. S.Korean involvement would help address US staffing deficiencies while keeping denuclearization front and center, all the while blunting N.Korean efforts to drive a wedge in the US-SK alliance. (Scott A. Snyder, UPI)
- Just by sitting down with President Trump, KJU would get what he craves the most: legitimacy. He wants to be treated as an equal by the global superpower, and a photo

opportunity with the most powerful leader in the free world would go a long way to helping him achieve that. (Anna Fifield, WaPo)

- Markets in Asia moved up following the announcement from the White House that US President Trump plans to meet with NK's KJU. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Fri. there were reasons to be hopeful about the situation in NK, especially given progress towards talks between N.Korean leader KJU and US President Donald Trump. (*Reuters*)
- Donald Trump loves to shake things up and do what presidents before him were unwilling to do, which is the simplest explanation for why he has accepted a proposal to meet with N.Korean leader KJU. Not only has there never been a meeting between the leaders of the two countries in the seven decades since the Korean War, there's never even been a phone conversation. (Paul Waldman, WaPo)
- N.Korean leader KJU has said President Moon will no longer have to wake up early in the morning and preside over national security council meetings to discuss missile launches by the communist nation, according to a presidential official. (*Yonhap*)
- NK expressed its intention to have a candid dialogue with the US to discuss denuclearization and promised a moratorium on nuclear and ballistic missile tests during the period of talks, President Moon special envoy to Pyongyang said Tues. (*Joongang Daily*)
- S.Korean conservatives have had two nightmare scenarios about President Trump: that he would either embroil their country in a ruinous war with NK or that he would sell out their interests to NK. Now, in a head-snapping display of incoherence, Trump has agreed to meet KJU, giving the worst human-rights abuser on the planet what he most wants: international legitimacy. (Max Boot, WaPo)
- China has said it is "cheering on" NK and SK after they agreed to hold a leaders' summit on reducing tensions on the peninsula. But foreign ministry officials have cautioned it is too early to assume the talks will bring a lasting breakthrough on the central issue: nuclear weapons. (BBC)
- US President Donald Trump's acceptance of meeting with N.Korean leader KJU raises the question of where this meeting would take place, as analysts generally agreed Trump should not hand KJU the public relations coup of a photo opportunity in the N.Korean capital, Pyongyang. Other options include more neutral grounds including SK, China, or Russia, the United Nations in Geneva or New York City, or the DMZ. (David Smith, *Guardian*)
- Whether a meeting between KJU and Trump ever takes place remains to be seen. Nonetheless, talks between the US and NK in some form now seem likely. But denuclearization is unlikely. It's doubtful NK would ever agree to give up its nuclear weapons, for a simple reason. The US cannot offer NK what it wants, which is a credible commitment not to threaten the regime in the future. Despite this, the US has plenty to gain from talks and has plenty of interests in NK beyond denuclearization. (Mark S. Bell, WaPo)
- The Paralympics opens on Fri. in Pyeongchang in what will be the largest winter Games to date, as all eyes will likely be on the N.Korean athletes who arrived on Wed. as part of a 24-member delegation. It will be the first time NK has participated in the Winter Paralympics, as part of a wider rapprochement on the Korean peninsula. (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)

- Defectors and human rights activists have expressed serious concerns about the sudden warming of ties across the Demilitarised Zone that has divided the Korean Peninsula since 1953, with escapees in particular emphasising that Pyongyang cannot be trusted. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- The S.Korean delegation that went to NK may have heard a slightly more advanced position from Pyongyang. NK's official media said that there was a "satisfying agreement." But it seems to be for a breakthrough to ease sanctions and pressure, and the possibility of NK's regime fundamentally changing its stance on the nuclear arsenal is small. The resolution of the nuclear issue can begin when sanctions are fully effective and NK's attempts to change the situation fail. We haven't reached that point yet. (Kim Byung-yeon, *Joongang Daily*)
- We have long encouraged Mr. Trump to pursue negotiations to resolve the danger of NK's nuclear weapons program, rather than threatening war, and the US should make the most of this opportunity. (*The Editorial Board*)
- In another bizarre twist in modern politics, former NBA player Dennis Rodman is praising President Trump after the White House announced Trump had agreed to meet with N.Korean leader KJU for talks by the end of May. (Amy B. Wang, WaPo)
- NK's KJU joked about his image in international media while serving S.Korean officials local spirits and cold noodles during their unprecedented visit to Pyongyang this week, two S.Korean government sources said. (Christine Kim, *Reuters*)
- N.Korean dictator KJU and President Donald Trump plan to meet in May for nuclear disarmament talks, a whiplash development that would put two leaders who've repeatedly insulted, threatened and dismissed each other in the same room, possibly in the N.Korean capital of Pyongyang. (Foster Klug, AP)
- By stunning the world after seven decades of war and enmity, the projected face-to-face rendezvous between US President Donald Trump and N.Korean leader KJU would immediately take its place in the historic pantheon of electrifying summits between sworn foes. (*Associated Press*)
- In a brief and impromptu visit to the White House briefing room late Thurs. afternoon, President Trump previewed a major announcement that night from S.Korean leaders. Shortly after 7 p.m., those leaders said Trump had agreed to meet with N.Korean dictator KJU. Then, after an unexplained delay, the White House itself confirmed it. (Aaron Blake, WaPo)
- No sitting president has ever met—or even spoken on the phone—with a N.Korean leader. Here's a look at previous attempts at dialogue and how the possible summit meeting between Mr. Trump and Mr. Kim came about. (Austin Ramzy, Emily Cochrane, NYT)
- This article from the *Guardian* gives the full transcript of the announcement of the meeting of KJU and US President Donald Trump, as given by SK's national security office chief, Chung Eui-yong, as well as the US response to this announcement. (*Guardian*)
- President Donald Trump's stunning decision to meet KJU sets up the prospect of the most mind-boggling diplomatic summit in modern history. The meeting, announced by a S.Korean delegation at the White House on Thurs. night, would, if it goes ahead, mark an unmatched moment of history in the 70-year standoff between the US and the isolated state. (Stephen Collinson, Nicole Gaouette, CNN)
- Not only has Moon steered two headstrong, erratic adversaries away from a military conflict that could have been devastating for his nation, he has maneuvered the Trump

administration into pursuing negotiations that it has long resisted. But it is unclear if he has a specific deal in mind to resolve the standoff and he will soon have to surrender control again to Trump and KJU. (Choe Sang-hun, NYT)

- The surprise announcement made Thurs. night at the White House that N.Korean leader KJU had invited President Trump for a sit-down meeting (and that Trump had accepted) sets the stage for a historic gather between two leaders who appeared to be at a nuclear-warheads draw not six months ago, especially since no sitting US president has ever met with a sitting N.Korean leader. Regardless of the motivations of each of the leaders, the opportunity is real. As is the peril. (Chris Cillizza, CNN)
- US President Donald Trump's decision to meet with N.Korean leader KJU "was not a surprise in any way," US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Fri., less than a day after the top US diplomat said conditions were not yet ripe for negotiations with NK. (Laura Smith-Spark, Euan McKirdy, CNN)
- Secretary of State Rex Tillerson drew a fine line Fri. between talks and negotiations with NK, suggesting large differences in expectations for both. (Carol Morello, *WaPo*)
- US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson drew a distinction Fri. between "talks" with NK and "negotiations," arguing that President Donald Trump's willingness to chat with KJU shouldn't be construed as anything more than that. (Josh Lederman, AP)
- The US has expressed surprise at the "dramatic" shift in stance by KJU that has seen President Donald Trump agree to talks. US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said it would take "some weeks" to set up a meeting, due to take place by May. Trump hailed "great progress" but said sanctions would remain in place. (BBC)
- Talks between US President Trump and N.Korean leader KJU will take some weeks to arrange, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said on Fri. (*Reuters*)
- In a dramatic shift in geopolitics, US President Donald Trump accepted an invitation from N.Korean leader KJU to meet for talks about denuclearization, and a summit will be held by May. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)
- After months of trading insults and threats of nuclear annihilation, President Donald Trump agreed to meet with N.Korean leader KJU by the end of May to negotiate an end to Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program, S.Korean and US officials said Thurs. No sitting US president has ever met with a N.Korean leader. (Matthew Pennington, AP)
- President Donald Trump said SK will be making a "major statement" about NK on Thurs. evening. He spoke after S.Korean officials briefed the White House on the outcome of their pathfinding meeting with N.Korean leader KJU. (Matthew Pennington, AP)
- The first inkling that something big was afoot on NK came from President Trump himself: He popped his head into the White House briefing room late Thurs. afternoon to tease a "major statement" coming soon—from S.Korean officials. Within hours came the remarkable news that after years of brinksmanship and threats of mutual obliteration, Trump had agreed to sit down with NK's KJU—a man he's long derided as "Little Rocket Man." (Jill Colvin, AP)
- US President Donald Trump's surprise acceptance of an invitation to meet with N.Korean leader KJU in Pyongyang "by May" to discuss ending the NK's threatening nuclear program was met with a mixture of cautious optimism and skepticism. (VOA)
- President Trump has agreed to meet with N.Korean leader KJU for talks by the end of May, an extraordinary development following months of heightened nuclear tension during which

the two leaders exchanged frequent military threats and insults. (Anna Fifield, David Nakamura, Seung Min Kim, *WaPo*)

- President Donald Trump has agreed to meet with N.Korean leader KJU by May, the White House and the S.Korean national security adviser said Thurs. evening. (Jeremy Diamond, CNN)
- US President Donald Trump agreed to meet N.Korean leader KJU because Kim is the ultimate decision-maker in his country, a senior administration official said on Thurs. (*Reuters*)
- Very little is known about US President Donald Trump's plans to meet with N.Korean leader KJU except that the historic moment will happen before May. There's no word on who will attend the meeting, other than the two leaders and where the meeting will be held. (Ben Westcott, CNN)
- Trump's acceptance to meet KJU is especially surprising given the insults that the two have fired at each other. Here are some of the most notable things Mr. Trump and Mr. Kim have said about each other. (Matt Stevens, NYT)
- SK has announced a major breakthrough in tensions on the Korean peninsula as senior officials who recently met KJU passed a message from him to US President Donald Trump, in which he asked for talks and committed to giving up NK's nuclear weapons. This article from the BBC contains the statement delivered by SK's national security chief Chung Eui-yong in full. (BBC)
- When SK's national security adviser stood on the front lawn of the White House and delivered the news that NK's KJU and US President Donald Trump would meet by May, a piece of history was made. But analyst Ankit Panda's dissection of that moment and the extraordinary statement shows that all may not be as it seems. (BBC)
- N.Korean leader KJU has invited Donald Trump to meet him, an invitation the US leader has said he will accept. The shock announcement was made by senior S.Korean officials in Washington, who passed on a letter from the N.Korean leader. They said KJU had also agreed to halt nuclear and missile tests and was "committed to denuclearization". (BBC)
- One of President Trump's biggest foreign policy wins as president came back in August when the UN Security Council voted unanimously, including frequent holdouts China and Russia, to impose new sanctions on NK. More sanctions soon followed, as did a thawing of relations between NK and SK at the recent S.Korean Olympic Games. And through it all, Trump has gotten credit for real progress on the NK threat, including from some critics. Now Trump is jumping headlong into the situation—and with little guarantee of continued success. (Aaron Blake, *WaPo*)
- Richard Wolffe believes that there is one clear thing about this "half-baked idea": "Trump is more likely to spill his guts about classified intelligence than he is to get the upper hand with any kind of meaningful deal." (Richard Wolffe, *Guardian*)
- US President Donald Trump said he will meet N.Korean leader KJU by May for talks about denuclearization, according to S.Korean President Moon's special envoy. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)
- US President Trump has agreed to meet with N.Korean leader KJU "by May" to discuss ending the NK's threatening nuclear program. NK's openness to talks has been received with

a mix of cautious optimism and skepticism, and it is unclear that the US and NK can agree what the goal of the denuclearization talks should be. (Brian Padden, VOA)

- President Donald Trump will accept an invitation to meet N.Korean leader KJU at a place and time to be determined, White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said on Thurs. (*Reuters*)
- For the moment, at least, it appears to be a clear-cut victory—the biggest foreign policy win of his young administration. President Trump has brought his arch-nemesis, N.Korean leader KJU, a.k.a. "Little Rocket Man," to the table to negotiate away his nuclear arsenal. (Karen DeYoung, *WaPo*)
- Shocking and yet somehow not surprising, Trump's decision to do what no other sitting president has done and meet in person with a N.Korean leader reflects an audacious and supremely self-confident approach to international affairs. Trump has repeatedly claimed that he can achieve what has eluded every other occupant of his office through the force of his own personality. So far, he has little to show for that. (Peter Baker, NYT)
- President Trump's high-wire gambit to accept a meeting with N.Korean leader KJU sets off a scramble among US officials to assemble a team capable of supporting a historic summit of longtime adversaries and determine a viable engagement strategy. (Paul Sonne, John Hudson, *WaPo*)
- President Trump has agreed to meet KJU, a decision that reportedly surprised US diplomats and set about a preparation panic. Suddenly, we have an unwieldy and bellicose US president set to meet with an unwieldy and bellicose foreign dictator—to discuss nuclear weapons, no less. Nobody knows quite what to expect. But here's what we *can* say about Trump's brand of diplomacy, based upon evidence. (Aaron Blake, *WaPo*)
- As the White House prepares for what could be the first meeting between a sitting US president and a N.Korean leader, the US and S.Korean militaries will carry out exercises that Pyongyang has long called provocative but now appears to accept. (Dan Lamothe, *WaPo*)
- The US is not talking about "negotiations" at this point in seeking an unprecedented summit with NK, a senior US official said Fri., adding that it is too early to discuss how to inspect or verify the reclusive state's nuclear program. (*Yonhap*)
- President Donald Trump accepting a reported offer to meet with N.Korean leader KJU is a stunning turn of events after a year of heated verbal warfare that included crude insults and mutual threats of nuclear attacks and it remains to be seen whether a summit will take place or lead to a meaningful breakthrough. (*Associated Press*)
- NK has invited President Donald Trump to meet their leader KJU according to a senior US official and a former US senior official. (Jeremy Diamond, CNN)
- If Trump doesn't play his cards wisely, and if his decision to accept KJU's summit offer was as hasty as the details out in public now suggest, he could risk unnecessarily elevating KJU's global status, setting up a diplomatic breakdown, and rushing other—possibly military—action to make up for it. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- The unanswered question going forward is what the US is willing to put on the table for a negotiation. In years of dealing with North Korea, I have learned that the regime never gives anything away for free. (Victor Cha, NYT)
- The White House says President Donald Trump has accepted an invitation to talks from N.Korean dictator KJU, but that all sanctions against NK will stay in place. (Ken Schwartz, VOA)

- President Trump hasn't given Congress a lot to feel confident about lately, especially when it comes to dealmaking. Republicans are vehemently opposed to the tariffs he just announced on steel and aluminum imports, and Democrats blame Trump's inability to make a decision on a recent "dreamer" deal falling apart. But on one of Trump's most consequential and risky dealmaking endeavors yet, direct talks with the nuclear-armed pariah state of NK, Congress seems to be cautiously optimistic that Trump can handle it. (Amber Phillips, WaPo)
- The Post reported that NK's belligerent leader, KJU, has asked President Trump for talks and Trump has agreed to meet him "by May," SK's national security adviser said at the White House Thurs. after delivering the invitation to the US president. Some analysts say that Kim is suddenly interested in talks because the sanctions are beginning to hurt and because he is genuinely afraid of US military strikes. But others say that he's feeling more confident than ever. In November, KJU declared that he had "completed" his missile program and is now ready to deal with the US—on an equal footing, as nuclear state to nuclear state. (Jennifer Rubin, WaPo)
- KJU's meeting with S.Korean officials in Pyongyang earlier this week has given a rare insight into the N.Korean leader's style and hospitality. Should he find himself in Pyongyang, Trump, who has spent the last year insulting Kim, could add to the jovial atmosphere. (Euan McKirdy, Jungeun Kim, CNN)
- As Trump accepts an offer from KJU to discuss the country's nuclear program, another fear is looming: that Trump might offer concessions that the North's Asian neighbors would find unpalatable, or, if the talks fail, resort to a military option. (Mokoto Rich, NYT)

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, HRNK Research Intern

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Saturday, March 10, 2018

Talks with North Korea are a zero-sum game. Here's how to play it.; Little Rocket Man's Great Big Summit Scam; Human Rights Questions Loom Over Possible US-North Korea Summit

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U.S. made 'zero concessions' to get North Korea to seek talks: Pence (*Reuters*, 03/09/2018)
US Military, Intel Officials Cautious About N. Korean Overtures (VOA, 03/09/2018)
US President Trump Agrees to Summit With North Korea's Kim (RFA, 03/09/2018)
White House: 'Concrete Steps' Must Precede Any Trump, Kim Meeting (VOA, 03/09/2018)
White House puts an asterisk on Trump, Kim Jong Un meeting (CNN, 03/09/2018)
White House says Trump-Kim meeting contingent on 'concrete, verifiable actions' by Pyongyang (*Washington Post*, 03/09/2018)
White House sends mixed messages on talks with North Korea (*Washington Post*, 03/09/2018)
Xi says appreciates Trump's desire to resolve North Korea issue politically (*Reuters*, 03/09/2018)

Top News:

- HRNK founding member and board member, Dr. Nicholas Eberstadt, analyzes talks with NK as a "zero-sum game" in this *Washington Post* opinion article. He outlines and discusses the standard N.Korean negotiation tactics, which include agenda control, disappearance of the agreement, redefinition of key terms, and no "win-win" solutions. He follows it up with a few guidelines and general suggestions that could be followed by "Team West" for high-level meetings with NK, including not meeting in Pyongyang, adding its own agenda items, calling out the opposite party for bad faith, no good-faith concessions, and walking away from any bad deals. (Nicholas Eberstadt, *Washington Post*)
- According to author Claudia Rosett, KJU's plan for a summit, a plan that is now being widely hailed as a historic step forward and a triumph for Trump's campaign of coralling Pyongyang

with "maximum pressure" is actually KJU is gaming the mighty US. While she does not discredit the historic nature of the plan, she also warns that there is an enormous hazard that it's a step right into the same old N.Korean trap. (Claudia Rosett, *PJ Media*)

In North Korea:

- The real estate market in NK is poised for further growth this spring as sources inside the country report that construction companies continue to bribe officials for land permits. As a direct result, the production and sale of construction materials is also on the rise. (Seol Song Ah, *DailyNK*)
- The use of US dollars and Chinese yuan not only for wholesale but also retail transactions in NK's markets has become so commonplace that most local merchants now believe it is necessary to keep smaller denominations of these currencies on hand at all times, Daily NK's sources report. "People in the markets are now saying, 'When shopping, using foreign currency is the morally right thing to do'" and "attempting to use N.Korean currency when purchasing over 50,000 KPW worth of goods usually elicits verbal abuse from the merchant, who will insist on payment in dollars." (Seol Song Ah, *DailyNK*)
- KJU remains an enigma. He is thought to have ordered the executions of disloyal subordinates including his own uncle. But a handful of acquaintances including former school friends and family members who defected to the West have offered details of his life that also suggest a more forgiving personality. (Megan Specia, *NYTimes*)
- Even after a historic announcement that US President Trump will meet N.Korean leader KJU for the first time as a sitting president, Pyongyang continued Sat. to denounce the US for its sanctions and vowed never to bow to the pressure, as an opinion piece appeared Sat. in the Rodong Sinmun stating that the regime won't bow to "military power, sanctions or blockade." (*Yonhap*)
- N.Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho will visit Sweden in the near future and meet with his Swedish counterpart, Margot Wallstrom, the Swedish newspaper Dagens Nyheter reported on Fri., citing sources. (*Reuters*)
- N.Korean leader KJU's sudden overtures to Washington are making headlines around the world. Almost everywhere, it seems, except NK. N.Korean media noted a visit by a senior delegation from SK earlier this week but it appeared to have had no major coverage of Kim's invitation to meet US President Trump or S.Korean President Moon to discuss the future of Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program. (Haejin Choi, Heekyong Yang, *Reuters*)
- NK appears to be making new nuclear bomb fuel, satellite imagery shows, even as its leader, KJU, has expressed willingness to negotiate atomic disarmament with President Trump. (William J. Broad, *NYTimes*)
- The rapprochement began with a New Year's speech, when Kim extended an olive branch to SK by offering to send athletes to the winter Olympics in Pyeongchang. Over the next month, officials from the two sides spoke for the first time in more than two years and met to discuss details and logistics, leading to an exchange of envoys from both Pyongyang and Seoul after the conclusion of the Olympic Games. (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)

- Given the size and sophistication of the N.Korean program, it seems insufficient to say simply that the West wants NK to "denuclearize." The N.Koreans have plutonium-producing reactors and a very sophisticated centrifuge program. They were producing so much lithium 6 used in fusion devices that they were selling the excess. Even handing over their existing devices would be a major initiative that would involve many inspectors, compared to the handful that sufficed in South Africa. (Jeremy Bernstein, NYTimes)

In South Korea:

- S.Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha will visit the US to meet State Secretary Rex Tillerson, the minister said Sat. In a meeting with Korean reporters in Hanoi, where she is on a three-day visit, Kang said she will meet her US counterpart to learn more details about Korean envoys' visit to Washington earlier this week to extend an invitation by N.Korean leader KJU to US President Trump. (Yonhap)

International:

- The White House says President Trump is ready to meet the supreme leader, KJU, "by May," at a time and location yet to be determined. Whether or not a "deal" emerges within two months, the mere fact of a summit breaks all the rules of diplomacy. It delivers legitimacy–the "face" the N.Koreans crave, as Washington does not recognise the existence of the Democratic People's Republic of North Korea (DPRK). (Jasper Becker, Guardian)
- Australia must continue to rigorously enforce sanctions on NK ahead of what could be a historic summit with the US, Australian prime minister, Malcolm Turnbull, says. (Australian Associated Press)
- Donald Trump has unexpectedly agreed to become the first sitting US president to meet with a leader of NK. The reaction has ranged from cautious optimism to warnings about the inexperience of the Trump administration to flat-out criticism. The criticisms are easily dispelled. (Peter Van Buren, Reuters)
- At the White House press briefing room lectern, press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders essentially walked back President Trump's promise of unconditional talks with KJU by the end of May. She insisted that before such talks can occur—Trump never mentioned any conditions—NK would need to take "verifiable" steps to denuclearize. (Jennifer Rubin, Washington Post)
- Republican defense hawks are watching closely as President Donald Trump prepares to meet with N.Korean leader KJU, an unprecedented meeting that could redefine the future of US-NK relations for decades to come. On Capitol Hill, the reviews from defense hawks were cautious, mixed and in some cases non-existent. After a year of tough talk, Trump, who before entering the White House had little foreign policy experience, will be sitting down in one of the most politically fraught discussions of his presidency and some hawks warn Trump needs ground rules first. (Lauren Fox, CNN)
- The former NBA star Dennis Rodman–the only prominent American who has met KJU–has said he knew the doors between NK and the US would open one day. (Guardian)

- Donald Trump insisted a deal with NK was "very much in the making" on Fri., after a day of mixed messages about a proposed meeting between the US president and KJU. This comes after White House's response of maintaining “maximum pressure” on NK as it tried to swat away criticism that the US was getting nothing in exchange for agreeing to a historic face-to-face summit. (Nick Allen, Julian Ryall, Nicola Smith, Rob Crilly, Chris Graham, Neil Connor, *Telegraph*)
- A S.Korean envoy gave US President Donald Trump a "special message" from N.Korean leader KJU in addition to his invitation to a summit, a senior official said Fri. (*Yonhap*)
- As President Donald Trump embarks on an unprecedented diplomatic mission to end NK’s nuclear program, he faces complex, unresolved issues, according to former US officials and analysts who have dealt with NK extensively. (Jenny Lee, VOA)
- The US and NK have agreed to a first meeting of their respective leaders and announced plans for talks that could, in a best-case outcome, bring peace and security to north-east Asia. History suggests, however, that numerous hurdles still need to be overcome–and many of them are very high. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- President Donald Trump's stunning decision to meet with NK's despotic leader, KJU, might have originated in his administration's campaign to squeeze the country economically and diplomatically, but it was triggered by some deft diplomatic maneuvering by SK. (Nicole Gaouette, Elise Labott, CNN)
- It is incredible that the US President would so quickly pivot from aggressive catcalls at "little rocket man" KJU and threatening "fire and fury" to accepting an invitation to face-to-face talks. While the stakes of such a meeting cannot be understated, it's actually not that surprising in the context of Trump's negotiating tactics, although his track record as Presidential negotiator makes this gamble all the more frightening. (Z. Bryan Wolf, CNN)
- The announced talks between US President Donald Trump and N.Korean leader KJU have been broadly welcomed following years of tension over NK's nuclear weapons and missile programs. Less clear is how such a meeting could affect human rights in NK, which has one of the world's most oppressive governments. (VOA)
- China helped bring about a dramatic easing of tensions between the US and NK, according state media outlets, adding evidence that the government sees itself as a central player in any agreement despite largely sitting on the sidelines so far. (Ben Blanchard, *Reuters*)
- Trump’s personal involvement in the White House’s deliberations over the world’s most serious and vexing security situation has placed a president who considers himself a master dealmaker into the most fraught faceoff of his 71 years. A breakthrough that would reduce Pyongyang’s nuclear threat would be a legacy-defining achievement. A stalemate that gives KJU a photo op for nothing in return could fracture US alliances and be seen as a devastating embarrassment. (David Nakamura, Anne Gearan, *Washington Post*)
- For at least two decades, leaders in NK have been seeking a personal meeting with an US president. Now, as a summit unexpectedly appears possible, analysts fear US President Donald Trump’s understaffed administration may lack the expertise to successfully turn a political spectacle long sought by Pyongyang into a meaningful opportunity to convince NK to abandon its nuclear program. (Josh Smith, David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)

- Donald Trump and KJU caught the world by surprise with the sensational announcement that the pair are to hold unprecedented talks. And now attention has shifted to where the most intensely-watched political event for years will be held. (Neil Connor, *Telegraph*)
- President Trump's agreement to meet with KJU is a moment for all Americans as his big stick has become something of an olive branch. (John Kirby, CNN)
- A day after President Trump accepted an invitation to meet KJU of NK, the White House began planning on Friday a high-level diplomatic encounter so risky and seemingly far-fetched that some of Mr. Trump's aides believe it will never happen. (Mark Landler, *NYTimes*)
- Most experts are extremely skeptical that KJU will agree to a bargain in which he verifiably gives up nuclear weapons. The White House says Kim has committed to denuclearize, but that may be on unacceptable terms that NK has previously proposed: You Americans end your alliance with SK and pull your troops, and we'll proceed with denuclearization (presumably on a nonverifiable basis). And while the White House says the US made no concessions, the summit is itself the concession. The summit also raises the stakes, so a failure could trigger angry new escalations on each side, leaving us worse off than where we started. (Nicholas Kristof, *NYTimes*)
- NK rarely plays a prominent role in US congressional elections, but Rick Saccone–the Republican candidate for Congress in Tues.'s crucial special election in Pennsylvania–has made much of his experience in the reclusive country. Saccone, says he negotiated regularly with communist officials; however, others remember it differently. (Benjamin Haas, Ben Jacobs, *Guardian*)
- Russia believes that a possible meeting between US President Donald Trump and N.Korean leader KJU "is a step in the right direction", foreign minister Sergei Lavrov told reporters while on a visit to Ethiopia. (*Reuters*)
- The question of a suitable location for President Donald Trump and KJU to meet for their first face-to-face talks is a question that has crackled through the diplomatic and government circles Fri. The Demilitarized Zone between NK and SK is one possibility. Sweden has also offered to help, and there is always neutral Geneva, Switzerland. Someplace in Asia, such as Beijing also has not been ruled out, and there is always the possibility of a ship in international waters. (Laurie Kellman, AP)
- When former President Barack Obama counseled his successor Donald Trump on the global threats he should expect to face once he assumed office last year, a nuclear NK and its unpredictable leader were at the top of the list. But while the meticulous Obama practiced caution in handling KJU, the blustery Trump succumbed to his own penchant for reality TV showmanship, culminating with his shock decision on Thurs. to agree to meet with NK's leader and become the first sitting U.S president to do so. (Steve Holland, Jeff Mason, *Reuters*)
- There was more to N.Korean leader KJU's invitation to a summit for US President Donald Trump, as the S.Korean government's senior official said Fri., as S.Korean envoy Chung Eli-Young slipped Trump a "special message" from Kim. (Ko Dong-hwan, *Korea Times*)
- One of the simplest elements in the plan may be one of the most important—location, which can be key factor in negotiations. Some countries such as Sweden and Switzerland are already vying for the opportunity to host, while former Mongolian president Tsakhiagiin

Elbegdorj suggested that his was the most "suitable, neutral territory." (Adam Taylor, *Washington Post*)

- If America's allies in SK were already worried that President Donald Trump was about to unleash fire and fury like the world has never seen in their neighborhood, they will find the latest news of Trump's head-snapping reversal on NK far from soothing. (Frida Ghitis, CNN)
- Apparently President Trump's commitment to meet with KJU was to be taken seriously, not necessarily literally. Appearing at the daily White House briefing Fri., press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders suggested the meeting was not a done deal after all. She seemed to retroactively attach denuclearization preconditions to the whole thing. But the original agreement, as outlined by the S.Koreans, was only that Kim would *halt* nuclear and missile tests while talks were underway. They said Kim was "committed to denuclearization," but they did not say he would denuclearize before the meeting as a precondition. (Aaron Blake, *Washington Post*)
- Along with the stunning announcement that US President Donald Trump and N.Korean leader KJU will meet came the news that Kim offered to put his country's nuclear and missile program on the table. However, this is hardly the first time Pyongyang has talked about freezing or ending its pursuit of nuclear weapons. In the past three decades, leaders of the hermit state have expressed willingness to engage in some form of denuclearization. (Joe Sterling, CNN)
- US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, who is on the other side of the world on a week-long Africa tour, says President Donald Trump's decision to hold talks with N.Korean leader KJU came from Trump himself, but he downplayed any suggestion that the State Department was blindsided by the announcement. (Cindy Saine, VOA)
- SK's national security adviser met with his US counterpart Fri. to discuss preparations for an unprecedented summit between US President Donald Trump and N.Korean leader KJU. (*Yonhap*)
- US President Donald Trump's agreement to meet NK's leader looked likely to fan Japanese angst over being sidelined, although Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Fri. there was no diplomatic daylight between Tokyo and Washington. (Linda Sieg, Nobuhiro Kubo, *Reuters*)
- Donald Trump will take a hardline position at his planned summit with the N.Korean leader KJU, the White House said on Fri., as US officials scrambled to keep pace with the president after his sudden acceptance of Kim's offer to talk. (Julian Borger, David Smith, *Guardian*)
- US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping welcomed the prospect of dialogue with NK in a telephone call, the White House said on Fri., after Trump accepted an invitation to meet with NK's leader. (*Reuters*)
- President Trump is right to pursue negotiations with NK, but his sudden decision to accept an unprecedented summit with compounds the already high probability of failure. The administration's best course would be to use the coming weeks to hold preliminary talks with the Kim regime that make clear US expectations and place the summit on firmer ground. If it becomes evident that NK is unwilling to commit to a freeze on its nuclear and missile activities, or will make excessive demands in exchange, Mr. Trump can step back. What he should not do is walk blindly into an encounter with a dictator who, we can be sure, will be well-prepared to take advantage of this president's well-known weaknesses—starting with his penchant for impulsive decisions. (The Editorial Board, *Washington Post*)

- No US president has agreed to sit down with a N.Korean leader–until now. Just by showing up to see KJU, Trump would give his murderous dynasty what it has always craved–the prestige and propaganda coup of a meeting of equals with the President of the US. (Stephen Collinson, CNN)
- Negotiations with NK present a different series of challenges and risks. The spur-of-the-moment decision to accept Kim's offer for talks must give way to a far more orderly and deliberate process of preparation before the two leaders sit down with one another. The president's national security advisers will have to play catch-up, at a time the administration has lost some key officials whose expertise would be valuable right now. And though the announcement said the meeting would take place by May, there is not yet a fixed date. (Dan Balz, *Washington Post*)
- President Donald Trump says China is glad he's seeking a diplomatic solution to the N.Korean crisis rather than "going with the ominous alternative." (*Associated Press*)
- On Thurs. it was announced that President Trump has accepted an offer to meet with N.Korean leader KJU. Will it be Munich 2.0 where the evil man with the evil ambitions cons the world? Or will it be a "reverse Munich," where Trump sits down to explain in his inimitable style that it's his way or no highway, for KJU, including no infrastructure left standing near any weapons site or any of Kim's many palaces and hideaways? Whatever Trump's approach, he can learn from his predecessors in the Oval Office, Ronald Reagan and Richard Nixon. (Hugh Hewitt, *Washington Post*)
- The US said Fri. that NK must take "concrete actions" to demonstrate its commitment to denuclearize in order to realize a summit with US President Trump. (*Yonhap*)
- The US made "zero concessions" and "consistently increased the pressure" on N.Korean leader KJU, US Vice President Mike Pence said on Fri., one day after US President Donald Trump agreed to meet with Kim. (*Reuters*)
- US President Donald Trump's decision to sit down for talks with N.Korean leader KJU came as no surprise to top US military officials, though they are wary of setting any expectations. (Jeff Seldin, VOA)
- US President Donald Trump has agreed to meet with NK's leader KJU in what would mark the first summit between the two countries' heads of state since the end of the Korean War nearly 65 years ago. (Hee Jung Yang, Joshua Lipes, RFA)
- The White House on Fri. emphasized that the US had made "zero concessions" in agreeing to face-to-face talks between President Trump and N.Korean leader KJU. (Steve Herman, Peggy Chang, VOA)
- President Trump will not meet with N.Korean leader KJU unless NK unless North Korea takes "concrete and verifiable actions" toward denuclearization, White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said Fri. (Jeremy Diamond, CNN)
- President Trump will insist on "concrete, verifiable actions" from NK before holding a promised summit with N.Korean leader KJU, the White House said Fri., adding conditions and a note of skepticism to the buoyant mood that surrounded the surprise announcement the night before. (Anne Gearan, *Washington Post*)
- The White House on Fri. sent confusing messages about the prospects for a historic meeting between President Trump and N.Korean leader KJU, raising questions about a summit announced less than 24 hours earlier. (Carol Morello, John Hudson, *Washington Post*)

- Chinese President Xi Jinping told US President Donald Trump on Fri. that he appreciates his desire to resolve the NK issue politically, state media said. (*Reuters*)

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, HRNK Research Intern

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Sunday, March 11, 2018

N.K. is willing to dismantle nukes; Trump believes N.K. will keep word on missile tests; JSA is a likely option for U.S.-N.K. summit

In North Korea:
N. Korea says its nuclear power status laid foundation to focus on economic development (*Yonhap*, 03/11/2018)

In South Korea:
(3rd LD) Moon's security adviser returns home from Washington (*Yonhap*, 03/11/2018)
After visiting North Korea, South Korea officials to meet China, Japan leaders (*Reuters*, 03/11/2018)
Business owners hope inter-Korean Kaesong Complex will soon resume operations (UPI, 03/11/2018)
JSA is a likely option for U.S.-N.K. summit: S. Korean official (*Yonhap*, 03/11/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Kim is willing to dismantle nukes, South Korea says (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/11/2018)
Tread carefully (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/11/2018)
What is behind Kim's denuclearization offer? (*Korea Times*, 03/11/2018)

International:
Defense secretary says questions on meeting between U.S., North Korea should be handled by State Department (*WaPo*, 03/11/2018)
GOP Sen. Johnson: Trump must keep pressure on NK ahead of talks (CNN, 03/11/2018)
Japan offers to pay £2m for inspections of North Korea nuclear facilities (*Telegraph*, 03/11/2018)
JSA is a likely option for U.S.-N.K. summit: S. Korean official (*Yonhap*, 03/11/2018)
Mattis goes silent on North Korea ahead of Trump-Kim meeting (*Reuters*, 03/11/2018)
Mattis says US-North Korea diplomacy is at delicate stage (*WaPo*, 03/11/2018)
The Latest: US officials say no added conditions for NKorea (*WaPo*, 03/11/2018)
The Observer view on talks between Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un (*Guardian*, 03/11/2018)
The 3 big obstacles to success if Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un meet (*WaPo*, 03/11/2018)
Trump believes North Korea will keep word on missile tests (*WaPo*, 03/10/2018)
Trump on Olympics: 'Hard to sell tickets when you think you're going to be nuked' (CNN, 03/10/2018)
Trump Says He Believes North Korean Leader Ready to 'Make Peace' (VOA, 03/10/2018)

Trump says North Korea talks could fail or bring 'greatest deal' (*Reuters*, 03/11/2018)
Trump talks with North Korea not just 'theater,' CIA chief Pompeo says (*Reuters*, 03/11/2018)

In North Korea:

- An N.K. academic paper released late last year showed that Pyongyang believes that its "nuclear weapons status" will allow the country to fully devote itself to economic development going forward. (*Yonhap*)

In South Korea:

- S.K. President Moon's top security adviser returned home from the US on Sunday after sharing the results of his recent visit to N.K. with Washington officials. (*Yonhap*)
- Two senior S.K. officials who met with KJU last week will split up to visit the leaders of China and Japan this week to update them on the talks. (Christine Kim, *Reuters*)
- S.Korean business owners are hoping the April summit between Seoul and Pyongyang will lead to the reopening of the Kaesong Industrial Complex. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- The Joint Security Area (JSA) of Panmunjeom, located on the demarcation line separating the two Koreas, is one of the likely venues for the agreed-upon summit between Trump and KJU. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- KJU promised dismantlement of his country's nuclear weapons program - not merely a freeze - when he met with S.K. envoys last week in Pyongyang, according to multiple government sources. (Ser Myo-ja, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Despite the stunning relational developments between S.K. and N.K., Moon must be careful. The government approach to inter-Korean affairs still has to be as careful as handling glass. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- N.K. is likely to demand that the U.S. withdraws its troops from S.K. in return for Pyongyang giving up its nuclear weapons, according to a former special adviser to the U.S. State Department. (Kim Jae-kyoung, *Korea Times*)

International:

- Mattis said that he does not want to talk about the Korean Peninsula "at all" at this time, underscoring the sensitivity with which he believes Washington must handle a potential meeting between Trump and KJU. (Dan Lamothe, WaPo)
- Republican Sen. Ron Johnson said Sunday that President Trump must continue to ratchet up pressure on N.K. to denuclearize, even as the two countries prepare to meet for talks. (Maegan Vazquez, CNN)

- Japan will provide Y300 million (£2.03 million) to fund inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency of N.K.'s nuclear facilities if Pyongyang follows through with its vow to scrap its arsenal of atomic weapons. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- The Joint Security Area (JSA) of Panmunjeom, located on the demarcation line separating the two Koreas, is one of the likely venues for the agreed-upon summit between Trump and KJU. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said he will not publicly discuss issues related to N.K., deferring to diplomats and the White House, ahead of a proposed meeting Trump and KJU. (Phil Stewart, *Reuters*)
- U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said the diplomatic push to solve the N.K. nuclear weapons crisis was at such a delicate stage that he won't publicly discuss the talks or related issues such as U.S.-ROK military exercises. (Robert Burns, AP)
- Trump administration said there will be no more conditions imposed on N.K. before a first-ever meeting of the two nation's leaders beyond the North's promise not to resume nuclear testing and missile flights, or publicly criticize U.S.-ROK military exercises. (AP)
- Trump seemingly has taken KJU's bait. Though KJU expressed commitment to denuclearization, such pattern has been repeated several times in the past. The more N.K. shows signs of cooperation, the more it will demand from the S.K. and the US. (*Guardian*)
- Three big obstacles to the success of Trump-KJU meeting could be credibility gaps, expectation gaps on the rules of engagement, and desired outcome gaps. (Patricia Kim, *WaPo*)
- Trump said Saturday he believes N.K. will abide by its pledge to suspend missile tests while he prepares for a summit by May with the North's leader, KJU. (AP)
- President Trump on Saturday claimed S.K. President Moon credited him with the success of the 2018 Winter Olympic Games and threw out a line about the N.K. nuclear threat. (Eli Watkins, CNN)
- Trump said Saturday that he believed N.K. was ready "to make peace" after its leader, KJU, declared his willingness to meet the U.S. president. (Steve Herman, VOA)
- Trump said that his planned meeting with KJU could fizzle without an agreement or it could result in "the greatest deal for the world" to ease nuclear tensions between the two countries. (Steve Holland, *Reuters*)
- CIA Director Mike Pompeo said on Sunday an upcoming meeting between Trump and KJU is not just for show. The US expects N.K. to halt all nuclear and missile testing in advance of any meeting. (Pete Schroeder, Doina Chiacu, *Reuters*)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

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Monday, March 12, 2018

North Korea silent on meeting with Donald Trump; Human Rights in N. Korea Must Not Be Held Hostage to Security Concerns

In North Korea:
Calm Before the Storm? North Korea Still Mum on Trump Summit (NYT, 03/12/2018)
International Women's Day Meeting Held (NK *Leadership Watch*, 03/12/2018)
Kim's domestic moves watched (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/12/2018)
North Korea Defies the World With Nuclear Ambitions: QuickTake (*WaPo*, 03/11/2018)
North Korea silent on meeting with Donald Trump (*Telegraph*, 03/12/2018)
North Korean media hasn't reported summits with Seoul, U.S. (*UPI*, 03/12/2018)
'No response' yet from North Korea on talks with the US (BBC, 03/12/2018)
PPJ Visits N. Hamyo'ng (NK *Leadership Watch*, 03/12/2018)

In South Korea:
Main opposition cautions against 'rosy' expectations about U.S.-N.K. summit (*Yonhap*, 03/12/2018)
Moon says next two months critical to peace, denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 03/12/2018)
Most South Koreans welcome North Korea's change of heart but 64 percent doubt sincerity (UPI, 03/11/2018)
N.Korea seen "cautious" in announcing stance over upcoming summits -Seoul (*Reuters*, 03/11/2018)
S. Koreans welcome N. Korea's peace overtures, but are skeptical of its denuclearization commitment (*Yonhap*, 03/12/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Business owners hope inter-Korean Kaesong Complex will soon resume operations (UPI, 03/11/2018)
North Korean Defector Hits Paralympic Ice for South Korea (VOA, 03/12/2018)

International:
(LEAD) 'Difficult' negotiations lie ahead for defense cost sharing deal with U.S.: envoy(*Yonhap*, 03/12/2018)
(LEAD) N.K. apparently cautious in reporting planned summits with S. Korea, U.S.: Seoul (*Yonhap*, 03/12/2018)
(3rd LD) Xi: China, S. Korea should bolster communication over N. Korea developments(*Yonhap*, 03/12/2018)
A Nobel pursuit (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/12/2018)
Arrogance, ego at play in Donald Trump, Kim Jong Un meeting (UPI, 03/12/2018)
China supports current diplomatic efforts to resolve N.K. nuke issues (*Yonhap*, 03/12/2018)
China's Xi says looks forward to smooth U.S.-North Korea talks (*Reuters*, 03/12/2018)
Cost-sharing talks finish first round in Hawaii (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/12/2018)
Envoys of S. Korean leader head to Japan, China on outcome of N. Korea visit (*Yonhap*, 03/12/2018)
Factbox: The three Americans imprisoned by North Korea (*Reuters*, 03/11/2018)
Human Rights in N. Korea Must Not Be Held Hostage to Security Concerns (VOA, 03/12/2018)
Hurdles and Hopes Ahead as Trump and Kim Plan to Meet: QuickTake (*WaPo*, 03/12/2018)
In uncharted waters (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/12/2018)
Japan Foreign Minister Says Korean Peninsula Situation Is a Near 'Miracle': South Korea(NYT, 03/12/2018)

Japan, South Korea Agree to Maintain 'Maximum Pressure' on North Korea: Minister (NYT, 03/12/2018)
North Korean 'caution' seen in announcing stance on upcoming summits: Seoul (*Reuters*, 03/11/2018)
North Korea Nuclear Deal Would Require Major US Concession Too (VOA, 03/12/2018)
Not just theater: U.S. officials defend Trump-Kim meeting (*Reuters*, 03/11/2018)
Proving a strong alliance (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/12/2018)
S. Korean FM Kang to meet Tillerson in Washington this week (*Yonhap*, 03/12/2018)
South Korea moves to ease Chinese jitters over US-North Korea talks (CNN, 03/12/2018)
South Korea Praises China's Role in North Nuclear Talks (VOA, 03/12/2018)
Talk of Trump-Kim summit raises hopes for son of detained American (*Reuters*, 03/11/2018)
Tending to the neighbors (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/12/2018)
Tillerson Cuts Short Africa Trip to Deal with North Korea (VOA, 03/12/2018)
Trump's condition for Kim meeting is no nuclear, missile test: Mnuchin (*Reuters*, 03/11/2018)
Trump knew of Kim's invitation well in advance (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/12/2018)
Trump-North Korea meeting: US 'knows the risks', says spy chief (BBC, 03/12/2018)
Trump to meet Kim as long as promises kept: White House (*Yonhap*, 03/11/2018)
U.N. investigator: human rights must be part of any talks with North Korea (*Reuters*, 03/12/2018)
US Officials: NKorea Will Face No More Conditions for Talks (NYT, 03/12/2018)
US Vows No Concessions to North Korea Ahead of Trump-Kim Talks (VOA, 03/11/2018)
What the heck will happen at the Trump-Kim summit? (*WaPo*, 03/12/2018)
Where Might Trump and Kim Jong-un Meet? Here Are Some Possibilities (NYT, 03/12/2018)
Will Trump's North Korea gamble actually pay off? (*WaPo*, 03/12/2018)
With Republicans nervous, more Democrats need to weigh in on ill-conceived Kim meeting(*WaPo*, 03/12/2018)
Xi Says China, South Korea on the Same Page Over Korean Peninsula Issues: Seoul (NYT, 03/12/2018)
Zakaria: The trouble with Trump's North Korea gambit (CNN, 03/12/2018)

In North Korea:

- News of the planned summit between Trump and KJU sent shockwaves around the globe. But in NK — as of Mon., several days after the announcement — not a word about it had been reported by the state-run media. (AP)
- A central report meeting for International Women's Day was held at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang on March 8. (*NK Leadership Watch*)
- A big clue as to whether NK will denuclearize could come next month, especially if Pyongyang decides to convene a parliamentary meeting before the Kim-Moon summit. (Jeong Yong-soo, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- NK isn't your regular totalitarian dictatorship- it's got a ruthless young leader and a nuclear program. It's aggressive rhetoric and regular missile tests, in defiance of UN resolutions, are vexing the international community and pressuring China to rein in its errant neighbor. (Sam Kim, Kanga Kong, *Bloomburg*)

- NK has yet to respond publicly or privately to the decision by Trump to attend a summit with its leader KJU. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- N. Korean media has refrained from reporting on Pyongyang's upcoming summits with Seoul and Washington, a Seoul official said Mon. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- SK says it has not received a response from Pyongyang on a summit between KJU and Trump. (BBC)
- DPRK state media reported on March 5 that Cabinet Premier and State Affairs Commission Vice Chairman Pak Pong-ju visited metal industry sites in North Hamgyo'ng Province. (*NK Leadership Watch*)

In South Korea:

- The main opposition Liberty Korea Party (LKP) on Mon. voiced concerns about what it views as unsubstantiated optimism over the planned US-NK summit, pointing to the "impulsive" nature of policy decisions by the leaders of the two countries. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon called for all-out efforts Mon. to successfully hold rare dialogue with NK over the next two months, calling it an important and also very difficult chance to achieve what the world has failed to do so far. (*Yonhap*)
- Three in four S. Koreans welcome NK's warmer tone on inter-Korean relations and its willingness to talk about denuclearization with the US. At the same time however, most remain distrustful of the regime's sincerity. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- NK's silence on its upcoming summits with the United States and South Korea is likely due to caution over organizing its stance regarding the meetings, SK's Ministry of Unification said on Monday. (*Reuters*)
- A majority of S. Koreans welcome NK's peace overtures, but many of them remain skeptical about whether the communist regime has any willingness to give up its nuclear program, a survey showed Mon. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- S. Korean business owners are hoping the April summit between Seoul and Pyongyang will lead to the reopening of the Kaesong Industrial Complex, the Asia Business Daily reported. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- Now, 17 years after Choi Kwang-hyouk's escape from NK and four years since his first practice on ice, he's living a dream with the S. Korean national team, which aims to clinch the country's first ever Paralympic medal in the sport in the games held at home. (AP)

International:

- The negotiations to renew SK and the US' deal on defense cost sharing are likely to be a "difficult" path, the top S. Korean negotiator said Mon. following the inaugural round of talks last week. (*Yonhap*)

- NK appears to be remaining prudent with regard to reporting its planned summits with SK and the US, as there has been no official media coverage of them by NK, a Seoul official said Mon. (Yonhap)
- Chinese President Xi Jinping told a visiting S. Korean delegation on Mon. that the two nations should bolster their communication and properly resolve sensitive issues amid a planned summit between Trump and KJU. (Yonhap)
- I am concerned that SK may get caught between the US and NK. Of course, failure will lead to a bigger crisis. I hope that Nobel's belief that strong weapons can bring peace would not return. (Lee Hyun-sang, Joongang Ilbo)
- A meeting that leads nowhere or ends badly will be worse than having no meeting at all. Trump probably feels that his negotiating skills will impress and even overwhelm KJU, relatively immature and youthful protagonist. But arrogance and ego, both of which the Trump possesses in abundance, can be fatal. (Harlan Ulman, UPI)
- A senior Chinese foreign policy advisor said Mon. that NK's nuclear issue should be resolved peacefully, expressing support for the ongoing diplomatic efforts aimed at finding a breakthrough in the nuclear stalemate through dialogue. (Yonhap)
- China is looking forward to smooth talks between the US and NK, President Xi Jinping told the head of SK's National Security Office on Mon., state media said. (Reuters)
- SK and the US wrapped up a first round of discussions for the renewal of a cost-sharing agreement for maintaining American troops in Korea last week and agreed to hold the next meeting in mid-April in what looks to be difficult negotiations. (Sarah Kim, Joongang Ilbo)
- Special envoys of Moon were set to leave for China and Japan on Mon. to explain to their leaders the outcome of the special envoys' monumental trip to NK. (Yonhap)
- A planned summit between Trump and KJU has raised speculation the event could lead to the release of three Americans held by the reclusive state. (Reuters)
- As political tensions on the Korean peninsula appear to be easing, the Special Rapporteur on human rights in the DPRK warns human rights must not be held hostage to security concerns. The rapporteur, who presented his report to the U.N. Human Rights Council, says conditions in NK are dire and must remain a priority. (Lisa Schlein, VOA)
- Trump and KJU have agreed to meet, a prospect that seemed unthinkable when the leaders of the US. and NK were exchanging insults and threats, and NK has even agreed to denuclearize. But more than two decades of nuclear talks have repeatedly broken down. (David Tweed, Kanga Kong, Bloomburg)
- Making a move first and pulling Trump along has been effective but has its risky side. (Wi Sung-lac, Joongang Ilbo)
- The situation on the Korean peninsula is a near "miracle", Japan's foreign minister said on Mon., according to a spokesman of SK's presidential Blue House, referring to a recent breakthrough on talks with NK. (Reuters)
- Japan and SK agreed on Mon. that maximum pressure must be maintained on NK until it takes concrete action toward addressing concerns about its nuclear weapon and missile programs, Japan's foreign minister said. (Reuters)
- NK's silence on its upcoming summits with the US and SK is probably due to caution over organizing its stance on the meetings, SK said on Mon., as China's leader urged patience. (Christine Kim, Reuters)

- The yet to be confirmed summit between Trump and KJU has raised expectations that a major breakthrough in resolving the nuclear crisis on the Korean Peninsula is within reach. However the process to achieve the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula is complex and will require significant concessions from all involved. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- US officials on Sun. defended Trump's decision to meet with KJU, saying the move was not just for show and not a gift to Pyongyang. (Doina Chiacu, Pete Schroeder, *Reuters*)
- SK should be exempted from US steel tariffs. Both nations must not let any difference get in the way ahead of the historical inter-Korean and Pyongyang-Washington summit meeting and demonstrate that their alliance is stronger than ever. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- S. Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha will hold talks with US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson in DC this week to discuss their countries' planned dialogue with NK, the foreign ministry here said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- S. Korean officials met with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Mon., as part of an effort to bring jittery regional powers on board with Trump's decision to accept a face-to-face meeting with KJU. (Euan McKirdy, CNN)
- SK's national security adviser on Mon. praised China as having played a role in helping push NK toward new denuclearization talks. (VOA)
- The planned summit between Trump and KJU has raised a California son's hope that a meeting will lead to the release of his father, held nearly a year by the reclusive state, the son said on Sun. (Jon Herskovitz, *Reuters*)
- SK must draw support for the denuclearization of NK from Russia, China, and Japan. Their cooperation will help improve inter-Korean relations. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- Sec of State Rex Tillerson is cutting short his trip to Africa by about a day to deal with pressing matters including NK. (VOA)
- Trump's condition for meeting KJU is that there be no nuclear or missile testing, Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin said on Sun. (*Reuters*)
- Since last year, the US has been aware of NK's intent to resolve the nuclear crisis through a summit, a diplomatic source told the JoongAng Ilbo on Mon., contradicting the idea that Trump impulsively decided to meet with KJU. (Kim Hyun-ki, Ser Myo-ja, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- CIA director Mike Pompeo has defended Trump's decision to meet KJU, saying the president understands the risks. (BBC)
- Trump will meet with KJU as long as the regime keeps its promises on denuclearization and nuclear and missile tests, a White House official said Sun. (*Yonhap*)
- Any progress in the nuclear and security dialogue with NK at upcoming summits must be accompanied by discussions on human rights violations, including political prison camps, the UN investigator on the isolated country said on Mon. (Stephanie Nebehay, *Reuters*)
- Trump administration officials say there will be no more conditions imposed on NK before a first-ever meeting of the two nation's leaders beyond NK's promise not to resume nuclear testing and missile flights or publicly criticize US-SK military exercises. (AP)
- US officials vowed Sun. they would not make any concessions to NK ahead of a planned summit between Trump and KJU and continue to pressure the Pyongyang regime. (Ken Bredemeier, VOA)
- The Trump/KJU summit will probably happen and it's probably going to be a slow-motion disaster. (Daniel W. Drezner, *WaPo*)

- Among the many questions about a meeting between Trump and KJU is where it might happen. If the two do meet, which some White House officials believe will never happen, they will need a venue suitable for such a historic moment. Here are a few options. (Austin Ramzy, NYT)
- But if Trump isn't careful, the meeting between KJU and himself could fail and send relations down an even more dangerous path. (Amanda Erickson, *WaPo*)
- Democrats should denounce the president's impetuousness and hunger for acclamation as foolish and dangerous. Democrats should push for firm conditions on any meeting, if the leaders ever need to get together at all. Not even Obama gave the supreme leader in Iran the honor of meeting with the free world. (Jennifer Rubin, WaPo)
- China is "on the same page" with Seoul over the issues of the Korean peninsula, President Xi Jinping said on Mon., a spokesman of SK's presidential Blue House said. (Reuters)
- The potential US-NK summit is a diplomatic breakthrough for NK, but if Trump handles it incorrectly, it leaves little room for further diplomacy. The outcome could actually end up being war. (Fareed Zakaria, CNN)

Prepared by Emma Stubblefield, HRNK Research Intern

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Tuesday, March 13, 2018

Stateside—Trump to meet Kim: What Could Go Wrong?; Summit Raises Hope North Korea Will Release 3 US Detainees; Xi, Abe briefed on Seoul's moves

Top News:

Stateside—Trump to meet Kim: What Could Go Wrong? (*i24 News*, 03/09/2018)

In North Korea:

Defectors: Rape is rite of passage for North Korean women (UPI, 03/13/2018)
Developments in North Korea's electronic payment systems (*NK Econ Watch*, 03/12/2018)
N.K. media appears to have toned down rhetoric against Trump ahead of summit (*Yonhap*, 03/13/2018)
New book takes rare, deep look into N. Korean art, Chosonhwa (*Yonhap*, 03/13/2018)
NK faces no more conditions for talks but yet to contact US (*Washington Post*, 03/12/2018)
North Korea blasts 'human rights racket' after damning UN report (CNN, 03/13/2018)
North Korea builds monuments to mark famous missile launches (*Telegraph*, 03/13/2018)

In South Korea:

BOK says a successful Trump-Kim summit would stabilize South Korea financial markets (*Reuters*, 03/13/2018)

Full disclosure, verification key to North Korea denuclearization: ex-nuke envoys (*Yonhap*, 03/13/2018)
North Korean defector hits Paralympic ice for South Korea (*Washington Post*, 03/13/2018)
S. Korea praises China's role in nudging N. Korea to talks (*Washington Post*, 03/12/2018)
S. Korea signs deal on 90 more Taurus bunker-buster missiles (*Yonhap*, 03/13/2018)
Seoul preparing to discuss major issues with North Korea in April summit (UPI, 03/13/2018)
South Korea in contract to purchase 90 Taurus missiles (UPI, 03/13/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
KCCI preps for inter-Korean contact amid detente (*Yonhap*, 03/13/2018)
Thinking the unthinkable (*Joongang Daily*, 03/13/2018)
Upcoming inter-Korean summit may be shorter than previous ones: Seoul (*Yonhap*, 03/13/2018)

International:
(3rd LD) Abe calls for N. Korea's 'concrete' action for denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 03/13/2018)
Factbox: Beyond Weapons, North Korea Talks Could Address Family Reunions, Detainees, and Joint Programs (NYT*imes*, 03/13/2018)
Factbox: Where could Kim Jong Un meet Donald Trump? (*Reuters*, 03/12/2018)
Former top US negotiator says Kim is 'in the driver's seat' (CNN, 03/12/2018)
Japan cautious while South Korea upbeat after North Korea talks in Tokyo (*Reuters*, 03/13/2018)
Japan Considers Seeking Summit Between PM Abe and North Korea Leader-Source(NYT*imes*, 03/13/2018)
Japan Fears Being Left Behind by Trump's Talks With Kim Jong-un (NYT*imes*, 03/13/2018)
Japan tells South Korea it wants abduction issue resolved in North Korea talks(*Reuters*, 03/12/2018)
Japan's Abe: NKorea must take real steps to denuclearization (*Washington Post*, 03/13/2018)
Japan's Abe doesn't see North Korea buying time through talks with U.S., South Korea: Seoul (*Reuters*, 03/13/2018)
Japan's Abe, used to being Trump's buddy, finds himself out of step on North Korea(*Washington Post*, 03/13/2018)
Japanese PM Urges North Korea to Commit to Denuclearization (VOA, 03/13/2018)
Kang, Tillerson to discuss N.K. ahead of historic summits (*Yonhap*, 03/13/2018)
On Negotiating With the North Koreans: Advice for President Trump (38*North*, 03/12/2018)
Seoul to closely cooperate with China, Japan to tackle North Korea issue (UPI, 03/13/2018)
South Korea moves to ease Chinese jitters over US-North Korea talks (CNN, 03/12/2018)
Summit Raises Hope North Korea Will Release 3 US Detainees (*Washington Post*, 03/13/2018)
The White House's complete disarray on North Korea continues (*Washington Post*, 03/12/2018)
Tillerson says several steps needed for U.S. talks with North Korea (*Reuters*, 03/12/2018)
U.N. investigator: Human rights must be part of any talks with North Korea (*Reuters*, 03/12/2018)
U.S. optimistic on North Korea meeting, but will keep up pressure: U.S. security adviser (*Reuters*, 03/12/2018)
US official: Maximum pressure on North Korea until progress (*Washington Post*, 03/12/2018)
US Maintains 'Maximum Pressure' on North Korea Ahead of Possible Summit (VOA, 03/12/2018)
US starts to prep for North Korea summit even as Pyongyang remains silent (CNN, 03/13/2018)

What Trump could learn from my attempts to denuclearize North Korea (*Washington Post*, 03/12/2018)
With Republicans nervous, more Democrats need to weigh in on ill-conceived Kim meeting(*Washington Post*, 03/12/2018)
Xi, Abe briefed on Seoul's moves (*Joongang Daily*, 03/13/2018)

Top News:

- In this interview with i24 News, HRNK Executive Director discussed the potential pitfalls and risks involved in the Trump-KJU meeting. Scarlatoiu stated that the Trump administration has been applying two fundamental elements of national power very effectively and correctly: economic power through a much more effective sanctions regime and military power through deploying assets to the region through emphasizing its commitment to regional alliances including the US-SK alliance and US-Japan alliance. According to Scarlatoiu, while implementing these measures, President Trump has also signaled that the door for diplomacy remains open, with White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders making it clear that NK must take additional steps to denuclearize in order for the summit to happen. Scarlatoiu also asserted that the Trump administration is well aware of the Kim regime's zero diplomatic credibility and notes that the ball is in KJU's court to build some sort of semblance of good faith and credibility.
  (Greg Scarlatoiu, *i24 News*)

In North Korea:

- A defector who says she was raped in a N.Korean prison camp and was a victim of human trafficking in China said most N.Korean women who work with brokers have experienced some form of rape. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- According to the N.Korean media on 01/21/2018, the Pyongyang Information Technology Bureau (평양정보기술국) and a subordinate organization, the Card Research Institute (카드연구소), appear to be developing cards for NK's electronic payment system. Perhaps rather ominously, KCTV mentions that the agency is working to expand the use of cards with features like user identification. (*NK Econ Watch*)
- NK's state media refrained from using a derogative term in referring to US President Donald Trump, apparently toning down its rhetoric against him ahead of a historic bilateral summit. (*Yonhap*)
- BG Muhn, an artist and professor at Georgetown University, published a book on N.Korean art Tues.—a subject few people dare to study due to limited access to the reclusive country—through thorough, passionate research and nine nerve-wracking visits there over six years. (Woo Jae-yeon, *Yonhap*)
- The US says it will not impose more conditions on NK before a summit of the two nations' leaders, beyond NK's promise not to resume nuclear and missile tests or publicly criticize US-S.Korean military exercises. (Mark Sherman, Josh Lederman, *AP*)

- A N.Korean state newspaper denounced what it called "the imperialists' human rights racket" shortly after the publication of a United Nations report highlighted the country's dismal human rights record. (Ivan Watson, CNN)
- KJU loves his missiles and long-range weapons so much that he has reportedly built monuments to mark their launch sites, as an outward reminder of the regime's military prowess. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)

In South Korea:

- A successful meeting between US President Donald Trump and N.Korean leader KJU would help stabilize S.Korean financial markets and improve sentiment for consumers and investors, SK's central bank chief said on Tues. (*Reuters*)
- SK's former nuclear envoys on Tues. emphasized NK's full declaration of its nuclear arsenal and the international community's thorough verification as key to future negotiations on its denuclearization. (*Yonhap*)
- The most talked-about athlete in the Paralympics barely plays, but who cares? The diminutive but hard-nosed reserve forward on SK sled hockey team proudly admits he's just happy to be here. After all, Choi Kwang Hyouk has come a long way, escaping one of the most brutal and isolated places on Earth as a one-legged teenager and traveled weeks through China on crutches before finding freedom in SK. He battled through a sense of desolation for years while struggling to adjust to his new capitalist home before finding rejuvenation in a sport he says now means "everything in life." (Kim Tong-Hyung, AP)
- SK's national security director on Mon. praised Chinese President Xi Jinping's role in nudging NK toward denuclearization talks, following word of a possible summit between US President Donald Trump and N.Korean leader KJU. (Christopher Bodeen, AP)
- SK has inked a contract to purchase 90 more Taurus long-range air-to-ground missiles in line with its weapon system introduction program despite eased tensions on the peninsula, an official said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- Ahead of the anticipated inter-Korean summit slated for late Apr., the S.Korean government is preparing to launch working-level talks with NK as early as next week, News 1 reported. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- The SK military plans to purchase more German air-to-surface missiles, according to Seoul's military on Tues. A total of 90 Taurus missiles, capable of targeting and destroying NK's nuclear and missile facilities, are to be acquired from 2019 to 2020, S.Korean newspaper Herald Business reported. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) is preparing for possible contact with its N.Korean counterpart amid a mood of detente on the Korean Peninsula, sources said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- The Korean Peninsula is moving towards an inflection point at a dizzying pace. The speed is worrisome, but the direction of developments raises hope. The inflection point would reach

its peak when an inter-Korean summit takes place in late Apr. and followed by the first-ever meeting between N.Korean and US leaders. Depending on the outcomes, the relationship between the two Koreas—and between NK and the US—could undergo a change. We must be clear-headed. We must not become too optimistic or pessimistic. (Bae Myung-bok, *Joongang Daily*)

- SK is seeking "practical" preparation for an upcoming inter-Korean summit, as next month's meeting could last for a shorter period of time than summits held in 2000 and 2007, a Seoul official said Tues. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Tues. emphasized the need for NK to take "concrete" actions for denuclearization as the US is set to hold an unprecedented summit with NK by May. (*Yonhap*)
- Beyond the future of NK's nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles, a number of other issues could be raised during upcoming talks between Pyongyang, SK and, potentially, the US. These issues include family reunions, detainees, as well as economic and cultural exchanges. (*Reuters*)
- Since US President Donald Trump announced last week he was willing to meet NK's KJU, speculation has mounted over where might be chosen to host the first-ever meeting between sitting leaders of the two countries. Officials, analysts, and other observers have been debating the pros and cons of possible summit sites, ranging from NK's capital city of Pyongyang, to the Joint Security Area (JSA) between the two Koreas, to farther afield in other areas of Asia or Europe. (*Reuters*)
- N.Korean leader KJU is "in the driver's seat at the moment," Wendy Sherman the former chief US nuclear negotiator with Iran who also advised President Bill Clinton on NK told CNN. (Mick Krever, CNN)
- Differences between Japan and SK on how to handle NK emerged on Tues. with SK upbeat on prospects but a more cautious Japan demanding that NK account for Japanese people it says NK abducted decades ago. (Tim Kelly, *Reuters*)
- Japan is considering seeking a summit between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and N.Korean leader KJU to discuss Japanese citizens abducted by N.Korean agents decades ago, a government source who was briefed on the matter said on Tues. (*Reuters*)
- As recently as last fall, it was Seoul that appeared sidelined by Washington in its approach to NK, as President Trump made fiery threats and accused SK of "appeasement" for advocating dialogue. Shinzo Abe, Japan's prime minister, was Trump's closest friend among world leaders. But now Japan, which has hewed closely to the hard-line US posture toward NK, is scrambling to remain diplomatically relevant as Trump moderates his tone in preparation for a possible meeting with NK's leader, KJU, and SK takes the lead in brokering talks. (Motoko Rich, *NYTimes*)
- Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told a S.Korean representative on Tues. he wants talks with NK, called to dismantle Pyongyang's nuclear weapons and missile programs, to resolve a dispute over past abductions of Japanese citizens as well. (*Reuters*)

- Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe met with SK's intelligence chief on Tues., and said that while he welcomes any dialogue with NK regarding the country's denuclearization, NK must take real steps toward that goal. (Mari Yamaguchi, AP)
- Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe doesn't believe NK will use summits with the US and SK to buy time to pursue its nuclear and missile programs, SK's presidential office said on Tues. (*Reuters*)
- Japan's hard-line prime minister, Shinzo Abe, had grown accustomed to being President Trump's favorite foreign leader. But now he is suddenly scrambling to remain relevant as the US president embarks on a daring diplomatic gambit with NK. (Anna Fifield, *Washington Post*)
- Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is calling on NK to match its recent rhetoric about giving up its nuclear weapons program with "concrete actions." (VOA)
- The top diplomats of SK and the US will meet later this week to discuss details on their planned summits with NK, the foreign ministry said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- In this 38North piece, author Robert Carlin, reacts to Nicholas Eberstadt's Washington Post op-ed entitled "Talks with NK are a zero-sum game. Here's how to play it." Carlin, in his capacity as a former US official who followed NK for almost 4 decades and participated in negotiations between senior officials and important government representatives as well as leading talks between the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization and N.Koreans, believes that although Eberstadt is a "good scholar and a smart man," his [Eberstadt's] observations are as from a planet far away. Carlin uses this piece in 38North to offer his own advice on what it is like to negotiate with the N.Koreans. (Robert Carlin, *38North*)
- S.Korean President Moon's special envoys visited regional leaders to rally support on tackling NK-related issues, following their meetings with US President Donald Trump and N.Korean leader KJU. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- S.Korean officials met with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Mon., as part of an effort to bring jittery regional powers on board with US President Donald Trump's decision to accept a face-to-face meeting with N.Korean leader KJU. (Euan McKirdy, Lauren Said-Moorhouse, CNN)
- Hopes for the release of three American citizens imprisoned in NK got a big boost by the news of a possible summit between President Donald Trump and N.Korean leader KJU. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- It was no surprise that President Trump caught his White House off guard last week when he accepted N.Korean leader KJU's invitation to a summit between the two leaders. So it was to be expected that White House officials would struggle in the immediate aftermath to provide details about the summit. But with the shock worn off now, the president's team remarkably has no plan for NK. For that, there's no excuse. (James Downie, *Washington Post*)
- Several steps will be necessary to agree the location and scope of talks between the US and NK, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said on Mon. (*Reuters*)
- Negotiations with NK on its nuclear programme should be accompanied by talks to address alleged human rights violations there including torture and political prisoner camps, the United Nations said on Mon. (Stephanie Nebehay, *Reuters*)

- US national security adviser H.R. McMaster said on Mon. that Washington is optimistic about an opportunity for President Donald Trump to meet with N.Korean leader KJU but is determined to keep up pressure on Pyongyang to denuclearize. (*Reuters*)
- The US national security adviser said Mon. that the U.N. Security Council supports President Donald Trump's optimism about the opportunity for a diplomatic solution in NK—and his intention to keep up maximum pressure until there is "real progress" toward denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. (Edith M. Lederer, AP)
- The US national security adviser said Mon. that Washington is "determined" to keep up its policy of maximum pressure on NK aimed at its denuclearization. (Margaret Besheer, VOA)
- Administration officials are scrambling to turn President Donald Trump's surprise decision to meet N.Korean leader KJU into a reality, preparing for an unprecedented, high stakes summit with little time, an understaffed State Department and a mercurial President who may not stick to his script when the time comes. (Nicole Gaouette, Laura Koran, Michelle Kosinski, CNN)
- Author William J. Perry, former US defense secretary from 1994 to 1997, imparts advice from his experiences of directly negotiating with the N.Koreans in this Washington Post opinion piece. It is based off of the successes and failures of the previous attempts are negotiating N.Korean denuclearization. (William J. Perry, *Washington Post*)
- Democrats should follow Warren's lead. They should denounce the president's impetuousness and hunger for acclamation as foolish and dangerous. Democrats should push for firm conditions on any meeting, if the leaders ever need to get together at all. Democrats don't need to cheer war in order to criticize hapless, incompetent diplomacy. They'd do their own reputations on national security and the country a whole lot of good by making clear that Trump's eagerness to meet directly with Kim without obtaining any concrete objective is a losing move. (Jennifer Rubin, *Washington Post*)
- China and Japan expressed support for SK's diplomatic campaign to engage NK with an inter-Korean summit and a summit between US President Donald Trump and KJU. (See Myo-ja, *Joongang Daily*)

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, HRNK Research Intern

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Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Trump fires Tillerson, taps Pompeo as next secretary of state; N.Korea claims S. Koreans want withdrawal of U.S. forces; N.K. talks aren't just about nukes — think about the people

Top News:

North Korean talks aren't just about nukes — think about the people (*Dallas News*, 03/13/2018)

In North Korea:

New crackdown on illicit drugs targets locals, bypasses North Korean state-run production operations (*DailyNK*, 03/14/2018)
North Korea skips derogatory media references to Trump (*UPI*, 03/14/2018)
North Korea's Paralympics participation belies awful conditions for disabled (*DailyNK*, 03/14/2018)
Police omitted Kim Jong Nam assassination footage, attorney says (*UPI*, 03/14/2018)
Report: Kim may speak English in summit with Trump (*UPI*, 03/14/2018)
Spring harvest brings uptick in theft of farming equipment in North Korea (*DailyNK*, 03/14/2018)
Why North Korea wants a summit with Trump (*WaPo*, 03/14/2018)

In South Korea:
Factbox: GM Korea opens its books to seek financial support from South Korea (*Reuters*, 03/14/2018)
Kang to visit U.S. as planned despite Tillerson's dismissal (*Yonhap*, 03/14/2018)
Moon watches N. Koreans compete in ski event at Paralympics (*Yonhap*, 03/14/2018)
Seoul's default risk at 17-month low amid easing tensions with North (*UPI*, 03/14/2018)
S. Korean foreign minister to meet U.S. diplomat after Tillerson dismissal (*UPI*, 03/14/2018)
Tillerson's departure will not affect U.S.-N. Korea dialogue: Cheong Wa Dae (*Yonhap*, 03/14/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) N. Korea claims S. Koreans want withdrawal of U.S. forces (*Yonhap*, 03/14/2018)
(2nd LD) N. Korean Paralympians, officials to leave PyeongChang before closing ceremony (*Yonhap*, 03/14/2018)
South Korea mulls North Korea rail, gas pipeline projects (*UPI*, 03/13/2018)
U.S. troops must leave, says North's mouthpiece (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/14/2018)

International:
As Trump and Kim Look to Meet, China Watches From Sidelines (*VOA*, 03/14/2018)
At the State Department, diplomats prepare for a dramatic shift in style (*WaPo*, 03/14/2018)
Bracing for a crisis (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/14/2018)
Commentary: Tillerson fall shows Trump learning game of politics (*Reuters*, 03/14/2018)
Dovish Tillerson loses job to hard-line Pompeo (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/14/2018)
For Trump, the art of the deal isn't the art of diplomacy (*WaPo*, 03/14/2018)
In Replacing Tillerson With Pompeo, Trump Turns to Loyalists Who Reflect 'America First' Views (*NYT*, 03/13/2018)
Japan 'considering' summit with North Korea's Kim Jong-un (*Telegraph*, 03/14/2018)
Japan leaves door open for PM Abe-Kim Jong Un summit (*Reuters*, 03/14/2018)
Japan moves to hold Abe-Kim Jong-un meeting: reports (*Korea Times*, 03/14/2018)
Korea-U.S. FTA talks to focus on cars, steel tariffs (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/14/2018)
NATO's Global Engagement Grows To Face North Korea's Nuclear Ambitions (*VOA*, 03/14/2018)
Pick for top diplomat seen as tight with the president (*WaPo*, 03/14/2018)
Pompeo expected to reinforce Trump's hardline instincts on Iran and North Korea (*CNN*, 03/13/2018)
Pompeo replaces Tillerson. Where does that take US foreign policy? (*BBC*, 03/14/2018)
The Guardian view on Trump and Tillerson: he's fired. What next? (*Guardian*, 03/13/2018)
Tillerson's dismissal rattles foreign nerves ahead of North Korea summit (*CNN*, 03/14/2018)

Tillerson's dismissal spawns speculation on impact on U.S.-North Korea summit (*Yonhap*, 03/14/2018)
Tillerson exits a weakened and disillusioned State Department (CNN, 03/13/18)
Tokyo bids farewell to 'trustworthy' Tillerson, Seoul awaits seasoned Pompeo (*Reuters*, 03/14/2018)
Trump's choice of Pompeo could boost negotiations with N.K.: expert (*Yonhap*, 03/14/2018)
Trump fires Tillerson, taps Pompeo as next secretary of state (CNN, 03/13/2018)
Trump fires Rex Tillerson as secretary of state (*BBC*, 03/14/2018)
Trump fires Tillerson, a moderate; replaces him with hawkish spy chief Pompeo (*Reuters*, 03/14/2018)
Trump Fires Tillerson, Picks CIA Chief Pompeo to Succeed Him (VOA, 03/13/2018)
Trump 'On the Same Wavelength' as Mike Pompeo on North Korea (VOA, 03/13/2018)
Trump orders larger tariffs to punish China for stealing trade secrets (*WaPo*, 03/14/2018)
Trump ousts Tillerson, will replace him as secretary of state with CIA chief Pompeo (*WaPo*, 03/13/2018)
Trump replaces Secretary of State Rex Tillerson with CIA chief (UPI, 03/13/2018)
Trump's tough message (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/14/2018)
Where Does Mike Pompeo Stand on the Issues? Too Close to Trump (NYT, 03/13/2018)
White House's Kelly praises Korea for Games (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/14/2018)
Vietnam bar owner said to have arranged meeting of suspects in Kim Jong Nam killing (*Reuters*, 03/14/2018)
Vietnamese recruited 2 months before Kim Jong Nam's murder (*WaPo*, 03/14/2018)

Top News:

- What started as an ideological commitment to communism is now more of commitment to keeping Kim in power. In N.K., many innocent civilians have been labeled as criminals and even those who are loyal are often suspected of treason. (Matt Liles, *Dallas News*)

In North Korea:

- The N.K. authorities are reportedly carrying out a major crackdown on illicit drug producers and dealers, calling for those involved to "turn themselves in" while deploying police dogs and conducting searches of suspect residences. (Seol Song Ah, *DailyNK*)
- N.K. may be softening its media approach toward Trump, only months after calling Trump a "dotard" amid a war of words with Washington that followed the country's sixth nuclear test last September. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- A handful of N.K. athletes' participation in the 2018 PyeongChang Paralympics led many to wonder what life is like for the physically disabled in N.K.. (Seol Song Ah, *DailyNK*)
- The defense lawyer for one of the murder suspects in the assassination of KJU's half-brother at an airport in Malaysia says police failed to release all footage of the incident and tampered with evidence. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- Ahead of the upcoming summit between Trump and KJU, observers are wondering whether Kim will converse in English or Korean during the negotiation. (Jennie Oh, *UPI*)

- N.Koreans are typically required to donate such farming equipment as well as compost as part of the country's annual mobilization assignments. But in order to meet their quotas, many are turning to theft. (Kang Mi Jin, *DailyNK*)
- Three scenarios might explain North Korea's turn to diplomatic engagement: N.K. has achieved full nuclear-weapons capability; economic sanctions and pressure are working; S.K. diplomacy has worked. (Andrew Yeo, *WaPo*)

In South Korea:

- S.K. began doing due diligence on GM Korea to decide whether to extend financial support to the loss-making operations of General Motors, after the U.S. automaker announced a restructuring of the unit and a closure of one of the plants. (*Reuters*)
- S.K.'s top diplomat will go ahead with a plan to visit the US this week to discuss N.K.'s nuclear issue despite the announcement of her counterpart's dismissal. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon and his wife watched a cross-country skiing event in person at the Winter Paralympics in the country's alpine town of PyeongChang, an event in which N.K. skiers competed. (*Yonhap*)
- S.K.'s credit default risk has dropped to a 17-month low, as the country's tensions with N.K. have greatly subsided after the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics and an agreement last week to hold an inter-Korean summit. (Jennie Oh, *UPI*)
- S.K. Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha will meet with U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan, after Trump announced he fired Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. (Jennie Oh, *UPI*)
- The dismissal of Rex Tillerson as top U.S. diplomat will have no effect on the allies' scheduled dialogue with N.K., an official from Seoul's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- N.K. slammed the ongoing negotiations between S.K. and the US to renew their deal on defense cost sharing, claiming that S.Koreans want the withdrawal of U.S. forces from the peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K. athletes and officials staying in S.K. for the Winter Paralympics will leave before the weekend's closing ceremony, officials said Wednesday, with representatives from Pyongyang's Paralympic committee returning home ahead of schedule. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K. could get a boost from potential S.K. investments if détente is extended beyond the much-anticipated summit between KJU and President Moon in April. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- N.K.'s state-run newspaper called on the US to withdraw its troops from S.K. ahead of a summit between KJU and Trump, accusing Washington of trying to invade Northeast Asia. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Ilbo*)

International:

- China is voicing support for the possible U.S.-N.K. summit, despite concerns that it will be left out of talks that could dramatically alter regional security and political dynamics. (Brian Padden, Bill Ide, VOA)
- Diplomats and civil servants at the State Department expressed relief and trepidation after the stunning firing of Rex Tillerson, whose tenure as secretary of state was one of the most contentious in recent memory. (John Hudson, WaPo)
- A summit between N.K. and U.S. is a definite gamble.There could be three possible scenarios of the summit: a package deal to resolve the nuclear threats, settling for an incremental denuclearization, and a breakdown of dialogue. (Kim Hyun-ki, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Tuesday's ousting of Secretary of State Rex Tillerson suggests Trump's confidence is still growing – as is his ability to use the power of his office. (Peter Apps, *Reuters*)
- Tillerson, one of the most consistent advocates of diplomacy with N.K., was fired Tuesday as U.S. secretary of state and replaced by Mike Pompeo, the director of the CIA. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Face-to-face diplomacy can affect the course of international relations. But will the U.S. and N.K. reap the benefits that face-to-face diplomacy can offer? (James H. Lebovic, WaPo)
- Trump ousted Tillerson on Tuesday, the most dramatic in a cascade of personnel moves that suggest Trump is determined to surround himself with loyalists more willing to reflect his "America First" views. (Mark Landler, Maggie Haberman, Gardiner Harris, NYT)
- Japan's prime minister Shinzo Abe is considering a meeting with KJU in an apparent change of strategy in dealing with Pyongyang. (Danielle Demetriou, *Telegraph*)
- Japan's top government spokesman left the door open on Wednesday to a possible summit between Shinzo Abe and KJU to discuss the matter of Japanese citizens kidnapped by Pyongyang's agents decades ago. (Kaori Kaneko, Linda Sieg, *Reuters*)
- Japan is moving to hold a meeting between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and KJU, local media reported on Wednesday. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- Analysts expect the ROK-U.S. FTA talks to focus on Trump's recently announced higher steel tariffs and non-tariff barriers on U.S. automobiles. (Lee Ho-jeong, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- The NATO has its roots in Europe and North America, but as the alliance faces new global threats, it has begun to broaden its horizons. N.K.'s missile and nuclear build-up has led NATO to boost its engagement in the Asia-Pacific region. (Jela de Franceschi, VOA)
- Considering his conservative political bent and closeness to Trump, Pompeo's approach to foreign policy will be strikingly different from Tillerson's, as he's likely to promise far more aggressive stances on Iran and N.K.. (Matthew Lee, AP)
- CIA Director Mike Pompeo's expected move to lead the State Department is likely to lead to harder-line policies toward Iran and N.K., though his ability to shape policy under President Trump remains to be seen. (Nicole Gaouette, CNN)
- If Pompeo can bolster the state department's Korea expertise in short order, he may help take the US into a summit in a stronger position. But his hardline stance on Pyongyang could also scupper talks with a notoriously sensitive regime. (BBC)
- The dismissal of Tillerson was long predicted, but its timing is suspicious and his replacement, Mike Pompeo, is a deeply disturbing choice. The administration's claim that the switch will aid planned talks with KJU, only weeks away, is a ludicrous attempt to distract. (*Guardian*)

- In Asia, where governments are engaged in hurried preparations for a momentous inter-Korea summit, there are signs of nervousness following Trump's dismissal of Tillerson. (Jamie Tarabay, CNN)
- Following President Trump's dismissal of his top diplomat, speculations are rising here as to what ramifications, if any, the sudden decision could have on the planned summit between the U.S. and N.K.. (*Yonhap*)
- Tillerson's ouster made him the last casualty in an exodus of senior officials and long-term foreign service professionals that has weakened the department under his tenure. (Nicole Gaouette and Laura Koran, CNN)
- Japan's foreign minister said on Wednesday he personally regretted the departure of "frank, trustworthy" U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson ahead of a proposed summit between Trump and KJU. (Linda Sieg, Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)
- President Trump's pick of Mike Pompeo as his new top diplomat could lend credibility to any future negotiations with N.K., a U.S. expert said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump has fired Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and will nominate CIA Director Mike Pompeo to succeed him, replacing his top diplomat ahead of a potential high-stakes sitdown between the U.S. and N.K.. (Nicole Gaouette, Kaitlan Collins and Dan Merica, CNN)
- President Trump has fired Secretary of State Rex Tillerson via Twitter, naming CIA Director Mike Pompeo as his replacement. (BBC)
- Trump fired Secretary of State Rex Tillerson on Tuesday after a series of public rifts over policy on N.K., Russia and Iran, replacing his chief diplomat with loyalist CIA Director Mike Pompeo. (Roberta Rampton, Lesley Wroughton, *Reuters*)
- President Trump has fired his Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and picked CIA director Mike Pompeo to replace him. (Steve Herman, Peggy Chang, VOA)
- Trump says he is "on the same wavelength" as his choice for top U.S. diplomat Mike Pompeo, and the White House envisions a key role for the country's new top diplomat in high-profile talks between Trump and KJU. (Cindy Saine, VOA)
- Trump has ordered his chief trade negotiator to develop tougher tariff proposals to punish China for years of stealing U.S. trade secrets, according to industry executives familiar with the matter. (David J. Lynch, *WaPo*)
- Trump has ousted Tillerson and plans to nominate CIA Director Mike Pompeo to replace him as the nation's top diplomat, orchestrating a major change to his national security team amid delicate outreach that includes possible talks with N.K.. (*WaPo*)
- President Trump announced a major shakeup in his Cabinet on Tuesday, replacing Secretary of State Rex Tillerson with CIA Director Mike Pompeo. (Susan McFarland and Danielle Haynes, UPI)
- While Trump's dismissal of Tillerson strongly suggests that he will turn to an extreme hard-line approach if N.K. does not show sincerity in denuclearization, Moon must ensure that N.K. understands the meaning of Trump's nomination of Pompeo. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- Pompeo who is expected to replace Tillerson as the next secretary of state, is a defender of Trump and will echo his preferences on major national security and foreign policy matters. (Paul R. Pillar, NYT)

- Marcia Lee Kelly, the deputy assistant to President Trump, praised S.K. for a successful PyeongChang Paralympics and encouraged more women and people of ethnic minorities to pursue their dreams. (Esther Chung, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- A Vietnamese bar owner was asked to act in a video prank show by a man wanted for the killing of Kim Jong Nam, KJU's half-brother, but declined the offer, a Malaysian court heard on Wednesday. (*Reuters*)
- A Vietnamese woman accused of murdering the estranged half-brother of KJU was recruited by a N.K. suspect at a Hanoi bar two months before the killing, her lawyer said Wednesday. (Eileen Ng, AP)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

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Thursday, March 15, 2018

'Denuclearization' may be the goal of U.S.-North Korean summit, but each side defines it differently; Kang to visit U.S. as planned despite Tillerson's dismissal; S. Korea to launch new preparation committee for inter-Korean summit

In North Korea:

(LEAD) N. Korea's delegation to Paralympics returns home (*Yonhap*, 03/15/2018)
(LEAD) N. Koreans finish their last PyeongChang Paralympics event (*Yonhap*, 03/14/2018)
North Korea decries U.S. 'human rights abuses,' 'racism' (UPI, 03/15/2018)
North Korea Paralympic athletes to leave before closing ceremony (UPI, 03/14/2018)
North Korea's Paralympic Loss is a Sign of Progress (VOA, 03/15/2018)
North Korean Envoy in Sweden Amid Planning for Trump-Kim Meeting (NYT, 03/15/2018)
North Korean Foreign Minister Heads to Sweden (VOA, 03/15/2018)
North Korean foreign minister heads to Sweden amid summit speculation (CNN, 03/15/2018)
North Korean foreign minister visits Sweden (AP, 03/15/2018)
Harmful North Korean 'traditional medicines' still for sale in China (*Daily NK*, 03/15/2018)
Kalma Coastal Tourist Area Update (*NK Economy Watch*, 03/15/2018)
North Korean media has nothing to say about nuclear talks but plenty about alleged U.S. human-rights abuses (*Washington Post*, 03/15/2018)
North Korean minister to visit Sweden amid summit speculation (*Reuters*, 03/15/2018)
North warns against human rights talk (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/15/2018)
Yes, canned soup may be fueling North Korea's air force (AP, 03/15/2018)

In South Korea:

(LEAD) S. Korea to launch new preparation committee for inter-Korean summit (*Yonhap*, 03/15/2018)

(3rd LD) Kang emphasizes S.Korea-U.S. coordination ahead of summits (*Yonhap*, 03/15/2018)
Kang to visit U.S. as planned despite Tillerson's dismissal (*Yonhap*, 03/14/2018)
NK's peace overture diverts attention away from joint military drill (*Korea Times*, 03/15/2018)
Tillerson's departure will not affect U.S.-N. Korea dialogue: Cheong Wa Dae (*Yonhap*, 03/14/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) S. Korea rejects businessmen's trip to Kaesong complex (*Yonhap*, 03/15/2018)
(Yonhap Feature) Peace hopes rise among S. Koreans in wake of resumed talks with North (*Yonhap*, 03/15/2018)
Blue House starts summit preparations (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/15/2018)
Cutting the knot (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/15/2018)
Gov't disapprove S. Korean firms' Gaeseong complex visit (*Korea Times*, 03/15/2018)
S.Korea official says too early to prepare inter-Korean economic projects at upcoming summit (*Reuters*, 03/15/2018)

International:
(LEAD) N.K. foreign minister seen at Beijing airport ahead of U.S.-proposed summit (*Yonhap*, 03/15/2018)
(2nd LD) N.K. foreign minister Ri to visit Sweden (*Yonhap*, 03/15/2018)
(News Focus) Tillerson's dismissal spawns speculation on impact on U.S.-North Korea summit (*Yonhap*, 03/14/2018)
'Denuclearization' may be the goal of U.S.-North Korean summit, but each side defines it differently (*Washington Post*, 03/15/2018)
'I didn't fancy being stuck in North Korea': the stormy thriller by a Japanese Ulsterman (*Guardian*, 03/14/2018)
Americans divided over Trump-Kim meeting: poll (*Yonhap*, 03/15/2018)
Analysts: Pompeo Will Have Little Time to Prepare for North Korea Summit (VOA, 03/15/2018)
At the State Department, diplomats prepare for a dramatic shift in style (*Washington Post*, 03/14/2018)
Cabinet Changes Could Delay Planning for Meeting with Kim Jong-un (NYT, 03/15/2018)
China says North Korean foreign minister on his way to Sweden (*Reuters*, 03/15/2018)
China, Russia welcome Korean peace efforts with diplomacy in overdrive (*Reuters*, 03/15/2018)
Differences on North Korea key to Trump's Tillerson decision: sources (*Reuters*, 03/15/2018)
Dovish Tillerson loses job to hard-line Pompeo (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/14/2018)
Envoy: China, Russia offer support for upcoming summits with North Korea (UPI, 03/15/2018)
European Parliament in 'secret' talks with North Korea (*Telegraph*, 03/14/2018)
Here's how the Senate should handle Mike Pompeo's confirmation hearing (*Washington Post*, 03/15/2018)
Is North Korea's silence on the Trump-Kim summit a worry? (CNN, 03/15/2018)
Japan 'considering' summit with North Korea's Kim Jong-un (*Telegraph*, 03/14/2018)
Malaysia: Defense Lawyers Blast Prosecutors in Kim Jong Nam Murder Case (RFA, 03/15/2018)
Mike Pompeo Is Good for Diplomacy (NYT, 03/15/2018)
Monitoring System to Hold North Korea Accountable for Rights Abuse (VOA, 03/15/2018)
No 'Bloody Nose' Plan for North Korea Strike: U.S. Commander (*Reuters*, 03/15/2018)

PM: Moon-Trump talks possible in between inter-Korean summit and Trump-Kim meeting (*Yonhap*, 03/14/2018)
Pompeo could play a key role in North Korea talks — when and if they happen (*Washington Post*, 03/14/2018)
S. Korea, Japan discuss upcoming summits involving N. Korean leader (*Yonhap*, 03/15/2018)
Tillerson's dismissal rattles foreign nerves ahead of North Korea summit (CNN, 03/14/2018)
Tillerson's Ouster Has Allies Hoping for Coherence, but Fearing the Worst (NYT, 03/14/2018)
Top US top military officer in Asia says he's not 'overly optimistic' about Trump-Kim summit (CNN, 03/15/2018)
Trump and Kim Jong Un should form an alliance (*Washington Post*, 03/14/2018)
Trump apparently threatens to withdraw US troops from South Korea over trade (CNN, 03/15/2018)
Trump's appointment of hawkish secretary of state a 'warning' against N.K. leader: lawmaker (*Yonhap*, 03/14/2018)
Trump's tough message (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/14/2018)
U.S. must go into North Korea summit with 'eyes wide open': commander (*Reuters*, 03/15/2018)
White House touts Pompeo's accomplishments as CIA chief (*Yonhap*, 03/15/2018)
Without Rex Tillerson's protection, a top State Department Asia nominee is in trouble (*Washington Post*, 03/15/2018)
'Xi may try to rule past 2035 to achieve his Chinese Dream' (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/14/2018)

In North Korea:

- N. Korean athletes and officials at the PyeongChang Winter Paralympics returned home Thursday after participating in a winter Paralympic Games for the first time. (*Yonhap*)
- N. Korean athletes finished their last event at the PyeongChang Winter Paralympics in SK on Wednesday before they return home. (*Yonhap*)
- NK slammed the US on Thursday in a statement that described the world's largest economy as the "leader" in human rights abuses. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- NK's Paralympic athletes are returning to their country Thursday, skipping the closing ceremony after exchanging personal greetings with President Moon. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- The first N. Korean winter Paralympic team returned home Thursday after participating in the Pyeongchang Games in SK. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- NK's fm flew to Sweden on Thursday, amid speculation that the country could be used as a venue for hammering out details of the planned talks between President Trump and KJU, or could be the site of the talks themselves. (Gerry Mullany, NYT)
- NK FM Ri Yong Ho is heading to Sweden on a mission that could set the stage for a possible summit between President Trump and KJU. (VOA)
- NK's fm was flying to Sweden on Thursday in the first significant diplomatic move by Pyongyang sincePresident Trump said a week ago that he'd be willing to meet KJU. (Joshua Berlinger, Euan McKirdy and Eliza Mackintosh, CNN)
- NK's FM is traveling to Sweden Thursday, a surprise move that could be a first step toward a meeting in the Scandinavian country between US President Donald Trump and N. Korean leader KJU. (David Keyton, AP)

- N. Korean health supplements available in China have been found to contain harmful levels of heavy metals and reportedly remain in circulation. (Jang Seul Gi, *Daily NK*)
- There appear to be two staging areas for the construction site where workers live and supplies are stored. (*NK Economy Watch*)
- The most recent article that focuses on the US in the Rodong Sinmun, NK's official party newspaper, is a commentary that brands America as the "world's worst human rights abuser." (Adam Taylor, *Washington Post*)
- NK's fm will visit Sweden on Thursday, prompting speculation that the two-day trip could lay the groundwork for a mooted meeting between the leaders of the US and NK. (*Reuters*)
- The North's Rodong Sinmun newspaper called Washington's accusations an "anti-North Korea human rights scheme," saying the US was hurting North Koreans' by threatening their sense of security and through sanctions. (Jeong Yong-soo, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Is North Korea's air force selling canned soup and taxi rides to upgrade its runways and airstrips? (Eric Talmadge, *AP*)

In South Korea:

- SK will soon launch a committee to prepare for an upcoming summit with NK with President Moon's chief of staff set to head the new preparation committee. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's top diplomat said Thursday that it is important to maintain close coordination with the US to discuss details of their summit plans with NK. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's top diplomat will go ahead with a plan to visit the US to discuss NK's nuclear issue despite the announcement of her counterpart's dismissal. (*Yonhap*)
- NK's rare signal for dialogue with the US is drawing attention away from the upcoming joint military exercises between Seoul and Washington. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- The dismissal of Rex Tillerson as top U.S. diplomat will have no effect on the allies' scheduled dialogue with NK (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- SK rejected a request by businessmen to visit NK's border city of Kaesong to inspect their facilities at the now-shuttered joint industrial complex. (*Yonhap*)
- For the first time in a decade, S. Koreans appear to wonder if their country will finally be at peace with NK. (*Yonhap*)
- Economics is off the agenda, but Moon strives for grand deal. (Ser Myo-ja, Kang Tae-hwa, J*oongang Ilbo*)
- The Moon administration announced that it is determined to resolve all the complex issues involving NK's nuclear weapons program with a single stroke. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- The current reconciliatory mood will not directly lead to the reopening of the inter-Korean Gaeseong Industrial Complex. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- An official with SK's Presidential Office said on Thursday it was too early to prepare for any inter-Korean economic projects in the upcoming summit with NK in April. (*Reuters*)

International:

- N. Korean FM Ri Yong-ho was seen at an airport in Beijing on Thursday, raising the possibility that his trip might be aimed at contacting US officials ahead of a proposed summit between the two countries. (*Yonhap*)
- N. Korean FM Ri Yong-ho plans to visit Sweden, raising the possibility that his trip might be aimed at contacting US officials ahead of a proposed summit between the two countries. (*Yonhap*)
- Following President Trump's dismissal of his top diplomat, speculations are rising here as to what ramifications, if any, the sudden decision could have on the planned summit between the US and NK. (*Yonhap*)
- President Trump says he will "talk denuclearization" at his planned summit with KJU — a word he has emphasized to underscore the tough line he plans to take in the most surprising foreign policy development of his presidency. (Anne Gearan, *Washington Post*)
- During six-months of research, the writer thought of going to NK as a tourist, but worried about being arrested as a spy: "Being stuck in NK for two years might have provided good material for a play but, in the end, it wasn't something I fancied." (Mark Lawson, *Guardian*)
- American voters are divided over whether President Trump should meet KJU without concrete steps to dismantle the regime's nuclear weapons program. (*Yonhap*)
- President Trump's decision to replace Rex Tillerson as secretary of state with CIA Director Mike Pompeo comes just days after the president surprised many by announcing his plans to meet soon with KJU. (Cindy Saine, VOA)
- If confirmed, President Trump's pick to succeed Tillerson, CIA Director Mike Pompeo, would come in with a strong working relationship with the president and a track record of giving broad autonomy to his underlings. (John Hudson, *Washington Post*)
- Differences over how to deal with NK's nuclear challenge were a key factor in President Trump's decision to replace Rex Tillerson as US secretary of state, according to sources familiar with the internal deliberations. (Steve Holland, Lesley Wroughton, *Reuters*)
- The White House has created a working group to prepare for the landmark meeting between President Trump and KJU of NK. (Mark Landler, NYT)
- N. Korean FM Ri Yong Ho is on his way to Sweden via Beijing,amid preparations for a planned meeting between President Trump and N. Korean leader KJU. (*Reuters*)
- China's President Xi offered encouragement for SK's initiative to nurture peaceful engagement with NK, and Russia also expressed support. (Christine Kim, *Reuters*)
- Rex Tillerson, one of the most consistent advocates of diplomacy with NK, was fired Tuesday as US secretary of state just days before S. Korean FM Kang flies to Washington to discuss the upcoming summits with Pyongyang. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Chinese and Russian leaders offered full support for SK and the US' respective summits with NK. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- European Parliament delegation said Wednesday it has been conducting secret talks with NKover the last three years to try to persuade Pyongyang to negotiate an end to its nuclear programme. (*Telegraph*)
- Here is the chance for Democrats and responsible Republicans willing to take their advise-and-consent responsibilities seriously, to demand answers to hard questions: (Jennifer Rubin, *Washington Post*)

- It's been a week since President Trump surprised the world -- and the White House -- by accepting an invitation to meet with NK's reclusive leader KJU. (Jamie Tarabay, CNN)
- Japan's pm Abe is considering a meeting with KJU in an apparent change of strategy in dealing with Pyongyang. (Danielle Demetriou, *Telegraph*)
- The lawyer for a Vietnamese woman accused of killing the N. Korean leader's estranged half-brother last year accused Malaysian authorities of prejudice toward his client, while questioning the prosecution's star witness on Wednesday. (RFA)
- Trump isn't going to be disciplined by someone whose views are dovish or establishmentarian. But he might listen to, and be tempered by, a responsible hawk. Especially when it comes to NK. (Bret Stephens, NYT)
- Progress is being made in setting up a system to monitor and document human rights violations in NK, particularly those that may amount to crimes against humanity. (Lisa Schlein, VOA)
- The head of the US Pacific Command said on Thursday the US does not have a "bloody nose" strategy for a possible preventive strike against NK, insisting that such a move "is not contemplated." (*Reuters*)
- S. Korean President Moon may hold a summit with President Trump after talks with KJU to brief him about the results of the inter-Korean meeting before Trump meets with the North's leader, PMr Lee Nak-yon. (*Yonhap*)
- The nomination of Mike Pompeo as the next secretary of state could shake up preparations for a historic and complicated summit between President Trump and KJU that could be just two months away. (Carol Morello, *Washington Post*)
- Senior officials from SK and Japan discussed details of President Moon and Trump's planned summits with KJU in their bilateral security policy consultation meeting. (*Yonhap*)
- Rex Tillerson may have spent the last 14 months being contradicted by his boss on all manner of foreign policy, but the now-fired Secretary of State was at least a known quantity for US allies during tense moments in 2017. (Jamie Tarabay, CNN)
- The operatic ouster of Rex Tillerson leaves a State Department angry and adrift, and a world even more confused about the management and direction of American foreign policy. (Steven Erlanger, NYT)
- Adm. Harry Harris, who oversees US military operations in the Indo-Pacific, said Thursday that "we can't be overly optimistic on outcomes" when it comes to the recently announced summit between President Trump and KJU. (Ryan Browne, CNN)
- If Trump has a shrewd eye on the chessboard, he should be able to discern NK's deeply rooted anti-China sentiment. (Hong Seok-hyun, *Washington Post*)
- President Trump on Wednesday appeared to threaten to withdraw US troops from SK if he can't get a better trade deal with Seoul. (Veronica Stracqualursi, CNN)
- President Trump's decision to replace Secretary of State Rex Tillerson with CIA Director Mike Pompeo is a warning and pressure directed at KJU. (*Yonhap*)
- President Trump on Tuesday ordered Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to resign and nominated CIA Director Mike Pompeo as new head of the State Department. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- The US cannot be overly optimistic about the outcome of any summit between President Trump and N. Korean leader KJU and must go into it with "eyes wide open," (David Brunnstrom, Matt Spetalnick, *Reuters*)

- The White House on Wednesday touted the accomplishments of Central Intelligence Agency Director Mike Pompeo, who was tapped a day earlier to be the new top US diplomat. (*Yonhap*)
- Since Pompeo could have a key role in preparing for a potential Trump summit with N.Korean leader KJU, he may want his own choice to help manage that effort. (Josh Rogin, *Washington Post*)
- While Xi tried to establish influence on both South and North Korea through equidistant diplomacy, he was slapped in the face by North Korea and snubbed by the South. (You Sang-chul, *Joongang Ilbo*)

Prepared by Huiwon Yun, HRNK Legal Research Intern

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Friday, March 16, 2018

UN Body Freezing Out Human Rights Groups; Human Rights Council Oral Updates on DPRK; Moon, Trump reaffirm close cooperation on N. Korea in phone talks

Top News:

UN Body Freezing Out Human Rights Groups (*Human Rights Watch*, 03/15/2018)
Human Rights Council: Oral Updates on DPRK (*UN Deputy HC for Human Rights*, 03/14/2018)

In North Korea:

(LEAD) N.K. media reports foreign minister's trip to Sweden (*Yonhap*, 03/16/2018)
Chinese Traders Hope For Return to North Korea (RFA, 03/16/2018)
Knife fights, market forces changing North Korea 'self-criticism' sessions (*UPI*, 03/16/2018)
N. Korea to join Ramsar Convention in May (*Yonhap*, 03/16/2018)
Nobel Peace Prize for this guy? (*Korea Times*, 03/16/2018)
North Korea diplomats in Beijing, Stockholm ahead of U.S. summit (*UPI*, 03/16/2018)
North Korea nuclear reactors show new signs of activity (CNN, 03/15/2018)
North Korea says will talk to Sweden on 'bilateral relations' among other issues: KCNA (*Reuters*, 03/16/2018)
North Korea's top envoy flies to Sweden (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/16/2018)
North Korean authorities demand residents use oxcarts as fuel supplies become scarce (*DailyNK*, 03/16/2018)
North Korean foreign minister visits Sweden amid summit speculation (*Reuters*, 03/16/2018)
North Korean minister in 'constructive' talks in Sweden (AP, 03/16/2018)
North Koreans hope government will relax media crackdown with inter-Korean thaw (*DailyNK*, 03/16/2018)
Report: North Korea flouting, evading UN sanctions (CNN, 03/15/2018)
Report: North Korea rocket engine includes Ukrainian technology (UPI, 03/16/2018)

Satellite photos indicate declining cargo movement on N.K.-China border: report (*Yonhap*, 03/16/2018)
Wine and Diamonds: How North Korea Dodges Sanctions (NYT, 03/16/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) S. Korea's top diplomat begins U.S. trip ahead of N.K. summits (*Yonhap*, 03/15/2018)
(2nd LD) Moon says Pyongyang-Tokyo ties are significant (*Yonhap*, 03/16/2018)
Kang calls for continued support from U.S. congressional leaders on Korea issues (*Yonhap*, 03/15/2018)
Kim would do 'victory dance' if U.S. troops left Korea: U.S. commander (*Yonhap*, 03/15/2018)
Leading businesspeople to accompany Moon to Vietnam, UAE tour: sources (*Yonhap*, 03/16/2018)
Minister stresses int'l cooperation for N.K. denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 03/16/2018)
Moon's approval rating rises to 74 percent thanks to improved ties with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 03/16/2018)
S. Korea, U.S. set for biennial meeting for defense discussion (*Yonhap*, 03/16/2018)
South Koreans want to know what Trump really meant by 'Let's see what happens' (*Washington Post*, 03/15/2018)
U.S.-South Korea Military Drills to be Smaller, Shorter (VOA, 03/16/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) Inter-Korean summit expected to be one-day meeting: official (*Yonhap*, 03/16/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea to push for summit preparation talks with N. Korea late this month (*Yonhap*, 03/16/2018)
Moon says S. Korea's destiny can change dramatically through inter-Korean, U.S.-N. Korea summits (*Yonhap*, 03/16/2018)
S.Korea gears up for summit, report shows N.Korea testing reactor (*Reuters*, 03/16/2018)
Seoul aims for more talks about talks with North Korea this month (*Reuters*, 03/16/2018)
Seoul will propose high-level talks this month (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/16/2018)
South Korea to seek talks with North Korea in preparation for summit (*Reuters*, 03/16/2018)
South Korea's taekwondo team to visit North Korea next month (*Korea Times*, 03/16/2018)

International:
(3rd LD) Moon, Trump reaffirm close cooperation on N. Korea in phone talks (*Yonhap*, 03/16/2018)
All this chaos is a sign of Trump's confidence (*Washington Post*, 03/15/2018)
Before meeting with Kim, Trump should look back to Reykjavik (*Washington Post*, 03/15/2018)
Ex-US diplomat: North Korea 'surprised' Trump agreed to meeting (NY .*Ppost*, 03/16/2018)
Exclusive: Former US envoy says North Korea surprised Trump said yes to talks (CNN, 03/15/2018)
Experts: US, North Korea Heading for Collision Over Meaning of 'Denuclearization' (VOA, 03/16/2018)
Foreign Minister Kang to Meet Ivanka Trump in US (*KBS World* 03/15/2018)
In uncharted waters (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/16/2018)
Is anyone sure North Korea actually invited Trump? (*Washington Post*, 03/16/2018)
In Faint Praise of Rex Tillerson (NYT, 03/16/2018)

Japan says South Korea's Moon promised help to resolve North Korea abduction issue (*Reuters*, 03/16/2018)
Japan, EU submit draft resolution on N. Korea's human rights to U.N. (*Yonhap*, 03/16/2018)
Kang makes Washington rounds (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/16/2018)
Mattis calls Tillerson firing a 'Washington D.C. story' (*Reuters*, 03/16/2018)
Moon, Abe agree on drawing NK action for denuclearization (*Korea Times*, 03/16/2018)
N. Korean Top Diplomat's Sweden Talks Could Pave Way for Trump-Kim Summit (VOA, 03/16/2018)
North Korea: The one big thing Trump needs to be clear about when he meets with Kim (*Fox News*, 03/16/2018)
North Korean minister's Swedish visit fuels Trump-Kim expectations (*Guardian*, 03/16/2018)
S. Korea, Vietnam hold public diplomacy forum ahead of Moon's visit (*Yonhap*, 03/15/2018)
Senior Chinese foreign policy advisor's visit to S. Korea delayed by a week (*Yonhap*, 03/16/2018)
Sources: Trump ready to replace H.R. McMaster as national security adviser (CNN, 03/15/2018)
South Korea says Japan's Abe expressed wish for talks with North Korea (*Reuters*, 03/16/2018)
Southeast Asian leaders gather for first Australia summit (AP, 03/16/2018)
Sweden hosts North Korean foreign minister amid speculation (AP, 03/16/2018)
Sweden pledges to support historic US-North Korea dialogue (CNN, 03/16/2018)
Sweden says happy to help on North Korea, amid summit speculation (*Reuters*, 03/16/2018)
Top diplomats of S. Korea, Japan to meet to discuss N.K. (*Yonhap*, 03/16/2018)
Trump, S.Korea's Moon vow to keep max pressure on N.Korea (AP, 03/16/2018)
Trump needs to be clear about one thing in meeting with Kim Jong Un (*Wahington Post*, 03/16/2018)
Two days of talks will focus on upcoming Trump-Kim summit (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/16/2018)
Unrealistic expectations will doom the North Korea summit (*Wahington Post*, 03/16/2018)
US-North Korea meeting: N Korean Minister in surprise Sweden visit (BBC, 03/16/2018)
U.S. 'going forward' on preparations for N.K. summit (*Yonhap*, 03/15/2018)
U.S. envoy says he urged North Korea to release Americans before summit (*Reuters*, 03/16/2018)
US Moving Forward with Proposed US- North Korea Talks (VOA, 03/16/2018)
White House defends President Trump's blistering comments about trade partners (*Washington Post*, 03/16/2018)
Will Sweden host Trump-Kim summit? North Korean official visits country for talks (*Telegraph*, 03/16/2018)

Top News:

- Elections for the NGO Committee are set for April. Governments that value the role of nongovernmental organizations in promoting respect for human rights should seek seats. It's essential that the committee become a body that works with, not against, civil society. (Louis Charbonneau, *Human Rights Watch*)
- The international community's aim must be to support long-term, a principled protection and accountability approach that improves the situation for the people of the DPRK. Measures that will hold those responsible for human rights violations to account are necessary steps in this, and will provide victims with their right to justice, to remedy, to restoration of their dignity. (*UN Deputy HC for Human Rights*)

In North Korea:

- NK's foreign minister has left for Sweden to meet with his Swedish counterpart to discuss bilateral ties and issues of mutual concerns (*Yonhap*)
- Chinese businessmen put out of work in NK because of tightened international sanctions against Pyongyang are eyeing a return to normal trade as talk builds of possible talks between national leader KJU and Trump. (Joonho Kim, RFA)
- N. Korean society is changing, and incidents like knife fights and the growing influence of markets are taking a toll on the way local communities in the country conduct "self-criticism" sessions, according to sources in the country. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- NK will become a member of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, an intergovernmental treaty to protect and efficiently use environmentally important wetlands, in May. (*Yonhap*)
- If there could be lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula after two summits by the end of May, all three protagonists — President Moon, President Trump and, yes, NK's young dictator KJU — would deserve a piece of this year's Nobel Peace Prize. (Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)
- N. Korean diplomats have been sighted abroad, including Stockholm and Beijing, ahead of a planned summit between President Trump and leader KJU. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- New satellite imagery examined by Western experts suggests NK has begun preliminary testing of one of its nuclear reactors at the Yongbyon research facility. (Tim Lister, CNN)
- NK's state media said on Friday its fm, Ri Yong Ho, had left the country for Sweden the day before to meet his counterpart Margot Wallstrom to "exchange views on the bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern". (*Reuters*)
- The N. Korean authorities have recently ordered residents to increase their usage of ox carts instead of motorized vehicles, as it has become more difficult to source fuel in the wake of international sanctions. (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)
- Two days of talks will focus on upcoming Trump-Kim summit (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- NK's foreign minister landed in Sweden on Thursday for talks, prompting speculation that the two-day trip could lay the groundwork for a possible meeting between President Trump and KJU. (*Reuters*)
- Sweden's fm held what she called "good and constructive" talks with her N. Korean counterpart on Friday amid growing speculation about a possible meeting in the Scandinavian country between President Trump and KJU. (Jan M. Olsen, David Keyton, AP)
- Sources inside NK are reporting that residents are expressing hopes of improved inter-Korean relations after the highly-publicized recent meeting in Pyongyang between KJU and a team of South Korean special envoys. (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)
- Hugh Griffiths, the head of the UN's Panel of Experts on NK, speaks about sanctions enforcement on the hermit nation. (CNN)
- A rocket engine NK used in the test of its intercontinental ballistic missiles may have been of Ukrainian origin. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Recent satellite photos indicate that the movement of goods across the N. Korean-Chinese border has sharply declined amid international sanctions on the North. (*Yonhap*)
- The UN detailed on Friday how NK gets around international sanctions designed to hobble the government and its nuclear weapons program. (Motoko Rich, NYT)

In South Korea:

- S. Korean FM Kang arrived in Washington Thursday to meet with US officials over the two nations' planned summits with NK. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon told Japan's PM Abe on Friday that Pyongyang-Tokyo relations should improve to help address the NK issue. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's top diplomat has asked for continued support from US congressional leaders for efforts to resolve issues related to the Korean Peninsula, ranging from security to trade and economic cooperation between the allies. (*Yonhap*)
- N. Korean leader KJU would do a "victory dance" if the US pulled its troops from South Korea (*Yonhap*)
- Leaders of SK's major business groups and economic organizations will accompany President Moon on his visit to Vietnam and the UAE next week to further strengthen economic cooperation. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's unification minister on Friday stressed the importance of international cooperation in seeking NK's denuclearization and improving inter-Korean ties. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon approval rating rose 3 percentage points, to 74 percent, from a week earlier thanks to positive views of his handling of relations with NK, a survey showed Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- SK and the US will hold their biennial defense dialogue next week in Washington to discuss cooperation on denuclearization of NK. (*Yonhap*)
- "So we lose money on trade, and we lose money on the military. We have right now 32,000 soldiers on the border between North and South Korea. Let's see what happens." (John Hudson, *Washington Post*)
- The US and SK have decided to scale down and shorten annual joint military exercises in light of a diplomatic rapprochement with Pyongyang. (VOA)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Next month's summit between President Moon and KJU is expected to be a one-day meeting. (*Yonhap*)
- SK will propose holding high-level talks with NK late this month to work out the details of a planned summit between President Moon and KJU. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon said Friday that SK will see its "destiny change dramatically" and leap forward if it takes advantage of the planned inter-Korean and US-NK summits to bring peace to the divided peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- S. Korean officials began preparations on Friday for a summit next month with NK aimed at reducing tensions on the peninsula, as a report showed the North had probably begun testing a nuclear reactor as recently as late February. (Christine Kim, *Reuters*)
- SK said on Friday it was seeking high-level talks this month with NK to prepare for a summit and that the S. Korean president may meet Trump before the US president's planned meeting with the N. Korean leader. (Christine Kim, Lesley Wroughton, *Reuters*)

- South Korea will propose a senior-level dialogue with North Korea at the end of this month to prepare for the inter-Korean summit in April. (Ser Myo-ja, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- SK will make a request to hold high-level talks with NK over a planned summit meeting of their leaders. (*Reuters*)
- In an effort to maintain a peaceful atmosphere on the Korean Peninsula, SK will send a team of taekwondo athletes to NK next month. (Jung Min-ho, *Korea Times*)

International:

- President Moon assured Trump on Friday that his government will be in lockstep with Washington on summit diplomacy with NK. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump's shift in N. Korean policy was, by all accounts, a spur-of-the-moment sort of thing — less like a high-stakes diplomatic gambit with nuclear implications and more like, hey, what the hell, let's have breakfast for dinner. (Michael Gerson, *Wahington Post*)
- The history of that remarkable weekend in Iceland, Oct. 11-12, 1986, when President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev improvised their way — almost — to eliminating their nuclear arsenals, is worth examining now as the president heads toward meeting KJU. (David E. Hoffman, *Wahington Post*)
- The ex-US diplomat who spearheaded Washington's efforts on NK said officials in Pyongyang were "surprised" that President Trump was so quick to agree to a sit-down with leader KJU. (Yaron Steinbuch, NY Post)
- The man who spearheaded US diplomatic efforts on NK until his unexpected retirement earlier this month said the N. Koreans were "surprised" that President Trump agreed to meet with leader KJU so quickly. (Laura Koran, CNN)
- A difference in how the US and NK define denuclearization could potentially derail the summit scheduled for May between President Trump and KJU, according to experts. (Christy Lee, VOA)
- S. Korean FM Kang will meet with President Trump's daughter during her visit to the US. (*KBS World*)
- The Moon government's Olympics diplomacy led to agreements to hold an inter-Korean summit and a NK-US summit. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- The Trump administration, to our knowledge, has yet to hear from NK that it actually wants a meeting between KJU and President Trump. (Jennifer Rubin, *Washington Post*)
- Now, with an international summit between Trump and the N. Korean leader KJU ostensibly two months away, Tillerson leaves a State Department where the top North Korea expert, Joseph Yun, has just resigned (in great frustration, I hear). (Roger Cohen, NYT)
- Japan said on Friday that President Moon had promised to help PM Abe resolve the issue of Japanese abducted by NK and agreed to keep maximum pressure on Pyongyang over its nuclear and missile programmes. (*Reuters*)
- Japan and the EU have jointly submitted a draft resolution on NK's human rights violations to a UN panel. (*Yonhap*)
- Trip proceeds despite tumult in White House, Tillerson's exit. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Ilbo*)

- Differences over how to deal with NK's nuclear challenge were a key factor in Trump's decision to replace Tillerson as America's top diplomat. (*Reuters*)
- Seoul, Tokyo and Washington need to strengthen cooperation so that NK's statements on denuclearization will develop into concrete action, S. Korean President Moon and Japanese PM Abe agreed in a telephone conversation, Friday. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- Sweden's UN ambassador, Olof Skoog, said Friday his country is trying to help de-escalate tensions on the Korean Peninsula by hosting N. Korean FM Ri Yong Ho, a visit some global observers believe could help pave the way for a meeting between the leaders of the US and NK. (VOA)
- A face-to-face meeting is a chance for Trump to look Kim in the eye and tell him: You will not be allowed to deploy missiles that can reach U.S. cites. (Marc Thiessen, *Fox News*)
- Ri Yong-ho expected to hold second day of talks with Swedish counterpart in Stockholm. (*Guardian*)
- SK and Vietnam have reaffirmed their commitment to further develop their cooperation, in a public diplomacy forum ahead of President Moon's visit to the Southeast Asian nation. (*Yonhap*)
- His trip comes as SK and the US are preparing to hold their respective summits with NK to discuss denuclearization. (*Yonhap*)
- President Trump is ready to oust Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster and find a new national security adviser before the NK meetings in May. (Pamela Brown, Gloria Borger, Zachary Cohen and Maeve Reston, CNN)
- Japanese PM Abe on Friday expressed a wish for talks with NK following Pyongyang's planned summits with SK and the US. (Reuters)
- The dual themes of the Sydney summit are security and prosperity, with the threat to both posed by NK high on the agenda. (Rod McGuirk, AP)
- NK's foreign minister met with his Swedish counterpart Thursday after making a surprise trip to Stockholm that has fueled speculation about a meeting between President Trump and KJU. (David Keyton, AP)
- Sweden's top diplomat said Friday that her country stands ready to assist the US and NK in moving forward a historic dialogue between the two nations. (Euan McKirdy, CNN)
- Sweden is happy to help resolve tensions on the Korean peninsula but it is up to the parties involved to try to find a way forward. (*Reuters*)
- The top diplomats of SK and Japan will hold a meeting later this week to discuss NK's nuclear issue and other matters of mutual concern. (*Yonhap*)
- President Trump and S.Korean President Moon, who are both planning to meet KJU this spring, pledged Friday to maintain "maximum pressure" on his authoritarian regime and seek action on giving up his nukes. (Matthew Pennington, AP)
- With the nomination and likely confirmation of Mike Pompeo as secretary of state, President Trump will soon have a trusted adviser who can prepare him for his upcoming summit with N. Korean dictator KJU. (Marc A. Thiessen, *Washington Post*)
- N. Korean FM Ri Yong-ho arrived in Stockholm on Thursday for talks with his Swedish counterpart likely to set the groundwork for the summit between President Trump and N. Korean leader KJU. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Ilbo*)

- The combination of escalating military threats, stiff economic sanctions and a united front among allies and China, as well as the deft and disciplined efforts of S. Korean President Moon to lower tensions with Pyongyang, have brought us, finally, to negotiations. (Nathan Gardels, *Washington Post*)
- NK's fm has attended talks in Stockholm with Sweden's PM Stefan Lofven, ahead of a possible meeting between President Trump and KJU. (BBC)
- The US is pushing ahead with preparations for a summit with NK despite the regime's silence on its offer to meet. (*Yonhap*)
- The State Department's recently retired envoy for NK said on Thursday he has urged NK to send a positive signal by releasing three American prisoners before a possible summit between President Trump and KJU. (*Reuters*)
- A major shakeup in President Trump's Cabinet has not derailed plans for an unprecedented meeting between the president and the leader of NK. (VOA)
- Trump said. "We lose money on trade, and we lose money on the military. We have right now 32,000 soldiers on the border between North and South Korea. Let's see what happens." (Josh Dawsey, Damian Paletta, *Washington Post*)
- NK's foreign minister has travelled to Sweden for talks, giving rise to speculation that the Scandinavian country could play host to the unprecedented summit between President Trump and KJU. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)

Prepared by Huiwon Yun, HRNK Legal Research Intern

Saturday, March 17, 2018

Top diplomats of S. Korea, U.S. vow close coordination on N. Korea; N.Korean top diplomat extends talks with Sweden; N. Korea raps Japan for seeking to cripple ongoing dialogue

In North Korea:
North Korea's Most Powerful Missile Now Has Its Own Shrine (NYT, 03/17/2018)
N. Korea raps Japan for seeking to cripple ongoing dialogue (*Yonhap*, 03/17/2018)

In South Korea:
(2nd LD) Moon says Pyongyang-Tokyo ties are significant (*Yonhap*, 03/17/2018)
How SKorea leader took the reins in NKorea nuclear diplomacy (*WaPo*, 03/17/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
S. Korean foreign minister upbeat about upcoming summits with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 03/17/2018)

International:

Analysts Predict Tougher Stance on Iran, North Korea Under Pompeo (VOA, 03/17/2018)
China says resolutely opposed to new U.S. law on ties with Taiwan (*Reuters*, 03/17/2018)
Donald Trump loses patience with 'no men' as speculation of mass sackings reaches fever pitch (*Telegraph*, 03/16/2018)
No Heads Rolled at the White House on Friday. But Anxiety Abounds (NYT, 03/16/2018)
North Korean minister meets again with Swedish counterpart (*WaPo*, 03/17/2018)
N. Korean, Swedish Officials Resuming Talks Amid Trump-Kim Summit Speculation (VOA, 03/16/2018)
N.K. top diplomat extends talks with Sweden to Saturday: report (*Yonhap*, 03/17/2018)
Spies, Not Diplomats, Take Lead Role in Planning Trump's North Korea Meeting (NYT, 03/16/2018)
Top diplomats of S. Korea, U.S. vow close coordination on N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 03/17/2018)
Trump signs U.S.-Taiwan travel bill, angering China (*Reuters*, 03/16/2018)
Will Trump convince Kim Jong Un to give up nuclear weapons? (*WaPo*, 03/17/2018)

In North Korea:

- Satellite-images taken between last December and March 11 show how N.K. is converting the site of its most powerful missile launch into a monument. (William J. Broad, NYT)
- N.K. condemned Japan's call for continued sanctions against the communist state Saturday, accusing Tokyo of trying to undermine the recent improvement in its ties with S.K. and the US. (*Yonhap*)

In South Korea:

- S.K. President Moon told Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Friday that Pyongyang-Tokyo relations should improve to help address the N.K. issue. (*Yonhap*)
- Having a meeting with KJU and convincing Trump to meet KJU don't mean the decades-long effort to thwart the North's nuclear ambition is settled, but it's clear that Moon is having a diplomatic moment. (Hyung-Jin Kim, AP)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- S.K.'s top diplomat has voiced hope that the planned summits with N.K. will produce a "breakthrough" in finding a way toward a peaceful resolution of the North's nuclear and missile issue. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- Tillerson's designated replacement, Pompeo, has often taken a hardline approach to N.K., emphasizing the existential threat Pyongyang's nuclear missiles pose to cities on the U.S mainland. (Cindy Saine, VOA)

- China's Foreign Ministry on Saturday expressed its "resolute opposition" after Trump signed legislation that encourages the US to send senior officials to Taiwan to meet Taiwanese counterparts and vice versa. (*Reuters*)
- Trump's patience with his administration's 'no men' appeared finally up on Friday as speculation of imminent sackings entered overdrive. Trump was reportedly on the brink of dismissing a string of moderating figures who have hemmed in his hardline instincts over the last year. (Ben Riley-Smith, Nick Allen, *Telegraph*)
- Seeking to tamp down the anxiety inside the West Wing and the sense of never-ending dysfunction, Trump refrained from any firings-by-tweet. His chief of staff delivered a message that nobody will be fired for now. (Michael D. Shear, Maggie Haberman, NYT)
- N.K.'s foreign minister met again Saturday with his Swedish counterpart amid growing speculation about a possible meeting in the Scandinavian country between Trump and KJU. (Jan M. Olsen, David Keyton, AP)
- Talks are resuming Saturday in Sweden between Swedish officials and N.K. Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho. Some global observers say the discussions could help pave the way for a meeting between Trump and KJU. (VOA)
- N.K.'s foreign minister will continue talks with his Swedish counterpart Saturday, extending his schedule in Stockholm by one day, a news report said, ahead of a proposed summit between the North and the US. (*Yonhap*)
- The CIA has emerged as the primary player in Trump's audacious diplomatic opening to N.K., conducting back-channel communications and taking a major role in planning Trump's meeting with KJU. (Mark Landler, NYT)
- S.K. Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha met with Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan at the State Department to discuss recent developments between two Koreas, and between the U.S. and N.K. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump on Friday signed legislation that encourages the US to send senior officials to Taiwan to meet Taiwanese counterparts and vice versa, angering China, which views the self-ruled island as a wayward province. (David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)
- Previous presidents have taken a much more cautious and methodical approach to negotiations with N.K. — but in some ways, Trump's brisk approach might be seen as a tactical opportunity to make N.K. give up its nukes. (Martine Powers, *WaPo*)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

Sunday, March 18, 2018

N.K. diplomat heads to Finland for semiofficial talks with Washington, Seoul; Sweden, North Korea talks end, may help pave way for Trump-Kim encounter

In North Korea:

N. Korea exports contaminated food supplements (*Korea Times*, 03/18/2018)
N. Korea gives foreigners access to 'sacred' places in return for money (*Korea Times*, 03/18/2018)
N. Korea may resume Arirang mass games in September (*Korea Times*, 03/18/2018)
N. Korea to join Ramsar Convention in May (*Korea Times*, 03/18/2018)
North Korea's Most Powerful Missile Now Has Its Own Shrine (NYT, 03/17/2018)
North Korea safe from #MeToo? (*Korea Times*, 03/18/2018)

In South Korea:
Relishing its role, Seoul plans more summits (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/18/2018)
Why so quiet? (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/18/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) Koreas to meet on Tuesday over S. Korean art performance in Pyongyang (*Yonhap*, 03/18/2018)
Joint development of N. Korean mines expected to create over 90,000 jobs yearly in two Koreas: think tank (*Yonhap*, 03/18/2018)
Olympics are over. Will peace continue? (*Korea Times*, 03/18/2018)
Report: Joint Korean projects on mines could generate 90,000 jobs (UPI, 03/18/2018)

International:
(LEAD) N.K. diplomat heads to Finland for semiofficial talks with Washington, Seoul (*Yonhap*, 03/18/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korean, Swedish foreign ministers conclude rare talks (*Yonhap*, 03/18/2018)
Can Kim become pro-American? (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/18/2018)
Five middle-power countries welcome Olympics-driven peace efforts (*Yonhap*, 03/18/2018)
German spy agency said North Korean rockets can reach Europe: paper (*Reuters*, 03/18/2018)
North Korean diplomat heads to Finland (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/18/2018)
North Korean diplomats discuss denuclearization in Stockholm (UPI, 03/18/2018)
North Korea's Kim congratulates China's Xi on re-election as president (*Reuters*, 03/17/2018)
North Korea-Sweden Talks Focus on 'Peaceful Solution' to Nuclear Conflict (NYT, 03/17/2018)
North Korea to hold unofficial talks with South Korea, U.S. in Finland (UPI, 03/18/2018)
North Korea, US representatives to meet in Finland (CNN, 03/18/2018)
Now North Korean diplomat heads to Finland amid new diplomatic flurry (*Reuters*, 03/17/2018)
Postwar betrayal (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/18/2018)
Southeast Asia, Australia 'gravely' concerned by North Korean weapons (*Reuters*, 03/18/2018)
Southeast Asia Leaders Back Sanctions Against North Korea (VOA, 03/18/2018)
Southeast Asia leaders urge tough stance on North Korea (*WaPo*, 03/18/2018)
South Korea: North Korean and Former US Diplomats to Meet in Finland (VOA, 03/18/2018)
Sweden helping negotiate release of Americans held in North Korea (CNN, 03/18/2018)
Sweden, North Korea end 3 days of talks on security issues (*WaPo*, 03/17/2018)
Sweden, North Korea talks end, may help pave way for Trump-Kim encounter (*Reuters*, 03/17/2018)
White House firings signal Trump's most hawkish era yet on North Korea and Iran (*Guardian*, 03/18/2018)

In North Korea:

- N. Korean food supplements sold overseas are contaminated with excessive levels of heavy metals, sources familiar with the matter say. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- NK is allowing international tourists to enter "sacred" places associated with its late leaders Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-il in return for money amid international sanctions on its regime, according to sources familiar with Pyongyang. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- NK may resume its Arirang mass games, its signature dance and gymnastic performance suspended since 2014, in September, according to a NK tour operator. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- NK will join the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, in May, according to the Ramsar Secretariat. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- Satellite images show construction of a shrine to NK's most powerful missile, the Hwasong-15, that could hit anywhere in the US. (William J. Broad, NYT)
- Many N. Korean women are subject to sexual assaults in their workplaces, especially in the military, where superiors exploit their power to rape their female juniors.This means the secretive state is still far from the #MeToo Movement that has affected politics, culture and all other sectors in SK. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)

In South Korea:

- With SK laying the groundwork for its summit with NK next month and a landmark summit between NK and the US later, the Moon administration is making the most of its diplomatic moment - by squeezing in more summits in between. (Wie Moon-hee,*Joongang Ilbo*)
- The Moon administration does not want to lose the momentum for dialogue with NK. But if the government simply begs for public understanding, it will invite not only public outrage over the administration keeping an overly low profile, but also internal division. (*Joongang Ilbo*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- NK ans SK will meet on Tuesday to discuss a performance in Pyongyang by a S. Korean art troupe, officials here said. (*Yonhap*)
- The two Koreas' joint development of N. Korean major mines, if implemented, is expected to create more than 90,000 jobs in the two Koreas annually, a report by a private think tank showed Sun. (*Yonhap*)
- The 2018 PyeongChang Olympics and Paralympic Winter Games, which wrapped up their run Sunday, resulted in a dramatic, peaceful shift in security on the Korean Peninsula, according to analysts. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- A joint inter-Korean development of major mines in NK to create more than 90,000 jobs a year, according to a Seoul-based think tank. (Jennie Oh, UPI)

International:

- A senior N. Korean diplomat handling affairs with the US headed to Finland on Sun. for semiofficial talks with the US. and SK. (*Yonhap*)
- The foreign ministers of NK and Sweden have ended their three-day talks, which were widely expected to deal with the planned summit between Trump and the KJU as well as American citizens detained in NK. (*Yonhap*)
- There is no room for Trump or Kim to fail in the upcoming summit. Success is not a choice but a necessity. In the case of failure, the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia will fall into a situation more dangerous than ever before. The two leaders must trust each other and bungee jump off the cliff together. (Hong Seok-hyun, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- SK and its four middle-power partners of MIKTA, a cross-regional cooperative forum of SK, Mexico, Indonesia, Turkey and Australia issued a statement Sunday welcoming the revived peace efforts driven by the PyeongChang Winter Games. (*Yonhap*)
- N. Korean rockets can now be fitted with nuclear weapons and could reach Germany and central Europe, a top official with Germany's foreign intelligence agency told lawmakers this week. (*Reuters*)
- Choe Kang-il, a senior diplomat handling North American affairs in NK's Foreign Ministry, was seen at a Beijing airport on Sun. en route to Finland for a two-day meeting with former US and S. Korean officials that is expected to thaw tensions between the reclusive regime and the US. (Jeong Yong-soo, Kim Sung-tak, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- N. Korean diplomats met Swedish officials in Stockholm to discuss denuclearization and security on the Korean peninsula, ahead of NK's upcoming summit with the US, S. Korean media reported Sunday. (Jennie Oh, *UPI*)
- KJU has offered his congratulations to China's Xi Jinping upon his re-election as president, N. Korean state media said on Sun., in a rare direct message from Pyongyang to Beijing after ties nosedived. (*Reuters*)
- The Swedish and N. Korean foreign ministers concluded three days of talks in Stockholm on Sat. over the security situation on the Korean Peninsula, discussions that may help facilitate a meeting between Trump and KJU. (Christina Anderson, NYT)
- A N. Korean diplomat will hold unofficial talks with SK and the US this week in Finland, ahead of Pyongyang's upcoming summits with both countries. (Jennie Oh, *UPI*)
- Representatives of NK, SK, and the US are set to meet in Finland for talks on denuclearization, according to S. Korean and Finnish officials. (David McKenzie, Jungeun Kim, Yuli Yang, *CNN*)
- A senior N. Korean diplomat left for Finland on Sun. for talks with former US and S. Korean officials amid a series of diplomatic encounters ahead of a possible US-NK summit. (*Reuters)*
- To Americans, the French and S. Koreans have both been ungrateful, but France is strong and does not have an enemy threatening war. SK, on the other hand, runs the risk of nuclear war without US protection. (Bok Geo-il, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Southeast Asian countries and Australia said on Sun. they held "grave concerns" about escalating tension caused by NK's nuclear and missile programs and urged "irreversible" denuclearization. (*Reuters*)

- Southeast Asian leaders and Australia's prime minister Sun. called on NK to end its nuclear program and urged United Nations countries to fully implement sanctions. (AP)
- Southeast Asian leaders and Australia's prime minister on Sun. called on NK to end its nuclear program and urged UN countries to fully implement sanctions against the country. (Trevor Marshallsea, AP)
- S. Korean media said Sun. a senior N. Korean diplomat is headed to Finland to meet with former US diplomats, this after a N. Korean delegation wrapped up three days of talks with Swedish diplomats that could lead to a possible meeting between Trump and KJU. (VOA)
- Sweden is helping negotiate the release of three Americans held captive in NK, sources with knowledge of the negotiations tell CNN. (Susannah Cullinane, Julia Jones, CNN)
- Sweden's foreign minister concluded three days of talks Sat. with her N. Korean counterpart, saying they discussed the "opportunities and challenges for continued diplomatic efforts to reach a peaceful solution" to the Koreas' security dispute. (Jan M. Olsen, David Keyton, AP)
- The N. Korean and Swedish foreign ministers ended three days of talks on Sat. on the security situation on the Korean peninsula which may help prepare the way for a planned meeting between Trump and KJU. (*Reuters*)
- In foreign policy, the new era looks to be more confrontational. At the state department, Tillerson's job is being taken by the CIA director Pompeo, who is considerably more hawkish that his predecessor on Iran and NK. (Julian Borger, *Guardian*)

Prepared by Emma Stubblefield, HRNK Research Intern

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Monday, March 19, 2018

The Kim regime wants cash & What is to be done?; In Pursuit of North Korean Human Rights and Denuclearization; S. Korea, U.S. to announce joint military training schedule Tuesday

Top News:

The Kim regime wants cash & What is to be done? Greg Scarlatoiu, Executive Director of the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea. (*The John Batchelor Show*, 03/07/2018)

In Pursuit of North Korean Human Rights and Denuclearization (*Lawfare*, 03/18/2018)

In North Korea:

(Yonhap Feature) Foreign-run university in N. Korea serves as window to rare capitalist education (*Yonhap*, 03/19/2018)

[Photo] North Korean king crab for sale in China in latest sanctions breach (*Daily* NK, 03/19/2018)

Kim Jong Un's latest overtures follow pattern of attempted switch to international decorum (*Daily* NK, 03/19/2018)

North Korea launches updated national tourism portal website (*NKNews.org*, 03/19/2018)

North Korean official to meet US delegation in Finland to discuss 'denuclearization' (*Telegraph*, 03/19/2018)
Reforestation in North Korea (*NK Econ Watch*, 03/19/2018)
Report: North Korea imported large amounts of diamonds, wine, cosmetics (*UPI*, 03/19/2018)
Senior N. Korean diplomat set for meeting with ex-South Korean, U.S. officials in Helsinki (*Yonhap*, 03/19/2018)

In South Korea:
KCCI panel praises North's changing economy (*Joongang Daily*, 03/19/2018)
Kim Jong-un has committed to denuclearisation, says South Korea (*Guardian*, 03/18/2018)
N.K. leader gave 'his word' on denuclearization: Kang (*Yonhap*, 03/19/2018)
New Northern Policy seeks to contribute to peace on Korean Peninsula (*Yonhap*, 03/19/2018)
Seoul forming new missile unit to take down North Korean artillery sites (*UPI*, 03/19/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) Cho Yong-pil, Lee Sun-hee to perform at S. Korea's Pyongyang concert (*Yonhap*, 03/19/2018)
K-pop artist heads North to plan concert (*Joongang Daily*, 03/19/2018)
Mainstream K-pop stars may perform at S. Korea's Pyongyang concert (*Yonhap*, 03/19/2018)
North Korea Nuclear Summits Planning Underway (VOA, 03/19/2018)
S. Korean art troupe's gig in N.K. likely to center on S. Korean pop music (*Yonhap*, 03/19/2018)

International:
(LEAD) S. Korea, U.S. to announce joint military training schedule Tuesday (*Yonhap*, 03/19/2018)
Japan afraid of being excluded from N. Korea talks (*Korea Times*, 03/19/2018)
North Korea in talks to release US detainees (*The National*, 03/19/2018)
No location, no agenda: Trump administration scrambles for North Korea talks (*Washington Post*, 03/19/2018)
Reading the tea leaves (*Joongang Daily*, 03/19/2018)
S. Korean, French FMs hope for in-depth discussion in summits with N.K. (*Yonhap*, 03/19/2018)
Security meeting focuses on upcoming summits (*Joongang Daily*, 03/19/2018)
Sweden briefs South Korea on its talks with North (*Yonhap*, 03/19/2018)
The Dirty Secret of American Nuclear Arms in Korea (NY *Times*, 03/19/2018)
The one thing Donald Trump should do before meeting with Kim Jong Un (*Washington Post*, 03/19/2018)
Top security advisers of S. Korea, U.S., Japan meet over N. Korea: Cheong Wa Dae (*Yonhap*, 03/19/2018)
U.S., South Korea, Japan security advisers meet on North Korean summits: Seoul (*Reuters*, 03/19/2018)
US, South Korea, Japan discuss denuclearization, summits (*Washington Post*, 03/19/2018)
White House: Sweden has been requesting Americans' release from N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 03/19/2018)
Who and what's involved in bringing the US and North Korea together (CNN, 03/19/2018)

Top News:

- In this segment of the *John Batchelor Show*, HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu, host John Batchelor, and Gordon Chang of the *Daily Beast* discuss the significance Moon's announcement of his lowered expectations of negotiations with NK in light of the criticism he has been receiving from the opposition party in SK. They also discuss the rushed nature of these talks, the impact of current sanctions on the Kim regime and their significance, and KJU's response to these impacts. (Greg Scarlatoiu, Gordon Chang, John Batchelor, *The John Batchelor Show*)
- Critics might see the elevation of N.Korean human rights as ill-timed or imprudent given the positive momentum in inter-Korea relations and S.Korean efforts to promote diplomatic engagement between the US and NK. Nevertheless, there are sound reasons for the Trump administration to address human rights issues while in pursuit of N.Korean denuclearization in a Trump-Kim summit meeting. Although human rights was once viewed as a distraction to nuclear talks or treated as a separate issue, a growing consensus has emerged to pursue human rights and the nuclear issue simultaneously. Like nuclear weapons, human rights abuses are also part of a core strategy for N.Korean regime survival. (Andrew Yeo, *Lawfare*)

In North Korea:

- A small university run by foreigners on the outskirts of Pyongyang has trained young N.Koreans on capitalist skills for several years. Opened in 2010 by the Northeast Asia Foundation for Education and Culture, a S.Korean Christian charity organization, Pyongyang University of Science & Technology (PUST) is the only privately run school in NK, where all education is provided free of charge. (Park Boram, *Yonhap*)
- Daily NK sources in northeast China are reporting that N.Korean seafood products continue to be sold in the Chinese city of Yanji, suggesting that international sanctions banning such exports are being violated. (Ha Yoon Ah, *Daily NK*)
- As SK prepares for next month's summit between President Moon and N.Korean leader KJU, analysts and commentators are widely speculating that KJU's top priority will be to attain recognition for his country as a legitimate member of the international community. Observers have noted that since KJU took power, he has given a number of signals suggesting a desire to conform to more standard international etiquette when dealing with other countries. (Jang Seul Gi, *Daily NK*)
- NK's National Tourism Administration (NTA) launched a new-look tourism portal website on Fri., claiming that demand for tours of the country is "on the rapid increase." The overhauled website, which promotes a range of NK tourist sites, itineraries, and travel news, says that the DPRK tour industry has been "developing afresh under the wise leadership of Supreme leader KJU." (*NKNews.org*)
- A senior N.Korean official has flown to Finland for talks with former US and S.Korean officials, in the latest round of a flurry of diplomatic encounters ahead of a proposed summit between KJU an Trump. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- One of the most striking differences between NK and SK on the satellite imagery is the observable difference in forest coverage. By the end of the Korean War, the entire peninsula had experienced severe deforestation. To repair the damage to the environment, SK

launched a massive re-forestatoin campaign in the 1960s and 1970s, while NK reportedly established "Tree Planting Day on Mar. 2, 1946). Implementation of this policy in NK always seemed to be on the back burner; however, KJU has placed a high priority on reforestation. (NK Econ Watch)

- NK imported hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of luxury goods last year, including diamonds, wine and cosmetics, while curbing major global sanctions on the regime. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- A senior N.Korean diplomat handling affairs with the US will hold a three-way, semiofficial meeting with former government officials and academics from SK and the US this week in Helsinki, Finland, according to sources. (Yonhap)

In South Korea:

- Amid thawing inter-Korean relations, experts at a conference hosted by the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) praised the growing market economy in NK but offered mixed views on the geopolitical situation on the Korean Peninsula. (Seo Ji-eun, Joongang Daily)
- SK's foreign minister has said that NK's leader has "given his word" that he is committed to denuclearization, a prime condition for a potential summit with President Trump in May. (Guardian)
- S.Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha expressed confidence in NK's commitment to abandon its nuclear weapons program, saying the regime's leader gave "his word." (Yonhap)
- SK's push to expand economic cooperation with Russia, China and their neighboring countries is expected to promote peace and cooperation on the Korean Peninsula if it draws in NK's participation in joint projects, the chief of a presidential committee said Mon. (Yonhap)
- SK plans to set up a new guided missile unit that can take down NK's long-range artillery sites. Local broadcaster KBS reported that the S.Korean army will combine its first and third military headquarters to launch a new ground operation command in Oct. (Jennie Oh, UPI)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- S.Korean pop singers Cho Yong-pil and Lee Sun-hee will be part of the South's art troupe performance in Pyongyang next month, according to music industry sources Mon. (Yonhap)
- Lee Yoon-sang, a singer-songwriter and record producer, will lead a group of S.Korean interlocutors to NK today for working-level discussions on a concert in Pyongyang next month. The meeting is scheduled to be held at Tongilgak, a N.Korean-controlled building in the truce village of Panmunjom, which straddles the inter-Korean border. The N.Korean negotiators will be led by Hyon Song-wol, leader of the Samjiyon Orchestra. (Lee Sung-eun, Jeong Young-soo, Joongang Daily)
- As the NK and SK prepare to discuss a performance in NK by a S.Korean art troupe, all eyes are on whether big name K-pop stars will be included in the cultural event celebrating the rapprochement between the countries. (Yonhap)

- Diplomatic efforts are intensifying to coordinate the logistics and agendas for expected NK summits with SK and then with the US, to work out a deal to end NK's nuclear weapons program. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- A S.Korean art troupe to Pyongyang will mainly perform S.Korean pop music, as SK and NK will hold talks this week on its planned performance in early Apr., a Seoul official said Mon. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- Following months of strategic reticence, SK and the US will soon reveal the schedule of their combined military drills, defense sources here said Mon. (Lee Chi-dong, *Yonhap*)
- Japan is stepping up efforts to join talks with NK after stressing the importance of sanctions over dialogue for Pyongyang's denuclearization. Some diplomatic sources say Tokyo's abrupt shift in its NK policy is to avoid being left behind, as the other five shareholders of the Korean Peninsula including the US, China and Russia, have thrown their support behind inter-Korean reconciliation. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- NK is in talks with the US and Sweden to release three jailed Americans as part of increased diplomatic activity ahead of Pyongyang's planned summits with Washington and Seoul. (Agence France-Presse, *The National*)
- The White House is overseeing a frantic scramble to resolve even the most fundamental questions on the US side: Where will the summit be? Who will be at the table? What should be on the agenda? (David Nakamura, *Washington Post*)
- In this *Joongang Daily* column, author Michael Green attempts to predict what will actually happen when Trump and Kim actually meet and discusses four possible scenarios. These scenarios are the following: Trump does not actually meet Kim (40 percent chance), Trump meets Kim, but talks break down (40 percent chance), Trump meets Kim and pretends to get a breakthrough (18 percent chance), and Trump meets Kim and actually achieves concrete disarmament steps (2 percent chance). (Michael Green, *Joongang Daily*)
- The top diplomats of SK and France have exchanged views on ways to peacefully resolve NK's nuclear issue and expressed hope for in-depth discussion on the matter in the upcoming S.Korean and US summits with the NK, the foreign ministry here said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon's national security adviser held two days of closed-door talks with his US and Japanese counterparts in San Francisco over the weekend to coordinate on upcoming summits with NK, as SK, Japan, and US vow not to repeat past mistakes with NK. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)
- Sweden's Foreign Minister Margot Wallstrom briefed her S.Korean counterpart, Kang Kyung-wha, on the result of her recent talks with NK's top diplomat, Seoul's foreign ministry said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- As President Trump prepares for a possible meeting with KJU, the N.Korean leader, many American are raising warnings that NK has walked away from previous arms agreements. But those skeptics should remember that it was the US, in 1958, that broke the 1953 Korean

Armistice Agreement, when the Eisenhower administration sent the first atomic weapons into SK. (Walter Pincus, NY Times)

- President Trump stunned the world when he announced that he would meet with N.Korean leader KJU sometime before May. If he is, in fact, serious about this decision and expects to strike a deal with the N.Koreans regarding their growing nuclear arsenal, he should seek the counsel of three people: former presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton, and former secretary of state Madeleine Albright. (Aaron S. Brown, Washington Post)
- Chung Eui-yong, top security adviser to S.Korean President Moon, traveled to the US over the weekend to hold talks with his US and Japanese counterparts on the upcoming dialogue with NK, Seoul's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said Mon. (Yonhap)
- The national security advisers of the US, SK and Japan met over the weekend to discuss NK and the "complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," SK's presidential Blue House said on Mon. (Joyce Lee, Reuters)
- Top US, S.Korean and Japanese officials discussed how to achieve the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula during weekend talks ahead of upcoming inter-Korean and US-NK summits, Seoul said Mon. (Hyung-jin Kim, AP)
- Sweden has consistently worked on behalf of the US to request the release of three Americans detained in NK, a White House official said Sun. (Yonhap)
- US President Trump's snap decision accept an invitation to meet KJU has triggered a series of secretive meetings to make sure it happens by May. Envoys have been flying between Asia, the US and Europe, holding talks from Stockholm to San Francisco, about the location, timing and crucially what both sides want from the first ever meeting between a sitting US President and N.Korean leader. Negotiations have also included the potential release of three US in N.Korean custody, as diplomats seek to make the most of re-opened lines of communication. (Euan McKirdy, CNN)

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, HRNK Research Intern

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Human Rights Should be on the Agenda for a Possible Trump-Kim Jong-un Meeting; The S. Korean people are fragmented in their opinion of appeasing the Kim regime; Trump should address human rights issue with Kim: ex-US envoy

Top News:

Human Rights Should be on the Agenda for a Possible Trump-Kim Jong-un Meeting (*The Penisula*, 03/19/2018)

The South Korean people are fragmented in their opinion of appeasing the Kim regime (*The John Bachelor Show*, 03/07/2018)

Trump should address human rights issue with Kim: ex-U.S. envoy (*Yonhap*, 03/19/2018)

In North Korea:
Chinese man accused of espionage dies in North Korean labor camp (*Daily* NK, 03/20/2018)
Kim Jong Un keeps out of public eye following summit announcements (UPI, 03/20/2018)
Kim Jong-un to re-launch Mass Games in bid to lure tourism dollars (*Telegraph*, 03/19/2018)
N. Korea will not give up nuclear weapons: Mearsheimer (*Yonhap*, 03/20/2018)
No mention of denuclearization in North Korea's state media - Why? (*Daily* NK, 03/20/2018)
North Korea will use tours to place money earning merchants abroad (*Daily* NK, 03/20/2018)
North Korean Beer Banned for Export, Sold as 'Fake' In China (RFA, 03/20/2018)
Quick Takes: Sohae Satellite Launching Station Remains Quiet (*38 North*, 03/20/2018)

In South Korea:
Main opposition party decries possible move to keep military drills low-key (*Yonhap*,03/20/2018)
North Korean cyber attacks continue on South despite detente (*Daily* NK, 03/20/2018)
South Koreans Optimistic Over Prospect of Nuclear Talks (VOA, 03/20/2018)
Strong posture needed (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/20/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) Koreas kick off talks on S. Korean art troupe's performance in Pyongyang (*Yonhap*, 03/20/2018)
(4th LD) S. Korea to send 160-member art troupe to N.K. for concerts (*Yonhap*, 03/20/2018)
(News Focus) From classic to cutting-edge, Seoul seeks balance in Pyongyang K-pop shows(*Yonhap*, 03/20/2018)
Red Velvet, K-pop stars to perform in Pyongyang (*Joongang Ilbo* 03/20/2018)
Sanctions won't be eased until N.K. takes action on denuclearization: Kang (*Yonhap*, 03/20/2018)
South Korea to send 160-member art troupe to North Korea (*Korea Times*, 03/20/2018)
South Korea to send K-pop singers to Pyongyang in late March (*Reuters*, 03/20/2018)
South Korean K-Pop singers to perform in North Korea (*WaPo*, 03/20/2018)
South Korean pop sensations Seohyun, Red Velvet to visit North Korea next month (UPI, 03/20/2018)

International:
(LEAD) Foreign ministers of S. Korea, EU vow cooperation for peaceful denuclearization of N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 03/20/2018)
(LEAD) Trump-Kim summit outcome hinges on S. Korea: ex-U.S. diplomat (*Yonhap*, 03/20/2018)
(2nd LD) S. Korea, U.S. to begin massive military drills April 1: ministry (*Yonhap*, 03/20/2018)
China, Not North Korea, to Dominate Japan Military Planning (NYT, 03/20/2018)
Deal maker or deal breaker? (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/20/2018)
Lawyer: Kim Murder Suspect Thought Smearing Face Was Prank (NYT, 03/20/2018)
Listening to the diplomats (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/20/2018)
Low-key US-S Korea military drills ahead of N Korea summits (*WaPo*, 03/20/2018)
(News Focus) Allies downplay planned military drills amid peace mood (*Yonhap*, 03/20/2018)
North Korea denuclearization not on the agenda in Helsinki talks: Finland (*Reuters*, 03/20/2018)

North Korean diplomats break the ice with U.S. in Finland (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/20/2018)
Pentagon: U.S.-South Korea military exercises will not shrink despite potential Kim talks (*WaPo*, 03/19/2018)
Pompeo to face tough questions on North Korea, Iran: senator (*Reuters*, 03/19/2018)
Postponed joint U.S.-Korea drills start April 1 (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/20/2018)
S. Korea, IAEA to hold high-level meeting to discuss N.K. (*Yonhap*, 03/20/2018)
S. Korea, U.S. agree success of dialogue with N. Korea critical to peace: official (*Yonhap*, 03/20/2018)
South Korea, U.S. to resume joint military drills in April (*UPI*, 03/20/2018)
U.S.-South Korea military exercises to resume next month (*Reuters*, 03/20/2018)
US and South Korea to begin 'lower key' military drills as tensions cool with North (*Telegraph*, 03/20/2018)
Verifiable steps denuclearization necessary before summits, says former North Korean deputy ambassador (*Daily NK*, 03/20/2018)
Woman accused in Kim Jong Nam killing played prank on Vietnamese official, lawyer says(*Reuters*, 03/20/2018)

Top News:

- It is important that the US presses the NK on human rights, though it may not produce immediate success. Human rights is not the focal point of the discussions between Trump and Kim, but it is important to include that topic. (Robert King, KEI)
- Bob Collins, author of several HRNK Publications, joined the the John Bachelor Show to discuss the South Korean public opinion on negotiations and concessions with NK, and what that might mean for Moon's reelection. (*John Bachelor Show*)
- Trump should press KJU to improve the regime's human rights record if the two meet as planned, Robert King, former US special envoy for NK human rights said in an Op-Ed Mon. (*Yonhap*)

In North Korea:

- The N. Korean authorities have quietly announced the sudden death of a Chinese citizen imprisoned in a correctional labor camp in Sariwon, allegedly due to illness. The man was serving a sentence there after being accused of selling N, Korean "state secrets" to SK three years ago. (Seol Sung-ah, *Daily NK*)
- KJU appears to have kept out of the public eye for about 2 weeks, indicating that he is occupied with preparations for upcoming summits with SK and the US. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- NK looks set to resurrect a mass acrobatic extravaganza in what appears to be a renewed drive to boost tourism revenue in the isolated regime. (Nicola Smith, Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- There's no way NK would give up its nuclear weapons because they have no reason to believe the US will implement any denuclearization deal between them, John Mearsheimer, a professor at the University of Chicago well known for his realist views on international politics, said Tues. (*Yonhap)*

- There has been no mention of the willingness to denuclearize in NK's media to date, or the fact that NK's stated willingness to denuclearize has enabled the meeting between KJU and Trump. (Ahn Jong-sik, *Daily NK*)
- In yet another attempt to evade sanctions and earn foreign currency, the N. Korean authorities have reportedly been expanding permits allowing citizens to visit relatives in China and earn money during the trip. (Jang Seul-gi, *Daily NK*)
- A popular N. Korean beer banned under international sanctions for export outside the country is now being bottled in China and sold to restaurants as a smuggled product. (Kim Joon-ho, Jun Lee-jin, Richard Finney, *RFA*)
- Commercial satellite imagery from Mar.14 of the Sohae Satellite Launching Station, NK's main space launch facility, indicates little activity around the facility as a whole and shows no indications of a recent or forthcoming engine test or preparations for a satellite launch. (Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., *38 North*)

In South Korea:

- The main opposition Liberty Korea Party (LKP) on Tues. criticized the possible move by SK and the US to keep their upcoming military exercises low-key, arguing it could send the "wrong signal" to NK. (*Yonhap*)
- Over 8,000 cyber attacks orchestrated by hacker groups sponsored by the N. Korean government have been detected since early Feb. this year, according to a new report published by the Japanese newspaper Sankei Shimbun. (Jang Seul-gi, *Daily NK*)
- S. Koreans are increasingly optimistic about the prospects for peace following Trump's surprising decision to meet with KJU to resolve the nuclear standoff on the Korean Peninsula. (Brian Padden, *VOA*)
- The S. Korean government should not bend over backwards and tone down the military drills to please NK when Seoul and Pyongyang have not even established a basic framework for denuclearization. (*Joongang Ilbo*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- SK and NK kicked off working-level talks Tues. to discuss a S. Korean art troupe's planned performance in Pyongyang in early Apr. (*Yonhap*)
- SK agreed Tues. to send a 160-member art troupe to Pyongyang for rare concerts in early April ahead of SK and NK's planned summit late next month. (*Yonhap*)
- With the dates and venues for the upcoming S. Korean music shows in Pyongyang set, eyes are now turning toward the K-pop stars picked for the rare cultural event celebrating the rapprochement between the two countries. (Chang Dong-woo, *Yonhap*)
- Red Velvet, a girl group known for its eclectic K-pop stylings, will be one of several music artists performing in NK next month ahead of a summit meeting between Moon and KJU. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Ilbo*)

- Sanctions imposed on NK will not be eased until NK takes concrete action on its denuclearization, SK's top diplomat said Tuesday, reaffirming that Pyongyang will receive no compensation for simply coming out for talks. (*Yonhap*)
- The two Koreas agreed Tues. that a 160-member performance troupe from SK will perform two times in Pyongyang in Apr. (Kwon Mee-yoo, *Korea Times*)
- A group of SK's K-pop singers will visit Pyongyang from Mar. 31, SK said on Tues., a reciprocal visit after NK sent performers to the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics. (*Reuters*)
- SK said Tues. it will send a 160-member artistic group to NK, including about 10 celebrated K-Pop singers, for rare concerts there. (Kim Hyung-jin, AP)
- SK's biggest pop acts are set to perform in NK next month, as part of the two government's agreement to hold cultural concerts in Pyongyang, ahead of a rare inter-Korean summit. (Jennie Oh, UPI)

International:

- The top diplomats of SK and the member countries of the EU have reaffirmed that they will work closely together to achieve a peaceful and negotiated solution of N. Korean nuclear issues, the foreign ministry said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- SK will have a large role in determining the success of a planned summit between Trump and KJU, a former senior US diplomat said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- SK and the US will kick off their large-scale combined military exercises Apr. 1 that have been delayed amid an Olympics-driven peace mood, the defense authorities here announced Tues. (Lee Chi-dong, *Yonhap*)
- NK's growing missile arsenal might be the most obvious and immediate military threat facing Japan, but defense planners in Tokyo are focused on a much larger and more challenging foe as they prepare for the years ahead. China. (*Reuters*)
- NK has a nasty history of cheating deals and we don't know how many nuclear weapons NK has. Nor is there a foolproof way to verify what NK says. (Robert A. Manning, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- A Vietnamese woman accused of killing KJU's estranged half brother told police she realized she had been used to murder him after she was detained, her lawyer said Tues. (AP)
- As far as we know right now, the Trump-Kim meeting could be nixed as fast as it was agreed to. To ensure that the summit takes place and achieves the historical opening up of NK, leaders of SK and the US should use all the wisdom of their diplomatic teams. (Nam Jeong-ho, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Annual US-SK military drills that infuriate NK will begin on Apr. 1, the allies said Tues., but they will likely be more low-key than past years ahead of two highly anticipated summits among the countries' leaders. (Kim Hyung-jin, Robert Burns, AP)
- SK and the US finally made public a decision Tues. to resume their regular joint war games, apparently trying to tone down the annual exercises. (Lee Chi-dong, *Yonhap*)
- Denuclearization is not on the agenda in a meeting in the Finnish capital on Tues. between delegations from NK, SK,, and the US, Finland's Foreign Minister Timo Soini said. (Jussi Rosendahl, Simon Johnson, *Reuters*)

- N. Korean diplomats met with former S. Korean and US officials in talks facilitated by the Finnish government in Helsinki on Mon. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- The Pentagon said Mon. that it will launch military exercises alongside S. Korean troops beginning Apr.1 at a scale similar to that of previous years, despite potentially sensitive talks involving Trump and KJU that could begin the following month. (Dan Lemothe, *WaPo*)
- The Republican who heads the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee said on Mon. that Trump's nominee for secretary of state, Mike Pompeo, will face tough questions on NK and Iran if he is to be confirmed in the role. (Lesley Wroughton, Patricia Zengerle, *Reuters*)
- The US and SK will resume their annual combined exercises on Apr. 1 on a scale similar to those of previous years, the Ministry of National Defense announced Tues. (Lee Sung-eun, Lee Chul-jae, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- SK and the International Atomic Energy Agency will hold a meeting this week to discuss NK's nuclear issue and nonproliferation efforts, the foreign ministry said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- SK and the US have agreed to work together closely for the success of their upcoming dialogue with NK that could determine the fate of the countries and the world, Seoul's top security adviser said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- SK and the US have decided to resume their joint military drills next month, while reassuring NK that the exercises will be "defense-oriented." (Jennie Oh, *UPI*)
- The US and SK will resume joint military drills next month, Seoul and Washington said on Tues., exercises that will go ahead despite Trump's planned meeting with KJU. (Hyonhee Shin, Idrees Ali, *Reuters*)
- SK and the US will on Fri. commence postponed military exercises although the manueuvres appear to have been scaled back amid a diplomatic thaw on the Korean peninsula. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- Thae stressed that the US and SK must understand KJU's strategy to achieve legitimate nuclear power status through his current peace offensive, and the allies must insist on verifiable progress towards denuclearization prior to any meeting. (*Unification Media Group*)
- A woman accused of poisoning KJU's half-brother played a prank on a Vietnamese government official in Hanoi less than two weeks before the sensational killing, her lawyer told a Malaysian court on Tues. (*Reuters*)

Prepared by Emma Stubblefield, HRNK Research Intern

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

South Korean President Moon hints at three-way US, North Korea talks; North Korea urges hardliners not to 'spoil atmosphere' as it breaks silence on planned Trump-Kim meeting

In North Korea:

'Peace-loving' North Korea claims credit for thaw with US (*Guardian*, 03/21/2018)
[Photo] Money-hungry authorities permit special trips for cash (*Daily* NK, 03/21/2018)
Report: Drunk driving, speeding show elite status in North Korea (UPI, 03/21/2018)
NKorea says its diplomatic moves are not a sign of weakness (*WaPo*, 03/21/2018)
North Korea's criticism sessions become less cutthroat (*Daily* NK, 03/21/2018)
North Korea importing mining equipment in anticipation of US sanctions relief (*Daily* NK,03/21/2018)
North Korea launches diplomatic offensive (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/21/2018)
North Korea says sanctions did not push it to seek US talks (BBC, 03/21/2018)
North Korea urges hardliners not to 'spoil atmosphere' as it breaks silence on planned Trump-Kim meeting (*Telegraph*, 03/21/2018)
North Korea warns its detractors, notes an 'atmosphere for reconciliation' ahead of talks(*WaPo*, 03/21/2018)
North Korean authorities sell restricted TV channel to residents for cash (*Daily* NK,03/21/2018)
North Korean media lashes out at skeptics, softens tone on Seoul, U.S. (UPI, 03/20/2018)
Traffic accidents in N. Korea appear to have increased since Kim Jong-un took power: research team (*Yonhap*, 03/21/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) Six-member advance team for S. Korea's art troupe to visit N.K. this week (*Yonhap*, 03/21/2018)
S. Korea women's hockey team coach misses practicing with N. Koreans (*Yonhap*, 03/21/2018)
Seoul proposes high-level talks on summit with N. Korea on March 29 (*Yonhap*, 03/21/2018)

International:
(LEAD) Britain willing to play role in N. Korea denuclearization process, new envoy says(*Yonhap*, 03/21/2018)
(LEAD) IAEA ready to return to N.K. to verify its nuke program: IAEA official (*Yonhap*, 03/21/2018)
(3rd LD) Moon hints at possible three-way summit with U.S., N. Korean leaders (*Yonhap*, 03/21/2018)
About 200 N.K. ships on U.S. Coast Guard watch list: report (*Yonhap*, 03/21/2018)
DMZ? Sweden? Washington? Trump-Kim summit site rumors swirl (*WaPo*, 03/21/2018)
Japan Wants Abductees, Mid-Range Missiles on Table in US-North Korea Talks (VOA,03/20/2018)
Kim Jong Un congratulates Russia's Putin on re-election (UPI, 03/21/2018)
Moon: Trilateral summit with Seoul, U.S., North possible (UPI, 03/21/2018)
N.K. calls for prudence ahead of proposed summits with S. Korea, U.S. (*Yonhap*, 03/21/2018)
N. Korean leader congratulates Putin for re-election (*Yonhap*, 03/20/2018)
No deal is not an option (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/21/2018)
North Korean, South Korean, U.S. delegates had constructive meeting, host Finland says(Reuters, 03/21/2018)
S. Korea, U.S. to maintain pressure, dialogue to induce N. Korea's 'sincere' change (*Yonhap*, 03/21/2018)
Seoul is proposing a three-way summit (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/21/2018)
South Korea's Moon says three-way summit with North Korea, U.S. possible (*Reuters*, 03/21/2018)
South Korean President Moon hints at three-way US, North Korea talks (CNN, 03/21/2018)

Summit Offers Hope to Son of American Held in North Korea (NYT, 03/21/2018)
Trump says to meet Putin soon to discuss N.K. (*Yonhap*, 03/20/2018)
Two Koreas, U.S. end semiofficial talks in Finland (*Yonhap*, 03/21/2018)
U.S. dismisses report of deal on N.K. detainees as 'purely speculation' (*Yonhap*, 03/20/2018)
Video Shows Kim Murder Suspect Playing Prank in Hanoi, Defense Says (RFA, 03/20/2018)
Vietnam suspends trading of certain N.K. items in line with UNSC resolutions (*Yonhap*, 03/21/2018)

In North Korea:

- NK has commented for the first time on the recent rapprochement on the peninsula, saying warming relations with SK and the US are thanks to its "proactive measure and peace-loving proposal". (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)
- The N. Korean authorities have permitted foreign visitors at Paektu Mountain to swim in the Samjiyon Pond. Swimming in the pond is not normally permitted, but this exception is seen as a bid to welcome and encourage foreign tourists to visit and spend foreign currency. (Kang Mi-jin, *Daily NK*)
- Road accidents in NK appear to have increased in recent years with members of the elite class driving recklessly or under influence, S. Korean experts said. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- NK's recent moves to ease tensions on the Korean Peninsula are evidence of its confidence and national strength, not a sign of weakness, according to its state-run media. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- Criticism session: students, factory workers, farmers, and cadres alike are forced to partake in regular meetings to announce and discuss transgressions and mistakes, but authorities have recently issued orders encouraging residents to discuss positive stories rather than dwelling only on negative information. (Kang Mi-jin, *Daily NK*)
- NK has begun importing equipment needed to restart coal production and export. The developments suggest that business managers in NK are anticipating sanctions relief to follow planned meetings in Apr. and May between KJU, Moon, and Trump. (Seol Song-ah, *Daily NK*)
- Ahead of KJU's landmark summits with SK and the US in Apr. and May, the reclusive regime has been engaging in whirlwind diplomacy, preparing for what many see as the young leader's grand debut on the international stage. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- N. Korean state media has said it was "self-confidence" and not sanctions that drove it to seek talks with SK and the US. (*BBC*)
- NK has called for a "patient" approach to the recent fast paced developments in its relations with SK and the US, finally breaking its silence since Trump surprised the world by accepting an invitation to meet Kim Jong-un. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- NK has warned detractors to exercise "prudence" ahead of planned summits with the Moon and Trump, noting there is a "dramatic atmosphere for reconciliation" between the two Koreas and also a "sign of change" in the relationship between NK and the US. (Anna Fifield, *WaPo*)
- For the first time, the N. Korean authorities are selling access to a television station for foreign currency which was previously only available to elite residents in Pyongyang. (Kang Mi-jin, *Daily NK*)

- NK says now is only the beginning of inter-Korean relations as well as its ties with the US, lashing out at skepticism from right-wing critics in SK. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- Traffic accidents in NK appear to have increased since KJU took power, a S. Korean research team said Wed., citing increased reports about overseas traffic accidents in state media and warnings of punishment for traffic violators. (Yonhap)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- A six-member S. Korean advance team will visit NK this week to check venues for a S. Korean art troupe's planned performances in Pyongyang, a government official said Wed. (Yonhap)
- Nearly a month after the two Koreas' joint women's ice hockey team worked together at the PyeongChang Winter Olympics, head coach Sarah Murray said Wed. she misses working with the N. Korean players. (Joo Kyung-don,Yonhap)
- SK on Wed. proposed holding high-level talks with NK next week to discuss details of the upcoming summit between their leaders. (Yonhap)

International:

- The UK is willing to provide its expert knowledge in nuclear nonproliferation and power generation to assist in the process of denuclearizing NK, its new ambassador to SK said Wed. (Yonhap)
- The International Atomic Energy Agency stands ready to do its nuclear verification work on NK, a high-ranking official of the nuclear watchdog said Wed. (Yonhap)
- Moon on Wed. floated the possibility of a three-way summit among the two Koreas and the US. (Yonhap)
- The U.S. Coast Guard has been monitoring about 200 N. Korean ships since last month, a US broadcaster reported Wed. (Yonhap)
- With just weeks to go, there's still no official word on where Trump and KJU will hold their unprecedented summit. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- Japanese leaders, while calling for a united front with the US and SK ahead of proposed US-NK nuclear talks, are seeking to thrust issues of their own onto the agenda. (Yuri Nagano, VOA)
- KJU has congratulated Russian President Vladmir Putin on his re-election this week, reaffirming the decades-long ties between the two states. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- There could be a three-way summit between the two Koreas and the US, Moon said Wed. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- NK on Wed. broke its silence about its burgeoning mood of conciliation with the US, cautioning hardliners in Seoul and Washington against trying to "spoil the atmosphere." (Yonhap)
- KJU on Tues. extended his "heartfelt congratulations" to Russian President Vladimir Putin for his landslide re-election victory. (Yonhap)
- Kim is still young and thinking about his future. Trump is desperate in the face of a special counsel investigation and possible impeachment. Moon is desperate, too. No deal is not an

option for them. We hope that their desperation will create a miracle in the dark. (Kim Hyun-ki, *Joongang Ilbo*)

- Informal talks held in Finland between N. Korean, S. Korean and US delegates ended on Wed., the Finnish foreign ministry said, describing the talks as constructive. (Simon Johnson, Jussi Rosendahl, *Reuters*)
- SK and the US agreed Wed. to maintain the two-pronged approach of pressure and dialogue toward NK in order to lead it to change its course with sincerity, the Ministry of National Defense said. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon teased the possibility of a three-way summit for the leaders of the two Koreas and the US Wed. during a meeting with his aides at the Blue House, stressing that the summit diplomacy of the next few weeks will have to "completely end" the nuclear crisis on the Korean Peninsula. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Moon said on Wed. a three-way summit with NK and the US is possible and that talks should aim for an end to the nuclear threat on the Korean peninsula. (Shin Hyonhee, Kristine Kim, *Reuters*)
- Moon has teased the possibility of a three-way meeting between the US, NK and SK, if a series of upcoming summits is successful. (Ben Westcott, Sophie Jeong, CNN)
- The son of an American held in NK sees a glimmer of hope that a planned summit by Trump and KJU can help win his father's freedom. (AP)
- Trump said Tues. he plans to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin in the "not-too-distant" future to discuss various issues, including NK. (*Yonhap*)
- A three-way semiofficial meeting between the two Koreas and the US in Finland ended on Wed., the Finnish foreign ministry said, describing the talks as constructive. (*Yonhap*)
- The US on Tues. dismissed a news report about a deal on the release of American citizens in NK as "purely speculation." (*Yonhap*)
- One of the two Southeast Asian women accused of murdering the estranged half-brother of NK's leader practiced carrying out what she believed was a prank at an airport in Vietnam two weeks before the Kuala Lumpur killing, a Malaysian court heard on Tues. (BenarNews)
- Vietnam has temporarily suspended the trade of "certain" N. Korean products in line with two UN Security Council resolutions adopted in the wake of its missile and nuclear provocations. (*Yonhap*)

Prepared by Emma Stubblefield, HRNK Research Intern

Thursday, March 22, 2018

N.K.'s parliament to hold meeting in April before inter-Korean summit; U.N. extends work of panel monitoring N.K. sanctions; Finding a role for China in the North Korean peace process

In North Korea:

(2nd LD) N. Korea's rubber-stamp parliament to hold meeting April 11 (*Yonhap*, 03/22/2018)
(3rd LD) N.K.'s parliament to hold meeting in April before inter-Korean summit (*Yonhap*, 03/22/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korea's rubber-stamp parliament to hold meeting April 11 (*Yonhap*, 03/22/2018)
NADA General Satellite Control Building (38*North*, 03/22/2018)
Namyang's post 2016 flood recovery (NK *Econ Watch*, 03/21/2018)
North Korea: 'Peace Offensive' With US, South Korea Shows Strength (VOA, 03/21/2018)
North Korea's rubber-stamp parliament to meet in April ahead of inter-Korean summit (*Reuters*, 03/21/2018)
North Korea to hold Supreme People's Assembly ahead of summits (UPI, 03/22/2018)
PPJ Visits South Hwanghae (NK *Leadership Watch*, 03/22/2018)
South Korean song becomes hit in North Korea after Samjiyon Orchestra Olympic performance (*Daily* NK)
SPA Will Meet on April 11 (NK *Leadership Watch*, 03/22/2018)
The Last Americans in North Korea: Christian Missionaries (*Wall Street Journal*, 03/19/2018)
Youth Farming Work Teams Hold Meeting (NK *Leadership Watch*, 03/22/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) Advance team for S. Korea's art troupe leaves for N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 03/22/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
S. Korea offers high-level inter-Korean talks next week (*Yonhap*, 03/22/2018)

International:
'Track 1.5' Helsinki talks deemed 'constructive' (*Joongang Daily*, 03/22/2018)
DPRK-Russia Intergovernmental Committee Meets (NK *Leadership Watch*, 03/22/2018)
Fears of flying (*Korea Times*, 03/22/2018)
Finding a role for China in the North Korean peace process (*Daily* NK, 03/22/2018)
IAEA says it will 'actively' contribute to denuclearization process for N.K. (*Yonhap*, 03/22/2018)
Koreas, US conclude 'constructive' talks in Finland (*Washington Post*, 03/21/2018)
Malaysia Police Deny Prejudice Against Kim Murder Suspects (VOA, 03/22/2018)
Mearsheimer: Trump-Kim summit will worsen relations (*Joongang Daily*, 03/22/2018)
More U.S. voters confident in diplomatic solution with N.K.: poll (*Yonhap*, 03/22/2018)
NKorean sanctions evasions reveal Hong Kong's middleman role (*Washington Post*, 03/22/2018)
Senior diplomats of S. Korea, EU to discuss cooperation over N. Korean nuke issue (*Yonhap*, 03/22/2018)
South Korea's Leader Floats 3-Way Talks With Trump and Kim Jong-un (NYT*imes*, 03/21/2018)
Triumph of Moon's diplomacy (*Korea Times*, 03/22/2018)
Trump should go to Pyongyang or there may be no summit (*Korea Times*, 03/22/2018)
Trump's Unorthodox North Korea Diplomacy Begins at Top (VOA, 03/22/2018)
U.N. extends work of panel monitoring N.K. sanctions (*Yonhap*, 03/22/2018)
UN extends work of experts monitoring North Korea sanctions (*Washington Post*, 03/21/2018)
White House dodges direct comment on trilateral summit with Koreas (*Yonhap*, 03/22/2018)
Why the United States might accept a nuclear North Korea (*Washington Post*, 03/22/2018)

In North Korea:

- NK's parliament plans to convene a session next month, state media said Thurs., ahead of its planned summits with SK and the US. (*Yonhap*)
- NK's parliament plans to convene a session next month, state media said Thurs., amid attention over whether the North will send messages targeting SK and the US ahead of its planned summits with them. (*Yonhap*)
- NK's parliament plans to convene a session next month, state media said Thurs., ahead of its planned summits with SK and the US. (*Yonhap*)
- NK plans to convene a major parliamentary meeting on Apr. 11, Pyongyang's state media said Thurs., without disclosing agenda details. (*Yonhap*)
- In May 2015, during a field guidance visit from KJU, NK unveiled a new General Satellite Control Building in Pyongyang, replacing the old General Satellite Control and Command Centre and serving as the central headquarters for the DPRK's National Aerospace Development Administration (NADA). The newer facility greatly expanded and modernized NK's ability to track and monitor satellite launches. (*38North*)
- New Google Earth imagery shows for the first time the scale of the construction work taken in the Namyang District of Onsong County in North Hamgyong Province, an area of NK along the Tumen River that experienced severe devastation from flooding in Sept. 2016. (*NK Econ Watch*)
- NK is contending that its recent "dialogue peace offensive" with the US and SK is the result of national strength, not pressure from international economic sanctions aimed at ending Pyongyang's nuclear and missile tests. (Ken Bredemeier, VOA)
- NK's Supreme People's Assembly, the isolated state's rubber-stamp parliament, will hold a meeting on Apr. 11, NK's state media said on Thurs., just weeks before an historic summit between NK and SK. (Christine Kim, *Reuters*)
- NK plans to hold a meeting of the Supreme People's Assembly in Apr. but it is unlikely the event will be held to make significant changes to the state's commitment to nuclear weapons development. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- DPRK state media reported on Mar. 20 (Tues.) that State Affairs Commission Vice Chair and Premier Pak Pong Ju surveyed various places in South Hwanghae Province including Haeju Trailing Farm Machine Factory and Ohyo'n Co-op Farm in Yo'nan County. (*NK Leadership Watch*)
- The 1984 hit song "To J" by S.Korean artist Lee Sun Hee is finding a new audience in NK after the Samjiyon Orchestra performed the song during one of their performances in SK. (Seoul Song Ah, *Daily NK*)
- The Supreme People's Assembly will gather in Pyongyang on Apr. 11, according to a decree released by the SPA Presidium (standing committee) on Mar. 15 (Thurs.). This meeting will be the sixth session of the 13th SPA. This SPA session will focus on approving the report of 2017 and the 2018 policy plan of the DPRK Cabinet and approving the DPRK's national budget for 2018. (*NK Leadership Watch*)
- The work of humanitarian groups has resurrected tough questions about giving aid to despot nations, a debate centered on whether assistance to the needy frees up state resources for corrupt purposes. In NK, the question is whether the help allows the regime to

spend more money on nuclear arms that threaten the US and its allies. The international response KJU's aggressive pursuit of nuclear-armed long-range missiles has been to squeeze commerce and reduce foreign aid. As a result, faith-based groups, which once accounted for a small proportion of aid to NK, now have an outsize role. These humanitarians, who are eligible for exemptions to the US travel ban, are among the last Americans who engage in face-to-face work between people of the two nations, which over the past year have swung between brinkmanship and, of late, the possibility of talks between KJU and US President Trump. (John Lyons, Jonathan Cheng, *Wall Street Journal*)

- A national meeting of youth work teams was held on Mar. 12 (Mon.) at the People's Palace of Culture. Among those in attendance were DPRK Vice Premier Minister of Agriculture Ko In Ho, Workers' Party of Korea Workers and Social Organizations Department Director Ri Il Hwang, Youth League Central Committee 1st Secretary Pak Chol Min, along with other DPRK Cabinet, rural management committee and Youth League officials. (*NK Leadership Watch*)

In South Korea:

- A six-member S.Korean advance team left for NK on Thurs. to check venues for a S.Korean art troupe's performances planned in Pyongyang in early Apr. ahead of an inter-Korean summit. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- SK on Thurs. officially offered to hold high-level talks with NK next week to discuss the date and agenda items for an inter-Korean summit slated for late Apr. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- Finland's Foreign Ministry described the "track 1.5" meetings between N.Korean diplomats and S.Korean and American former officials and academics in Helsinki, which concluded Wed., as "constructive" and "positive." (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)
- The DPRK-Russia Intergovernment Committee for cooperation in trade, economic, science and technology occurred at a conference room in the People's Palace of Culture in central Pyongyang during Mar. 20 (Tues.) and Mar. 21 (Wed.). The meeting was chaired by DPRK Minister of External Economic Relations (and former DPRK Ambassador to the Russian Federation) Kim Yong Jae and Russian Minister of Development of the Russian Far East Aleksandr Galushka. (*NK Leadership Watch*)
- US President Donald Trump is in such hot water in Washington that his summit with KJU, if it actually happens, will be either a distraction or a welcome relief from the pressure-cooker atmosphere at home. For both KJU and Trump, now may not be the best time to be flying off to some summit, knowing they're not all that safe and sound back home. (Donald Kirk, *Korea Times*)
- With the recent announcement of a meeting between the leaders of NK and SK in Apr. and potentially between KJU and US President Donald Trump in May, some observers are speculating that China fears it will not have a seat at the negotiating table. Although China officially announced that it welcomes the coming high-level summits, references to

'surprise' over the matter in state media suggest that China may not be so comfortable with the current state of affairs. (Yoo Hyun Jung, *Daily NK*)

- A high-ranking official of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said the nuclear watchdog will play an active role in the process of NK's denuclearization, a foreign ministry official said Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- Finland's government said Wed. that delegates from NK, SK and the US concluded "constructive" unofficial diplomatic talks in the Nordic country that were widely believed to be laying the groundwork for an upcoming meeting between the Koreas and a planned US-NK summit. (Jari Tanner, AP)
- A Malaysian police investigator said Thurs. the absence of four N.Korean suspects believed to have orchestrated the killing of their leader's half brother didn't cause prejudice against the two women who are on trial. (AP)
- The US and NK are "highly unlikely" to reach a deal at their bilateral summit, and the meeting will only exacerbate relations between both sides, political scientist John Mearsheimer said Thurs. at a forum in Seoul. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Daily*)
- More American voters have expressed confidence in a diplomatic solution to the nuclear standoff with NK, a survey showed Wed., as US President Donald Trump is set to meet with the N.Korean leader this spring. (*Yonhap*)
- Records for the Wan Heng and a number of other ships identified in recent UN and US sanctions blacklists and Japanese surveillance reports reveal ties to Hong Kong through front companies based here. The findings underscore rising concern over the southern Chinese financial capital's role as a nexus for NK's underground business network, which has led the US government to urge Hong Kong authorities to crack down. (Kelvin Chan, AP)
- Senior officials of SK and the European Union's diplomatic office will hold a meeting next week to discuss their cooperation over NK's nuclear issue, the foreign ministry here said Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon of SK said on Wed. that he and President Trump could sit down for a three-way summit meeting with KJU if their individual meetings with the N.Korean leader on denuclearizing his country proceed well in the coming weeks. (Choe Sang-hun, *NYTimes*)
- This opinion piece in *The Korea Times* argues that President Moon adroitly used NK's weakness to prod KJU to eschew his saber rattling and seek accommodation with SK and the US. NK must realize that only SK can save it from total collapse and utter destruction. KJU lives under the shadow of a popular revolt or a coup and only through a peaceful resolution of the conflict might he be able to escape the harsh punishment of history. (Mahmoud Elahi, *Korea Times*)
- Trump would be in a better position to go to Pyongyang than KJU would to leave his home base. If the two sides persist on their original stances, there could be no summit. Trump would feel tempted to go to Pyongyang and claim his place in history. (Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)
- US President Donald Trump's sudden decision to meet with N.Korean leader KJU, without first working out the framework of a nuclear deal, could produce a historic agreement, but it would come at the beginning of a long negotiation process. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- The United Nations Security Council voted Wed. to extend the work of a panel monitoring sanctions on NK for another year. (*Yonhap*)

- The Security Council voted unanimously Wed. to extend the mandate for UN experts monitoring sanctions against NK. (Edith M. Lederer, AP)
- The White House on Wed. dodged a direct response to S.Korean President Moon's suggestion of a future trilateral summit involving both Koreas and the US. (*Yonhap*)
- In view of limited American resources, the accommodation approach seems most pragmatic, both in the past and today. While the US may not yet be ready to accept a nuclear NK, that calculation may change, given the high military and political costs involved in trying to end the N.Korean nuclear weapons program forcefully. As a result, the US may fall back on its tried and true method—accepting KJU's nuclear program in exchange for concessions that help Washington to pursue its broader geopolitical interests in Asia. (Elmar Hellendoorn, *Washington Post*)

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, HRNK Research Intern

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Friday, March 23, 2018

Trump picks hardliner Bolton to replace McMaster as national security adviser; S. Korea preps for inter-Korean summit for progress on ties, denuclearization; U.S. showcases stealth fighter training on amphibious carrier

In North Korea:

Chinese customs confiscate North Korean shipment of metal wire deemed 'dual-use material' (*Daily*NK, 03/23/2018)

Inspections Tighten on Moscow-Pyongyang Rail Line After Weapon Found in Bag (RFA, 03/22/2018)

Kim Jong Un signals commitment to nuclear development, orders tight lid on activities at Yongbyon (*Daily*NK, 03/23/2018)

Lectures urge North Koreans to remain firm in resolve to possess nuclear weapons (*Daily*NK, 03/23/2018)

North Korea's Punggye-ri Nuclear Test Site: Significant Slowdown in Tunneling (*38 North*, 03/23/2018)

Prominent building in Pyongyang defaced with anti-regime graffiti (*Daily*NK, 03/23/2018)

Renewed economic 'self-reliance' goals in N. Korea insufficient to overcome sanctions, say experts (*Daily*NK, 03/23/2018)

In South Korea:

Inspection by art troupe's advance team proceeding as scheduled in N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 03/23/2018)

Listening to the diplomats (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/23/2018)

The Nobel art of self-defense (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/23/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

S. Korea preps for inter-Korean summit for progress on ties, denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 03/23/2018)

International:

(News Focus) Trump's pick of hawkish Bolton heralds tougher N.K. policy before summit: experts (*Yonhap*, 03/23/2018)
Asian Allies Refrain From Comment on Upheaval in Trump's Security Team (VOA, 03/23/2018)
Bolton's Appointment Comes at Sensitive Time for China Ties (NYT, 03/23/2018)
Bolton's move to White House signals a more hawkish turn (CNN, 03/22/2018)
Bolton the Hawk Gets His Chance (NYT, 03/23/2018)
Bolton's views on Russia, Iraq and North Korea contradict almost everything Trump says (*WaPo*, 03/23/2018)
Donald Trump is radically transforming his White House. He's been president for 1 year (CNN, 03/23/2018)
Geopolitical risk drives oil prices higher (UPI, 03/23/2018)
'Human scum and bloodsucker': Bolton's White House appointment fans worries over hawkish record in Asia (*Reuters*, 03/23/2018)
Japan loses out amid China trade threat that shakes markets (*Reuters*, 03/23/2018)
John Bolton: foreign policy radical who backs war with Iran and North Korea (*Guardian*, 03/23/2018)
John Bolton on: bombing Iran, North Korea, Russia and the Iraq War (CNN, 03/23/2018)
Korea and Vietnam to boost trade (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/23/2018)
Misreading Trump: Ally Japan Is Spurned on Tariff Exemptions (NYT, 03/23/2018)
S. Korea, U.S., Japan vow unrelenting fight against N. Korea's illicit trade (*Yonhap*, 03/23/2018)
U.S. military to hold civilian evacuation drill in Korea (*Yonhap*, 03/23/2018)
U.S. showcases stealth fighter training on amphibious carrier (*Reuters*, 03/23/2018)
U.S. trusts S. Korea in preparing for N.K. summit: State Department (*Yonhap*, 03/23/2018)
Tariffs show Trump doesn't want China's help with North Korea (CNN, 03/23/2018)
The return of John Bolton, a hawk on North Korea and Iran, sparks concerns around the world (*WaPo*, 03/23/2018)
'The Whole World Should Be Concerned': U.S. Allies React to Bolton's Appointment (NYT, 03/23/2018)
Time's up for Abe (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/23/2018)
Trump defends congratulatory phone call to Putin (*Reuters*, 03/23/2018)
Trump picks hardliner Bolton to replace McMaster as national security adviser (*Reuters*, 03/23/2018)
Trump picks hard-liner as his security adviser (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/23/2018)
Trump temporarily excludes EU, six other allies from steel tariffs (*Reuters*, 03/23/2018)
Trump to set stage for China tariffs amid trade war fears (*Reuters*, 03/22/2018)
Turkmenistan's vice PM to visit S. Korea next week (*Yonhap*, 03/23/2018)
Why North Korea called John Bolton 'human scum and a bloodsucker' in 2003 (*WaPo*, 03/23/2018

In North Korea:

- A shipment of goods supposedly slated for use in N.K. festivities surrounding the April 15 birthday of former leader Kim Il Sung has reportedly been confiscated by the Chinese customs office at the Dandong-Sinuiju border crossing. (Seol Song Ah, *DailyNK*)
- Russian railway police are increasing their scrutiny of trains bound for N.K. after a handgun was found last month in the baggage of a N.K. worker returning home. (RFA)
- The N.K. authorities have reportedly ordered the strengthening of protectionist measures surrounding the Yongbyon nuclear facilities following the meeting in early March between KJU and a team of S.K. special envoys in Pyongyang. (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)
- Despite KJU expressing a desire to resolve the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula, sources inside N.K. report that a directive has been issued to high-level officials to remain firm in their resolve to possess nuclear weapons. (Jang Seul Gi, *DailyNK*)
- Recent commercial satellite imagery of N.K.'s Nuclear Test Site suggests that there has been a significant slowdown in tunneling and a reduced presence of related personnel at the site. During this same time period, high-level talks between two Koreas moved forward, including Pyongyang's proposal for a summit with Trump. (*38 North*)
- The N.K. authorities have been put on high alert after discovering anti-KJU graffiti defacing a major government building in the capital earlier this month. (Lee Sang Yong, *DailyNK*)
- Domestically-manufactured products continue to gain market share over their Chinese counterparts in N.K.'s local markets as the authorities ramp up their emphasis on self-reliance. (Jang Seul Gi, *DailyNK*)

In South Korea:

- A S.K. advance team to N.K. is expected to inspect venues for a Seoul art troupe's April concerts in Pyongyang on Friday and return home as scheduled over the weekend. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon and Trump are known for their distrust in career diplomats. But Moon should be aware of that both the US and S.K. have experienced multiple diplomatic failures after neglecting the voices of diplomats. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- Winning the Nobel Peace Prize would not only be an honor for Moon, but would also mean that an infrastructure for peace on the peninsula is being established. (Jaung Hoon, *Joongang Ilbo*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- S.K. is preparing for an inter-Korean summit next month on hopes for "progress" in developing its ties with N.K. and resolving the nuclear issue. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- Trump's choice of security hawk John Bolton as new national security adviser could herald Washington's tougher stance on N.K. ahead of its planned summit with the reclusive state. (*Yonhap*)

- The announced appointment of John Bolton, who has advocated for preventive military strikes against N.K., to become the U.S. national security adviser has drawn muted reaction from key American allies in Asia. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- Foreign policy hard-liner Bolton's appointment as national security adviser comes at a sensitive time for relations with Beijing following Trump's approval of new tariffs on China and a law encouraging closer relations with Taiwan. (AP)
- Trump's appointment of Bolton as the security adviser marks a belligerent turn that could doom attempts to save the Iran nuclear deal, increase the possibility of a clash with N.K. and ratchet up tensions with Moscow. (Nicole Gaouette, CNN)
- The Trump administration has transitioned from the merely inept to the patiently terrifying. The appointment of the hawkish Bolton as national security adviser places him next to the hand that has access to the nuclear button. (NYT)
- Trump's newly named national security adviser is one of the most hawkish voices in American foreign policy and has been for years, which could provide a contrast and perhaps a shift in Trump's stated preference for noninterventionism. (Aaron Blake, WaPo)
- In the last 16 days, Trump has replaced his top economic adviser, his top foreign policy adviser and his top national security adviser. The new team has been chosen for their willingness to carry out the whims and wishes of the President. (Chris Cillizza, CNN)
- Geopolitical risk emerged Friday to drive oil prices higher for another day as Trump named a hawkish John Bolton as his national security adviser. (Daniel J. Graeber, UPI)
- Once rejected by N.K. as “human scum,” Bolton has called for regime change in N.K., prompting worries in Asia ahead of a historic summit between Washington and Pyongyang. (Christine Kim, Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- Trump dealt a blow to China with plans to slap tariffs on $60 billion of trade, he quietly delivered a slap in the face to one of Washington’s closest allies, Japan, which got no exemption from earlier announced duties. (Ami Miyazaki, Kaori Kaneko, *Reuters*)
- Trump has hired John Bolton, an unwavering and radical advocate of war against both N.K. and Iran to oversee his administration’s national security policy. (Julian Borger, *Guardian*)
- Bolton: "The N.K. threat is imminent, and the case against pre-emption rests on the misinterpretation of a standard that derives from prenuclear, pre-ballistic-missile times." (Gregory Krieg, CNN)
- S.K. and Vietnam agreed to boost their bilateral trade to $100 billion by 2020 in a summit meeting Friday, a 56 percent increase from last year’s total. The agreement came after Moon met with his Vietnamese counterpart Tran Dai Quang in Hanoi. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Japan, the largest American ally, was left off a list of countries temporarily exempted from stiff tariffs on steel and aluminum imports by the Trump administration. (Mitoko Rich, NYT)
- S.K., the US and Japan agreed Friday to maintain close cooperation against N.K.'s maritime activity prohibited under U.N. Security Council resolutions despite a peace mood on the peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- The U.S. military plans to hold a regular noncombatant evacuation drill in Korea next month under the scenario of a crisis here despite markedly eased tensions. (*Yonhap*)
- The U.S. military launched vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) F-35Bs from the deck of the USS Wasp amphibious carrier in the waters around Okinawa in its first show of stealth

aircraft force at sea. The exercise comes at a time when concerns remain high over N.K.'s nuclear program. (Nobuhiro Kubo, *Reuters*)

- The US is preparing for its summit with N.K. based on what its ally S.K. has said about the proposed meeting, the State Department said. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump's willingness to risk a trade war with China just weeks before his potential meeting with KJU shows how sidelined Xi's become in efforts to rein in Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program. (James Griffiths, CNN)
- Trump's decision to make John Bolton his new national security adviser ricocheted around the globe on Friday, unsettling allies and raising alarm that a hawk who advocates military action against N.K. and Iran will have the president's ear. (Michael Birnbaum, Anna Fifield and Loveday Morris, *WaPo*)
- With deeply conservative, nationalistic and aggressive views about American foreign policy, Bolton may bring more consistency and predictability to Trump's foreign policy, but there are also many worries about his hawkish views on Iran and N.K. (*NYT*)
- Contenders for a post-Abe Japan are likely to advocate an Asia-centered policy rather than Abe's extreme focus on the Japan-U.S. alliance. They may also seek improved relations with China and cooperation with S.K. (Jin Chang-soo, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Trump defended his congratulations to Vladimir Putin on the Russian president's disputed re-election victory on Wednesday, saying he wants Putin's help in solving crises from N.K. to Syria and beyond. (Steve Holland, *Reuters*)
- Trump shook up his foreign policy team again on Thursday, replacing H.R. McMaster as national security adviser with John Bolton, a hawk who has advocated using military force against N.K. and Iran. (Steve Holland, *Reuters*)
- John R. Bolton, a former U.S. ambassador to the UN who once threatened N.K. with military action and regime change, was named the new national security adviser to Trump. (Lee Sung-eun, Yoo Jee-hye, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Trump has temporarily excluded six countries, including Canada and Mexico, and EU states from higher U.S. import duties on steel and aluminum meant to come into effect on Friday. (Lesley Wroughton, *Reuters*)
- Trump was expected to lay the foundation for tariffs on Chinese imports worth around $50 billion on Thursday, in a move likely to trigger retaliation from Beijing and stoke fears of a global trade war. (Roberta Rampton, *Reuters*)
- Turkmenistan's vice prime minister in charge of foreign affairs will visit S.K. next week to discuss bilateral cooperation. (*Yonhap*)
- When Bolton visited S.K. in 2003, he delivered a speech titled "A Dictatorship at the Crossroads" and personally insulted then-N.K. leader Kim Jong Il, calling him a "tyrannical dictator." (Adam Taylor, *WaPo*)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

Saturday, March 24, 2018

Koreas to hold high-level talks to set up Moon-Kim summit; World wary as Trump turns to hardliners Bolton and Pompeo

In South Korea:
New jeans, new schools, new worries: North Korean family settles into South Korea (*WaPo*, 03/23/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) N. Korea agrees to high-level inter-Korean talks March 29: ministry (*Yonhap*, 03/24/2018)
Koreas Hold Summit Prep Talks Next Week (VOA, 03/24/2018)
Koreas to hold high-level talks to set up Kim-Moon summit (*WaPo*, 03/24/2018)
North and South Korea to Hold Preparatory Talks for Summit Meeting (NYT, 03/24/2018)
North and South Korea schedule talks at Panmunjom within days (*Guardian*, 03/24/2018)
South Korea says North Korea agrees to hold high-level talks (CNN, 03/23/2018)
South Korea says North agrees to hold summit preparation talks on March 29 (*Reuters*, 03/24/2018)

International:
(News Focus) Bolton divides pundits on prospects for Trump-Kim summit (*Yonhap*, 03/24/2018)
Bombs away: John Bolton's most hawkish views on Iran, Iraq and North Korea (*Guardian*, 03/23/2018)
Experts: Bolton Likely to Tackle 'One-China' Mantra (VOA, 03/23/2018)
Interview: Trump-Kim Talks to be 'A Very Short Meeting' if Pyongyang Won't Discuss Denuclearization (RFA, 03/23/2018)
Jimmy Carter briefed by White House on North Korea (CNN, 03/23/2018)
Sanctions and the Summit: Coordination Challenges for the Trump Administration (*38 North*, 03/23/2018)
The hawkish views of Bolton and Pompeo could mark a turning point for Trump (*WaPo*, 03/24/2018)
Trump should insist on Libya-style denuclearization for North Korea: Bolton (*Reuters*, 03/23/2018)
Will John Bolton's hawkish views rub off on Trump? (*WaPo*, 03/24/2018)
World wary as Trump turns to hardliners Bolton and Pompeo (CNN, 03/24/2018

In South Korea:

- A family who defected N.K. is now living a whole new life in S.K. It was only last August when the family was making a terrifying escape from N.K., fleeing over rivers, on buses and in rickety taxis through China, Vietnam, Laos and Thailand. (Anna Fifield, *WaPo*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- N.K. has accepted S.K.'s proposal to hold high-level talks on March 29 to discuss the date and agenda items for an inter-Korean summit slated for late April. (*Yonhap*)

- N.K. has agreed to meet with S.K. next week to coordinate the logistics and agendas for an inter-Korea summit in April. Each side will send a three-member team Thursday to the border truce village of Panmunjom. (VOA)
- The rival Koreas have agreed to hold high-level talks this coming week to prepare for an April summit between KJU and Moon. The summit aims to improve relations and resolve the standoff over the North's nuclear program. (Tong-Hyung Kim, AP)
- High-ranking officials from two Koreas will meet on the countries' border next week to prepare for the inter-Korean summit meeting planned for late next month. (Choe Sang-hun, NYT)
- The two Koreas are to hold high-level talks on 29 March to prepare for an April summit between both countries' leaders, Moon and KJU. Officials will discuss the date and specific agendas of the April summit at Panmunjom. (*Guardian*)
- S.K. said Saturday that N.K. has accepted its proposal to hold high-level inter-Korean talks next week. (Taehoon Lee, CNN)
- N.K. has agreed to hold high-level talks with S.K. on March 29 at the border truce village of Panmunjom to prepare for a summit of their leaders planned for April. (Cynthia Kim, *Reuters*)

International:

- Trump's incoming national security adviser, John Bolton, has divided pundits on whether the views of a hawkish former diplomat will change U.S. policy on N.K. ahead of an unprecedented bilateral summit. (*Yonhap*)
- A hawk among hawks, Bolton has advocated for pre-emptive strikes against N.K. and Iran, and pushed anti-immigration rhetoric. (Jamiles Lartey, *Guardian*)
- While John Bolton has said he would set aside his personal policy preferences and implement Trump's policies, the new appointment sparks speculations that a review on the US' current one-China stance may be underway. (Nike Ching, VOA)
- Bolton stated in an interview if N.K. is not prepared to have a serious discussion about what the real objective should be, which is its denuclearization, the Trump-KJU summit could actually be a very short meeting. (RFA)
- Former President Jimmy Carter is keeping tabs on the situation in N.K., and is willing to help if needed. Though he has been critical of Trump's rhetoric surrounding N.K., he welcomed Trump's willingness to meet with KJU. (Betsy Klein, CNN)
- As if the Trump administration did not face enough policy coordination and formulation challenges for the proposed Trump-Kim summit, sanctions policy will add other challenges that could derail the summit before it happens. (Joseph Dethomas, *38 North*)
- The last two weeks could mark a major turning point in Trump's presidency, as Trump has elevated two of the most consistently hawkish Republicans in Washington. (Greg Jaffe, *WaPo*)
- John Bolton, Trump's new national security adviser, said Trump should insist that any meeting he holds with N.K.'s leader must be focused squarely on how to eliminate that country's nuclear weapons program as quickly as possible. (*Reuters*)

- Trump's pick of John Bolton for his next national security adviser stirred up a burning question in Washington and in foreign capitals: Just how much will his hawkish approach rub off on Trump? (Josh Lederman and Jonathan Lemire, AP)
- Trump's decision to bring on John Bolton as national security adviser jolted the usually careful diplomatic world enough that a few unusually frank adjectives slipped out. (Nicole Gaouette and Richard Roth, CNN)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

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Sunday, March 25, 2018

'We Are Ready to Die.' Five North Korean Defectors Who Never Made It.; N.K. slams S. Korean military for backpedaling against peace mood

Top News:
'We Are Ready to Die.' Five North Korean Defectors Who Never Made It. (NYT, 03/25/2018)

In North Korea:
North Korea slows down operations at main nuclear test site (*UPI*, 03/25/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(3rd LD) Artists of two Koreas to perform together in Pyongyang on April 3: officials (*Yonhap*, 03/24/2018)
Despite conciliatory mood, private sector exchanges between two Koreas remain stalled(*Yonhap*, 03/25/2018)
N.K. slams S. Korean military for backpedaling against peace mood (*Yonhap*, 03/25/2018)
North Korea criticizes South Korea's plans for more jets, missiles (*UPI*, 03/25/2018)
S. Korean musicians to sing their famous songs, N.K. numbers in Pyongyang (*Yonhap*, 03/25/2018)
Talks on summit to be held soon (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/25/2018)

International:
Be frank with Bolton (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/25/2018)
Donald Trump and North Korea tipped to be on agenda as Barack Obama renews friendship with Shinzo Abe (*Telegraph*, 03/25/2018)
N. Korea's joint diplomatic mission condemns U.N. resolution on N.K. human rights (*Yonhap*, 03/25/2018)
Obama, in Japan, says NKorea's isolation means less leverage (*WaPo*, 03/25/2018)
South Korean president visits UAE amid deepening ties (*WaPo*, 03/25/2018)
Russia wants to build a bridge to North Korea. Literally. (*WaPo*, 03/25/2018)

Top News:

- The story of five North Koreans who were caught in China and did not make it South Korea. (Jane Perlez, Lee Su-hyun, NYT)

In North Korea:

- NK appears to have slowed down operations at its main nuclear site of Punggyeri, ahead of leader KJU's upcoming summits on denuclearization with SK and the US. (Jennie Oh, UPI)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- SK's art troupe will perform together with N. Korean artists in one of the two rare concerts slated for early next month in Pyongyang, Seoul officials said Sat. (*Yonhap*)
- Despite a flurry of conciliatory moves between SK and NK and their planned historic summit about a month away, exchanges on the private level have remained stalled largely due to diplomatic hurdles, observers said Sun. (*Yonhap*)
- NK blasted the S. Korean military on Sun. for acting against the conciliatory mood developing on the Korean Peninsula, saying that SK is engaging in military maneuvers against Pyongyang. (*Yonhap*)
- Pyongyang criticized SK's plans to acquire more fighter jets and air-to-surface missiles to scale up its weapons capacity against NK, amid efforts to ease tensions on the Korean Peninsula. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- S. Korean musicians who will perform in Pyongyang in April are expected to sing songs that are well known to N. Koreans as well as a few N. Korean numbers, industry watchers said Sun. (*Yonhap*)
- NK on Sat. agreed to high-level talks with SK on Thurs. to discuss a summit meeting between the country's leaders in late April. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Joongang Ilbo*)

International:

- Bolton has persistently championed military action to tame Pyongyang and is expected to advise Trump to go tough in his talks with KJU and not be deceived into agreeing to a deal of peace. Seoul authorities must not take lightly the recruitment of a hard-line figure as the top negotiator in White House. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- Japanese PM Shinzou Abe joined Obama for lunch on Sun. Although it was released as a catch-up lunch, local media reports claimed there would be one key topic which the pair were most likely to discuss: NK. (Danielle Demetriou, *Telegraph*)
- N. Korean diplomatic missions have denounced the latest adoption of a resolution by the UN condemning NK's human rights situation, accusing it of being an attempt to "tarnish the image" of the regime to further isolate it. (*Yonhap*)
- Obama said Sun. that negotiations with NK on its nuclear weapons program are difficult, partly because the country's isolation minimizes possible leverage, such as trade and travel sanctions against Pyongyang. (Yuri Kageyama, AP)

- Moon's visit to the United Arab Emirates this week shows the Asian nation's deepening cooperation with the Gulf country, from buying its oil to building the Arabian Peninsula's first nuclear power plant and potentially backing it in war. (Jon Gambrell, AP)
- This week, amid a period of relative calm on the oft-tense Korean Peninsula, Russian representatives traveled to NK to discuss an idea: They should open another bridge.
  Though the planning appears to be at a preliminary stage, it may show that Russia and NK are looking toward a trading future beyond sanctions and military tensions. (Adam Taylor, *WaPo*)

Prepared by Emma Stubblefield, HRNK Research Intern

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Monday, March 26, 2018

North slams human rights monitor; N. Korea savages South's security consultations with U.S., Japan; Trump says sanctions are hurting the North Korean economy. But in some ways it appears stable.

In North Korea:
'Reduced activities' at NK nuclear test site (*Korea Times*, 03/25/2018)
Despite K-pop stars visit to North, crackdowns on foreign information intensify (*DailyNK*, 03/26/2018)
High-level North Korean official may be visiting Beijing: Japanese media (*Reuters*, 02/26/2018)
North slams human rights monitor (*Joongang Daily*, 03/26/2018)
North Korea's top diplomat Ri Yong Ho to visit Russia (UPI, 03/26/2018)
North Korea urges U.S. to adopt 'serious attitude' for peace, end sanctions (*Reuters*, 02/26/2018)
Ranking N.K. official apparently visiting China: report (*Yonhap*, 03/26/2018)
Some neighborhood watch leaders picked by more democratic process (*DailyNK*, 03/26/2018)

In South Korea:
Gwangju top educator proposes field trip to North Korea (*Korea Times*, 03/25/2018)
Minor quake strikes near inter-Korean maritime border (*Korea Times*, 03/26/2018)
Pyongyang Style? South Korea wants pop star Psy to play in the North (*Guardian*, 03/25/2018)
S. Korea renovating conference house at Joint Security Area ahead of inter-Korean summit (*Yonhap*, 03/26/2018)
Seoul to seek both security guarantee for N.K., denuclearization: spy agency (*Yonhap*, 03/26/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Chiefs of South, North Korean Red Cross to meet in regional forum this week (*Yonhap*, 03/26/2018)
Gangnam Style soft diplomacy too much for North Korea (*Telegraph*, 03/26/2018)

N. Korea savages South's security consultations with U.S., Japan (*Yonhap*, 03/26/2018)

International:

(LEAD) EU reaffirms support for peaceful resolution of N.K. nuke issue (*Yonhap*, 03/26/2018)
A flurry of summits on Korea (*Korea Times*, 03/25/2018)
America's global friends and foes are on the edge of their seats (CNN, 03/25/2018)
AP-NORC Poll: Americans open to Trump's planned NKorea talks (*Washington Post*, 03/26/2018)
As moves for dialogue between North Korea and allies gather momentum, Japan prepares to enhance its missile shield (*The Japan Times*, 03/26/2018)
Bolton: N. Korea wants to buy time to develop nukes (*Yonhap*, 03/26/2018)
Bolton accuses North of buying time with talks (*Joongang Daily*, 03/26/2018)
China 'still a player' on North Korea, despite Trump-Kim talks, Japanese official says (*South China Morning Post*, 03/26/2018)
China Feb fuel exports to North Korea tiny; no corn, rice exports (*Reuters*, 03/26/2018)
China pushing to strengthen communication amid growing peace mood: official (*Yonhap*, 03/26/2018)
Dealing with Bolton (*Joongang Daily*, 03/26/2018)
Iran nuclear issue could affect N. Korea talks (*Korea Times*, 03/25/2018)
Lawmakers call for pressure on Myanmar over Pyongyang ties (*Washington Post*, 03/26/2018)
North Korea, U.S. must "cut to the chase" on denuclearization: Bolton (*NKNews.org*, 03/26/2018)
North Korea buying time to develop nuclear weapons, says Trump's new security adviser John Bolton (*Telegraph*, 03/26/2018)
Reports: Special NKorea train arrives in Beijing under guard (*Washington Post*, 03/26/2018)
Singapore revokes all North Korean work permits: report (*NKNews.org*, 03/26/2018)
The moment of truth (*Joongang Daily*, 03/26/2018)
Trump's hawkish turn (*Korea Times*, 03/25/2018)
Trump says sanctions are hurting the North Korean economy. But in some ways it appears stable. (*Washington Post*, 03/26/2018)
U.S. travel ban hits foreign attendance figures for North Korea marathon(*Reuters*, 03/26/2018)
US shows off new F-35 fighter jets ahead of US-South Korea drills (CNN, 03/26/2018

In North Korea:

- Tunneling at NK's Punggye-ri nuclear test site eased in mid-Mar., according to 38 North, a US news outlet focusing on N.Korean affairs. The slowdown comes as the Koreas prepare for a summit in Apr. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- Although NK is outwardly promoting an image of relative 'opening' through its participation in the Olympics and recent invitation to S.Korean K-pop artists to perform in Pyongyang, sources in other areas of the country are reporting that within NK, the authorities are intensifying their crackdown on the spread of outside information. (Jang Seul Gi, *DailyNK*)
- A high-ranking N.Korean official appeared to have arrived by train in Beijing, Japanese media reported, though speculation that N.Korean leader KJU is currently visiting the Chinese capital has not been confirmed. (*Reuters*)

- NK accused the United Nations of trying to topple its leadership with resolutions condemning the country's human rights record and called such pressure a core reason for strengthening its military capabilities. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Daily*)
- NK's foreign minister is expected to visit Russia in Apr., according to a Russian press report. RIA Novosti reported Mon. Ri Yong Ho, who made headlines in 2017 after threatening to detonate a hydrogen bomb over the Pacific, is planning to meet with Russian officials next month. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- NK said on Mon. its policy of seeking better ties with SK was enjoying broad international support, and called on the US to halt its sanctions and pressure. (Stephanie Nebehay, *Reuters*)
- A high-ranking N.Korean official appears to be visiting China, but it has yet to be confirmed whether the figure is N.Korean leader KJU, a Japanese report said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- Multiple sources inside NK have confirmed a move by the authorities to institute popular elections for local People's Unit (inminban) leaders. Although the elections will be taking place at the very lowest level of administration in the country, the selection of People's Unit leaders by their constituents represents at least a small step towards raising democratic awareness among N.Koreans. (Kang Mi Jin, *DailyNK*)

In South Korea:

- Gwangju Metropolitan Office of Education wants to send students to NK for their field trip. The education office said Sun. it sent the proposal to Cheong Wa Dae and the Unification Ministry ahead of a planned SK-NK summit next month. Officials said students would be able to learn much about NK through hands-on experience. (Jung Min-ho, Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)
- A minor 2.7-magnitude earthquake struck off an island near the inter-Korean maritime border in the West Sea, the state weather agency said on Mon. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- Seoul is pushing for Gangnam Style star Psy to perform in next week's historic concerts by S.Korean artists in NK's capital, according to multiple reports. (Agence France-Presse, *Guardian*)
- SK is renovating a conference building at the Joint Military Area (JSA) with NK as the countries are gearing up for a summit of their leaders at the venue next month, officials said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- SK plans to simultaneously seek to provide a security guarantee for NK and make NK give up nuclear weapons when the two Koreas hold a summit, Seoul's spy agency said Mon. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The Red Cross chiefs of SK and NK will meet this week in a regional forum to discuss cooperation on social issues, the South Korean chief said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- NK may be willing to negotiate on denuclearisation, but allowing outlandish S.Korean pop star Psy to inflict his "provocative" dance moves on Pyongyang is apparently a step too far. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)

- NK on Mon. slammed SK's recent security consultation meetings with the US and Japan, accusing them of weighing down inter-Korean relations. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- The European Union reaffirmed its active support for SK's efforts to peacefully resolve the NK nuclear issue, a foreign ministry official said Mon.. (*Yonhap*)
- Whether Trump can produce a successful deal will depend on how much reward he is ready to give to North Korea and how soon. Negotiation is a process of give-and-take. If Trump wins in his gamble, war will be avoided. And that will be good for all. (Tong Kim, *Korea Times*)
- The N.Korean regime has called Bolton "human scum" and vowed not to deal with him, likely a result of his public views embracing military force and regime change in NK. Allies Japan and SK are likely also wondering whether Bolton will mean that the US will revert back to all fire and fury in place of giving all options—including diplomacy—a real shot. (Samantha Vinograd, CNN)
- Americans appear open to President Donald Trump's surprise decision to negotiate directly with N.Korean leader KJU, and at the same time are less concerned than in recent months by the threat posed by the pariah nation's nuclear weapons. (Matthew Pennington, Emily Swanson, AP)
- As the world looks to upcoming summits involving Pyongyang, Seoul and Washington with hopes of achieving even slight progress toward denuclearizing NK, Japan's Defense Ministry maintains that it's still too soon for the nation to consider dropping plans to boost security. (Daisuke Kikuchi, *The Japan Times*)
- NK is offering negotiations with the US in order to buy time to develop its nuclear weapons, the incoming US national security adviser said Sun. (*Yonhap*)
- John R. Bolton, an US hard-liner on NK policy who was named President Donald Trump's new national security adviser last week, accused Pyongyang of trying to "slow-roll the negotiations" with Washington to buy more time for its nuclear weapons development, saying the regime had only a "limited number of things" to do to strike the US with nuclear warheads. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Daily*)
- China still has a significant role to play on the NK nuclear issue, regardless of the planned talks between US President Donald Trump and N.Korean leader KJU, according to a former Japanese foreign minister. (Teddy Ng, *South China Morning Post*)
- China kept fuel exports to NK to a trickle and shipped no corn or rice to its isolated neighbour last month, data showed on Mon., extending a months-long drop in trade amid tensions over Pyongyang's nuclear and missile program. (*Reuters*)
- China appears to be pushing to strengthen its communication with NK, amid signs of a growing peace mood, after the reclusive state recently expressed willingness to come out for talks on its denuclearization, a foreign ministry official said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- According to The New York Times, Bolton said the upcoming summit between KJU and Trump should "be a fairly brief session where Trump says: 'Tell me you have begun total denuclearization, because we're not going to have protracted negotiations. You can tell me right now or we'll start thinking of something else." The newspaper said Bolton made clear

that the "something else" is a pre-emptive strike against NK. Unless the Moon administration keeps step with Washington, SK could face danger. (Chun Yong-gi, *Joongang Daily*)

- The possibility of the US abandoning the Iran nuclear deal, a move supported by US President Donald Trump as well as his newly appointed national security adviser John Bolton, could have implications for how Washington will address the Pyongyang nuclear issue. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- The Trump administration has slapped sanctions on companies across the globe to punish illicit trade with nuclear-armed NK, yet Myanmar, which is suspected of acquiring ballistic missile systems from the pariah state, has escaped the full force of the "maximum pressure" campaign. (Matthew Pennington, AP)
- Prospective US National Security Advisor John Bolton on Sun. said NK and the US must use an upcoming summit between the two countries to "cut to the chase" on the denuclearization issue. (Dagyum Ji, *NKNews.org*)
- Incoming US national security advisor John Bolton on Sun. vowed to maintain a hardline stance in upcoming negotiations with NK, warning that Pyongyang was only coming to the table in an effort to buy time to develop its nuclear weapons program. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- Japanese media reports said a special N.Korean train arrived in Beijing under unusually heavy security on Mon., suggesting a senior delegation might have been aboard. (AP)
- The government of Singapore has canceled all work permits previously issued to N.Korean citizens in the country, according to its latest implementation report to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) committee on sanctions against the DPRK. (Hamish Macdonald, *NKNews.org*)
- The moment of truth is coming on the NK nuclear issue. US President Donald Trump appointed hawks like Mike Pompeo and John Bolton to secretary of state and national security adviser. Tensions are rising, and some are worried that the inter-Korean and US-NK summits might be disastrous. The appointment of Bolton is especially noteworthy as the neoconservative figure previously advocated bombing NK to resolve the nuclear issue. (Lee Hyun-sang, *Joongang Daily*)
- President Trump's reshuffle of his security and diplomatic team is likely to enable him to take a more hard-line stance on NK. By tapping the hawkish John Bolton as his national security adviser, Trump seems to clarify his intention of not repeating mistakes as far as NK's denuclearization is concerned. (*Korea Times*)
- The Trump administration says international trade sanctions are undermining the N.Korean economy, and that the financial squeeze has compelled KJU to negotiate. But information about the N.Korean economy is scarce at best–it has never published reliable economic figures. And amid the statistical blackout, some informal indicators indicate that the country has remained stable, according to specialists working from public sources including commercial satellite photography and reports, gathered at great risk, from people within NK. (Peter Whoriskey, *Washington Post*)
- Described as NK's "biggest hit of the year," next month's Pyongyang Marathon is expected to have half as many foreign participants as last year, tour operators say, as political tensions and a ban on US visitors take their toll. (Josh Smith, *Reuters*)

- The US military is demonstrating its newest—and most expensive—weaponry a week before it begins annual war games with SK. The drills, which usually provoke fury from NK, will go ahead this year despite heightened sensitivity as diplomats try to organize a summit between the two Koreas, as well as an historic meeting between US President Trump and the North Korean leader, KJU. (Rebecca Wright, Ivan Watson, CNN)

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, HRNK Research Intern

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Tuesday, March 27, 2018

‘Ready to Die.’ Five North Korean Defectors Who Never Made It.; Kim Jong-un and the mystery of the 'special green train' in China

Top News:
‘Ready to die’: five North Korean defectors who never made it (*Irish Times*, 03/26/2018)
'We are ready to die': 5 North Korean defectors who never made it (*Strait Times*, 03/26/2018)

In North Korea:
Bulletproof, Slow and Full of Wine: Kim Jong-un’s Mystery Train (NYT, 03/26/2018)
Karaoke Bars Closing in North Korea’s Capital Pyongyang (RFA, 03/26/2018)
North Korea seeks help to stamp out 'bourgeois culture' (UPI, 03/26/2018)
North Korean Envoy Derides 'Futile' US Sanctions (NYT, 03/26/2018)
North Korean official calls on U.S. to end sanctions, pressure (UPI, 03/27/2018)
[Video] North Korean trader drowns in icy Yalu River during crackdown on private smuggling(*Daily* NK, 03/27/2018)

In South Korea:
Search for duds under way near USFK shooting range (*Yonhap*, 03/27/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Kang San-ae, Kim Kwang-min join Pyongyang Concert (*Korea Times*, 03/27/2018)
N. Korean football officials to visit S. Korea this week (*Yonhap*, 03/27/2018)
S. Korea unveils list of delegates for high-level talks (*Yonhap*, 03/27/2018)
S. Korean taekwondo demonstration team to perform twice in Pyongyang (*Yonhap*, 03/27/2018)
South Korean concerts in Pyongyang set for April 1 and 3 (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/26/2018)
Two more added to S. Korean cast for Pyongyang performances (*Yonhap*, 03/27/2018)

International:
(LEAD) Ranking N.K. official apparently visiting China: report (*Yonhap*, 03/27/2018)
(LEAD) U.S. 'can't confirm' Kim's visit to China (*Yonhap*, 03/27/2018)
(LEAD) U.S. to end aid to countries helping N. Korea's cyberattacks (*Yonhap*, 03/27/2018)

(4th LD) S. Korea trying to verify reports of high-ranking N. Korean official's China visit(*Yonhap*, 03/27/2018)
Analysis: NKorean Visit Shows China Still Has Role to Play (NYT 03/27/2018)
AP-NORC Poll: Americans open to Trump's planned NKorea talks (*WaPo*, 03/26/2018)
At Odds With Bolton on North Korea, Mattis Appears Isolated (NYT 03/27/2018)
Authorities block train station, bridge near North Korea border (*UPI*, 03/26/2018)
Beijing shrouded in security, speculation over mystery North Korean guest (*Reuters*, 03/27/2018)
Change is in the air (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/27/2018)
China censors 'Fatty the Third' Internet search as North Koreans visit (UPI, 03/27/2018)
China says has no understanding of reported Beijing visit by North Korea's Kim (*Reuters*, 03/27/2018)
High-level North Korean Delegation Reported in Chinese Capital (VOA, 03/27/2018)
High profile visit from North Korea likely aimed to reaffirm ties with China (*UPI*, 03/26/2018)
INTERVIEW-Japanese foreign minister: Japan, U.S. "completely in sync" on N.Korea (*Reuters*, 03/27/2018)
Is Kim Jong-un the mystery visitor who just arrived in Beijing? (*Telegraph*, 03/27/2018)
Kim Jong-un and the mystery of the 'special green train' in China (*Guardian*, 03/27/2018)
Kim Jong Un Reportedly on Visit to China (VOA, 03/26/2018)
Mystery in Beijing (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/27/2018)
North Korea, Chinese leaders meet in Beijing (*Korea Times*, 03/27/2018)
North Korea: Kim Jong-un in China for 'unannounced state visit' (*Guardian*, 03/26/2018)
North Korea leader Kim Jong Un visits China: Bloomberg (*Reuters*, 03/27/2018)
[Photos] Heightened security indicative of North Korean train carrying high-level official to China (*Daily NK*, 03/27/2018)
Pyongyang VIP secretly travels to China (*Joongang Ilbo*, 03/26/2018)
Reports: Special NKorea train arrives in Beijing under guard (*WaPo*, 03/26/2018)
S. Korea may agree to pay more for U.S. troops: Victor Cha (*Yonhap*, 03/26/2018)
Singapore cancels all work passes for North Korean guest workers (*UPI*, 03/27/2018)
Singapore repeals work permits of all N. Koreans (*Yonhap*, 03/27/2018)
'Strong possibility' North Korea's Kim Jong Un made surprise Beijing visit (CNN, 03/27/2018)
Train believed carrying top North Korean delegation leaves Beijing (*Reuters*, 03/26/2018)
What Kim Jong-un May Get in Reaching Out to China (NYT, 03/27/2018)
Why would Kim Jong Un make a secret trip to China? (CNN, 03/27/2018)
'Xi could join Kim, Trump for summit' (*Korea Times*, 03/27/2018)

Top News:

- The story of five North Koreans who were caught in China and did not make it SK. (Jane Perlez, Lee Su-hyun, NYT)

In North Korea:

- A train, nearly as mysterious as its principal passenger, pulled into Beijing's central train station Monday night, fueling speculation that KJU had arrived in the capital for secret talks with his Chinese counterpart. Here's what we know about the train. (Russell Goldman, NYT)

- Karaoke bars, formerly a reliable money-maker for NK's sanctions-hit regime, are now being closed in the capital Pyongyang amid falling business and concerns over crime and other antisocial behavior, sources in the country say. (RFA)
- N. Korean media is fanning the flames of patriotism ahead of planned summits with the US and SK. It is likely that the KWP's Newspaper was condemning the widespread consumption of foreign and SK media in NK. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- A N. Korean parliamentarian says the US should end its "futile moves of sanctions and pressure" against his country, while stressing the need for dialogue and negotiation. (AP)
- A N. Korean official has urged the US to end sanctions and pressure on Pyongyang, NHK reported Tues. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- A N. Korean attempting to smuggle goods across the Yalu River from Hyesan into China drowned after an accident. Because the authorities are demanding larger amounts in bribes these days, the man tried to carry a much larger amount of goods than usual, and slipped and fell into the water due to the extra weight. (Seol Song-ah, *Daily NK*)

In South Korea:

- S. Korean and US troops will conduct a joint operation this week to find and get rid of duds in an area close to the Rodriguez Live Fire Range of the US Forces Korea, the Ministry of National Defense said Tues. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Singer Kang San-ae and pianist Kim Kwang-min will join the S. Korean performance troupe's special concert in Pyongyang next month. (Kwon Mee-yoo, *Korea Times*)
- N. Korean football officials will visit SK later this week to attend a meeting on regional football issues, an official with Seoul's football governing body said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- SK on Tues. sent a list of names for its three-member delegation to NK for this week's high-level talks between the two Koreas to prepare for an inter-Korean summit slated for late Apr. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's taekwondo demonstration team will have two performances in NK next month, the sports ministry in Seoul announced Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- Eleven S. Korean music artists will hold two concerts in Pyongyang next month, one of which will include performances with N. Koreans, the South's Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism announced Tues. (Yim Seung-hye, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Folk singer Kangsaneh and jazz pianist Kim Kwang-min will join a group of S. Korean artists to stage rare performances in Pyongyang early next week, the government said Tues. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- A high-ranking N. Korean official appears to be visiting China, a Japanese report said Mon., ahead of summits with SK and the US. (*Yonhap*)
- The White House said Mon. it can't confirm reports that N. Korean leader KJU is currently visiting Beijing. (*Yonhap*)

- The US government will stop aid to any country involved in deals that can be instrumental to strengthening NK's cyberattack capabilities, according to an appropriations bill, signed by Trump last week. (*Yonhap*)
- The S. Korean government has been striving Tues. to verify news reports that a high-ranking N. Korean official, possibly KJU, visited China. (*Yonhap*)
- No matter who was on the private train that pulled into Beijing from Pyongyang overnight, one thing is clear: China still plays a major role in efforts to end NK's nuclear program.(AP)
- Americans appear open to Trump's surprise decision to negotiate directly with KJU, and at the same time are less concerned than in recent months by the threat posed by the pariah nation's nuclear weapons. (Matthew Pennington, Emily Swanson, AP)
- Of the issues that divide Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Trump's incoming national security adviser, John Bolton, one stands out: NK. (AP)
- Large screens blocking views of Dandong Station have been installed, and local sources in the Chinese border city say there is speculation KJU may have secretly paid a visit to China. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- With Beijing under heavy security as a mystery N. Korean delegation visited the Chinese capital, internet users scrambled to stay a step ahead of censors on Tues. as China's tightly controlled state media remained silent. (Sue-Lin Wong, *Reuters*)
- When change is in the air, mutual confidence can be built. Once trust is built, the changes can be lasting. If the two Koreas and the US are sincere, permanent peace may not be an impossible dream. (Bae Myung-bok, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- News of a N. Korean visit to Beijing has been followed by censorship on the Chinese Internet, according to multiple reports. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- China's foreign ministry said on Tues. it had no understanding of the situation when asked about a report by Bloomberg that said KJU is currently visiting Beijing. (*Reuters*)
- A high-level N. Korean delegation has reportedly made a brief visit to Beijing, fueling speculation the reclusive country's leader, KJU, met with Chinese officials in the capital. (Bill Ide, Brian Padden, VOA)
- NK may be attempting to reaffirm ties with its neighbor and biggest ally China, ahead of KJU's upcoming summits with SK and the US. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- The US and Japan are "completely in sync" over NK and agree that it must abolish its medium- and short-range missiles as well as intercontinental and intermediate range ballistic missiles, Japan's foreign minister said on Tues. (*Reuters*)
- Strict censorship of China's internet and increased security in Beijing on Tues. has fuelled intense speculation that KJU was making a secretive visit to the Chinese capital ahead of talks with Trump. (Neil Connor, *Telegraph*)
- A green and yellow train, similar to the one used by Kim Jong-il, has set off a firestorm of speculation as to whether the KJU has been in China on his first trip abroad. (Lily Kuo, *Guardian*)
- KJU is reportedly in China on an unannounced visit, Bloomberg News reported Mon., citing three unnamed sources. (VOA)
- The S. Korean government must be thoroughly prepared for improved ties between Pyongyang and Beijing. At the same time, the government must not provoke China. It must

take into account all parties involved, including Russia and Japan, to improve relations with NK. (*Joongang Ilbo*)

- KJU met with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping during a two-day visit to Beijing that started Mon., according to intelligence sources Tues. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*
- KJU is believed to be in Beijing on an unannounced trip, in what would be his first foreign state visit since taking power in 2011, according to reports. (Lily Kuo, *Guardian*)
- KJU has visited China, Bloomberg reported on Monday citing three unnamed sources, in what would be his first known overseas trip since taking power in 2011 and ahead of a potential summit with Trump. (Ben Blanchard, *Reuters*)
- Daily NK has learned from sources in Dandong, China, of evidence suggesting KJU or another high-level official may have made their way through the city by train on their way towards Beijing. (Ha Yoon-ah, *Daily NK*)
- Media reports about a visit by a top-level N. Korean official to China dominated the local news Tues., raising questions of whether it was KJU. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Japanese media reports said a special N. Korean train arrived in Beijing under unusually heavy security on Mon., suggesting a senior delegation might have been aboard. (AP)
- SK may agree to shoulder a larger burden of the cost of stationing US troops on its soil as part of the two nations' deal on trade, former White House official Victor Cha said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- Singapore has canceled all work permits for N.Korean workers in its borders, in line with United Nations Security Council resolutions, a recent UN sanctions report shows. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- Singapore has nullified work permits for all N. Koreans in the country in line with the latest UN sanctions over its weapons programs, according to the sanctions committee. (*Yonhap*)
- KJU is believed to have wrapped up an unprecedented whirlwind trip to the Chinese capital, ahead of a planned summit with his S.Korean counterpart and a potential meeting withTrump. (Joshua Berlinger, Will Ripley, Steven Jiang, CNN)
- A train believed to be carrying a senior N. Korean delegation left the Chinese capital on Tues. following a dramatic whirlwind visit that some reports said included KJU. (Ben Blanchard, Christine Kim, *Reuters*)
- The prospect of a high-level visit from NK even a meeting with China's leader, Xi Jinping — raised questions about what Mr. Kim hopes to accomplish with this latest, unexpected burst of diplomacy after years of provocative threats punctuated by nuclear and ballistic missile tests. (Steven Lee Myers, Choe Sang-hyun, NYT)
- A surprise visit by KJU to China may indicate Pyongyang's need for support from its closest ally ahead of upcoming summits with SK and the US. (James Griffiths, CNN)
- If the Trump-Kim talks are in Beijing, Xi will play a role in mediating for a "freeze-for-freeze" formula to have NK stop its weapons of mass destruction programs, while the US helps suspend international sanctions on NK, especially the last two by the UN. (Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)

Prepared by Emma Stubblefield, HRNK Research Intern

Wednesday, March 28, 2018

Kim Jong-un paid 'unofficial' visit to Beijing, Chinese state media confirms; Trump gives positive sign on talks with Kim, good review of Xi meeting

In North Korea:

Ahead of Trump summit, new activity at North Korea nuke site (*WaPo*, 03/28/2018)
How does Kim tell North Korea he's giving up nuclear weapons? (*Reuters*, 03/27/2018)
Is North Korea's crackdown on 'anti-Socialist culture' to blame for karaoke bars closing down?(*Telegraph*, 03/28/2018)
Kim Jong Un and Ri Sol Ju Visit China (*NK Leadership Watch*, 03/28/2018)
Kim Jong Un's China visit may be start of his world travels (*WaPo*, 03/28/2018)
Kim Jong-un says 'North Korea is committed to denuclearization' (*Korea Times*, 03/28/2018)
N.K. confirms leader visited China at invitation by Xi Jinping (*Yonhap*, 03/28/2018)
N. Korea's reclusive leader makes surprise diplomatic debut (*Yonhap*, 03/28/2018)
North Korea recalled spies from China for placement in Pyeongchang Olympics groups (*Daily NK*, 03/28/2018)
North Korea's Kim seen building global status in trip to China (*Reuters*, 03/28/2018)
Report: North Korea reduces troops near main nuclear facility (UPI, 03/28/2018)
With secretive China trip, North Korea's Kim builds bargaining power (*Reuters*, 03/28/2018)

In South Korea:

(LEAD) Top Chinese diplomat to visit Seoul to offer briefing on results of Xi-Kim talks(*Yonhap*, 03/28/2018)
Cheong Wa Dae confirms N.K. leader's visit to China (*Yonhap*, 03/28/2018)
China informed S. Korea of Kim's visit in advance: Cheong Wa Dae (*Yonhap*, 03/28/2018)
Chinese official to brief Moon on Xi-Kim summit (*Korea Times*, 03/28/2018)
Chinese official to brief South Korea officials on North Korea-China summit: Blue House(*Reuters*, 03/28/2018)
Gov't forms group of advisers for inter-Korean summit (*Yonhap*, 03/28/2018)
Jeju joins race to host Trump-Kim meeting (*Korea Times*, 03/27/2018)
Parties view N.K. leader's visit to China with expectation, concerns (*Yonhap*, 03/28/2018)
S. Korea 'welcomes' Kim Jong-un's talks with Chinese leader (*Yonhap*, 03/28/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

Kang San-eh astonished to be part of historic Pyongyang concert (*Yonhap*, 03/28/2018)
Make minerals work (*Joongang Daily*, 03/28/2018)
N. Korea notifies S. Korea of names of delegates for high-level talks (*Yonhap*, 03/28/2018)
North and South Korean officials shake hands, share a Swiss toast (*Reuters*, 03/28/2018)

(Yonhap Feature) Inter-Korean summit preparation underway at border truce village (*Yonhap*, 03/28/2018)

International:

(3rd LD) Kim reaffirms commitment to denuclearization in first summit with Xi (*Yonhap*, 03/28/2018)
Abe fears US-NKorea talks will omit Japan security concerns (*WaPo*, 03/28/2018)
Bad History Makes for Flawed Policy (*38 North*, 03/28/2018)
China briefed U.S. on Kim's visit to Beijing: White House (*Yonhap*, 03/27/2018)
China Says Kim Jong Un Confirms Denuclearization Commitment (VOA, 03/28/2018)
China says North Korea's Kim pledged commitment to denuclearization (*Reuters*, 03/26/2018)
China steps in (*Joongang Daily*, 03/28/2018)
China throws Trump a curveball ahead of his meeting with Kim (CNN, 03/28/2018)
China vows to maintain tough North Korea sanctions after Kim visit (*UPI*, 03/28/2018)
Chinese diplomat gets key role on N. Korean issues as Beijing fights to remain relevant(*Korea Times*, 03/28/2018)
CNN Poll: Nearly two-thirds approve of Trump's plan to meet North Korean leader (*CNN*, 03/27/2018)
Differing views of 'denuclearization' complicate North Korea talks (*Reuters*, 03/28/2018)
Donald Trump hails progress with Kim Jong-un as North Korean leader's trip to China confirmed (*Telegraph*, 03/28/2018)
Experts: US, South Korea Differ on Expectations for US-North Korea Summit (VOA, 03/27/2018)
Key moments in North Korea-China relationship (*WaPo*, 03/28/2018)
Kim in Beijing: Why Xi's still the one he needs to see (*BBC*, 03/28/2018)
Kim Jong-un, a mysterious motorcade, and a potentially historic trip to China (*Telegraph*, 03/27/2018)
Kim Jong-un's China Visit Strengthens His Hand in Nuclear Talks (NYT, 03/28/2018)
Kim Jong Un's cunning strategy could lead the world down a dangerous path (CNN, 03/28/2018)
Kim Jong-un makes diplomatic debut in Beijing (*Joongang Daily*, 03/28/2018)
Kim Jong-un meets Xi in Beijing (*Korea Times*, 03/27/2018)
Kim Jong-un met with Xi Jinping in surprise visit to Beijing (*Joongang Daily*, 03/28/2018)
Kim Jong-un paid 'unofficial' visit to Beijing, Chinese state media confirms (*Guardian*, 03/28/2018)
Kim Jong-un's visit to China fails to hide strain in relations (*Guardian*, 03/28/2018)
Kim Jong Un visits China's 'Silicon Valley' during Beijing trip (*UPI*, 03/28/2018)
Kim-Xi meeting presents a new challenge for Trump on North Korea (*WaPo*, 03/28/2018)
Kim, Xi portray strong ties after NKorea leader's China trip (*WaPo*, 03/28/2018)
Korea is a priority post-Brexit, says new British ambassador (*Joongang Daily*, 03/28/2018)
Kremlin: no immediate plans for Russia-North Korea summit (*Reuters*, 03/28/2018)
(News Focus) Kim seeks China's backing ahead of S. Korea, U.S. summits (*Yonhap*, 03/27/2018)
(News Focus) With talks with Xi, N.K. leader ups ante for showdown with Trump (*Yonhap*, 03/28/2018)
North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visits China: state media (*Reuters*, 03/28/2018)
So what was the point of Kim Jong-un's mysterious trip to China? (*Guardian*, 03/28/2018)
State Media: North Korean Leader Visits China (VOA, 03/28/2018)

The US-DPRK Summit: Assessing Chinese Anxieties (*38 North*, 03/27/2018)
Trump gives positive sign on talks with Kim, good review of Xi meeting (*Reuters*, 03/28/2018)
Trump: Good chance NKorean leader will do 'what is right' (*WaPo*, 03/28/2018)
Trump keen to meet Kim after 'successful' China talks (*BBC*, 03/28/2018)
Trump says maximum pressure on N.K. will remain 'at all cost' (*Yonhap*, 03/28/2018)
Trump says Xi told him Kim meeting went 'very well' (CNN, 03/28/2018)
Trump wants to go to war with N. Korea: U.S. lawmaker (*Yonhap*, 03/28/2018)
When Xi Met Kim: How China and North Korea Depicted It (NYT, 03/28/2018)
Worried about Bolton? Pentagon chief Mattis dismisses concerns (*Reuters*, 03/27/2018)

In North Korea:

- Increased activity at a N. Korean nuclear site has once again caught the attention of analysts and renewed concerns about the complexities of denuclearization talks as Trump prepares for a summit with KJU in the coming weeks. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- Absent any public confirmation from Pyongyang, analysts are skeptical KJU will suddenly give up the nuclear arsenal he and his family have spent decades developing. Instead, he's likely to seek a more nuanced and long-term approach that could allow him to emerge looking victorious in the minds of his people and domestic elites, they say. (Josh Smith, Soyoung Kim, *Reuters*)
- NK's once popular karaoke bars are reportedly being closed down as business struggles with a drop in foreign visitors. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- KJU and his wife Ri Sol-ju visited China during March 25 and March 28. Here is a very detailed description of what they did in China. (*NK Leadership Watch*)
- A look at where KJU's been, where he might be headed and what kind of "souvenirs" he'll be hoping to gather along the way. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- N. Korean leader KJU told Chinese President Xi Jinping during a visit to Beijing that NK is "committed to denuclearization," the official Xinhua news agency reported. (Park Si-soo, Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)
- KJU has visited China at the invitation by Chinese President Xi Jinping, state media said Wed., marking his first summit with China's leader. (*Yonhap*)
- With his visit to China, KJU made a surprise diplomatic debut, ending nearly six years of seclusion from the international scene. (*Yonhap*)
- The N. Korean government was not confident that agents without international experience would faithfully execute their duties in SK, and decided to recall those working in China for Olympics-related assignments instead. (Lee Sang Yong, *Daily NK*)
- Accompanied by his wife, greeted by honor guards, and entertained at banquets, KJU made his international debut as NK's leader by being wined and dined in the capital of the world's most populous country. (Christine Kim, Ben Blanchard, *Reuters*)
- NK is reducing the number of troops stationed at its main nuclear test site of Punggye-ri, a Japanese daily reported. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- KJU's visit to China, countering what had been growing estrangement between the Cold War allies, is likely to bolster Pyongyang's leverage going into a planned summit between Kim and Trump. (Christian Shepard, Heekyong Yang, *Reuters*)

In South Korea:

- Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi will visit Seoul on Thurs. morning to brief SK on the results of talks between President Xi Jinping and KJU, a Cheong Wa Dae official said. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae confirmed Wed. that KJU visited Beijing. (*Yonhap*)
- China notified SK in advance that KJU would visit Beijing, a presidential official said Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- A ranking Chinese official is scheduled to visit SK and brief officials here on this week's summit between Chinese President Xi Jinping and N.Korean leader KJU, Cheong Wa Dae said Wed. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- Yang Jiechi, one of China's top diplomats, will brief officials in Seoul on Thurs., including Moon, on Chinese President Xi Jinping's meeting with KJU, the presidential office in Seoul said on Wed. (*Reuters*)
- On Wed. the S. Korean government selected former top point men on NK and experts on inter-Korean relations as advisers for preparations for next month's summit between Moon and KJU. (*Yonhap*)
- Jeju Island Governor Won Hee-ryong proposed the island as the venue for the planned summit between Trump and KJU in May, in a video message posted to Trump's Twitter page, Mon. (Choi Ha-young, *Korea Times*)
- SK's political parties on Wed. evaluated this week's summit between China and NK with a mix of hope and worries, calling on Seoul to prepare more thoroughly for the inter-Korean summit slated for next month. (*Yonhap*)
- The S. Korean government on Wed. "welcomed" the recent talks between KJU and Chinese President Xi Jinping, hoping they could expedite NK's denuclearization. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Singer-songwriter Kang San-eh said he's amazed to be part of history by performing in NK to celebrate the recent rapprochement of the divided nations. (*Yonhap*)
- Watershed summit meetings that could shape the future of the Korean Peninsula are in the making. Seoul is busy preparing a denuclearization scheme for a summit with Pyongyang in Apr. It will likely ask NK to return to the path of denuclearization in return for normalization of its ties with Washington and acceptance of the rogue state by the international community. (Kim Byung-yeon, *Joongang Daily*)
- NK notified SK of the names of the officials it will send to a high-level inter-Korean meeting intended to discuss the details of a summit the two Koreas are preparing to hold in Apr., the unification ministry here said Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- Senior N. and S. Korean parliamentarians shook hands and shared a toast to "peace" with Swiss wine on Tues., a Reuters witness said, in a rare gesture of friendship suggesting relations between their two countries are thawing. (Stephanie Nebehay, *Reuters*)

- The border truce village of Panmunjom, surrounded by inter-Korean tensions, is set to greet a special guest in late Apr. -- KJU will make a rare crossing of the border for an inter-Korean summit. (Kim Soo-yeon, *Yonhap*)

International:

- KJU has visited China at the invitation of President Xi Jinping and reaffirmed his commitment to denuclearization during their first summit, the two countries' media said Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- Japanese PM Shinzo Abe said Wed. he is worried that N. Korean security threats to Japan, including short- and medium-range missiles, may not be discussed at a US-NK summit. (Mari Yamaguchi, AP)
- Instead of basing the approach to the summit on a gross misreading of the past, Trump would do better to test whether or not KJU means what he says now. (Leon V. Sigal, *38 North*)
- China has briefed the US on KJU's visit to Beijing, the White House said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- China says N.Korean leader KJU confirmed during a secretive visit to Beijing his commitment to denuclearize the Korean peninsula and engage in talks with SK and the US. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- KJU pledged his commitment to denuclearization and to meet US officials, China said on Wed. after his meeting with President Xi Jinping, who promised China would uphold friendship with its isolated neighbor. (Ben Blanchard, Joyce Lee, *Reuters*)
- Xi welcomed Kim warmheartedly. Kim saved Xi's face by stressing that he chose China as the destination for his first overseas trip because of a need to discuss the rapidly changing situation on the Korean Peninsula. (*Joongang Daily*)
- The date for their meeting is still not set, but when Trump finally meets KJU, the specter of China will also be in the room, a potent signal to Trump that the young reclusive leader has support for his cause from the region's most formidable presence. (Jamie Tarabay, CNN)
- China says it is not reducing economic pressure on NK following a historic summit between KJU and Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tues. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- A veteran diplomat is set to take over as China's deputy special representative for Korean affairs, as Beijing seeks to avoid being sidelined on the peninsula amid plans for NK to hold talks with both SK and the US, sources said. (Laura Zhou, Catherine Wong, *Korea Times*)
- With the White House and NK's tentative agreement for Trump and KJU to meet, Americans' concerns about the threat from NK have abated and Trump's approval ratings for handling the situation there have risen, according to a new CNN poll.(Jennifer Agiesta, CNN)
- "Denuclearization" is a word dominating the headlines as Trump leads an effort to pressure NK to abandon its nuclear weapons program. But everyone has different views on what denuclearization actually means in practice. (Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- Trump said he is looking forward to meeting KJU after the N. Korean leader used a surprise trip to Beijing to affirm his commitment to discussing his nuclear weapons programme. (Chris Graham, Louis Emanuel, *Telegraph*)

- US and S.Korean leaders need to coordinate their now divergent approaches to NK before their summit meetings with KJU, said experts on NK. (Christy Lee, VOA)
- A look at key moments in relations between North Korea and China. (AP)
- As preparation begins for the inter-Korean summit and a chaotic White House in DC lurches toward its own summit with NK, China has made it clear that it is anything but irrelevant. (Ankit Panda, BBC)
- Shaky mobile phone footage of a motorcade zooming through the streets of Beijing deepened the intrigue on Tues. surrounding whether a groundbreaking meeting had taken place between NK's leader KJU, and Chinese leaders. (Neil Connor, Helen Nianias, *Telegraph*)
- With a dose of mystery and the flair of a showman, North Korea's young leader, Kim Jong-un, used his debut as an international statesman on Wednesday to present himself as confident, reasonable — and willing to bargain. (Jane Perlez, NYT)
- KJU's strategy may be clever, but it is not without risk. KJU has no reason to trust the US. (Jonathan Crystal, CNN)
- KJU made an unannounced visit to China from Mon. to Tues. on the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping, NK and China's state news media confirmed Wed., an international diplomatic debut for a young leader who's only weeks away from holding summits with SK and the US. (Lee Sung-eun, Yoo Jee-hye, *Joongang Daily*)
- KJU met with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping during a two-day visit to Beijing that started Monday, according to intelligence sources Tues. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- KJU made an unannounced visit to China from Sun. to Wed. on the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping, NK's state news media confirmed. (Lee Sung-eun,*Joongang Daily*)
- China has confirmed that KJU has visited Beijing, where he met the Chinese president, Xi Jinping, and pledged his commitment to denuclearizing the Korean peninsula. (Lily Kuo, *Guardian*)
- The pageantry of Kim's surprise visit to Beijing, confirmed only after he left China on Wed., obscures a strained relationship between the two long-time communist allies. China's state news agency, Xinhua, was careful to describe the visit as "unofficial". (Lily Kuo, *Guardian*)
- KJU made a stopover at China's technology hub on Tues., a move possibly aligned with his pledge to accomplish an economic breakthrough for NK. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- A secretive meeting between KJU and China's Xi Jinping this week showcased enduring bonds between the two countries, highlighting the diplomatic challenge facing Trump. (Emily Rauhala, Anna Fifield, *WaPo*)
- With smiles and firm handshakes, NK and China used a surprise summit this week to show that despite recent tensions, Pyongyang still has a powerful backer and Beijing will not be sidelined in discussions about the fate of its unpredictable neighbor. (Gillian Wong, Kim Tong-hyun, AP)
- The UK's prospective exit from the EU will upend the country's free trade commitments and require Britain to negotiate new deals with other countries. Korea will be a top priority, said Simon Smith, the new British ambassador to Seoul. (Esther Chung, *Joongang Daily*)
- There are no immediate plans for a Russia-NK summit, or for a meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and KJU, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Wed. (*Reuters*)

- KJU likely went to China to solicit President Xi Jinping's support ahead of his meetings with the S. Korean and US leaders, analysts said. (*Yonhap*)
- KJU's surprise visit to Beijing is viewed as part of efforts to collect more bargaining chips ahead of his showdown with Trump. (Lee Chi-dong, *Yonhap*)
- KJU visited China from Sun. to Wed. on an unofficial visit, China's state news agency Xinhua reported on Wed. (*Reuters*)
- Meeting Xi Jinping was more than a rehearsal for the Korean leader's date with Trump. It was a necessary staging post. (Mary Dejevsky, *Guardian*)
- KJU visited China this week on an unofficial visit, China's state news agency Xinhua reported on Wed. (Bill Ide, Brian Padden, VOA)
- The visit by the mysterious N. Korean visitor on Mon. raises wide speculation about what China and NK are jointly planning ahead of N.Korean leader KJU's summits with Moon in Apr. and with Trump in May. Information about the meeting is scarce. (Yun Sun, *38 North*)
- Trump said on Wed. that KJU looked forward to meeting with him, indicating the planned landmark talks between the isolated Asian leader and Republican president will go forward. (*Reuters*)
- Trump said Wed. there's "a good chance" that KJU will "do what is right for his people and for humanity" and make moves toward peace. (Alan Fram, Matthew Pennington, AP)
- Trump has said he is keen to meet KJU after being told the N. Korean leader's trip to China "went very well". (*BBC*)
- Trump reaffirmed on Wed. that he will maintain maximum pressure against NK "at all cost" despite recent developments that raise expectations for a breakthrough in the issue of NK's nuclear program. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump on Wed. said on Twitter he received a message from Chinese President Xi regarding this week's covert visit by KJU to Beijing. Trump said Xi told him that his meeting with Kim went "very well" and that "KIM Looks forward to his meeting with me." (Elizabeth Landers, CNN)
- Trump wants to go to war with NK, a point demonstrated through his pick of a hawkish national security adviser, Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-TX) said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- Here's a look at how the Chinese and N. Korean news media portrayed the meeting. (Javier C. Hernandez, NYT)
- U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said on Tues. he had no reservations or concerns about Trump's incoming national security adviser, John Bolton, a hawk who has advocated using military force against NK and Iran. (Phil Stewart, Idrees Ali, *Reuters*)

Prepared by Emma Stubblefield, Jinny Ahn, HRNK Research Interns

Thursday, March 29, 2018

KJU agrees to meet SK president at summit on 27 Apr.; N.Korean Defectors Worry Nuclear Deal Will Overlook Atrocities; NK leader may also visit Russia for talks with Putin

In North Korea:

N. Korea's high-tech goods imports rise sharply in recent years despite sanctions: report (*Yonhap*, 03/29/2018)
N. Korea's pretty-face diplomacy... is it working? (*Korea Times*, 03/29/2018)
N. Korea comes to dialogue as sanctions "seeping through" its economy: source (*Yonhap*, 03/29/2018)
NK leader may also visit Russia for talks with Putin (*Korea Times*, 03/29/2018)
North Korea imprisoning more youth for viewing foreign media (*Daily*NK, 03/29/2018)
North Korea releases list of delegates for Panmunjom talks (*UPI*, 03/28/2018)
North Korea's swankiest ride: Kim Jong Un's tricked-out armored family train (*WaPo*, 03/29/2018)
North Korean residents react to Kim Jong Un's China visit (*Daily*NK, 03/29/2018)
Pyongyang Bike Share (NK *Econ Watch*, 03/28/2018)

In South Korea:

(2nd LD) S. Korea's first F-35 jet unveiled amid N. Korea's peace offensive (*Yonhap*, 03/29/2018)
Cheong Wa Dae hails N. Korea-China summit as 'meaningful' development (*Yonhap*, 03/29/2018)
S. Korea closely watching developments over reported operation of N.K. nuclear reactor (*Yonhap*, 03/29/2018)
Seoul raises hopeful voices over NK-China talks (*Korea Times*, 03/29/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

(3rd LD) Koreas kick off high-level talks to prepare for summit (*Yonhap*, 03/29/2018)
(3rd LD) Two Koreas agree to hold summit April 27 (*Yonhap*, 03/29/2018)
Advance team of South Korean art troupe to leave for Pyongyang (*Korea Times*, 03/29/2018)
High-level talks likely to set date for inter-Koran summit: Cheong Wa Dae (*Yonhap*, 03/29/2018)
Inter-Korean summit set for April 27 in Panmunjom (*Joongang Daily*, 03/29/2018)
Kim Jong-un agrees to meet South Korea president at summit on 27 April (*Guardian*, 03/29/2018)
NK vents anger over Seoul's F-35A jet deployment (*Korea Times*, 03/29/2018)
North, South Korea fix April date for first summit in years (*Reuters*, 03/29/2018)
North, South Korea to hold summit on April 27: Seoul (*Reuters*, 03/29/2018)
North and South Korea agree date for historic summit (*Telegraph*, 03/29/ 2018)
North and South Korea Set a Date for Summit Meeting at Border (NY *Times*, 03/29/2018)
North and South Korea set date for leaders' summit (BBC, 03/29/2018)
North and South Korean leaders to meet for historic summit on April 27 (CNN, 03/29/2018)
Rival Korean leaders to meet April 27 in historic summit (*WaPo*, 03/29/2018)
South and North Korean leaders to meet on April 27 (UPI, 03/29/2018)
Third inter-Korean summit set for Apr. 27 (*Joongang Daily*, 03/29/2018)
Two Koreas to hold summit April 27 (*Korea Times*, 03/29/2018)

International:

'The fatty on the train': Kim Jong Un nicknames proliferate in China despite censors (*WaPo*,03/29/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea, China exchange views on N. Korean nukes ahead of summit (*Yonhap*, 03/29/2018)
Abe seeks face-to-face talks with Kim Jong-un (*Korea Times*, 03/29/2018)
Beijing envoy says Kim Jong Un's China visit will help toward denuclearization (*Reuters*, 03/29/2018)
Breakingviews - Kim Jong Un's change of heart might be for real (*Reuters*, 03/28/2018)
China and North Korea, best friends forever (*Korea Times*, 03/29/2018)
China commends North, South Korea efforts on ties after summit set (*Reuters*, 03/29/2018)
Divided Koreas have held summits only twice before (*WaPo*, 03/29/2018)
IOC chief Bach arrives to North Korea, to stay until Saturday (*Reuters*, 03/29/2018)
IOC chief visits NKorea after its participation in Olympics (*WaPo*, 03/29/2018)
Japan offers North Korea summit, Pyongyang discussing meetings with Japan: Asahi (*Reuters*, 03/28/2018)
Kim family has made denuclearization vows in China before (*WaPo*, 03/29/2018)
Kim Jong-un offers conditional denuclearization (*Korea Times*, 03/28/2018)
Kim Jong-un's visit to China fails to hide strain in relations (*Guardian*, 03/28/2018)
Kremlin: Potential Putin-Kim Jong-un meeting not on agenda yet (*Korea Times*, 03/29/2018)
Never mind about John Bolton. Trump's ego could force a North Korea deal anyway (CNN, 03/29/2018)
North Korean Defectors Worry Nuclear Deal Will Overlook Atrocities (VOA, 03/29/2018)
Report: Kim Jong Un's wife becomes beauty icon in China (*UPI*, 03/28/2018)
Russia foreign ministry working on North Korea meetings in Moscow (*Reuters*, 03/29/2018)
Secrecy, delays surrounded North Korea leader's slow train to China (*Reuters*, 03/29/2018)
Surprise meetings and potential pitfalls. Trump preps for North Korea (CNN, 03/29/2018)
The fiery £2,000 bottle of liquor that helped charm Kim Jong-un (*Telegraph*, 03/29/2018)
Three big questions about a Trump-Kim summit (*WaPo*, 03/29/2018)
Trump administration 'cautiously optimistic' summit with N. Korea will take place (*WaPo*,03/28/2018)
UN chief welcomes commitment by North Korea to denuclearisation (*The Times of India*, 03/29/2018)
U.S. 'cautiously optimistic' after Xi-Kim summit (*Yonhap*, 03/29/2018)
White House: North Korea situation moving in right direction (*Reuters*, 03/28/2018)
Xi envoy gives briefing on meeting (*Joongang Daily*, 03/29/2018)

In North Korea:

- NK's imports of smartphones, notebook computers and other high-tech products have risen sharply in recent years despite international sanctions following the country's nuclear and missile tests, a report said Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- There is no doubt that Ri Sol-ju, who accompanied her husband, NK's young dictator KJU on his recent surprise visit to China, certainly turned heads. Her smart, elegant looks distracted attention from her overweight, grumpy-looking husband who is infamous for many heinous acts: allegedly killing his elder half-brother and uncle, and purging his supposed close

lieutenants. Her presence made her husband appear more human. (Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)

- The multi-layered international sanctions are "seeping through" NK's economy, and the reclusive country has come out for talks to ease the restrictions and make people's lives easier, an expert said Thurs., citing a Pyongyang source. (*Yonhap*)
- With N.Korean leader KJU making a surprise visit to China, chances are that the dictator will also hold dialogue with Russian leader Vladimir Putin. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- Young N.Koreans are reportedly being sent to youth labor-reform centers with increasing frequency as the authorities strengthen their crackdown on the consumption of S.Korean media. (Lee Sang Yong, *DailyNK*)
- NK has released a list of delegates who are to meet with S.Korean officials on Thurs., according to Seoul. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- The Kim family's fleet of trains—reportedly tricked out with five-star accommodations and cuisine—have long been symbols of power in an indigent country where bad infrastructure is the norm and travel is restricted. The trains are the rolling inner sanctum of the secretive regime, and have played a part in some of the country's pivotal moments. (Kyle Swenson, *WaPo*)
- As international media outlets report on KJU's meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing earlier this week, Daily NK has learned that rumors of the event had spread amongst ordinary N.Korean residents even before images of the meeting were published in the Mar. 28 edition of the Rodong Sinmun (NK's state-run publication). (Kang Mi Jin, *DailyNK*)
- The *Pyongyang Times* (2018-3-8) has published an article on the new Pyongyang bike share program. It is not the first mention of this program in N.Korean media, as it was first mentioned by *Tongil News* in Jul. 2017, which reported that the bike rental services were due to begin in late July 2017. However, according to a S.Korean source, the service did not actually begin until Jan. 15, 2018, which is consistent with the PY Times article's claim. (*NK Econ Watch*)

In South Korea:

- The first F-35A stealth fighter aircraft for SK has made its public debut at a sensitive time for diplomacy on NK. (Lee Chi-dong, *Yonhap*)
- SK on Thurs. welcomed the recent summit between the leaders of China and NK, calling it a significant development that will help denuclearize NK and establish peace on the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- SK said Thurs. it is closely watching developments related to recent media reports that NK has started operation of a nuclear reactor in Yongbyon ahead of planned summits with SK and the US. (*Yonhap*)
- Cheong Wa Dae welcomed the recent summit between Chinese President Xi Jinping and N.Korean leader KJU, Thurs., saying it will help stabilize the situation on the Korean Peninsula. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- SK and NK kicked off their high-level talks Thurs. to set the date and agenda for an inter-Korean summit slated for late Apr. (*Yonhap*)
- SK and NK agreed Thurs. to hold their third summit on Apr. 27 amid attention over whether the historic meeting could serve to craft ways to resolve NK's nuclear issue. (Kim Soo-yeon, Joint Press Corps, *Yonhap*)
- An advance team of a S.Korean art troupe will head to NK on Thurs. for their performances in Pyongyang ahead of the historic inter-Korean summit scheduled for late Apr. (*Yonhap*)
- SK and NK may set the date for a scheduled meeting for their leaders Thurs. when their high-level officials meet to also discuss topics for the rare summit, an official from SK's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said. (*Yonhap*)
- A joint press statement released by SK's Unification Ministry, which handles relations with NK, said that a working-level meeting between the two countries discussing protocol, security and press coverage for the summit will be held next Wed. on SK's side of Panmunjom, which straddles the border. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Daily*)
- The leaders of NK and SK have agreed to hold a summit at a village on the border between the two countries on 27 Apr., only the third-ever such meeting and another sign of a thaw in relations. (Lily Kuo, agencies, *Guardian*)
- NK has vented its anger over the South's plan to deploy 40 F-35A stealth jets by 2021, saying the move "gets in the way of the ongoing peace momentum" on the Korean Peninsula. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- NK and SK will hold their first summit in more than a decade on Apr. 27, S.Korean officials said on Thurs., after N.Korean leader KJU pledged his commitment to denuclearization as tensions ease between the old foes. (Christine Kim, *Reuters*)
- NK and SK will hold their first summit in more than a decade on Apr. 27, S.Korean government officials who held high-level talks with their N.Korean counterparts on Thurs. said. (*Reuters*)
- The leaders of NK and SK are to meet on Apr. 27 for the first time in more than a decade, the two countries announced on Thurs. after preliminary talks between senior officials. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- NK's leader, KJU, and President Moon of SK will meet for the first time on Apr. 27, officials said on Thurs., setting a date for talks meant to continue the recent détente on the Korean Peninsula and pave the way for discussions between Mr. Kim and President Trump. (Choe Sang-hun, *NYTimes*)
- The leaders of NK and SK will hold their first summit in more than a decade on 27 Apr. Talks between the NK's KJU and S.Korean President Moon would be held in the border village of Panmunjom, a joint statement said. The date was announced after officials from the two sides met to prepare for the summit. The announcement comes a day after news emerged of discussions between KJU and Chinese President Xi Jinping. (BBC)
- The leaders of NK and SK will meet on Apr. 27 for the first time since 2007, the two countries announced Thurs. after high-level talks. The landmark meeting between President Moon and KJU will be held at Freedom House on the southern side of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), according to the joint statement issued after the talks. (Ben Westcott, Yoonjung Seo, CNN)

- N.Korean leader KJU will meet S.Korean President Moon at a border village on Apr. 27, SK announced Thurs., for a rare summit that could prove significant in global efforts to resolve the decades-long standoff over NK's nuclear program. (Lee Jin-Man, Kim Tong-Hyung, AP)
- SK and NK will hold a summit on Apr. 27 at the southern side of the Panmunjom truce village. Seoul and Pyongyang officials agreed on the date of the cross-border summit on Thurs., during a high-level meeting, which took place at NK's Tongilgak building in Panmunjom. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- The leaders of SK and NK will meet on Apr. 27 for the first inter-Korean summit since 2007, officials from both countries agreed Thurs. in a high-level meeting. (Lee Sung-eun, Joint Press Corps, *Joongang Daily*)
- The two Koreas agreed to hold the summit between their leaders Apr. 27 at the truce village of Panmunjeom, according to a joint press statement released after a high-level meeting Thurs. (Kim Bo-eun, Joint Press Corps, *Korea Times)*

International:

- Censorship is a lot harder in China than it used to be because of social media. But that didn't stop the Chinese government from trying to keep secret the historic visit to Beijing by N.Korean leader KJU until it was over. Officials did it in part by scrubbing from the country's Internet Chinese characters for "Kim Jong Un," "North Korea" and Kim's popular nicknames among Chinese, such as "Fatty Fatty," Business Insider reported. But Chinese users know how to skirt bans. According to Reuters, they just came up with new nicknames. (Allyson Chiu, *WaPo*)
- Ranking officials from SK and China met in Seoul on Thurs. to exchange views on how to rid NK of its nuclear ambitions, while the two Koreas set the date for what could be a historic meeting between their leaders. (*Yonhap*)
- Japan has sounded out the N.Korean government about a bilateral summit, and Pyongyang has discussed the possibility of a leaders' meeting with Japan, Japan's Asahi newspaper said on Thurs. (*Reuters*)
- A senior Chinese official visiting SK said on Thurs. N.Korean leader KJU's visit to Beijing this week should help ease tensions and lead to the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. (*Reuters*)
- N.Korean despot KJU is suddenly playing nice. Having thawed relations with Seoul during the winter Olympics, this week he kowtowed to Chinese President Xi Jinping. He's open to reopening negotiations with the US and talking "de-nuclearization". This could be a cheap ploy to get sanctions lifted, after which KJU will go straight back to extortion. But the young leader might actually be ready to start putting his country on a more normal development path. (Pete Sweeney, *Reuters*)
- As the Chinese and Americans again face one another in a standoff that seems likely to worsen, President Xi Jinping has received KJU on an historic mission from NK despite misgivings about KJU's nuclear program. Xi may have hitherto ignored KJU as a supplicant anxious to see him, but ugly realities dictated a change of heart. (Donald Kirk, *Korea Times*)

- China commended on Thurs. efforts to improve ties by NK and SK and said it hopes positive momentum can be sustained, after a date was set for the first summit between the two countries in more than a decade. (*Reuters*)
- A summit on Apr. 27 will be only the third time that the leaders of the divided Koreas have met in the 65 years since the end of the Korean War. (*Associated Press*)
- International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach travelled to Pyongyang on Thurs., the Olympic body said, in a visit that comes after NK's participation in the Pyeongchang Winter Games helped ease inter-Korean relations. (*Reuters*)
- International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach arrived in NK on Thurs. after playing a key role in allowing it to participate in last month's Pyeongchang Olympic Games in SK. (*Associated Press*)
- Japan has sounded out the N.Korean government about a bilateral summit, and Pyongyang has discussed the possibility of a leaders' meeting with Japan, Japan's Asahi newspaper said on Thurs. (*Reuters*)
- An enigmatic N.Korean leader takes a secretive train trip to China to affirm fraternal ties and declare a commitment to denuclearization. (Matthew Pennington, AP)
- N.Korean leader KJU offered to give up his nuclear weapons during a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing if Seoul and Washington take "phased" steps for peace and stability, according to Chinese media reports. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- When the N.Korean leader, KJU, and his wife, Ri Sol-ju, visited Beijing this week they were treated to a banquet at the stately Great Hall of the People, a performance, and a lesson in Chinese tea culture, given by the Chinese president, Xi Jinping, and his wife, Peng Liyuan. The event was "overflowing with a harmonious and intimate atmosphere from its beginning to the end", NK's state news agency, KCNA, breathlessly reported. (Lily Kuo, *Guardian*)
- A potential meeting of Russian President Vladimir Putin and N.Korean leader KJU is not under discussion now, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Wed. (TASS)
- If author Michael Desch is right that Trump's ego will trump Bolton's hardline strategic agenda, any flaws in an agreement with NK may be irrelevant. (Michael Desch, CNN)
- N.Korean defectors are voicing concern the repression and long-standing human rights violations allegedly committed by the leadership in Pyongyang will be forgotten during the nuclear summits expected to be held soon. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- Ri Sol-ju, wife of N.Korean leader KJU, has become something of a beauty icon in China, following her surprise visit to Beijing earlier this week. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- Russia is working on setting up meetings about the N.Korean issue in Moscow, foreign ministry's spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Thurs., without providing further details. (*Reuters*)
- For a regime obsessed with secrecy, N.Korean leader KJU's decision to travel to Beijing on a distinctive green armored train was an all-but-dead giveaway that he was making his first journey abroad since assuming power in 2011. (Brenda Goh, Sue-Lin Wong, *Reuters*)
- President Donald Trump's rosy outlook at the prospect of meeting with N.Korean despot KJU is about to hit a wall of hard truths erected by US allies, outside experts and officials within his administration. (Kevin Liptak, Jeremy Diamond, CNN)

- N.Korean leader KJU was treated to the most expensive tipple in Xi Jinping's drinks cabinet during their historic meeting—a £2,200 bottle of 53 percent liquor which the Chinese president rarely opens for foreign guests. (Neil Connor, *Telegraph*)
- In this *WaPo* column, author Ishaan Tharoor posits three primary questions for the possible KJU-Trump summit. These questions are as follows: Is "denuclearization" actually feasible, what's at stake for China, and will John Bolton undermine Trump? (Ishaan Tharoor, *WaPo*)
- The White House on Wed. declared itself "cautiously optimistic" that the planned summit with N.Korean leader KJU will take place sometime in May, even as key details such as where Kim will meet with President Trump, and the parameters of their talks, remain undetermined. (Karen DeYoung, Anne Gearan, *WaPo*)
- UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has welcomed the "reported commitment" by NK towards denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula. (PTI, *The Times of India*)
- The White House expressed cautious optimism Wed. after a meeting between the N.Korean and Chinese leaders, saying "things are moving in the right direction." (*Yonhap*)
- The White House said on Wed the situation with NK was moving in the right direction after N.Korean leader KJU met with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing. (*Reuters*)
- To brief SK on the details of the Kim-Xi meeting, China's state councilor Yang Jiechi arrived in Seoul Thurs. and met with Chung Eui-yong, head of the Blue House National Security Office. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Joongang Daily*)

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, HRNK Research Intern

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Friday, March 30, 2018

Trump warns he may freeze the US-ROK trade deal for N.Korea talks; S. Korean president meets Chinese envoy over N. Korean summit; Top diplomats of S. Korea, Japan discuss bilateral relations and N.Korea issue

In North Korea:
Kim Jong Un's China Visit Exposes Pitfalls for Nuclear Talks (VOA, 03/30/2018)
N. Korea set to part ways with Norwegian football coach (*Yonhap*, 03/30/2018)
New footage shows Kim Jong Un holding court inside armored train (CNN, 03/30/2018)
North Korea Border Closed For Kim China Visit (RFA, 03/29/2018)
North Korea stresses 'blood alliance' with China (*Korea Times*, 03/30/2018)
North Korean residents subject to new inspections in nationwide crackdown (*Daily*NK, 03/30/2018)
North Koreans search for alternatives amid S. Korean media crackdown (*Daily*NK, 03/30/2018)
Not So Fast: A Closer Look at What's Really Going on with North Korea's Experimental Light Water Reactor (*38 North*, 03/29/2018)

Kim Jong-un visit: What else crosses the China-North Korea border? (BBC, 03/30/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) S. Korean president meets Chinese envoy over N. Korean summit (*Yonhap*, 03/30/2018)
(2nd LD) Moon calls for China's cooperation to reduce fine dust (*Yonhap*, 03/30/2018)
Dangerous divergences (*Joongang Daily*, 03/30/2018)
Emotions high as South Korean pop stars prepare to rock Pyongyang (CNN, 03/30/2018)
Libya case not applicable to NK: Cheong Wa Dae (*Korea Times*, 03/30/2018)
N.K. media's failure to report summit date, venue not meaningful: ministry (*Yonhap*, 03/30/2018)
Seoul nixes Libya model for denuclearization (*Joongang Daily*, 03/30/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Denuclearization is key (*Joongang Daily*, 03/30/2018)
How Seoul raced to conclude U.S. trade deal ahead of North Korea talks (*Reuters*, 03/30/2018)
On summit diplomacy on the Korean Peninsula (*Korea Times*, 03/30/2018)

International:
(LEAD) China voices support for summits with N.K., expects important achievement (*Yonhap*, 03/30/2018)
(LEAD) IOC President Bach meets with N. Korean sports minister in Pyongyang (*Yonhap*, 03/30/2018)
(LEAD) U.S. 'pleased' after Koreas set date for summit (*Yonhap*, 03/30/2018)
(2nd LD) Trump says could 'hold up' Korea trade deal for N.K. issue (*Yonhap*, 03/30/2018)
(3rd LD) China vows to end 'retaliatory measures' against THAAD deployment soon (*Yonhap*, 03/30/2018)
China envoy tells Moon all sides must advance talks on Korean peninsula (*Reuters*, 03/30/2018)
China turns the screw on North Korea by cutting its petrol supply, report says (*Telegraph*, 03/29/2018)
EU-N.K. trade plunged last year amid sanctions: Eurostat (*Yonhap*, 03/30/2018)
Ex-U.N. chief urges inter-Korean summit to focus on denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 03/30/2018)
How nuclear bottom lines collide (*Korea Times*, 03/30/2018)
IOC's Bach makes three-day trip to Pyongyang (*Joongang Daily*, 03/30/2018)
Japan's defense chief welcomes resumption of U.S.-South Korea military drills (*Reuters*, 03/29/2018)
Japan PM to raise North Korean abductions in Trump summit (*Reuters*, 03/29/2018)
Japan seeking own North Korea summit as Abe risks being left out (CNN, 03/29/2018)
Kin of Japanese abducted to N. Korea want Trump's help (*WaPo*, 03/30/2018)
Korea, China hold talks on joint industrial deal (*Joongang Daily*, 03/29/2018)
Report: Xi Jinping may visit North Korea for armistice anniversary (UPI, 03/30/2018)
South Korea, Japan to cooperate on North Korea despite friction (UPI, 03/30/2018)
South Korea seeking clarity on Trump comments on trade deal (*WaPo*, 03/30/2018)
South Korea seeks China's help on tackling air pollution (*Reuters*, 03/30/2018)
The Guardian view on North Korea and China: three in this relationship (*Guardian*, 03/29/2018)
Three takeaways from Kim Jong Un's trip to China (*WaPo*, 03/30/2018)
Top diplomats of S. Korea, Japan discuss N.K., bilateral relations (*Yonhap*, 03/30/2018)

Trump and Kim Jong Un have a lot in common. Is that a good thing? (*WaPo*, 03/29/2018)
Trump only has one chance if North Korea calls his bluff (CNN, 03/29/2018)
Trump says may hold up South Korea trade deal until after deal with North Korea (*Reuters*, 03/30/2018)
Trump Threatens to Hold Up Revised US-Korean Trade Deal (VOA, 03/29/2018)
Trump threatens to link FTA to North Korea deal (*Joongang Daily*, 03/30/2018)
Trump warns he may freeze SKorea trade deal for NKorea talks (*WaPo*, 03/29/2018)
Trump's strange comparison of the Korean DMZ and Mexican border crosses a line (WaPo, 03/30/2018)

In North Korea:

- While meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, N.K. leader KJU may have revealed a glimpse of his vision of denuclearization that experts say could conflict with Washington's expectation of a denuclearized North. (Christy Lee, VOA)
- N.K. will part ways with its men's national football team head coach Jorn Andersen after spending nearly two years with the Norwegian. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K.'s official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) has published footage revealing new details of KJU's historic trip to China to visit Xi Jinping. (Judith Vonberg and Vasco Cotovio, CNN)
- N.K.'s border with China has remained closed since Sunday in a tightened security move during the visit of national leader KJU to Beijing for meetings with Xi Jinping. (RFA)
- N.K. has stressed that cooperation with China is essential for peace on the Korean Peninsula, saying they are "blood allies." (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- The N.K. authorities have been ramping up surveillance over residents in recent days following the delivery in early March of mandatory nationwide lectures emphasizing the cost of committing "anti-state" crimes. (Jang Seul Gi, *DailyNK*)
- KJU has demonstrated a willingness to engage with S.K. through the country's participation in the Pyeongchang Olympics, but domestically, the regime has been strengthening its control over the cultural influence of S.K. media abroad. (Lee Sang Yong, *DailyNK*)
- While a recent NYT article concluded that N.K.'s Experimental Light Water Reactor (ELWR) is now in the process of starting up, in the absence of other corroborating data, that conclusion is premature at best and is likely wrong. (*38 North*)
- KJU's recent visit to Beijing was the N.K. leader's first trip across the Chinese border since coming to power in 2011. That border with China is one of the main ways N.K. interacts with the outside world. (BBC)

In South Korea:

- S.K. President Moon on Friday met Chinese President Xi Jinping's envoy to be briefed on the outcome of Xi's recent summit with N.K. leader KJU. (*Yonhap*)
- S.K. President Moon on Friday called for China's cooperation to help reduce S.K.'s worsening fine dust pollution, which he said the neighboring country is partly responsible for. (*Yonhap*)

- An inter-Korean summit slated for April 27 carries great significance as it must help avert a war. But a senior Blue House official said Friday that the Libyan solution cannot be applied to N.K.. This directly collides with Washington's approach. (*Joongang Daily*)
- S.K. musicians will travel to N.K. this weekend for the first time in over a decade, as the two countries prepare for a groundbreaking leaders' summit next month. (Alexandra Field, Jo Shelley and Sophie Jeong, CNN)
- Libya's process of denuclearization, in which rewards were provided after the regime made an instantaneous decision and completely dismantled its nuclear program, cannot be applied to resolving the N.K. nuclear issue, a Blue House official said. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- S.K.'s unification ministry said Friday it does not attach any meaning to N.K. state media reports that did not mention the date and venue for an inter-Korean summit in April. (*Yonhap*)
- A senior Blue House official on Friday said the denuclearization framework used with Libya in 2003 that resulted in the disposal of weapons of mass destruction by the Muammar Qaddafi regime could not be applied to N.K.. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Joongang Daily*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- If Moon can talk KJU into disabling his nuclear facilities to some extent, he may be able to press for symbolic actions such as normalization of ties from Washington. Whatever Seoul can lay out for denuclearization will be the key to the summit talks. (*Joongang Daily*)
- What was meant to be a week-long trip to Washington ended up being a four-week marathon, as dozens of Seoul officials sought to wrap up talks aimed at amending the six-year-old U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement. (Jane Chung, Christine Kim, *Reuters*)
- The denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula seems impossible, perplexing, and complicated. And yet, these scheduled bilateral and possibly trilateral summits provide a rare momentum for cutting the Gordian knot on the peninsula. (Yang Sung-chul, *Korea Times*)

International:

- China supports S.K. and the US in their efforts to hold summits with N.K., a senior Chinese official said Friday, hoping that an "important achievement" will be made in the process. (*Yonhap*)
- International Olympic Committee chief Thomas Bach met with the N.K. sports minister during his visit to Pyongyang on Friday, the North's state media reported. (*Yonhap*)
- The US said Thursday it was "pleased" after South and North Korea announced a date for their summit in late April. (*Yonhap*)
- President Trump threatened Thursday to "hold up" a renegotiated free trade agreement with S.K. until he reaches a deal with N.K. on its nuclear weapons program. (*Yonhap*)
- China will end what are believed to be retaliatory measures over S.K.'s deployment of a U.S.-developed missile shield in the near future, a top Chinese official said Friday. (*Yonhap*)

- Senior Chinese diplomat Yang Jiechi told S.K. President Moon on Friday that all parties must seize the moment to advance talks between leaders of two Koreas, and between N.K. and the US. (*Reuters*)
- China has turned off the tap on crucial goods for N.K. in a bid to pile on economic pressure as two Koreas prepare for an unprecedented diplomatic summit this April, and hopes for May talks between the US the isolated country mount. (Anna Isaac, *Telegraph*)
- The EU's trade with N.K. nose-dived last year as it significantly toughened sanctions on the North's continued nuclear and missile provocations. (*Yonhap*)
- Former U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Friday that S.K. President Moon should be firm and clear in demanding North Korea's denuclearization when he meets N.K. leader KJU in late April. (*Yonhap*)
- Regarding the N.K. nuclear issue, US, China, Japan, and two Koreas will all jockey for their own best interests, bringing a period of confusion. But the outcome would be settled as their bottom lines clash and coordinate with each other. (Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)
- International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach landed in Pyongyang on Thursday, raising the question of whether he would meet N.K. leader KJU during his three-day visit. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Joongang Daily*)
- Japan's defense chief welcomed on Friday the planned resumption of U.S.-ROK joint military exercises, saying the annual drill set to start on Sunday would add pressure on N.K. to abandon its nuclear weapons program. (*Reuters*)
- Shinzo Abe said on Friday he would explain Japan's stance on the N.K. abduction of Japanese citizens in a meeting with President Trump, ahead of the U.S. president's planned summit with KJU. (*Reuters*)
- Japan revealed it was seeking a summit with KJU, as some in Tokyo expressed concern they were being left out as the situation on the Korean Peninsula continues to change rapidly. (James Griffiths, CNN)
- Families of Japanese abducted by N.K. decades ago urged Japan's leader on Friday to persuade President Trump to help win the abductees' release during a possible summit with N.K.'s leader. (Mari Yamaguchi, AP)
- S.K. and China are once again considering developing a joint industrial complex in North Jeolla, nearly two years after talks on the plan broke down. (Choi Hyung-jo, *Joongang Daily*)
- Xi Jinping is likely to visit N.K. in July, when both Koreas are scheduled to observe the 65th anniversary of the Armistice Agreement that ended the 1950-53 Korean War. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- S.K. and Japan are coordinating on N.K. following a surprise summit between KJU and Xi Jinping. Seoul and Tokyo, often at odds over historical issues, have proposed a trilateral summit with China. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- S.K. is trying to find out what Trump meant when he made remarks linking the recently renegotiated S.K.-U.S. free trade agreement with talks on denuclearizing N.K. (Youkyung Lee, AP)
- S.K. President Moon said on Friday cooperation with China is needed not only to end tension over N.K.'s weapons but also to tackle the problem of air pollution. (*Reuters*)

- What KJU and Xi discussed this week remains a mystery, but opacity fogs the vision of the players as well as that of their audience. If Trump and KJU meet as planned, ignorance and misapprehensions could have truly frightening consequences. (*Guardian*)
- Three takeaways from KJU's trip to China include: 1) China fears being sidelined, 2) China can't afford to take a back-seat role in the upcoming talks, and 3) China will use formal and informal tools to shape talks. (Rush Doshi, WaPo)
- The top diplomats of S.K. and Japan discussed the N.K. nuclear problem, bilateral ties and other issues of mutual concern. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump's history is to "go big" and look for the flamboyant deal. Kim seems to have a similar flair for the dramatic, and he has already taken big, bold risks. (David Ignatius, WaPo)
- As Trump has emasculated the State Department and shorn himself of solid diplomatic substance at his back, he also has limited his options and leaves him at serious risk of Kim and Xi playing him off against each other. (Nic Robertson, CNN)
- President Trump said on Thursday he may hold up a trade agreement reached this week with S.K. until after a deal is reached with N.K. on denuclearization. (Steve Holland, *Reuters*)
- One day after calling it a "great deal for American and Korean workers," President Trump threatened to hold up a renegotiated trade deal between Washington and Seoul. (VOA)
- President Trump abruptly threatened to put the implementation of the recently-revised free trade agreement with S.K. on hold to use it as leverage to strike a deal with N.K.. (Choi Hyung-jo, *Joongang Daily*)
- President Trump on Thursday threatened to hold up the trade agreement his administration finalized this week with S.K. in an effort to gain more leverage in potential talks with N.K.. (Darlene Superville, AP)
- In a wide-ranging speech ostensibly about his infrastructure agenda on Thursday, President Trump compared the U.S.-Mexico border unfavorably with the demilitarized zone (DMZ) that runs between two Koreas. (Adam Taylor, WaPo)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

4. APRIL

Sunday, April 1, 2018

US, S.Korea begin annual joint military exercises; N.Korea agrees to participate in next two Olympics; S. Korea backs new U.N. sanctions against N. Korea

In North Korea:
Anti-Kim Jong-un messages found in Pyongyang (*Korea Times*, 04/01/2018)
North agrees to attend next two Olympics (*Joongang Daily*, 04/01/2018)
N. Korea beefs up crackdown on S. Korean entertainment viewers (*Korea Times*, 04/01/2018)
N. Korea faces growing sanctions from UN, US, EU (*Korea Times*, 04/01/2018)
North Korea in re-education drive as foreign media increasingly smuggled across the border (*Telegraph*, 03/31/2018)
North Korea's two-faced approach toward K-pop (*Korea Times*, 04/01/2018)
North Korea to participate in Tokyo, Beijing Olympics (UPI, 04/01/2018)
North Korea to take part in Tokyo Olympics, IOC chief says (*Guardian*, 03/31/2018)
North Korea will take part in next two Olympics: IOC chief Bach (*Reuters*, 04/01/2018)

In South Korea:
Cooperating with Beijing (*Joongang Daily*, 04/01/2018)
Joint drills begin after delay for PyeongChang (*Joongang Daily*, 04/01/2018)
South Korea, U.S. begin massive military drill (*UPI*, 04/01/2018)
S. Korean, U.S. troops begin joint field training (*Yonhap*, 04/01/2018)
US, South Korea Begin Annual Joint Military Exercises (VOA, 03/31/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) S. Korean artists set to perform in Pyongyang after rescheduling (*Yonhap*, 04/01/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea to propose more inter-Korean cultural, sports ties: minister (*Yonhap*, 04/01/2018)
Forget the singers, focus on nukes (*Joongang Daily*, 04/01/2018)
Kim Jong-un, his wife enjoy South Korean troupe's performance in Pyongyang (*Korea Times*, 04/01/2018)
K-Pop Diplomacy: South Koreans fly to Pyongyang for Rare Concerts (VOA, 04/01/2018)
K-Pop sensations set to perform in Pyongyang (UPI, 04/01/2018)
Report: Chinese President suggested Korean peace treaty to Donald Trump (*UPI*, 04/01/2018)
S. Korea backs new U.N. sanctions against N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 04/01/2018)

International:
Pope Francis expresses hope over inter-Korean dialogue (*Yonhap*, 04/01/2018)

In North Korea:

- Authorities in Pyongyang launched a crackdown after messages critical of N.K. leader KJU were found on walls in the capital. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- IOC President Bach met with N.K. leader KJU in Pyongyang during his three-day trip to the country and was told the North was committed to participating in the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics and the 2022 Beijing Winter Games. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Daily*)
- Youngsters are being sent to labor camps in N.K. after being caught secretly watching S.K. entertainment — including movies and soap operas. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- The UN, the US and the EU are stepping up efforts to ban trade with N.K.. On Friday, the UNSC blacklisted 27 ships, 21 companies and a businessman for helping N.K. evade sanctions. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- N.K. is reportedly detaining more young people in re-education camps for secretly watching S.K. movies. The crackdown on the clandestine viewing of foreign media comes amid fears by the regime that its "ideological purity" will be eroded. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- Speculation is growing about why N.K. leader KJU has allowed artists from Seoul to perform in Pyongyang despite his nation's crackdown on S.K. entertainment. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- N.K. will take part in the next two Olympic Games held in Tokyo and Beijing, IOC President Thomas Bach said Saturday. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- IOC President, Thomas Bach, says KJU is committed to having N.K. participate in the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics and the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics. (AP)
- N.K. will take part in the next two Olympic Games in Japan and China, IOC President Thomas Bach said on Saturday after meeting N.K. leader KJU in Pyongyang. (Martin Quin Pollard, Irene Wang, *Reuters*)

In South Korea:

- As N.K. and China improve their relations, S.K. may have to worry about the possibility of being ignored once again. Moreover, if China's attitude toward N.K. improves, it could send the wrong signal to Pyongyang. (Park Byung-kwang, *Joongang Daily*)
- The US and ROK kicked off their annual joint military exercises Sunday after a month-long delay due to the PyeongChang Winter Olympics, a major concession to Pyongyang that led to a rare rapprochement between the two Koreas. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Daily*)
- S.K. and the US began their delayed joint military training on Sunday, mobilizing more than 300,000 troops. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- A combined field training of S.K. and U.S. troops got under way Sunday as scheduled, defense officials said amid a nascent peace mood on the divided peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- S.K. and the US kicked off their annual joint military exercises Sunday after they were delayed about a month for the Winter Olympics and to help create conditions for a resumption of talks between two Koreas. (*Reuters*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- S.K. singers' concert in Pyongyang was scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. but was delayed by two hours to 7:30 p.m. at the request of N.K. for the "convenience of more audience." It was then moved up to 6:30 p.m. (*Yonhap*)
- S.K. Culture Minister Do Jong-hwan expressed hope for the resumption of suspended inter-Korean projects, such as the publication of a unified Korean dictionary and the excavation of historic relics in Kaesong. (*Yonhap*)
- Despite Moon's diplomatic breakthrough, uncertainties are growing over the fate of the Korean Peninsula after the appointment of hawks to key positions in the U.S. government and Kim's summit with Xi. Moon must cement the Korea-U.S. alliance by making denuclearization and communication his top priority. (*Joongang Daily*)
- S.K. entertainers performed in Pyongyang for the first time in 13 years, presenting a wide variety of K-pop music to the reclusive regime. After the Sunday show, the S.K. will hold a joint concert with N.K. on April 3rd. (Kwon Mee-yoo, *Korea Times*)
- From aging crooners to bubbly K-Pop starlets, some of S.K.'s biggest pop stars flew to N.K. on Saturday for rare performances that highlight the sudden thaw in inter-Korean ties after years of tensions over the North's nuclear ambitions. (AP)
- S.K.'s biggest pop acts including Cho Yong-pil, Seohyun and Red Velvet prepared to stage a rare concert in N.K. Sunday, as the two Koreas continue efforts to improve ties ahead of a cross-border summit later this month. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- Xi Jinping suggested striking up a peace treaty between two Koreas, the US and China, during a phone conversation with President Trump last month. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- The S.K. government threw its weight behind the U.N. Security Council's additional pressure on N.K. despite a mood of inter-Korean reconciliation. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- Pope Francis on Sunday expressed hope over prospects for peace on the Korean Peninsula, as Seoul and Pyongyang recently launched efforts for a possible reconciliation. (*Yonhap*)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

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Monday, April 2, 2018

Telling the Stories of Defectors From North Korea; Kim Jong-un praises K-Pop concert, calls for follow-up event in Seoul; NK Issues Rare Apology Over Media Access to K-Pop Show

In North Korea:
How far does Kim Jong Un's openness to 'Hallyu' go? (*Daily* NK, 04/02/2018)
North Korea Defections (NYT, 04/01/2018)
South Hamgyong Sci-Tech Library (NK *Econ Watch*, 04/02/2018)
Telling the Stories of Defectors From North Korea (NYT, 04/02/2018)
Threat of life imprisonment to North Koreans who call outside world (*Daily* NK, 04/02/2018)

In South Korea:
As tensions ease, wartime hotspots draw more tourists (*Joongang Ilbo*, 04/02/2018)
S. Korea to broadcast art troupe's Pyongyang performance on Thursday (*Yonhap*, 04/02/2018)
S. Korea unveils 3-year plan to support N.K. defectors (*Yonhap*, 04/02/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) N. Korean official apologizes for limiting S. Korean media's concert coverage(*Yonhap*, 04/02/2018)
(LEAD) Sports ministers of Koreas agree to push for joint march at Asian Games (*Yonhap*, 04/02/2018)
(2nd LD) N.K. leader says S. Korean musicians' gigs could show unity of Koreas (*Yonhap*, 04/02/2018)
(3rd LD) S. Korean art troupe performs in Pyongyang with N.K. leader in attendance (*Yonhap*, 04/02/2018)
A K-pop girl band loved by Kim Jong-un [VIDEO] (*Korea Times*, 04/02/2018)
Kim Jong Un applauds South Korean pop stars in newest sign of diplomatic warming (*WaPo*, 04/02/2018)
Kim Jong Un 'deeply moved' by K-pop concert in Pyongyang (CNN, 04/02/2018)
Kim Jong-un meets K-pop stars... What did he say to them? [PHOTOS] (*Korea Times*, 04/02/2018)
Kim Jong Un praises K-Pop concert, calls for follow-up event in Seoul (UPI, 04/01/2018)
Kim Jong-un says concert was 'wonderful' (*Joongang Ilbo*, 04/02/2018)
North Korea's Kim Jong Un, wife, watch South Korean K-pop stars perform in Pyongyang (*Reuters*, 04/01/2018)
N.Korean leader Kim watches performance by S. Korean pop stars (*WaPo*, 04/02/2018)
North Korea Issues Rare Apology Over Media Access to K-Pop Show (NYT, 04/02/2018)
North Korean leader Kim Jong-un attends 'K-pop' conference (*Telegraph*, 04/02/2018)
Onstage, South Korean K-Pop Stars. In the Balcony, Kim Jong-un, Clapping. (NYT, 04/01/2018)
Reporters clash with N. Korea authorities over Pyongyang concert (UPI, 04/02/2018)
South and North Korea to march together at Asian Games (UPI, 04/02/2018)
The power of truth (*Joongang Ilbo*, 04/02/2018)
Time fixed, all seats reserved for S. Korean artists' second Pyongyang concert (*Yonhap*, 04/02/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) Complete, irreversible denuclearization of North is 'nonnegotiable' goal: U.S. envoy(*Yonhap*, 04/02/2018)
Downscaled US-South Korea Military Drills Could Be Part of Nuclear Deal (VOA, 04/02/2018)
Graham: John Bolton has 'very healthy skepticism' on North Korea (*Guardian*, 04/01/2018)

Incoming U.S. national security advisor 'fears North Korea is buying time' (*UPI*, 04/02/2018)
In upcoming summit, the Koreas could trump Trump (*UPI*, 04/02/2018)
Japan's Abe to visit US to discuss North Korea with Trump (*WaPo*, 04/02/2018)
Losing the edge with China (*Joongang Ilbo*, 04/02/2018)
N. Korea slams S. Korea's recent defense talks with U.S., Japan (*Yonhap*, 04/02/2018)
New model needed for North's denuclearization: Knapper (*Joongang Ilbo*, 04/02/2018)
Q&A: Things to know about US-South Korea war drills (*WaPo*, 04/02/2018)
Sen. Warren says administration 'chaos' harming Asia policy (*WaPo*, 04/01/2018)
Senator says Bolton is wary of North Korea stall tactics (*WaPo*, 04/01/2018)
Shinzo Abe to bring up North Korean abductions in visit with Donald Trump (UPI, 04/02/2018)
Three-way talks are next round, says Blue House (*Joongang Ilbo*, 04/02/2018)
Trump's Iran Threat May Wreck Talks With North Korea (NYT, 04/01/2018)
Trump worried over Seoul's leniency with Pyongyang (*Korea Times*, 04/02/2018)

In North Korea:

- Agreeing to let a group of S. Korean pop music artists come to Pyongyang appears positive, but KJU has in fact increased the country's crackdown on S. Korean music, movies, and television shows, with a focus on stopping the so-called, "Yellow Wind of Capitalism". (Ha Yoon-ah, *Daily NK*)
- We do not know how successful KJU will be in his latest maneuvers to seek sanctions relief and thereby secure regime survival for the elite. But what we do know is that most likely Pyongyang will remain unaccountable for the oppression and deprivation of its common citizens. (Thomas Byrne, NYT)
- A new Sci-Tech Library has been built in Hamhung. It is the first Sci-Tech Library at the provincial level, and more could be on the way in other provinces. (*NK Econ Watch*)
- The life of a N. Korean defector is brutally carved into two parts: before and after. Those who escape exchange their country's near-total isolation for the headiness of freedom. But in the process, their history is erased. Here are the stories and potraits of six North Korean defectors. (Alexandra Genova, Tim Franco, NYT)
- The N. Korean authorities are strengthening censorship and cracking down on so-called "anti-socialist" acts, such as the smuggling, possession, and distribution of 'impure' media, and have been warning of severe punishments for any who leak internal information to the outside world. (Lee Sang-yoon, *Daily NK*)

In South Korea:

- More foreign tourists interested in the history of the conflict between the two Koreas are heading to historical sites of conflict in SK as tensions on the peninsula have thawed over the past few months. (Seo Ji-eun, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- SK will air its art troupe's performance in Pyongyang on Thurs. afternoon, the culture ministry said. (*Yonhap*)

- SK set up a three-year plan to support N. Korean defectors on Mon., including measures to help them secure stable jobs. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Top N.Korean official Kim Yong-chol has made a rare apology to S. Korean reporters for restricting their coverage of a concert by S. Korean musicians in Pyongyang, according to a pool report Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- Sports ministers of the two Koreas on Mon. agreed to push for a joint march by their athletes at this year's Asian Games. (*Yonhap*)
- KJU has expressed hope that S. Korean musicians' performances in Pyongyang could serve as an occasion to show the unity of the two Koreas, state media reported Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- A S. Korean art troupe held a historic performance in Pyongyang on Sun. with KJU and his wife in attendance. (Shim Sun-ah, Joint Press Corps, *Yonhap*)
- KJU expressed a rare interest in the S. Korean K-pop girl group Red Velvet on Sun., when he watched an historic performance by SK's art troupe in Pyongyang. (Ko Dong-hwan, *Korea Times*)
- In the past, SK's popular K-pop didn't find a great deal of love in Pyongyang. But as both countries appear to be warming up to each other ahead of talks later this month, it suddenly doesn't appear to be so evil anymore. In fact, KJU, who became the first N. Korean leader to attend a K-pop concert, may have actually enjoyed it. (Rick Noack, *WaPo*)
- KJU, accompanied by his wife Ri Sol-ju, clapped and waved Sun. as he attended a rare concert of S. Korean singers and performers in Pyongyang. (Yoonjung Seo, Eric Leveson, Euan McKirdy, CNN)
- KJU has expressed hope that S. Korean musicians' performances in Pyongyang could serve as an occasion to show the unity of the two Koreas, state media reported Mon. (*Korea Times*)
- N. Korean media on Monday reported that regime leader KJU thoroughly enjoyed the performance of SK's biggest pop acts staged in the capital of Pyongyang. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- KJU made an unannounced appearance at a concert thrown by S. Korean artists Sun. night in Pyongyang, and said it was wonderful, and that the Koreas should hold another joint concert this fall in Seoul. (Lee Sung-eun, Joint Press Corps, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- KJU and his wife, Ri Sol-ju, were among the hundreds in Pyongyang on Sun. watching S. Korean K-pop singers perform in NK for the first time in more than a decade as tensions between the old rivals thaw. (Christine Kim, Heekyong Yang, *Reuters*)
- KJU clapped his hands and said he was "deeply moved" as he, his wife, and hundreds of other citizens, watched a rare performance by S. Korean pop stars visiting Pyongyang. The concert highlights the thawing ties between the rivals after years of friction over NK's nuclear program. (Kim Hyung-jin, AP)
- S. Korean reporters visiting NK's capital to cover a K-pop performance there received a surprise on Mon.: an unusually graceful apology from a senior N. Korean official. (Choe Sang-hun, NYT)

- KJU and his wife, Ri Sol-ju, attended a rare performance by S. Korean singers on Sun., in the latest of a series of diplomatic breakthroughs in an ongoing thaw between the two Koreas. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- The appearance by KJU on Sun. at a concert by S. Korean musicians in Pyongyang was all the more unusual because his authoritarian government has been struggling to stave off what it sees as an infiltration of SK's pop culture among his isolated people. (Choe Sang-hun, NYT)
- A high-ranking N. Korean official apologized to S. Korean reporters for restricting access to a Pyongyang concert staged by major K-Pop artists. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- S. and N. Korean athletes are set to make a joint entrance at the Asian Games this summer, according to a S. Korean pool report from Pyongyang. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- Moon must demand KJU remove his short-range nuclear missiles targeting various cities in the South, not the inter-continental ballistic missiles that the US is worrying about. (Chun Young-gi, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- The schedule for another concert by a S. Korean art troupe visiting Pyongyang has been fixed, Seoul officials said Mon. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- The acting US. ambassador to SK said Mon. a complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of NK's nuclear program remains a "nonnegotiable" US goal in its upcoming talks with Pyongyang. (*Yonhap*)
- Permanently ending the US-SK joint military exercises that began this week could become a key factor in the nuclear talks with NK to come. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- The Republican senator Lindsey Graham said on Sun. he was glad John Bolton will be Trump's national security adviser going into talks with NK, because of his "very healthy skepticism." (*Guardian*)
- Incoming US National Security Advisor John Bolton has expressed "very healthy skepticism" of NK's move toward dialogue on denuclearization, according to Republican senator Lindsey Graham. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- Kim, Moon, and Xi have several parallel and common interests. Excluding the US by working out an agreement without Washington may seem another bridge way too far. But that possibility cannot be entirely ignored. (Harlan Ullman, UPI)
- Japanese PM Shinzo Abe said Mon. he plans to visit the US this month to discuss NK with Trump ahead of expected summits between NK and the US and SK. (Mari Yamaguchi, AP)
- SK must be careful to stay out of the escalated tensions between the US and China. (Lee Hee-ok, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- NK on Mon. slammed SK's recent defense cooperation talks with the US and Japan, claiming such cooperation with outside forces would lead to confrontation and war. (*Yonhap*)
- Rather than adopting previous models used to dismantle weapons of mass destruction programs in other dictatorial regimes, Washington and Seoul have to work together to come up with a new approach best suited for the situation in NK, said Marc Knapper, US acting ambassador to Korea, in a forum in Seoul Mon. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Ilbo*)

- Japanese PM Shinzo Abe said he will seek US cooperation in dealing with NK when he meets with Trump later this month. (Ed Adamczyk, UPI)
- Some questions and answers about this year's low-key US-SK military drills, which come ahead of two separate historic summits between Kim and his S. Korean and US counterparts. (Kim Hyung-jin, AP)
- US Senator Elizabeth Warren says chaos in the Trump administration is harming its ability to formulate coherent policy toward NK's nuclear program and other important issues in Asia. (Christopher Bodeen, AP)
- Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina said he's glad John Bolton will serve as Trump's national security adviser going into talks with NK because of his "very healthy skepticism." (Kevin Freking, AP)
- The Blue House said it wants three-way talks involving S. and N. Korea and the US before having a four-way negotiation that also includes China, which was proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- As Trump prepares for possible talks with KJU about controlling the North's nuclear weapons program, he is facing his most complicated national security challenge so far. He has made the task far harder by threatening to blow up the only other recent deal to control a nuclear program, with Iran. (Editorial Board, NYT)
- Trump is aiming to gain leverage in orchestrating talks with NK by tying a renegotiated trade deal with SK to Pyongyang's denuclearization, analysts said Mon. (Kim Jae-kyoung, *Korea Times*)

Prepared by Emma Stubblefield, HRNK Research Intern

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Tuesday, April 3, 2018

NK raps SK for welcoming UN rights resolution; NK's top envoy to attend conference of Non-Aligned Movement in Baku; KJU Goes to China: Mending A Weathered Alliance; Google most used Internet search engine in NK: report

In North Korea:
[Photos] No customers at North Korean restaurant in Shenyang (*DailyNK*, 04/03/2018)
12,000 attend second concert in Pyongyang (*Joongang Daily*, 04/03/2018)
Crackdown escalates on foreign information and contact with outside world (*DailyNK*, 04/03/2018)
Google most used Internet search engine in N. Korea: report (*Yonhap*, 04/03/2018)
Huge LED display added to top of Pyongyang's iconic Ryugyong Hotel: photo (*NKNews.org*, 04/02/2018)

Kim Jong-un apparently made song request at S. Korea's Pyongyang concert (*Yonhap*, 04/03/2018)
Korean rock star performs in Pyongyang (*Korea Times*, 04/03/2018)
N. Korea's top envoy to attend conference of Non-Aligned Movement in Baku (*Yonhap*, 04/03/2018)
Report: Google is North Korea's No. 1 search engine (*UPI*, 04/03/2018)
The need for a North Korean 'Me Too' movement: no justice for sexual assault victims (*Daily*NK, 04/03/2018)

In South Korea:
Blue House describes its nuclear plan for North (*Joongang Daily*, 04/03/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) N.K. proposes 1-day delay to working-level talks for inter-Korean summit (*Yonhap*, 04/03/2018)
Cultural exchanges build inter-Korean trust (*Korea Times*, 04/03/2018)
Koreas target unified march at Asian Games opening ceremony (*Reuters*, 04/03/2018)
N. Korea raps S. Korea for welcoming U.N. rights resolution (*Yonhap*, 04/03/2018)
North Korea slams South Korea warship remembrance (UPI, 04/03/2018)
S. Korea to send 7-member delegation to working-level talks for summit with N.K. (*Yonhap*, 04/03/2018)

International:
Avoiding a schism (*Joongang Daily*, 04/03/2018)
China tells N. Korea official Beijing supports its US summit (*WaPo*, 04/03/2018)
China tells North Korea it appreciates its efforts on denuclearization (*Reuters*, 04/03/2018)
Chinese Border Guards Block Attempt to Smuggle Car Into North Korea (RFA, 04/02/2018)
Foreign ministers of N. Korea, China meet in Beijing (*Yonhap*, 04/03/2018)
Japan's Abe to visit US to discuss North Korea with Trump (*WaPo*, 04/02/2018)
Kim Jong Un Goes to China: Mending A Weathered Alliance (*38North*, 04/03/2018)
North Korea launches charm offensive ahead of US summit (*Nikkei Asian Review*, 04/03/2018)
North Korean diplomat reaching out to China, Russia ahead of inter-Korean summit (UPI, 04/03/2018)
Q&A: Things to know about US-South Korea war drills (*WaPo*, 04/02/2018)
Trump-Kim summit will be a start to a start, says Gallucci (*Joongang Daily*, 04/03/2018)
United Nations sanctions North Korean ship for fuel transfer at sea (*Reuters*, 04/03/2018)
Why North Korea agreed to meet with Trump (Business Insider, 04/02/2018)

In North Korea:

- The N.Korean Pyongyang Restaurant, located in the Xita neighborhood of China's Shenyang, was once a popular eatery among foreign and Chinese patrons alike, but UN sanctions continue to take a toll on its business. A separate source in China close to N.Korean affairs said, "Most of the N.Korean restaurants aren't doing well. Chinese residents in the area avoid patronizing these establishments. When I went into Pyongyang

Restaurant recently there were no patrons to speak of—all you saw was a sea of empty tables." (Kim Sung Il, *DailyNK*)

- S.Korean artists held a second concert in Pyongyang Tues., this time alongside NK's Samjiyon Orchestra, belting out hit songs from both countries to a crowd of 12,000. (*Joongang Daily*)
- The N.Korean regime has moved to strengthen punishments and increase crackdowns on the consumption of foreign media, including through a constitutional revision in 2015. The 2012 version of the constitution stipulated a maximum penalty of five years, but this was raised to ten years in the 2015 revision. (Kang Mi Jin, *DailyNK*)
- Google is the most used Internet search engine in NK, with usage of software systems designed to search for information on the World Wide Web being very much limited in the country, Radio Free Asia reported Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- A huge LED-style display has been added to the top of Pyongyang's iconic 105-floor Ryugyong Hotel, photos and videos dated Sun. and Mon. seen by *NK News* show. The animated display, which spans an at least five-floor cone-shaped structure near the top of the pyramid-shaped building, was seen in pictures and video depicting a large N.Korean flag appearing to blow in the wind. (Chad O'Carroll, *NKNews.org*)
- N.Korean leader KJU appears to have made a song request at a rare concert by S.Korean musicians in Pyongyang, according to pool reports Tues. (Joint Press Corps, *Yonhap*)
- Korean singer-songwriter Kang San-ae performed at the East Pyongyang Grand Theatre in Pyongyang, NL, Sun. The 55-year-old Korean rockstar, who has been often likened to a Korean Bob Dylan, with his iconic debut song wishing for peace on the Korean Peninsula, said it was "very emotional" to perform in Pyongyang. (Jhoo Dong-chan, *Korea Times*)
- N.Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho will take part in the ministerial meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to be held this week in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, diplomatic sources said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- Google is NK's search engine of choice, among the few online databases available within the tightly-controlled regime, Radio Free Asia reported Mon., citing web analytics firm StatCounter which showed Google recorded a 92.44 percent usage rate in NK from Mar. last year to Mar. this year. (Jennie Oh, *UPI*)
- N.Korean women are exposed to broad sexual abuse, including rape, molestation, and harassment. In particular, women who are in custody, including temporary detention, political prison camps, and labor camps are frequently subjected to unwanted sexual advances and abuse. Although NK's constitution has provisions referring to rape and assault, and while Article 46 of the Guaranteed Women's Rights Law bans and provides protections against domestic violence, these legal protections are not properly enforced. Violations are rampant, and the majority fall through the legal cracks. Corruption and bribery make it difficult to enforce these regulations. The absence of sexual awareness education, the social impulse to conceal such transgressions, and the complacency of the authorities are other enabling factors as well. (Lee Sang Yong, *DailyNK*)

In South Korea:

- The Blue House on Tues. gave more specifics on how it would try to negotiate denuclearization with NK, calling for a comprehensive package that is implemented in a series of steps. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Joongang Daily*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- NK on Tues. suggested delaying by one day this week's planned working-level talks to discuss the details of an inter-Korean summit in late Apr., the S.Korean government said. (*Yonhap*)
- Before the historic summit between President Moon and KJU, scheduled Apr. 27, the two Koreas are seeking to further tighten "emotional bonds" by conducting joint music performances. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- Ministers from the two Koreas agreed to push for a unified delegation from both countries parading together in the opening ceremony at this year's Asian Games in Indonesia, according to the Yonhap News Agency. (Jack Tarrant, *Reuters*)
- NK on Tues. criticized SK for welcoming a recent UN resolution condemning communist NK for its dire human rights conditions, saying Seoul should not undermine the dignity of a country it seeks to hold a serious dialogue with. (*Yonhap*)
- N.Korean media is denying Pyongyang's involvement in the 2010 sinking of the S.Korean warship Cheonan, a day after a senior N.Korean official lightly joked about the attack before S.Korean reporters. Pyongyang's Workers' Party newspaper Rodong Sinmun claimed Tues. the attack on the S.Korean warship was a "manipulation" or conspiracy against NK. The article also condemned a new S.Korean anniversary commemorating incidents when S.Korean personnel were injured or killed in action in the Yellow Sea. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- SK will send a seven-member delegation to this week's working-level talks to discuss protocol and security for an inter-Korean summit in late Apr., government officials said Tues. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- Any cracks between SK and the US can trigger schisms on the sanctions front and weaken their negotiating power. John Bolton, Trump's new national security adviser, said that NK can complete its nuclear weapons development in nine to 12 months. That's a warning that the US will return to putting maximum pressure, including the threat of military action, on the rogue state unless it completely scraps its nuclear weapons within a year. The S.Korean government must abandon the "phased denuclearization" approach, which could take as long as 10 years. SK and the US must closely cooperate if they desire to denuclearize NK in such a short period of time. (*Joongang Daily*)
- Senior Chinese diplomat Wang Yi told NK's foreign minister on Tues. that Beijing supports NK's planned summits with SK and the US. (*Associated Press*)

- China appreciates NK's "important efforts" to ease tension on the Korean peninsula, senior Chinese diplomat Wang Yi told NK's foreign minister on Tues., hours after he called on all sides to stay focused on talks. (Michael Martina, Heekyong Yang, *Reuters*)
- Chinese border guards late last month seized a military vehicle being taken illegally into NK, boarding a Chinese vessel in the Yalu River after the boat was cleared to depart by another guard unit working with the smugglers, N.Korean sources say. (Hyemin Sohn, Leejin Jun, Richard Finney, RFA)
- N.Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho met with his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, in Beijing on Tues. before heading for Azerbaijan to attend an international meeting, the Chinese foreign ministry said. (*Yonhap*)
- Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Mon. he plans to visit the US this month to discuss NK with President Donald Trump ahead of expected summits between NK and the US and SK. (Mari Yamaguchi, AP)
- Since N.Korean leader KJU assumed power over 6 years ago, there had been several practical and specific reasons for the lack of a top-level meeting between China and NK. KJU's first visit to China on Mar. 25th to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping helped mend a fraying Sino-DPRK relationship and will help strengthen NK's position and give it bargaining leverage in its upcoming meeting with the US and SK. (Yun Sun, *38North*)
- NK is actively trying to improve its international image ahead of an important summit with the US set to take place by the end of May, even relying on its first lady as well as S.Korean pop stars to forge a bridge to the outside world. (Yosuke Onchi, *Nikkei Asian Review*)
- NK appears to be attempting to bolster ties with key countries, ahead of leader KJU's upcoming summits with SK and the US. (Jennie Oh, *UPI*)
- With the coming of another spring on the Korean Peninsula comes another round of war games by the US and S.Korean militaries. However, this week's drills will feature a new and unusually low-key approach, as the allies resist bringing in their big guns. NK, for the time being, is avoiding its usual belligerent propaganda against exercises that it claims are an invasion rehearsal. The reason for this departure lies in the US and SK's interest in nurturing a diplomatic outreach by NK's young leader, KJU, after months of weapons tests and threats of nuclear war by NK. In this article, AP writer Hyung-Jin Kim addresses several questions about this year's drills that come ahead of two separate historic summits between KJU and his S.Korean and US counterparts. (Hyung-Jin Kim, AP)
- In a series of interviews conducted by the Joongang Daily, international affairs experts weighed in on the proposed summit between N.Korean leader KJU and US President Trump—a summit that could determine the future of the Korean Peninsula. In this interview with former US diplomat Robert Gallucci, the former chief US negotiator during the 1994 N.Korean nuclear crisis, Gallucci shared his expertise negotiating with NK. While Gallucci cannot see a single session solving the N.Korean nuclear crisis, he believes that "if it is going to be a successful engagement, the summit between KJU and Trump will the start of a series of talks." (Kim Hyun-ki, Jung Hyo-sik, *Joongang Daily*)
- The United Nations has blacklisted a N.Korean ship for receiving oil in an Oct. transfer that breached UN sanctions, as first revealed by Reuters. (*Reuters*)
- In this interview with Business Insider, N.Korean defector and founder of NAUH, Ji Seong-ho, gives his thoughts on the underlying motivating factors that may have led NK's

sudden decision to meet with US President Trump. (Nathaniel Lee, Alana Kakoyiannis, Noah Friedman, *Business Insider*)

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, HRNK Research Intern

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Wednesday, April 4, 2018

Kim Jung-un Trying to Soften Image Ahead of Trump Summit; Trump should make no mention of Libya in summit with Kim: ex-U.S. envoy

Top News:

Kim Jung-un Trying to Soften Image Ahead of Trump Summit (CNN, 04/02/2018)
Trump should make no mention of Libya in summit with Kim: ex-U.S. envoy (*Yonhap*, 04/03/2018)

In North Korea:

Kalma Coastal Tourist Area Update via Planet Labs (*NK Econ Watch*, 04/04/2018)
N.K. official hopes for continued inter-Korean reconciliation (*Yonhap*, 04/04/2018)
New mandatory lectures target smuggled phone users, warn against 'complaints' (*Daily NK*, 04/04/2018)
North Korea makes rare apology for banning press from K-pop concert (Guardian, 04/04/2018)
North Korean woman executed for ax murder ... Can bad economy be blamed? (*Korea Times*, 04/04/2018)
Reading North Korean Intent: The Importance of What Is and Is Not Said (*38 North*, 04/03/2018)

In South Korea:

Kang claims Seoul has a 'roadmap' for denuclearization (*Joongang Ilbo*, 04/04/2018)
Red Velvet's mistake (*Joongang Ilbo*, 04/04/2018)
Returning from Pyongyang, S. Korean art troupe 'unbelievably moved' (*Yonhap*, 04/04/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

(3rd LD) Two Koreas' art troupes end joint performance on high note (*Yonhap*, 04/04/2018)
DMZ meeting put off for a day (*Joongang Ilbo*, 04/04/2018)
Joint concert led to 'warm feelings' (*Joongang Ilbo*, 04/04/2018)
Kim Jong Un's arrival at Panmunjom summit to be discussed (UPI, 04/04/2018)
Koreas likely to discuss hotline between Moon and N.K. leader this week (*Yonhap*, 04/04/2018)
North Korea slams South Korea for welcoming U.N. human rights resolution on North (UPI, 04/03/2018)
North Korea's KCNA mentions South Korean taekwondo performance (UPI, 04/03/2018)
Popstars fail to cut tension as North Korea warns its neighbour of 'dubious double dealing' (*Telegraph*, 04/04/2018)
Singer Cho says music can connect two Koreas (*Yonhap*, 04/04/2018)

South and North perform together in Pyongyang (*Korea Times*, 04/04/2018)
South, North Korea to arrange direct hotline between leaders (UPI, 04/04/2018)

International:
(LEAD) FM says S. Korea, U.S. share goal of complete denuclearization of N.K. (*Yonhap*, 04/04/2018)
(LEAD) The Elders vows support for S. Korean efforts to denuclearize peninsula (*Yonhap*, 04/04/2018)
China submits report on efforts to implement sanctions against N.K. (*Yonhap*, 04/04/2018)
Has spring come? (*Joongang Ilbo*, 04/04/2018)
Japan Increasingly Isolated As N. Korea Diplomacy Progresses (VOA, 04/04/2018)
North Korean foreign minister to visit Moscow next week, says Russia (*Reuters*, 04/04/2018)
The Word That Could Help the World Avoid Nuclear War (NYT, 04/04/2018)
Trump can turn N.K. summit into photo op or postpone it: ex-Pentagon chief (*Yonhap*, 04/03/2018)

Top News:

- HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu was interviewed by CNN regarding KJU's human rights violations hiding underneath his recent charm offensive. (CNN)
- Trump should not mention the example of Libya when he meets with KJU to discuss the denuclearization of the regime, former US special envoy for N. Korea human rights Robert King said Tues. (*Yonhap*)

In North Korea:

- An assessment on the construction of the Kalma Coastal Tourist Area. It appears there are well over 100 facilities under construction on the beach, stretched over a four-kilometer-long construction site. (*NK Econ Watch*)
- Senior N. Korean official Kim Yong-chol expressed hope for continued reconciliation between the two Koreas as he thanked S. Korean artists for performing in his country, according to pool reports Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- The N. Korean authorities are continuing their campaign against foreign information with the delivery of new mandatory lectures at workplaces nationwide focused on warning residents to refrain from voicing any complaints against the government amidst their latest international diplomatic push. (Seol Song-ah, *Daily NK*)
- NK issued a rare apology to a group of S. Korean journalists over access to a K-pop concert attended by KJU. While apologies from NK are highly unusual, a mea culpa from a senior official over press freedom is almost unimaginable. (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)
- A N. Korean woman was recently executed for killing her friend with an ax over a small amount of money. This tragedy reflects the deepening economic trouble facing N. Korean people amid international sanctions on the isolated country over its nuclear and missile programs. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- NK has been clearly signaling; both in what it has and what it *hasn't* said. (Robert Carlin, *38 North*)

In South Korea:

- The S. Korean government has an overall roadmap for the denuclearization of North Korea based on its past history of negotiations on the issue, said Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha Tues., who added that the nuclear issue is expected to be at the top of the agenda in upcoming summits with Pyongyang. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- It isn't right for a member of Red Velvet to say that shaking hands with the third-generation hereditary dictator who poisoned his half-brother and detained a tourist for 17 months in a country with no human rights was “an honor." (Ahn Hye-ri, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- S. Korean musical and taekwondo delegations returned home early Wed. after performances in Pyongyang, the latest in inter-Korean exchanges since NK's participation in the Winter Olympics. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Art troupes of S. and N. Korea finished their joint performance in Pyongyang on a high note amid thawing tension on the Korean Peninsula. (Shim Sun-ah, Joint Press Corps, *Yonhap*)
- The night before officials from Seoul and Pyongyang were scheduled to meet for a working-level meeting to discuss protocol, security and press coverage for the April 27 inter-Korean summit, NK asked SK to postpone the meeting by a day without an explanation, said SK's Unification Ministry. (Lee Sung-eun, Kang Tae-ha, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- NK continues to propose working-level talks with SK ahead of a summit scheduled for April 27, and matters including the possibility of a live broadcast, and KJU's arrival in SK, could be discussed this week. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- NK’s state-run media commended the joint performances Wed. for bringing the two nations together, saying the show instilled the N. Korean audience with “warm feelings.” But that still didn’t stop NK from excoriating Seoul for recently backing the UN Human Rights Council’s adoption of a resolution condemning NK’s human rights abuses. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- S. and N. Korea are expected to discuss ways to set up an inter-Korean hotline at the offices of their leaders at working-level talks to be held over the weekend. (*Yonhap*)
- NK has slammed SK for welcoming the adoption of a UN resolution on N. Korean human rights, deeming the move "a heinous insult" and a "challenge" to the regime. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- N. Korean state media reported Tues. SK's taekwondo demonstration team was well received by N. Koreans, the same day visiting S. Koreans were taken to Mangyongdae Children's Palace in Pyongyang. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Despite the bonding of the N. and S. Korean elites over a shared culture and mutual love of traditional songs, thorny issues like human rights are likely to remain firmly off the table

when the leaders of the two countries meet on the heavily militarized border later this month. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)

- Veteran singer Cho Yong-pil, a key member of the S. Korean artist troupe to Pyongyang, suggested that music can serve as a tool for the two Koreas to communicate emotionally. (*Yonhap*)
- S. Korean singers appeared on stage with N. Korean performers, singing popular songs from the Koreas at the Ryugyong Chung Ju-yung Gymnasium in Pyongyang, Tues. (Kwon Mee-yoo, *Korea Times*)
- Seoul and Pyongyang officials will discuss the installation of the direct line during their working-level talks on Sat. at the northern side of Panmunjom truce village. (Jennie Oh, UPI)

International:

- Seoul's top diplomat reaffirmed Wed. a complete denuclearization of NK is a shared objective of SK and the US, emphasizing that the allies are closely coordinating their strategies to achieve the goal. (*Yonhap*)
- The Elders, an international organization of global leaders, has expressed its support for SK and Moon's efforts to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula, calling Moon's upcoming summit with KJU a "precious opportunity" to achieve that goal, the presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- China has disclosed its ongoing implementation efforts for sanctions imposed by the U.N. Security Council against NK in the wake of Pyongyang's missile provocation. (*Yonhap*)
- The spring seems to have come to the Korean Peninsula. With the rise of John Bolton, however, Washington's spring seems still distant. And the difference in temperature is worrisome. (Kim Hyun-ki, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- PM Shinzo Abe may be looking for reassurance when he meets later this month with Trump, given that the Japanese leader has been left out of the rapidly progressing diplomatic talks to resolve the N. Korean nuclear threat. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- NK's foreign minister will visit Moscow next week and meet his Russian counterpart on April 10, Maria Zakharova, a spokeswoman for the Russian Foreign Ministry said on Wed. (*Reuters*)
- The word "denuclearization" is more or less native to the Korean Peninsula. Experts have always used "disarmament" to refer to other nuclear programs. So why have diplomats this time chosen the far more complicated word "denuclearization?" Because the situation is, well, far more complicated. (Jeffery Lewis, NYT)
- Trump should accept that any summit with N. Korean leader KJU under the current circumstances will either be a photo opportunity or should be postponed, former US Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta said Tues. (*Yonhap*)

Prepared by Emma Stubblefield, HRNK Research Intern

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Thursday, April 5, 2018

Two Koreas hold preparatory talks to set up the Moon-Kim summit; S.Korean singers reveal impressions of Pyongyang; N. Korea may have shut down nuclear reactor for now

Top News:
S.Korean Singers Reveal Impressions of Pyongyang (*Chosun Ilbo*, 04/05/2018)

In North Korea:
A Generational Shift in Pyongyang: Is Change Ahead? (*38 North*, 04/04/2018)
Hundreds of North Korean female workers reappear in China (*DailyNK*, 04/05/2018)
Missionaries at border spread Christianity to North Korea (*WaPo*, 04/05/2018)
N. Korea highlights founder's friendship, exchanges with Chinese leaders (*Yonhap*, 04/05/2018)
N. Korea may have shut down nuclear reactor for now: 38 North (*Yonhap*, 04/05/2018)
N. Korea shows interest in ways for women to juggle family duties, work: journal (*Yonhap*, 04/05/2018)
N. Korea's top diplomat to visit Russia next week (*Yonhap*, 04/04/2018)
North Korea's Yongbyon Nuclear Research Center: Major Activity at the Five Megawatt Reactor (*38 North*, 04/04/2018)
North Korea shuts down plutonium reactor (*Joongang Daily*, 04/05/2018)
North Korea soon likely to have missiles that could reach UK – MPs (*Guardian*, 04/04/2018)
North Korea workers returning to China, sources say (*UPI*, 04/05/2018)
North Korea's missiles to be able to hit UK within 18 months - but cyber strike more likely, MPs warn (*Telegraph*, 04/05/2018)
North Korean Workers Return to China in Defiance of UN Restrictions (*RFA*, 04/04/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) S. Korean, U.S. marines cancel 'D-Day' landing drill due to weather (*Yonhap*, 04/04/2018)
Aid Group Sends Food in a Bottle to North Korea (VOA, 04/05/2018)
Critical voices are needed too (*Joongang Daily*, 04/05/2018)
South Korean fighter jet crashes, two pilots presumed dead (*Reuters*, 04/05/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) South, North Korea hold 'thorough' discussions on upcoming summit: official (*Yonhap*, 04/05/2018)
2 Koreas Hold Preparatory Talks Ahead of Landmark Summit (VOA, 04/05/2018)
2 Koreas meet to prepare for summit (*Korea Times*, 04/05/2018)
Koreas holds preparatory talks to set up Kim-Moon summit (*WaPo*, 04/05/2018)
Negotiators mum on details of summit talks (*Joongang Daily*, 04/05/2018)

S. Korea closely monitoring N.K.'s recent diplomatic activities (*Yonhap*, 04/05/2018)

International:
China can't go wobbly (*Joongang Daily*, 04/05/2018)
China envoy says prefers to resolve trade dispute by negotiation (*Reuters*, 04/04/2018)
China importers hope to sell U.S. cargoes to north Asia after tariff move (*Reuters*, 04/04/2018)
Malaysian prosecutors rest case in Kim Jong Nam murder trial (*WaPo*, 04/05/2018)
News Daily: London killings and North Korea 'UK missile threat' (*BBC*, 04/05/2018)
North Korea's Kim told Xi he wanted to resume six-party disarmament talks: Nikkei (*Reuters*, 04/05/2018)
Trump administration to hit more Russians with sanctions (*WaPo*, 04/05/2018)
Trump's easy campaign promises run into the difficulties of reality (*WaPo*, 04/05/2018)
U.S., Chinese diplomats reaffirm commitment to denuclearizing Korea (*Yonhap*, 04/05/2018)

Top News:

- HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu argues that the recent K-pop concert held in N.K. was a propaganda campaign for the N.K. regime and viewed only by the North's elite. (*Chosun Ilbo*)

In North Korea:

- The recent developments since KJU's New Year's speech raise the possibility of a generational shift in the leadership and political culture of N.K. at the highest level. (Jongsoo Lee, *38 North*)
- A large group of N.K. women were moving through the streets of the Chinese border city of Helong earlier this month, leading some in the area to believe it may be connected to KJU's visit to Beijing in late March. (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)
- Along the N.K. border, dozens of missionaries are engaged in work that puts them and their N.K. converts in danger. Most are S.Koreans, but others are ethnic Koreans whose families have lived in China for generations. (Hyung-Jin Kim and Gerry Shih, AP)
- An influential N.K. newspaper on Thursday introduced an anecdotal event involving its state founder Kim Il-sung and former Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai and their friendship, as the country has been highlighting the records of blood ties with China lately. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K. may have shut down a nuclear reactor for now, while conducting major construction work nearby, a U.S. website monitoring the reclusive regime said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K. has indicated the importance of coming up with ways for women to balance their family duties and careers as part of its efforts to expand women's labor power in society, according to a thesis in a N.K. economic journal obtained Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K. Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho will make a visit to Russia next week to discuss issues surrounding the Korean Peninsula, Russia's foreign ministry said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- Commercial satellite imagery from March 30 indicates that N.K. may have shut down the 5 MWe (plutonium production) reactor for the time being. (*38 North*)

- N.K. has likely shut down the nuclear reactor at its Yongbyon research site in North Pyongyan Province and is working on major construction projects nearby, according to analysis of new satellite images. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)
- N.K. is almost certain to complete development within 18 months of ballistic missiles capable of reaching the UK. According to a report, the missiles could potentially carry nuclear warheads and the UK has only a limited ballistic missile defense capability. (Ewen MacAskill, *Guardian*)
- N.K. may have begun redeploying forced laborers to China following a summit between KJU and Xi Jinping, a move that could violate UNSC sanctions resolution 2375. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- N.K. will almost certainly be capable of hitting the UK with ballistic missiles within 18 months, MPs have warned, but a "reckless" cyber strike is considered far more likely. (*Telegraph*)
- N.K. laborers barred under UN sanctions from working abroad are now moving back into China in an apparent violation of restrictions aimed at punishing Pyongyang for its illicit nuclear weapons and missile programs. (Joonho Kim, RFA)

In South Korea:

- S.K. and U.S. marines have called off a massive combined amphibious landing exercise this week due to adverse weather, the combined command announced Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- Humanitarian groups in S.K. are using the ocean current to send needed food and information from the outside world into impoverished regions of N.K. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- Critics of Pyongyang and N.K. defectors are said to be receiving disadvantages or even being removed from office under the liberal government known for its détente policy towards Pyongyang. The case raises concerns for balanced views on N.K. and the freedom of expression. (*Joongang Daily*)
- An S.K. fighter jet crashed southeast of Seoul on Thursday, leaving two pilots presumed dead, the air force said. The jet was unrelated to U.S.-ROK military drills taking place this month. (*Reuters*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Officials from two Koreas held "serious and thorough" discussions Thursday at a meeting inside the heavily-fortified DMZ to arrange a summit between their leaders to be held later in the month. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K. and S.K. officials held preparatory talks Thursday for a summit later this month between the countries' two leaders amid a global effort to resolve tensions over Pyongyang's nuclear program. (VOA)
- Two Koreas began working-level discussions Thursday on protocol, security and media coverage details for the upcoming summit between S.K. President Moon and N.K. leader KJU. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)

- The rival Koreas held preparatory talks Thursday for a summit later this month between N.K. leader KJU and S.K. President Moon amid a global diplomatic push to resolve tensions over the North's nuclear program. (Kim Tong-Hyung, AP)
- Two Koreas on Thursday had a working-level meeting for the upcoming inter-Korea summit to discuss protocol, security and press coverage and agreed to hold a second such meeting in coming days. A date was not announced. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Joongang Daily*)
- S.K. is closely watching recent overseas diplomatic activities by N.K. ahead of upcoming summit talks, the S.K. foreign ministry said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- China needs to use its N.K. card in fear of being isolated from the negotiation process and in the face of Washington's mounting trade pressure. But the denuclearization of N.K. involves not only the peninsula, but the East Asia as a whole. If the negotiations fail, it could trigger a nuclear domino effect in Asia. (*Joongang Daily*)
- The US and China should avoid a trade war, China's Ambassador to the US Cui Tiankai said on Wednesday, stressing that Beijing's preference was to resolve the dispute through negotiations. (*Reuters*)
- Chinese importers expecting cargoes of U.S. commodities from beef to propane said they hope to sell the goods to S.K. or Japan after Beijing's decision to slap extra tariffs on a swathe of items from agricultural products to chemicals. (*Reuters*)
- Malaysian prosecutors wrapped up their case Thursday against two Southeast Asian women accused of killing the estranged half-brother of N.K.'s leader KJU in a brazen attack at an international airport. (Eileen Ng, AP)
- US experts have been warning for months about the development of N.K.'s long-range missile program. It is predicted that KJU's military could have the capability of hitting the UK within 6 to 18 months. (BBC)
- N.K. leader KJU told Chinese President Xi Jinping during talks in Beijing last week that he agreed to return to six-party talks on his nation's nuclear program and missile tests. (*Reuters*)
- The Trump administration is preparing to impose new sanctions on powerful Russian business and political figures under a law passed last year in response to alleged Russian meddling in the 2016 election. (Matthew Lee and Zeke Miller, AP)
- President Trump is discovering that the policies he once described as easy fixes for the nation are a lot more complicated in reality — creating a backlash among allies, frustrating supporters and threatening the pocketbooks of many farming communities that helped get him elected. (Michael Scherer, Josh Dawsey and Philip Rucker, WaPo)
- Senior diplomats of the US and China on Wednesday reaffirmed their commitment to achieving a complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, the State Department said. (*Yonhap*)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

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Friday, April 6, 2018

Is the world ignoring N.Korea's 'crimes against humanity'?; Impeached S.Korean president Park sentenced to 24 years in prison; Six-party talks to discuss N.K. denuclearization could still be valid

Top News:
Is the world ignoring North Korea's 'crimes against humanity'? (DW, 04/06/2018)

In North Korea:
Kim Jong-un likely to visit Russia before inter-Korean summit (*Korea Times*, 04/06/2018)
Kim Jong-un says concert was 'wonderful' (*Joongang Daily*, 04/06/2018)
More North Koreans turning to shamanism in midst of economic downturn (*Daily*NK, 04/06/2018)
North Korea newspaper warns against 'fantasy of peace' (UPI, 04/06/2018)
Those North Korea sanctions might be working. Here's why (*WaPo*, 04/06/2018)
Two defectors discuss possible domestic reactions to K-pop performance in Pyongyang (*Daily*NK, 04/06/2018)

In South Korea:
Ex-S. Korean leader Park gets 24-year prison term (*WaPo*, 04/06/2018)
Geopolitical situation good for Seoul: Moody's (*Joongang Daily*, 04/06/2018)
Impeached South Korean President Sentenced to 24 Years in Prison (VOA, 04/06/2018)
Park Geun-hye, South Korea's Ousted President, Gets 24 Years in Prison (NYT, 04/06/2018)
S. Korean officials visit venue of inter-Korean summit for possible renovation (*Yonhap*, 04/06/2018)
Seoul vows efforts to free detainees in N.K. amid improving inter-Korean ties (*Yonhap*, 04/06/2018)
South Korea: Ex-President Park sentenced to 24 years in prison (UPI, 04/06/2018)
South Korea's history of bad presidential endings grows (*WaPo*, 04/06/2018)
South Korean court jails former president Park for 24 years (*Reuters*, 04/06/2018)
The power of truth (*Joongang Daily*, 04/06/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(News Focus) Will six-party talks to discuss N.K. denuclearization be resumed? (*Yonhap*, 04/06/2018)
Koreas to discuss establishing first hotline between leaders (*Yonhap*, 04/06/2018)
N. Korean diplomat says atmosphere of reconciliation emerging, hopes for breakthrough (*Yonhap*, 04/06/2018)
Six-party talks could still be valid (*Korea Times*, 04/06/2018)
Striking a balance (*Joongang Daily*, 04/06/2018)

International:

(LEAD) Senior member of EU parliament vows support for Korean denuclearization, unification (*Yonhap*, 04/06/2018)
(Yonhap Interview) Trump must insist on goal of nuclear weapons-free Korean Peninsula: Gallucci (*Yonhap*, 04/06/2018)
A year after Mar-a-Lago summit, US-China ties are tested (*WaPo*, 04/06/2018)
Britain approves new sanctions on N. Korean ships, firms: report (*Yonhap*, 04/06/2018)
China hopes North Korea leader's summits with Trump, Moon will defuse tension (*Reuters*, 04/06/2018)
China says relations with Russia at 'best level in history' (CNN, 04/06/2018)
In a U.S.-China trade war, who has more to lose? (*WaPo*, 04/05/2018)
Japan creates North Korea division to address abductions, nuclear concerns (UPI, 04/06/2018)
Trump, Kim summit may boost recovery of US Korea War remains (*WaPo*, 04/06/2018)

Top News:

- As N.K. human rights issues were unmentioned during the talks between the IOC President and KJU last month, there's an increasing concern that human rights will be seen as the longer-term issue and sidelined by governments involved in the Korean Peninsula issue. (*DW*)

In North Korea:

- N.K. leader KJU has received an invitation to visit Russia, adding to the speculation that KJU may meet Putin to bolster diplomatic leverage on N.K.'s nuclear program before a planned inter-Korean summit on April 27. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- N.K. leader KJU made an unannounced appearance at a concert thrown by S.Korean artists Sunday night in Pyongyang, and said the two countries should hold another joint concert this fall in Seoul. (*Joongang Daily*)
- As N.Koreans continue to struggle through the country's economic downturn due to international sanctions, it is being reported that a rising number of residents are turning to shamanism for solutions. (Kang Mi Jin, *DailyNK*)
- N.Koreans are being called to arm themselves with state ideology, following two recent S.K. concerts in Pyongyang, as Korean Workers' Party newspaper stated Friday the pursuit of "revolutionary ideology education" is an urgent issue. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- While KJU has played a brilliant diplomatic hand, he may have miscalculated the impact of sanctions - coordinating on sanctions is always difficult and China now plays a pivotal role in sanctions. (Stephan M. Haggard, *WaPo*)
- Two N.K. defectors including a former resident of Pyongyang and a former Ryanggang resident share their opinions on how they think N.Koreans are likely reacting. (Moon Dong Hui, *DailyNK*)

In South Korea:

- Former S.K. President Park Geun-hye was formally convicted of an array of corruption charges and sentenced to 24 years in prison on Friday, a year after she was driven from office and arrested over her scandal. (Hyung-Jin Kim and Kim Tong-Hyung, AP)
- The geopolitical situation on the Korean Peninsula is turning positive for S.K. as its economic fundamentals remain sound, a global rating agency said Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- Impeached S.K. President Park Geun-hye has been sentenced to more than two decades in prison for abuse of power, coercion and bribery, at the conclusion of her corruption scandal. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- Park Geun-hye, S.K.'s impeached and ousted president, was sentenced to 24 years in prison on a variety of criminal charges, in a case that exposed the entrenched, collusive ties between the S.K. government and huge conglomerates. (Choe Sang-hun, NYT)
- A group of top S.K. officials made a rare trip Friday to the JSA inside the heavily fortified DMZ, the venue of recent inter-Korean dialogue and an upcoming summit between the leaders of the two divided Koreas. (*Yonhap*)
- S.K. said Friday it will make efforts to win the release of S.Korean detainees in N.K. in the process of making an improvement in inter-Korean ties. Currently, six S.Koreans, including three pastors, are being detained in N.K. (*Yonhap*)
- Former S.K. President Park Geun-hye will spend up to 24 years in prison on corruption charges, a court in Seoul ruled Friday. (Sara Shayanian, UPI)
- Park Geun-hye's corruption conviction on Friday extended the tradition of S.K. presidencies ending badly. Nearly every former president, or their family members and aides, have been mired in scandals near the end of their terms or after they left office. (Kim Tong-Hyung, AP)
- An S.K. court jailed former President Park Geun-hye for 24 years on Friday over a scandal that exposed webs of corruption between political leaders and the country's conglomerates. (Hyonhee Shin, Heekyong Yang, *Reuters*)
- It is time to show KJU the reality, not a sugarcoated entreaty. Moon must sit down for the summit with a determination to challenge and raise his voice against Kim as the representative of a country. (Chun Young-gi, *Joongang Daily*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- With preparations underway for S.K. and the US to hold their respective summits with N.K., experts are now paying attention to whether the long-suspended six-party talks could be used as an effective format to ensure the denuclearization of N.K. (Koh Byung-joon, *Yonhap*)
- The two Koreas are set to hold talks this week to install what will be the first direct hotline between their leaders, who are set to hold their first meeting in person later in the month (*Yonhap*)
- N.K.'s top diplomat has said an atmosphere is emerging on the Korean Peninsula for inter-Korean reconciliation and trust-building and that a "breakthrough" for reunification could be made if the two Koreas closely cooperate. (*Yonhap*)

- Nuclear dialogue with N.K. may possibly extend to all members of the now-dormant six-party talks after N.K. leader KJU meets leaders of S.K. and the US. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- All first-rate powers have balanced diplomacy and defense. The Moon government also must have such a balance to raise competitiveness in denuclearization talks. Negotiating skill comes from control and a mix of hawks and doves. (Park Bo-gyoon, *Joongang Daily*)

International:

- A senior member of the Parliament of the EU pledged Friday the region's continued support for denuclearization and ultimately the reunification of the two Koreas in a meeting with a senior official here. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump must use his summit with N.K. leader KJU to insist that the regime's denuclearization will remain a goal for Washington and its allies, a former U.S. nuclear negotiator said Thursday. (Lee Haye-ah and Song Sugyong, *Yonhap*)
- Trump first tried to disarm Xi Jinping at Mar-a-Lago with smooth talk and hospitality. A year later, he's resorted to hardball as Xi is willing to throw it back. But at least for now, acrimony over trade is unlikely to spill over into sensitive national security issues. (Matthew Pennington, AP)
- Britain has approved a new set of sanctions on N.K. that target ships and companies involved in alleged smuggling activities by the North. (*Yonhap*)
- The Chinese government's top diplomat hopes that planned summits between N.K. leader KJU and the presidents of S.K. and the US will "take the fuse" out of the situation on the Korean peninsula. (*Reuters*)
- China and Russia are publicly heralding a new age of diplomacy between the two countries, at a time when both are being targeted by the US with punitive measures. (Ben Westcott, CNN)
- Who has more to lose in the U.S.-China trade as it gets uglier? China has more to lose economically in an all-out trade war. But politically, there's a strong case that Trump would be less able to sustain a protracted conflict than the Chinese. (Heather Long, *WaPo*)
- Japan could be establishing a new line of communication to facilitate talks with N.K., as its foreign ministry said Friday a department that will focus on dialogue over N.K.'s weapons program will be created, as S.K. and US prepare for summits with KJU. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- The repatriation of the remains of thousands of U.S. military personnel missing in action and presumed dead from the Korean War may finally get a boost now from the upcoming Trump-KJU summit. (Eric Talmadge, AP)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

Saturday, April 7, 2018

All the right enemies at the UN; Separating KJU from his Elites; NK open to cooperation if political system guaranteed, some experts say; Aid Groups Send NK a Message, Aid in a Bottle

Top News:
All the right enemies at the UN. (*The John Batchelor Show*, 04/05/2018)
Separating Kim Jong Un from his Elites (*The Cipher Brief*, 04/05/2018)

In North Korea:
N. Korea may be testing new nuclear reactor: U.S. think tank (*Yonhap*, 04/07/2018)
N. Korea calls imprisoned ex-S. Korean president 'traitor' (*WaPo*, 04/07/2018)
North Korea expresses interest in Azerbaijani energy cooperation, oil fields (*NKNews.org*, 04/06/2018)
North Korea open to cooperation if political system guaranteed, some experts say (*DailyNK*, 04/06/2018)
North Korea's Yongbyon Nuclear Research Center: Construction Progressing Rapidly Near Reactors; No Signs of Reprocessing (*38North*, 04/06/2018)
North Korean authorities demanding bigger fees in 'illegal' remittance smuggling (*DailyNK*, 04/06/2018)
North Korean local officials wooing foreigners, easing restrictions in bid for assistance (*DailyNK*, 04/06/2018)

In South Korea:
Hopes, fears, reality: The generation gap on Korean unification (*Al-Jazeera*, 04/07/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Koreas discuss communication issues ahead of summit (*WaPo*, 04/07/2018)

International:
Aid Groups Send North Korea a Message, Aid in a Bottle (VOA, 04/06/2018)
Bolton's Illegal War Plan for North Korea (*NYTimes*,04/07/2018)
China and South Korea at odds over first step in nuclear crisis talks (*South China Morning Post*, 04/07/2018)
China applies its own maximum pressure policy on Pyongyang (*WaPo*, 04/07/2018)
International Criminal Court refuses to prosecute North Korean leader Kim Jong-un 'for abducting Japanese citizens' (*South China Morning Post*, 04/07/2018)
North Korea-China Thaw Could Undermine International Sanctions (VOA, 04/07/2018)
North Korean Denuclearization: One Goal, Different Interpretations (*The Diplomat*, 04/06/2018)
North Korean hackers pose "a growing threat" to the UK (*NS Tech*, 04/06/2018)
Secret, direct talks underway between US and North Korea (*CNN*, 04/07/2018)

Top News:

- On this segment of the John Batchelor Show, HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu discussed HRNK's struggle to gain consultative status with the UN ECOSOC with host John Batchelor, and Gordon Chang from the Daily Beast. He discussed the Feb. 2nd vote in the 19-member NGO committee, where 5 countries voted for HRNK and 9 countries voted against HRNK consultative status, also noting that 3 members were absent, while 2 abstained. He expressed hope that those countries that voted against HRNK in committee would change their minds for the Apr. 17th vote. Scarlatoiu also discussed the importance of HRNK gaining consultative status. Achieving this status would allow HRNK to go on record, make statements at various UN meetings, co-sponsor and co-host events with member states, and issue its own credentials. He noted that the UN has already quoted HRNK on a number of occasions including the UN Commission of Inquiry report, Secretary-General Guterres, senior UN officials, UN agencies. According to Scarlatoiu, the importance of HRNK's consultative status application is about more than its mission or human rights in NK—it is ultimately "about the participation of civil society in the UN decision-making process." (Greg Scarlatoiu, Gordon Chang, John Batchelor, *The John Batchelor Show*)
- The US-led alliance against Pyonyang can undermine the strength and reliability of KJU's military by convincing regime elites that—should Kim take them to war—his interests will sharply diverge from theirs. In the long run, Kim is more likely to push elites and ordinary N.Koreans further away by reacting harshly. Although this is unlikely to trigger a putsch, offering elites an alternative to dying for KJU will find increasingly fertile ground, the closer Kim takes them to war. And undermining Kim's confidence in the loyalty of his military and regime elites might not only give him pause; it could significantly reduce the level of violence should his actions force a conflict upon us. (Commander Fredrick 'Skip' Vincenzo, *The Cipher Brief*)

In North Korea:

- NK may have started testing a new reactor as it continues to expand the capability of its nuclear facilities, according to a US think tank. In a report published Thurs., the Institute for Science and International Security said the Experimental Light Water Reactor at the Yongbyon nuclear complex shows signs of activity. (*Yonhap*)
- NK on Sat. called disgraced former S.Korean President Park Geun-hye a "traitor" responsible for "extra-large hideous corruption," in its first reaction to the sentencing of Park to 24 years in prison on corruption charges. (*Associated Press*)
- NK is interested in exploring energy cooperation with Azerbaijan–likely in the oil sector–DPRK foreign minister Ri Yong Ho told his Azerbaijani counterpart on Fri., according to the Eurasian country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (Hamish Macdonald, *NKNews.org*)

- Many observers believe that NK's signal of an unprecedented positive shift in attitude towards SK is a part of a strategy by NK to make larger changes to their country. According to Lee Su Seok, a NK analyst at SK's Institute for National Security Strategy, "Through improving relations with the US and SK, NK is attempting to both find sanctions relief and at the same time receive guarantees over the safety and longevity of the Kim regime." (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)
- Commercial satellite imagery of the Yongbyon Nuclear Scientific Research Center from Apr. 4 shows significant progress in the modifications underway associated with the 5 MWe reactor's secondary cooling system. The purpose of this new structure remains unclear, but it could be for a new pump house comparable to the one serving the ELWR. Given recent efforts to dam the river below this point to create a reservoir, this could be part of a larger effort to provide a steady flow of water into that reactor allowing it to run more continuously and safely in the future. Alternatively, since its location is near where the reactor cooling water used to be expelled during previous reactor operations, it could be part of a new cooling water outflow system to enhance the overall efficiency and potentially the cooling capacity of the secondary cooling loop. (*38North*)
- Remittance payments to N.Korean residents from abroad are reportedly on the rise even as the authorities have warned against the practice as part of a nationwide crackdown on so-called 'anti-socialist' activities. The smuggling of cash into the country is, according to sources inside the country, often allowed under explicit permission from the central authorities or done directly with the help of Ministry of State Security agents. (Kang Mi Jin, *DailyNK*)
- N.Korean officials in small towns in the country's northeast are reportedly hosting foreign guests and asking for their assistance in helping to solve the region's worsening economic problems. (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)

In South Korea:

- For younger S.Koreans, like graduate student Min Hyeonjong, years of living under threat with little evidence of peace talks makes reunification seem unlikely. "My parents were very sympathetic to NK, more so than my peers ... We have had more experience with N.Korean provocations than with talks and dialogues and I think this still has a big impact on perspectives." (*Al-Jazeera*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- NK and SK on Sat. held talks over establishing a telephone hotline between their leaders and other communication issues ahead of a rare summit between the rivals later this month. (Kim Tong-Hyung, AP)

International:

- Some humanitarian groups in SK are using unusual ways to send food aid and information to people in NK. Their efforts come as officials from NK and SK prepare for talks between the leaders of the two countries. S.Korean President Moon is expected to meet with N.Korean leader KJU in Panmunjom on Apr. 27. Recently, activists gathered on Ganghwa island in the Yellow Sea, close to the border dividing North and South Korea. They launched packages containing aid such as rice, medicine, and American money into the sea. (As It Is, VOA)
- In this opinion piece in the NYTimes, Scott D. Sagan and Allen S. Weiner argue the flaws and dangers of incoming national security advisor John Bolton's legal analysis and strategic logic in his recent WSJ op-ed, "The Legal Case for Striking North Korea First," from both international and domestic law perspectives. (Scott D. Sagan, Allen S. Weiner, NYTimes)
- China and SK appear split over how to start talks on ridding the Korean peninsula of nuclear weapons, as each player vies for influence in the negotiations, according to diplomatic sources. Sources told the *South China Morning Post* that Beijing wanted a structure that would continue to give it an active role in reining in Pyongyang's nuclear programme while protecting China's regional interests. Meanwhile, Seoul prefers a process built around US talks with the two Koreas, according to the sources. (Jeong Ho Lee, *South China Morning Post*)
- As the US-NK summit looms, President Donald Trump's maximum pressure policy on NK may be working—thanks to China. Beijing appears to have gone well beyond UN sanctions on its unruly neighbor, reducing its total imports from NK in the first two months this year by 78.5 and 86.1 percent in value—a decline that began in late 2017, according to the latest trade data from China. Its exports to NK also dropped by 33 percent to 34 percent both months. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- The International Criminal Court has turned down a petition to prosecute N.Korean leader KJU and others in the country's leadership for the suspected abductions of Japanese citizens, a group of people involved said Fri. (*Associated Press, Kyodo*)
- As relations between Beijing and Pyongyang thaw slightly, the prospect of China relaxing its sanctions imposed on NK and thwarting US President Donald Trump's "maximum pressure" campaign makes experts wary. (Christy Lee, VOA)
- Officially, both Seoul and Washington have consistently reiterated that their goal is the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization (CVID) of NK. However, official rhetoric notwithstanding, there are clear indications of a potentially fractious divide between the Moon and Trump administrations, not in terms of CVID itself, but in terms of how it is to be achieved. (Clint Work, *The Diplomat*)
- NK's burgeoning black hat hacker scene poses a growing threat to the UK government, businesses and consumers, the defence select committee has warned in a new report. (Oscar Williams, *NS Tech*)
- The US and NK have been holding secret, direct talks to prepare for a summit between President Donald Trump and N.Korean leader KJU, a sign that planning for the highly anticipated meeting is progressing, several administration officials familiar with the discussions tell CNN. (Elise Labott, Kevin Liptak, Jenna McLaughlin, CNN)

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, HRNK Research Intern

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Sunday, April 8, 2018

Seoul optimistic about "secret, direct contact" between U.S. and North Korea; Koreas discuss establishing hotline between leaders

In North Korea:
Hundreds of foreigners join Pyongyang race as tensions ease (*Washington Post*, 04/08/2018)
N. Korean Red Cross officials have new 'flexible' attitude: official (*Yonhap*, 04/08/2018)
Pyongyang marathon: Fewer foreigners compete in North Korea's annual race (*BBC*, 04/08/2018)

In South Korea:
S. Korean presidential office keeping close tabs U.S.-N.K. pre-summit talks (*Yonhap*, 04/08/2018)
Seoul optimistic about "secret, direct contact" between U.S. and North Korea (*UPI*, 04/08/2018)
South Korean conservative heavyweight warns against "facade of peace" between two Koreas (*UPI*, 04/08/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Koreas discuss establishing hotline between leaders (*Yonhap*, 04/07/2018)
Talks on the Moon-Kim hotline (*Joongang Ilbo*, 04/08/2018)

International:
EU adds 21 entities to N. Korea sanctions list: report (*Yonhap*, 04/07/2018)
'NK, US make secret contact for summit' (*Korea Times*, 04/08/2018)
North, U.S. negotiating summit (*Joongang Ilbo*, 04/08/2018)
S. Korea, U.S. wrap up weeklong combined exercise (*Yonhap*, 04/08/2018)
The politics of the grand gesture (*Joongang Ilbo*, 04/08/2018)

In North Korea:

- Hundreds of foreigners joined in the annual Pyongyang marathon on Sun. despite political tensions that have only recently begun to ease and a ban on US citizens traveling to the country that is still in effect. (AP)
- N. Korean Red Cross officials who recently met S. Koreans in a regional forum were flexible and actively engaged in talks, an official who served Seoul's Red Cross chief said Sunday. (*Yonhap*)
- There were 429 foreign amateurs competing in Pyongyang's annual marathon this year, less than half 2017's number. A US travel ban and fears of nuclear war seem to have cut numbers - the marathon is usually the peak time for Western tourists to visit. (BBC)

In South Korea:

- SK's presidential office appears to be keeping close tabs on reports that the US and NK have been holding talks to prepare for a summit between their leaders, a government official said Sun., expressing hope that such steps could lead to denuclearization discussions in the future. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's top office expressed optimism on reports of contact between Washington and Pyongyang, to arrange a summit between their leaders in May. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- S. Korean conservative heavyweight Hong Jun-pyo has accused the incumbent Moon government of running a "facade of peace between the South and North," warning against the current optimism surrounding inter-Korean relations. (Jennie Oh, UPI)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The two Koreas held talks on Sat. to discuss establishing a direct telephone link between their leaders and other communication issues ahead of a historic summit between them later this month. (*Yonhap*)
- SK and NK held a working-level meeting on Sat. at the border village of Panmunjom to discuss setting up a hotline between their two leaders. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Joongang Ilbo*)

International:

- The European Union has added one person and 21 entities to its list of those subject to restrictive measures against NK in line with the latest sanctions imposed by the UN, a US radio station reported Sat. (*Yonhap*)
- Secret contacts are taking place between Pyongyang and Washington to prepare for a summit between their leaders slated for May, according to sources, Sun. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- Following reports of secret talks between the US and NK to make preparations for a first bilateral summit, the Blue House said Sun. that it is “observing closely” the situation without confirming further details. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- SK and the US wrapped up a massive combined exercise Sun. after their week long maneuvers. (*Yonhap*)
- Support from Xi and Moon is needed now more than ever as the constraints on Trump fall away. Close coordination among China, the US and SK over the NK-SK summit is the best way to exploit the hopes of a negotiated settlement. (Stephen Haggard, *Joongang Ilbo*)

Prepared by Emma Stubblefield, HRNK Research Intern

Monday, April 9, 2018

US confirms NK willingness to discuss denuclearization; Pyongyang sends envoy to Moscow ahead of talks; Moon wants reunions on the agenda; Report: N.Korean leader wants security guarantee from Washington

In North Korea:
Images show North Korea piling coal in shipment yard (*UPI*, 04/09/2018)
Kim Jong-un's Wonsan boat at Tae-do in 2017 (*NK Econ Watch*, 04/09/2018)
North Korea breaks out of diplomatic isolation and scores a win (*Daily NK*, 04/09/2018)
Pyongyang marathon: hundreds run through hermit city [PHOTOS] (*Korea Times*, 04/09/2018)
Pyongyang sends envoy to Moscow ahead of talks (*Joongang Daily*, 04/09/2018)
Pyongyang Welcomes Hundreds of Foreigners for Yearly Marathon (*NYTimes*, 04/08/2018)
Ri Sol-ju rumoured to be joining husband Kim Jong-un at South Korea summit (*Telegraph*, 04/09/2018)

In South Korea:
Moon wants reunions on the agenda (*Joongang Daily*, 04/09/2018)
Seoul determined to remain the mediator (*Joongang Daily*, 04/09/2018)
South Korean gov't at odds with US think tank (*Korea Times*, 04/08/2018)
South Korean president thanks US veteran of Hungnam evacuation (*Korea Times*, 04/08/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) S. Korea mulling ways to develop sustainable inter-Korean ties under sanctions (*Yonhap*, 04/09/2018)
Focusing on Korea's true security challenges before, and after, the South-North summit (*Korea Times*, 04/08/2018)
Koreas likely to hold more working-level talks this week for summit (*Yonhap*, 04/09/2018)
Moon's aide told Kim Jong-un to stop smoking, got away (*Korea Times*, 04/09/2018)
South, North Korea to arrange first phone call between leaders, prep for summit (*UPI*, 04/08/2018)

International:
'NK, US make secret contact for summit' (*Korea Times*, 04/08/2018)
(2nd LD) U.S. confirms N.K. willingness to discuss denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 04/09/2018)
[Photos] China allows expelled North Korean workers to stay, shuffled to other jobs (*DailyNK*, 04/09/2018)
China bans exports of 32 'dual-use' items to N.K. (*Yonhap*, 04/09/2018)
China bans exports of 'dual use' items to North Korea (*Reuters*, 04/09/2018)
China bans exports to North Korea of weapons-related goods (*WaPo*, 04/08/2018)
Contending formulas of denuclearization (*Korea Times*, 04/08/2018)
Do's and don'ts for summits (*Joongang Daily*, 04/09/2018)
Foreign ministers of S. Korea and Japan to meet to discuss bilateral ties, N.K. (*Yonhap*, 04/09/2018)
Ho and Kim Jong-un (*Joongang Daily*, 04/09/2018)

N Korea-US talks: Pyongyang 'ready to discuss' nuclear programme (BBC, 04/09/2018)
North Korea confirms to White House that it is willing to talk about denuclearization, administration officials say (*WaPo*, 04/08/2018)
North Korea's definition of 'denuclearization' is very different from Trump's (*WaPo*, 04/09/2018)
North Korea prepared to discuss denuclearisation, US official says (*Telegraph*, 04/09/2018)
North Korea puts nukes on table (*Korea Times*, 04/09/2018)
North Korea Ready To Talk About Denuclearization, U.S. Officials Say (NPR, 04/09/2018)
North Korea Said to Offer Direct Assurance It Will Discuss Denuclearization (NY*Times*, 04/08/2018)
North Korea tells U.S. it is prepared to discuss denuclearization: source (*Reuters*, 04/09/2018)
North Korea's foreign minister arrives in Moscow (*Korea Times*, 04/09/2018)
Pyongyang learned lesson from Qaddafi, says Yang Xiyu (*Joongang Daily*, 04/09/2018)
Report: North Korean leader wants security guarantee from Washington (UPI, 04/09/2018)
Russian Security Council Official Holds Talks With North Korean Foreign Minister-TASS (NY*Times*, 04/09/2018)
Sending wrong signal (*Korea Times*, 04/09/2018)
South Korea, U.S. to begin special military drills this week (UPI, 04/08/2018)
US Confirms N. Korea Willing to Discuss Denuclearization (VOA, 04/09/2018)
U.S. Confirms North Korean Offer to Talk Denuclearization (*Bloomberg*, 04/08/2018)
U.S. confirms talks with North (*Joongang Daily*, 04/09/2018)
US official says North Korean leader ready to discuss nukes (*WaPo*, 04/09/2018)

In North Korea:

- Recent satellite images of NK indicate the regime may have begun building a new coal yard in a seaport in South Pyongan Province. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- With Planet Labs imagery, we are able to get improved and affordable access to some remote places in NK, allowing for an improved tracking of changes than is possible with just Google Earth or Google Maps. One such example is the observation of several unique boats that are stored by KJU in Wonsan. (*NK Econ Watch*)
- Last year, NK was severely isolated in the international community due to its nuclear weapons and missile development. Entering 2018, however, Pyongyang has dramatically changed its status after seizing on the opportunity of the PyeongChang Olympics in SK. NK-SK relations have warmed, and a special S.Korean delegation travelled to Pyongyang and managed to help set up a US-NK high level summit. Through an unexpected China-NK visit, KJU has also evidently moved Sino-NK relations towards a friendlier disposition. (Ahn Jong Sik, *DailyNK*)
- Hundreds of foreign professionals and amateurs competed in the Pyongyang marathon on Sun., a source of foreign currency for UN-sanctioned NK. The annual race was part of celebrations marking N.Korean founder Kim Il-sung's birth in 1912. In previous years, there were about 1,000 participants, but there were only 429 this year due to a US travel ban imposed last year after Otto Warmbier's death. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- NK's Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho touched down in Russia Mon. for a three-day visit that will include a meeting with his Moscow counterpart Sergey Lavrov, another diplomatic outreach

to a traditional ally before KJU holds summits with the leaders of SK and the US. (Chun Su-jin, *Joongang Daily*)

- Hundreds of foreigners took part in the annual marathon in Pyongyang on Sun., despite political tensions that have only recently begun to ease and a ban on US citizens traveling to NK that is in effect.(*The Associated Press*)
- KJU's wife Ri Sol-ju may accompany the N.Korean leader to his first summit with S.Korean President Moon later this month, in a sign of her growing role as a key player in the regime's international diplomacy. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)

In South Korea:

- The S.Korean government is trying to persuade NK to add reunions of families separated during the Korean War to the agenda for the inter-Korean summit on Apr. 27, and for the reunions to be held on a regular basis. But Pyongyang officials have not given a direct answer, a high-level government official in Seoul exclusively told the *JoongAng Ilbo* Mon. (Jeong Yong-soo, *Joongang Daily*)
- As N.Korean leader KJU and US President Donald Trump make preparations for a historic first meeting between the heads of the two countries, SK is intent on maintaining its role as a mediator between the two. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Joongang Daily*)
- Tension is mounting between the Korean government and the US-Korea Institute (USKI), a think tank at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), after the government announced it would cut off its funding for the Washington, DC-based institute beginning in Jun. Since its foundation in 2006, the think tank, which runs 38 North specializing in N.Korean affairs, has received 2 billion won ($1.87 million) from the government annually through the Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP) installed under the Prime Minister's Office. (Choi Ha-young, *Korea Times*)
- President Moon has expressed his gratitude to a US veteran, who participated in the operation that saved the lives of Moon's parents during the Korean War (1950-53). In his letter to Burley Smith, 89, who is visiting SK with his family, Moon expressed his deep gratitude to the former sailor on the SS Meredith Victory, a ship that carried 14,000 N.Korean refugees, including Moon's parents, to SK at the height of the war. (Jung Min-ho, *Korea Times*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Ahead of a summit with NK, SK is exploring ways to improve inter-Korean relations to a sustainable level and develop them even under international sanctions, Seoul's point man on NK said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- In this opinion piece for the *Korea Times*, Emanuel Pastreich—director of the Seoul-based Asia Institute—writes that the summits must indicate, symbolically and substantively, a fundamental shift in the relationship between the SK and the NK, and, to make that work, a transformation of relations between the US, China, Russia and Japan. He also argues that the NK-SK summit should be seized upon as an opportunity to rethink security in East Asia, as

well as to appeal to the citizens' rationality in planning for a dangerous future. (Emanuel Pastreich, *Korea Times*)

- SK and NK are expected to hold one or two more working-level talks this week to discuss ways to establish a telephone hotline between their leaders, Seoul's unification ministry said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- Top presidential aide Chung Eui-yong advised N.Korean leader KJU to stop smoking during a dinner Kim hosted for Chung visiting Pyongyang as President Moon's top envoy early last month. (Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)
- S.Korean and N.Korean officials are set to hold one or two more working-level meetings to arrange the Apr. 27 summit between President Moon and N.Korean leader KJU, as well as arrange their first phone call through a direct hotline. (Jennie Oh, UPI)

International:

- Secret contacts are taking place between Pyongyang and Washington to prepare for a summit between their leaders slated for May, according to sources, Sun. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- The US has confirmed that NK is willing to talk about abandoning its nuclear weapons program during a bilateral summit next month, the White House said Sun. (*Yonhap*)
- Further details are emerging in regards to NK's practice of reshuffling its dispatched laborers in China. After being forced out of previous jobs by the Chinese government, such maneuvers are helping the regime to evade sanctions and continue earning money. A source close to N.Korean affairs in China told Daily NK on Apr. 5 that China still appears to be complying with sanctions, at least on the outside. (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)
- China has banned exports of 32 items to NK that could be converted for use in developing weapons of mass destruction (WMD), Beijing's commerce ministry said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- China has banned the export to NK of some items with potential dual use in weapons of mass destruction, the Chinese Ministry of Commerce said in a statement on its website. (*Reuters*)
- China has banned exports to NK of electronics and other goods that can be used in making weapons, tightening UN sanctions imposed over Pyongyang's nuclear and missile development. (*The Associated Press*)
- In this opinion piece for the *Korea Times*, Tong Kim writes that Trump's primary interest is to denuclearize NK once and for all in the shortest time. Kim believes that NK is not coming to the table to surrender or to unilaterally disarm its nuclear and missile programs. He argues that the Libyan style of "denuclearization first and rewards later" will not work because of NK had already learned a lesson from it. (Tong Kim, *Korea Times*)
- As these two summits approach, there are some important "do's" and "don'ts" that should inform policy and diplomacy in SK and the US. They are as follows: strictly adhere to the diplomatic doctrine of "No Surprises," have NK define exactly what it means by denuclearization, be prepared to address issues related to a likely "freeze as first step to denuclearization" gambit, utilize "synchronous steps," and to think about the basis for a

peace regime and the signing of peace treaty to replace the armistice. (Robert A. Manning, *Joongang Daily*)

- The top diplomats of SK and Japan are expected to meet this week to exchange views on the NK nuclear problem and other issues of mutual concern, a source said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- KJU will face a new world of diplomatic relations with the US and economic assistance if he chooses the rational move of a complete dismantlement of his nuclear program. When that happens, the "Doi Moi" style economic reforms of Vietnam will be best suited, as it will allow NK to maintain socialism as its political system while adopting a market economy. In this case, NK can achieve rapid growth by attracting foreign investments and opening up its markets after establishing diplomatic relations with the US, and it will no longer be under the influence of China. However, the "wealth and honor with socialism" promised by Kim is impossible to achieve as long as NK has nuclear weapons. (Lee Ha-kyung, *Joongang Daily*)
- NK has promised the US it is ready to discuss the future of its nuclear arsenal when the two nations' leaders meet, US officials say. NK has already told SK it was prepared to address denuclearisation, but this is the first time assurances have been given to Washington directly, the US officials claimed. (BBC)
- NK has confirmed directly to the Trump administration that it is willing to negotiate with the US about potential denuclearization, administration officials said Sun., a signal that the two sides have opened communications ahead of a potential summit between President Trump and KJU next month. (David Nakamura, *WaPo*)
- The White House is gearing up for President Trump to discuss denuclearization with N.Korean leader KJU at their much anticipated summit next month. However, the definition of "denuclearization" depends on who one asks. To the Trump administration, "denuclearization" means KJU handing over his nuclear weapons and missile systems, and allowing international inspectors to check that the regime is keeping its word. However, to Pyongyang, it means mutual steps to get rid of nuclear weapons, including requiring the US to take down the nuclear umbrella it has put up over SK and Japan. (Anna Fifield, *WaPo*)
- NK has told the US for the first time that it is prepared to discuss the denuclearisation of the Korea peninsula, paving the way for an historic summit between KJU and Donald Trump, according to US officials. (*Telegraph*)
- NK has apparently assured the US of its willingness to talk about removing its nuclear weapons during direct contacts between officials of the two countries, according to sources in SK and American media reports. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- Pyongyang has told Washington that it is ready to discuss the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula when N.Korean leader KJU and President Trump meet, a US official has confirmed to NPR. (Scott Neuman, NPR)
- NK has told the US that its leader, KJU, is willing to discuss denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, administration officials said on Sun., the first direct confirmation that he intends to participate in an extraordinary meeting with President Trump about his nuclear program.(Julie Hirschfeld Davis, *NYTimes*)
- NK has told the US for the first time that it is prepared to discuss the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula when N.Korean leader KJU meets President Donald Trump, a US official said on Sun. (Matt Spetalnick, David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)

- NK's Minister of Foreign Affairs Ri Yong-ho has arrived in Moscow on a visit. He arrived at a Moscow airport by a scheduled flight from Ashgabat where he had been on a visit before. (TASS, *Korea Times)*
- As part of a series of interviews with international affairs experts conducted by *Joongang Ilbo*, Yang Xiyu, a senior fellow at the China Institute of International Studies, discussed NK's two-track policy of pursuing both economic development and nuclear weapons as a "zero-sum" game. He also discussed the nature of the KJU regime's mistrust of Seoul and Washington, noting that it was a factor that has often been overlooked by the two allies. (Yeh Young-june, Kang Jin-kyu, *Joongang Daily*)
- N.Korean leader KJU is willing to "complete denuclearize," in return for a security guarantee from the US, Japanese media reported Mon. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- Russian Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev held talks on Mon. with N.Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho about the options for dialogue between Pyongyang and Seoul, the TASS news agency reported. (*Reuters*)
- N.Korean leader KJU's recent visit to China and his summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping raised concerns his diplomatic offensive might weaken international sanctions against his nuclear program. We urge Beijing to hold fast to sanctions against NK. China should not send the wrong signal to Pyongyang. Beijing must work with Seoul and Washington to make the Kim regime take the path toward denuclearization and peace. (*Korea Times*)
- S.Korean forces and the US Special Operations Command are set to begin combined training this week, as part of their regular exercises aimed at deterring military threats from NK. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- The US has confirmed that N.Korean leader KJU is willing to discuss the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, a Trump administration official said. (VOA)
- The US has confirmed that KJU is willing to talk to President Donald Trump about getting rid of his nuclear weapons, as SK claimed when it passed along the N.Korean leader's offer for a historic meeting, according to an administration official. (Nick Wadhams, *Bloomberg*)
- NK confirmed directly to the Donald Trump administration on Sun. that it is willing to negotiate denuclearization, according to multiple White House officials Sun. The WSJ and other media outlets confirmed the report, citing senior administration officials saying that KJU offered assurances to Washington that he willing to discuss the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, breaking a long silence from NK on the issue. (Sarah Kim, Kim Hyun-ki, *Joongang Daily*)
- NK's government has communicated with the US to say that its leader KJU is ready to discuss his nuclear weapons program with President Donald Trump, officials said Sun., increasing the likelihood that the unprecedented summit will actually occur. (Josh Lederman, AP)

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, HRNK Research Intern

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Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Trump says N. Korea summit will be in May or early June; Russian Foreign Minister accepts invitation to visit N.Korea; KJU briefs party leaders on future dialogue with US; S.Korea defunds Johns Hopkins USKI after leadership dispute

In North Korea:
(2nd LD) N.K. leader makes first comment on dialogue with U.S. at party meeting (*Yonhap*, 04/10/2018)
'Air Force Un': As North Korea's leader steps onto international stage, a question over his ability to fly (*WaPo*, 04/10/2018)
Kim Jong Un briefs party leaders on future dialogue with US (*WaPo*, 04/09/2018)
Kim tells inner circle his 'profound' plan (*Joongang Daily*, 04/10/2018)
N.K.'s parliament to meet this week ahead of summit with S. Korea, U.S. (*Yonhap*, 04/10/2018)
North Korea releases young mother caught trying to defect, in unusual move amid diplomatic thaw (*Telegraph*, 04/09/2018)
N. Korean diplomat reaffirms commitment to 'phased, synchronized' denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 04/10/2018)
North Korea falling into financial crisis...hidden reason for peace overture? (*Korea Times*, 04/10/2018)
North Korea's generational power shift: Kim puts young in important posts (*DailyNK*, 04/10/2018)
North Korean authorities earn big bucks on construction, work with new rich class (*DailyNK*, 04/10/2018)
North Koreans dream of unification ahead of inter-Korean summit (*DailyNK*, 04/10/2018)
Political Bureau Meeting Held (*nkleadershipwatch*, 04/10/2018)
Readying for Trump, North Korea's Kim engages in steroid diplomacy (CNN, 04/10/2018)
Son of American held in North Korea pins hopes on summit (UPI, 04/10/2018)
The state of the sanctions on North Korea (April 2018): one step forward, one step back...? (*nkeconwatch*, 04/09/2018)

In South Korea:
Foreign ministers of S. Korea and Japan to meet to discuss bilateral ties, N.K. (*Yonhap*, 04/10/2018)
Korea forces shutting of Johns Hopkins research center (*Joongang Daily*, 04/10/2018)
Seoul defunds US NKorea think tank after leadership dispute (*WaPo*, 04/10/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) Trump: N. Korea summit will be in May or early June (*Yonhap*, 04/10/2018)
(2nd LD) Perry: Testing, transfer bans first step toward denuclearization of N.K. (*Yonhap*, 04/10/2018)
820 people from N. Korea obtain citizenship in EU from 2007 to 2016 (*Yonhap*, 04/10/2018)
Bolton takes the helm on national security at time of tumult (*WaPo*, 04/09/2018)
Kin of Japanese abducted by N. Korea ask US envoy to help (*WaPo*, 04/10/2018)

Over 100,000 sign petition to White House for Korea peace treaty (*Korea Times*, 04/10/2018)
Russia backs U.S.-North Korea contacts, sending foreign minister to Pyongyang (*Reuters*, 04/10/2018)
Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov accepts invitation to visit North Korea (CNN, 04/10/2018)
Tensions rise over Taiwan Strait as U.S. and China harden positions (*WaPo*, 04/10/2018)
The best deal Trump can hope for from North Korea is a flawed one. Here's why that's okay. (*WaPo*, 04/09/2018)
Trump optimistic about North Korea summit but suggests it could slip to June (*WaPo*, 04/09/2018)
Trump predicts 'de-nuking' deal ahead (*Joongang Daily*, 04/10/2018)
Trump says will meet with North Korean leader in May or early June (*Reuters*, 04/09/2018)
U.S. envoy meets families of Japanese abducted by North Korea (*Reuters*, 04/10/2018)
U.S. should get N.K. commitment to abandon nukes: Victor Cha (*Yonhap*, 04/10/2018)
Xi Jinping Urges Dialogue, Not Confrontation, After Trump Seeks Tariffs (NYT, 04/09/2018)

In North Korea:

- KJU has talked about prospects for dialogue with the US at a key party meeting, state media said Tuesday, in his first official comment on a planned summit with President Trump. (*Yonhap*)
- As KJU prepares for a possible summit with Trump next month, it's not clear that he possesses another piece of crucial hardware for the aspiring global negotiator — an airplane that could reliably fly him across the Pacific Ocean, or to Europe, without stopping. (David Nakamura, *WaPo*)
- KJU briefed top ruling party officials on his vision for the future direction of dialogue with the US and his upcoming summit with S.K.'s president, the North's official media reported Tuesday. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- KJU made a "profound analysis and appraisal" of the recent developments in inter-Korean ties and the prospect of N.K.-US dialogue during a recent political meeting. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Daily*)
- N.K.'s rubber-stamp parliament is set to hold its key meeting this week amid attention over what messages it could unveil to S.K. and the US ahead of its summits with them. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K. has released a young mother who was expected to be sentenced to life in a prison camp, in an unusual move that offers rare hope for a potential improvement in human rights during an ongoing thaw of international diplomatic ties. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- An N.K. diplomat reaffirmed Tuesday that Pyongyang remains committed to denuclearizing the peninsula through progressive and simultaneous actions. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K. is suffering a cash crunch due to international sanctions and could soon face a currency crisis, according to experts. KJU's recent visit to Beijing was likely aimed at seeking sanctions relief and easing cash drainage in the reclusive regime. (Kim Jae-kyoung, *Korea Times*)
- Anti-espionage officers, operating under the auspices of the Korean People's Army Defense Security Command, is carrying out a generational transition by bringing in college graduates in their twenties to join its ranks. (Lee Sang Yong, *DailyNK*)

- The N.K. authorities are teaming up with the country's donju (North Korea's wealthy entrepreneurial class) to generate profits in the real estate and home construction industries. (Moon Dong Hui, *DailyNK*)
- Unification with the South has become a recent hot topic of conversation among ordinary N.Koreans following performances by S.K. musicians in Pyongyang last week. (Kang Mi Jin, *DailyNK*)
- A meeting of the Workers' Party of Korea Political Bureau was held on April 9. The meeting was held to formulate and authorize policies prior to the convocation of the sixth session of the 13th Supreme People's Assembly on April 11. (*nkleadershipwatch*)
- A summons from Beijing brought KJU out of isolation into his first foreign foray since taking power. This week, his foreign minister is visiting Moscow to meet with Russia's top diplomat, Sergei Lavrov. (Jamie Tarabay, CNN)
- As the Trump administration prepares to meet with KJU, the son of a U.S. citizen detained in the reclusive country hopes the summit will lead to his father's freedom. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Judging from recent history, China's sanctions enforcement would likely be a temporary phenomenon, probably only lasting long enough to give the "right" impression to the US and the international community. (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, *nkeconwatch*)

In South Korea:

- The top diplomats of S.K. and Japan will meet this week to exchange views on the N.K. nuclear problem and other issues of mutual concern, Seoul's foreign ministry said. (*Yonhap*)
- Johns Hopkins University is expected to shut down its 12-year-old U.S.-Korea Institute (USKI) next month amid controversy over the S.K. government cutting off its funding. (Jung Hyo-sik, Kim Jun-young, Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)
- A U.S. university institute at the cutting edge of research on N.K. says the S.K. government has terminated its funding, forcing it to close after it rejected demands to change its leadership. (Matthew Pennington, AP)

International:

- President Trump said Monday he plans to meet with N.K. leader KJU next month or in early June to "hopefully" reach a deal on denuclearizing the regime. (*Yonhap*)
- William Perry, former U.S. defense secretary, said Tuesday a ban on N.K.'s nuclear and missile tests and prevention of any transfer of related technologies would be the first step toward achieving the goal of denuclearization. (*Yonhap*)
- A total of 820 people from N.K. acquired citizenship of member countries of the EU in the 2007-2016 period, with nearly 90 percent of them living in Germany and Britain. (*Yonhap*)
- Preparations for a high-risk N.K. summit are barreling forward, and the national security team is holding its breath to see whether their new leader will be a shock to the system. (Josh Lederman and Catherine Lucey, AP)

- Families of Japanese abducted by N.K. decades ago have asked the U.S. ambassador to Japan to urge President Trump to discuss ways to win their loved ones' return at his summit with the North's leader. (Mari Yamaguchi, AP)
- An online petition posted on the White House website calling for a peace treaty with N.K. has gathered over 100,000 signatures in about three weeks since its posting _ the minimum number to get a response from the White House. (Park Ji-won, *Korea Times*)
- Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov held talks with his N.K. counterpart, Ri Yong Ho, on Tuesday, and said afterward that Moscow supported contacts between N.K. and the US. (*Reuters*)
- Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will visit Pyongyang after accepting a formal invitation from the country's top diplomat, the latest in a series of outreaches by N.K. (Nada Bashir, Lauren Kent and Ben Westcott, CNN)
- As President Trump battles it out with China over trade and the mood in Washington sours toward Beijing, there is a growing fear that Taiwan will end up suffering the consequences. (Simon Denyer, *WaPo*)
- For N.K., surrendering its nuclear program does not seem to be on the table. The only realistic option is a moratorium on nuclear tests and missile launches. No matter what, the North will try its hardest to keep some of the nuclear weapons they have already produced. (Andrei Lankov, *WaPo*)
- President Trump expressed optimism Monday about his proposed summit with KJU, saying it will take place in late May or early June, the most specific time frame the White House has yet offered. (Anne Gearan, *WaPo*)
- President Trump said Monday he planned to meet N.K. leader KJU next month or in early June, adding he hoped to "make a deal" on denuclearization. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)
- President Trump said on Monday he planned to meet N.K. leader KJU next month or in early June and hoped the discussions would ultimately lead to an end of the North's nuclear weapons program. (Steve Holland, Christine Kim, *Reuters*)
- The U.S. ambassador to Japan on Tuesday met the families of people abducted by N.K. decades ago to train its spies, just a week before Japan's prime minister is expected to raise the emotive topic at a summit with President Trump. (Elaine Lies, *Reuters*)
- The US should get N.K. to commit to abandoning all nuclear weapons and nuclear programs, not just the broadly defined "denuclearization" of the Korean Peninsula, Victor Cha said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- Xi Jinping on Tuesday portrayed China as committed to opening its economy as he presented an alternative vision to President Trump's calls for tariffs and restricting trade, urging "dialogue rather than confrontation." (Alexandra Stevenson, NYT)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

Wednesday, April 11, 2018

Human rights not on agenda for upcoming Moon-Kim summit: Cheong Wa Dae; Denuclearization to top agenda of Trump-Kim meeting, human rights could be discussed; Nuclear Deal Could Increase Risk for N.Korean Defectors

In North Korea:
[Photo] Cadres' attire at mobilization draws ire of ordinary North Koreans (*DailyNK*, 04/11/2018)
Dealing with 'traitors,' North Korean authorities reunite defectors for a price (*DailyNK*, 04/11/2018)
N. Korea appears to be expanding fuel storage facility at Nampho oil terminal pier: report (*Yonhap*, 04/11/2018)
N. Korea reports its foreign minister meets Russian counterpart (*Yonhap*, 04/11/2018)
North Korea falling into financial crisis... hidden reason for peace overture? (*Korea Times*, 04/10/2018)
North Korea parliament to convene to approve national agenda (*WaPo*, 04/11/2018)
Pyongyang Audiences of South Korean Performers Limited to Elites (*RFA*, 04/10/2018)
Shifting definition of private ownership reflects economic change in North Korea (*DailyNK*, 04/11/2018)
State of reproductive rights remains dire in North Korea (*DailyNK*, 04/11/2018)

In South Korea:
Minister stresses int'l cooperation for N.K. denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 04/11/2018)
Moon calls for restrained efforts for successful summit with N. Korean leader (*Yonhap*, 04/11/2018)
Moon's mentor vows to overcome USKI fiasco (*Korea Times*, 04/11/2018)
Seoul closely watching N.K. parliament session ahead of summits (*Yonhap*, 04/11/2018)
Seoul told US think tank to fire 2 officials (*Korea Times*, 04/11/2018)
South Korea official expresses 'regret' over dispute with U.S. think tank (*UPI*, 04/11/2018)
THAAD talks break down between activists, South Korea military (*UPI*, 04/11/2018)
US-NK summit has historic meaning: Moon (*Korea Times*, 04/11/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Human rights not on agenda for upcoming Moon-Kim summit: Cheong Wa Dae (*Yonhap*, 04/11/2018)

International:
(LEAD) S. Korean, Japanese FMs voice hope for cooperation on N.K. and other issues (*Yonhap*, 04/11/2018)
(LEAD) Senior Chinese official to visit N.K. leading art troupe (*Yonhap*, 04/11/2018)
38 North Will Continue (*38 North*, 04/10/2018)
Banking on top-down method (*Joongang Daily*, 04/10/2018)
Britain sends third warship to Asia Pacific to monitor North Korea (*Independent*, 04/11/2018)
Britain sends warships to Asia to monitor North Korean trade (*WaPo*, 04/11/2018)
British warship to help police North Korean sanctions (*Reuters*, 04/11/2018)

Denuclearization to top agenda of Trump-Kim meeting, human rights could be discussed (*Yonhap*, 04/11/2018)
Embassy, State Dept. set up a kind of hotline (*Joongang Daily*, 04/11/2018)
High-ranking Chinese diplomat to visit North Korea (*WaPo*, 04/11/2018)
HMS Sutherland to monitor for North Korea trade at sea (BBC, 04/11/2018)
Institutional censorship (*Joongang Daily*, 04/10/2018)
Japan's top diplomat in South Korea to discuss North Korea, abductions (UPI, 04/10/2018)
Japan's top envoy visits Korea after a long time (*Joongang Daily*, 04/11/2018)
Korea think tank at U.S. university to close after Seoul withdraws funding (*WaPo*, 04/11/2018)
Lavrov-Ri talks show depth of Russia-North Korea ties (*Deutsche Welle*, 04/11/2018)
Moon urges efforts to improve S. Korea-Japan ties (*Yonhap*, 04/11/2018)
North Korea and Trump's dangerous perception gap on denuclearization (*The Japan Times*, 04/11/2018)
Nuclear Deal Could Increase Risk for North Korean Defectors (VOA, 04/10/2018)
Relatives of Japanese abducted by North Korea urge US to raise issue in Trump-Kim summit (*Telegraph*, 04/11/2018)
Report: Senior Chinese official may hold talks with Kim Jong Un (UPI, 04/10/2018)
Senior Chinese official to lead art troupe to North Korea (*Reuters*, 04/10/2018)
Son of American held in North Korea pins hopes on summit (*UPI*, 04/10/2018)
The US and South Korean military appear to be trying not to give North Korea an excuse for more provocations (*Business Insider*, 04/11/2018)
Tokyo diplomat hopeful for cooperation on North Korea crisis (*UPI*, 04/11/2018)
Trump names Admiral Davidson to lead Pacific Command (*Joongang Daily*, 04/11/2018)
U.S. and North Korea in 'Detailed' Talks on Trump-Kim Meeting, South Says (NYT*imes*,04/11/2018)
U.S. think tank to close in May following Seoul's decision to halt funding: report (*Yonhap*, 04/10/2018)
US-North Korea talks have many obstacles to overcome - starting with where to meet (*Korea Times*, 04/11/2018)

In North Korea:

- Central government officials in NK were recently depicted in state media participating in tree-planting mobilizations as part of KJU's "reforestation plan." But while this sort of propaganda is commonplace in NK, it has been reported that ordinary residents were quick to notice a staging mistake that inspired a new round of criticisms. (Kang Mi Jin, *DailyNK*)
- N.Korean trade agencies deployed abroad are arranging reunions between N.Korean citizens and their defector family members living abroad. In conducting these activities, the N.Korean authorities have been able to amass significant profits, reports an inside source. (Kang Mi Jin, *DailyNK*)
- NK has shown signs of expanding an oil storage facility at an oil terminal pier in the western port city of Nampho, Voice of America reported Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- NK's state media on Wed. reported Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho's meeting with his Russian counterpart, Sergei Lavrov, earlier this week. (*Yonhap*)

- NK is suffering a cash crunch due to international sanctions and could soon face a currency crisis, experts on NK said Tues. They said leader KJU's recent visit to Beijing was aimed at seeking sanctions relief and easing cash drainage in the reclusive regime. (Kim Jae-kyoung, *Korea Times*)
- NK's parliament was scheduled to convene on Wed. amid a series of diplomatic moves by leader KJU that could have a major impact on the direction the country takes in the months and possibly years ahead. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- Concerts given by S.Korean performers earlier this month in the N.Korean capital were opened only to top government officials and the country's privileged class in a move aimed at blocking wider exposure to "capitalist culture," sources in the isolated country say. (Hyemin Sohn, Yong Jae Mok, Leejin Jun, Richard Finney, RFA)
- The perception of ownership in NK is changing. Although initially restricted to individual consumption, the changes in perspective are now spreading wider into economic activities related to production. (Na Jung Won, *DailyNK*)
- Lately, women giving up their children is a problem on the rise in NK. It's being reported that after giving birth to unwanted children, mothers are abandoning them in the streets, and the N.Korean government has yet to implement an effective countermeasure to the phenomenon. (Unification Media Group, *DailyNK*)

In South Korea:

- SK's unification minister on Wed. stressed the importance of international cooperation in resolving NK's nuclear problem and improving inter-Korean ties. (*Yonhap*)
- While meeting with members of a preparation committee for the upcoming inter-Korean summit, President Moon called for ambitious but restrained efforts on Wed. to ensure the success of his upcoming summit with N.Korean leader KJU. Moon stated that the meeting will only mark the first step in what he called a great transition toward peace. (*Yonhap*)
- The Moon administration is determined to expand cooperation with US experts about Korean Peninsula issues, despite a recent controversy over the government cutting funds for the US-Korea Institute (USKI), Seong Kyoung-ryung, chairman of the National Research Council for Economics, Humanities and Social Sciences (NRC), said Wed. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- SK's unification ministry said Wed. it is watching whether NK's parliament will unveil key policy directions at its annual session ahead of the country's summits with SK and the US. (*Yonhap*)
- The government pressured the US-Korea Institute (USKI) to fire two top-ranking officials and follow operational guidelines seeking to take control of the Washington-based private think tank, a USKI source said, Wed. (Kim Jae-kyoung, *Korea Times*)
- A state-run S.Korean think tank expressed "regret" on Wed. following a decision from directors at the US-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies to close most operations after the government's decision to pull funding. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

- A S.Korean military decision to begin additional construction at the anti-missile defense base in Seongju may lead to clashes between protesters and army personnel, according to local reports. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- The planned Washington-Pyongyang summit will have historic meaning just by taking place and a good outcome for permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula is expected, as the two sides show strong will for it, President Moon said Wed. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Human rights issues will not be a major agenda item for S.Korean President Moon's talks with N.Korean leader KJU, at least for now, an official from Moon's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said Wed. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- The top diplomats of SK and Japan expressed hope on Wed. for strengthening cooperation in resolving NK's nuclear issue and establishing lasting peace in the region. (*Yonhap*)
- A senior Chinese official will visit NK, leading an art troupe as Pyongyang and Beijing have agreed to strengthen cultural exchanges, NK's state media said Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- Following the announcement that the Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP) is ending the funding to 38 North's parent institution, the US-Korea Institute at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, Joel Wit's statement regarding the future of 38 North can be found in this editor's column. Wit is the founder of 38 North. (Joel Wit, *38 North*)
- The Libyan model is an invitation to KJU to come to a duel unarmed and is an archetype of a form defining content. The closest thing to it is the top-down method. At the inter-Korean summit, KJU can declare his will for denuclearization and agree on a framework of inter-Korean reconciliation and cooperation. Then, working-level officials can negotiate the overall process of denuclearization in feasible stages. When the process hits a roadblock, the leaders will spearhead breakthroughs. A joint economic entity of SK and NK could be a great incentive SK can offer in return for denuclearization. (Kim Young-hie, *Joongang Daily*)
- The UK has deployed a third navy warship to the Asia-Pacific as diplomatic tensions with NK continue to rise. HMS Albion will join HMS Sutherland and will help enforce UN sanctions against NK, as well as take part in joint training and exercises with regional allies. (Jamie Johnson, *Independent*)
- A British warship has arrived in Japan to join international efforts to enforce sanctions on NK by monitoring any prohibited trading by the country at sea. (Mari Yamaguchi, *WaPo*)
- A British warship “changed its deployment” and arrived in Japan on Wed. to join efforts to police UN sanctions imposed on NK over its nuclear and missile programs. (*Reuters*)
- The denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula will top the agenda for the upcoming meeting between US President Donald Trump and N.Korean leader KJU, but NK's human rights situation could also be discussed, the State Department said Tues. (*Yonhap*)

- The S.Korean Embassy in Washington and US Department of State established what they call a hotline system to regularize meetings in advance of the upcoming inter-Korean and US-North summits, according to a senior government official Wed. (*Joongang Daily*)
- China said Wed. that a high-ranking diplomat plans to travel to Pyongyang later this week amid a flurry of diplomacy following N.Korean leader KJU's surprise visit to Beijing.(*Associated Press*)
- A Royal Navy warship with close links to the Highlands is to join in efforts to enforce international trade sanctions on NK. The Type 23 frigate is to monitor illegal trading at sea by NK. (BBC)
- It may be an infringement of academic freedom. That is how some Americans view the attempt to influence the leadership of the US-Korea Institute (USKI) at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). They ask why the liberal administration censors the academic position of an US institute. Regardless of their liberal and conservative tendencies, experts feel the same way about the issue. For example, Joshua Stanton, a lawyer with a hawkish view on NK, wrote on his blog, One Free Korea, that SK's liberal government was trying to censor the NK policy debate in the US. Stanton wrote, "Paradoxically, USKI is best known for publishing the reliably soft-line, anti-anti-N.Korean, pro-'engagement' 38 North blog. It's the last outlet you'd think Moon's people would mess with." (Jung Hyo-sik, *Joongang Daily*)
- Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono arrived in SK late Tues. to meet with his S.Korean counterpart Kang Kyung-hwa for discussions on NK. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- S.Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha and her Japanese counterpart Taro Kono stressed the importance of the upcoming summits involving NK in achieving the joint goal of denuclearization and establishment of permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula in bilateral talks held in Seoul Wed. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)
- The US-Korea Institute at the renowned Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies—the only think tank in Washington devoted to Korean Peninsula issues—will close next month after a dispute over funding and academic independence with the government in Seoul. (Anna Fifield, *WaPo*)
- As a series of key international summits draw closer, Pyongyang is seeking support from a traditional ally, while Russia is keen to play a significant role on the international stage. (Julian Ryall, *Deutsche Welle*)
- S.Korean President Moon called for efforts to increase cooperation between his country and Japan on Wed., calling it a necessary step to ensure success in his upcoming summit with N.Korean leader KJU. (*Yonhap*)
- Washington's acknowledgment this week that Pyongyang is ready to discuss the "denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" may sound like a step toward ridding NK of its hard-won nuclear weapons, but experts and observers say such a move is extremely unlikely in the near-term and highlights a potentially dangerous perception gap between the two countries. (Jesse Johnson, *The Japan Times*)
- China's continued forced deportation of N.Korean defectors, who face imprisonment or even death upon return to the repressive state, has received muted international criticism, as diplomatic efforts have intensified to negotiate a denuclearization deal with Pyongyang. (Brian Padden, VOA)

- Families of Japanese abducted by NK to train their spies have made an emotional appeal for the issue to be tackled at the forthcoming US-NK summit. (Danielle Demetriou, *Telegraph*)
- NK's state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said Wed. that a Chinese cultural delegation will visit Pyongyang to attend the 31st Apr. Spring Friendship Art Festival which runs from Wed. through next Tues. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- Senior Chinese diplomat Song Tao will lead a Chinese art troupe to NK, Chinese state media said on Wed., in a further sign of improving ties after N.Korean leader KJU's visited Beijing last month. (*Reuters*)
- As the Trump administration prepares to meet with N.Korean leader KJU, the son of a US citizen detained in the reclusive country hopes the summit will lead to his father's freedom. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Amid the thaw in relations and upcoming summits between NK and the US, news coverage of US-S.Korean joint exercises near the N.Korean border have been unusually muted. (David Choi, *Business Insider*)
- Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono expressed hope that Seoul and Tokyo would closely cooperate to bring about the denuclearization of NK and establish peace in the region. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- President Donald Trump has nominated Navy Adm. Philip S. Davidson to lead the Pacific Command, the Pentagon said in a statement Tues., in another reshuffle from Washington that could affect highly anticipated talks between the US and NK. (Lee Chul-jae, *Joongang Daily*)
- The US and NK have been negotiating with "will and sincerity" over the details of the planned talks between President Trump and NK's leader, KJU, President Moon of SK said on Wed. (Choe Sang-hun, *NYTimes*)
- A US think tank, noted for its research on NK, plans to close next month following the S.Korean government's decision to cut off funding, a news report said Tues. Robert Gallucci, chairman of the US-Korea Institute (USKI) at John Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, told the Associated Press that the institute will cease operating after it rejected Seoul's demand that it replace its leadership. (*Yonhap*)
- US and N.Korean contacts, in secret talks about the time and place of a summit between President Donald Trump and NK's KJU, are at odds on at least one critical question. (Donald Kirk, *Korea Times*)

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, HRNK Research Intern

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Kim Jong-un 'sincere and genuine' about talks, S.Korean minister says; S.Korea's national security adviser in US to meet Bolton; Moon, Xi and Abe to meet in Japan after inter-Korean talks

Top News:
The Cold Frontier, Part Three: A journey along North Korea's edge (*Reuters*, 04/12/2018)

In North Korea:
(3rd LD) N.K. parliament meets in leader's absence ahead of summits (*Yonhap*, 04/12/2018)
Construction is booming in North Korea, but who's paying? (*WaPo*, 04/12/2018)
North Korea has a big tuberculosis problem. It's about to get worse (*WaPo*, 04/12/2018)
North Korea's rubber stamp parliament convenes in leader's absence (*Reuters*, 04/12/2018)
North Korea skips mention of nuclear weapons at Supreme People's Assembly (UPI, 04/12/2018)
North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly Session: Economic reporting (*nkeconwatch*, 04/12/2018)
North Korean Workers in Russia Warned Against 'Anti-Socialist' South Korean Culture (RFA, 04/11/2018)
Over 1,000 North Korean workers slated for dispatch to China (*DailyNK*, 04/12/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) Seoul closely watching N.K. parliament session ahead of summits (*Yonhap*, 04/12/2018)
Activists accuse South Korean president of 'sacrificing' millions in the North for Kim Jong-un summit (*Telegraph*, 04/12/2018)
Cheong Wa Dae to daily monitor preparations for summit with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 04/12/2018)
Kim Jong Un 'sincere and genuine' about talks, South Korean minister says (CNN, 04/12/2018)
Moon: 'Inter-Korean relations depend on Washington-Pyongyang ties' (*Korea Times*, 04/12/2018)
Moon says success of upcoming summit with N. Korea requires all-out efforts (*Yonhap*, 04/12/2018)
No need for protraction (*Joongang Daily*, 04/12/2018)
S. Korean culture minister says Kim Jong-un 'sincere' about improving inter-Korean ties (*Yonhap*, 04/12/2018)
S. Korean foreign minister to visit Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan (*Yonhap*, 04/12/2018)
US-NK summit will be historic event: Moon (*Korea Times*, 04/11/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
[NORTH KOREA WATCHER'S VIEW] 'Top-down' approach may help, says Isozaki (*Joongang Daily*, 04/12/2018)
Reshuffle in Pyongyang hints at Kim's summit plans (*Joongang Daily*, 04/12/2018)
What Does Denuclearization Mean to North Korea? (VOA, 04/11/2018)

International:
Allies hold high-level talks ahead of summits (*Korea Times*, 04/12/2018)
Carter to Trump: shun military action, keep country at peace (*WaPo*, 04/12/2018)
HMS Sutherland arrives in Japan in effort to curb North Korea's evasion of sanctions (*Telegraph*, 04/12/2018)
Mike Pompeo to tell Senate soft US policy on Russia 'now over' (*Guardian*, 04/11/2018)
Moon, Xi and Abe to meet in Japan after inter-Korean talks (*Joongang Daily*, 04/12/2018)
South Korea's national security adviser in U.S. to meet Bolton: officials (*Reuters*, 04/11/2018)
The Latest: Pompeo isn't seeking regime change in NKorea (*WaPo*, 04/12/2018)

Trump Pick for Top Diplomat Faces Confirmation Hearing (VOA, 04/12/2018)
Trump should tell Kim U.S. is not abandoning S. Korea: Hill (*Yonhap*, 04/12/2018)
Trump to demand North Korea's denuclearization by year end: report (*Korea Times*, 04/12/2018)
US-South Korea Military Exercises Minimize Public Show of Force (VOA, 04/12/2018)
US to open embassy in Pyongyang after Trump-Kim summit: report (*Korea Times*, 04/12/2018)

Top News:

- In N.K., each corps in the military and security ministry are involved in gold-mining, more like smuggling, searching for gold in rivers and streams on the Chinese side of the border in order to procure luxury goods for the Kim regime, wrote Kim Kwang-jin, an N.K. defector, in his HRNK report "*Gulag, Inc.: The Use of Forced Labor in North Korea's Export Industries.*" (Sue-Lin Wong, Damir Sagolj, *Reuters*)

In North Korea:

- N.K. has convened a key parliamentary meeting without its leader KJU in attendance, state media said Thursday, ahead of his planned summits with S.K. and the US. (*Yonhap*)
- N.K. is racing forward with major development projects some experts believe are aimed at expanding a market for rented or privately owned real estate to help fortify the finances of KJU's regime against the bite of sanctions. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- A Bloomberg News report this week warned of the threat of N.K.'s "other weapon" — tuberculosis. In February, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria announced that it would suspend grants to combat tuberculosis and malaria in N.K. by June 30. (Jeremy Youde, *WaPo*)
- N.K.'s Supreme People's Assembly convened and discussed state finances, state media said on Thursday, but leader KJU appeared to be absent from the proceedings. (*Reuters*)
- N.K. avoided references to its nuclear weapons program in official statements as the S.K. government monitors the regime ahead of an inter-Korea summit in April. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- On Wednesday, N.K.'s rubber-stamp parliament held a session in Pyongyang. Some news media has focused on KJU's absence from the session, but some interesting reporting on the economic situation came out of the session. (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, *nkeconwatch*)
- N.Koreans working as contract laborers in Russia are being warned by authorities in Pyongyang against exposure to S.K. culture, as the two Koreas prepare for summit talks between the countries' national leaders later this month. (*RFA*)
- Over 1,000 N.K. laborers are preparing to be dispatched to work assignments in Dandong, China. This follows sightings earlier this month of over 400 N.K. workers in the Chinese city of Helong to the east, together suggesting the two countries may be cooperating to restart joint business ventures in China. (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)

In South Korea:

- S.K.'s unification ministry said Wednesday it is watching whether N.K.'s parliament will unveil key policy directions at its annual session ahead of the country's summits with the South and the US. (*Yonhap*)
- Human rights activists have reacted angrily to confirmation from S.K.'s presidential office that the well-being of millions of N.Koreans will not be a significant part of the agenda when Moon meets KJU. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- The S.K. presidential office Cheong Wa Dae is set to launch a new situation room on Thursday to daily check its preparations for the upcoming summit between President Moon and KJU. (*Yonhap*)
- KJU is "completely different from the person featured in news reports," according to a S.K. official who joined him to watch a K-Pop concert in Pyongyang last month. (Paula Hancocks and James Griffiths, CNN)
- Inter-Korean relations cannot improve without an agreement between N.K. and the US on the North's denuclearization, S.K. President Moon said Thursday. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- President Moon sought to rally public support for his upcoming dialogue with KJU Thursday, saying it would require all-out efforts on all sides to ensure success in the rare opportunity to ease tension between the two Koreas. (*Yonhap*)
- There is no need to provoke N.K. ahead of summits. But the threats from N.K.'s nuclear weapons and missiles have not been addressed. The government must not protract follow-up steps needed for the full operation of the antimissile battery in S.K.. (*Joongang Daily*)
- S.K. Culture Minister Do Jong-whan said Thursday that KJU is serious about trying to improve inter-Korean ties, adding that it is a cause for optimism with the Seoul-Pyongyang summit just days away. (*Yonhap*)
- S.K. Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha will visit two central Asian countries next week to discuss bilateral ties and cooperation. (*Yonhap*)
- The planned Washington-Pyongyang summit will have historic meaning just by taking place and a good outcome for permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula is expected, as the two sides show strong will for it, S.K. President Moon said. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The N.K.-U.S. summit may produce substantive results which can even lead to a "paradigm shift," as both KJU and Trump are leaders who want quick, top-down results, a Japanese N.K. expert Atsuhito Isozaki said. (Yoon Seol-young, Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)
- N.K.'s rubber-stamp legislature reshuffled the country's powerful State Affairs Commission on Wednesday in apparent preparation for summits with leaders of S.K. and the US. (Lee Sung-eun, Jeong Yong-soo, *Joongang Daily*)
- At the upcoming inter-Korean summit, S.K. should seek a clear understanding of N.K.'s interpretation of denuclearization as a way to pave the way for the US to discuss denuclearization at the anticipated Trump-Kim summit, said former U.S. officials who have dealt with N.K. extensively. (Soyoung Ahn, VOA)

International:

- S.K. National Security Office chief Chung Eui-yong sat down with his new U.S. counterpart John Bolton in Washington D.C. on Thursday to map out a picture of N.K. denuclearization ahead of scheduled summits. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- Former President Jimmy Carter warned that President Trump should steer clear of any military action involving Syria or other world hot spots like N.K., Russia, and avoid a nuclear attack at all costs. (Bill Barrow, AP)
- The Royal Navy's HMS Sutherland docked in the Japanese port of Yokosuka and will take part in operations to combat efforts by N.K. to get around UN sanctions of banned commodities, including fuel and components for the regime's nuclear and long-range missile programmes. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- Mike Pompeo, the CIA director picked to be the next secretary of state, will tell the Senate that years of soft US policy toward Russia are "now over". (*Guardian*)
- The Blue House confirmed Wednesday that the leaders of S.K., China and Japan will hold a trilateral summit in Japan next month after S.K. President Moon and KJU sit for their first inter-Korean summit. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Joongang Daily*)
- S.K.'s national security adviser was in Washington on Wednesday for his first meeting with his new American counterpart, John Bolton, U.S. officials said, amid preparations for separate U.S. and S.K. summits with N.K.. (*Reuters*)
- The current CIA Director Mike Pompeo says he has never advocated for regime change in N.K, but the Trump administration has responsibility to prevent KJU being able threaten the U.S. with a nuclear weapon. (AP)
- President Trump's nominee to be Secretary of State, CIA Director Mike Pompeo, will appear before a Senate Committee for his confirmation hearing Thursday, where he will emphasize a harder line towards Russia. (VOA)
- President Trump should make it clear to KJU that the U.S. is not withdrawing its military presence from S.K., a former U.S. ambassador said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- The US and N.K. are in "last-minute" negotiations on the agenda for historic talks between Trump and KJU, according to the Chosun Ilbo daily, citing sources in Washington. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- The annual US–ROK joint military exercises have historically been a very public demonstration of force intended to counter N.K.'s aggressive nuclear and missile tests. But as diplomatic summits with N.K. approach, media coverage of the drills has so far been limited. (Brian Padden, Hyung Jin Kim, VOA)
- The Trump administration is now detailing a compensation package for the KJU regime that would boost economic and diplomatic sectors. In addition, if the Trump-Kim summit is a success, the US is willing to open a liaison office and an embassy in Pyongyang, and start humanitarian aid, according to the Dong-A Ilbo daily. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

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Friday, April 13, 2018

Pompeo rules out giving rewards to N. Korea before denuclearization; N. Korea told Helsinki meeting that 6-party talks are dead: think tank

In North Korea:
Analyst: Sanctions pressure on North Korea is working (UPI, 04/13/2018)
As sanctions bite, rental market grows in North Korea (*Daily*NK, 04/12/2018)
Central Report Meeting Marks KJU's Appointment to Top Jobs (*NK Leadership Watch*, 04/13/2018)
Economic development key focus in North Korean rubber stamp parliamentary session (*Daily*NK, 04/13/2018)
Kim Jong Un's love of K-pop signals progress, analysts say (UPI, 04/13/2018)
North Korea's construction boom may build more than skyline (*WaPo*, 04/13/2018)
North Koreans alter South Korean song lyrics to create defector anthem (*Daily*NK, 04/13/2018)
Report sheds light on severity of sexual assault in North Korean military (*Daily*NK, 04/13/2018)

In South Korea:
(3rd LD) Moon urges bipartisan support for success of upcoming summit with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 04/13/2018)
Defense ministry briefs foreign military attaches on latest inter-Korean exchanges (*Yonhap*, 04/13/2018)
Moon talks summit with Hong (*Joongang Ilbo*, 04/13/2018)
(News Focus) Moon struggles to rein in too high expectations ahead of summit with Kim (*Yonhap*, 04/13/2018)
S. Korean culture minister says Kim Jong-un 'sincere' about improving inter-Korean ties (*Yonhap*, 04/12/2018)
THAAD-related costs may be covered using Seoul's share of defense costs with U.S.: ministry (*Yonhap*, 04/13/2018)
When unification is a tough sell (*Joongang Ilbo*, 04/13/2018)

International:
(LEAD) Pompeo rules out giving rewards to N. Korea before denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 04/12/2018)
Donald Trump 'to tell Kim Jong-un to scrap nuclear arsenal within year in return for US embassy in Pyongyang (*Telegraph*, 04/13/2018)
Experts: Failure at North Korea summit could lead to armed conflict (UPI, 04/12/2018)
Ho and Kim Jong-un (*Joongang Ilbo*, 04/13/2018)
Mike Pompeo says he could imagine US ground invasion of North Korea during nomination grilling (*Telegraph*, 04/12/2018)
N. Korea told Helsinki meeting that 6-party talks are dead: think tank (*Yonhap*, 04/13/2018)
No reward for North Korea without irreversible denuclearization: Pompeo (*Reuters*, 04/13/2018)

Pompeo plays down hopes for comprehensive deal at NK summit (*WaPo*, 04/12/2018)
Report: Chinese Communist Party official arrives in North Korea (*UPI*, 04/13/2018)
S. Korea, U.S. in full agreement on efforts to denuclearize N. Korea: security adviser (*Yonhap*, 04/13/2018)
'Six-party talks are over' (*Korea Times*, 04/13/2018)
Trump says meeting with Kim will be 'terrific' (*Yonhap*, 04/12/2018)
U.N. needs $111 mln budget for humanitarian aid to N. Korea this year: report (*Yonhap*, 04/13/2018)

In North Korea:

- International sanctions against NK might have played the principal role in pushing the regime to seek a way out of isolation, according to a S. Korean economist. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- N. Koreans in agricultural regions are reportedly renting out their homes for monthly fees to help cope with the knock-on effects of international sanctions targeting the regime for its nuclear and missile development. (Lee Sang-yong, *DailyNK*)
- A central report meeting marking the sixth anniversary of KJU's assumption of the top positions in the Workers' Party of Korea and DPRK Government was held on April 11 at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang. (*NK Leadership Watch*)
- "Economic self-reliance" and "improvements to the lives of the people" were some of the key areas of focus for NK during the Sixth Session of the 13th Supreme People's Assembly on Wed. showing signs of a shift from nuclear weapons towards economic matters. (Ha Yoon-ah, *DailyNK*)
- Recent concerts by S. Korean pop artists in Pyongyang show KJU's appreciation of pop culture and the performing arts, as well as signal a generational shift, analysts say. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- NK is racing forward with major development projects some experts believe are aimed at expanding a market for rented or privately owned real estate to help fortify the finances of KJU's regime against the bite of sanctions over its nuclear program. (Eric Talmadge, *AP*)
- 'Unconditional' by Park Sang Chul has been gaining in popularity in the N. Korean border region, report sources inside the country. However, instead of singing the original lyrics, some residents have reportedly changed the words to reflect their "longing for unification."(Lee Sang-yong, *DailyNK*)
- A report from the Database Center for N. Korean Human Rights (NKDB) was compiled from in-depth defector interviews and published to shed light on human rights abuses occurring in the N. Korean military. (Jang Seul-gi, *DailyNK*)

In South Korea:

- Moon sought to rally opposition support for his upcoming summit with KJU in a rare meeting with the chief of the main opposition Liberty Korea Party (LKP) Fri. (*Yonhap*)
- The Ministry of National Defense briefed Seoul-based foreign military attaches on Seoul's NK policy and the latest development in inter-Korean ties Fri., the ministry said. (*Yonhap*)

- Moon consulted with the head of SK's largest opposition party on Fri. about his upcoming summit meeting with KJU. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Moon will likely face an uphill battle of denuclearizing NK when he meets KJU later this month, an achievement that he said would mark a new chapter in history. (*Yonhap*)
- S. Korean Culture Minister Do Jong-whan said Thurs. that KJU is serious about trying to improve inter-Korean ties, adding that it is a cause for optimism with the Seoul-Pyongyang summit just days away. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's defense ministry said Fri. that the cost of operating a US missile defense system installed in SK may be covered using part of Seoul's new share of upkeep costs for US forces stationed in SK. (*Yonhap*)
- For the young S. Korean people facing a brutal reality, unification and a unified Korean people are a luxury. They are well aware that they are the ones who have to pay the astronomical bill, and have no desire to. (Ko Dae-hoon, *Joongang Ilbo*)

International:

- The US will not reward NK before the regime "permanently, irreversibly" dismantles its nuclear weapons program, the nominee to be the top US diplomat Mike Pompeo said Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump is expected to demand that Pyongyang abolish its nuclear weapons capability within a year when he sits down for talks with KJU but will offer to open an embassy in the NK's capital and provide humanitarian assistance as an incentive. (Julian Ryall, Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- Christopher Hill and Victor Cha, two former US diplomats who played a key role in the Six Party Talks with NK warned Thurs. that Trump should make no compromise on sanctions during his upcoming summit with KJU. (Anna Kook, Medill News Service, UPI)
- If Kim chooses Vietnam-style reforms, NK will become an attractive place to invest. At the same time, it will be a country friendly to the US, and will no longer be under the influence of China. But the "wealth and honor with socialism" promised by Kim is impossible to achieve as long as NK has nuclear weapons. (Lee Ha-kyung, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Mike Pompeo, Trump's nomination for Secretary of State, said that he could imagine the US launching a ground invasion of NK during his Senate confirmation hearing. (Ben Riley-Smith, *Telegraph*)
- In a recent semi-official meeting with SK and the US in Helsinki, Finland, NK said the six-party talks are "dead," the head of a S. Korean state-run think tank said Fri., referring to the long-suspended multilateral forum on denuclearizing NK. (*Yonhap*)
- NK should not expect rewards from talks with the US until it takes irreversible steps to give up its nuclear weapons, Trump's nominee for secretary of state, CIA Director Mike Pompeo, said on Thurs. (David Brunnstrom, Patricia Zengerle, *Reuters*)
- Trump's pick to be America's top diplomat is playing down expectations for a breakthrough deal on ending NK's nuclear weapons program at a planned summit with NK's leader. (Matthew Pennington, AP)

- A top Chinese official arrived in Pyongyang on Fri. as head of a Chinese performing arts delegation, and he may meet with KJU to discuss critical issues for the peninsula. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- SK and the US fully agree on the need to peacefully denuclearize the Korean Peninsula, Seoul's top security adviser said Fri., returning from his surprising trip to Washington for talks with his new US counterpart. (*Yonhap*)
- N. Korean officials believe the former six-party talks format will not help resolve the nuclear standoff, implying it is likely to depend more on direct talks with the USover denuclearization, a state-run think tank chief said, Fri. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- Trump said Thurs. he thinks his meeting with KJU will be "terrific." (*Yonhap*)
- The United Nations has said it is in need of a US $111 million budget for humanitarian aid to NK this year, Radio Free Asia reported Fri. (*Yonhap*)

Prepared by Emma Stubblefield, HRNK Research Intern

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Sunday, April 15, 2018

N.Korean leader meets senior Chinese official; Seoul to launch website on inter-Korean summit on April 17; 'Peace, a new start' chosen as slogan for upcoming inter-Korean summit

In North Korea:
(LEAD) North Korean leader meets senior Chinese official (*Yonhap*, 04/15/2018)
Chinese official meets Kim Jong Un, ahead of inter-Korean summit (UPI, 04/15/2018)
In sign of thaw, Kim meets senior Chinese diplomat (*Joongang Daily*, 04/15/2018)
Kim Jong Un meets high-ranking Chinese diplomat in Pyongyang (*WaPo*, 04/15/2018)
Kim Jong-un of North Korea Fetes Chinese Envoy as Ties Warm (NYT, 04/15/2018)
N.K. calmly marks late founder's birthday without mention of nukes, provocations (*Yonhap*, 04/15/2018)
North Korean leader meets Chinese senior official, fetes Chinese art troupe (*Reuters*, 04/15/2018)
North Korean media spotlighting Kim Jong Un's wife Ri Sol-ju (UPI, 04/15/2018)

In South Korea:
For first time, gov't holds Sewol memorial (*Joongang Daily*, 04/15/2018)
Seoul to launch website on inter-Korean summit on April 17 (*Korea Times*, 04/15/2018)
South Korea's ruling party members hit with online comment rigging allegations (UPI, 04/15/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
[Roundtable] Kim Jong-un's point of view on cross-border summit (*Korea Times*, 04/15/2018)

[Roundtable] Postal exchanges with N. Korea (*Korea Times*, 04/15/2018)
[Roundtable] Moon rises as the stars align over Koreas (*Korea Times*, 04/15/2018)
[Roundtable] Solid steps needed on denuclearization (*Korea Times*, 04/15/2018)
Building trust is vital, former negotiators say (*Joongang Daily*, 04/15/2018)
Koreas hold talks on telephone hotline between leaders (*Yonhap*, 04/15/2018)
'Peace, a new start' chosen as slogan for upcoming inter-Korean summit (*Yonhap*, 04/15/2018)

International:
A warning for Pyongyang (*Joongang Daily*, 04/15/2018)
Japan and China's foreign ministers pledge to pursue improved ties (*Reuters*, 04/15/2018)
The future of Trump's Asia policy (*Joongang Daily*, 04/15/2018)
U.S. asks Korea to share cost of strategic weapons (*Joongang Daily*, 04/15/2018)
What does US strike on Syria mean for North Korea? (*Korea Times*, 04/15/2018)

In North Korea:

- N.K. leader KJU has met with a Chinese official leading an art troupe to Pyongyang and exchanged views on "important matters of mutual concern." (*Yonhap*)
- A high-ranking Beijing official met KJU, whilst leading a group of Chinese performers to Pyongyang, in apparent attempts to strengthen bilateral ties. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- N.K.'s leader met a senior Chinese diplomat in Pyongyang on Saturday and "earnestly discussed crucial issues" regarding the two countries' relations. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Daily*)
- N.K. leader KJU has met with a high-ranking Chinese diplomat in Pyongyang, amid a flurry of diplomacy following Kim's recent surprise visit to Beijing. (AP)
- KJU offered a personal welcome to a senior envoy from Beijing, feting him and a visiting Chinese art troupe with a gala dinner, as the estranged Communist allies continued efforts to mend ties. (Choe Sang-hun, NYT)
- N.K. appears to be marking the birthday of its late founder on Sunday without provocations ahead of its planned summit talks with S.K. and the US. (*Yonhap*)
- KJU met Chinese senior diplomat Song Tao and feted a Chinese art troupe led by Song, indicating closer ties with China after Kim's surprise visit to Beijing last month. (*Reuters*)
- N.K. media appears to be attempting to raise the profile of Ri Sol-ju, the wife of KJU, reporting that Ri, without her husband, had attended a performance of "Giselle," staged by the visiting National Ballet of China. (Jennie Oh, UPI)

In South Korea:

- President Moon pledged to prioritize safety in a statement on Sunday commemorating four years since a ferry sinking killed 304 in the country's worst maritime disaster. (Esther Chung, Choi Kyu-jin, Yu Sung-kuk, *Joongang Daily*)
- S.K.'s preparation committee for the inter-Korean summit will open a website, Tuesday, to live stream President Moon's meeting with KJU on April 27. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)

- S.K.'s opposition lawmakers have called for a thorough investigation on the President Moon's liberal Democratic Party, whose members have allegedly rigged online opinions to discredit the conservatives. (Jennie Oh, UPI)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- KJU seems to be back at his old waiting game until the world is again distracted by other pressing issues. After all, it has worked before. Kim would say to himself, "why not this time?" (Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)
- A postal exchange between two Koreas would be a relatively simple and very humanitarian way to build trust and cooperation between people and institutions of the North and South. Much more so than reviving the Kaesong Industrial Complex, or tourism to Mt Kumgang. (Jacco Zwetsloot, *Korea Times*)
- If the upcoming summits all go well, the key role may well be played, not by KJU or Trump, but by Moon. If all goes well with his summit with KJU and with the Kim-Trump summit a few weeks later, North-South reconciliation could well become the theme that sustains the rest of Moon's presidential term. (Michael Breen, *Korea Times*)
- Failure of the Moon-Kim summit will not only dampen the recent reconciliatory mood between the two Koreas, but also worsen security on the Korean Peninsula. It would also mean losing Trump's trust that Moon can smooth the way for the N.K.-U.S. summit. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- As Seoul and Washington prepare to sit down with Pyongyang in the coming weeks to talk about some process of denuclearization, S.K. diplomats who were involved in the six-party talks from 2003 to 2009 say the allies needed to build trust with the regime as a starting point. (Yoo Jee-hye, Park Yu-mi, *Joongang Daily*)
- Working-level officials from the two Koreas discussed establishing a telephone hotline between the two countries' leaders on Saturday ahead of their historic summit set for later this month. (*Yonhap*)
- Seoul has chosen "Peace, a new start" as a slogan for the upcoming inter-Korean summit, which will be held in late April, the presidential office said Sunday. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- The attack on Syria is a serious warning to Pyongyang. If KJU wants to be free from the fear of a potential raid, he must be willing to denuclearize. Only when he presents a detailed road map devoted to denuclearization can his sincerity be recognized by his counterpart. (*Joongang Daily*)
- Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Taro Kono and his Chinese counterpart have pledged to improve ties between their nations and affirmed a commitment to stick with U.N. resolutions aimed at forcing N.K. to abandon nuclear weapons. (*Reuters*)
- Trump's foreign policy will be shaped and constrained by structure — the distribution of power in Asia, the rising challenges from China and N.K., and the strong domestic support

for trade and alliances in the US, Congress and business and agricultural communities. (Michael Green, *Joongang Daily*)

- Washington asked Seoul to share the cost of U.S. strategic assets around the Korean Peninsula, stoking local fears about a higher financial burden as the Trump administration is pushing allies to pay more for their defense. (Yoo Jee-hye, Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Daily*)
- The U.S.-led air strike on Syria, Saturday, may put pressure on N.K. leader KJU ahead of his planned summit with President Trump in May or June. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

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Monday, April 16, 2018

STATESIDE | N.Korea: Ready to discuss denuclearization; Koreas set to hold high-level talks this week to set agenda for summit; Abe faces awkward Trump summit on North Korea amid plummeting support in Japan

Top News:
STATESIDE | N.Korea : Ready to discuss denuclearization (i24 News, 04/09/2018)

In North Korea:
KJU Gives Banquet for CPC Delegation (NK *Leadership Watch*, 04/16/2018)
KJU Meets with Song Tao (NK *Leadership Watch*, 04/16/2018)
N.K. highlights Iran nuke deal ahead of summits with S. Korea, U.S. (*Yonhap*, 04/16/2018)
No mention of nuclear weapons on North Korea's key memorial day (*UPI*, 04/15/2018)
North Korea commemorates birth of its founder [PHOTOS] (*Korea Times*, 04/15/2018)
North Korea construction resumes as China relations bounce back (*UPI*, 04/16/2018)
North Korea idolizes Kim Jong-un's wife... why? (*Korea Times*, 04/16/2018)
North Korea warns UK against 'act of war' after Royal Navy deployed to enforce sanctions(*Telegraph*, 04/16/2018)
North Korean elite youth sought for cyberwarfare training, foreign agent roles (*DailyNK*, 04/16/2018)
Rare photos of Kim Jong-un's mother [PHOTOS] (*Korea Times*, 04/16/2018)
Ri Sol Ju Attends Chinese Ballet Performance (NK *Leadership Watch*, 04/16/2018)
Ri Su Yong Meets Song Tao (NK *Leadership Watch*, 04/16/2018)
Smuggling operations heat up, feature state-civilian cooperation (*DailyNK*, 04/16/2018)
What North Korea's 2017 budget report and 2018 projections tell us about its economy (NK *Econ Watch*, 04/16/2018)

In South Korea:
Buddha's blessing (*Jooongang Ilbo*, 04/16/2018)
Press center, online platform to be launched ahead of inter-Korean summit (*Yonhap*, 04/16/2018)
S. Korea's Catholic Church prays for inter-Korean summit's success (*Yonhap*, 04/16/2018)
Seoul watches its words on Syria (*Jooongang Ilbo*, 04/16/2018)
Summit preparation in full swing (*Korea Times*, 04/16/2018)
USFK command to relocate to Pyeongtaek in summer: sources (*Yonhap*, 04/16/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Koreas working on final details of North-South summit (*UPI*, 04/15/2018)
Koreas set to hold high-level talks this week to set agenda for summit (*Yonhap*, 04/16/2018)
South-North summit to set denuclearization of N. Korea in motion (*Yonhap*, 04/16/2018)

International:
Abe faces awkward Trump summit on North Korea amid plummeting support in Japan (CNN, 04/16/2018)
As Scandal-Tarred Abe Meets Trump, 'the Situation Is Getting Dangerous' (NYT, 04/16/2018)
S. Korea, U.S. in close coordination over N.K. summits (*Yonhap*, 04/15/2018)
Tokyo fears Trump could link security with trade at summit with Abe (*Reuters*, 04/16/2018)
Trump's Syria strike was meant to project strength. It did the opposite. (*WaPo*, 04/15/2018)
US Strike on Syria Sends Mixed Messages to North Korea (VOA, 04/16/2018)

Top News:

- HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatiou joined i24 News' Stateside with David Shuster to discuss the differences between what Trump and KJU mean when they say "denuclearization" and what might happen during the Trump/Kim summit. (*i24 News*)

In North Korea:

- KJU and his wife Ri Sol-ju hosted a banquet for a Chinese performing arts troupe and Communist Party of China International Liaison Department Director Song Tao on the evening of Apr. 14. (*NK Leadership Watch*)
- Kim Jong-un met with Communist Party of China International Liaison Department Director Song Tao at the Workers' Party of Korea Central Committee Office Complex #1 on Apr. 14. (*NK Leadership Watch*)
- NK on Mon. highlighted its 45-year-long ties with Iran and defended Tehran's stance toward a nuclear deal with major powers that Trump has threatened to scrap. (*Yonhap*)
- NK celebrated the anniversary of regime founder Kim Il-sung's birth without provocative displays or the mention of nuclear weapons during key memorial events, amid the peace-building atmosphere between the two Koreas. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- Thousands of N. Koreans laid flowers before statues of the country's founder Kim Il-sung on the anniversary of his birth on Sun. (AFP)

- Construction of high-rise apartments in NK for the newly rich might have resumed in the wake of improving relations with China. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- NK has begun providing the wife of its leader KJU with a greater role as the regime prepares for summits with SK and the US. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- NK has accused Britain of an "act of war" for deploying warships off the Korean Peninsula to enforce international sanctions. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- The N. Korean authorities are looking towards young graduates of prestigious Mangyongdae Revolutionary Academy's 'hackers' program to recruit the country's next generation of foreign agents. (Lee Sang-yong, *DailyNK*)
- Rare photos of KJU's mother, Ko Yong-hui, have been revealed. They were reportedly taken in Japan in 1973 when Ko was in her early 20s, according to Japanese newspaper The Mainichi, which published the photos on Sat. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- Ri Sol-ju, first lady of the DPRK, watched the National Ballet of China perform *Giselle* at Mansudae Art Theater in central Pyongyang, as part of the 31st annual April Spring Friendship Art Festival on Apr. 14. (*NK Leadership Watch*)
- Workers' Party of Korea Vice Chairman and WPK International Affairs Department Director Ri Su-yong met with Song Tao, Director of the Communist Party of China International Liaison Department Director on Apr. 14. (*NK Leadership Watch*)
- Trading companies and donju (NK's nouveau rich) are actively involved in smuggling operations in NK's Ryanggang Province region, according to new testimony from a defector. Largely seen as a way to circumvent the international sanctions campaign targeting NK, military personnel from both countries are also said to be actively involved. (Yuem Seung-cheol, *DailyNK)*
- According to NK's own 2017 budget report and 2018 budget projections (which recognize that a large portion of economic activity happens outside of the central government), their economy grew in 2017 and there will be continued growth in 2018 from private and semi-private enterprise revenue. (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, *NK Econ Watch*)

In South Korea:

- Seoul's Jogye Temple has arranged lanterns in its courtyard to form the words "Let's go together" in Korean. The message alludes to peace and reconciliation between the two Koreas ahead of a summit between Moon and KJU on Apr. 27. (*Yonhap*)
- SK will open a press center next week to accommodate the massive number of journalists likely to come from home and abroad to cover the upcoming historic inter-Korean summit, the preparation committee and government officials said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's Catholic Church on Mon. issued a statement calling for the upcoming historic inter-Korean summit to bring an end to confrontation and conflict on the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- As SK walks a fine diplomatic line to bring the US and NK to the discussion table, SK's Foreign Affairs Ministry appears to have felt the pressure as they left out any mention of the US or its latest military attack on Syria (NK's ally) in an announcement regarding the threat

chemical weapons and proliferation pose to international peace and safety. (Yoo Jee-hye, Park Yu-mi, *Joongang Ilbo*)

- The Blue House is going all out for the inter-Korean summit as there are only 10 days left before the bilateral talks take place. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- The Yongsan era of the US Forces Korea will draw to a close in the coming months with an official transfer ceremony at an expanded base south of Seoul, defense sources here said Mon. (Lee Chi-dong, *Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Days away from NK and SK's first summit in more than a decade, officials are finalizing arrangements this week. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- SK and NK are set to hold high-level talks this week to arrange key agenda items for next week's summit amid keen attention over whether the historic meeting could set the stage for NK's denuclearization. (*Yonhap*)
- The upcoming summit between Moon and KJU will be a historical event all in itself and even more so as it will likely set the tone for the following US-NK summit, which in turn could finally get the process of denuclearizing the communist state moving forward. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- Embattled Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who heads Tues. to Mar-a-Lago for a meeting with Trump, is in dire need of a policy win as he faces challenges abroad and protests at home. (James Griffiths, CNN)
- Amid tensions over trade and NK, Abe leaves Tues. to visit Trump at his Palm Beach estate. It kicks off a frenzy of diplomacy that has Abe meeting President Xi Jinping in China later this year and possibly even NK's KJU as well. (Makoto Rich, NYT)
- SK and the US have engaged in a flurry of diplomacy as both sides prepare for historic summits with KJU, a phenomenon most recently demonstrated by the surprise visit of Seoul's top national security adviser to Washington. (*Yonhap*)
- Abe could find his oft-touted close ties with Trump sorely tested at a summit this week in which Tokyo fears the US leader will to try to link vital security matters involving NK with touchy trade topics. (Linda Sieg, Nobuhiro Kubo, *Reuters*)
- The lesson KJU takes from this is that if Trump won't take out Syrian airfields because we're afraid of Russia's response, then he's definitely not going to strike KJU's nuclear and ballistic missile program and risk a N. Korean artillery barrage on Seoul. (Marc A. Thiessen, *WaPo*)
- The recent US missile strikes against Syria could increase pressure on NK to give up its nuclear weapons, or reinforce in Pyongyang the need for nuclear deterrence. (Brian Padden, VOA)

Prepared by Emma Stubblefield, HRNK Research Intern

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Tuesday, April 17, 2018

PRESS RELEASE: ECOSOC VOTES TO GRANT HRNK UN CONSULTATIVE STATUS; Sharp drop in numbers of North Korean defectors reaching safety in the south; Goodbye DMZ? What an End to the Korean War Would Mean: QuickTake

Top News:
PRESS RELEASE: ECOSOC VOTES TO GRANT HRNK UN CONSULTATIVE STATUS (*HRNK*, 04/17/2018)

In North Korea:
Defector: North Koreans face chronic food shortages (*UPI*, 04/16/2018)
In North, questions over what's in a name (*Joongang Daily*, 04/17/2018)
Kim Jong-un couple watches Chinese troupe's performance (*Korea Times*, 04/17/2018)
Kim Jong Un congratulates Syria's Assad on anniversary (*UPI*, 04/17/2018)
Kim Jong Un's wife afforded new level of respect in North Korean media (*CNN*, 04/17/2018)
N.K. leader says Chinese artists' visit will help strengthen ties (*Yonhap*, 04/17/2018)
No missiles but ballet as North Korea's Kim puts on a show (*Reuters*, 04/17/2018)
North Korea's surge of friendly visitors (*BBC*, 04/17/2018)
Remittance fees increase as North Korean police demand bribes (*Daily NK*, 04/17/2018)
Use of Yuan in the North Korean economy (*NK Econ Watch*, 04/17/2018)
What made Pyongyang change? (*Joongang Daily*, 04/17/2018)

In South Korea:
(2nd LD) Seoul may send special envoys to N. Korea if necessary for summit: Cheong Wa Dae (*Yonhap*, 04/17/2018)
(LEAD) (News Focus) Moon braces for high-stakes showdown with N.K. leader (*Yonhap*, 04/17/2018)
AP Interview: Moon adviser says NKorea seeks economic growth (*WaPo*, 04/17/2018)
Choi Eun-hee, actor once abducted by North Korea, dies (*Guardian*, 04/17/2018)
Envoy may be sent to North Korea soon (*Joongang Daily*, 04/17/2018)
Film star Choi Eun-hee dead at 92 (*Joongang Daily*, 04/17/2018)
Moon vows efforts to establish peace between the two Koreas (*Yonhap*, 04/17/2018)
S. Korean city seeks to invite N. Koreans to national sports event (*Yonhap*, 04/17/2018)
Seoul seeks Moon-Kim joint press conference after April 27 summit (*Korea Times*, 04/17/2018)
South Korean actress and former North Korean abductee Choi Eun-hee dies (*CNN*, 04/17/2018)
South Korean culture minister finds Kim Jong Un open, humorous (*UPI*, 04/17/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
A mass delusion (*Joongang Daily*, 04/17/2018)

Border truce village set to greet Koreas' leaders for summit (*Yonhap*, 04/17/2018)
Goodbye DMZ? What an End to the Korean War Would Mean: QuickTake (*WaPo*, 04/17/2018)
Inter-Korean summit to set tone for Trump-Kim Jong-un meeting (*Korea Times*, 04/17/2018)
Inter-Korean summit website launches (*Korea Times*, 04/17/2018)
Kim Jong-un Plans Formal Nod to Denuclearization, South Korea Says (NYT*imes*, 04/17/2018)
Koreas in consultations for high-level talks this week (*Yonhap*, 04/17/2018)
Sharp drop in numbers of North Korean defectors reaching safety in the south (*Telegraph*, 04/17/2018)
South Koreans may Visit North Again Ahead of First Summit in Decade (VOA, 04/17/2018)

International:
Abe hopes Trump meeting will bring Japan in from diplomatic cold (*Guardian*, 04/17/2018)
Americans detained in North Korea a factor in talks - White House (*Reuters*, 04/17/2018)
China releases 30 N. Korean defectors: report (*Yonhap*, 04/17/2018)
National security warning for British firms dealing with Chinese telecoms giant ZTE (*Telegraph*, 04/17/2018)
Post-ABC poll: Public supports Trump-Kim meeting, but isn't getting its hopes up (*WaPo*, 04/17/2018)
Report: CIA agent met with Japanese officials in March (UPI, 04/16/2018)
Trump, Abe to meet despite strain over North Korea, tariffs (*WaPo*, 04/17/2018)
Trump, Japan's Abe seek consensus on North Korea amid strains (*Reuters*, 04/17/2018)
U.S. bars exports to Chinese telecom firm linked to N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 04/17/2018)
U.S. vows to 'fully' and 'effectively' enforce sanctions on N.K. (*Yonhap*, 04/17/2018)
Unpacking a US Decision to Engage North Korea: What it Entails and What it Could Achieve (*38 North*, 04/16/2018)

Top News:

- At 10 am this morning, the 54 member UN Economic and Social Council took action on a resolution to grant UN consultative status to the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea (HRNK). UN consultative status tremendously amplifies the already strong voice of HRNK as an organization dedicated to promoting human rights for the people of the DPRK through UN channels. UN consultative status is a significant landmark in the 17-year history of HRNK. (HRNK)

In North Korea:

- NK's engagements with the outside world are taking place as the country's impoverished population could be affected by malnutrition. A N.Korean defector activist who requested anonymity told JoongAng Ilbo reporter Lee Young-jong a chronic food shortage is spreading throughout NK and ordinary people are "suffering" because in some areas the public distribution system has been suspended. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

- As the leaders of NK and SK prepare to meet next week, one question is on the mind of many Pyongyang watchers: Will the N.Korean media refer to SK's first lady by her name? The decision is a dicey one in a state that reveres its ruling family. The S.Korean first lady, Kim Jung-sook, bears the same name in Korean as N.Korean leader KJU's grandmother, Kim Jong-suk, who is beloved in the country as the wife of the state founder Kim Il Sung. In NK, where the cult of personality surrounding the Kim family is strong, their names are treated as sacred and cannot be used by other people. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Joongang Daily*)
- N.Korean leader KJU and his wife Ri Sol-ju on Mon. attended a ballet performance by a Chinese troupe visiting Pyongyang, the state news agency reported Tues. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- KJU sent a message of congratulations to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad on the 72nd anniversary of Syrian independence, according to Pyongyang's news agency KCNA. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- Ri Sol Ju, wife of N.Korean leader KJU, has been afforded a new title in the country's state media, a move that analysts say could signal an evolution in the power structure of the reclusive country. (CNN)
- N.Korean leader KJU has said that a Chinese art troupe's visit to NK will significantly help consolidate ties between Pyongyang and Beijing, state media reported Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- KJU hobnobbed with a visiting Chinese ballet troupe as he capped a weekend of celebrations in the N.Korean capital that conspicuously lacked a show of military might that marked many previous festivals. (Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- Ever since the secretive trip to Pyongyang by two S.Korean officials that opened the way for a dialogue with the US, NK has seen a flurry of friendly visits. (Alistair Coleman, *BBC*)
- Despite being illegal, NK's Ministry of State Security actively facilitates foreign remittances to earn money, while officers from the Ministry of People's Security have also recently entered into the dynamic as middle men. Lacking the ability to control the remittance market in its entirety, there are rumors that the N.Korean authorities have secretly issued orders to skim money from the remittances instead. (Kang Mi Jin, *Daily NK*)
- According to *Asahi Shimbun*, the Chinese yuan apparently has growing currency in NK and is commonly used in daily transactions such as paying taxi fares and restaurant bills. (*NK Econ Watch*)
- As summits approach, analysts try to describe KJU's logic. In a four-part series, the Joongang Daily analyzes KJU's major change of course this year, the struggles of the country's economy that could have triggered that change, and Kim's powerful inner-circle. (Ko Soo-suk, Jeong Yong-soo, *Joongang Daily*)

In South Korea:

- SK may send special envoys to NK if necessary to arrange or ensure the success of their summit next week, the presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- S.Korean President Moon is girding for a high-stakes cross-border summit next week, a hard-won chance that could potentially vindicate his once fragile dialogue approach and

chart a diplomatic path toward NK's denuclearization and peace on the peninsula. (Song Sang-ho, *Yonhap*)

- N.Korean leader KJU likely decided to put his nuclear weapons program up for negotiation to win outside rewards so he can improve his country's economy, win public trust at home and prolong his leadership, a special adviser to the S.Korean president said Tues. (Hyung-Jin Kim, AP)
- Choi Eun-hee, one of SK's most famous actors, who was abducted and made to make films in NK during the 1970s and 80s, has died aged 91. (Martin Belam, *Guardian*)
- The Blue House said Tues. that it was "open to the possibility" of its National Security Office chief or head of the national spy agency visiting Pyongyang again "anytime" before the inter-Korean summit on Apr. 27 if ongoing discussions between SK and NK at the working level become deadlocked. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Daily*)
- Choi Eun-hee, an iconic film actor who was active in the 1950s and '60s, died Mon. afternoon after suffering from years of chronic kidney disease. She was 92. She is known not only for being a leading lady during the so-called golden age of Korean film in the 1960s, along with her husband, filmmaker Shin Sang-ok, but also for being kidnapped by NK in 1978 and escaping the communist country in 1986. (Jin Min-ji, *Joongang Daily*)
- President Moon reaffirmed his resolve Tues. to establish permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula, saying the denuclearization of NK is the most urgent task facing SK but is only part of an ultimate objective to ensure co-existence and co-prosperity of the divided Koreas. (*Yonhap*)
- A S.Korean city said Tues. it plans to invite a N.Korean team to a national sports event it will host this fall to further boost the relationship between the two Koreas. (*Yonhap*)
- Seoul is seeking to broadcast the upcoming inter-Korean summit as well as a joint press conference between President Moon and N.Korean leader KJU live, a top presidential aide said Tues. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- S.Korean film legend Choi Eun-hee, who was once abducted and forced to make movies for the N.Korean regime, has died. She was 91. (Evan McKirdy, CNN)
- N.Korean leader KJU appears to have an "open" mind and a "humorous side" and seems willing to continue cultural exchanges with SK, Seoul's cultural minister said Tues. (Jennie Oh, UPI)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- In this opinion piece for the Joongang Daily, editorial writer Nam Jeong-ho argues that inter-Korean reconciliation is the flavor of the day. He argues that Korean society is caught up in a mass delusion that the N.Korean nuclear crisis is over with the promotion of inter-Korean cooperation while everything else is ignored. (Nam Jeong-ho, *Joongang Daily*)
- The border truce village of Panmunjom, a site symbolizing inter-Korean division, is expected to become a venue for reconciliation as the leaders of the two Koreas are set to hold a rare summit there next week. (*Yonhap*)
- After a sudden warming of relations between NK and SK this year, the two sides are set to meet at the end of this month for talks. According to the S.Korean publication, Munhwa Ilbo,

they're planning to announce the end of military hostilities. This is what an end to the Korean War would look like. (David Tweed, *Bloomberg*)

- The inter-Korean summit on Apr. 27 is likely to set the tone of another summit between N.Korean leader KJU and US President Donald Trump, according to analysts. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- A website updating the public on the upcoming inter-Korean summit is up and running. The portal koreasummit.kr will offer news, photos and broadcasts of the summit between S.Korean President Moon and N.Korean leader KJU to be held Apr. 27 at the truce village of Panmunjom. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- KJU, NK's leader, plans to formally announce his willingness to denuclearize his country when he meets with President Moon of SK this month, an official from SK said on Tues.(Choe Sang-hun, *NYTimes*)
- SK and NK are engaging in discussions to set the date for high-level talks later this week to arrange the agenda for next week's summit, an official at Seoul's unification ministry said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- The number of N.Korean refugees finding safety in SK has dropped sharply this year amid an ongoing security crackdown in China, the country that represents their most common escape route. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- S.Korean security officials may visit NK ahead of the first summit since 2007 if more high-level talks are necessary, a Seoul official said on Tues., with SK hoping the NK will reaffirm its commitment to denuclearize. (*Reuters*)

International:

- Besieged by cronyism scandals that have prompted speculation he will be out of office by early summer, Japan's prime minister, Shinzo Abe, will arrive in the US for talks with Donald Trump this week with a potential foreign policy headache to add to his domestic woes. (Justin McCurry, *Guardian*)
- Three Americans detained in NK will be a factor in any talks between US officials and their N.Korean counterparts as they discuss a future summit, a White House official said on Tues. (*Reuters*)
- China has released 30 N.Korean defectors who some feared would be forcibly sent back to the reclusive state, Radio Free Asia reported Tues., citing a defector who has taken asylum in SK. (*Yonhap*)
- British firms are being warned not to do business with one of China's leading companies over "potential risks" to national security. The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) has written to UK telecoms providers to warn against ZTE after it was linked to selling US equipment to Iran and NK. (Neil Connor, *Telegraph*)
- Americans express low expectations that a planned meeting between N.Korean leader KJU and President Trump will lead NK to give up its nuclear weapons, but a new Washington Post-ABC News poll finds most support Trump participating in the meeting anyway. (Emily Guskin, *WaPo*)

- A CIA officer with the newly established Korea Mission Center at the agency secretly met with Japanese officials in March, according to a Japanese press report. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- President Donald Trump is playing host to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe this week amid growing strain between the countries over the president's planned meeting with N.Korean leader KJU and the push for new tariffs. (Jill Colvin, Matthew Pennington, AP)
- US President Donald Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will seek common ground on how to deal with NK's nuclear challenge on Tues. amid fears in Tokyo that Trump might be prone to make too many concessions. (Steve Holland, *Reuters*)
- The US on Mon. sanctioned a Chinese telecom firm suspected of illegal sales to NK and Iran. (*Yonhap*)
- The US has reaffirmed its commitment to "fully" and "effectively" enforce sanctions on NK, calling for other states to stay in line and maintain the current sanctions regime, a report showed Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- In this piece for 38 North, authors Carla Freeman and Mel Gurtov discuss the concept, strategy, and achievements of engagement in relation to the US and NK as a response to Robert Jervis' report "Unpacking a US Decision to Use Force Against North Korea: Issues, Options, and Consequences." (Carla Freeman, Mel Gurtov, *38 North*)

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, HRNK Research Intern

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Wednesday, April 18, 2018

UN ECOSOC Adopts 10 Decisions, Including Granting Status to Groups Focusing on Iran, DPRK; UN accredits US groups on Iran, NK rights; Korean leaders can discuss peace, but can't end Korean War

Top News:

Economic and Social Council Adopts 10 Decisions, Including Granting Status to Groups Focusing on Iran, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (*United Nations*, 04/17/2018)
UN accredits US groups on Iran, North Korea rights (*Daily Herald*, 04/17/2018)
UN accredits US groups on Iran, North Korea rights (*Idaho Statesman*, 04/17/2018)
UN accredits US groups on Iran, North Korea rights (*Las Vegas Sun*, 04/17/2018)
UN accredits US groups on Iran, North Korea rights (*San Francisco Chronicle*, 04/17/2018)
UN accredits US groups on Iran, North Korea rights (*Sun Herald*, 04/17/2018)
UN accredits US groups on Iran, North Korea rights (*The Herald*, 04/17/2018)
UN accredits US groups on Iran, North Korea rights (*New Jersey Herald*, 04/18/2018)
UN Accredits US Groups on Iran, North Korea Rights (NYTimes, 04/18/2018)
UN accredits US groups on Iran, North Korea rights (*Tampa Bay Times*, 04/18/2018)
UN accredits US groups on Iran, North Korea rights (*The State*, 04/18/2018)

UN accredits US groups on Iran, North Korea rights (*WaPo*, 04/18/2018)

In North Korea:
[Photos] North Koreans in China ordered to present flowers on Kim Il Sung's birthday (*Daily NK*, 04/18/2018)
For North Korea's leader, it's the economy (*Joongang Daily*, 04/18/2018)
Kim cautiously congratulates Syrian president (*Joongang Daily*, 04/18/2018)
Kim Jong Un turns to his wife and sister to soften his image (*WaPo*, 04/18/2018)
N.K. leader meets Chinese official again, discusses improving ties (*Yonhap*, 04/18/2018)
N. Korea to unveil new 'Shining Fatherland' mass games in September: report (*Yonhap*, 04/18/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) S. Korea seeking to end armistice, establish permanent peace (*Yonhap*, 04/18/2018)
South Korea considering peace treaty with North (*Guardian*, 04/18/2018)
South Korea goes over six months without North Korea human rights ambassador (*NKNews.org*, 04/18/2018)
South Korea says it will lay the groundwork for Trump to talk to Kim about nuclear weapons (*WaPo*, 04/18/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) Koreas agree to live broadcast of Moon-Kim summit (*Yonhap*, 04/18/2018)
Explainer: North Korea peace deal - Neither a new nor a simple idea (*Reuters*, 04/18/2018)
Koreas to hold second working-level talks on upcoming summit (*Yonhap*, 04/18/2018)
Korean leaders can discuss peace, but can't end Korean War (*WaPo*, 04/18/2018)
North and South Korea agree to broadcast parts of summit live: report (*Reuters*, 04/18/2018)
Seoul says parts of inter-Korean summit will be aired live (*WaPo*, 04/18/2018)
Summit preparation committee releases photos, videos about past inter-Korean talks, exchanges (*Yonhap*, 04/18/2018)
Two Koreas should push for robust science, technology, R&D exchange: expert (*Yonhap*, 04/18/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) Trump: Koreas have my 'blessing' to end war (*Yonhap*, 04/18/2018)
(2nd LD) Trump: Pompeo met N. Korean leader, formed 'good relationship' (*Yonhap*, 04/18/2018)
(3rd LD) Pompeo met with Kim in secret trip to N. Korea: report (*Yonhap*, 04/18/2018)
(LEAD) Peace treaty with N. Korea possible following denuclearization: official (*Yonhap*, 04/18/2018)
(News Focus) Trump's support likely to accelerate talks on peace on peninsula (*Yonhap*, 04/18/2018)
A nuclear big deal (*Joongang Daily*, 04/18/2018)
Bumpy road to peace treaty (*Joongang Daily*, 04/19/2018)
China endorses direct dialogue between Pompeo, Kim (*UPI*, 04/18/2018)
Chinese President Xi Jinping will visit Pyongyang 'soon,' official says (CNN, 04/18/2018)
C.I.A. Chief's Meeting With Kim Jong-un Is Latest Step in Winding Path to Talks (*NYTimes*, 04/18/2018)
CIA Chief Pompeo Met with Kim Jong Un, Media reports say (VOA, 04/18/2018)

CIA Director Pompeo met with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un over Easter weekend (*WaPo*, 04/18/2018)
CIA's Pompeo secretly met with Kim Jong-un (*Joongang Daily*, 04/18/2018)
Donald Trump reveals CIA chief Mike Pompeo formed 'good relationship' with Kim Jong-un on secret North Korea visit (*Telegraph*, 04/18/2018)
G7 finance ministers seek maximum economic pressure on North Korea (*Reuters*, 04/18/2018)
If Trump strikes a deal with North Korea, I'll be delighted. But don't hold your breath (*Guardian*, 04/18/2018)
Japan abductee kin say mention at US-NKorea talks not enough (*WaPo*, 04/18/2018)
Japan Fears Being Sidelined by Trump on Trade and North Korea (NYTimes, 04/18/2018)
Key Takeaways of the Kim-Trump Summit Minuet (*38 North*, 04/18/2018)
Korean peace treaty needs more than Trump's 'blessing' (CNN, 04/18/2018)
Mike Pompeo: CIA chief made secret trip to North Korea (BBC, 04/18/2018)
North Korea: can Trump succeed where so many others have failed? (*Guardian*, 04/18/2018)
North Korea: Mike Pompeo met with Kim Jong-un over Easter, Trump confirms (*Guardian*, 04/18/2018)
North Korea meeting won't affect Pompeo vote in U.S. Senate: committee chair (*Reuters*, 04/18/2018)
Pompeo sets an irreversible course to meet Kim that Trump may not want (CNN, 04/18/2018)
Pompeo trip marks latest in history of N. Korea visits by U.S. statesmen (*Yonhap*, 04/18/2018)
Pompeo visits North Korea, forms 'good relationship with Kim', says Trump (*Reuters*, 04/18/2018)
Pompeo's critics offer grudging praise for North Korea meeting (*WaPo*, 04/18/2018)
Pompeo's visit suggests the Trump-Kim summit is on track. Here's why Kim is ready to talk. (*WaPo*, 04/18/2018)
President Trump says Koreas 'have my blessing' to discuss ending decades-long war as North, South prepare to meet (*WaPo*, 04/18/2018)
Record number of journalists to cover historic summit between Koreas (*Yonhap*, 04/18/2018)
Russia's Pacific Coast Economy Hurt By Sanctions Against North Korea (NPR, 04/17/2018)
Secret Pompeo Mission to North Korea Shows Trump's Trust in Spies Over Diplomats (NYTimes, 04/18/2018)
Seoul, Washington discussing routes to peace treaty: Chung (*Joongang Daily*, 04/18/2018)
Summit of egos (*Joongang Daily*, 04/18/2018)
Talks underway to officially end Korean War (*Korea Times*, 04/18/2018)
The Guardian view on Donald Trump's Korean diplomacy: progress without purpose (*Guardian*, 04/18/2018)
Top continental sports body to hold Asian Games promotional event in Pyongyang (*Yonhap*, 04/18/2018)
Treaty to Formally End Korean War Is Being Discussed, South Confirms (NYTimes, 04/18/2018)
Trump-Kim meeting should focus on denuclearization: Lippert (*Yonhap*, 04/18/2018)
Trump: U.S. has had talks with North Korea 'at very high levels' (UPI, 04/17/2018)
Trump and Abe talk trade as well as relations with NKorea (*WaPo*, 04/18/2018)
Trump Backs Seoul Effort to End Korean War (VOA, 04/17/2018)
Trump Confirms CIA Chief Met with Kim Jong Un (VOA, 04/18/2018)
Trump hails CIA chief Mike Pompeo's secret trip to N Korea (BBC, 04/18/2018)

Trump rules out summit destinations as North Korea hails 'unification' (UPI, 04/18/2018)
Trump says 'good relationship' formed with North Korea (*WaPo*, 04/18/2018)
Trump says 5 locations are being considered for Kim Jong Un meeting (CNN, 04/18/2018)
Trump says CIA director Pompeo met with Kim Jong Un last week (*Reuters*, 04/18/2018)
Trump says initial high-level meeting between U.S. and North Korea 'went very well' (*WaPo*, 04/18/2018)
Trump says Pompeo meeting with Kim Jong Un went 'very smoothly' (*Politico*, 04/18/2018)
Trump says Pompeo met with Kim Jong Un (CNN, 04/18/2018)
Trump says US and NKorea talking at 'extremely high levels' (*WaPo*, 04/17/2018)
U.S. air force general 'confident' of deterrence against North Korea (UPI, 04/18/2018)
US Election Calendar Could Factor into N. Korea Talks (VOA, 04/18/2018)
US troop withdrawal could be put on table (*Korea Times*, 04/18/2018)
What did Pompeo and North Korea's Kim discuss during their meeting? Here are 3 core issues. (*WaPo*, 04/18/2018)
Why Pompeo meeting with Kim should make you sleep a little easier (CNN, 04/18/2018)
Xi to visit N. Korea, news report says (*Yonhap*, 04/18/2018)

Top News:

- From the United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases: "The Economic and Social Council today adopted 10 draft decisions, including two by vote granting consultative status to two non-governmental organizations (NGOs) focusing on Iran and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as it continued its 2018 coordination and management meetings. The Council granted consultative status to the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea by a recorded vote of 29 in favour to 6 against (Belarus, China, Russian Federation, South Africa, Venezuela, Viet Nam), with 13 abstentions." (*United Nations*)
- The UN granted accreditation to US groups focusing on human rights in NK and Iran on Tues., overturning a committee's rejection and giving the groups the right to speak at the Human Rights Council and other UN bodies. The 54-member Economic and Social Council approved the application from HRNK by a vote of 29-6 with 13 abstentions, and the application from the Iran Human Rights Documentation Center by a vote of 22-7 with 17 abstentions. (*Associated Press*, Mentioned in: *Daily Herald*, *Idaho Statesman*, *Las Vegas Sun*, *New Jersey Herald*, *NYTimes*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Sun Herald*, *Tampa Bay Times*, *The Herald*, *The State*, *WaPo*)

In North Korea:

- N.Koreans residing in the Chinese border city of Dandong were seen carrying bouquets of flowers into the N.Korean consulate on Sun. as the country celebrates its Apr. 15 "Day of the Sun" holiday marking the birthday of founding leader Kim Il Sung. (Ha Yoon Ah, *Daily NK*)
- The first face-to-face interaction between S.Korean President Moon and N.Korean leader KJU is only eight days away. In a four-part series, the JoongAng Daily analyzes Kim's major

change of course this year, the struggles of the country's economy that could have triggered that change and Kim's powerful inner circle. (Ko Soo-suk, Jeong Yong-soo, *Joongang Daily*)

- N.Korean leader KJU delivered a courtesy message to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad on Tues. congratulating him on the occasion of the country's 72nd year of independence, saying he was "pleased" that the "friendly" Syrian government and people made "big achievements in the struggle to defend the country's sovereignty and security." (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Daily*)
- N.Korean leader KJU appears to be trying out a new tactic to boost the image of his authoritarian regime—he's putting the spotlight on the women in his life. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- N.Korean leader KJU has met with a visiting senior Chinese official again to discuss ways to boost strategic cooperation between the two nations, state media said Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- NK is scheduled to stage a new mass games apparently timed with the 70th anniversary of NK's founding in Sept., the Voice of America reported Wed., citing a Beijing-based tourist company. (*Yonhap*)

In South Korea:

- SK is seeking to end an armistice left by the 1950-53 Korean War and build a permanent peace regime on the Korean Peninsula, Seoul's unification ministry said Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- SK may seek to replace its uneasy truce with NK with a formal peace treaty, according to officials in Seoul, as the country's president, Moon prepares to meet N.Korean leader KJU next week. (Justin McCurry, *Guardian*)
- It's been over six months since the position of ambassador-at-large on N.Korean human rights was vacated in SK's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), a source at the ministry confirmed to *NK News*on Tues. (Chad O'Carroll, *NKNews.org*)
- SK and the US are looking for a way to guarantee "a bright future" for NK if its leader KJU will give up his nuclear weapons program, the national security adviser in Seoul said Wed., as preparations for next week's inter-Korean summit gather pace.(Anna Fifield, WaPo)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- SK and NK have reached an agreement on most major issues related to the upcoming summit of their leaders, including the live broadcast of the summit to be held next week, an official from the presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- The two Koreas, ahead of a leaders' summit next week, are discussing a peace agreement that could officially end the state of war that has technically lasted since the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice not a treaty. (Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- Officials from SK and NK were set to hold a second round of talks Wed. to discuss details of a summit to be held between their leaders next week. (*Yonhap*)
- President Trump has given his "blessing" for NK and SK to discuss the end of the Korean War amid a diplomatic push to end the N.Korean nuclear standoff. One problem: There can be no real talks without the involvement of the other countries that fought the 1950-53 war, and especially the US. (Kim Tong-Hyung, AP)

- SK's presidential office said on Wed. that NK and SK had agreed to broadcast live parts of next week's inter-Korean summit, SK's Yonhap news agency reported. (Reuters)
- NK and SK have agreed to allow live television broadcasts for parts of the summit between N.Korean leader KJU and S.Korean President Moon next week, SK's presidential office said Wed. (Kim Tong-Hyung, AP)
- SK's preparation committee for the upcoming cross-border summit has unveiled a series of photos and videos related to past inter-Korean talks, exchanges and cooperation, Seoul officials said Wed. (Yonhap)
- The two Koreas should cooperate on exchanges in science, technology and joint research and development (R&D) efforts, a S.Korean scholar said Wed., ahead of the upcoming cross-border summit. (Yonhap)

International:

- US President Donald Trump on Tues. offered his "blessing" to the Koreas to end their decades-long war. (Yonhap)
- US President Donald Trump confirmed Wed. that his new secretary of state nominee met with NK's leader, saying the two formed a "good relationship." (Yonhap)
- Mike Pompeo, the new US Secretary of State nominee, met with N.Korean leader KJU on his secret visit to NK a few weeks ago, a US report said Wed. (Yonhap)
- SK and the US may seek to sign a peace treaty with NK when and if the communist state completely gives up its nuclear ambitions, Seoul's top security adviser said Wed. (Yonhap)
- US President Donald Trump's public support for the two Koreas' discussion on the possibility of declaring an end to the 1950-53 Korean War is expected to accelerate the momentum for efforts to establish lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula, experts said Wed. (Koh Byung-joon, Yonhap)
- The inter-Korean summit must deliver not just a will to denuclearize in writing, but also an agreement on a complete and rapid denuclearization scheme. If KJU and Moon can reach an agreement on that, the inter-Korean summit will become a true watershed in the decades-old standoff. It will not only insure genuineness from Pyongyang but also lessen the odds of a breakdown in the US-NK summit. SK must closely coordinate with the US to prepare a denuclearization roadmap. NK's bargaining power goes up if any discrepancy appears between the two allies. (Kim Byung-yeon, Joongang Daily)
- With NK and the US engaging in dialogue at such a stunning speed and high level, Seoul must closely communicate with Washington and Pyongyang on what it can do to ensure successful summits between President Moon and KJU, and between Trump and KJU. But the road to a peace treaty is full of mines. It involves the withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea. If the Moon administration rushes to strike a deal with the North, it could shake the very foundations of our alliance. (Joongang Daily)
- China welcomed news of the meeting between CIA Director Mike Pompeo and KJU,heralding the move as a "right start" that could culminate in a peaceful resolution to the nuclear crisis. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

- Chinese President Xi Jinping is preparing to visit the N.Korean capital of Pyongyang, an official with knowledge of the discussions told CNN Wed. (Will Ripley, Ben Westcott, CNN)
- Mike Pompeo, the C.I.A. director and nominee to be the next secretary of state, traveled to NK and met with its leader, KJU, the strongest indicator to date that plans for direct talks between Mr. Kim and President Trump are moving ahead. (Austin Ramzy, Emily Cochrane, *NYTimes*)
- CIA director Mike Pompeo traveled to Pyongyang for a secret meeting with N.Korean leader KJU, according to multiple media reports. (Steve Herman, VOA)
- CIA Director Mike Pompeo made a top-secret visit to NK as an envoy for President Trump to meet with KJU, and plans for a possible summit between the two leaders are underway, Trump confirmed Wed. (Shane Harris, Carol D. Leonning, Greg Jaffe, David Nakamura, *WaPo*)
- Mike Pompeo, the director Central Intelligence Agency and secretary of state nominee, made a clandestine visit to NK at the beginning of Apr. to meet with leader KJU on behalf of US President Donald Trump, according to reports. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)
- CIA Director Mike Pompeo made a secret trip to NK over the Easter weekend to lay the groundwork for an unprecedented upcoming summit between KJU and US President Donald Trump. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- Group of Seven (G7) finance ministers said Wed. that they would continue to impose maximum economic pressure on NK, which evades international sanctions with a network of front and shell companies to access the global financial system. (*Reuters*)
- In this editorial piece for the *Guardian*, author Jonathan Freedland states that despite the clandestine meetings between Mike Pompeo and KJU, there are many potential pitfalls on the road to peace. (Jonathan Freedland, *Guardian*)
- Families of Japanese citizens abducted by NK urged President Donald Trump on Wed. to do more than just bring up the issue during his expected talks with N.Korean leader KJU. (Mari Yamaguchi, AP)
- But as the two leaders were meeting, news emerged that Mike Pompeo, the CIA director, had been to NK this month for secret meetings with its leader, KJU. There, Mr. Pompeo was laying the groundwork for a meeting between Mr. Trump and Mr. Kim to discuss NK's nuclear program. It was yet another sign that the US was acting independently of Japan, its strongest ally in Asia (Motoko Rich, *NYTimes*)
- The announcement of a US-DPRK summit took virtually everyone by surprise and upended much of the previous diplomacy connected with NK's nuclear program. Nonetheless, this process already reveals certain "takeaways" that merit careful scrutiny and analysis. Such analysis is essential because the US has hitherto proceeded on the basis of rhetoric and simple demands for denuclearization. Now, however, it must formulate a carefully conceived program and agenda of what it wants to achieve through this summit and ensuing developments. Otherwise, this crisis might worsen and the summit, like most previous encounters with Pyongyang, will end in frustration. (Stephen J. Blank, *38 North*)
- US President Donald Trump says he's given his "blessing" to talks between Seoul and Pyongyang aimed at formally ending the Korean war. (Bard Wilkinson, CNN)
- CIA director Mike Pompeo travelled to Pyongyang for a secret meeting with N.Korean leader KJU, US President Trump has confirmed. (BBC)

- On the same day that the White House confirmed that secretary of state nominee Mike Pompeo met the N.Korean leader, KJU, SK suggested that its president Moon would seek a peace treaty with NK when he meets KJU later the month. That would replace the armistice that has been in place on the peninsula since the end of the 1950-53 Korean war. (Robert Kelly, *Guardian*)
- Mike Pompeo, the director of the CIA, had a secret meeting with KJU in NK over Easter as part of an effort to lay the groundwork for direct talks between Donald Trump and KJU.(Julian Borger, *Guardian*)
- The chairman of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee said on Wed. he did not expect that CIA Director Mike Pompeo's meeting with N.Korean leader KJU would affect votes in the Senate on his nomination to be secretary of state. (*Reuters*)
- The last time a US official of CIA director Mike Pompeo's stature visited NK was in 2014, when then-Director of National Intelligence James Clapper went to secure the release of two Americans held prisoners. (Jamie Tarabay, CNN)
- US Secretary of State nominee and Director of the Central Intelligence Agency Mike Pompeo's reported secret visit to NK marks the latest addition to the list of top-ranking US officials visiting the reclusive country. (*Yonhap*)
- CIA director Mike Pompeo, US President Donald Trump's nominee to become the top US diplomat, visited NK last week and met leader KJU with whom he formed a "good relationship", Trump said on Wed. (Making Brice, Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- Secretary of State nominee Mike Pompeo's newly disclosed trip to NK to lay the groundwork for denuclearization talks is earning him grudging praise from senators opposed to his bid to be the nation's top diplomat—a potentially important development as Pompeo tries to shore up at least some Democratic support for his confirmation vote. (Karoun Demirjian, *WaPo*)
- The prospect of a Trump-Kim summit has given rise to widespread concerns over unrealistic expectations, nefarious intentions or whether Trump will be prepared to negotiate. And questions abound as to KJU's motives for coming to the table now, as well as his ultimate theory of victory. (John Delury, *WaPo*)
- President Trump says Koreas 'have my blessing' to discuss ending decades-long war as NK, SK prepare to meet. (*Associated Press*)
- Literally all eyes will likely be on the upcoming summit between S.Korean President Moon and N.Korean leader KJU, with a record number of journalists from around the globe set to cover the event that Moon said could mark the start of the long delayed denuclearization of NK. (*Yonhap*)
- Russia's support of UN sanctions against NK means the country will expel tens of thousands of N.Korean migrant laborers. The Russian port city of Vladivostok is one area being impacted. (Lucian Kim, NPR)
- President Trump's decision to send his CIA director, Mike Pompeo, on a secret trip to NK to meet its leader, KJU, reflects the president's trust in Mr. Pompeo as well as the central role that spies, rather than diplomats, played in brokering what could be the historic opening between Mr. Trump and Mr. Kim. (Mark Landler, *NYTimes*)
- SK's top security official said Wed. Seoul and Washington were exploring ways to set in place a permanent peace regime on the Korean Peninsula, which requires a formal end to the

1950-53 Korean War that ended in armistice, not a peace treaty. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Joongang Daily*)

- One unexpected factor was Trump's sudden acceptance of a summit meeting with KJU. The N.Korean leader thought that the decision would take months and never imagined it would be announced on the spot, which is why he made that surprise visit to China. Now, Trump and Kim are afraid of each other's unpredictable nature. (Kim Hyun-ki, *Joongang Daily*)
- SK and NK as well as the US will discuss signing peace treaties to formally end the 1950-53 Korean War during next week's inter-Korean summit and the following one between Washington and Pyongyang, a senior Cheong Wa Dae official said Wed. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- In this editorial piece, the *Guardian* expresses its view on Trump's Korean diplomacy. It states that while the revelation of face-to-face talks between KJU and Mike Pompeo shows that things are changing, it doesn't prove that the Trump way is working. (*Guardian*)
- Asia's top sports body said Wed. it will hold a promotional event for the continent's top athletic competition in NK this spring. (*Yonhap*)
- SK confirmed on Wed. that it had been in talks with US and N.Korean officials about negotiating a peace treaty to formally end the Korean War after more than 60 years, as the US and its ally try to establish a basis for persuading NK to give up its nuclear weapons.(Choe Sang-hun, Jane Perlez, *NYTimes*)
- US President Donald Trump should focus on ways to denuclearize NK when he meets with KJU, before addressing other issues, such as human rights, a former US ambassador to SK said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- President Trump on Tues. said the US and NK have already had direct communications at "extremely high levels." (Danielle Haynes, UPI)
- Seeking to reassure Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of their close alliance ahead of planned talks with NK, the Trump administration has signaled it is open to considering exempting Japan from new steel and aluminum tariffs that Abe opposes. (Jill Colvin, Zeke Miller, AP)
- US President Donald Trump on Tues. endorsed Seoul's efforts to try to negotiate with Pyongyang to end the Korean War. (Steve Herman, VOA)
- CIA director Mike Pompeo traveled to Pyongyang for a secret meeting with N.Korean leader KJU, according to multiple media reports. (Steve Herman, VOA)
- CIA director Mike Pompeo forged a "good relationship" with N.Korean leader KJU when they met last week, US President Donald Trump has tweeted. (BBC)
- US President Trump has a list of candidate cities and countries for the highly anticipated summit with KJU. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- President Trump on Wed. confirmed that his CIA chief secretly met with KJU in NK and said "a good relationship was formed" heading into the adversaries' anticipated summit. (Matthew Lee, Zeke Miller, AP)
- President Trump told reporters on Tues. that five locations are being considered for his widely anticipated meeting with N.Korean leader KJU. (Kevin Liptak, CNN)
- US President Trump said on Wed. that Mike Pompeo, the current CIA director and his nominee to be the top US diplomat, met with N.Korean leader KJU last week. (*Reuters*)

- President Trump expressed optimism Wed. that his planned summit with N.Korean leader KJU can help make the world safer, and he said his envoy, CIA Director Mike Pompeo, and Kim have already forged a "good relationship." (Anne Gearan, David Nakamura, *WaPo*)
- President Trump announced Wed. that CIA Director and Secretary of State-designate Mike Pompeo recently held a secret meeting with N.Korean leader KJU, the most concrete public step to date towards planned talks between Kim and Trump later this spring. (Louis Nelson, *Politico*)
- President Trump confirmed Wed. morning that CIA Director Mike Pompeo visited NK and met with leader KJU. (Maegan Vazquez, CNN)
- President Trump said Tues. that the US and NK are holding direct talks at "extremely high levels" in preparation for a potential summit with N.Korean leader KJU. (Jill Colvin, Zeke Miller, AP)
- The US is well-prepared to deter incoming N.Korean missiles, should a strike occur following a breakdown in talks between the two countries. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- The US election calendar could be a key factor in determining the scope and timing of a potential deal to end the N.Korean nuclear program. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- Cheong Wa Dae's confirmation that the inter-Korea summit will address the prospects of signing a peace treaty with NK is raising speculation that withdrawing or downsizing US troops stationed in SK could also be on the table. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- The details of the Trump-Kim summit and what will be discussed remain up in the air, but three of the key issues include the following: Where will the summit take place? What would denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula entail? Will SK and NK be able to negotiate a peace deal? (Rick Noack, *WaPo*)
- The world learned on Tues. that earlier this month, CIA Director Mike Pompeo was in Pyongyang, meeting with the N.Korean leader, KJU. (Jonathan Cristol, CNN)
- Chinese President Xi Jinping will travel to NK to reciprocate a recent Beijing trip by the communist ally's leader, a news report said Wed. (*Yonhap*)

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, HRNK Research Intern

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Thursday, April 19, 2018

N.Korea: Committing Crimes Against Humanity in Two Regions of the World; A Role for Human Rights at the Inter-Korean Summit?; Moon: N.Korea could potentially drop withdrawal of US forces as condition of denuclearization

Top News:

North Korea: Committing Crimes Against Humanity in Two Regions of the World (HRNK *Insider*, 04/19/2018)
A Role for Human Rights at the Inter-Korean Summit? (KEI, 04/17/2018)

In North Korea:
(3rd LD) N. Korea's ruling party set for meeting on key policy decisions (*Yonhap*, 04/19/2018)
Less emphasis on nuclear development, but no mention of denuclearization either (*DailyNK*, 04/19/2018)
Kim Jong-un elevates wife to position of North Korea's first lady (*Guardian*, 04/19/2018)
New role for wife of North Korea's Kim: First lady (*Korea Times*, 04/19/2018)
NK party to hold key meeting ahead of summit (*Korea Times*, 04/19/2018)
North Korea has a new budget and it's full of fiscal hijinks (*WaPo*, 04/19/2018)
North Korean authorities reduce taxes after emboldened locals complain (*DailyNK*, 04/19/2018)
North Korea: Trump says he will leave Kim summit if it isn't 'fruitful' (*Guardian*, 04/19/2018)
Ri Sol Ju, Kim Yo Jong leading a new era of women in government in North Korea? (*DailyNK*, 04/19/2018)
Should We Worry About a North Korean Chernobyl? (*38 North*, 04/19/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) Moon calls for 'bold' and 'creative' steps to denuclearize N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 04/19/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korean defectors more prone to expensive loans: report (*Yonhap*, 04/19/2018)
(2nd LD) Military training on inter-Korean summit day still up in air (*Yonhap*, 04/19/2018)
Connected figure offered to save USKI (*Joongang Daily*, 04/19/2018)
Pyongyang isn't demanding withdrawal of U.S. troops, says Moon (*Joongang Daily*, 04/19/2018)
Seoul lawmaker joins election amid online comment-rigging scandal (UPI, 04/19/2018)
Seoul: N. Korean leader removes major nuclear sticking point (*WaPo*, 04/19/2018)
Trump's optimism helps perk up the market (*Joongang Daily*, 04/19/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) Koreas not likely to hold high-level talks this week: Seoul (*Yonhap*, 04/19/2018)
(2nd LD) Koreas to open hotline between leaders Friday (*Yonhap*, 04/19/2018)
[ZOOM KOREA] The power of Panmunjom as a gateway for peace (*Joongang Daily*, 04/19/2018)
D-8: Moon-Kim summit prep 'almost done' (*Korea Times*, 04/19/2018)
Kim isn't demanding U.S. forces to leave (*Joongang Daily*, 04/19/2018)
Koreas can declare end of war next week (*Korea Times*, 04/19/2018)
Koreas to hold rehearsals ahead of next week's summit (*Yonhap*, 04/19/2018)
Moon optimistic about denuclearization deal (*Korea Times*, 04/19/2018)
North Korea seeks 'complete denuclearization', says Moon, as U.S. vows continued pressure (*Reuters*, 04/19/2018)
Panmunjom Truce Village Prepares to Host Inter-Korean Summit (VOA, 04/19/2018)
North Korea drops withdrawal of US forces as condition of denuclearization, Moon says (CNN, 04/19/2018)
North Korea Removes Major Obstacle to U.S. Negotiations, South Says (NYT, 04/19/2018)
South Korea's Moon: North Korea seems willing to denuclearize (UPI, 04/19/2018)

International:
(LEAD) Senior U.S. diplomat to visit S. Korea ahead of N.K. summits (*Yonhap*, 04/19/2018)
(LEAD) Trump vows efforts for successful summit, threatens to boycott meeting if not 'fruitful' (*Yonhap*, 04/19/2018)
(3rd LD) Trump: Pompeo met N. Korean leader, formed 'good relationship' (*Yonhap*, 04/19/2018)
Donald Trump calls Mike Pompeo 'great guy' as nomination for Secretary of State hits trouble (*Telegraph*, 04/19/2018)
Donald Trump says he'll walk out of Kim Jong-un talks if they're not 'fruitful' (*Telegraph*, 04/19/2018)
G7 vows maximum economic pressure on N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 04/19/2018)
Persuading Pyongyang: Advice for Trump when it comes to Kim (CNN, 04/18/2018)
Sticking point on Trump-Kim talks: Location, location, location (CNN, 04/18/2018)
The Latest: Anti-nuclear group backs US-NKorea talks (*WaPo*, 04/19/2018)
Trade issues expose the limits of Trump-Abe 'bromance' (*WaPo*, 04/19/2018)
Trump also aiming to eliminate N.K. chemical, biological weapons: official (*Yonhap*, 04/19/2018)
Trump bullish on North Korea talks, but willing to walk away (CNN, 04/18/2018)
Trump hails Pompeo-Kim meeting, says North Korea summit plans advancing (*Reuters*, 04/18/2018)
Trump leaves open possibility of bailing on meeting with Kim (*WaPo*, 04/19/2018)
Trump pledges to make the summit 'a worldwide success' (*Joongang Daily*, 04/19/2018)
Trump says talks under way for release of Americans held in North Korea (*Reuters*, 04/19/2018)
Trump 'will walk out' if North Korea talks not fruitful (BBC, 04/19/2018)
US, Japan Trade Differences Remain After Trump-Abe Talks (VOA, 04/19/2018)
Uzbek president hopes for success in inter-Korean summit, peace on peninsula (*Yonhap*, 04/19/2018)

Top News:

- Syria's use of chemical weapons against its own civilians is a crime against humanity. As it is known that the Kim regime has been providing chemical weapons support to the Syrian regime, the Syria-N.K. connection must be cut off to prevent further crimes against humanity. Any future summit between N.K. and the US should address this issue directly. (Robert Collins, *HRNK Insider*)
- While the discussion of N.K. human rights is not known to be on the inter-Korean summit agenda, the three general topics agreed upon are broad enough to provide an opportunity to include some human rights issues. (Robert R. King, *KEI*)

In North Korea:

- N.K. will hold a plenary session of its ruling communist party this week to make key policy decisions, local media said Thursday, as it's preparing for summit talks with S.K. and the US. (*Yonhap*)

- The words "nuclear development" have not been mentioned in any recent public announcements made by N.K.. However, the N.K. government has made no mention of denuclearization either. (Ahn Jong Sik, *DailyNK*)
- N.K.'s leader, KJU, has given his wife the title of first lady in what analysts say is a major boost to her status ahead of back-to-back summits with S.K. and the US. (*Guardian*)
- KJU has given his young, stylish wife the title of first lady in what analysts say is a major boost to her status ahead of back-to-back summits with ROK and US. (*Korea Times*)
- N.K. will hold a key meeting on Friday when its leader KJU is expected to make public the hosting of the upcoming summits with Moon and Trump. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- N.K.'s Supreme People's Assembly passed a budget with all of those features last week in an annual ritual reflecting the country's conflicting desires to keep up appearances, especially for potential foreign investors, while obscuring even the most basic statistics needed to gauge its economic health. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- Local outrage reached boiling point in Ryanggang Province after the authorities increased demands for contributions towards a construction project. But local authorities have reportedly reduced their demands after residents in at least one instance lodged complaints over 'non-tax contribution assignments.' (Kang Mi Jin, *DailyNK*)
- Trump has pledged to meet the N.K. leader, KJU, "in the coming weeks" but warned that he was prepared to walk away if the talks were not "fruitful". (David Smith, *Guardian*)
- Ri Sol Ju and Kim Yo Jong are now prominent, well-known figures throughout N.K., and are beginning to take on more independent political roles almost simultaneously, leading to the emergence of more influential women in the KJU era. (Ahn Jong Sik, *DailyNK*)
- Until recently, civilian atomic sector was not N.K.'s top priority, with most of the resources going into nuclear programs instead. This, however, may be changing, especially with the specter of an external trade and energy blockade looming ever larger after the adoption of international sanctions measures in 2017.(Oleg Shcheka, *38 North*)

In South Korea:

- Moon highlighted the need for bold imaginations and creative solutions to rid N.Korea of nuclear weapons Thursday, hours after Trump left open the possibility of walking out of his upcoming summit with KJU if it seems unfruitful. (*Yonhap*)
- N.Korean defectors are resorting more to non-bank loans with higher rates of interest than native S.Koreans, making it harder for them to service their debts. (*Yonhap*)
- S.K. and the U.S. have yet to decide whether to continue their combined military exercises through the inter-Korean summit day next week. (*Yonhap*)
- Last January, USKI faced scrutiny from the National Assembly and risked losing Seoul's financial support, a well-connected figure who was applying for a visiting scholar position at the institute offered to come to its rescue. (An Hyo-seong, *Joongang Daily*)
- N.K. is not demanding the withdrawal of the U.S. military forces from S.K. in return for its denuclearization, S.K. President Moon said. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Joongang Daily*)

- S.K.'s ruling Democratic Party lawmaker Kim Kyoung-soo has decided to press ahead with his bid for the local election, despite allegations that he was involved in online comment-rigging. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- Moon said Thursday that KJU isn't asking for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the Korean Peninsula as a precondition for abandoning his nuclear weapons. If true, this would seem to remove a major sticking point to a potential nuclear disarmament deal. (Foster Klug, AP)
- Korea's main bourse ended higher Thursday as foreign investors welcomed signs of easing tensions on the Korean peninsula and upbeat prospects for tech companies' earnings. The Korean won appreciated against the U.S. dollar. (Kim Eun-jin, *Joongang Daily*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Two Koreas are not likely to hold high-level talks this week to discuss the agenda for next week's summit between their leaders, Seoul's unification ministry said. (*Yonhap*)
- The two Koreas will open a direct telephone line between the countries' leaders on Friday ahead of their summit set for April 27, Seoul's presidential office said. (*Yonhap*)
- Although there have been several meetings between two Koreas at Panmunjom, the upcoming April 27 inter-Korean summit meeting carries the biggest historical significance. (Park Sang-moon, *Joongang Daily*)
- The historic April 27 inter-Korean summit is just around the corner. And the renovation of Peace House _ the venue for the meeting at Panmunjom inside the DMZ that bisects the two Koreas _ is coming to a close. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- N.K. is not demanding the withdrawal of the U.S. military forces from S.K. in return for its denuclearization, President Moon said on Thursday. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Joongang Daily*)
- Questions are being raised over how the upcoming inter-Korean summit will pave the way for a declaration ending the Korean War, after a reference to the subject was made by the White House this week. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- Two Koreas will hold separate rehearsals ahead of next week's landmark summit between Moon and KJU. (*Yonhap*)
- S.K. President Moon said Thursday he was optimistic about signing a denuclearization deal with N.K. and establishing peace by formally ending the Korean War. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- N.K. has expressed its commitment to "complete denuclearization" of the Korean peninsula and is not seeking conditions, S.K. President Moon said on Thursday, as the US vowed to maintain "maximum pressure" on Pyongyang. (Joyce Lee, Stephanie Nebehay, Reuters)
- Next week's inter-Korean summit will take place in the uninhabited village of Panmunjom, inside the tense and highly fortified DMZ that separates the communist North and the democratic South. (Brian Padden, Hyung Jin Kim, VOA)
- N.K. has dropped its long-held demand that the US withdraw forces from S.K. in exchange for denuclearization, S.K. President Moon said. (Euan McKirdy, CNN)
- KJU has removed a key obstacle to negotiations with Washington by no longer demanding the removal of US troops from S.K. as a condition for denuclearizing DPRK, the S.K. president Moon said. (Choe Sang-hun, NYT)

- S.K. President Moon said Thursday N.K. is on the same page on "full denuclearization" and isn't making unreasonable demands. (Jennie Oh, UPI)

International:

- A senior U.S. diplomat will visit S.K. next week for further coordination ahead of both countries' summits with KJU. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump said Wednesday he is doing everything possible to have a "very successful" meeting with KJU, but added he will walk away from the summit if it is unlikely to bear fruit. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump confirmed Wednesday that his secretary of state-designate met with N.K.'s leader, saying the two formed a "good relationship." (*Yonhap*)
- Mike Pompeo, the CIA Director, faced growing opposition to him become US secretary of state last night as Democrats attacked him for not disclosing his secret meeting with KJU to Congress. (Nick Allen, *Telegraph*)
- US President Trump said he'll abandon plans for an unprecedented summit with N.K. leader KJU if he decides it won't be successful - or walk out of the meeting if it's not productive while he's there. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- The world's seven largest advanced economies vowed Wednesday to keep maximum economic pressure on N.K. over its nuclear and ballistic missile programs. (*Yonhap*)
- As US President Trump and N.K.'s KJU seem set to meet face-to-face in the coming weeks, Trump, who famously quipped that "everything is negotiable," likely sees the talks as transactional within the broader strokes of the "art of the deal." (Jasper Kim, CNN)
- As top national security officials continue to work behind the scenes to prepare for an audacious one-on-one meeting between Trump and KJU, a key sticking point has emerged: where to hold the talks. (Elise Labott, Jenna McLaughlin and Kevin Liptak, CNN)
- The anti-nuclear weapons group that won last year's Nobel Peace Prize says it's "very supportive" of a summit between Trump and KJU, after months of risky tensions between them. (AP)
- Shinzo Abe courted the new American president with a golden driver not long after Trump won the White House. He's met with the billionaire businessman more than any other world leader, and he is Trump's second-most frequent caller. (Zeke Miller and Jill Colvin, AP)
- In his upcoming summit with KJU, Trump is aiming to eliminate the country's arsenal of chemical and biological weapons as well as nuclear ones, the top American envoy to Japan said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- President Trump offered a bullish view of his planned talks with N.K. leader KJU, insisting he's positioned to accomplish what his predecessors could not. He also emphasized he'd be willing to leave the summit if it falls short of his expectations. (Kevin Liptak, CNN)
- Trump said on Wednesday that preparations were advancing for a first-ever summit with N.K. after CIA director Mike Pompeo visited Pyongyang and formed a "good relationship" with its leader KJU. (Makini Brice, Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- Trump said that although he's looking ahead optimistically to a historic summit meeting with KJU he could still pull out if he feels it's "not going to be fruitful." (Matthew Pennington, AP)

- Trump pledged Wednesday that he will do “everything possible” to make an historic summit with N.K. leader KJU “a worldwide success.” (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)
- President Trump said on Wednesday that negotiations were underway for the release of three Americans held as prisoners in DPRK. (*Reuters*)
- US President Trump says that if his planned talks with N.K. leader KJU are not fruitful he will "walk out". (BBC)
- Despite frequent assurances that they continue to enjoy a warm friendship, Trump and Shinzo Abe over two days of talks apparently failed to bridge significant differences on major trade issues. (Steve Herman, VOA)
- Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoev has expressed hope that the upcoming inter-Korean summit will pave the way for lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula, the foreign ministry here said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

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Friday, April 20, 2018

NK set for key party meeting ahead of summits with SK, US; SK, NK set up direct hotline between leaders; N.Korean Denuclearization to Top Agenda at NPT Talks

In North Korea:

(LEAD) N.K. set for key party meeting ahead of summits with S. Korea, U.S. (*Yonhap*, 04/20/2018)
Ahead of summits, North Korea’s ruling party calls meeting (*WaPo*, 04/20/2018)
Kim calls an unusual party meeting (*Joongang Daily*, 04/20/2018)
No ‘lunatics’ or ‘war maniacs’: North Korea dials down the anti-U.S. rhetoric (*WaPo*, 04/20/2018)
North Korea to bring mobile phones, radio car to DMZ summit (UPI, 04/20/2018)
North Korea undergoes an image change ahead of summits (*BBC*, 04/20/2018)
North Korea’s nuclear reactor puts 100 million people in ‘mortal danger’ amid fears of Asian Chernobyl (*Telegraph*, 04/20/2018)
North Koreans in the dark about Trump summit – but officials know 'he's crazy' (*Guardian*, 04/20/2018)
Political police prey on public for personal gain (*Daily NK*, 04/20/2018)
Sanctions Are Hurting North Korea. Can They Make Kim Give In? (NY*Times*, 04/20/2018)
Sanctions Force North Korea to Shutter Chemical Factory (*RFA*, 04/19/2018)
The North Korean Parliamentary Session and Budget Report 2018: Cautious Optimism for the Summit Year (*38 North*, 04/19/2018)

In South Korea:

Gov't holds interagency meeting to follow up on Moon's summit agreements (*Yonhap*, 04/20/2018)
Ignoring the rights issue (*Joongang Daily*, 04/20/2018)
Moon's advisers to speak on summit (*Korea Times*, 04/20/2018)
Moon faces tough challenges ahead of summit with Kim (*WaPo*, 04/20/2018)
Reunification activist hikes the country barefoot (*Joongang Daily*, 04/20/2018)
S. Korea spent 1.6 bln won for art troupe's concerts in Pyongyang (*Yonhap*, 04/20/2018)
South Korean president says North isn't insisting on American troop withdrawal (*WaPo*, 04/19/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) Military hopes for summit breakthrough in easing border tension (*Yonhap*, 04/20/2018)
(LEAD) South, North Korea set up direct hotline between leaders (*Yonhap*, 04/20/2018)
Confronting a Crisis? Now, Kim Jong-un Can Just Pick Up the *Phone* (NYT*imes*, 04/19/2018)
Haste is dangerous (*Joongang Daily*, 04/21/2018)
Hotline that connects Moon and Kim tested (*Joongang Daily*, 04/20/2018)
Koreas set up 1st hotline between leaders ahead of summit (*WaPo*, 04/202018)
Maintained momentum must follow inter-Korean summit (*Daily* NK, 04/20/2018)
Moon, Kim connected with direct hotline (*Korea Times*, 04/20/2018)
North and South Korea make first call on hotline set up ahead of summit with Kim Jong-un (*Telegraph*, 04/20/2018)
North Korea drops demand for US troop withdrawal from South in boost for talks (*Telegraph*, 04/20/2018)
North Korea wants total denuclearisation, says Seoul (*Guardian*, 04/19/2018)
Person to person: North and South Korea get neighbourly with direct hot line (*Reuters*, 04/20/2018)
Pyongyang calling: North and South Korean leaders get hotline as stage set for summit (*Guardian*, 04/20/2018)
Robust verification protocol key to successful denuclearization of N.K.: official (*Yonhap*, 04/20/2018)
Violinist seeking peace through music finds hope, worry in Korea summits (*UPI*, 04/20/2018)

International:
(LEAD) S. Korean, Japanese nuclear envoys to discuss N.K. issue (*Yonhap*, 04/20/2018)
Days shaking the world (*Korea Times*, 04/20/2018)
Ex-envoy expects U.S. detainees to be freed during Trump-Kim meeting (*Yonhap*, 04/20/2018)
EU blacklists four over financing North Korea's arms program (*Reuters*, 04/19/2018)
Is North Korea ready to scrap its nuclear weapons? (*Politifact*, 04/19/2018)
Latvian bank asks US to hold off money laundering sanctions (*WaPo*, 04/20/2018)
Neutral ground or dramatic backdrop? Where Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un could meet (*Telegraph*, 04/20/2018)
North Korean Denuclearization to Top Agenda at NPT Talks (VOA, 04/19/2018)
Pompeo-Kim Meeting 'Very Positive Sign' for US-North Korea Talks (VOA, 04/20/2018)
Russia says will not offer to host Trump meeting with North Korea's Kim: RIA (*Reuters*, 04/20/2018)
Sanctions Targeting North Korea Ripple Into Russia (NPR, 04/19/2018)
Strategy, not skepticism, needed ahead of North Korea summit (*Axios*, 04/19/2018)
The G7 is upset about North Korea laundering money. It only has itself to blame (*Quartz*, 04/20/2018)

Threat to walk out on Kim highlights risks of Trump's volatile diplomatic approach (CNN, 04/20/2018)
Trump-Kim meeting should have purpose: U.S. lawmaker (*Yonhap*, 04/20/2018)
U.S. expresses support for formal end to Korean War (*Yonhap*, 04/20/2018)
U.S. State Department officials did not accompany Pompeo on trip to Pyongyang (*Reuters*, 04/19/2018)
U.S. supports an end to armistice (*Joongang Daily*, 04/20/2018)
US Envoy: Trump Intent on Bringing Home Americans Held in N. Korea (VOA, 04/19/2018)
What US and North Korea mean when they talk about denuclearization (CNN, 04/20/2018)
Why Mongolia hopes to host a Trump-Kim Jong Un meeting (*WaPo*, 04/20/2018)

In North Korea:

- NK is set to hold a plenary meeting of its ruling party Fri., drawing keen attention over whether it will send a message of denuclearization ahead of its summits with SK and the US. (*Yonhap*)
- NK's ruling party was scheduled to convene a meeting of its full Central Committee on Fri. to discuss what state media are calling a "new stage" of policies. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- NK said it was holding an unusual plenary meeting of the ruling Central Committee of the Workers' Party on Fri. to discuss crucial issues. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Daily*)
- As the presidents of SK and the US prepare for summits with the previously reclusive KJU, there has been lots of conjecture about what, exactly, the N.Korean leader is prepared to discuss. (Anna Fifield, *WaPo*)
- NK wants to bring mobile phones to the summit between KJU and S.Korean President Moon next Fri. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- N.Korean leader KJU appears to have undergone a minor media makeover as he prepares for a series of meetings with former sworn enemies. (Alistair Coleman, BBC)
- Shortcuts on safety standards, poor maintenance and disdain for operational protocols at NK Yongbyon nuclear power plant are putting 100 million people across north-east Asia in "mortal danger", according to a new report. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- From Pyongyang's vast, empty boulevards to its dusty, disorderly alleyways, there is no talk of the high-stakes summit between the US president, Donald Trump, and N.Korean leader, KJU, that has transfixed the rest of the world. The meeting is still a state secret, unmentioned in official media, unknown to the majority of N.Korean citizens–and far too dangerous for those who have heard whispers to discuss them in public. (Emma Graham-Harrison, *Guardian*)
- According to sources inside the country, officers from NK's Ministry of State Security have been going to greater lengths, including false accusations, to arrest citizens for personal gain. (Ha Yoon Ah, *Daily NK*)
- There is growing evidence that tough new sanctions imposed on NK to stop its nuclear weapons and missile programs have begun to bite, and bite hard. (Choe Sang-hun, *NYTimes*)
- A N.Korean chemical plant which had been shuttered for 20 years and renovated for reoperation in 2016 appears to have been shut down again due to international sanctions

imposed on the regime of leader KJU, sources inside the country and in neighboring China said. (Joonho Kim, Leejin Jun, Roseanne Gerin, RFA)

- The 2017 session of the N.Korean parliament followed more or less the same routine as in previous years. A new aspect was that the state media also reported about a Politburo session during which the budget report has been discussed and authorized. This shows that the Party's official role in directing the country has been strengthened, and that the already largely ceremonial role of the parliament has not been expanded. (Ruediger Frank, 38 North)

In South Korea:

- The government held the first meeting Fri. of an interagency task force established to follow up on agreements that President Moon reached at summit meetings with foreign leaders, officials said. (Yonhap)
- Human rights are universal values that must be promoted beyond ideologies and regimes. Today's Republic of Korea is an accomplishment of the liberals who rejected the peculiar nature of Korean-style democracy in the 1970s and fought authoritarianism. This is the precise reason the Moon administration should raise the human rights issues with NK. SK must persuade NK that the biggest card for Pyongyang to promote KJU's genuineness is improving human rights, and that is the way to win the regime security. (Kim Su-jung, Joongang Daily)
- A group of President Moon's advisers on inter-Korean affairs will participate in a forum on the eve of Moon's summit with N.Korean leader KJU on Apr. 27. (Lee Min-hyung, Korea Times)
- The meeting next week between the leaders of the rival Koreas will be the ultimate test of S.Korean President Moon belief that his nation should lead international efforts to deal with NK. (Kim Tong-Hyung, AP)
- Jo Seung-hwan is doing his part to promote the cause of reunifying the Korean Peninsula—by walking barefoot from his hometown in South Jeolla to Paju, Gyeonggi, near the border between the two Koreas. (Kim Ho, Joongang Daily)
- SK's unification ministry approved Fri. the use of a state fund to cover 1.6 billion won ($1.49 million USD) in expenditures for a S.Korean art troupe's performances in NK earlier this month. (Yonhap)
- N.Korean leader KJU will not demand the withdrawal of the US military from SK as part of a denuclearization deal, SK's president said Thurs. as preparations for their meeting next week proceeded apace. (Anna Fifield, WaPo)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- SK's military said Fri. the inter-Korean summit talks next week may lead the two Koreas to let their guards down along the heavily fortified border. (Yonhap)
- SK and NK on Fri. set up a telephone line between their leaders, enabling direct dialogue between S.Korean President Moon and N.Korean leader KJU, who are also set to meet in person next week. (Yonhap)

- NK and SK on Fri. installed what officials said was the first-ever hotline between their top leaders, another sign of improving relations on the divided Korean Peninsula. (Choe Sang-hun, *NYTimes*)
- After a peace treaty is signed, the combined SK-US forces will lose justification. SK will be alone against any future N.Korean threat under a peace settlement without the protection of the US. If a peace treaty is signed hastily, we could end up as a Vietnam or Yemen. Let's wait until NK is entirely disarmed of nuclear weapons and SK is safe from any military threat. (*Joongang Daily*)
- A hotline between the S.Korean and N.Korean leaders, the first of its kind, was successfully tested Fri. afternoon, exactly one week ahead of their summit on Apr. 27, according to the Blue House. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)
- NK and SK installed the first-ever telephone hotline between their leaders Fri. as they prepare for a rare summit next week aimed at resolving the nuclear standoff with Pyongyang. (Kim Tong-Hyung, AP)
- With the upcoming NK-SK summit drawing closer, the issue of formally ending the war between the two countries has become a topic of heavy interest. Accordingly, significant speculation surrounds the progress that will be made towards this end, with one of the major agenda items being peace on the Korean peninsula. (Ha Yoon Ah, *Daily NK*)
- A hotline connecting President Moon to N.Korean leader KJU has been installed, Cheong Wa Dae said Fri., one week ahead of their historic Apr. 27 summit. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- NK and SK on Fri. set up their first ever direct telephone hotline between their leaders, ahead of a historic summit next week that aims to resolve nuclear tensions with Pyongyang and bring peace to the Korean Peninsula. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- N.Korean leader KJU has reportedly dropped his demand that US troops leave the Korean Peninsula in return for giving up his nuclear weapons, potentially removing one of the biggest obstacles to a peace deal. (Nicola Smith, Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- NK has expressed a desire for the "complete denuclearisation" of the Korean peninsula without attaching preconditions such as the withdrawal of US troops, the S.Korean president has said. (David Smith, *Guardian*)
- Diplomatic foes NK and SK installed a direct phone line between their leaders on Fri. as they prepare for the first summit since 2007—and the connection was great, SK's presidential office said. (Heekyong Yang, Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)
- A hotline between the leaders of NK and SK went live on Fri., a week before they are due to hold a historic summit on the border that has separated their countries for more than six decades. (Justin McCurry, *Guardian*)
- A robust verification protocol is an integral part of efforts to successfully denuclearize NK given what appears to be massive nuclear facilities the reclusive country has been operating for decades, a government source said Fri. (*Yonhap*)
- If tensions ran unusually high when Hyung Joon Won tried to realize inter-Korea harmony through music in 2015, rapidly changing politics in 2018 indicate the musicians, like other S.Korean advocates of civic exchange, might finally realize their goals. But for Won, like many other S.Koreans, uncertainty prevails about the outcome of the upcoming summits. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

International:

- The top nuclear envoys of SK and Japan will meet early next week to discuss cooperation on NK and its nuclear issue, a foreign ministry official said Fri. (*Yonhap*)
- There are at least two factors that can give a global scale to the success of US-NK summit. First, it would spell the true end of the Cold War that is often believed to have ended with a series of events that culminated on Nov. 9, 1989, the day the communist East died and the capitalist West triumphed. Second and more importantly, if the summits are successful, they could not just avert a potential nuclear conflict but put it to rest forever. (Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)
- A former US envoy said Thurs. that he expects the three US detainees in NK to be released during an upcoming summit between the two countries' leaders. (*Yonhap*)
- The European Union on Thurs. imposed travel bans and asset freezes on four people suspected of "deceptive financial practices" to benefit NK's arms program. (*Reuters*)
- News that Mike Pompeo, current CIA director and President Donald Trump's pick to head the State Department, had been in NK drew an approving nod and a note of caution from the Senate's top Democrat, Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York. At the end of the day, there is a shift in rhetoric, but what NK means by denuclearization and what the US has in mind are likely quite different, experts told us. And NK has not offered any concrete steps in the meaning of that term in past US-N.Korean discussions. (Jon Greenberg, *Politifact*)
- Latvian bank ABLV has rejected the US government's findings that it "institutionalizes money laundering" and helps evade sanctions as "hyperbolic," saying they refer to old practices it has now changed.ABLV was accused by the US Treasury in Feb. of encouraging money laundering, facilitating financial transactions for sanctioned entities like the N.Korean government, and bribing local officials to keep doing so. (*Associated Press*)
- Donald Trump and KJU caught the world by surprise last month with the sensational announcement that the pair are to hold unprecedented talks. And now attention is shifting to where the most intensely-watched political event for years will be held. (Neil Connor, *Telegraph*)
- NK's commitment to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula is expected to be a key issue for discussion at next week's 2018 Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. (Lisa Schlein, VOA)
- CIA Director Mike Pompeo's secret visit to Pyongyang to meet with N.Korean leader KJU "is a very positive sign" that the US is taking "sensible and necessary steps to prepare for an eventual summit" and increasing the likelihood that a summit will take place, analysts said. (Christy Lee, VOA)
- Russian will not offer to host a meeting between US President Donald Trump and N.Korean leader KJU, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Fri., according to the RIA news agency. (*Reuters*)
- As NK continued to ignore warnings to give up its nuclear weapons program last year, Russia had little choice but to join China in signing on to the latest round of UN sanctions in Sept. At the same time, the Kremlin saw an opening to act as a mediator between NK and the US, said Lukin. And that's why it went along with the sanctions, intended to hit NK's economy by

limiting its oil imports, banning textile exports—and requiring Russia to expel some 30,000 N.Korean migrant workers. (Lucian Kim, NPR)

- Critics of the upcoming US summit with NK have voiced concerns that KJU will never agree to denuclearization or that, if he does, he will renege. Those dubious of hardliners like John Bolton suspect talks are a charade and a prelude to war. These fears are real, but so is the potential for success. (Morton H. Halperin, *Axios*)
- The West's most powerful countries are decidedly unhappy with NK using the offshore world to avoid sanctions—and they have a terse statement to prove it. (Max de Haldevang, *Quartz*)
- President Donald Trump's claim that he's ready to walk away in the middle of a summit with NK underscores the high risks of the unprecedented meeting with KJU that is set to take place within weeks. (Nicole Gaouette, Kevin Liptak, Jeremy Herb, CNN)
- US President Donald Trump should go into his meeting with N.Korean leader KJU with a purpose, not just to save face, a top US lawmaker said Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- The US would support a formal end to the 1950-53 Korean War, the State Department said Thurs., as the two Koreas' leaders are expected to discuss a lasting peace during their summit next week. (*Yonhap*)
- US State Department officials did not accompany CIA Director Mike Pompeo to Pyongyang for a meeting with N.Korean leader KJU over the Easter weekend, a spokeswoman said on Thurs. (*Reuters*)
- The US Department of State said that it supports a formal end to the 1950-53 Korean War Thurs. through a peace treaty, a notion President Donald Trump has also endorsed. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)
- US President Trump has "made a very firm commitment to work as hard as possible to try to return" American detainees and Japanese abductees from NK, said William Hagerty, the US ambassador to Japan. (Nike Ching, VOA)
- When N.Korean leader KJU and his S.Korean counterpart, Moon, meet next Fri., the most important topic on the agenda is the one on which there has been least clarity: denuclearization. But are Trump, Kim and Moon talking about same thing when it comes to NK giving up its nuclear capabilities? (Ben Westcott, CNN)
- Mongolia is certainly not the first country that people think of when they consider major international diplomatic events.But Mongolian leaders were quick to present themselves as an option for talks when Trump announced them in early Mar. There are some practical reasons for a summit in Mongolia. They include location and geopolitics. However, these strengths also factor into the concerns over hosting the Trump-KJU meeting in Ulaanbaatar. (Adam Taylor, WaPo)

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, HRNK Research Intern

Saturday, April 21, 2018

NK decides to suspend nuclear, missile tests, shut down atomic test site; S.Koreans Skeptical of NK's Promises; Want to See Proof; Trump praises NK's 'progress' as expert warns against optimism

In North Korea:

(LEAD) (News Focus) North Korean leader shifts policy focus to economy (*Yonhap*, 04/21/2018)
(5th LD) N.K. decides to suspend nuclear, missile tests, shut down atomic test site (*Yonhap*, 04/21/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korean officials handling S. Korea affairs gain clout amid peace mood (*Yonhap*, 04/21/2018)
Kim: North Korea no longer needs nuclear tests, state-run media reports (CNN, 04/20/2018)
Kim Jong-un: North Korea suspending missile launches and shutting down nuclear test site (*Telegraph*, 04/21/2018)
Kim Jong-un announces 'shutdown of nuclear test site, freeze on nuke and missile tests' (*Korea Times*, 04/21/2018)
N. Korea, setting stage for talks, halts nuclear, ICBM tests (*WaPo*, 04/20/2018)
N.Korea says it will stop nuclear tests, abolish test site -KCNA (*Reuters*, 04/20/2018)
North Korea 'halts missile and nuclear tests', says Kim Jong-un (BBC, 04/21/2018)
North Korea halts nuclear and missile tests ahead of planned Trump summit (*Guardian*, 04/20/2018)
North Korea says it has suspended nuclear, missile testing (*WaPo*, 04/20/2018)
North Korea says it will stop nuclear tests, abolish test site (*Reuters*, 04/20/2018)
North Korea says it will suspend nuclear and missile tests, shut down test site (*WaPo*, 04/20/2018)
North Korea Suspends Nuclear and Long-Range Missile Tests (VOA, 04/20/2018)
North Korea to close northern test site and halt missile tests (*Joongang Daily*, 04/21/2018)
Punggye-ri test site: Core facility behind N. Korea's nuclear program (*Yonhap*, 04/21/2018)
Report: North Korea executed six for leaking phone numbers (UPI, 04/20/2018)
Timeline of events leading to N. Korea nuke test suspension (*WaPo*, 04/20/2018)
Why has Kim Jong-un halted North Korean tests now? (BBC, 04/21/2018)

In South Korea:

Kaesong businesses welcome N. Korea's nuke test suspension (*Yonhap*, 04/21/2018)
Measures eyed to ease tension at DMZ (*Korea Times*, 04/20/2018)
North Korea meaningful progress toward denuclearization: South Korea (*Reuters*, 04/20/2018)
Parties show mixed reactions to N. Korea's nuke test suspension (*Yonhap*, 04/21/2018)
South Korea welcomes North's suspension of nuclear tests (*Yonhap*, 04/21/2018)
South Koreans Skeptical of North Korea's Promises; Want to See Proof (*Reuters*, 04/21/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

N. Korea's nuke suspension brightens S. Korean economic outlook (*Yonhap*, 04/21/2018)
Should human rights be on the agenda for the first summit? (*Korea Times*, 04/21/2018)
Upcoming South-North summit and its true potential (*Korea Times*, 04/21/2018)

International:

(2nd LD) Trump welcomes North Korea's freeze on nuclear tests (*Yonhap*, 04/21/2018)
(LEAD) Abe welcomes N.K. decision to halt nuclear, missile tests (*Yonhap*, 04/21/2018)
(LEAD) U.S. labels N. Korea 'force of instability' over human rights abuses (*Yonhap*, 04/21/2018)
(News Focus) Cautious optimism rises over N.K.'s decision to suspend tests, close nuclear site (*Yonhap*, 04/21/2018)
(News Focus) N. Korea's WMD test moratorium deja vu raises cautious summit expectations (*Yonhap*, 04/21/2018)
AP Analysis: Kim Jong Un tests Trump with latest nuke offer (*WaPo*, 04/21/2018)
Britain hopes North Korean nuclear move will be positive step (*Reuters*, 04/21/2018)
China welcomes N.K. suspension of tests (*Yonhap*, 04/21/2018)
China's foreign ministry welcomes North Korea nuclear test halt (*Reuters*, 04/21/2018)
EU welcomes N.K's decision to stop nuclear, missile tests (*Yonhap*, 04/21/2018)
EU Welcomes North Korean Move on Nuclear Tests, Urges Denuclearisation(*Reuters*, 04/21/2018)
Germany: North Korea Must Disclose Its Nuclear and Missile Program (*Reuters*, 04/21/2018)
Here's one thing North Korea can do to show it's serious about de-nuking (CNN, 04/21/2018)
Japan defense minister says it's not the time to ease pressure on North Korea: Kyodo (*Reuters*, 04/20/2018)
Japan PM Abe says North Korean move is 'forward motion,' but results essential (*Reuters*, 04/20/2018)
North Korea missile and nuclear test halt hailed (BBC, 04/21/2018)
North Korea nuke test halt could be a ruse, but also a sign Pyongyang serious about talks (*NBC News*, 04/20/2018)
Russia Calls on U.S., South Korea to Cut Military Activity After North Korean Move (*Reuters*, 04/21/2018)
State Department strikes reproductive rights, 'Occupied Territories' from human rights report (*WaPo*, 04/20/2018)
Trump praises North Korea's 'progress' as expert warns against optimism (*Guardian*, 04/21/2018)
Trump says progress being made by all, after North Korea vows to stop nuclear tests (*Reuters*, 04/21/2018)
Trump welcomes North Korea's suspension of nuclear tests (*Reuters*, 04/20/2018)
U.S. calls China, Russia, Iran, North Korea 'morally reprehensible' on rights (*Reuters*, 04/20/2018)
U.S. Human Rights Report Labels Russia and China Threats to Global Stability (*NYTimes*, 04/20/2018)
UN officials in Sweden for talks on North Korea, Syria (*WaPo*, 04/21/2018)
Under pressure to show results on North Korea, Trump the showman can't stop raising the bar for success (*WaPo*, 04/20/2018)
US Says China, Iran, Russia Are 'Forces for Instability' (VOA, 04/20/2018)
US says China, Iran, Russia are 'forces for instability' (*WaPo*, 04/20/2018)

In North Korea:

- N.Korean leader KJU appears to be shifting his policy focus to lifting NK's threadbare economy, amid brisk diplomacy that could lead to sanctions relief and security assurances, experts in SK said Sat. (Song Sang-ho, *Yonhap*)
- NK will suspend nuclear and missile tests and shut down its atomic test site, its state media said Sat., in a surprise announcement that could give momentum to its upcoming summits with SK and the US. (Kim Soo-yeon, *Yonhap*)
- In NK, an apparent power change is under way among top officials amid a peace mood on the peninsula ahead of the inter-Korean summit talks that will be followed by an unprecedented NK-US summit, according to the communist nation's announcement Sat. (*Yonhap*)
- NK says its quest for nuclear weapons is "complete" and it "no longer needs" to test its weapons capability, a significant development ahead of diplomatic engagement with both SK and the US. (Sophie Jeong, Will Ripley, Euan McKirdy, CNN)
- NK's leader KJU has announced Pyongyang will carry out no more ballistic missile tests and will shut down its nuclear test site, a significant gesture as diplomacy in the region ramps up. (*Telegraph*)
- NK's leader KJU has announced Pyongyang will carry out no more nuclear or intercontinental ballistic missile tests and will shut down its atomic test site, NK's state media reported Sat. (AFP)
- NK announced Sat. it will suspend nuclear tests and intercontinental ballistic missile launches ahead of its summits with Seoul and Washington, but stopped well short of suggesting it has any intention of giving up its nuclear weapons or scale back its production of missiles and their related component parts. (Kim Tong-Hyung, Eric Talmadge, AP)
- NK will suspend nuclear and missile tests effective immediately and abolish a nuclear test site in the northern part of the country in a bid to pursue economic growth and peace on the Korean peninsula, state media said on Sat. (*Reuters*)
- N.Korean leader KJU has said he will suspend all missile tests and shut down a nuclear test site with immediate effect. (BBC)
- NK has said it will end its tests of nuclear weapons and intercontinental ballistic missiles, and shut down its nuclear test site, in a dramatic development ahead of a much-anticipated meeting between its leader, KJU, and US President, Donald Trump. (Justin McCurry, *Guardian*)
- NK said Sat. it has suspended nuclear and long-range missile tests and plans to close its nuclear test site ahead of a new round of negotiations with SK and the US. There was no clear indication in NK's announcement if it would be willing to deal away its arsenal. (Kim Tong-Hyung, AP)
- NK will suspend nuclear and missile tests effective immediately and abolish a nuclear test site in a bid to pursue economic growth and peace on the Korean peninsula, NK's state media said on Sat., ahead of planned summits with SK and the US. (Cynthia Kim, Soyoung Kim, *Reuters*)
- N.Korean leader KJU has declared that he will suspend nuclear and missile tests starting Sat. and that he will shut down the site where the previous six nuclear tests were conducted. (Anna Fifield, *WaPo*)

- NK says it has suspended nuclear tests and plans to close its nuclear test site. NK's official Korean Central News Agency said the military is also suspending long-range missile tests and said the suspensions went into effect on Sat. (VOA)
- KJU said NK will scrap its northern nuclear experiment site while halting its nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) tests, telling his top political aides on Fri. that the socialist regime would now concentrate on improving the economy. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Daily*)
- NK has promised to close one of core facilities of its nuclear program ahead of its historic summits with SK and the US. Pyongyang on Sat. announced that it will suspend nuclear and missile tests and dismantle the Punggye-ri nuclear test site in the northeastern province. (*Yonhap*)
- NK may be struggling to keep its population in compliance with strict authoritarian rule, according to sources in the country who say there's evidence of executions and a reduction in food bonuses. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- NK said Sat. it has suspended nuclear and long-range missile tests and plans to close its nuclear test site. The announcement came ahead of a new round of negotiations between Pyongyang, Seoul and Washington.The following article is a timeline of the recent events. (*Associated Press*)
- KJU's announcement that NK is to halt nuclear and missile tests immediately comes as he prepares for two major diplomatic events. Analyst Ankit Panda asks what the N.Korean leader hopes to gain with his latest move. (Ankit Panda, *BBC*)

In South Korea:

- S.Korean firms that operated in the defunct inter-Korean factory park in NK welcomed NK's decision on Sat. to suspend nuclear and missile tests and shut down its atomic test site. (*Yonhap*)
- The Ministry of National Defense will announce measures to ease inter-Korean military tension after the summit between President Moon and N.Korean leader KJU next week, the ministry said Fri. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- NK's decision to close its nuclear test site and suspend missile tests is a "meaningful progress" for denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, SK's presidential office said on Sat. (*Reuters*)
- Political parties on Sat. showed mixed responses over NK's decision to cease its testing of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles and close its nuclear test site ahead of summits with SK and the US. (*Yonhap*)
- SK welcomed NK's decision to suspend nuclear and missile tests and shut down its atomic test site on Sat. (*Yonhap*)
- NK's announcement of a halt in its nuclear and missile tests was met with skepticism by many S.Koreans on Sat., highlighting political risk for SK's president as he embarks on the latest push for peace on the peninsula. (Joori Roh, Cynthia Kim, *Reuters*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- NK's decision to halt nuclear tests is expected to ease uncertainties related to geopolitical risks in the S.Korean economy, market watchers said Sat. (Yonhap)
- In her opinion piece for the *Korea Times*, author Amanda Price raises the question of whether or not the human rights issue should be included in the upcoming NK-SK summit. She states that many have logically argued that it is premature to raise issues of human rights violations at the first Summit.While she is not suggesting that Moon go in all guns blazing for a final showdown, but simply with a bullet point marked "Human Rights Violation—Discuss and decide solution," Moon may be making history and a future for millions at the same time. Price states that if KJU wants sanctions lifted, and he will, addressing his violation of human rights must be on the agenda. (Amanda Price, *Korea Times*)
- In this opinion piece for the *Korea Times*, Emanuel Pastreichwrites that although the exact nature of the upcoming NK-SK summit remains uncertain, and could be subject to tremendous shifts as the political landscape in Washington DC evolves. He believes the summit meeting will be like none other and may end up defining a whole new world order, not just some discussions about normalizing relations.He also states that without any doubt, profound geopolitical transformation can be expected. (Emanuel Pastreich, *Korea Times*)

International:

- US President Donald Trump on Sat. welcomed N.Korean leader KJU's pledge to suspend nuclear and missile tests and shut down its nuclear test site. (*Yonhap*)
- Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Sat. welcomed NK's decision to halt its nuclear and missile tests and shut down its nuclear test ahead of its planned summits with SK and the US, local media reported. (*Yonhap*)
- The US on Fri. labeled NK a "force of instability" over its violations of human rights. (*Yonhap*)
- NK's decision to stop missile and nuclear tests, and to shut down its nuclear test site, signals a serious push to create a favorable atmosphere before its back-to-back summits with SK and the US, experts said Sat. (Koh Byung-joon, *Yonhap*)
- NK's announcement of a moratorium on most of its nuclear and missile activities is the highlight of the unpredictable communist nation's recent peace overture and a potential prelude to a breakthrough deal in the upcoming round of summit diplomacy. (Lee Chi-dong, *Yonhap*)
- In this analysis article for the AP, Eric Talmadge writes that KJU has finally broken his silence on what he plans to bring to the table during his summits with the S.Korean and US presidents, and it doesn't have a whole lot to do with tossing out his hard-won nuclear arsenal. Talmadge comments that instead, Kim appears to be maneuvering toward his own big "get" which is the chance to sit down with President Donald Trump on an essentially equal basis as the head of a nuclear-armed nation. Talmadge, in his article, also notes that the end of NK's nuclear program does not look to be any closer than it was before. (Eric Talmadge, AP)

- Britain said on Sat. that NK's plan to cease nuclear tests would be a positive step and that it hoped this was a sign of good faith. (*Reuters*)
- China on Sat. welcomed NK's decision to halt nuclear and missile tests and close its atomic test site. (*Yonhap*)
- China's foreign ministry said on Sat. it welcomed a move by NK to halt nuclear and missile tests, which it said would help ease tensions on the Korean peninsula and promote denuclearization. (*Reuters*)
- The European Union (EU) on Sat. welcomed NK's decision to stop its nuclear and missile tests and close an atomic test site, calling the move a "positive, long sought-after step." (*Yonhap*)
- The European Union's foreign affairs chief said on Sat. that NK's announcement to stop nuclear tests was a positive step and called for an "irreversible denuclearisation" of the Asian country. (*Reuters*)
- German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said NK's announcement that it would immediately suspend nuclear and missile tests was a step in the right direction but added that Pyongyang must reveal its nuclear and missile program. (*Reuters*)
- NK is "livening up the mood" with regards to its talk on denuclearization, but doing very little beyond that, say experts who've long watched the isolated regime wrestle with its nuclear ambitions and international censure. And further, they say, N.Korean leader KJU is positioning himself as an amenable leader open to negotiation as he readies for Fri.'s summit with SK and a forthcoming historic meeting with US President Donald Trump. One expert, Chang-Hoon Shin, a senior research fellow with the Korea Institute for Maritime Strategy, noted that If NK was really serious, it would re-apply to the Non-Proliferation Treaty or accede to international norms under the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. And there's been no indication it wants to do that. (Jamie Tarabay, CNN)
- Japanese Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera said it was not the time to ease pressure on NK, following news that Pyongyang had decided to suspend its nuclear and missile tests effective immediately, Kyodo News reported. (*Reuters*)
- Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Sat. he welcomed NK's statement that it was suspending all nuclear and missile tests as "forward motion" but that this must lead to verifiable denuclearization. (*Reuters*)
- NK's announcement that it is halting nuclear and missile tests has received a broad international welcome. (BBC)
- NK's announcement that it is halting nuclear and missile tests could be a negotiating gambit in advance of an upcoming summit with SK—and the prospective historic meeting being planned with President Donald Trump—but it is still a sign that Pyongyang is serious about the talks. It is also another indication that, despite rampant smuggling, the latest economic sanctions are beginning to hurt. (Andrea Mitchell, *NBC News*)
- The Russian Foreign Ministry on Sat. welcomed an announcement by NK that it will halt nuclear and missile tests and called on the US and SK to reduce their military activity in the region. (*Reuters*)
- The State Department's annual human rights report released Fri. drops references to reproductive rights for women and stops using the phrase "Occupied Territories" to describe Israel's presence in Gaza and the West Bank. Acting secretary of state John J. Sullivan, in

remarks to reporters, called out several adversaries that the Trump administration has tangled with, including China, Russia, Iran and NK. Sullivan described them as "forces of instability" due to their human rights abuses. (Carol Morello, *WaPo*)

- Donald Trump has saluted NK's suspension of nuclear and long-range missile tests ahead of planned talks with the US as "very good news for NK and the world." A leading Korean-American expert on the region, however, was among those to sound a note of caution. (Martin Pengelly, *Guardian*)
- US President Donald Trump on Fri. welcomed a statement by N.Korean leader KJU that he will suspend nuclear and missile tests immediately and abolish a nuclear test site, saying in a tweet: "Progress being made for all!" (*Reuters*)
- US President Donald Trump on Fri. welcomed a statement by N.Korean leader KJU that he will suspend nuclear and missile tests immediately and abolish a nuclear test site, and Trump said he looked forward to a summit with Kim. (*Reuters*)
- The US on Fri. labeled China, Russia, Iran and NK as "morally reprehensible" governments that it said violated human rights within their borders on a daily basis, making them "forces of instability." (Lesley Wroughton, David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)
- The Trump administration on Fri. labeled Russia and China threats to global stability, saying that their poor human rights records put the countries, the US' principle strategic rivals, in the same ranks as Iran and NK. (Gardiner Harris, *NYTimes*)
- The UN secretary-general and Security Council officials were meeting in Sweden on Sat. to discuss a range of international issues, including developments on the Korean Peninsula and in Syria. (*Associated Press*)
- President Trump has been upping the ante for his planned meeting with N.Korean dictator KJU, increasing the pressure on his administration to deliver results on an issue that has vexed his predecessors but that Trump has now embraced as his signature foreign policy initiative. (David Nakamura, *WaPo*)
- The US has labeled China and Russia "forces of instability" because of their human rights records, along with NK and Iran. (VOA)
- The Trump administration is lashing out at China, Iran, Russia and NK for being "forces of instability" because of human rights abuses of their own citizens and others. (Matthew Lee, Josh Lederman, AP)

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, HRNK Research Intern

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Sunday, April 22, 2018

Trump says 'long way' to go on North Korea crisis; G7 meeting to discuss Iran, North Korea and Syria: U.S. official; North's statement draws mixed reactions

In North Korea:
How leisure time is changing for North Korea's privileged (BBC, 04/22/2018)
Kim Jong-un: fragile and under pressure but he won't give up (*Guardian*, 04/22/2018)
NK tries to dub itself nuclear state (*Korea Times*, 04/22/2018)
Suspicious factory underscores challenge of verifying North Korea's nuclear promises (*WaPo*, 04/21/2018)
Will Kim Jong-un Trade His Nuclear Arsenal to Rebuild Economy? (NYT, 04/21/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) Police block entrance to THAAD base (*Yonhap*, 04/22/2018)
North Korea refugees find new pressures in South (*Korea Times*, 04/22/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
2 Koreas to work on summit rehearsals (*Korea Times*, 04/22/2018)
Complete denuclearization is key (*Joongang Ilbo*, 04/22/2018)
No rush to 'settle things' at inter-Korea summit (*Korea Times*, 04/22/2018)
SMEs should lead growth on Korean Peninsula: think tank (*Yonhap*, 04/22/2018)
Summit offers last hope for families divided by Korean War (CNN, 04/21/2018)
Two Koreas to hold 3rd working-level talks ahead of summit (*Yonhap*, 04/22/2018)

International:
As U.S., North Korea plan to meet, Iran warns against Trump deals (*Reuters*, 04/21/2018)
Don't feed a monster (*Joongang Ilbo*, 04/22/2018)
Empty promises? N. Korea watchers greet Kim move with skepticism (*Korea Times*, 04/22/2018)
G7 meeting to discuss Iran, North Korea and Syria: U.S. official (*Reuters*, 04/22/2018)
North Korea is setting the mood for a summit with Trump. And that is progress. (*WaPo*, 04/22/2018)
North Korea's nuke tests suspension draws mixed reaction (UPI, 04/21/2018)
North's statement draws mixed reactions (*Joongang Ilbo*, 04/22/2018)
Road to North Korean denuclearization is littered with failure (*Korea Times*, 04/22/2018)
Senior U.S. diplomat calls N.K.'s decision on tests, nuclear site "positive" (*Yonhap*, 04/22/2018)
S. Korea, U.S. to kick off annual military drills as scheduled: official (*Yonhap*, 04/22/2018)
S. Korea, U.S. to strengthen policy coordination: finance ministry (*Yonhap*, 04/22/2018)
Trump Cites Gains Ahead of Planned North Korea Summit (VOA, 04/22/2018)
Trump's meeting with Kim will lead to an awful hangover (CNN, 04/22/2018)
Trump says 'long way' from conclusion on N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 04/22/2018)
Trump says 'long way' to go on North Korea crisis (*Reuters*, 04/22/2018)
Trump says US has not 'given up anything' in North Korea talks (CNN, 04/22/2018)
Trump Wrongly Claims NKorea Has Agreed to 'Denuclearization' (NYT, 04/22/2018)
What Does Kim Jong-un Want? U.S. Fears Answer Is 'Give a Little, Gain a Lot' (NYT, 04/21/2018)
White House privately skeptical of North Korea's plans to freeze nuclear testing (*WaPo*, 04/21/2018)
Why Donald Trump is winning on North Korea (*WaPo*, 04/22/2018)

In North Korea:

- While the majority of people in NK live in poverty, experts say there is a growing middle class with money to spend and free time to enjoy. From dolphin aquariums to shopping centres, this is how the country is changing to meet the demands of its most wealthy citizens. (Gareth Evans, BBC)
- KJU is under huge pressure. For the first time in decades NK may actually fear a US military attack, and its fragile economy is at huge risk from the strictest sanctions it has ever faced. He may be willing to make some genuine concessions for this; an improvement on past talks where NK has blustered and ultimately offered little more than a return to the status quo. But they will not include the US's stated aim: the total and irreversible destruction of the nuclear program. (Emma Graham-Harrison, *Guardian*)
- NK is seeking to gain more leverage in future negotiations with the US by dubbing itself a nuclear power state, seeking to highlight its nuclear status to secure more economic incentives and guarantees of regime safety. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- CIA agents have been pouring over satellite images of a mysterious building in NK that may or may not be a factory for a nuclear reactor component. This underscores a key difficulty in evaluating NK's proposals to freeze or give up portions of its nuclear program: NK has a long history of concealing illicit weapons activity from foreign eyes. (Joby Warrick, WaPo)
- KJU's pivot away from nuclear testing and toward the economy has raised questions behind his motives and whether he will actually relinquish his nuclear weapons. (Choe Sang-hyun, NYT)

In South Korea:

- Police on Sun. blocked the entrance to the US military's new missile defense base on the Korean Peninsula, apparently to block residents and activists from entering. (*Yonhap*)
- Public sentiment is sour and many N. Korean defectors bemoan difficulties finding decent jobs or making friends, with most of their knowledge and skills deemed outdated or irrelevant, and many S. Koreans viewing them with suspicion and contempt. (*Korea Times*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The two Koreas are gearing up preparations for the inter-Korean summit, with only four days to go before the historic bilateral talks over denuclearization slated for Fri. Officials of SK and NK will have rehearsals of the meeting between Moon and KJU over many times this week, sometimes separately and sometimes jointly. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- Moon must pressure KJU to accept Trump's call for a complete dismantlement of nuclear weapons and pledge to do it within a year. Without clearly fixing the terms, his summit will go nowhere. (*Joongang Ilbo*)
- Moon should not rush to settle things at the upcoming summit with KJU, Stephan Haggard, distinguished professor of political science at UC San Diego, said in an interview on Sun. (Kim Jae-kyoung, *Korea Times*)
- Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) should take center stage in fueling future growth in the two Koreas once cross-border tensions recede, Korea Small Business Institute, a Korean think tank said Sun. (*Yonhap*)

- However you see the upcoming meeting between KJU and Moon, for tens of thousands of Koreans on both sides of the border it represents a last-ditch chance to see loved ones they haven't heard from or seen since fighting in the Korean War ended in 1953. (Paula Hancocks, CNN)
- SK and NK will hold a third meeting of working-level officials to discuss security, protocol and press coverage issues ahead of the landmark summit of their two leaders slated for later this week, the presidential office said Sun. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- A US push to change the Iran nuclear deal was sending a "very dangerous message" that countries should never negotiate with Washington, Iran's foreign minister warned as US and N. Korean leaders prepare to meet for denuclearization talks. (Michelle Nichols, *Reuters*)
- The UN continues to provide KJU with humanitarian aid to support N. Koreans that KJU purposefully starves. Instead of giving NK humanitarian aid, offer KJU $10 million for each nuclear weapon and ballistic missile launcher he turns over to the US and/or SK. He can then buy all the food and medicine he needs. (Robert A. Manning, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- NK's announcement it will halt nuclear tests and intercontinental ballistic missile launches has left experts puzzling over KJU's true intentions - and the extent to which Trump deserves credit. (AFP)
- Iran's "malign" regional activities, the Syrian conflict and NK will be discussed at a meeting of foreign ministers from the Group of Seven (G7) major industrialized nations in Toronto, a US official said on Sun. (*Reuters*)
- NK's announcement Sat. that it would stop firing missiles and detonating nuclear bombs, and would even close its nuclear test site, prompted a wave of strong reactions. But for now, it's striking that previously belligerent NK has acted to unequivocally set the right mood for those summits. (Anna Fifield, *WaPo*)
- N. Korean leader KJU's announcement that he will suspend nuclear testing starting Sat. has been met with mixed reaction. (Sommer Brokaw, UPI)
- NK's announcement Fri. that it will stop all nuclear and missile tests was welcomed by NK and the US, but some critics say the statement didn't actually indicate any interest in denuclearization from the recalcitrant state. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- A look at previous negotiations with NK and how the currently planned talks between Seoul, Pyongyang and Washington took shape. (AP)
- Susan Thornton, acting US assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, called NK's recent announcement that it would stop nuclear and missile tests a "very positive" step and emphasized the need for close coordination with US allies in the run-up to the historic summits planned with the reclusive state on Sun. (*Yonhap*)
- SK and US will hold their annual Key Resolve training exercise starting this week as scheduled, a military official said Sun. (*Yonhap*)
- Economic chiefs of SK and the US agreed to strengthen their policy coordination at a time when inter-Korean relations are facing a dramatic turn, Seoul's finance ministry said Sun. (*Yonhap*)

- Trump said Sun. the US has given up nothing ahead of his planned summit with N. Korean leader KJU, while Pyongyang has already curtailed its nuclear weapons development. (Ken Bredemeier, VOA)
- By bumbling into face-to-face talks with KJU, Trump has certainly helped reduce tensions on the Korean peninsula, but the Trump administration has so far done very little to counter NK's nuclear threat. When this becomes clear, today's feel-good moment will feel more like an awful hangover. (Jamie Metzl, CNN)
- Trump said Sun. that the N. Korean nuclear crisis is far from over, but the regime's willingness to denuclearize is "great" for the world. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump said the N. Korean nuclear crisis is far from conclusion on Sun., striking a cautious note a day after NK's pledge to end its nuclear tests raised hopes before planned summits with SK and the US. (Doina Chiacu, Heekyong Yang, *Reuters*)
- Trump declared Sun. morning the US has not "given up anything" in negotiations with NK in response to criticism that NK is getting more out of the talks than the US. (Kate Sullivan, CNN)
- Trump is wrongly claiming North Korea has agreed to "denuclearization" before his potential meeting with Kim Jong Un. (AP)
- The sudden offer of olive branches, from a leader who only four months ago warned the US that he was ready to launch missiles from a nuclear button on his desk, is sharpening a question that has long bedeviled NK watchers: What does KJU want? (Mark Landler, Choe Sang-hun, NYT)
- The Trump White House is reacting skeptically in private to NK's announcement of plans to freeze nuclear weapons testing, warning that KJU could be setting a trap and promising not to back off a hard-line stance ahead of a potential leaders' summit. (David Nakamura, John Hudson, *WaPo*)
- Trump's meeting with KJU is an outside-the-box idea that breaks with decades of US policy, but it just might work, as evidenced by Fri's announcement that NK would halt its nuclear weapons testing. (Gabriel Glickman, *WaPo*)

Prepared by Emma Stubblefield, HRNK Research Intern

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Monday, April 23, 2018

Kim Jong-un and Xi Jinping: "As Close as Lips and Teeth" on Human Rights Denial; HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu on Al Jazeera America; S.Korea stops blasting propaganda as summit looms

Top News:

Kim Jong-un and Xi Jinping: "As Close as Lips and Teeth" on Human Rights Denial (*HRNK Insider*, 04/23/2018)
Greg Scarlatoiu on Al Jazeera America (*HRNK*, 04/21/2018)

In North Korea:
32 Chinese tourists dead in North Korea bus crash (*Telegraph*, 04/23/2018)
36 dead, mostly Chinese, in North Korea traffic accident (*WaPo*, 04/23/2018)
China says 32 nationals killed when bus falls off bridge in North Korea (*Reuters*, 04/23/2018)
Developments in Sinuiju under Kim Jong-un (*nkeconwatch*, 04/23/2018)
Dozens of Chinese tourists killed in North Korea traffic accident, government says (CNN, 04/23/2018)
Is Kim following Deng Xiaoping's path in transforming North Korea? (*Korea Times*, 04/23/2018)
Kim Jong-un's wife, sister play greater roles (*Korea Times*, 04/23/2018)
North Korea bus crash kills 32 Chinese tourists (*BBC*, 04/23/2018)
North Koreans unimpressed with latest 'anti-espionage' campaign (*DailyNK*, 04/23/2018)
DPRK's Closing the Punggye-ri Nuclear Test Site: No, it is not a Case of Passing Off Damaged Goods (*38 North*, 04/23/2018)
Tour Bus Crashes in North Korea, Killing 36, Chinese Officials Say (NYT, 04/23/2018)
Will North Korea give up the bomb? (*Korea Times*, 04/23/2018)
With test freeze, North Korea settles for imperfect nuclear threat (*Reuters*, 04/23/2018)

In South Korea:
(3rd LD) S. Korean, Japanese nuclear envoys meet ahead of inter-Korean summit (*Yonhap*, 04/23/2018)
(4th LD) S. Korea halts propaganda broadcasts along border with N. Korea: ministry (*Yonhap*, 04/23/2018)
Inter-Korean summit boosts some stocks (*Joongang Daily*, 04/23/2018)
Military halts anti-Pyongyang loudspeaker broadcasts (*Korea TImes*, 04/23/2018)
Moon urges halt to political disputes ahead of historic N. Korea summit (*Yonhap*, 04/23/2018)
Opposition leader downplays inter-Korean summit (*Korea Times*, 04/23/2018)
Seoul holds high-level talks with Washington, Tokyo ahead of summit (*Korea Times*, 04/23/2018)
South halts its K-pop offensive (*Joongang Daily*, 04/23/2018)
S.Korea halts propaganda broadcasts before summit with North (*WaPo*, 04/23/2018)
South Korea halts border propaganda broadcasts to the north (*Telegraph*, 04/23/2018)
South Korea silences loudspeakers that blast cross-border propaganda (*Guardian*, 04/22/2018)
South Korea stops blasting propaganda as summit looms (CNN, 04/23/2018)
South Korea switches off propaganda broadcasts, Moon upbeat on North Korea nuclear halt (*Reuters*, 04/23/2018)
South Korea turns off loudspeakers after North suspends tests (UPI, 04/23/2018)
South Korean protesters denounce U.S. anti-missile system ahead of North-South summit (*Reuters*, 04/23/2018)
Summit committee signs agreements with local media outlets (*Yonhap*, 04/23/2018)
Thaad site cleared of protesters (*Joongang Daily*, 04/23/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(3rd LD) Koreas agree to start Moon-Kim summit in morning, hold official dinner (*Yonhap*, 04/23/2018)
3,000 reporters to cover Moon-Kim summit (*Korea Times*, 04/23/2018)
Goodbye DMZ? What an End to the Korean War Would Mean: QuickTake (*WaPo*, 04/23/2018)
History being made on Korean Peninsula to bring about lasting peace: FM (*Yonhap*, 04/23/2018)
Koreas hold third working-level talks to prepare summit (*Yonhap*, 04/23/2018)
Moon calls North Korea's nuke test suspension 'good signal' (*Korea Times*, 04/23/2018)
Moon-Kim summit to begin Friday morning; end with official dinner (*Korea Times*, 04/23/2018)
Moon should pursue 'equivalent peace treaty' (*Korea Times*, 04/23/2018)

International:
(LEAD) U.S. diplomat sees 'better' chance to review N.K.'s sincerity for denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 04/23/2018)
(2nd LD) Senior U.S. diplomat stresses importance of close coordination before summits (*Yonhap*, 04/23/2018)
China's first-quarter trade with North Korea down 60.6 percent year-on-year in dollar terms (*Reuters*, 04/23/2018)
Global community sends messages of hope for Inter-Korean summit (*Korea Times*, 04/23/2018)
Inter-Korean Summit Will Try to Broker Nuclear Deal for US (VOA, 04/23/2018)
Interests of major powers intersect on Korean Peninsula again (*Daily*NK, 04/23/2018)
Neutral ground or dramatic backdrop? Where Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un could meet (*Telegraph*, 04/23/2018)
Trump says he has given Kim no concessions (*Joongang Daily*, 04/23/2018)
UN official praises 'welcome developments' from North Korea (*WaPo*, 04/23/2018)
White House Sees Denuclearization as Ultimate Goal of N. Korea Talks (VOA, 04/23/2018)
Why Russia is openly violating sanctions against North Korea (*WaPo*, 04/23/2018)
WSJ: Trump to ask North Korea to dismantle nuclear arsenal before talking sanctions relief (CNN, 04/22/2018)

Top News:

- The tightening PRC-DPRK relationship following the Xi-Kim summit is an indicator that the near future of human rights progress in DPRK remains bleak, with both regimes' unchanging policies of human rights denial. The US-ROK alliance's push for human rights reform in DPRK seems increasingly necessary, as people's lives depend on it. (Amanda Mortwedt Oh, *HRNK Insider*)
- HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu speaks to Al Jazeera America about the current Korean Peninsula situation and possible outcomes of denuclearization negotiations from the upcoming summits. (*HRNK*)

In North Korea:

- Thirty-two Chinese tourists had been killed when a tour bus fell from a bridge in N.K., authorities said. (Neil Connor, *Telegraph*)
- A traffic accident in N.K. has killed 32 Chinese tourists and 4 N.Koreans, Chinese officials said Monday. (AP)
- Thirty-two Chinese tourists and four N.Koreans died when a bus crashed off a bridge in N.K., China's foreign ministry said on Monday, with two Chinese nationals in critical condition. (Ben Blanchard, *Reuters*)
- Some significant changes have taken place in Sinuiju in the KJU era. Sinuiju is interesting because not only is it a provincial capital, but it is an important hub in China-DPRK trade as well. (*nkeconwatch*)
- As many as 32 Chinese tourists were killed in a bus crash in N.K. Sunday night, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs has confirmed. (Euan McKirdy, CNN)
- After KJU put emphasis on economic development in tandem with his move toward denuclearization, experts say the young leader may pursue economic reform in the same way as Deng Xiaoping did in transforming China. (Choi Ha-young, *Korea Times*)
- N.K.'s state news agency for the first time referred to KJU's wife Ri as "respected madam," for the first time in 45 years. Meanwhile, Kim Yo-jong, who led the North's Olympic delegation, has been noted as a trusted adviser to her brother KJU. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- A tour bus has crashed in N.K., killing 36 people including 32 Chinese nationals, Chinese officials say. (BBC)
- As N.K. enters its yearly March-April "Anti-Espionage" campaign, the authorities are reportedly stressing the need for a more precise enforcement and reporting system against anti-communist elements within the country. (Kang Mi Jin, *DailyNK*)
- Despite N.K.'s recent announcement of suspending further nuclear and missile tests and discarding its nuclear centers, the Punggye-ri Nuclear Test Site, where N.K. has conducted six acknowledged underground detonations still seems to be fully operational. (*38 North*)
- A bus crash in N.K. has killed 32 Chinese tourists and 4 N.K. workers, Chinese officials said. (Javier C. Hernández, NYT)
- While multiple countries that developed or tried to develop nuclear weapons have agreed to abandon them in exchange for sanctions relief and compensation, none of these cases are directly applicable to DPRK, which advanced further and with greater zeal than any of the others. (Kim Tong-Hyung, AP)
- In declaring a unilateral freeze in missile testing, N.K. appears ready to settle for now with an imperfect nuclear arms capability, one good enough to stoke fear in the US but which can't promise to strike US targets reliably, experts say. (Phil Stewart, Haejin Choi, *Reuters*)

In South Korea:

- The top nuclear envoys of S.K. and Japan met Monday to discuss cooperation on N.K. and the issue of its nuclear weapons program ahead of the upcoming historic inter-Korean summit. (*Yonhap*)

- S.K. announced Monday that it has stopped propaganda broadcasts over the border ahead of inter-Korean summit talks this week, saying it's expected to help boost the reconciliatory mood on the peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- Stocks related to inter-Korean cooperation are skyrocketing on favorable projections for the two countries' summit scheduled for this Friday. (Lee Ho-jeong, *Joongang Daily*)
- S.K. has stopped anti-Pyongyang propaganda broadcasts at the border town of Panmunjeom in a move to ease inter-Korean military tension ahead of a historic summit between Moon and KJU. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- President Moon on Monday called for a complete stop to political disputes at home at least until the end of his historic summit with N.K. leader KJU this week. (*Yonhap*)
- Main opposition Liberty Korea Party (LKP) leader Hong Joon-pyo downplayed the upcoming April 27 inter-Korea summit as a "political show" that may only benefit N.K. (Park Ji-won, *Korea Times*)
- S.K. held high-level negotiations with the US and Japan, Monday, discussing a series of pending issues regarding N.K. ahead of the inter-Korean summit scheduled for Friday. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- S.K. unplugged front-line loudspeakers that blare K-pop and propaganda criticizing N.K.'s leader on Monday, pulling back a weapon of psychological warfare that has encouraged several N.K. soldiers on the border to defect. (Lee Chul-jae, Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Daily*)
- ROK halted anti-DPRK propaganda broadcasts across their tense border on Monday as officials from the two Koreas met again to work out details of their leaders' upcoming talks, expected to focus on the North's nuclear program. (Hyung-Jin Kim, AP)
- S.K. halted the propaganda broadcasts it blares across the border at N.K. for the first time in two years on Monday ahead of the first inter-Korean summit in a decade. (*Telegraph*)
- S.K. has stopped broadcasting propaganda across its border with N.K. for the first time in more than two years, in a gesture of goodwill just days before the countries' leaders are to meet in a historic summit. (Justin McCurry, *Guardian*)
- S.K.'s military has turned off loudspeakers that blast propaganda across the highly militarized border with N.K., in an apparent gesture of goodwill ahead of Friday's historic summit between the two nations' leaders. (Joshua Berlinger and Yoonjung Seo, CNN)
- ROK halted the propaganda broadcasts it blares across the border with DPRK on Monday, aiming to set a positive tone ahead of the first summit in a decade between their leaders as Trump cautioned the nuclear crisis was far from resolved. (Christine Kim, *Reuters*)
- S.K. agreed to end loudspeaker broadcasts across the DMZ following N.K.'s decision to halt all nuclear tests. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Construction trucks moved into a S.Korean base housing THAAD on Monday, infuriating villagers opposed to its deployment, two days after N.K. vowed to suspend nuclear tests and ahead of a North-South summit. (*Reuters*)
- S.K.'s preparatory committee for the upcoming cross-border summit signed agreements on Monday with a local news agency, two broadcasters and a wireless service provider to support the historic event this week. (*Yonhap*)
- The ROK Ministry of Defense completed the delivery of construction equipment and materials to a controversial missile defense system Seongju County after police forcibly removed protesters. (Kim Jung-seok, Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The historic meeting between ROK Moon Jae-in and DPRK leader KJU will include an official dinner at the joint security area of Panmunjom. (*Yonhap*)
- More than 3,000 journalists from around the world will gather in Korea this week to cover the historic inter-Korean summit. (Kang Seung-woo, *Korea Times*)
- After a sudden warming of relations between two Koreas, there are reports that the Koreas are planning to announce the end of military hostilities, and negotiations may focus in part on the DMZ. (David Tweed, *Bloomberg*)
- History is being made on the Korean Peninsula to bring about a lasting peace with N.K., Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha said in a video posted to Twitter on Monday, calling for international support for the peacemaking. (*Yonhap*)
- Officials from two Koreas gathered again Monday to discuss details of a meeting between their leaders later this week. (*Yonhap*)
- ROK President Moon has welcomed N.K.'s decision to suspend its nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile tests, saying Pyongyang is showing its sincerity for denuclearization ahead of inter-Korean and Washington-Pyongyang summits. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- S.K. President Moon and N.K. leader KJU will meet at the truce village of Panmunjeom, Friday morning. A dinner between the leaders will take place after the summit. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- Moon should not obsess over a peace treaty itself but focus on ensuring Seoul's equivalency in any agreements with Pyongyang, said Sean King, senior vice president of Park Strategies. (Kim Jae-kyoung, *Korea Times*)

International:

- A senior U.S. diplomat said Monday that she is seeing "a better opportunity" to check if N.K. is serious about denuclearization as Washington and Seoul prepare for their respective summits with Pyongyang. (*Yonhap*)
- A senior U.S. diplomat said on Monday that it is "very important" and "good timing" for the U.S. and S.K. to show close coordination before the two countries' planned summits with N.K. (*Yonhap*)
- China's trade with N.K. in the first three months of 2018 fell 60.6 percent from a year earlier to $482.93 million, customs data showed on Monday. (*Reuters*)
- With the first Inter-Korean summit in 11 years looming on Friday, global dignitaries and people of diverse ethnic backgrounds sent messages of hope for the summit and a peaceful outcome. (Ko Dong-hwan, *Korea Times*)
- This week's summit between Moon and KJU is expected to produce a denuclearization framework that Trump could support when he meets with Kim in May or June. (Brian Padden, VOA)

- The Korean Peninsula is unique in the world in that it is the location where the interests of the major powers China, Russia, Japan, and the US all intersect. It is undeniable that the actions of these four nations have had immense sway over the fate of the peninsula. (Lee Geun Young, *DailyNK*)
- Neutral venues in Asia and Europe are now considered the most likely options, but given that both Trump and KJU have a reputation for enjoying the limelight, the meeting will almost certainly need to have a dramatic backdrop. (Neil Connor, *Telegraph*)
- U.S. President Trump boasted in a Twitter post on Sunday that N.K. had agreed to denuclearize without the US making any concessions. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)
- The U.N.'s high representative for disarmament affairs is praising N.K.'s decision to suspend its nuclear and ballistic missile tests and dismantle its nuclear sites as "welcome developments." (AP)
- The White House on Monday declared the ultimate goal of any negotiations that President Trump has with N.K. is Pyongyang's denuclearization. (Steve Herman, VOA)
- Two big reasons Russia is openly violating international sanctions against DPRK include: 1) Russia's view of what makes sanctions effective is very different from the U.S. view, 2) Putin is shoring up his internal support. (Samuel Ramani, *WaPo*)
- President Trump will ask N.K. leader KJU to dismantle the country's nuclear arsenal without conceding significant ground on economic sanctions, according to a report in The Wall Street Journal. (Aileen Graef, CNN)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

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Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Kim Jong Un Is "All-In." What's Next for Korea?; Greg Scarlatoiu on The Drew Mariani Show; Kim Jong-un shows human side as he expresses 'bitter sorrow' over bus crash

Top News:

Kim Jong Un Is "All-In." What's Next for Korea? (*The Cipher Brief*, 04/24/2018)
Greg Scarlatoiu on The Drew Mariani Show (HRNK, 04/24/2018)

In North Korea:

Chinese media still illegal in North Korea despite warming relations with China (*DailyNK*, 04/24/2018)
Death of Chinese tourists rattles North's leader (*Joongang Daily*, 04/24/2018)
High risk, high return (*Joongang Daily*, 04/24/2018)

Kim Jong-un says he and Pompeo share ‘same kind of guts’ as details emerge of secret meetings (*Telegraph*, 04/24/2018)
Kim Jong-un shows human side as he expresses ‘bitter sorrow’ over bus crash (*Telegraph*, 04/24/2018)
Kim Jong-un's 'bitter sorrow' as bus crash kills Chinese tourists (BBC, 04/24/2018)
Kim's 'bitter sorrow' as bus crash kills 32 Chinese tourists (*Korea Times*, 04/24/2018)
(LEAD) N.K. leader mourns Chinese tourists killed in bus accident (*Yonhap*, 04/24/2018)
North Korean leader visits China embassy, hospital after fatal bus crash (*Reuters*, 04/24/2018)
N. Korea's nuclear test site 'fully operational: 38 North (*Yonhap*, 04/24/2018)
Six North Koreans executed for trying to sell phonebook abroad (*DailyNK*, 04/24/2018)
'Uncontrollable grief' of Kim Jong-un over North Korea bus disaster (*Guardian*, 04/24/2018)

In South Korea:
(2nd LD) S. Korea's nuke envoy says next few months 'critical' for denuclearization of N.K.(*Yonhap*, 04/24/2018)
Confirmation bias on North Korea's denuclearization (*Korea Times*, 04/24/2018)
Declaration to end Korean War tied to N.K. denuclearization: Seoul (*Yonhap*, 04/24/2018)
Don’t let down our guard (*Joongang Daily*, 04/24/2018)
It ain’t over till Kim Jong-un sings (*Joongang Daily*, 04/24/2018)
Seoul making final preparations for Moon-Kim summit: Cheong Wa Dae (*Yonhap*, 04/24/2018)
What agenda? (*Joongang Daily*, 04/24/2018)
With food and facts carried in bottles, activists try to penetrate isolated North Korea (*WaPo*, 04/24/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Hopes high for peace as Kim takes historic step to inter-Korean summit (AFP, 04/24/2018)
Kim Jong-un Swiss summit dish to remind him of school (BBC, 04/24/2018)
Moon to raise Japanese abductee issue in North Korea summit (*WaPo*, 04/24/2018)
North Korea's Kim to be served Swiss rösti at inter-Korean summit (*Reuters*, 04/24/2018)
North Korea to send special noodle making machine (and chef) to DMZ for summit (CNN, 04/24/2018)
Rehearsal held for Moon-Kim summit Friday (*Joongang Daily*, 04/24/2018)
Stakes on denuclearization remain high ahead of Korea summits (UPI, 04/24/2018)
Two Koreas decide not to hold additional high-level talks on summit preparation (*Yonhap*, 04/24/2018)

International:
'A lot of reasons for optimism' on N. Korea talks: Mattis (AFP, 04/24/2018)
China keeps fuel exports to North Korea low in March as sanctions bite (*Reuters*, 04/24/2018)
Chinese authorities raise reward money for North Korean defectors (*DailyNK*, 04/24/2018)
Japan's Abe says upcoming North Korea summits could mend ties between North, Japan(*Reuters*, 04/24/2018)
Jimmy Carter Knows What North Korea Wants (NYT, 04/24/2018)

(LEAD) Abe expresses hope for Japan-N. Korea talks after inter-Korean summit (*Yonhap*, 04/24/2018)
(LEAD) Thornton says U.S. will avoid protracted negotiation with N.K., urges more action to show sincerity (*Yonhap*, 04/24/2018)
(LEAD) Trump, Kim may agree to statement on peace and denuclearization at least: Victor Cha (*Yonhap*, 04/24/2018)
Mongolia, Singapore on shortlist of summit hosts (*Joongang Daily*, 04/24/2018)
Neutral ground or dramatic backdrop? Where Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un could meet(*Telegraph*, 04/24/2018)
Russia and China seek international support for Iran nuclear deal (*Reuters*, 04/24/2018)
Trump, France's Macron face differences at glitzy state visit (*Reuters*, 04/24/2018)
US won't ease sanctions until North Korea takes 'concrete action' (AP, 04/24/2018)

Top News:

- There seems to be a hidden purpose in KJU's proffered moratorium on nuclear and ballistic missile testing announced over the weekend. While Kim is seeking to eventually merge his state into the South, Moon is surrounded with NK's most ardent advocates in Blue House. (Gordon Chang, *The Cipher Brief*)
  HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu speaks to The Drew Mariani Show about the current security issues of Northeast Asia and challenges and different viewpoints regarding denuclearization before upcoming summits. (HRNK)

In North Korea:

- The N.Korean authorities are maintaining restrictions over Chinese media consumption and continuing to punish viewers despite the regime's friendlier stance towards China since KJU's visit to Beijing last month. (Ha Yoon-ah, DailyNK)
- N.Korean leader KJU visited the Chinese Embassy in Pyongyang to express his “deep sympathy” over a bus accident that killed 32 Chinese tourists on Sun. in North Hwanghae Province, just above the border with SK. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Daily*)
- The first goal of the summit should be confirming the genuineness of Kim’s will to end his nuclear weapons program. Only after a direct and clear confirmation can the summit serve as a pathfinder for the US-North summit. (Bae Myung-bok, *Joongang Daily*)
- KJU, the N.Korean leader, expressed “joy” and “satisfaction” after his secret meeting earlier this month in Pyongyang with Mike Pompeo, director of the CIA, saying the two men share the “same kind of guts” (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- N.Korean leader KJU has met with Chinese survivors of a deadly coach crash and expressed “bitter sorrow” (Neil Connor, *Telegraph*)
- N.Korean leader KJU has expressed "bitter sorrow" over a bus accident that left 32 Chinese tourists and four N.Koreans dead. (BBC)
- N.Korean leader KJU visited the Chinese embassy in Pyongyang to express his "bitter sorrow" over the deaths of Chinese tourists in a bus accident in his country, by visiting the Chinese embassy in Pyongyang (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)

- N.Korean leader KJU has visited the Chinese Embassy in Pyongyang to express his "deep" condolences over the death of scores of Chinese tourists in a traffic accident in the North. (*Yonhap*)
- N.Korean leader KJU visited the Chinese embassy in Pyongyang on Mon. to express “deep sympathy” over a bus accident that killed 32 Chinese tourists and critically injured two. (*Reuters*)
- NK's nuclear test site is still "fully operational" contrary to reports that it is near collapse. NK's announcement Sat. of its decision to close the test site was due to it being unusable. But according to 38 North, the site in northeastern Punggye-ri could be reactivated when necessary. (*Yonhap*)
- Six N.Korean residents were executed at the end of last year on the charge of attempting to leak the contents of a phonebook to the outside world. An inside source explained that the decision highlights the determination of the authorities to maintain internal information security. (*DailyNK*)
- State media describes reaction of regime leader after 32 visiting Chinese died when their coach plunged off a bridge (Justin McCurry, *Guardian*)

In South Korea:

- SK's top nuclear envoy said Tues. that the next few months will be "critical" in laying the groundwork for the denuclearization of NK and reaffirmed Seoul's commitment to close consultation with Washington both before and after the upcoming inter-Korean summit. (*Yonhap*)
- Expectation over the stated goal of SK and US — NK's willingness to separate itself from its nuclear programs or the so-called denuclearization — is far from reality. (Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)
- The issue of SK and NK's declaration of an end to the 1950-53 Korean War will be tied to progress of NK's denuclearization, a ranking government official said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- A freeze on nuclear tests and programs cannot ensure a path toward the ultimate goal of denuclearization. The gambit raises hope for genuineness in his commitment to denuclearization, but we cannot let our guard down. (*Joongang Daily*)
- Given the North’s track record, however, it is better to hold off on the optimism. Despite a strong need for talks over denuclearization, it’s not over until Kim’s sincerity is proven. (Yeo Young-jun, *Joongang Daily*)
- Nearly everything has been set for the upcoming summit between Moon and KJU with only the final touches now under way, officials from Seoul's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- The Moon administration must make efforts to draw up concrete and detailed negotiating strategies for the success of the summit rather than being bent on merely promoting the event. (*Joongang Daily*)
- The water bottles, filled with rice and worm medicine and ointment and USB sticks containing movies and songs and Trump’s State of the Union address, were carried away by the currents. Their destination: NK. (Anna Fifield, *WaPo*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- N.Korean leader KJU will walk across the DMZ on Fri. for a historic summit with the South's President Moon, the highest-level encounter yet in a whirlwind of nuclear diplomacy. (AFP)
- NK's KJU is to be served a Swiss potato dish at a summit dinner with the South, in an apparent attempt to remind him of school. (BBC)
- S.Korean President Moon plans to raise the issue of Japanese citizens who were abducted decades ago by NK in his meeting with N.Korean leader KJU this week. (Ahn Young-joon, WaPo)
- N.Korean leader KJU will be served Swiss rösti with a Korean twist at a summit on Fri. with S.Korean President Moon, the South's presidential Blue House said on Tues. (*Reuters*)
- Pyongyang's cold noodles are the most famous on the Korean peninsula. They're so good, that the North is dispatching its top chef to the border, along with a noodle-making machine, to recreate it for dinner after Fri.'s historic inter-Korea summit. (Joshua Berlinger, CNN)
- The Blue House on Tues. held a rehearsal at the border village of Panmunjom for the historic meeting to take place on Fri. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Joongang Daily*)
- This week's high-stakes summit between S.Korean President Moon and N.Korean leader KJU heralds a new period of negotiations in which regional states attempt to manage a northeast Asian security environment that includes a nuclear NK. (Benjamin Habib, *UPI)*
- The two Koreas decided Tues. not to hold additional bilateral high-level talks to prepare for the historic cross-border summit slated for later this week, a Seoul official said. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Mon. he saw reasons to be optimistic about talks with NK, after Pyongyang announced it was halting nuclear tests and intercontinental ballistic missile launches. (AFP)
- China kept fuel exports to NK to a trickle in Mar. and exported no corn for a third straight month to its isolated neighbor, as sanctions over Pyongyang's nuclear weapons and missile program continued to bite. (*Reuters*)
- Following KJU's visit to China last month, the reward for reporting NK defectors hiding inside the country or anyone engaged in illegal transactions in the Sino-North Korea border area has increased, according to sources in the region. (Ha Yoon-ah, *DailyNK*)
- Japan's Prime Minister Abe said success at upcoming NK has planned with SK and the US could also mean NK and Japan could normalize ties, the South's presidential Blue House said on Tues. (*Reuters*)
- The N.Koreans want a binding agreement that the US will not attack them so long as they stay at peace with their neighbors and with other countries. (Dan Amira, NYT)
- Japanese Prime Minister Abe expressed his hope to meet with N.Korean leader KJU to discuss ways to normalize the countries' ties on Tues., while asking S.Korean President Moon to help resolve the issue of Japanese citizens abducted by the communist state. (*Yonhap*)

- A senior US diplomat said Tues. that the US is determined to avoid repeating the mistake this time of getting into a protracted negotiation with NK and allowing its regime to advance its weapons program. (*Yonhap*)
- US President Trump and N.Korean leader KJU may agree to a statement on peace and denuclearization at the minimum when they meet for a summit in the coming months, Victor Cha, a US academic and former White House official, said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- Mongolia and Singapore are on the shortlist of locations for a widely anticipated summit between US President Trump and N.Korean leader KJU. (Kim Hyun-ki, *Joongang Daily*)
- Neutral venues in Asia and Europe are now considered the most likely options, but given that both Trump and Kim have a reputation for enjoying the limelight, the meeting will almost certainly need to have a dramatic backdrop. (Neil Connor, *Telegraph*)
- A breach of the JCPOA without any reason and against the will of the international community is hardly likely to assure the DPRK's people that any potential future agreement would be observed. (*Reuters*)
- Macron, in his remarks, called for the two countries to work together against Islamist militants, on NK and Iran, on "free and fair trade," and on climate change. (*Reuters*)
- The White House said Mon. NK won't get sanctions relief until it takes "concrete action" toward denuclearization, the goal of President Trump's planned summit with KJU. (AP)

Prepared by Dohyun Kim, HRNK Research Intern

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Thursday, April 26, 2018

NK's Phony Peace Ploy; Remember the "Jerusalem of the East"; Navi Pillay: N.Korean has committed grave crimes against its own people. The US should bring that up during the planned meeting

Top News:

North Korea's Phony Peace Ploy (NYT*imes*, 04/25/2018)
Remember the "Jerusalem of the East" (*HRNK Insider*, 04/26/2018)
Navi Pillay: North Korean has committed grave crimes against its own people. The U.S. should bring that up during the planned meeting. (*Justice Hub*, 04/25/2018)

In North Korea:

(2nd LD) Nine ranking officials to accompany N.K. leader to inter-Korean summit (*Yonhap*, 04/26/2018)
'Forever strangers': the North Korean defectors who want to go back (*Guardian*, 04/26/2018)
'Operation GhostSecret': North Korea Is Suspected in Intensifying Global Cyberattack (*Wall Street Journal*, 04/25/2018)

Entourage from Pyongyang is a diverse group (*Joongang Daily*, 04/26/2018)
Goods, and people, crossing the China-North Korea border (*NK Econ Watch*, 04/26/2018)
How Kim Jong-un's wife Ri Sol-ju went from cheerleader to North Korea's 'first lady' (*Telegraph*, 04/26/2018)
Kim Yo-jong to attend inter-Korean summit: What we know about Kim Jong-un's sister? (*Telegraph*, 04/26/2018)
Kim's childhood remains a mystery in North (*Joongang Daily*, 04/26/2018)
N.K. appears to be opting for normal statehood instead of nuclear armament: experts (*Yonhap*, 04/26/2018)
N.K. leader Kim revs up high-stakes diplomacy (*Yonhap*, 04/26/2018)
N.K. leader sees off special train carrying bodies of Chinese tourists (*Yonhap*, 04/26/2018)
N. Korea credits Kim for hosting of summit (*Yonhap*, 04/26/2018)
North is 'desperate' to mend ties (*Joongang Daily*, 04/26/2018)
North Korea nuclear programme rocked by 'collapse' of test site (*Telegraph*, 04/26/2018)
North Korea offers deep apologies to China over deadly bus crash (*Reuters*, 04/25/2018)
North Korea slams US censure on human rights (*Korea Times*, 04/25/2018)
North Korea nuclear test site has collapsed and may be out of action – China study (*Guardian*, 04/26/2018)
North Korea's nuclear test caused collapse, study says (CNN, 04/26/2018)
North Korean intel agencies escalate extortion of remittance brokers (*DailyNK*, 04/26/2018)
Optimistic talk of unification on the rise throughout North Korea (*DailyNK*, 04/26/2018)
Ri Sol Ju's attendance at inter-Korean summit confirmed in internal orders (*DailyNK*, 04/26/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) Moon's seasoned entourage to face off with Kim's team of loyal aides (*Yonhap*, 04/26/2018)
BOK official says economic cooperation with North Korea will boost consumer sentiment (*Reuters*, 04/25/2018)
Border truce village set to greet leaders of Koreas for historic summit (*Yonhap*, 04/26/2018)
Moon's diplomacy raises hopes for lasting peace on peninsula (*Yonhap*, 04/26/2018)
Panmunjom, the Korea Truce Village and Tourism Oddity: QuickTake (*WaPo*, 04/26/2018)
Panmunjom, the village of permanent tension (*Joongang Daily*, 04/26/2018)
S. Korea opens media center for historic summit with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 04/26/2018)
Seoul expects Korea summit to produce signed agreement (*UPI*, 04/26/2018)
South Korea swept by wave of optimism ahead of historic Moon-Kim summit (*Telegraph*, 04/26/2018)
South Korea to hit pause on Friday to soak in historic summit (*Reuters*, 04/26/2018)
South Korea's Moon to meet North Korea's Kim at border for summit (*Reuters*, 04/25/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) Denuclearization to take center stage at inter-Korean summit (*Yonhap*, 04/26/2018)
(LEAD) Leaders of two Koreas to hold symbolic tree-planting ceremony (*Yonhap*, 04/26/2018)
(LEAD) Moon-Kim summit to start early Friday, forge personal ties (*Yonhap*, 04/26/2018)
(LEAD) Summit dinner menu rich in symbolism (*Yonhap*, 04/26/2018)
A look at 2 leaders in the inter-Korean summit talks (*WaPo*, 04/25/2018)

Agenda topped by nukes, a lasting peace 'regime' (*Joongang Daily*, 04/26/2018)
Armistice and axe murders: Korea's DMZ summit site full of diplomatic, military history (*Reuters*, 04/26/2018)
Dealing with North Korea: Three lessons from previous summits (CNN, 04/26/2018)
For a successful summit (*Joongang Daily*, 04/26/2018)
From brink of war to hopes of peace: Kim Jong Un heads south for summit (CNN, 04/26/2018)
In summit, two Koreas to discuss formal end to war, peace regime (*Yonhap*, 04/26/2018)
Inter-Korean Summit to Set Agenda to Remove Nukes (VOA, 04/26/2018)
Kaesong firms hopeful complex might reopen (*Joongang Daily*, 04/26/2018)
Kim Jong-un to make historic step across border at 9:30 Friday morning (*Joongang Daily*, 04/26/2018)
Kim Jong Un to cross line at DMZ: Here's what will happen (CNN, 04/26/2018)
Kim Jong Un walks south to meet his rival: Can they deal? (*WaPo*, 04/26/2018)
Korean leaders seek to control optics at historic summit (*WaPo*, 04/25/2018)
Korean summit: everything you need to know (*Guardian*, 04/26/2018)
Korean summit: How we got here (CNN, 04/26/2018)
Leaders to explore ways to improve inter-Korean ties at summit (*Yonhap*, 04/26/2018)
Main press center opens for inter-Korean summit (*Yonhap*,04/26/2018)
Kim, Moon summit is only the third between divided Koreas (*WaPo*, 04/26/2018)
Panmunjeom: Standing witness to decades of border history (*Korea Times*, 04/26/2018)
Rehearsals and realism as North and South Korean leaders prepare to meet (*Guardian*, 04/26/2018)
Rival Koreas' leaders face high stakes at historic summit (*WaPo*, 04/26/2018)
Second summit betrayed by lack of time (*Joongang Daily*, 04/26/2018)
Summit - taking ownership of our fate (*Korea Times*, 04/26/2018)
The historic summit of the Koreas hangs on the North's nuclear intentions (*WaPo*, 04/26/2018)
Two Koreas complete preparations for leaders' summit (*Yonhap*, 04/26/2018)
Two previous inter-Korean summits paved the path for peace, reconciliation (*Yonhap*, 04/26/2018)
Upcoming summit of two Koreas to set many firsts (*Yonhap*, 04/26/2018)
Venue for Koreas summit a symbol of division (*WaPo*,04/26/2018)
What will North and South Korean leaders talk about tomorrow? Here's a cheat sheet. (*WaPo*, 04/26/2018)
When North Met South: A Short History of Inter-Korean Summits (NYT*imes*, 04/26/2018)
Will first ladies of Koreas meet during summit? (*Yonhap*, 04/26/2018)

International:
Analysts Mixed on North's Nuclear Pledge as Condition of Peace Treaty Ahead of Moon-Kim Summit (RFA, 04/25/2018)
China Cautiously Optimistic About North-South Korea Talks (VOA, 04/26/2018)
Complete denuclearization only way for N.K. to get sanctions lifted: expert (*Yonhap*, 04/26/2018)
Experts: Summit should clarify North Korea's commitment to denuclearization (UPI, 04/26/2018)
Eyes of the world are watching Panmunjom (*Joongang Daily*, 04/26/2018)
Kim is on demilitarization, not denuclearization (*Korea Times*, 04/26/2018)
Kim Jong Un wants you to know that he's a totally reasonable global leader (*WaPo*, 04/26/2018)
Mattis Plays Down Link Between Iran Nuclear Deal and North Korea Talks (NYT*imes*, 04/26/2018)

Mongolia, Singapore on host city shortlist for Trump-Kim summit: report (*Korea Times*, 04/25/2018)
Neutral ground or dramatic backdrop? Where Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un could meet (*Telegraph*, 04/26/2018)
North Korea test site could be unusable after collapse - Chinese scientists (BBC)
North Korea's pledge to dismantle nuclear site sounds good, but verification will be tough (*Reuters*, 04/26/2018)
Pope Francis hopes for success of inter-Korean summit (*Yonhap*, 04/26/2018)
S. Korea, U.S. to stop military drills on summit day (*Yonhap*, 04/26/2018)
South Korea credits Trump for opening door to talks with North (CNN, 04/26/2018)
The Olympics' role in peace talks (*Joongang Daily*, 04/26/2018)
Trump may meet with South Korea's Moon before summit with Kim (*Reuters*, 04/25/2018)
Trump on summit with Kim Jong Un: 'Maybe the meeting doesn't even take place' (CNN, 04/26/2018)
Trump says he is weighing options for North Korea meeting (*Reuters*, 04/26/2018)
Trump says North Korea has made major nuclear concessions (*WaPo*, 04/26/2018)
Trump says Pompeo was not originally scheduled to see Kim Jong Un on secret North Korea visit (*WaPo*, 04/26/2018)
Trump's bet on a North Korea summit is looking riskier than ever (*WaPo*, 04/25/2018)
U.S.-N. Korea denuclearization deal will likely endure if reached: experts (*Yonhap*, 04/26/2018)
Understanding Kim: Inside the U.S. effort to profile the secretive North Korean leader (*Reuters*, 04/26/2018)
US envoy in Australia says Adm. Harris is needed in Seoul (*WaPo*, 04/25/2018)

Top News:

- In this op-ed for the New York Times, founding director and HRNK board member Nicholas Eberstadtstates that it is not only unrealistic to hope that KJU, the NKorean leader will offer SK real and lasting peace, it is delusional. He argues that if the past is any guide, NK will offer SK unenforceable verbiage, and should SK accept this, it will expose itself to more manipulation by the government in Pyongyang in both domestic politics as well as SK's alliance with the US. (Nicholas Eberstadt, *NYTimes*)
- In this HRNK Insider piece, HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu comments that both critics and supporters of the Trump Administration may agree that, of all human rights issues, religious freedom has ranked among its highest. This has been evidenced by the May 4, 2017 Presidential Executive Order "Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty" as well as the destinations of the President's first international trip in May 2017 that Saudi Arabia, Israel, Rome, and Vatican City, home to the Holy Sites of three major religions. Scarlatoiu notes that in NK, Christianity was once a way of life as the cradle of the Korean Presbyterian Church, with the city of Pyongyang referred to as the "Jerusalem of the East" prior to the communist takeover. Since 1946, religious freedom in NK went from restriction to suppression to violent obliteration. Scarlatoiu further discusses the current state of underground Christianity and religious oppression under the Kim regime, and also analyzes the reason for the Kim regime's fear of Christianity. Scarlatoiu in his piece also points out that Kim regime aims to deflect international criticism and seek economic aid, which come

from well-meaning Christian groups that often fail to understand the true nature of the Kim regime and its policy of human rights denial. (Greg Scarlatoiu, *HRNK Insider*)

- In this interview with Justice Hub as part of its #MyJustice series, Navanethem "Navi" Pillay spoke about her work exposing rights violations in NK, her thoughts as the Rome Statute turns 20, as well as her thoughts on the current application of international law in states. She spoke of her work on the IBA-commissioned civilian panel that investigated the evidence about crimes against humanity committed by officials in NK following the Kirby Commission report. As part of this investigation that focused on the condition of NKorean prison camps, Pillay and her colleagues not only reviewed satellite pictures, but also heard live evidence from former prisoners, prison wardens, as well diplomatic figures. The panel concluded that the conditions and extreme ill-treatment did constitute to crimes against humanity as defined by the Rome Statue and the ad hoc tribunals. She stressed the importance of these reports produced by the reputable bodies such as the Commission and Pillay's IBA panel because there would be plenty of opportunities for countries like the US—who should care about not only the security issues in the region, but also the human rights of the people in NK—to raise the human rights issues at a high-level meeting with NKorean leadership. (Janet Anderson, *Justice Hub*)

In North Korea:

- Nine key aides to NKorean leader KJU will accompany him on his trip to the inter-Korean border village of Panmunjom this week for a historic summit, a SKorean presidential official said Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- Ahead of this week's summit between NKorean leader KJU and SKorean president Moon, Kim Ryon-hui hopes her dream of returning to Pyongyang will become a reality. NKorean officials have consistently demanded Kim be allowed to return and have said it is a precondition to any reunions between families divided by the 1950-53 Korean War. (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)
- A suspected NKorean cyberattack on Turkish banks last month is broader in scope than originally believed, and has expanded to a global data-theft campaign targeting nations including the US and Australia, according to a new cybersecurity analysis. (Timothy W. Martin, *Wall Street Journal*)
- Nine key aides of KJU will accompany the NKorean leader when he crosses the border today for a first-ever summit with SKorean President Moon. The delegation is a wide-ranging entourage of party loyalists, cabinet members and military officers that reflects KJU's ambition to discuss multiple issues related to his country's long-strained ties with SK. (Jeong Yong-soo, Lee Chul-jae, *Joongang Daily*)
- Over the past couple of weeks, there's been several news stories that suggest and increased stream of goods—and people—across the NKorean border to China. (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, *NK Econ Watch*)
- She may have a mysterious background, but Ri Sol-ju, the wife of KJU, is being thrust into the spotlight as NK seeks to normalise its ruling elite. (Neil Connor, *Telegraph*)

- NK's delegation to an inter-Korean summit on Fri. will include leader KJU's sister, one of his closest advisers, Seoul said on Thurs. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- Beyond the trickle of propaganda from Pyongyang, little is known about NK's enigmatic leader, especially his youth. SKorean intelligence officials believe he was born in 1984 as the son of Kim Jong-il and Ko Yong-hui, a dancer from Japan. (Lee Yong-jong, Chung Yeong-gyo, *Joongang Daily*)
- Experts said Thurs. NK's latest diplomatic drive reflects its strategic choice to become a normal state instead of a nuclear power, which they view as heralding an existential threat to the regime in Pyongyang. (*Yonhap*)
- With a "nuclear button" and unchallenged authority at home, NKorean leader KJU is now looking beyond his borders, forging ahead with a diplomatic adventure that could turn his country from an introvert into a player of geostrategic significance, experts said Thurs. (Song Sang-ho, *Yonhap*)
- NKorean leader KJU has visited a railway station to see off a special train that carried the bodies of Chinese tourists who were killed in a traffic accident in NK, and the injured, state media said Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- On the eve of an inter-Korean summit, NK gave credit Thurs. to leader KJU for the hosting of the historic talks. (*Yonhap*)
- In the final part of a four-part series, the Joongang Ilbo spoke with a number of analysts, experts, and pundits to analyze KJU's major change of course this year that led to the inter-Korean summit, focusing on NK's calculus and motivations. (Ko Soo-suk, Jeong Yong-soo, *Joongang Daily*)
- Part of NK's main nuclear weapons testing site may not be usable for further trials following a collapse in the mountain above it, according to a report by a team of Chinese geologists. (Jamie Fullerton, *Telegraph*)
- NKorean leader KJU has offered his deep apologies to China after a bus crash in his isolated country killed 32 Chinese tourists, state media said on Thurs. (*Reuters*)
- NK condemned US criticism of its human rights record as "ridiculous", days before leader KJU's summit with SK and ahead of a meeting with US President Donald Trump. (AFP)
- NK's main nuclear test site has partially collapsed under the stress of multiple explosions, possibly rendering it unsafe for further testing and leaving it vulnerable to radiation leaks, a study by Chinese geologists has shown. (Justin McCurry, *Guardian*)
- NK's nuclear test in Sept. last year was so strong that it caused an on-site collapse at the test site, geologists in China claim. (Joshua Berlinger, Serenitie Wang, CNN)
- An increasing number of remittance brokers are being apprehended and held in custody by NK's intelligence agencies, report inside sources. The brokers, who are active in the border region near China, facilitate cash transfers for a fee. (Ha Yoon Ah, *Daily NK*)
- Sources throughout NK have reported an upsurge in talk of the desire for unification within the country in public spaces in the weeks leading up to this Fri.'s inter-Korean summit. (Kang Mi Jin, *Daily NK*)
- The N.Korean authorities distributed confidential instructions on Apr. 23 detailing preparations that are to be made for Ri Sol Ju joining her husband KJU for the upcoming inter-Korean summit, reports a source inside the country. (Lee Sang Yong, *Daily NK*)

In South Korea:

- The inter-Korean summit set for Fri. will bring together President Moon's seasoned security aides and NKorean leader KJU's loyal advisers for an attempt to hammer out a landmark agreement on denuclearization and peace on the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- A SKorean central bank official said on Thurs. resuming any economic cooperation with NK is likely to boost consumer sentiment in SK. (*Reuters*)
- The inter-Korean truce village of Panmunjom, a vestige of the Cold War, will become a venue for peace-making when the leaders of the two Koreas meet in a historic summit Fri. (*Yonhap*)
- Supplanting last year's escalatory threats of war with budding hopes of cross-border trust and reconciliation, President Moon's diplomacy is charting a new course toward a lasting peace on the divided peninsula, experts said Thurs. (Song Sang-ho, *Yonhap*)
- This article gives readers a quick background into Panmunjom, the site for the impending NK-SK summit. (Jihye Lee, *Bloomberg*)
- In this *Joongang Daily* article, Panmunjom—its history, NK-SK interactions, high-profile incidents, and tourism—is explored. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Daily*)
- SK opened an international media center Thurs. for a historic summit between SKorean President Moon and NKorean leader KJU this week that could also become one of the largest joint events held between the divided Koreas. (*Yonhap*)
- The leaders of SK and NK will announce and sign a joint agreement after their historic summit talks on Fri. at the border village of Panmunjom, a Seoul presidential official said. (Jennie Oh, *UPI*)
- Just hours before a summit in the border village of Panmunjom that could finally bring a lasting peace to the Korean Peninsula, optimism is breaking out all over SK. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- With a giant TV screen in its capital, and a break from classes for students to watch live coverage, much of SK will hit the pause button on Fri. to watch history unfold—the first time a NKorean leader crosses the border to visit. (Heekyong Yang, Ju-min Park, *Reuters*)
- SKorean President Moon will greet NKorean leader KJU on Fri. as the latter crosses a military demarcation line to enter SK for the first summit between the two sides in more than a decade, SK said. (Christine Kim, Josh Smith, *Reuters*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- When the leaders of the two Koreas meet during a historic summit Fri., all eyes will be on whether they make headway toward denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, a goal which has been elusive for many years despite ever intensifying global pressure on Pyongyang. (*Yonhap*)
- The leaders of SK and NK will hold a tree-planting ceremony when they meet this week for an historic summit, as part of efforts to symbolize their wish for peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula, a presidential official said Thurs. (*Yonhap*)

- The historic summit between SKorean President Moon and NKorean leader KJU will include various events apparently aimed at forming personal ties between the two leaders that may assist international efforts to rid NK of its nuclear weapons down the road, a detailed schedule of the meeting released Thurs. showed. (*Yonhap*)
- Cold noodles from a famous Pyongyang restaurant and other symbolic dishes will be served at the dinner after the leaders of SK and NK hold their first summit on the southern side of the border on Fri.(*Yonhap*)
- This piece takes a look at the two leaders who are meeting at the NK-SK border on Fri. in the two Koreas' third-ever summit talks since their 1945 division. (Hyung-jin Kim, AP)
- The meeting between Moon KJU at Peace House on the southern side of Panmunjom could shift the tone of relations between the two Koreas, and possibly put an end to the disputes and deadly attacks that have plagued the peninsula for decades. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Joongang Daily*)
- The "peace village" of Panmunjom, with its cluster of distinctive bright blue buildings and chequered history of defections, tension and murder, is an apt choice for the first inter-Korean summit in more than a decade. (Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)
- When Moon meets KJU on Fri. he'll be the third SKorean President to meet his NKorean counterpart. Two of his predecessors, Kim Dae-jung and Roh Moo-hyun, each held talks with the late NKorean leader Kim Jong Il in 2000 and 2007, respectively. While those summits achieved some tangible results, they failed to significantly move the needle when it came to ending the conflict on the Korean Peninsula. But there are important lessons Moon can take away from the successes and failures of his predecessors. (Joshua Berlinger, Paula Hancocks, Yoonjung Seo, CNN)
- In this *Joongang Daily* editorial, the Joongang Daily expresses their hope that both NKorean and SKorean leaders do their best in the summit to find a way to prevent the Korean Peninsula from teetering on the brink of war. (*Joongang Daily*)
- In a meeting heavy with history and symbolism, NKorean leader KJU will hold talks with SKorean President Moon at the Peace House on the southern side of the demilitarized zone that divides the two countries. (Ben Westcott, Joshua Berlinger, CNN)
- When SKorean President Moon talked about a "dauntless journey towards establishing a peace regime" in Berlin last Jul., many viewed that prospect as a matter of a distant future. (Lee Chi-dong, *Yonhap*)
- The inter-Korean summit is expected to produce a joint statement committing to the denuclearization of the Korea Peninsula, and also a clear definition of what a denuclearization outcome would entail. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- Optimism over today's summit is spreading to the business community, with many welcoming the talks and the effect they may have on the economic cooperation that abruptly stopped in 2016. (Lee Ho-jeong, *Joongang Daily*)
- NKorean leader KJU will make a historic border crossing into SK at 9:30 a.m. Fri. in Panmunjom, where SKorean President Moon will welcome him to the third inter-Korean summit meeting—with the entire world watching. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Joongang Daily*)
- On Fri. morning, NKorean leader KJU will be greeted by SKorean President Moon at the demilitarized zone (DMZ) that divides the two countries—the first time leaders of the two countries have met since 2007. The outcome will set the stage for what's primed to be the

most significant diplomatic summit in a generation, with Kim and US President Donald Trump set to meet in May or early Jun. (Katie Hunt, CNN)

- Fri.'s summit will be the clearest sign yet of whether it's possible to peacefully negotiate those weapons away from a country that has spent decades doggedly building its bombs despite crippling sanctions and near-constant international opprobrium. (Foster Klug, AP)
- KJU will be in uncharted territory when the third-generation autocrat crosses into the southern half of the Demilitarized Zone separating the rival Koreas on Fri., possibly on foot, and greets S.Korean President Moon. (Foster Klug, AP)
- KJU will meet SKorean leader Moon on Apr. 27. As the two nations technically remain in a state of war, since a peace treaty was never signed at the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, and this meeting could touch on a formal truce. It will also be focused on preparing the ground for US president Donald Trump to meet KJU in May or Jun. This article in the *Guardian* provides everything you need to know about the historic meeting. (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)
- In 2017, the idea of KJU meeting with US President Donald Trump and SK Moon would've been unthinkable.The following CNN piece contains the timeline of how the diplomatic rapprochement unfolded. (Katie Hunt, Joshua Berlinger, Jason Kwok, CNN)
- SK and NK are expected to discuss ways to advance their relations at this week's summit, but tough international sanctions will likely limit their efforts toward economic cooperation, experts said Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- A vast press center is ready to accommodate over a thousand media personnel from around the world who will cover a landmark summit between the leaders of the two Koreas on Fri., the organizing committee said. (*Yonhap*)
- The Moon-Kim summit on Fri. is only known to be the third time that the leaders of the divided Koreas have met in the 65 years since the end of the Korean War. (AP)
- The heads of the two Koreas meet at Panmunjeom, the first inter-Korean leaders' summit in 11 years and the first at the border village divided in two by the military demarcation line (MDL). NKorean leader KJU will cross the MDL to the south side of Panmunjeom to meet his SKorean counterpart Moon around 9:30 am. They will begin their historic summit at 10:30 am. in the Peace House. A state dinner also will be held at the venue. (Ko Dong-hwan, *Korea Times*)
- The grandson of NK's founder and the son of a refugee who fled the country for SK will shake hands and sit down to begin talks on Fri. that could defuse what has become arguably the biggest single threat to global security. (Justin McCurry, Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)
- It may lack the punch of Trump's vow to unleash "fire and fury" and KJU "nuclear button" boasts, but the stakes will be high on Fri. when Kim and Moon sit down on the southern side of the no man's land that forms the world's most heavily armed border. (Foster Klug, AP)
- A summit between SKorean President Moon and NKorean leader KJU will be held on the southern side of the truce village of Panmunjom. In a three-part series, the Korea JoongAng Daily will examine the landmark first and second inter-Korean summits, both held in Pyongyang, and the history of Panmunjom. The second part describes the second summit held between SKorean President Roh Moo-hyun and NKorean leader Kim Jong-il in Oct. 2007. (Esther Chung, *Joongang Daily*)

- The Apr. 27 summit at the truce village of Panmunjeom or at least in the lead-up to it has emerged as a rebuttal to all of the above or the first real case of self-determination. It is not entirely about clearing up all this old historic baggage at once, but about Korea taking ownership of its future. (Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)
- SKorean President Moon will welcome KJU Fri. to a summit that, Moon hopes, will lay the groundwork for a meeting between the NKorean leader and President Trump and that will remove the cloud of another war from the peninsula. (Anna Fifield, *WaPo*)
- SK and NK wrapped up their preparations for a meeting between their leaders Thurs. with one final rehearsal of the historic inter-Korean summit. (*Yonhap*)
- This week's summit between President Moon and NKorean leader KJU is expected to focus on denuclearization, but the previous two summits in 2000 and 2007 were devoted to reconciliation efforts across the Cold War's last frontier. (*Yonhap*)
- The upcoming summit between SKorean President Moon and NKorean leader KJU will likely be a historic event that Moon earlier said could mark the start of finally ridding NK of its nuclear ambitions.(*Yonhap*)
- This week's summit between the leaders of NK and SK will occur at a border littered with mines and laced with barbed wire, a Cold War reminder of a division that dates to the end of World War II.(Hyung-jin Kim, AP)
- This article in the *Washington Post* discusses how the high-level talks in 1972 and 1991 and two inter-Korean summits in 2000 and 2007 play into Fri.'s summit. It also discusses the domestic political and legal considerations on SKorean President Moon's road map for reunification and peaceful coexistence with NK. (Hyuk Kim, *WaPo*)
- On Fri., KJU, NK's leader, is expected to walk across that border, where he will be greeted by President Moon of SK before they sit down for talks on the southern side of the Demilitarized Zone. The talks, which would be the third summit meeting between the Koreas, could produce a statement about pursuing a peace agreement to end the Korean War of 1950-53, which was paused by an armistice but never formally brought to a close. (Austin Ramzy, *NYTimes*)
- With just a day left before a historic inter-Korean summit, whether NKorean first lady Ri Sol-ju will travel with her husband KJU for the meeting has drawn keen interest in SK. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- Days ahead of a planned summit meeting between the leaders of long-time adversaries NK and SK, observers are mixed on whether a commitment by NK to fully dismantling its nuclear weapons program should be a prerequisite to a negotiation on a formal end to the Korean War. (Leejin Jun, Joshua Lipes, RFA)
- China is intently watching this week's historic meeting between NK and SK, hopeful that crucial steps will be taken towards peace on the Korean peninsula, but also anxious, analysts say, about the role it can play as talks move forward. (Bill Ide, VOA)

- A complete denuclearization will be the only way for NK to get the multilayered sanctions imposed on it lifted, an expert said Thurs., urging the NK to take steps to convince the world of its strong commitment to giving up its nuclear weapons program. (*Yonhap*)
- Experts expect the Inter-Korean Summit on Fri. to produce agreements aimed at peaceful coexistence of NK and SK—possibly even a peace treaty. But laying the groundwork for denuclearization is the top priority. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- The summit marks the first time that foreign correspondents will be part of the press corps covering the inter-Korean summit on site at Panmunjom, the Blue House said. Journalists from the UK-based Reuters, US-based Bloomberg, China's Xinhua and Japan's Kyodo News and Jiji Press will join Korean media to cover the event from the southern side of Panmunjom. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)
- KJU appears to clearly want to minimize talks on denuclearization and maximize his proposal for demilitarization of the peninsula. That can also obstruct Trump's using a military option to achieve progress on the denuclearization front. (Jang Sung-min, *Korea Times*)
- Known for a long time as a nuclear-armed tyrant threatening to nuke Washington and take out US military bases in Asia, NK leader KJU now seems to be an active international statesman. (Anna Fifield, *WaPo*)
- Defense Secretary Jim Mattis played down concerns on Thurs. about whether a potential US withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal would undermine attempts to strike an agreement with NK to dismantle its nuclear weapons program. (*Reuters*)
- Mongolia and Singapore are vying to host the historic summit between US President Donald Trump and NKorean leader KJU, SKorean newspaper Joongang Ilbo reported on Wed., citing government sources. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- US President Trump this week said there were five locations under consideration, and none of them were in the US. Neutral venues in Asia and Europe are now considered the most likely options, but given that both Trump and KJU have a reputation for enjoying the limelight, the meeting will almost certainly need to have a dramatic backdrop. (Neil Connor, *Telegraph*)
- Chinese scientists have concluded that NK nuclear test site has partially collapsed, potentially rendering it unusable. (*BBC*)
- NK's pledge to dismantle its Punggye-ri nuclear test site sounds like a big step forward but verifying whether that will actually happen will be difficult, underlining the complexities of any deal it may strike with the US. (Malcolm Foster, Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- Pope Francis has prayed for peace on the Korean Peninsula, expressing his support to the upcoming inter-Korean summit, SK's presidential office said Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- SK and the US have decided to suspend their annual combined military drills on the inter-Korean summit day this week, defense authorities here said Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's foreign minister has said she believes President Donald Trump is largely responsible for bringing NKorean leader KJU to the negotiating table. (Mick Krever, Jo Shelley, CNN)
- In this piece for the *Joongang Daily*, IOC president Thomas Bach discusses the role of the Olympics in recent peace talks between NK and SK. (Thomas Bach, *Joongang Daily*)
- US President Donald Trump may meet with SK's president before his summit with NKorean leader KJU to seek a denuclearization deal, a White House official said on Wed. (*Reuters*)

- President Donald Trump on Thurs. morning suggested that some of the elements of his potential summit later this year with NKorean leader KJU are up in the air. (Maegan Vazquez, Allie Malloy, CNN)
- US President Donald Trump on Thurs. said he is considering three or four dates as well as five locations for his meeting with NKorean leader KJU, adding that it remains unclear whether the meeting will occur. (*Reuters*)
- President Trump said NK has made concessions to the US in advance of a potential summit with KJU in the coming months, while the US hasn't given up anything. (Zeke Miller, AP)
- CIA Director Mike Pompeo was not originally slated to meet with NK leader KJU during his secret trip to Pyongyang, President Trump said Thurs. (Anne Gearan, *WaPo*)
- The Editorial board at the Washington Post states it's view that as the US President Trump and the governments of NK and SK are combining to create sky-high expectations for a diplomatic breakthrough on NK's nuclear program, the US president's bet on an unprecedented summit with the NKorean leader is looking riskier than ever. (Editorial Board, *WaPo*)
- A denuclearization deal between NK and the US, if reached, could have a greater chance of surviving a future change in the US administration now than at any other time, NK experts here said Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- US intelligence experts are trying to build a profile of KJU to give President Donald Trump a competitive edge in one of the most consequential summits since the Cold War, but they face a huge challenge–figuring out a secretive N.Korean ruler few people know much about. (Matt Spetalnick, David Brunnstrom, John Walcott, *Reuters*)
- The acting US ambassador to Australia said on Thurs. the commander of US forces in the Pacific, Adm. Harry Harris, is the best envoy to represent the US in SK. (Rod McGurik, AP)

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, HRNK Research Intern

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Friday, April 27, 2018

(ROUNDUP) Historic summit of Koreas ends with pledge to denuclearize, end confrontation; Otto Warmbier's parents sue North Korea over son's death

In North Korea:

(2nd LD) (News Focus) North Korean leader steps up charm offensive, crafts image as peace driver (*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)

All eyes on young N.K. leader in inter-Korean summit (*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)

[Audio] Pyongyang resident surprised to learn Kim Jong Un traveling to South for summit(*Daily* NK, 04/27/2018)

From Cheerleader to Global Stage, North Korea's First Lady Joins Summit Dinner (NYT, 04/27/2018)
Kim Yo-jong gets place at the table at inter-Korean summit: What we know about Kim Jong-un's sister (*Telegraph*, 04/26/2018)
Mixed feelings among North Koreans as inter-Korean summit commences (*Daily* NK, 04/27/2018)
N.K. media reports Kim Jong-un's departure for inter-Korean summit (*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)
Netizens worldwide expected to tune in live to inter-Korean summit, but what about North Koreans? (*Daily* NK, 04/27/2018)
North Koreans Kept in the Dark on Talks with South Korea (RFA, 04/26/2018)
With hug and handshakes, North Korea's smiling Kim lightens summit mood (*Reuters*, 04/27/2018)

In South Korea:
(3rd LD) S. Korean businessmen buoyed by summit, call for more cooperation with N. Korea(*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)
(LEAD) N.K. leader's historic crossing to South captures public's attention (*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)
(LEAD) Peace mood to have limited impact on S. Korean market: report (*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korean organizers of swimming worlds to push for N. Korean participation(*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)
(LEAD) Seoul shares close higher on historic summit (*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)
Defectors: North Korea survival strategy on course ahead of summit (UPI, 04/26/2018)
First Moon-Kim encounter draws 34 pct viewership in S. Korea (*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)
Is it time to buy the North's won? (*Joongang Ilbo*, 04/27/2018)
North Korean Cold Noodles a Hit as Historic Summit Warms Up Ties With South (NYT, 04/27/2018)
Pyongyang food for lunch: Inter-Korean summit spurs demand for cold noodles (*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)
Reconciliation on Korean Peninsula likely to push up S. Korean economy: BOK (*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)
S. Korean businessmen welcome summit results, expect resumption of Kaesong complex(*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)
S. Korean FM hopes Kim commits to denuclearization in writing (*Yonhap*, 04/26/2018)
South Jeolla churches ring 130 bells for successful summit (*Korea Times*, 04/27/2018)
South Korean parties divided over summit result (*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)
South Koreans clap, cheer for peace during Moon, Kim summit (UPI, 04/27/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(ROUNDUP) Historic summit of Koreas ends with pledge to denuclearize, end confrontation(*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)
(3rd LD) Moon, Kim shake hands, begin historic meeting at border (*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)
(3rd LD) Moon, Kim agree to halt all hostile acts (*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)
(4th LD) Leaders of Koreas agree to complete denuclearization, efforts to build peace(*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)
(LEAD) Koreas agree to resume reunions of separated families (*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)
(LEAD) Koreas agree to set up joint permanent liaison office in Kaesong (*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)
(LEAD) Leaders of Koreas jointly plant pine tree to symbolize peace and prosperity (*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korean leader's wife crosses into South for summit dinner (*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)

(LEAD) (News Focus) Koreas declare end to military confrontation, present peace vision(*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)
(LEAD) Two Koreas to resume construction of cross-border roads, railways (*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)
A conciliatory mood and the occasional joke (*Joongang Ilbo*, 04/27/2018)
A meaningful first step (*Joongang Ilbo*, 04/27/2018)
AP Analysis: North Korean leader displays nuclear pride (*WaPo*, 04/27/2018)
Armistice and axe murders: Korea's DMZ summit site full of diplomatic, military history(*Reuters*, 04/27/2018)
As Kim crosses into South Korea, a historic summit hangs on the North's nuclear intentions(*WaPo*, 04/26/2018)
As Kim walks across border, Germany has an idea how to tear down that 'wall' for real(*WaPo*, 04/27/2018)
At summit with South, Kim accompanied by sister, generals (*WaPo*, 04/27/2018)
At this summit, North and South Korea took a real step towards peace (*Guardian*, 04/27/2018)
Business sector hopes for changes (*Joongang Daily*, 04/27/2018)
Different manners of greetings stress stark reality of unfinished war between Koreas (*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)
Factbox: Two Korean leaders' joint statement from historic summit (*Reuters*, 04/27/2018)
Full text: Panmunjom Agreement on Korea launches 'new era of peace' (UPI, 04/27/2018)
Here's what Kim and Moon said when they met for the first time (CNN, 04/27/2018)
High risk, high return (*Joongang Daily*, 04/27/2018)
Historic Moon-Kim summit expected to ease geopolitical risks in region (*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)
How Moon and Kim make history (*Korea Times*, 04/27/2018)
If Kim Jong Un Wants to Test Nukes Again, He Has Options (VOA, 04/27/2018)
Inter-Korean cultural exchanges likely to gain steam after historic summit (*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)
Inter-Korean oceanic trade routes on rosy prospect (*Korea Times*, 04/27/2018)
Key developments leading to inter-Korean summit (*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)
Kim becomes first North Korean leader to cross border into South since war (*Reuters*, 04/26/2018)
Kim Jong Un: I'm willing to visit South Korean Presidential Office anytime (UPI, 04/27/2018)
Kim Jong-un and Moon Jae-in commit to Korean 'peace regime' to end nuclear conflict at historic summit (*Telegraph*, 04/27/2018)
Kim Jong Un calls for 'new history' at Korean peace summit (CNN, 04/27/2018)
Kim Jong Un crosses border into South Korea for historic summit (UPI, 04/26/2018)
Kim Jong Un steps across Korean border, makes history (*WaPo*, 04/27/2018)
Kim Yo Jong: The only woman at the summit table (CNN, 04/27/2018)
Koreas agree to jointly participate in int'l sports competitions (*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)
Korea summit: leaders vow to 'write new chapter' in peninsula's history (*Guardian*, 04/27/2018)
Koreas to push for previously agreed-upon cooperative projects (*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)
Koreas to turn tense sea border into safe fishing zone (*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)
Korean Leaders: 'No More War' on Peninsula (VOA, 04/27/2018)
Korean leaders aim for end of war, 'complete denuclearization' after historic summit (*Reuters*, 04/27/2018)
Korean Leaders Agree on Denuclearization Goal at Summit (VOA, 04/27/2018)
Korean leaders plant tree as symbol of peace, prosperity (UPI, 04/27/2018)

Live and unfiltered: Kim Jong Un captivates South Koreans (*WaPo*, 04/27/2018)
(News Focus) Koreas declare end to military confrontation, present peace vision (*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)
North and South Korea agree to work toward 'common goal' of denuclearization (WaPo, 04/27/2018)
North and South Korea Set Bold Goals: A Final Peace and No Nuclear Arms (NYT,04/27/2018)
North and South Korea Summit Is Short on Details, but Long on Theater (NYT, 04/27/2018)
North and South Korean Leaders' Own Words in Meeting at the DMZ (NYT, 04/27/2018)
North and South Korean leaders promise 'lasting peace' for peninsula (*Guardian*, 04/27/2018)
North Korea's Kim Jong-un makes history by crossing into South Korea (*Joongang Daily*, 04/27/2018)
Off-topic ramblings, jokes between Moon, Kim indicate emerging rapport (*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)
Panmunjom Declaration for Peace, Prosperity and Unification of the Korean Peninsula (NYT,04/27/2018)
Panmunjom Declaration signed (*Joongang Daily*, 04/27/2018)
READ: Full declaration of North and South Korean summit (CNN, 04/27/2018)
Security has never been so tight in truce village (*Joongang Daily*, 04/27/2018)
South, North Korea declare commitment to full denuclearization, ending war (UPI, 04/27/2018)
South, North Korean officials, pop stars join leaders for official dinner (UPI, 04/27/2018)
Spouses of Korean leaders meet for first time (*Joongang Daily*, 04/27/2018)
The full text of North and South Korea's agreement, annotated (*WaPo*, 04/27/2018)
'Why has it taken us so long': five things we've learned from Korean summit (*Guardian*, 04/27/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) Foreign journalists hold out hope with subdued expectations ahead of summit(*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)
(LEAD) Japan, China welcome inter-Korean summit agreement (*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)
(LEAD) Korean War to end, Trump says after inter-Korean summit (*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)
(LEAD) Trump says 3 or 4 dates being tossed for Kim summit (*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)
Abe welcomes inter-Korean summit agreement (*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)
Bonhomie on Korean peninsula puts pressure on bellicose Trump (*Guardian*, 04/27/2018)
China welcomes joint statement by two Koreas (*Reuters*, 04/27/2018)
Eyes on Koreas as Southeast Asian leaders hold summit (*WaPo*, 04/27/2018)
How Trump's, Kim's, Moon's words have changed in just a year (*WaPo*, 04/27/2018)
In Alaska, soldiers relish role in U.S. missile defense (*Reuters*, 04/27/2018)
Japan PM Abe welcomes North-South Korea summit, expects concrete steps (*Reuters*, 04/27/2018)
Kremlin Calls Historic Summit of Korean Leaders Very Positive News (NYT, 04/27/2018)
N. Korea urges U.S. to show sincerity over its denuclearization pledge: KCNA (*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)
(News Focus) N.K. leader's 'complete' denuclearization pledge bodes well for Kim-Trump summit (*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)
Otto Warmbier's parents sue North Korea over son's death (CNN, 04/26/2018)
Parents Sue North Korea Over College Student's Death After Time in Prison (NYT, 04/26/2018)
Parents sue North Korea over death of detainee Otto Warmbier (*WaPo*, 04/26/2018)
Parents sue North Korea, saying Warmbier 'tortured and murdered' (*Reuters*, 04/26/2018)
Pictures released of Kim Jong-un meeting Donald Trump's new secretary of state Mike Pompeo (*Telegraph*, 04/26/2018)

Pompeo becomes U.S. secretary of state as North Korea, Middle East issues await (*Reuters*, 04/26/2018)
Russia ready to facilitate cooperation between North, South Korea (*Reuters*, 04/27/2018)
Trump says he is weighing options for North Korea meeting (*Reuters*, 04/27/2018)
Trump hails breakthrough at Korea summit, praises Xi (CNN, 04/27/2018)
Trump Renews Attacks on Comey Before Turning to Praise of Korean Talks (NYT, 04/27/2018)
Trump touts 'historic' meeting between Korean leaders but says 'only time will tell' where it leads (*WaPo*, 04/27/2018)
Trump welcomes historic North, South Korea meeting (*Reuters*, 04/27/2018)
U.S. GDP figures balance Korean détente in oil markets (UPI, 04/27/2018)
White House releases pictures of Mike Pompeo shaking hands with Kim Jong-un (*Guardian*, 04/27/2018)
White House releases photos of Kim Jong Un and Pompeo (CNN, 04/26/2018)
White House releases photos of Pompeo-Kim meeting (*Yonhap*, 04/26/2018)

In North Korea:

- N. Korean leader KJU on Fri. blurred the line of the peninsula's decades-long division by inviting his S. Korean counterpart to cross the border together hand in hand, in a symbolic move to position him as a key driver of reconciliation and peace. (Song Sang-ho, Joint Press Corps, *Yonhap*)
- All eyes fixated on every word from and move by KJU when he appeared live on local media channels for the first time in history during the landmark inter-Korean summit on Fri. (*Yonhap*)
- With the inter-Korean summit beginning on the morning of Apr. 27, Daily NK has conducted a brief interview with a Pyongyang resident named Jo Mun Chol (alias) to learn more about what ordinary N. Koreans think of the historic meeting. News of the Moon-Kim meeting has been presented to N. Koreans through state media, but this particular resident told Daily NK that the fact Kim would be crossing into S. Korean territory was a very surprising point. (Ha Yoon Ah, *Daily NK*)
- Ri Sol Ju first traveled to SK more than a decade ago as a cheerleader for NK's 2005 athletics team. On Fri. she returned as the wife of KJU, sharing the global stage with her husband after an historic summit that pledged to end more than 60 years of conflict on the Korean peninsula. (*Reuters*)
- KJU's younger sister took a prominent place at the negotiating table for the first NK-SK summit in more than a decade, cementing her public role as KJU's closest confidante and possibly the second-most powerful figure in his ruling regime. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- With the inter-Korean summit officially underway, there is no shortage of opinions and expectations from the international community, but little has been said of the nearly 25 million people living north of the 38th parallel. (Kim Yoo Jin, *Daily NK*)
- KJU left Pyongyang early Fri. for the historic summit with SK's president at the border truce village of Panmunjom, state media said. (*Yonhap*)
- The S. Korean government has announced that people across the world will be able to tune into a live broadcast of Fri.'s much-anticipated inter-Korean summit via a free internet feed.

But while S. Koreans are expected to follow the event in large numbers, the same cannot be said for their N. Korean counterparts. (Moon Dong Hui, *Daily NK*)

- Residents of NK are largely unaware that talks with rival SK are set to be held on Fri., with the few who know about them reluctant to discuss them openly for fear of coming to the attention of police, NKorean sources say. (Joonho Kim, Myung Chul Lee, Hyemin Son, Leejin Jun, Richard Finney, *RFA*)
- The golden doors on the stately N. Korean building swung open and KJU, in a black Mao suit and surrounded by a gaggle of officials, descended steps towards the border. (Yang Hee-kyung, Park Ju-min, *Reuters*)

In South Korea:

- About a dozen S. Korean businessmen who had operated factories in NK erupted in cheers on Fri. as they watched a live broadcast of a historic handshake between the leaders of the two rival Koreas ahead of their summit. (*Yonhap*)
- Seoul citizens shared a moment of collective awe and jubilation as they watched the two leaders of the divided Koreas shake hands in a historic summit at the countries' heavily fortified border Fri. (*Yonhap*)
- Ongoing peace gestures involving NK could have positive impacts on SK's equity markets, though global woes would limit their upward momentum, a global investment bank said Fri. (*Yonhap*)
- The S. Korean organizing committee of next year's world swimming championships said Fri. it'll push for N. Koreans' participation in the biennial event. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's stock market closed higher Fri. as investor sentiment was boosted by the summit between the two Koreas, analysts said. The local currency gained against the greenback. (*Yonhap*)
- NK's strategy has remained remarkably consistent despite perceptions the KJU regime is turning a new leaf ahead of a historic summit on Fri., according to defectors in SK who spoke to UPI. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- More than 34 percent of S. Korean TV viewers in the capital area watched the historic first encounter between Moon and KJU on Fri., a media researcher said. (*Yonhap*)
- Kim Nam-jung, an editorial writer of the Joongang Ilbo, writes on Roger Holding's chairman Jim Roger's comments on investing in N. Korean currency. Rogers, in a lecture held in SK, highlighted the prospect of a unified Korea and investment in N. Korean currency, telling the audience "If you buy N. Korean currency, it will make you richer someday." However, Kim expresses some skepticism as the value of the N. Korean currency won is very low right now. According to defectors Kim spoke with, among N. Koreans, the N. Korean won is often viewed as "money without a future" or "money worth less than a sheet of paper" due to the country's failed currency reform in 2009, when Kim Jong-il was in power. (Kim Nam-jung, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- Long lines formed on Fri. outside restaurants in SK's capital serving Pyongyang-style cold noodles after the dish took on a starring role at a historic summit between N. and S. Korean leaders. (*Reuters*)

- After it was announced that Moon and KJU would be enjoying the N. Korean noodles, popular N. Korean-style naengmyeon restaurants in Seoul were flooded with customers lining up to have a bowl for lunch. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's central bank said Fri. that the looming rapprochement mood on the Korean Peninsula will have a positive impact on Asia's fourth-largest economy going forward. (*Yonhap*)
- S. Korean businessmen who had operated factories at the now-shuttered joint industrial complex in NK's border city welcomed the outcome of the historic inter-Korean summit and expressed hopes for the resumption of the factory park. (*Yonhap*)
- S. Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha expressed hope Thurs. that KJU will commit to denuclearization in writing. (*Yonhap*)
- Churches in Gwangju and other parts of South Jeolla Province rang their bells simultaneously at 9:30 a.m. Fri. to wish for a peaceful result from the inter-Korean summit. (Ko Dong-hwan, *Korea Times*)
- SK's main opposition Liberty Korea Party (LKP) denounced the declaration by the two Koreas following the leaders' historic summit on Fri., calling it a political charade in the name of peace. (*Yonhap*)
- S. Koreans welcomed the joint declaration from leaders of NK and SK to work toward an official end to the 1950-53 Korean War as ruling and opposition political parties reacted to the historic summit between KJU and Moon on Fri. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The historic summit between Moon and KJU ended Fri. with calls for the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and an immediate halt to all hostile acts in perhaps the most far-reaching agreement ever made between the two sides. (Byun Duk-kun, *Yonhap*)
- Moon and KJU began their historic meeting early Fri. with a handshake at the heavily fortified border between the two countries. (*Yonhap*)
- The leaders of SKand NK agreed Fri. to "completely cease all hostile acts against each other in every domain" as part of efforts to formally end the 1950-53 Korean War and introduce a peace treaty. (Joint Press Crops, *Yonhap*)
- The leaders of SK and NK reaffirmed their commitment to the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula Fri., while also agreeing to reduce their conventional weapons pending the outcome of their joint efforts to reduce military tension and promote a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula. (Joint Press Corps, *Yonhap*)
- SK and NK agreed Fri. to hold reunions of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War on the occasion of Liberation Day in Aug. (Joint Press Corps, *Yonhap*)
- SK and NK agreed Fri. to set up a joint permanent liaison office in NK's border city of Kaesong to facilitate closer communication. (Joint Press Corps, *Yonhap*)
- The leaders of SK and NK jointly planted a tree on Fri., an event that symbolizes their wish for peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula. (Joint Press Corps, *Yonhap*)
- Ri Sol-ju, the wife of KJU, crossed the border in the Demilitarized Zone into S. Korean territory Fri. to attend a summit dinner hosted by Moon. (*Yonhap*)

- The leaders of the two Koreas took a meaningful, albeit not sensational, step Fri. towards a lasting peace on the peninsula during their Panmunjom summit that was meant to write a "new history." (Lee Chi-dong, *Yonhap*)
- The historic inter-Korean summit is raising hopes for cooperation on social overhead capital projects as the leaders of SK and NK agreed on Fri. to link cross-border roads and railways. (*Yonhap*)
- Talks touch on peace, denuclearization and Pyongyang noodles- a summary of the events at yesterday's summit between KJU and Moon. (Kang Jin-kyu, Sarah Kim, Lee Sung-eun, Esther Chung, Joint Press Corprs, *Joongang Ilbo*)
- The Korean Peninsula took a meaningful first step toward complete denuclearization. Moon and KJU held an inter-Korean summit at Peace House on the southern side of Panmunjom, the symbol of the two Korea's division, and confirmed that it is their "mutual goal to realize a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula through complete denuclearization." They also agreed that the measures being taken by NK are significant for denuclearization and that they will work to win the support and cooperation of the international community for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. These agreements were laid out in the Panmunjom Declaration. It is the first time that the two Koreas' leaders have discussed the denuclearization issue as the core issue of a summit, the third of its kind. It is also the first time that the outcome has been stipulated in the agreement. (*Joongang Daily*)
- To the rest of the world focused on whether KJU is really willing to negotiate away his nuclear weapons, NK has a message: He isn't embarking on talks with his rivals out of desperation. He's meeting them as the proud leader of a nuclear power. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- The "peace village" of Panmunjom, with its cluster of distinctive bright blue buildings and chequered history of defections, tension and murder, is an apt choice for the first inter-Korean summit in more than a decade. (Shin Hyon-hee, *Reuters*)
- KJU on Fri. morning crossed the line that has divided the Korean Peninsula for 65 years, walking into SK for a historic summit with Moon that will lay the groundwork for a meeting between KJU and Trump. (Anna Fifield, *WaPo*)
- Fri's summit is one for the history books, but whether it will yield any results is still unclear. It could be the beginning of a real peace initiative, or a huge disappointment — or anything in between. In case of a success, however, one once-unthinkable question will emerge sooner rather than later: What would happen to the DMZ that has separated two Koreas since 1953? (Rick Noack, *WaPo*)
- A list of high-profile NK officials accompanying KJU to a border village to meet with Moon showed how serious KJU was about the Koreas' third-ever summit. (Hyung-jin Kim, AP)
- Today's meeting between NK and SK at Panmunjom, and those few steps by KJU on to southern territory, as he held Moon's hand, must represent one of the sharpest and speediest diplomatic turnarounds in living memory. The leaders later issued a joint statement calling for a nuclear-free Korean peninsula, and agreeing to talk about formally signing a peace treaty. Can this rapprochement last? (Mary Dejevsky, *Guardian*)
- Hopes for a resumption of inter-Korean economic cooperation rose after the historic summit Fri. (Seo Ji-eun, *Joongang Daily*)

- As Moon and his entourage welcomed their N. Korean counterparts for a historic summit on the S. Korean side of the border on Fri.,NK's top military officials saluted Moon while their S. Korean peers only exchanged a nod or a handshake with KJU. (*Yonhap*)
- KJU and Moon signed a joint statement on Fri. after meeting at the heavily fortified demilitarized zone between their countries. Here are the major points. (*Reuters*)
- S. Korean President Moon and N. Korean leader KJU signed a historic agreement on Fri. in the border village of Panmunjom. The following is the full text of the Panmunjom Declaration for Peace, Prosperity and Unification of the Korean Peninsula document (unofficial translation). (Inter-Korean Summit Press Corps, UPI)
- Here's what the two leaders said to each other during their very first encounter, according to a transcript released by S.Korea. (Katie Hunt, Sophie Jeong, CNN)
- Senior columnist of the Joongang Ilbo, Bae Myung-bok stated in his column that the summit will decide whether the last remaining confrontational structure of the Cold War will be dismantled and convert the Korean Peninsula into a land of peace and prosperity or not. If the military tensions on the peninsula are resolved and a path to denuclearization is opened, Moon and KJU will be remembered as heroes who changed the destiny of the Korean people. (Bae Myung-bok, *Joongang Daily*)
- The historic first meeting between Moon and KJU on Fri. is expected to ease geopolitical risks and stimulate new economic momentum that will benefit Asia's fourth-largest economy going forward. (*Yonhap*)
- A summary of the morning of the inter-Korean summit's events. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
  NK's main underground nuclear test site may be damaged and portions of it unusable, but analysts say that does not mean Pyongyang can no longer carry out nuclear tests at the facility or elsewhere. (Bill Ide, VOA)
- In the wake of Fri's landmark agreement between the leaders of the two Koreas, cross-border cultural exchanges are expected to pick up speed. (*Yonhap*)
- With the inter-Korean summit under way on Fri., another inter-Korean breakthrough may be on the way — a network of trade routes connecting cities of both countries near the Korean Peninsula's western seaboard. (Ko Dong-hwan, *Korea Times*)
- The following is a chronology of major events leading to the historic inter-Korean summit held at the border truce village of Panmunjom on Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- KJU crossed the border into SK for the first time on Fri., where he was greeted by Moon ahead of the two Koreas' first summit in more than a decade. (*Reuters*)
- N. Korean leader KJU says the two Koreas "shouldn't go back to square one and not denuclearize," as in the past, and that he is willing to visit SK's presidential office any time, if he is invited. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- Hailing a "new era of peace", KJU and Moon, sealed their talks on Fri. with a joint declaration, and a bear hug, reaffirming their commitment to complete denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula. (Nicola Smith, Chris Graham, Gareth Davies, *Telegraph*)
- With a single step, KJU broke with decades of hostility and distrust to become the first NK leader to cross into SK territory since 1953. As shaking hands with Moon, while standing in the DMZ dividing the two countries, KJU told Moon he felt the weight of meeting at "such a historic location." (Ben Westcott, James Griffths, CNN)

- KJU walked across the border Fri. to meet Moon for the first inter-Korean summit in more than 11 years. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- In a historic summit more striking for its extraordinary images than its substance, KJU and Moon set aside a year that saw them seemingly on the verge of war, grasped hands and strode together Fri. across the cracked concrete marking the Koreas' border. (Foster Klug, AP)
- Kim Yo-jong was the face of the N. Korean delegation at the Winter Olympics in SK this year, and she had a seat at the table as the only woman among six delegates for the most significant peace talks between the two nations in decades. (Angela Dewan, Sheena McKenzie, CNN)
- The two Koreas have agreed to jointly participate in international sports competitions, including the 2018 Asian Games, following their historic summit on Friday, raising expectations of unified teams at upcoming events. (*Yonhap*)
- The leaders of NK and SK have vowed to "write a new chapter" in their peninsula's troubled history at the start of a summit that has raised hopes for a resolution over Pyongyang's nuclear and ballistic missile programs. (Benjamin Haas, Justin McCurry, *Guardian*)
- Moon and KJU reached an understanding Fri. to push for economic projects that their two late predecessors had previously agreed upon more than a decade ago. (*Yonhap*)
- The leaders of SK and NK agreed Fri. to establish a peace and cooperation zone on their disputed western sea border, a move that could prevent future clashes. (*Yonhap*)
- In an unprecedented and historic move, the leaders of the two Koreas have signed a joint statement saying they are committed to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and bringing an official end to the Korean War. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- The leaders of NK and SK embraced on Fri. after pledging to work for the "complete denuclearization of the Korean peninsula", on a day of smiles and handshakes at the first inter-Korean summit in more than a decade. (Christine Kim, Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- The Inter-Korean summit began Fri. morning with a historic step as KJU crossed the military demarcation line that has divided Korea for over 60 years. At the end, the leaders of two Koreas embraced prior to announcing a joint declaration committing to denuclearization and peace. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- S. Korean President Moon and N. Korean leader KJU planted a pine tree originally grown in 1953, known as a bansong, along a path on the southern side of the Military Demarcation Line at 4:30 p.m. on Fri. (2018 Inter-Korean Summit Press Corps, UPI)
- S. Koreans watched Fri. as history unfolded and KJU, the NK leader they normally only see in heavily edited footage, walked across the border and had his every word broadcast live and unfiltered on airwaves across the country. (Youkyung Lee, AP)
- The leaders of the two Koreas took a meaningful, perhaps sensational, step Fri. towards a lasting peace on the peninsula during their Panmunjom summit that was meant to write a "new history." (Lee Chi-jong, *Yonhap*)
- The leaders of two Koreas made bold pledges Fri. to work toward a "common goal" of denuclearizing their peninsula and formally ending the Korean War by the end of this year, following a historic day of talks on the border that has divided them for almost seven decades. (Anna Fifield, *WaPo*)

- The leaders of NK and SK agreed on Fri. to work to remove all nuclear weapons from the Korean Peninsula and, within the year, pursue talks with the US to declare an official end to the Korean War, which ravaged the peninsula from 1950 to 1953. (Choe Sang-hyun, NYT)
- Fri.'s summit meeting between the leaders of NK and SK was a master class in diplomatic stagecraft, with each scene arranged for its power as political theater and broadcast live. In a perilous standoff that has resisted solutions, it was these images that offered hope, much more than the actual results from the meeting — vague pledges to work toward nuclear disarmament and a peace treaty. (Russel Goldman, NYT)
- The meeting between KJU, and Moon offered a rare opportunity to hear KJU speak spontaneously, without the filter of his nation's state news media. (Austin Ramzy, NYT)
- The leaders of NK and SK have promised after a landmark summit to bring "lasting peace" to the peninsula with a commitment to denuclearization and to ending decades of hostilities. (Benjamin Haas, Justin McCurry, *Guardian*)
- KJU crossed the inter-Korean border in the border village of Panmunjom at 9:29 am today, becoming the first N. Korean leader to set foot in S. Korean territory. (Joint Press Corps, Kang Jin-kyu, Sarah Kim, Esther Chung, Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Daily*)
- Off-topic ramblings, jests and quips during the historic encounter between the leaders of the two Koreas on Fri. highlighted their growing rapport despite the security-heavy summit agenda. (Joint Press Corps, *Yonhap*)
- The full joint statement by NK and SK released by the S. Korean presidential office on Fri. after KJU and Moon pledged to work for the "complete denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula". It punctuated a day of smiles and handshakes at the first inter-Korean summit in more than a decade. (*Reuters*)
- SK and NK declared their commitment to the "complete denuclearization" of the Korean Peninsula in their joint Panmunjom Declaration, the product of the third inter-Korean summit held Fri. (Kang Jin-kyu, Joint Press Corps, *Joongang Daily*)
- Here is the official translation of full declaration of two Koreas provided by the Inter-Korean summit. (CNN)
- As NK's leader stepped onto southern soil for the first time Fri., SK and NK maintained a tight joint security posture around the military demarcation line (MDL). (Sarah Kim, Joint Press Corps, *Joongang Daily*)
- The two Koreas have reached a landmark Panmunjeom Agreement to achieve full denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and agreed to pursue a peace treaty to formally end the Korean War. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- Moon and KJU clinked glasses in an official welcoming dinner, less than an hour after reaching their historic agreement on the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- Ri Sol-ju, the wife of N. Korean leader KJU, crossed the inter-Korean border on Fri. and met SK's first lady, Kim Jung-sook, in the first face-to-face meeting between the spouses of two Korean leaders. (Lee Sung-eun, Joint Press Corps, *Joongang Daily*)
- Here is an unofficial translation that shows the full text of the agreement they signed, with annotated key phrases and segments for further information. (Adam Tayler, *WaPo*)
- KJU said he wondered to himself why he had not met SK's leader before, and then appeared to promise an end to missile tests. (Martin Farrer, Justin McCurry, *Guardian*)

International:

- Foreign journalists covering the historic inter-Korean summit shared the sense of cautious optimism on Fri., but some called for toning down expectations, saying that a one-off event might not be enough to produce a breakthrough from a decadeslong stalemate. (*Yonhap*)
- Japanese PM Shinzo Abe on Fri. welcomed a surprise set of inter-Korean summit agreements to build peace and denuclearize the Korean Peninsula but urged NK to prove its commitment with action. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump declared Fri. that the Korean War will end, after the leaders of the two Koreas met and agreed to pursue a peace treaty and the denuclearization of the peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump said Thurs. that three or four dates are under review for his potential meeting with KJU. (*Yonhap*)
- Japanese PM Shinzo Abe on Fri. welcomed a surprise set of inter-Korean summit agreements to build peace and denuclearize the Korean Peninsula but urged NK to prove its commitment with action. (*Yonhap*)
- The joint declaration by KJU and Moon, the fruit of Fri.'s unexpectedly warm, fraternal summit, represents a big political and diplomatic triumph for both Korean leaders. It will gratify China's government too, and relieve people around the world worried about nuclear war. But it could be a big problem for US President Trump. (Simon Tisdall, *Guardian*)
- China welcomed on Fri. a joint statement by NK and SK after their leaders pledged to work for the complete denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and declare an official end to the 1950-53 Korean War. (*Reuters*)
- ASEAN leaders will discuss economic cooperation and Myanmar's refugee crisis at a summit in Singapore, but much of their attention will be focused on the history unfolding on the Korean Peninsula. (Annabelle Liang, AP)
- KJU and Trump exchanged insults and threats of nuclear annihilation, while the soft-spoken Moon struggled to be heard. And now Kim and Moon are meeting to discuss NK's nuclear weapons ahead of Kim-Trump talks scheduled for May or June. (Kim Tong-Hyung, AP)
- Two hours south of Fairbanks, Alaska, sit row upon row of missile silos embedded in the frozen ground in the shadow of snow-capped mountains. The missiles and a few dozen National Guard soldiers will form the first line of defense should NK, or any other country, fire an intercontinental ballistic missile at the US States. (Justin Mitchell, *Reuters*)
- PM Shinzo Abe said on Fri. Japan welcomed the summit between the leaders of NK and SK as a positive step and he strongly expected Pyongyang to take concrete steps towards to carry out its promises. (*Reuters*)
- The Kremlin on Fri. hailed a historic summit between the leaders of NK and SK as very positive news and said President Vladimir Putin had long advocated direct talks between the two countries. (*Reuters*)
- NK urged the US Fri. to take sincere action in response to the country's commitment to denuclearization, denouncing the US's pledge to continue its sanctions and pressure in the event of no progress on the NK nuclear issue. (*Yonhap*)
- The "complete" denuclearization pledge that Moon won from KJU in Fri.'s historic summit bodes well for the upcoming talks between KJU and Trump. (Chang Jae-soon, *Yonhap*)

- The parents of Otto Warmbier filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the NK government on Thursday charging that the country's regime tortured and killed their son, according to lawyers for the family. (Zachary Cohen and Katelyn Polantz, CNN)
- The parents of Otto F. Warmbier, the Cincinnati college student who died after suffering a severe brain injury during 17 months in custody in Pyongyang, sued NK on Thurs., alleging that it kidnapped, tortured and murdered their son. (Mark Landler, NYT)
- The parents of US college student Otto Warmbier filed a wrongful death lawsuit against NK on Thursday, saying its government tortured and killed their son. (Matthew Pennington, AP)
- The parents of US college student Otto Warmbier sued NK on Thurs. over their son's death in 2017 following his release from captivity there, according to the lawsuit which said their son was "brutally tortured and murdered." (Ian Simpson, *Reuters*)
- Trump on Thurs. said he is considering 3 or 4 dates as well as 5 locations for his meeting with KJU, adding that it remains unclear whether the meeting will occur. (*Reuters*)
- The White House has released pictures of Mike Pompeo meeting KJU. It came as Pompeo, the former CIA Director, was confirmed as Trump's new secretary of state. (Nick Allen, *Telegraph*)
- The US Senate confirmed Mike Pompeo as Trump's secretary of state on Thurs., and the former CIA director set off immediately on a trip to meet key allies in Europe and the Middle East. (Patrica Zengerle, Lesley Wroughton, *Reuters*)
- Russia's Foreign Ministry said on Fri. it was ready to facilitate cooperation between NK and SK, including in the fields of railway transportation, gas and electrical energy. (*Reuters*)
- Trump hailed the historic announcement made at Fri.s Korea summit, which declared an intention to end longstanding hostilities between the two countries, and singled out Chinese President Xi Jinping for praise. (Clare Foran,CNN)
- Trump on Fri. renewed his attacks on the former F.B.I. director James B. Comey, kicking off a morning Twitter barrage by once again accusing Comey of leaking classified information and lying to cover it up, even as the leaders of NK and SK held a historic meeting hours earlier. (Eileen Sullivan, NYT)
- Mixed results for first quarter US economic growth balanced against a waning risk premium from Korean détente to keep oil prices in stable territory Fri. (Daniel J. Graeber, UPI)
- Trump on Fri. hailed the "historic meeting" between the leaders of two Koreas and said "good things are happening" — but sounded a cautionary note about the thaw in relations between the two nations. (John Wagner, WaPo)
- Trump hailed the historic meeting between KJU and Moon on Fri., even while sounding a note of caution. (*Reuters*)
- The White House on Thurs. released two photographs of Mike Pompeo, the new US secretary of state, shaking hands with NK's KJU. The photos came hours after the US Senate confirmed Pompeo as Trump's top diplomat. (Staff and agencies, *Guardian*)
- Not many Americans have shaken the hand of KJU but in new photos released on Thurs. newly confirmed Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is doing just that. (Elizabeth Landers, CNN)
- The White House on Thurs. released photos of U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's secret meeting with KJU. (*Yonhap*)

Prepared by Emma Stubblefield, Jinny Ahn, James Park, HRNK Research Interns

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Saturday, April 28, 2018

NK ‘ready to PROFIT’ from chemical weapon sales after Syria 'demonstration'; How Trump's erratic behavior can be an unlikely asset in the biggest moments; NK's official newspaper gives special coverage to inter-Korean summit

Top News:
North Korea ‘ready to PROFIT’ from chemical weapon sales after Syria 'demonstration' (*Express*, 4/26/2018)
We're starting to see how Trump's erratic behavior can be an unlikely asset in the biggest moments (*Business Insider*, 04/27/2018)

In North Korea:
(LEAD) N.K. media reports on 'complete denuclearization' in summit declaration (*Yonhap*, 04/28/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korea's official newspaper gives special coverage to inter-Korean summit (*Yonhap*, 04/28/2018)
(News Focus) Can North Korea's 'treasured sword' be bargained away? (*Yonhap*, 04/28/2018)
N. Korea glorifies summit with South; analysts less sure (*WaPo*, 04/27/2018)
North Korea hails 'new milestone' and credits Kim with summit success (*Guardian*, 04/28/2018)
North Korea says inter-Korean summit will be a 'new milestone' (*Reuters*, 04/28/2018)
North Korea suffers from housing shortage: report (*Yonhap*, 04/28/2018)
North Korean media hails summit as Trump presses for full denuclearization (*Reuters*, 04/28/2018)
North Korean News Outlets Fawn Over Kim but Offer Few Clues on Nuclear Plan (NYT, 04/28/2018)
North Korean state media praises 'historic' Kim-Moon summit (CNN, 04/28/2018)

In South Korea:
After summit, South Korea plots 'roadmap' for Trump's meeting with Kim Jong Un (*Reuters*, 04/28/2018)
South Koreans dare to hope of once unthinkable peace with Kim (CNN, 04/28/2018)
Summit offers South Koreans rare insight into Kim Jong Un (*WaPo*, 04/28/2018)
Young North Korean defectors struggle to adapt to South Korean schools (*Korea Times*, 04/28/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(News Focus) Inter-Korean summit shifts focus to Trump's ability to make nuclear deal (*Yonhap*, 04/28/2018)

(News Focus) N.K.'s denuclearization promise raises hope, but skepticism lingers over lack of detailed steps: experts (*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)
(News Focus) Summit calls for balanced South-North growth, heralds more economic cooperation (*Yonhap*, 04/27/2018)
Don't get too excited about the Korea summit. There's a lot of work to do (*WaPo*, 04/27/2018)
Korean Accord Draws Praise, and Caution, From North's Neighbors (NYT, 04/28/2018)
Korean leaders set 'denuclearization' goal, Trump says will maintain pressure (*Reuters*, 04/27/2018)
Relations Thaw, But Questions Remain on Denuclearization Goals After Korea Summit (*RFA*, 04/27/2018)
Takeaways from Koreas summit: Kim's smiles, Moon's reception (*WaPo*, 04/28/2018)
The inter-Korean summit has only raised the stakes for Trump (*WaPo*, 04/27/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) Trump says meeting with Kim narrowed down to 2 sites (*Yonhap*, 04/28/2018)
Analysis: Korea summit puts nuclear ball in Trump's court (*WaPo*, 04/28/2018)
Australia sending plane to monitor North Korean ships' 'illicit trade' (*Guardian*, 04/28/2018)
Australia to send military aircraft to monitor North Korean ships (*Reuters*, 04/27/2018)
Israel says 'denuclearized' Korean peninsula helpful versus Iran (*Reuters*, 04/27/2018)
Pompeo says Kim is serious about denuclearization talks (*Yonhap*, 04/28/2018)
Trump Convinced North Korea No Longer Playing Around (VOA, 04/28/2018)
Trump rebrands diplomatic norms as events in Asia, Europe and elsewhere spin on his axis (*WaPo*, 04/27/2018)
Trump says he has a responsibility to end Korean conflict (*WaPo*, 04/27/2018)
Trump welcomes historic North, South Korea meeting (*Reuters*, 04/27/2018)
U.N. chief lauds 'truly historic' inter-Korean summit (*Yonhap*, 04/28/2018)

Top News:

- NK is capable of resupplying Syria with more chemical weapons after facilities used to produce and store them were destroyed in US-led airstrikes, according to an NK expert and an HRNK author Robert Collins. (Harvey Gavin, *Express*)
- Despite the positive regional atmosphere following the historic Inter-Korean summit, cautiousness should remain. If any of its new demands aren't met, NK can walk away from its peace promises at any time, and will likely blame whomever it wishes for the tragic result, said HRNK Board Member Nicholas Eberstadt. (Daniella Greenbaum, *Business Insider*)

In North Korea:

- NK's state media reported Saturday that the inter-Korean summit declaration included "complete denuclearization," a rare public mention of the phrase that raised hopes of joint efforts toward the hitherto elusive goal. (*Yonhap*)

- The Rodong Sinmun, the official newspaper of NK Workers' Party, gave extensive coverage of Friday's inter-Korean summit, carrying as many as 61 photos Moon meeting with KJU at the border peace village of Panmunjom. (*Yonhap*)
- Despite Friday's cross-border summit affirming the shared goal of complete denuclearization, skepticism lingers over whether NK will forgo its nuclear arsenal, a quintessential source of national pride and "treasured sword of justice." (*Yonhap*)
- Despite the bold declarations from the Inter-Korean summit, the leaders failed to provide any new measures on a nuclear standoff that has captivated and terrified millions, and analysts expressed doubts on whether the summit represented a real breakthrough. (Foster Klug, Kim Tong-Hyung, AP)
- NK has hailed its summit with the South as “new milestone” in the history of the two countries after the two leaders pledged to pursue a permanent peace and rid the peninsula of nuclear weapons. (*Guardian*)
- NK’s state news agency said on Saturday the inter-Korean summit a day earlier will be a “new milestone” in bringing about joint prosperity and a turning point for the Korean peninsula. (*Reuters*)
- As NK has been struggling to increase the government-led housing supply for years, the country's chronic housing shortage may pose difficulties to a unified Korea in the future. (*Yonhap*)
- NK’s state news agency on Saturday called the inter-Korean summit a turning point for the Korean peninsula, while Trump said he would maintain sanctions pressure on Pyongyang ahead of his own unprecedented meeting with KJU. (Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- While NK news media highly praised KJU for his diplomacy, they appeared to give no hints to its readers whether KJU would genuinely consider giving up his nukes, or what he might demand in return. (Choe Sang-hun, NYT)
- NK state media has praised Friday's inter-Korean summit as a "historic" and "groundbreaking development" that will help bring peace to the Korean Peninsula, in a stark shift in tone Saturday from one of the world's most tightly controlled propaganda machines. (Joshua Berlinger and Paula Hancocks, CNN)

In South Korea:

- Moon will be collecting information for Trump when he visits Washington in mid-May, and the ROK government has come up with a comprehensive roadmap that they have been sharing with the US, said said a special adviser to Moon for foreign affairs and national security. (Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- The landmark deal signed by the two leaders Friday wasn't the Berlin Wall coming down -- the DMZ between the Koreas remains, and there are still many issues to solve, but it had something of that historical weight, and has left even the most cynical of S.Koreans feeling genuinely optimistic about their country's future. (James Griffiths and Sol Han, CNN)
- A day after the two Korean leaders met for a summit along their shared border, the emotional, memorable, even funny scenes from their time together are both a bitter

reminder of the Koreas' seven decades of division and an insight into the mysterious character of NK leader KJU. (Hyung-Jin Kim, AP)

- The number of NK defectors attending SK's elementary and secondary schools stood at 2,538 as of April 2017, marking a 270 percent increase from 687 in 2007, figures from the education ministry showed Saturday. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The inter-Korean summit that ended with an agreement to achieve complete denuclearization shifts focus to President Trump's ability to make it a reality. (*Yonhap*)
- A "complete" denuclearization promised by NK on Friday is raising hopes for a breakthrough in the nuclear standoff, but its seriousness will likely be tested in its upcoming summit with the US, experts said. (*Yonhap*)
- While the historic summit between leaders of the two Koreas Friday made dramatic progress towards "complete" denuclearization, it deserves further attention for its highlighting the need for balanced development and mutual prosperity on the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- Although Moon and KJU agreed in the Panmunjom Declaration to work together toward a permanent peace rather than the current armistice and declared a commitment to "denuclearization," it is still unknown whether this statement of principles will be of lasting worth until the details are hammered out. (Wendy R. Sherman, *WaPo*)
- China, Japan, and Russia, while offering praise for the Inter-Korean summit that riveted the world this week, appeared to acknowledge one thing: Now comes the real part. (Jane Perlez, NYT)
- The leaders of two Koreas pledged at a historic summit on Friday to work for "complete denuclearization" of the Korean peninsula, but Trump said he would maintain pressure on Pyongyang through sanctions ahead of his own unprecedented meeting with NK's KJU. (Christine Kim, Josh Smith, Roberta Rampton, *Reuters*)
- Analysts on Friday welcomed a joint agreement by the leaders of two Koreas to denuclearize the Korean peninsula, but said the wording of the pledge remains vague and warned that achieving a result that satisfies both parties, and the U.S., will require a significant amount of political will. (*RFA*)
- A few takeaways from the Inter-Korea summit are: 1) KJU is a real person 2) Moon knows how to impress 3) Trump's got a real task ahead. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- Puzzling together peace on the Korean Peninsula still requires two missing pieces: KJU's true intentions regarding his nuclear weapons and Trump's ability to persuade KJU to part with his armaments. Thus, the Korea summit has only raised the stakes for the expected summit between Trump and Kim in May or June. (Victor Cha, *WaPo*)

International:

- US President Trump said Friday that his planned meeting with NK leader KJU has been narrowed to two sites. (*Yonhap*)

- Despite its feel-good emphasis on relationship-building, the Inter-Korean summit left a lot of question marks around denuclearization. And that puts the ball squarely in the court of Trump, whose much anticipated summit with Kim is expected to be just weeks away. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- Australia will send a military plane to monitor NK vessels suspected of transferring prohibited goods in defiance of UN sanctions. (*Guardian*)
- Australia will send a military patrol aircraft to monitor NK vessels suspected of transferring prohibited goods in defiance of UN sanctions. (Alison Bevege, *Reuters*)
- Friday's historic pledge by the leaders of the two Koreas to work to denuclearize the Korean peninsula should give Trump a stronger hand to renegotiate the treaty curtailing Iran's nuclear program, Israel's intelligence minister said. (Daniel Bases, *Reuters*)
- New U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Friday he senses NK leader KJU is "serious" about the upcoming talks with the US over its denuclearization. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump does not think KJU is no longer "playing around," he said at a White House news conference when asked about Friday's historic summit between two Koreas. (Jeff Seldin, VOA)
- President Trump on Friday placed himself at the center of the remarkable summit between the leaders of two Koreas, taking credit for bold and innovative diplomacy that may open a path to peace where other leaders failed. (Anne Gearan, *WaPo*)
- President Trump claimed credit Friday for a historic inter-Korean summit, but now faces a burden in helping turn the Korean leaders' bold but vague vision for peace into reality after more than six decades of hostility. (Matthew Pennington, AP)
- Trump hailed the historic meeting between KJU and Moon on Friday, even while sounding a note of caution. (*Reuters*)
- U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres praised the inter-Korean summit Friday as a "truly historic" meeting that will hopefully lead to peace and denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

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Sunday, April 29, 2018

N.Korea will invite outside experts to observe closing of nuclear test site; Moon, Trump vow efforts to ensure US, NK agree on concrete denuclearization measures; Trump expects to meet Kim in 'three or four weeks'

In North Korea:
Kim invites outsiders to test site (*Joongang Daily*, 04/29/2018)
Kim Says He'll Give Up Weapons if U.S. Promises Not to Invade (NYT, 04/29/2018)
Kim Jong Un: I'm not the kind of person who would shoot nukes at U.S., South Korea (UPI, 04/29/2018)
Kim Jong-un: North Korea to allow foreign experts to witness nuclear site closure in May (*Telegraph*, 04/29/2018)
Kim Jong-un promises to 'dismantle nuclear test site in May in full view of experts, journalists' (*Korea Times*, 04/29/2018)
N. Korea to close nuke test site in May, unify time zone (*WaPo*, 04/28/2018)
N. Korea to Invite US, S. Korean Experts & Journalists to Nuclear Shutdown (VOA, 04/29/2018)
N. Korean leader shifts gear to economy (*Korea Times*, 04/29/2018)
North Korea nuclear test site to close in May, South Korea says (BBC, 04/29/2018)
North Korea to 'unify' standard time with South Korea (UPI, 04/28/2018)
North Korea's Kim promises transparency in nuclear site shutdown as Trump presses for full denuclearization (*Reuters*, 04/29/2018)
North Korea wants outsiders to observe closure of its nuclear test site, South says (*WaPo*, 04/29/2018)
North Korea will close main nuclear test site in May, South says (CNN, 04/28/2018)
North Korea will invite outside experts to observe closing of nuclear test site (*Guardian*, 04/29/2018)
Pyongyang's state-controlled media give extensive coverage to summit (*Korea Times*, 04/29/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) Moon offers to broker N. Korea-Japan talks (*Yonhap*, 04/29/2018)
Economists, business owners hopeful after inter-Korean summit (UPI, 04/29/2018)
Gov't to review measures for inter-Korean economic projects (*Korea Times*, 04/29/2018)
Seoul to push for family reunion talks with North as soon as possible (*Yonhap*, 04/29/2018)
S. Korean Foreign Minister Kang, Pompeo talk via phone on summit results (*Yonhap*, 04/29/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
At summit banquet, cheers and promises (*Joongang Daily*, 04/29/2018)
For border areas, rapprochement means peace and quiet (*Joongang Daily*, 04/29/2018)
I've seen this breakthrough before (*Joongang Daily*, 04/29/2018)
Moon to Kim: 'Japan wants to normalize ties with North Korea' (*Korea Times*, 04/29/2018)
Panmunjom on my mind (*Joongang Daily*, 04/29/2018)
The rush to optimism (*Joongang Daily*, 04/29/2018)

International:
(LEAD) Moon, Trump discuss outcome of inter-Korean summit (*Yonhap*, 04/29/2018)
(3rd LD) Moon, Trump vow efforts to ensure U.S., N.K. agree on concrete denuclearization measures (*Yonhap*, 04/29/2018)
Abe says Moon addressed abduction of Japanese by North during summit with Kim (*Yonhap*, 04/29/2018)

Donald Trump expects to meet North Korea 'in three or four weeks' (*Guardian*, 04/28/2018)
Donald Trump says he will meet Kim Jong-un in 'next three to four weeks' (*Telegraph*, 04/29/2018)
Japan's Abe, Trump agree Korean summit positive for denuclearization: PM's office (*Reuters*, 04/29/2018)
Moon, Trump hold longest-ever phone call after inter-Korean summit (UPI, 04/29/2018)
bout Trump-Kim summit: Singapore PM (*Korea Times*, 04/29/2018)
North Korea 'prepared' to make roadmap for denuclearization: Pompeo (*Korea TImes*, 04/29/2018)
Pompeo: N. Korean leader 'prepared' to 'help us achieve' denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 04/29/2018)
Pompeo says Kim Jong Un doesn't care if U.S. leaves Iran deal (*WaPo*, 04/29/2018)
The Latest: Pope hails the Koreas' 'courageous commitment' (*WaPo*, 04/29/2018)
The Latest: Seoul says Kim wants to normalize Japan ties (*WaPo*, 04/29/2018)
The Latest: Trump calls Asian allies to discuss North Korea (*WaPo*, 04/28/2018)
Trump and South Korean President Moon talk ahead of North Korea meeting (CNN, 04/28/2018)
Trump Discusses North Korea With Leaders of South Korea and Japan (VOA, 04/28/2018)
Trump on North Korea: 'Things are going very well' (*Korea Times*, 04/29/2018)
Trump says summit diplomacy is winning (*Joongang Daily*, 04/29/2018)
Trump says US-North Korea summit may be 'in three-four weeks' (*BBC*, 04/29/2018)
Trump says potential talks with Kim could happen in 'three or four weeks' (CNN, 04/28/2018)
US doubles down on tracking North Korea ahead of Trump, Kim meeting (CNN, 04/29/2018)

In North Korea:

- KJU promised Moon at their summit Friday he would shut down the Punggye-ri nuclear site next month and invite US and SK experts and journalists to inspect the demolition. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Joongang Daily*)
- KJU told Moon when they met that he would abandon his nukes if the US would agree to formally end the Korean War and promise that it would not invade his country. (Choe Sang-hun, NYT)
- KJU said he is "not the kind of person who will shoot nuclear missiles at the South, the Pacific or the US," promising that he initiates a "verifiable" shut down of the main Punggyeri nuclear facility. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- NK leader KJU promised to invite US experts and journalists to watch the closure of the country's nuclear test site next month, the South's presidential office said on Sunday. (*Telegraph*)
- NK leader KJU has promised to dismantle a "northern" nuclear test site in May in full view of experts and journalists from SK and the US. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- KJU has vowed to shut down the country's nuclear test site in May and open the process to experts and journalists from SK and the US, Seoul's presidential office said. (Kim Tong-Hyung, AP)
- KJU plans to invite experts and journalists from Seoul and the US to observe when NK shuts down its nuclear test site in May, ROK officials said Sunday. (Jeff Seldin, VOA)
- The summit between Moon an KJU showed NK's "sincerity and commitment" to economic development, experts say. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)

- The Punggye-ri site, NK's main nuclear test site, will close in May. The closure would be done in public and foreign experts from SK and the US would be invited to watch. In addition, NK would change its time zone - currently half an hour different - to match that of the South. (BBC)
- NK has decided to wind its clock forward half an hour to match its time with the South's, two years and eight months after it decided to adopt its own standard time, News 1 reported. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- KJU has pledged to close the country's nuclear test site in May in full view of the outside world, Seoul officials said on Sunday, as Trump pressed for total denuclearization ahead of his own unprecedented meeting with Kim. (Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)
- The SK government is trying to keep the momentum in diplomatic efforts to resolve the nuclear standoff with NK, announcing Sunday that the North would dismantle its main nuclear test site next month. NK leader KJU would invite security experts and journalists to the North to observe the closure of the site. (Anna Fifield, *WaPo*)
- KJU told Moon that he will close his main nuclear test site in May and invite experts and journalists from the US and SK into the country soon, a senior spokesman for Moon said Sunday. (Ben Westcott, Yoonjung Seo and Eli Watkins, CNN)
- The NK leader KJU has pledged to shutter a nuclear test site and invite foreign experts and journalists to witness the decommissioning in May as he prepares to meet Trump as early as next month. (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)
- NK's state-controlled media outlets gave an extensive coverage of the inter-Korean summit. In its April 28 printed edition, the Rodong Sinmun, the official newspaper of the ruling Workers' Party, filled four of its six pages with news and photos of the summit between Moon and KJU. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)

In South Korea:

- SK President Moon offered to broker a dialogue between NK and Japan, relaying both sides' willingness to improve ties to each other, SK Presidential office said Sunday. (*Yonhap*)
- A survey conducted by Maeil Business Daily on 50 economy and business experts found 82 percent viewed the inter-Korean summit positively. (Jennie, Oh, UPI)
- SK's transportation ministry said Sunday it is reviewing a set of measures to prepare a potentially full-fledged implementation of cross-border economic projects. (*Yonhap*)
- SK will push for inter-Korean Red Cross talks as soon as possible to arrange a reunion of families separated since the 1950-1953 Korean War, Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon said Sunday. (*Yonhap*)
- The top diplomats of ROK and the US have agreed to closely consult for the success of the upcoming US-DPRK summit and the resolution of the NK nuclear standoff. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The mood was convivial at a banquet attended by the two Koreas' leaders on Friday, with their delegations sharing food, drinks and a few laughs after a historic summit where both

sides agreed to work toward a peace treaty to end decades of hostility. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)

- All is silent around the Imjin River wetlands in Yeoncheon County in Paju, Gyeonggi, near the border with NK. The loudspeakers that usually blast propaganda blaring at the military demarcation line (MDL) were turned off - on both sides. (Jeon Ik-jin, Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)
- Despite multiple attempts for peaceful negotiations, NK's nuclear deterrent has moved from potential to actual over the years. A few years from now, when NK has its next "last chance to join the world," Koreans can crank up the pageantry and start all over on the quest for peace on the Korean Peninsula. (Harold Piper, *Joongang Daily*)
- Moon relayed Japan's hopes of normalizing ties with NK during his talks with KJU, Cheong Wa Dae said on Sunday. Kim's reaction was unknown. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- It would be naïve to expect immediate and complete denuclearization and peace. However, Koreans have surely seen the most dramatic and hopeful moment of Panmunjom, which has so long been a symbol of division. (Yang Sung-hee, *Joongang Daily*)
- NK cannot fundamentally change, as seen in Sunday's Rodong Sinmun, which lambasted U.S. democracy. We must not accept Kim's charm offensive as a transformation. We must not be overly optimistic. It is time for cool heads, along with warm hearts. (*Joongang Daily*)

International:

- Moon and Trump held a phone conversation to discuss the outcome of Moon's historic summit with KJU. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon and Trump have agreed to push for an early summit between Trump and KJU, and closely coordinate to ensure the upcoming summit leads to an agreement on concrete measures to denuclearize NK. (*Yonhap*)
- Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expressed his gratitude to President Moon on Sunday for addressing the issue of Japanese nationals abducted by the North during last week's inter-Korean summit. (*Yonhap*)
- The US President Trump said on Saturday a meeting with NK could happen over the next three to four weeks. (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)
- Trump said on Saturday a meeting with NK's KJU could happen over the next three to four weeks as he took credit for "everything" to do with the peace talks in the region. (*Telegraph*)
- Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and US President Trump welcomed the inter-Korean summit as good for denuclearization and a "historical step" towards peace and stability in Northeast Asia. (Thomas Wilson, *Reuters*)
- Trump reportedly spoke with Moon for 75 minutes on the phone to congratulate the positive consequences from the Moon-Kim summit and discuss the potential Trump-Kim summit. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- Singapore has not received any "formal" request to host an eagerly awaited meeting between Trump and KJU, the city-state's prime minister said. (AFP)
- Pompeo said he had a "good conversation" with KJU during his visit to Pyongyang, adding Kim was "prepared to... lay out a map that would help us achieve" denuclearization. (AFP)

- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said he had a "good conversation" with NK leader KJU on the "hardest issues that face our two countries." (*Yonhap*)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Sunday brushed off concerns that a decision to withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal could derail nuclear negotiations with NK. (Carol Morello, *WaPo*)
- Pope Francis is hailing what he called the "courageous commitment" undertaken by the leaders of two Koreas. (AP)
- Moon told Abe that he conveyed Japan's desire to normalize ties with NK after resolving issues of "past history." Moon's office says KJU replied that he's willing to negotiate with Japan. (AP)
- President Trump called SK President Moon and had "a long and very good talk" with him. Trump also updated Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe about "the ongoing negotiations." (AP)
- Trump said he spoke with his Japanese and ROK counterparts Saturday morning about his upcoming sit-down with NK leader KJU. (Sophie Tatum, CNN)
- Trump expressed optimism about a planned meeting with KJU following conversations Saturday with Moon and Abe. (Jeff Seldin, William Gallo, VOA)
- US President Trump said "things are going very well" with resolving NK issues Saturday after having a phone conversation with SK President Moon. (Jung Min-ho, *Korea Times*)
- Trump lauded the inter-Korean summit in a phone call with Moon late on Saturday, according to the Blue House, and the two leaders agreed to come up with concrete measures to lead to the "complete denuclearization" of the Korean Peninsula. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)
- Trump has said talks with NK could take place "over the next three or four weeks." (BBC)
- Trump said during a rally in Michigan on Saturday that there would likely be a US-NK meeting in the near future, but "whatever happens, happens." (Eli Watkins and Ben Westcott, CNN)
- The US intelligence community is doubling down on tracking NK as a potential one-on-one meeting between Trump and KJU draws closer, following a historic summit between KJU and Moon. (Jenna McLaughlin, CNN)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

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Monday, April 30, 2018

How to Understand What's Happening in NK; Trump floats DMZ as location for NK meeting; Libya as a Model for Disarmament? NK May See It Very Differently; Summit expectations give hope to NK's so-called 'hostile class'

Top News:
How to Understand What's Happening in North Korea (NYTimes, 04/27/2018)

In North Korea:
(LEAD) N. Korea to return to same time zone as S. Korea on May 5 (*Yonhap*, 04/30/2018)
Kim Jong Un willing to talk, normalize ties with Japan (UPI, 04/30/2018)
Kim Says He'd End North Korea Nuclear Pursuit for U.S. Truce (NYTimes, 04/29/2018)
North Korea nuclear test site to close in May, South Korea says (BBC, 04/29/2018)
North Korea to return to same time zone as South Korea on May 5 (*Korea Times*, 04/30/2018)
Punggye-ri: What we know about North Korea's nuclear test site (BBC, 04/29/2018)
Reactions to summit from ordinary North Koreans begin to come in (*Daily NK*, 04/30/2018)
Summit expectations give hope to North Korea's so-called 'hostile class' (*Daily NK*, 04/30/2018)
The Koreas summit and the North Korean economy: why infrastructure is on the table (*NK Econ Watch*, 04/29/2018)

In South Korea:
(2nd LD) Moon urges parliamentary ratification of Panmunjom Declaration (*Yonhap*, 04/30/2018)
65% of South Koreans trust Kim Jong-un's denuke pledge (*Korea Times*, 04/30/2018)
A Trump Nobel Peace Prize? South Korea's Leader Likes the Idea (NYTimes, 04/30/2018)
Donald Trump 'can take Nobel prize' for summit with Kim Jong-un, says South Korean president (*Telegraph*, 04/30/2018)
North Korea: from enemy to object of interest (*Korea Times*, 04/30/2018)
North Korea promises to dismantle its nuclear test site in public view, South says (*WaPo*, 04/29/2018)
South Korea's Moon Jae-in: Donald Trump should get Nobel Peace Prize (UPI, 04/30/2018)
South Korean leader says Trump 'can take the Nobel' (*WaPo*, 04/30/2018)
South Korean trust in North jumps after feel-good summit (*Reuters*, 04/29/2018)
Trump should get the Nobel Peace Prize for North Korea talks, Moon says (*WaPo*, 04/30/2018)
Trump should win the Nobel Peace Prize, says South Korea's Moon (*Reuters*, 04/30/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) S. Korea's military to remove propaganda loudspeakers from DMZ (*Yonhap*, 04/30/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea mulling high-level talks with N.K. over joint liaison office (*Yonhap*, 04/30/2018)
Asian Games could have 7 joint Korean teams: Seoul official (*Korea Times*, 04/30/2018)
Builders, Train Makers Surge on Hopes of Inter-Korean Exchanges (NYTimes, 04/30/2018)
Koreas to discuss ways to ease tension along border (*Korea Times*, 04/30/2018)
Moon to Kim: 'Japan wants to normalize ties with North Korea' (*Korea Times*, 04/30/2018)
North, South Korea take first steps of reconciliation this week (UPI, 04/30/2018)
Panmunjom summit bodes well for S. Korea, but uncertainties remain: rating agencies (*Yonhap*, 04/30/2018)
S. Korean canoe body looking to team up with N. Koreans at Asian Games (*Yonhap*, 04/30/2018)
South Korea to End Propaganda Broadcasts Along Border With North (NYTimes, 04/30/2018)

International:

(2nd LD) Pompeo: U.S. has obligation to pursue diplomacy with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 04/30/2018)
(LEAD) China's foreign minister to visit N.K. this week (*Yonhap*, 04/30/2018)
(LEAD) U.S. has Libya model in mind for N.K. denuclearization: Bolton (*Yonhap*, 04/30/2018)
(News Focus) Can Libya-style denuclearization repeat success with N.K.? (*Yonhap*, 04/30/2018)
'Diplomatic war' looms large over North Korea's denuclearization (*Korea Times*, 04/30/2018)
'Sidelined' China seeks to maintain influence as ties between North Korea and US improve (*Guardian*, 04/30/2018)
Bolton says US considering Libya model for North Korean denuclearization (CNN, 04/30/2018)
China discontent with NK's US approach: reports (*Korea Times*, 04/30/2018)
China's top diplomat to visit North Korea this week (*Korea Times*, 04/30/2018)
Chinese Foreign Minister to Visit North Korea (VOA, 04/29/2018)
Chinese foreign minister to visit North Korea this week (*WaPo*, 04/29/2018)
Chinese government's top diplomat Wang Yi to visit North Korea this week (*Reuters*, 04/29/2018)
Donald Trump suggests Korean truce village as location for Kim Jong-un summit (*Telegraph*, 04/30/2018)
Duterte calls North Korea's Kim 'hero of everybody' (*Korea Times*, 04/30/2018)
Experts react to 'complete denuclearization' pledge by leaders after inter-Korean summit (*Daily NK*, 04/30/2018)
GOP senator: Better to call Kim Jong Un 'rocket man' than 'honorable' (CNN,04/29/2018)
Libya as a Model for Disarmament? North Korea May See It Very Differently (NYT*imes*, 04/30/2018)
North Korea: Chinese foreign minister to visit Pyongyang after historic talks (BBC, 04/30/2018)
North Korea: 'Real opportunity' for nuclear deal, Pompeo says (BBC, 04/29/2018)
North Korea must take 'irreversible' steps to denuclearization, US warns (*Guardian*, 04/29/2018)
North Korean defectors say unification requires closing a cultural chasm (CNN, 04/30/2018)
Philippines' Duterte calls North Korea's Kim 'hero of everybody' (*Reuters*, 04/29/2018)
Senior diplomat to visit Singapore, Indonesia to discuss inter-Korean issues (*Yonhap*, 04/30/2018)
South Korea-U.S. summit likely to be held earlier than expected (UPI, 04/30/2018)
Trump 'just asking' if Korean border would be best suited for Kim meeting (CNN, 04/30/2018)
Trump floats DMZ as location for North Korea meeting (*WaPo*, 04/30/2018)
Trump floats the idea of meeting Kim on the border of the two Koreas (*WaPo*, 04/30/2018)
Trump Indicates Willingness to Meet North Korean Leader in the DMZ (NYT*imes*, 04/30/2018)
Trump says US-North Korea summit may be 'in three-four weeks' (BBC, 04/29/2018)
Trump suggests meeting Kim Jong Un at Korea's Peace House (*Reuters*, 04/30/2018)
Trump suggests meeting Kim Jong-un at Peace House on South Korea border (*Guardian*, 04/30/2018)
U.S. warns North Korea must take 'irreversible' steps to denuclearize (*Reuters*, 04/29/2018)
US urges release of detainees as show of sincerity by NKorea (*WaPo*, 04/29/2018)

Top News:

- In this opinion column for the NYT*imes*, columnist Nicholas Kristof gives his take on why we should be deeply skeptical—and yet relieved, even a bit hopeful of the results of the recent inter-Korean summit. He expresses his hope that in addition to denuclearization issues, US President Trump will also raise human rights issues. Kristoff states that a commission of

inquiry suggested that NK has committed crimes against humanity "on a massive scale" in its labor camps, and we should push for access to these camps by humanitarian organizations. In particular, he quotes former UN high commissioner for human rights, Navi Pillay, who stated the following: "Over 100,000 people, a figure that includes countless innocent family members of so-called enemies of the state, are effectively consigned to die in NK's political prisons. The forced abortions, infanticide, persecution of Christians, torture and summary executions that regularly occur in those various facilities are well documented. President Trump can demand that the Red Cross and the international community be given access to NK's prisons and labor camp systems." (Nicholas Kristof, *NYTimes*)

In North Korea:

- NK's parliament on Mon. announced its decision to unify its time zone with SK's starting May 5 in a bid to promote the two Koreas' reconciliation and unity, the country's state media said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- NKorean leader KJU said he is willing to talk to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, a Seoul presidential official said. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- Keeping diplomatic developments coming at a head-snapping pace, the SKorean government said on Sun. that NK's leader, KJU, had told SKorean President Moon that he would abandon his nuclear weapons if the US agreed to formally end the Korean War and promise not to invade his country. (Choe Sang-hun, *NYTimes*)
- NK's nuclear test site will close in May, the SKorean president's office has said. (BBC)
- Following the two Korean leaders' agreement to unify the time zones used in the SK and NK, Pyongyang's parliament promptly fulfilled the promise made by NKorean leader KJU, its state-run Korea Central News Agency (KCNA) reported Mon. (Choi Ha-young, *Korea Times*)
- NK has conducted six nuclear tests since 2006 and every time it has used the Punggye-ri test site.Situated in mountainous terrain in the north-east of the country, it is thought to be NK's main nuclear facility and the only active nuclear testing site in the world. But scientists believe the site has partially collapsed and may be unusable. (BBC)
- NKorean state newspaper Rodong Sinmun ran a story on the front page of the morning of the inter-Korean summit, Apr. 27, notifying the public of KJU's travel across the SKorean border for the meeting. (Kang Mi Jin, *Daily NK*)
- NK's so-called "hostile class" —which is subjected to strict surveillance and control by the country's intelligence and security agency—is experiencing a burst of hope from the NK-SK summit meeting between leader KJU and President Moon, report inside sources. (Kim Yoo Jin, *Daily NK*)
- It's much too soon to expect concrete outcomes from all the summitry relation to the NKorean economy. Tentative signs suggest, however, that infrastructure will be on the table for the road ahead. (Benjamin Katzeff, *NK Econ Watch*)

In South Korea:

- President Moon on Mon. called for swift efforts to have the outcome of his historic summit with N.Korean leader KJU ratified by the parliament, a move apparently aimed at ensuring the implementation of the inter-Korean agreement despite a possible change in government down the road. (Yonhap)
- Six out of 10 SKoreans trust NK's promise to seek denuclearization, according to a poll released Mon. (Park Ji-won, Korea Times)
- Commentators and others in Seoul think Mr. Trump deserves a Nobel Prize for helping start the unexpected peace process unfolding on the divided Korean Peninsula. On Mon., SK's president, Moon, said he felt the same. (Choe Sang-hun, NYTimes)
- Donald Trump can have the Nobel Peace Prize for last week's historic Korean summit with KJU, SKorean president Moon said on Mon., as he played down his own prospects of winning. (Esan Swan, Agence France-Presse, Telegraph)
- Last week's historic inter-Korean summit is set to open a new chapter for the relationship between the two Koreas, raising hopes for more cultural and human-to-human exchanges between the two in the future. The rapprochement raises questions about how NK has been portrayed by SKoreans over the past six decades since the end of the Korean War and if there has been any change regarding southerners' attitudes toward their northern neighbors. (Jin Yu-young, Korea Times)
- The SKorean government is trying to keep up the momentum in diplomatic efforts to resolve the NKorean nuclear question, announcing Sun. that NK would dismantle its main nuclear test site next month and that its leader, KJU, was prepared to meet with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. (Anna Fifield, WaPo)
- SKorean PresidentMoon is crediting US President Donald Trump for last week's breakthrough talks with NK's KJU,Yonhap reported. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- SKorean President Moon has shaken off a suggestion that he receive the Nobel Peace Prize, saying that US President Donald Trump "can take the Nobel prize" as long as the Koreas receive peace in return. (Hyung-Jin Kim, AP)
- SKorean trust in NK has surged since last week's feel-good summit at which their leaders declared an end to hostilities and to work towards denuclearization of the peninsula. (Hyonhee Shin, Haejin Choi, Reuters)
- If anyone were to win the Nobel Peace Prize for the current effort to solve the NKorean nuclear problem, it should be President Trump. That's what SK's president said Mon. when it was suggested that he himself should be in line for the award. (Anna Fifield, WaPo)
- SKorean President Moon said US President Donald Trump deserves a Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to end the standoff with NK over its nuclear weapons program, a SKorean official said on Mon. (Hyonhee Shin, Reuters)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- SK's military said Mon. it will soon pull back all high-decibel loudspeakers installed along the border with NK in its first step to implement the bilateral summit agreement reached last week. (Yonhap)

- SK is considering holding high-level talks with NK to discuss the details of establishing a joint liaison office in NK's border city of Kaesong, government officials said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- Seven SKorean sports associations are considering forming joint teams with NK for this year's Asian Games in Indonesia, an official told AFP Mon.—but reports said football will not be joining them. (AFP)
- Shares of SKorean construction firms, train and steel manufacturers soared on Mon., buoyed by optimism as leaders of NK and SK held their first summit in over a decade, and boosted hopes of economic projects between the two nations. (*Reuters*)
- The two Koreas will start discussing key military issues next month, as part of their first meaningful step forward to formally end the technical state of war on the Korean Peninsula no later than this year. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- SKorean President Moon relayed Japan's hopes of normalizing ties with NK during his talks with NKorean leader KJU, Cheong Wa Dae said on Sun. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- Seoul plans to scrap dozens of loudspeakers along its border with NK, which blasts SKorean music and news reports critical of Pyongyang, following the two Koreas' historic summit Fri. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- The historic summit between SKorean President Moon and NKorean leader KJU bodes well for Asia's fourth largest economy, although the road toward a permanent resolution of inter-Korean tensions is still bumpy, global rating agencies said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- The SKorean canoe governing body said Mon. it will look to team up with NK at this year's Asian Games in Indonesia. (*Yonhap*)
- SK said on Mon. that it would begin this week to dismantle the loudspeakers that have broadcast propaganda across the border into NK for decades, the first step toward implementing an agreement the country's leaders reached during their summit meeting on Fri. (Choe Sang-hun, *NYTimes*)

International:

- The US has an obligation to engage in diplomacy with NK to find a peaceful solution to its nuclear weapons issue, the top US diplomat has said. (*Yonhap*)
- Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi will visit NK this week ahead of a historic summit planned between NK and the US, the Chinese foreign ministry said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- The US is considering using the model of Libya's denuclearization in upcoming negotiations with NK over its nuclear weapons program, the top US national security adviser said Sun. (*Yonhap*)
- As the US appears to be considering applying the road map that it employed in making Libya dismantle its nuclear program to NK, the method focusing on swift denuclearization and thorough verification is drawing keen attention amid worries that it would not stand a chance of success in NK. (Koh Byung-joon, *Yonhap*)
- Extensive rounds of diplomacy are unfolding, prompted by the inter-Korean summit last Fri. in which the leaders of the NK and SK agreed to achieve complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)

- During NK and SK's historic summit on Fri., China was notably quiet. Chinese officials and state media focused instead on president Xi Jinping's meeting with Indian prime minister Narendra Modi and a visit by Xi to China's Yangtze river. After the summit, China's ministry of foreign affairs released a short statement saying Beijing "welcomed" the results of the talks. "China stands ready to continue to play its positive role to this end," it added, according to Xinhua news agency. (Lily Kuo, *Guardian*)
- The White House is looking at Libya as one example of how it will handle potential negotiations with NK on dismantling its nuclear program, John Bolton, US President Donald Trump's national security adviser, said Sun. (Joshua Berlinger, CNN)
- China is apparently discontent with NK's failure to demand a US troop pullout from SK as a condition to the latter's upcoming denuclearization talks with the US, according to Japanese media reports. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- China's foreign minister will visit NK this week, his office said Mon. (Apr. 30), becoming the highest-ranking Chinese official to travel there in years as Beijing moves to further improve ties with Pyongyang days after a landmark inter-Korean summit. (AFP)
- Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi will travel to neighboring NK this week, following a historic summit between NKorean leader KJU and SKorean President Moon. (Jeff Seldin, VOA)
- The foreign minister of NK's chief ally China will visit Pyongyang this week following the historic summit between the leaders of the two Koreas. (*Associated Press*)
- The Chinese government's top diplomat, Wang Yi, will visit NK this week, foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kan said on Mon. (*Reuters*)
- Donald Trump has suggested the truce village that hosted historic inter-Korean talks on Fri. would be the most suitable location for his meeting with KJU. (Nicola Smith, Danielle Demetriou, *Telegraph*)
- Philippines President Rodridgo Duterte said Sun. he would congratulate NK's KJU for the successful inter-Korean summit if he gets a chance to meet him. (Jung Min-ho, *Korea Times*)
- Eleven years after the last inter-Korean summit, the leaders of NK and SK have again joined hands to sign a joint agreement – the Panmunjeom Declaration of Apr. 27–this time committing to "complete denuclearization" of the Peninsula. The inclusion of such language in the declaration is being considered by some to sufficiently meet unofficial preconditions set by the US for the upcoming Trump-Kim summit. (Ha Yoon Ah, *Daily NK*)
- Republican Sen. James Lankford said Sun. that he would not echo President Donald Trump by calling NKorean leader KJU honorable, and said Trump would be better served to return to his nickname for the dictator. (Eli Watkins, CNN)
- In this article for the NY*Times*, Peter Baker discusses why the NKoreans may not find the Libya to be the best model for disarmament. (Peter Baker, NY*Times*)
- Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi is to visit NK this week, after historic talks between NK and SK last Fri. (BBC)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo says there is a "real opportunity" for a deal when President Trump meets the NKorean leader KJU. (BBC)
- NK will have to show concrete and tangible evidence it has made a strategic decision to give up nuclear weapons before any move is made to ease pressure on the regime, Donald Trump's national security adviser, John Bolton, said on Sun. (Ed Pilkington, *Guardian*)

- Over 70 years of separation has left the two Koreas with a rapidly widening cultural gap that can leave NKorean defectors—who often arrive in the country alone, without family or friends to support them—feeling alienated and confused. (James Griffiths, CNN)
- Philippine President Rodridgo Duterte said on Sun. NKorean leader KJU, whom he had previously called a "fool", is now the "hero of everybody", after Kim pledged to work with Seoul for "complete denuclearisation" of the peninsula. (*Reuters*)
- A senior diplomat will visit Singapore and Indonesia this week to discuss SK's cooperation with Southeast Asian nations, the foreign ministry here said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- SKorean President Moon and US President Trumpmay meet sooner than expected next month, a Seoul official said. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- President Donald Trump on Mon. morning suggested that he'd like to hold his potential meeting with NKorean leader KJU near the border of NK and SK. (Maegan Vazquez, CNN)
- President Donald Trump on Mon. floated the idea of holding his planned summit with NKorean leader KJU in the Demilitarized Zone that divides the Koreas. (*Associated Press*)
- President Trump suggested Mon. that his upcoming meeting with NKorean leader KJU could take place on the border with SK, saying it would a better location than in a "third-party" country. (John Wagner, *WaPo*)
- President Trump signaled his preference on Mon. to meet KJU, the NKorean ruler, in the Demilitarized Zone between NK and SK, following the example set last week by the leaders of the two Koreas. (Mark Landler, *NYTimes*)
- US President Donald Trump has said talks with NK could take place "over the next three or four weeks." (BBC)
- US President Donald Trump on Mon. suggested his planned meeting with NKorean leader KJU take place at the Peace House on the border between NK and SK, as preparations for the summit advance. (*Reuters*)
- Donald Trump on Mon. tweeted a suggestion that his planned meeting with KJU could take place at the Peace House on the border between NK and SK,the same site as Kim's historic meeting last week with SKorean president Moon. (Martin Pengelly, *Guardian*)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Sun. that he told KJU that the NKorean leader would have to agree to take "irreversible" steps toward shutting its nuclear weapons program in any deal with US President Donald Trump. (Jonathan Landay, *Reuters*)
- President Donald Trump's national security adviser says the release by NK of three Americans detained there would be a "demonstration of their sincerity" in the run-up to a historic summit between Trump and NKorean leader KJU. (*Associated Press*)

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, HRNK Research Intern

5. MAY

Tuesday, May 1, 2018

The Drew Mariani Show: The latest on Korea with Greg Scarlatiou; S.Korea wants UN help to monitor closing of North's nuclear facility; Two Koreas dismantle propaganda loudspeakers at tense border

Top News:
The Drew Mariani Show: The latest on Korea with Greg Scarlatiou (*Relevant Radio*, 04/27/2018)
The Drew Mariani Show: North Korea on denuclearizing with Greg Scarlatiou (*Relevant Radio*, 04/23/2018)

In North Korea:
(LEAD) N.K. leader can discuss Moon's proposal to install liaison offices in Seoul, Pyongyang: minister (*Yonhap*, 05/01/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korea holds meeting of senior officials on new strategic line (*Yonhap*, 05/01/2018)
'Heavy smoker' Kim Jong-un shunned cigarettes during peace talks (*Guardian*, 05/01/2018)
Kim Jong Un agrees to meet Donald Trump at DMZ, source says (CNN, 04/30/2018)
New Evidence that North Korea Could Still Conduct Nuclear Tests at Punggye-ri (*38 North*, 04/30/2018)
North Korea in emergency border crackdown following inter-Korean summit (*DailyNK*, 05/01/2018)
North Korean business developments reflect focus on 'customer needs' (*DailyNK*, 05/01/2018)
Three Americans detained in North Korea transferred to hotel, activist says (*UPI*, 05/01/2018)
What a "Chimney Collapse" Means (and Doesn't Mean) for Mt. Mantap (*38 North*, 04/30)
Why North Korea will give up its nukes (*WaPo*, 05/01/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) President Moon requests U.N. role in building peace with North Korea (*Yonhap*, 05/01/2018)
(3rd LD) S. Korea's military begins removing propaganda loudspeakers at border (*Yonhap*, 05/01/2018)
Authorities grill former aide in Druking case (*Joongang Daily*, 05/01/2018)
Cost of inter-Korean summit: $5 million (*Joongang Daily*, 05/01/2018)
Moon shares economic vision for Korean Peninsula with Kim Jong Un (UPI, 05/01/2018)
Moon to brief Abe, Li on meeting with Kim (*Joongang Daily*, 05/01/2018)
Seoul politicians raise concerns ratifying Panmunjom Agreement (UPI, 05/01/2018)
S. Korea Wants UN Help to Monitor Closing of North's Nuclear Facility (VOA, 05/01/2018)
South Korea begins dismantling loudspeakers along border with North (CNN, 05/01/2018)
South Korea's April exports unexpectedly fall for first time in 18 months (*Reuters*, 04/30/2018)
South Koreans Hopeful in Wake of Denuclearization Summit (VOA, 04/30/2018)

South pulls back its speakers from border (*Joongang Daily*, 05/01/2018)
To South Korean youth, North Korea is not 'one of us' (*Korea Times*, 05/01/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
2 Koreas dismantle propaganda loudspeakers at tense border (*WaPo*, 05/01/2018)
Denuclearization necessary for Peninsula peace and North's development (*DailyNK*, 05/01/2018)
Goal in Korea should be peace, trade -- not unification (*UPI*, 05/01/2018)
Moon gave Kim a 'vision' of economic cooperation (*Joongang Daily*, 05/01/2018)
More care, less haste (*Joongang Daily*, 05/01/2018)
North and South Korea start to dismantle border speakers, fulfilling summit pledge (*Reuters*, 05/01/2018)
North and South Korea still have a long path ahead, most of it uncharted (*WaPo*, 05/01/2018)
Return to Panmunjom? (*Joongang Daily*, 05/01/2018)

International:
(4th LD) Trump says he likes idea of meeting Kim on inter-Korean border (*Yonhap*, 05/01/2018)
China, Japan and South Korea to hold first top level talks since 2015 (*CNN*, 05/01/2018)
Elliott begins dispute against South Korea over 2015 Samsung merger: government official (*Reuters*, 05/01/2018)
From 'fire and fury' to peace prize? Some talk of a Nobel award for Trump on North Korea (*WaPo*, 05/01/2018)
Leaders of South Korea, Japan, China to discuss North Korea (*WaPo*, 05/01/2018)
Mao Zedong's grandson possibly killed in North Korean bus crash (*Korea Times*, 05/01/2018)
Moon: 'Nobel Peace Prize should go to Trump' (*Korea Times*, 04/30/2018)
Trump's high-stakes nuclear poker tactics on full display (*CNN*, 05/01/2018)
Trump deserves Nobel for role in talks with North, South Korea's leader says (*CNN*, 04/30/2018)
Trump hints at a summit in Panmunjom (*Joongang Daily*, 05/01/2018)
Trump Offers DMZ, Singapore as Locations for Meeting with Kim (*VOA*, 04/30/2018)
Trump suggests Korea's Panmunjeom for Kim summit (*Korea Times*, 04/30/2018)
Trump to play hardball with Kim on nukes (*Korea Times*, 05/01/2018)
U.N. chief agrees to participate in Korea peace efforts (*UPI*, 05/01/2018)
Will NK-US summit be held at Panmunjeom? (*Korea Times*, 05/01/2018)

Top News:

- HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu discusses the recent joint declaration of two Koreas, different viewpoints of the US and NK on denuclearization, and potential consequences in the Korean Peninsula following the Inter-Korean summit and upcoming Trump-Kim summit. (*Relevant Radio*)
- HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu discusses possible outcomes of the Inter-Korean summit, NK's denuclearization, and outlooks for the Korean Peninsula issue. (*Relevant Radio*)

In North Korea:

- KJU has said it's possible to talk over Moon's proposal to install liaison offices in Seoul and Pyongyang to enhance bilateral communication during last week's summit. (*Yonhap*)
- NK has held a meeting of senior party, state and military officials to discuss ways to push for its new strategic line on economic reconstruction. (*Yonhap*)
- Over the course of their meetings, KJU, who is known to be a heavy smoker, did not light up once in Moon's presence, apparently out of respect for the SK president, who is 31 years his senior. (Justin McCurry, *Guardian*)
- Moon has convinced North Korean leader KJU to hold his upcoming meeting with Trump at the demilitarized zone separating the two Koreas. (Will Ripley, Ralph Ellis, Ben Westcott, CNN)
- Newly acquired synthetic aperture radar data of the Punggye-ri Nuclear Test Site provides additional evidence that the two mountainous areas accessible by the South and West Portals remain viable, and could support future underground nuclear testing. (*38 North*)
- The NK authorities have reportedly stepped up security in the border areas. The move is being seen as an attempt to ward off any potential incidents arising from the more relaxed outward appearance of the government. (Kang Mi Jin, *DailyNK*)
- The NK economy reportedly has been growing since the start of the KJU era, despite economic sanctions and pressure from the international community, due to the 'customer needs' focused business developments. (Na Jung Won, *DailyNK*)
- The three remaining U.S. citizens detained in NK reportedly have been transferred out of labor camps in the country to an undisclosed location in Pyongyang, according to a SK activist. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Several media reports continue to misconstrue the meaning of "cavity collapse" and "chimney collapse" at the Punggye-ri nuclear test site. Neither a "cavity collapse" nor a "chimney collapse" equates to a test site collapse. (*38 North*)
- KJU, who has god-like status among his people, has in effect told them four things:
- 1) The nukes program has served its purpose, and NK will stop work on it now. 2) All efforts can now be focused on economic development. 3) He has started a new era of Korean history by reaching out to the South. 4) NK nukes have tamed the US, and now they can trade nukes for permanent security and leverage. (Spencer Kim, *WaPo*)

In South Korea:

- SK President Moon on Tuesday requested the U.N.'s role in verifying NK's commitment to denuclearization and peace on the peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's defense authorities began taking down loudspeakers installed along the border with NK on Tuesday in Seoul's first action to follow up on their summit deal last week. (*Yonhap*)
- SK Police questioned the former aide of a ruling party lawmaker for more than 10 hours on Tuesday over his alleged involvement in a campaign to manipulate online opinion in favor of President Moon during last year's election. (Choi Kyu-jin, Esther Chung, *Joongang Daily*)
- The summit between the two Koreas' leaders on Friday cost the ROK government an estimated $5 million. Major expenses included building renovations, the welcoming ceremony, the dinner banquet and promotional costs. (Jeong Yong-soo, *Joongang Daily*)

- Moon revealed he had passed on a booklet and a flash drive containing a video clip on his "new economic map for the Korean Peninsula" to Kim, during their summit. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- Moon will meet with China's premier and Japan's prime minister on May 9 to discuss the results of his summit with KJU. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Joongang Daily*)
- As SK's presidential office plans to push for the ratification of the Panmunjom Declaration, reached by Moon and KJU, criticism has sparked from opposition politicians and experts, who have raised concern with the declaration. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- Moon wants the UN to help monitor NK's closing of its Punggye-ri nuclear test facility, as the president expressed that hope in a phone call with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. (Steve Herman, VOA)
- SK is dismantling a bank of loudspeakers along its border, which for years have been used to blast propaganda and music, including K-Pop, into NK. (Joshua Berlinger, CNN)
- ROK exports declined in April for the first time in 18 months, unable to keep up with 2017's brisk pace as global demand softened, adding to worries about the country's trade outlook amid the risk of a deepening U.S-China trade conflict. (Cynthia Kim, *Reuters*)
- Optimism abounds in Seoul following the historic summit between Moon and KJU, as a recent survey result showed that over 64 percent of respondents believe the North will denuclearize and keep peace on the Korean peninsula. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- SK removed loudspeakers that blare K-pop and propaganda into NK on Tuesday, implementing an agreement that the two countries signed at their summit on Friday to cease broadcasts across the border. (Lee Sung-eun, Lee Chul-jae, Kim Seung-hyun, *Joongang Daily*)
- A survey result shows a unification policy emphasizing "oneness" would not be well-received by SK's younger generation. It would be more effective to emphasize reducing national security risks rather than nationalistic restoration of a "Korean" identity. (Kim Ji-yoon, Kang Chung-ku, Kim Kil-dong, *Korea Times*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The rival Koreas dismantled huge loudspeakers used to blare Cold War-style propaganda across their tense border on Tuesday, as SK's president asked the UN to observe the North's planned closing of its nuclear test site. (Hyung-Jin Kim, AP)
- The fundamental condition to peacefully achieving the denuclearization of the Peninsula is the complete dismantlement of NK's nuclear weapons. The biggest item of anticipation with regards to the inter-Korean and US-NK summits is the change in the regime's actions. (Lee Kwangbaek, *DailyNK*)
- As the older generation's understanding of reunification seems to be a hard shell, SK should instead seek a peaceful coexistence of two Koreas with free trade, free exchange of people and no military threats. (Alexis Dudden, Joan E. Cho, Mary Alice Haddad, UPI)
- Moon gave KJU a USB drive with materials describing his vision for inter-Korean economic cooperation during last week's summit, hinting at a possible resumption of joint projects scrapped or stalled by former conservative administrations. (Lee Sung-eun, Kang Tae-hwa, *Joongang Daily*)

- The Panmunjom Declaration has three main issues: 1) The declaration did not offer any specific scope or timeline of methods for complete denuclearization. 2) The declaration failed to go beyond the past agreement of merely pursuing multilateral meetings to establish peace. 3) The agreement to remove loudspeakers along the DMZ is a promise to disarm voluntarily. (Chun Young-gi, *Joongang Daily*)
- Two Koreas began dismantling loudspeakers that blared propaganda across their heavily fortified border on Tuesday, SK's defense ministry said, fulfilling a promise made at last week's historic summit. (Joori Roh, *Reuters*)
- Moon and Kim have agreed to a destination, a substantial achievement, but the route ahead remains uncharted. Progress between the two Koreas is the most important factor determining lasting peace on the peninsula. (Bridget Coggins, WaPo)
- If Trump-KJU summit happens at Panmunjom, the symbol of the division of the Korean Peninsula can serve as a venue for a historic US-NK summit to resolve the NK nuclear crisis following Friday's inter-Korean summit there. (*Joongang Daily*)

International:

- Trump said Monday that he likes the idea of meeting with KJU at Panmunjom, the inter-Korean border where the Moon-Kim summit was held last week. (*Yonhap*)
- The leaders of SK, China and Japan will meet on May 9 for the first trilateral talks between the three countries since 2015, as leaders of Northeast Asian states look to shore up relations following last week's historic Inter-Korean summit. (Ben Westcott, Jungeun Kim, CNN)
- U.S. activist fund Elliott Management has begun a legal dispute with SK over a controversial 2015 merger of two Samsung affiliates after Elliott lost a proxy battle to block it. (*Reuters*)
- Early progress toward an agreement aimed at ridding NK of nuclear weapons has suddenly raised an idea that thrills many Republicans as much as it horrifies many Democrats: a Nobel Peace Prize for Trump. (Anne Gearan and Ashley Parker, WaPo)
- Leaders of SK, Japan and China will meet next week for a summit expected to focus on NK's nuclear program and other regional issues. (AP)
- Chinese communist revolutionary Mao Zedong's only grandson Mao Xinyu was possibly killed in a bus crash in NK in April that killed over 30 Chinese, according to a report from French radio. (Ko Dong-hwan, *Korea Times*)
- Moon said the Nobel Peace Prize should go to Trump, if anyone were to win it for their efforts to resolve the issues with NK, noting that "all we need is peace." (Jung Min-ho, *Korea Times*)
- Trump is turning two crucial foreign policy dramas -- over the Iran deal and a startling opening on the Korean peninsula -- into one big game of televised nuclear poker. (Stephen Collinson, CNN)
- Moon and Trump would be a worthy winner of the Nobel Peace Prize for his involvement in the warming of relations with NK. (Judith Vonberg, CNN)
- Trump fueled expectations that his historic meeting with KJU could take place in Panmunjom, the border village that straddles the inter-Korean border, saying, "There's a great celebration to be had on the site." (Kang Jin-kyu, *Joongang Daily*)

- "We're looking at various countries, including Singapore, and we are also talking about the possibility of the DMZ," Trump said at a White House press conference. (Steve Herman, VOA)
- Trump suggested Monday that his summit with KJU be held in the truce village that straddles the border separating the two Koreas. (AFP)
- As Trump is expected to play hardball with KJU over denuclearization at the upcoming US-NK summit, Moon would need a fallback plan to handle the potential consequences of the summit. (Kim Jae-kyoung, *Korea Times*)
- UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has accepted Moon's request to participate in verifying the closure of NK's main nuclear test site, and turning the demilitarized zone into a peace zone. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- Expectation is growing over the possibility that the truce village of Panmunjeom will serve as a venue for a meeting between KJU and Trump, after the historic inter-Korean summit took place there last week. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

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Wednesday, May 2, 2018

Human Rights Abuses Overshadow N. Korea's Overtures; US troops 'will stay in South Korea' even if peace treaty is signed with North; China's Foreign Minister Arrives in North Korean Capital

Top News:

Human Rights Abuses Overshadow N. Korea's Overtures (*Homeland* 411, 05/01/2018)
US troops 'will stay in South Korea' even if peace treaty is signed with North (*Telegraph*, 05/02/2018)
China's Foreign Minister Arrives in North Korean Capital (VOA, 05/02/2018)

In North Korea:

Activist says Americans detained in N. Korea were relocated to hotel near Pyongyang (*Yonhap*, 05/02/2018)
Children of struggling North Korean coal miners hauling coal to supplement family earnings(*Daily*NK, 05/02/2018)
China's top envoy visits Pyongyang for first time in 11 years (*Joongang Daily*, 05/02/2018)
Chinese Foreign Minister visits Pyongyang (UPI, 05/02/2018)
Has Kim Jong-un changed? (*Korea Times*, 05/02/2018)
Manhunt ensues as North Korean counter-espionage official defects (*Daily*NK, 05/02/2018)
N.K. leader understands denuclearization should involve inspection: Seoul official (*Yonhap*,05/02/2018)
North Korean laws and regulations for consumer needs (38*North*, 05/02/2018)

Report: North Korea's antivirus tool an 'illegal copy' (UPI, 05/02/2018)
Shadowing North Korea's leader (*Joongang Daily*, 05/02/2018)
Summit snub rankles opposition (*Joongang Daily*, 05/02/2018)
Top 10 books about North Korea (*Guardian*, 05/02/2018)

In South Korea:
Another Oct. 4 Declaration? (*Joongang Daily*, 05/02/2018)
An uncertain month (*Joongang Daily*, 05/02/2018)
A rogue adviser (*Joongang Daily*, 05/02/2018)
Cheong Wa Dae says U.S. Forces Korea will stay even after peace treaty (*Yonhap*,05/02/2018)
(LEAD) President Moon dismisses possible withdrawal of USFK (*Yonhap*, 05/02/2018)
Minister: S. Korea-U.S. alliance behind inter-Korean summit success (*Yonhap*, 05/02/2018)
Moon asks UN to verify closure of North Korea's test site (*Korea Times*, 05/02/2018)
Moon forced to deny advisor's article about U.S. forces leaving Korea (*Joongang Daily*,05/02/2018)
Moon asks UN to verify closure of North Korea's test site (*Korea Times*, 05/02/2018)
Moon to explain outcome of inter-Korean summit to top officials (*Yonhap*, 05/02/2018)
Moon wants China, Russia to participate in inter-Korean projects (*Korea Times*, 05/02/2018)
President denies adviser's USFK surmise (*Joongang Daily*, 05/02/2018)
Pro-North Korea body praises South Korea for not 'blindly following' U.S. (UPI, 05/02/2018)
Seoul: Pyongyang not a possible U.S.-North Korea summit venue (UPI, 05/02/2018)
Seoul top office: U.S. troops needed in South even after peace treaty (UPI, 05/02/2018)
Sexual harassment case rocks top South Korea university (*UPI*, 05/02/2018)
South to begin discussions on a joint table tennis team (*Joongang Daily*, 05/02/2018)
S. Korea Wants US Troops to Stay After Any Peace Deal (VOA, 05/02/2018)
South Korea says it wants U.S. troops to stay regardless of any treaty with North Korea(*Reuters*, 05/02/2018)
South Korea says US troops will stay despite possible peace treaty (BBC, 05/02/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
4 Things You Should Know About the Inter-Korean Summit (VOA, 05/02/2018)
Gov't braces for trade with North (*Joongang Daily*, 05/02/2018)
(LEAD) N.K. leader understands denuclearization should involve inspection: Seoul official(*Yonhap*, 05/02/2018)
Seoul's table tennis body to begin discussions on joint Korean squad at Asian Games(*Yonhap*, 05/02/2018)
South Korea considers financing of possible inter-Korea projects: finance minister (*Reuters*,05/02/2018)
Two Koreas dismantle propaganda loudspeakers at border (*Korea Times*, 05/02/2018)
Two Koreas to discuss on joint Korean table tennis team at Asian Games (*Korea Times*, 05/02/2018)
University of Seoul plans exchanges with North Korean universities (*Korea Times*, 05/02/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) Trump says location, date of N.K. summit may be announced soon (*Yonhap*,05/02/2018)

China espouses peace regime on Korean Peninsula, vows to play role (*Yonhap*, 05/02/2018)
Trump says location, date of summit with Kim Jong-un to be announced 'in couple of days'(*Korea Times*, 05/02/2018)
Trump's boss act doesn't always work (CNN, 05/02/2018)
Turkish leader affirms partnership with Seoul (*Joongang Daily*, 05/02/2018)
U.S. lawmakers voice support for Trump's diplomatic efforts on Korea (*Yonhap*, 05/02/2018)
U.S. sends F-22 Raptors to Korea for training (*Joongang Daily*, 05/02/2018)

Top News:

- Amid the euphoria surrounding the NK/SK summit last week, NK's human rights record must remain front and center during any negotiations or talks. (*Homeland 411*)
- S.Korean President Moon on Wed. dismissed claims that US troops stationed in the country would have to leave if a peace treaty was signed with the North. (*Telegraph*)
- China's FM has arrived in NK's capital where he could meet with leader KJU while trying to ensure a larger role for Beijing in the new round of nuclear diplomacy with Pyongyang that had been driven by Seoul and Washington. (VOA)

In North Korea:

- NK has relocated three American detainees from a labor camp to a hotel on the outskirts of Pyongyang ahead of a planned summit between leader KJU and President Trump. (*Yonhap*)
- N.Korean coal miners have resorted to mobilizing their children to raise money amid spiraling coal prices and subsequent salary losses. (*DailyNK*)
- Chinese FM Wang Yi kicked off a two-day trip to Pyongyang on Wed., the first such trip in over a decade, ahead of a high-stakes summit between N.Korean leader KJU and US President Trump. (*Joongang Daily*)
- Chinese FM Wang Yi travelled to Pyongyang on Wed., to hold talks with his N.Korean counterpart Ri Yong-ho. (UPI)
- Most experts say Kim's kind and friendly attitude does not indicate willingness to give up his missile and nuclear weapons programs and turn the totalitarian regime into a normal state. (*Korea Times*)
- It has been reported that a man identified as Mr. Kang, the head of the Foreign Counter-Espionage office in charge of North-Eastern China for the Ministry of State Security fled overseas in Feb. (*DailyNK*)
- N.Korean leader KJU appears to understand that the process of the North's denuclearization needs to entail inspection and verification, a senior government official said Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- Research has found that the N.Korean economy has been growing continuously since the start of the KJU era, despite economic sanctions and pressure from the international community. (*38North*)
- NK used foreign technology to develop a computer antivirus, despite earlier claims it had developed the SiliVaccine tool without outside input. (UPI)

- Kim Chang-son is known to have climbed the ranks since the era of KJI, when he worked as a butler and learned from the chief secretary at the time, Kang Sang-chun. (*Joongang Daily*)
- SK's opposition parties are fuming over their exclusion from the guest list of a dinner that followed last Fri.'s inter-Korean summit, sending relations with the ruling party to a new low. (*Joongang Daily*)
- Novelist DB John chose fiction, reportage and memoir that reveal some shocking truths about life in this secretive tyranny (*Guardian*)

In South Korea:

- The third inter-Korean summit at the truce village of Panmunjom on Fri. was a success as a diplomatic event that offered a wide array of attractions. But there are problems behind the glaring diplomatic success. (*Joongang Daily*)
- The upcoming Trump-Kim summit is a meeting that must not fail. In this situation, it would be a nightmare for Seoul if Pyongyang and Washington make a big deal of loosely addressing denuclearization only enough to declare "victory" and agree on disabling ICBM and guaranteeing the N.Korean system. (*Joongang Daily*)
- For SK, the USFK are essential to strike a military balance with China and Russia as well as to cope with any rearming of Japan regardless of NK's threats to South Korea. (*Joongang Daily*)
- A presidential aide said Wed. that US troops will continue to be stationed in SK even if a peace treaty is signed to formally end the 1950-53 Korean War. (*Yonhap*)
- S.Korean President Moon flatly dismissed the idea of US troops stationed here pulling out following a formal end to the Korean War, saying the issue has nothing to do with NK but only with the Korea-US alliance. (*Yonhap*)
- S.Korean Defense Minister Song said Wed. the country's robust alliance with the US was a key element behind the success of the inter-Korean summit talks last week. (*Yonhap*)
- S.Korean President Moon has asked the UN to verify the planned closure of NK's nuclear test site, a UN spokesman said Tues. (*Korea Times*)
- President Moon said Wed. the issue of US military forces stationed in SK had nothing to do with the signing of a peace treaty that would formally end the 1950-53 Korean War, in a rare public rebuke of his special adviser on inter-Korean policy, Moon Chung-in. (*Joongang Daily*)
- S.Korean President Moon has asked the UN to verify the planned closure of NK's nuclear test site, a UN spokesman said Tues. (*Korea Times*)
- President Moon will hold a rare meeting with his country's top officials this week to explain the outcome of his recent summit with N.Korean leader KJU. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon proposed including China, Russia and ASEAN countries in conducting inter-Korean economic projects to N.Korean leader KJU at their summit. (*Korea Times*)
- President Moon said Wed. the issue of US military forces stationed in SK had nothing to do with the signing of a peace treaty that would formally end the 1950-53 Korean War, in a rare public rebuke of his special adviser on inter-Korean policy, Moon Chung-in. (*Joongang Daily*)
- A Japan-based newspaper praised SK's policy and the inter-Korea Panmunjom Declaration as a move toward peace that shows Seoul is "not blindly following the US." (*UPI*)

- SK's presidential office said Pyongyang isn't among the list of possible venues for the upcoming US-NK summit. (UPI)
- S.Korean President Moon said Wed. the presence of US troops in SK has nothing to do with signing a peace treaty with NK. (UPI)
- A professor at SK's most prestigious university who was charged with sexual harassment and embezzlement of research funds received a three-month suspension from an internal committee. (UPI)
- The S.Korean national table tennis federation said Wed. it will begin discussions on forming a joint team with NK for this year's Asian Games. (*Joongang Daily*)
- SK said on Wed. the issue of US troops stationed in the South is unrelated to any future peace treaty with NK and that American forces should stay even if such an agreement is signed. (VOA)
- SK said on Wed. the issue of US troops stationed in the South is unrelated to any future peace treaty with NK and that American forces should stay even if such an agreement is signed. (*Reuters*)
- SK's government has said US troops will remain in the country, even if a deal is reached to formally end the Korean War. (BBC)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- N.Korean leader KJU met with S.Korean President Moon Apr. 27 in the Demilitarized Zone at Panmunjom. Their discussions centered around the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and a peace settlement. (VOA)
- As relations between the two Koreas warm, Seoul is gearing up to create new economic ties with Pyongyang, according to the South's top economic official. But finance minister says sanctions must go before exchanges begin. (*Joongang Daily*)
- The S.Korean national table tennis federation said Wed. it will begin discussions on forming a joint team with NK at this year's Asian Games. (*Yonhap*)
- SKs finance minister said on Wed. the government was discussing how to finance possible economic projects with NK, although any projects with Pyongyang must first be approved by the international community. (*Reuters*)
- The rival Koreas dismantled huge loudspeakers used to blare Cold War-style propaganda across their tense border on Tues., as SK's president asked the UN to observe the North's planned closing of its nuclear test site. (*Korea Times*)
- The S.Korean national table tennis federation said Wed. it will begin discussions on forming a joint team with NK at this year's Asian Games. (*Korea Times*)
- The University of Seoul held a ceremony for the institution's 100th anniversary Wed. and announced a set of goals to better reflect the current atmosphere. (*Korea Times*)

International:

- US President Trump said Tues. the location and date of his meeting with N.Korean leader KJU would be announced in the next couple of days. (*Yonhap*)
- China on Wed. espoused the establishment of a peace regime between SK and NK and pledged to play a role in the process. (*Yonhap*)
- US President Trump said Tues. the location and date of his meeting with N.Korean leader KJU would be announced in the next couple of days. (*Korea Times*)
- Trump is following his own advice in high-stakes dealings with NK, in the Iran nuclear deal and with America's friends in Europe and Asia on a hardball trade policy. (CNN)
- President Erdogan congratulated President Moon for the successful 2018 South-North Korea summit and welcomed the adoption of the historic Panmunjom Declaration on peace, prosperity and unification of the Korean Peninsula. (*Joongang Daily*)
- Two US lawmakers have introduced a resolution supporting US President Trump's diplomatic efforts on the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- The US Air Force deployed eight F-22 Raptor stealth fighters to an air base in Gwangju, according to multiple sources, to take part in a joint SK-US exercise next week. (*Joongang Daily*)

Prepared by Dohyun Kim, HRNK Research Intern

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Thursday, May 3, 2018

Human rights activists refuse S. Korea's request to stop sending leaflets, info into North; Human rights abuses overshadow N.Korea's overtures; Focus on human rights fades as US, S.Korea pursue N.Korea deal

Top News:

Human Rights Activists Refuse S. Korea's Request to Stop Sending Leaflets, Info Into North (CNS, 05/02/2018)

Human Rights Abuses Overshadow North Korea's Overtures (*Inhomelandsecurity*, 05/02/2018)

In North Korea:

A look at the 3 Americans detained in North Korea (*WaPo*, 05/03/2018)

Expectations grow for North Korea to release three Americans (*Reuters*, 05/03/2018)

N.K. FM meets with China's top diplomat over ties, situation on Korean Peninsula (*Yonhap*, 05/03/2018)

North Korea denies it hacked UN database on sanctions (*WaPo*, 05/02/2018)

North Korea denies hacking UN sanctions database (*Guardian*, 05/02/2018)

North Korea-US talks: Who are North Korea's American detainees? (BBC, 05/03/2018)

North Korea's Kim tells China he is committed to denuclearisation (*Reuters*, 05/03/2018)

North Korean authorities monitoring domestic reaction to summit (*Daily*NK, 05/03/2018)
Senior North Korean espionage official 'may have fled to Britain after defecting' (*Telegraph*, 05/03/2018)
Who are the three US detainees held by North Korea? (*Korea Times*, 05/03/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) Cheong Wa Dae launches new commission to implement outcome of N. Korea summit (*Yonhap*, 05/03/2018)
(LEAD) Presidential secretary tapped as negotiator at military talks with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 05/03/2018)
Blue House official tied to defunding scandal (*Joongang Daily*, 05/03/2018)
Dodging denuclearization (*Joongang Daily*, 05/03/2018)
Foreign envoys moved by inter-Korean summit (*Korea Times*, 05/03/2018)
Getting on board (*Joongang Daily*, 05/03/2018)
Moon meets top leaders over outcome of historic inter-Korean summit (*Yonhap*, 05/03/2018)
N.K. leader could warm to swift denuclearization to complete economic plan: ex-minister (*Yonhap*, 05/03/2018)
'Nuclear-free Korean Peninsula' is prerequisite for inter-Korean economic cooperation (*Korea Times*, 05/03/2018)
PM: S. Korea to seek forestation project in N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 05/03/2018)
Seoul eyes regional support for Panmunjom Declaration of peace (*Yonhap*,05/03/2018
Seoul expects U.S.-N. Korea summit to provide complete solution to N. Korean nuclear issue(*Yonhap*, 05/03/2018)
South Korea Developing Economic Projects for North Korea (VOA, 05/03/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) Koreas team up at table tennis worlds (*Yonhap*, 05/03/2018)
(2nd LD) S. Korea pushes for high-level talks with N. Korea to discuss summit outcome (*Yonhap*, 05/03/2018)
Another Look at the North-South Summit (*38 North*, 05/03/2018)
Moon-Kim summit is 'right first step' (*Korea Times*, 05/03/2018)
Pingpong diplomacy: Koreas join teams at table tennis worlds (*WaPo*, 05/03/2018)
Train to nowhere (*Joongang Daily*, 05/03/2018)

International:
(LEAD) Pence honors defectors on N. Korea Freedom Week (*Yonhap*, 05/03/2018)
(LEAD) Trump hints at possible release of 3 U.S. detainees in N.K. (*Yonhap*, 05/03/2018)
(2nd LD) Chinese foreign minister meets N.K.'s leader (*Yonhap*, 05/03/2018)
As Trump visits State Department, Pompeo says North Korea must denuclearize (*Reuters*, 05/02/2018)
China congratulates North Korea's Kim on reducing tensions (*WaPo*, 05/03/2018)
China: North Korea's Kim Committed to Denuclearization (VOA, 05/03/2018)
Chinese foreign minister meets with Kim Jong Un amid warming ties (CNN, 05/03/2018)
China's senior diplomat meets North Korea foreign minister (*Korea Times*, 05/03/2018)

Donald Trump formally nominated for a Nobel Prize for 'his tireless work to bring peace to our world' (*Telegraph*, 05/03/2018)
Donald Trump hints at imminent release of three Americans detained in North Korea (*Telegraph*, 05/03/2018)
Ex-US diplomat to Seoul cautious of North Korea's promises (*Korea Times*, 05/03/2018)
Focus on human rights fades as U.S., South Korea pursue North Korea deal (*Reuters*, 05/03/2018)
Gallucci: 'Lots of questions' over North Korea's denuclearization (*Korea Times*, 05/03/2018)
Giuliani says 3 Americans held by North Korea to be released Thursday (CNN, 05/03/2018)
Pence postponing trip to Brazil ahead of North Korea meeting (*WaPo*, 05/03/2018)
Pompeo alters wording on nukes (*Joongang Daily*, 05/03/2018)
Pompeo wants North Korea weapons program dismantled 'without delay' (*Korea Times*, 05/03/2018)
U.N. chief Guterres sees meaningful negotiation ahead on North Korea (*Reuters*, 05/03/2018)
US Officials Indicate N. Korea Could Soon Release Detained Americans (VOA, 05/03/2018)

Top News:

- HRNK Board Member Suzanne Scholte: ""The last thing we should be doing is retreating on the human rights issues and information campaign to North Korea." (Patrick Goodenough, CNS)
- NK's human rights record must remain front and center during any negotiations or talks, says HRNK Board Member David Maxwell. (Christopher Prawdzik, *Inhomelandsecurity*)

In North Korea:

- Trump added to speculation that NK may make a goodwill gesture before his planned summit with KJU when he tweeted of a possible update soon on the status of three detained Americans: Kim Dong Chul, Kim Hak Song, and Tony Kim. (AP)
- CNN said on Thursday that NK would imminently release three Americans held as prisoners, as expectations grew that Pyongyang would make the gesture ahead of an unprecedented US-NK summit due to take place in coming weeks. (*Reuters*)
- NK's Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho has held talks with China's top diplomat to discuss ways to improve the two countries' ties and the situation on the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- NK on Wednesday dismissed as "nonsense" what it said was a US claim that Pyongyang hacked the database of the UN committee that monitors sanctions against the North, saying the Trump administration should instead be working toward peace. (Edith M. Lederer, AP)
- NK has denied hacking the database of a UN committee tasked with monitoring sanctions against Pyongyang, and called on Washington to focus on peace efforts before a planned summit between the countries' leaders. (*Guardian*)
- Three Americans detained in NK reportedly have been relocated to a Pyongyang hotel and are receiving good food and medical care. They are Kim Hak-song, Kim Sang-duk, and Tony Kim. (BBC)

- KJU told a visiting Chinese diplomat on Thursday that he is committed to denuclearization, China's foreign ministry said, as diplomatic efforts to bring lasting peace to the Korean peninsula gather pace. (Ben Blanchard, *Reuters*)
- The NK authorities are reportedly monitoring citizen reactions to last Friday's inter-Korean summit, focusing on potential backlash or negative effects of mentions of "denuclearization" in state media in the days following the event. (Kim Yoo Jin, *DailyNK*)
- NK has launched an international manhunt for one of its most senior counter-espionage officers, who disappeared in late February and is believed to have defected, possibly to Britain. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- While NK has a history of detaining Americans and using them as bargaining chips, Trump hinted Wednesday of imminent news about three Korean-Americans detained in the North, Kim Hak-song, Kim Sang-duk, and Kim Dong-chul. (*Korea Times*)

In South Korea:

- SK launched a presidential commission Thursday to implement the outcome of a historic summit held between Moon and KJU that calls for a wide range of measures aimed at denuclearizing the North and formally ending the Korean War. (*Yonhap*)
- SK has picked Kim Do-gyun, a presidential secretary with military background, as its top delegate to upcoming general-grade talks with NK, a government official said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- A Blue House official is in hot water over the cutting of funding to USKI, a think tank in Washington, the presidential office admitted on Wednesday. The official is Hong Il-pyo, senior aide to the secretary to the president for national policy. (Wi Moon-hee, *Joongang Daily*)
- For Moon's concession to work, the US must accept the change. Given the tough "America First" policy of Trump, that concession is by no means a given. Seoul, not a party to the armistice agreement, technically has no exclusive right to change the current language which the North refuses to accept. (Shim Jae-hoon, *Joongang Daily*)
- Foreign envoys based in Seoul said they were moved by the Inter-Korean summit. But most were uncertain whether Pyongyang would dismantle its nuclear program and declined to make definite predictions. (Ko Dong-hwan, *Korea Times*)
- Two Koreas and four major countries are supporting a peaceful resolution of the nuclear problem for the first time since the North's first nuke test in 2006. Both Washington and Pyongyang seem to want to solve the problem in one stroke. Nevertheless, the government must not hurry. (*Joongang Daily*)
- Moon sought to further rally the support of his people on Thursday over the outcome of his recent summit with KJU, holding a rare meeting with state leaders here, including the National Assembly speaker. (*Yonhap*)
- KJU could agree to a swift denuclearization timeline with the US to deliver on his ongoing five-year economic development plan, a former SK unification minister said. (*Yonhap*)
- Unless NK completely abandons its nuclear weapons program, SK will not seek economic cooperation, ROK Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon said. (Jung Min-ho, *Korea Times*)

- SK plans to launch a project to help plant trees in NK as part of efforts to boost reconciliation in the wake of last week's historic summit between the two sides, Prime Minister Lee Nak-yon said. (*Yonhap*)
- SK is seeking to have the leaders of Japan and China sign off a special statement supporting the outcome of Moon's recent historic summit with KJU. (*Yonhap*)
- SK expects the upcoming meeting between Trump and KJU to provide a solution that fundamentally resolves the NK nuclear issue and brings in lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula, Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha said. (*Yonhap*)
- SK is looking into developing and financing economic projects with NK that could take effect if a nuclear deal is reached with the US. (Brian Padden, VOA)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Two Koreas have formed a joint team at the ongoing table tennis world championships in Halmstad, Sweden. (*Yonhap*)
- SK will seek to hold a high-level dialogue with NK in mid-May to discuss ways to implement the outcome of a recent summit between their leaders, Seoul's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said. (*Yonhap*)
- The recent Inter-Korean summit was positive and useful. Moon and KJU have taken each other's measure, and that is liable to be more important than the words that were spoken (or written), or those left unsaid. (Robert Carlin, *38 North*)
- Robert Gallucci, a renowned expert on NK said the recent Inter-Korean summit was the "right first step" toward the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. (Lee Suh-yoon, *Korea Times*)
- Pingpong diplomacy is uniting two Koreas at the table tennis world championships, as the women's teams from the two countries, originally competing separately, decided Thursday to combine teams rather than play each other in the quarterfinals. (AP)
- While Moon and KJU discussed a potential launch of a cross-continental railway project, the cost is estimated at $20.4 billion, which the South will end up paying. People need to look at the reality calmly before being enraptured by the fantasy of a cross-continental railway. (Ahn Hye-ri, *Joongang Daily*)

International:

- US Vice President Mike Pence on Wednesday paid tribute to N.Koreans who fled the regime as he marked "North Korea Freedom Week." (*Yonhap*)
- Trump on Thursday hinted at the possibility of the release of three US detainees in NK via Twitter. (*Yonhap*)
- Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met KJU on Thursday, Beijing's foreign ministry said, following Kim's historic summit with his SK counterpart last week. (*Yonhap*)
- NK must commit to dismantling its nuclear weapons program, new U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Wednesday during a swearing-in ceremony at the State Department where he was strongly endorsed by Trump. (Lesley Wroughton, *Reuters*)

- China's foreign minister congratulated KJU on Thursday on his moves to reduce tensions with SK, China said. Their meeting in Pyongyang underscored warming ties and Beijing's desire to remain a key player in the Korean Peninsula peace process. (AP)
- KJU said he is committed to denuclearizing the Korean peninsula, according to China's Foreign Ministry. (VOA)
- Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with KJU during a rare visit to Pyongyang on Thursday, according to Chinese state media. Their meeting is another indication of the warming relations between the two allies. (Ben Westcott, CNN)
- The two-day visit by Wang Yi, the highest-ranking Chinese official to travel to NK in years, follows the Inter-Korean summit and precedes a meeting between Trump and KJU in coming weeks. (AFP)
- Trump has been formally nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize for the US President's efforts to solve the NK nuclear tensions. (*Telegraph*)
- Three Korean-Americans detained by NK may be on the verge of freedom amid an ongoing thaw with Pyongyang, Trump hinted. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- Evans Revere, a former US deputy chief of negotiations for NK's nuclear program, said Thursday it is important to be cautious of the true intentions of NK following its abrupt decision for denuclearization. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- Absent from the recent Inter-Korean summit was Pyongyang's human rights record, and the issue appears to have faded from Trump's public agenda as he prepares for his own meeting with KJU. (Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- Robert Gallucci, former chief US negotiator on the NK nuclear crisis, "welcomed" KJU's commitment to denuclearization shown during the Inter-Korean summit. But he remained cautious about Kim's definition of denuclearization, saying there are "still lots of questions" left unanswered. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- Three Americans held in a NK prison are set to be released, former NYC Mayor Rudy Giuliani said Thursday. (Elizabeth Landers, CNN)
- Vice President Mike Pence is postponing a planned trip to Brazil this month as Trump prepares for a historic meeting with KJU. (Ken Thomas, AP)
- Mike Pompeo declared on Wednesday that Washington is committed to the "permanent, verifiable, irreversible dismantling" of NK's weapons of mass destruction program, introducing terminology that could indicate a more hard-line approach to denuclearization, adding "permanent" to his previous statement. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)
- Mike Pompeo vowed Wednesday to seek the swift dismantling of Pyongyang's weapons program, as he argued that America has a chance to alter the "course of history" in NK. (AFP)
- UN Secretary-Genera Antonio Guterres on Thursday said he was optimistic about the prospects for progress on the issue of NK's nuclear program after recent diplomatic moves by Pyongyang, Seoul and Washington. (*Reuters*)
- US officials have indicated that NK could soon release three detained Americans. Former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani, a member of Trump's legal team, said the Americans are expected to be freed Thursday. (VOA)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

Friday, May 4, 2018

Don't forget North Korean human rights abuse: Michael Kirby; White House declines to confirm release of American detainees in N. Korea; Joint Korean women's table tennis team takes bronze at worlds

Top New:
Don't forget North Korean human rights abuse: Michael Kirby (*SBS News*, 05/03/2018)

In North Korea:
Chinese foreign minister, Kim Jong Un meet amid warming relations (*UPI*, 05/03/2018)
If North Korea Opens Up, Rason Could Become North Korea's Shenzhen (*Forbes*, 05/02/2018)
N. Korea-China trade rises slightly in March (*Yonhap*, 05/04/2018)
North Korea changes its time zone to match South (*BBC*, 05/04/2018)
North Korean authorities begin workplace lectures covering inter-Korean summit (*DailyNK*, 05/04/2018)
North Korean media coverage may signal commitment to diplomacy (*UPI*, 05/04/2018)
North Korean Officials Trade Meal Coupons on the Black Market For Cash (*RFA*, 05/03/2018)
North Korea slams U.S. on Iran nuclear deal (*UPI*, 05/04/2018)
Pyongyang visit suggests China won't sit idly (*Joongang Daily*, 05/04/2018)
Report: North Korea tourism project takes toll on citizens (*UPI*, 05/04/2018)
Should Kim get the credit for the Korean detente? (*WaPo*, 05/04/2018)

In South Korea:
(2nd LD) S. Korean presidential aide visits U.S. ahead of Trump-Kim meeting (*Yonhap*, 05/04/2018)
Leaders of S. Korea, China vow joint efforts in pushing for formal end to Korean War (*Yonhap*, 05/04/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea urges activists to immediately stop anti-N.K. leaflet campaign (*Yonhap*, 05/04/2018)
Ministers will visit islands near NLL today (*Korea Times*, 05/04/2018)
Moon's adviser denies he called for withdrawal of U.S. troops (*Yonhap*, 05/04/2018)
Moon confers with Xi on summit, way ahead (*Joongang Daily*, 05/04/2018)
Report on U.S. troop cuts denied (*Joongang Daily*, 05/04/2018)
Moon's security chief visits Washington to coordinate US-NK summit (*Korea Times*, 05/04/2018)
South Korean national security adviser visits U.S., to meet Bolton: officials (*Reuters*, 05/04/2018)
Why a South Korean newspaper asked experts to look at photos of Kim Jong Un's shoes (*WaPo*, 05/04/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Combined Korean team takes bronze at table tennis worlds (*WaPo*, 05/04/2018)

Ex-Olympic table tennis champion surprised with formation of joint Korean team (*Yonhap*, 05/04/2018)
Kim Jong-un's endgame (*Korea Times*, 05/04/2018)
(LEAD) Joint Korean women's table tennis team takes bronze at worlds (*Yonhap*, 05/04/2018)
No neighbor left behind (*Joongang Daily*, 05/04/2018)
North and South Korea teams unite at table tennis world championships (CNN, 05/04/2018)
Seoul sports leader to discuss joint Korean teams with Asian Olympic chief (*Yonhap*, 05/04/2018)
South Korean leader looks for ways to help North economically without violating sanctions (*WaPo*, 05/03/2018)
The naengmyeon dilemma (*Joongang Daily*, 05/04/2018)

International:
Abe avoids NK-bashing ahead of trilateral summit (*Korea Times*, 05/04/2018)
Activists, Academics Urge Trump Not to Trade Human Rights for Denuclearization in North Korea (VOA, 05/03/2018)
American detainees in N. Korea could be released on Saturday: sources (*Yonhap*, 05/04/2018)
Asian geopolitical chessboard is changing (*Korea Times*, 05/04/2018)
Canada's Trudeau pledges support for inter-Korean reconciliation (*Yonhap*, 05/04/2018)
China says summit with Japan, South Korea to focus on cooperation, not North Korea (*Reuters*, 05/04/2018)
Deal between Trump, Kim possible over denuclearization: SIPRI director (*Yonhap*, 05/04/2018)
Donald Trump formally nominated for a Nobel Prize for 'his tireless work to bring peace to our world' (*Telegraph*, 05/04/2018)
In a first, Japanese and Chinese leaders talk by phone (CNN, 05/04/2018)
IOC to support Korea peace talks with sports initiatives: Bach (*Reuters*, 05/03/2018)
(LEAD) White House declines to confirm release of American detainees in N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 05/04/2018)
Never mind the Nobel talk. Trump has a different mission on North Korea (*WaPo*, 05/04/2018)
North Korean defectors find refuge in Auckland and share stories at churches (*New Zealand Herald*, 05/04/2018)
Notion of U.S. Troop Cuts Unnerves South Korea and Japan (NYT, 05/04/2018)
Trump, Kim summit must address North Korea rights abuses, victims say (UPI, 05/03/2018)
Trump Orders Pentagon to Consider Reducing U.S. Forces in South Korea (NYT, 05/03/2018)
Trump says date, place set for North Korea summit (*Reuters*, 05/04/2018)
Trump says site set for historic Kim summit (CNN, 05/04/2018)
Trump says date, venue set for North Korea summit (*WaPo*, 05/04/2018)
Trump: Time, Place Set for N. Korea Summit (VOA, 05/04/2018)
Trump: U.S. troop withdrawal from South Korea is not on the table — for now (*WaPo*, 05/04/2018)
U.N. agency to consider North Korea request on new air routes to South (*Reuters*, 05/04/2018)
What the two Koreas and Trump have said about withdrawing U.S. troops from peninsula (*WaPo*, 05/04/2018)
White House denies it is reducing US troops in South Korea (*Telegraph*, 05/04/2018)
White House tells Seoul NYT report about decrease in U.S. forces is untrue (*Joongang Daily*, 05/04/2018

Top News:

- Former High Court Justice Michael Kirby has sounded a note of caution after recent progress towards peace on the Korean peninsula, telling SBS News that discussions around human rights in NK have so far been conspicuously absent as relations between the NK and SK have thawed. (Rena Sarumpart, Nick Baker, *SBS News*)

In North Korea:

- Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with N.Korean Leader KJU on Thurs. in a rare visit that signals warming ties between the two nations. (Sara Shayanian, UPI)
- In this opinion article for *Forbes*, author Salvatore Babones argues why Rason could be NK's Shenzhen if NK goes down the route of economic reform. He characterizes NK's capital Pyongyang and the Kaesong industrial park on the South Korean border as "politically significant but economically irrational." He concludes his argument by stating that If NK liberalizes, the big investor will be China, and China will opt for Rason. (Salvatore Babones, *Forbes*)
- Trade between NK and China increased a bit in Mar. from a month ago, marking a turnaround from a downward trend amid international sanctions on the North's weapons program. (*Yonhap*)
- NK is changing its time zone to match the South after last week's inter-Korean summit. (BBC)
- The N. Korean authorities have been espousing the greatness of KJU at workplaces across the country following last Fri.'s inter-Korean summit. (*DailyNK*)
- NK's domestic news media remain carefully choreographed and managed by the ruling Korean Workers' Party. Nonetheless, in the wake of major events, a judicious reading of their content can sometimes offer insights into the reclusive state's priorities and resolve. (Meredith Shaw, UPI)
- N.Korean party workers and other members of the country's elite given coupons for meals at high-end restaurants in Pyongyang are now offering them for sale on the black market, earning instant cash and driving prices up for less-privileged residents of the capital, N.Korean sources say. (Hyemin Son, Leejin Jun, Richard Finney, RFA)
- NK slammed the US as the Trump administration considers withdrawing from the Iran nuclear deal, also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- During his meeting with China's top envoy on Thurs., N.Korean leader KJU reiterated his position that the Korean Peninsula ought to be free of nuclear weapons. (*Joongang Daily*)
- Construction for a "marine tourism" zone in NK is becoming a burden on ordinary N.Koreans who are being taxed to finance the project. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Trump deserves credit for seizing the moment for negotiations with NK. But some little-noticed documents reveal that KJU has been planning his denuclearization offer and opening to the US for the past five years. (David Ignatius, *WaPo*)

In South Korea:

- SK's top national security adviser is currently in the US for discussions on an upcoming summit between US President Trump and N.Korean leader KJU. (*Yonhap*)
- SK and China will closely work together to push for a peace treaty with NK that would formally end the Korean War. (*Yonhap*)
- SK called on activists Fri. to immediately stop their campaign to send anti-Pyongyang propaganda leaflets across the border, vowing to take stern actions against it. (*Yonhap*)
- A group of ministers will visit islands near a controversial western maritime border Sat. to conduct a preliminary study before implementing an inter-Korean agreement to set up a "Peace Zone" there. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- A special adviser to S.Korean President Moon denied Thurs. that he called for the withdrawal of US troops from the South. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon and President Xi of China agreed to closely communicate and coordinate to declare an end to the 1950-53 Korean War and put in place a peace treaty during a phone conversation Fri. (*Joongang Daily*)
- A White House official denied a NYT report that US President Trump was considering reducing the size of US military forces in Korea, according to the Blue House. (*Joongang Daily*)
- Chung Eui-yong, chief of the presidential National Security Office, visited Washington on Thurs. in a move to coordinate the summit between Trump and KJU. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- SK's national security adviser is in Washington to meet his US counterpart, John Bolton, ahead of an expected summit between Trump and KJU. (*Reuters*)
- An accurate image of or detail about KJU could provide some important clues about his health and other physical characteristics. These are details that could actually be useful for crafting policy toward NK. (Adam Taylor, *WaPo*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The combined Korean women's table tennis team won a bronze medal Fri. at the world championships. (*AP*)
- A man who engineered the formation of a unified Korean team at the ongoing table tennis worlds still has to pinch himself. (*Yonhap*)
- What would KJU's endgame be? Perhaps a Korea where the South is at his beck and call, with Americans no longer breathing down his neck, and with nuclear missiles on standby. (Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)
- The joint Korean women's table tennis team won the bronze medal at the world championships in Sweden on Fri. (*Yonhap*)
- the government must pay equal attention to drawing united support on the home front. There should be no difference between the conservatives and liberals on the issue of denuclearization and permanent peace. (*Joongang Daily*)

- Though there was no victory to cheer, there was still plenty to celebrate as a unified Korean table tennis team made history and provided another symbolic moment in the continued rapprochement between two countries still technically at war. (CNN)
- The head of SK's top sports body said Fri. he will soon meet with the Asian Olympic chief over joint Korean teams at an upcoming continental multi-sport competition. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon has ordered his officials to start figuring out potential economic engagement projects that can be undertaken without contravening existing sanctions. This prospect is already causing heartburn among hard-liners in Washington who view Moon as too willing to take KJU at his word. But supporters say Moon is no naif. (Anna Fifield, *WaPo*)
- Times and people change, and the taste and proper way to eat a certain dish will also change. We can move to the future by protecting the tradition and embracing changes. It applies to generational issues and inter-Korean relations as well. (*Joongang Daily*)

International:

- Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is apparently softening his remarks on NK, avoiding using terms like "pressure," after the inter-Korean summit on Apr. 27. (Park Ji-won, *Korea Times*)
- As preparations are being made for the US president and NK's leader to hold an historic summit, activists and academics are urging Donald Trump not to sacrifice human rights to achieve denuclearization. (Margareet Besheer, VOA)
- There is the possibility that three American detainees in NK will be released later this week. (*Yonhap*)
- The Japan-PRC-ROK announcement is only the latest indicator that the geopolitical chessboard is changing in Asia. Yet, while the mood music is presently mostly positive, significant downside risks remain. (Andrew Hammond, *Korea Times*)
- PM Trudeau of Canada promised Fri. to actively support Seoul's ongoing efforts to establish peace and denuclearize the Korean Peninsula, while offering condolences over the deaths of two S.Koreans in a recent van attack in his country. (*Yonhap*)
- No areas will be off limits in talks next week when Chinese Premier Li Keqiang visits Japan, but NK is not going to be a focus, a senior Chinese diplomat said on Fri. (Ben Blanchard, *Reuters*)
- A deal to denuclearize in return for a peace treaty could possibly come out of the historic meeting planned between US President Trump and N.Korean leader KJU if NK's crucial security issues are addressed in a security arrangement that is guaranteed by China, the head of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute has said. (*Yonhap*)
- Donald Trump has been formally nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize for the US President's efforts to solve the N.Korean nuclear tensions. (*Telegraph*)
- After a breakthrough on the Korean Peninsula last week, Japanese PM Abe and Chinese President Xi discussed the situation on the phone Fri., the first time leaders of the two countries had ever done so. (CNN)

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC), at the request of two Koreas, will support peace talks on the Korean peninsula with sports initiatives, IOC President Thomas Bach said. (Karolos Grohmann, *Reuters*)
- The White House on Thu. declined to confirm reports that three American detainees in NK have been released or will be during the day. (*Yonhap*)
- If Trump wants to succeed, he must want a deal less than KJU does. He must be willing to walk away and to make KJU understand that he is serious about a military option if negotiations fail. He can't do so if he is even remotely thinking about a Nobel. (Marc A. Thiessen, *WaPo*)
- N.Korean defectors started coming to Auckland last year, the New Zealand Herald has been told, and at least five are still here, living in a Christian commune in South Auckland. They are being taught English, Bible study and given hands-on experience on integrating into Western society. (Lincoln Tan, *New Zealand Herald*)
- With diplomacy moving apace to end NK's nuclear weapons program, Northeast Asia is bracing for something few had thought likely just months ago: a reduction or withdrawal of US troops from SK. (Choe Sang-Hun, Motoko Rich, NYT)
- The much anticipated US-NK summit could present a tough test for President Donald Trump on human rights, as anger simmers among families who want answers regarding relatives held in NK, some for decades. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Trump has ordered the Pentagon to prepare options for drawing down US troops in SK, just weks before he holds a landmark summit with KJU. (Mark Landler, NYT)
- Trump on Fri. said the date and location have been set for a meeting with KJU, building suspense for the unprecedented talks and hinting at progress in freeing three Americans held in NK. (Steve Holland, Roberta Rampton, *Reuters*)
- President Trump said Fri. that a date and location for his upcoming summit with N.Korean leader KJU has been set and will be announced soon. (CNN)
- Trump said Fri. that the time and place have been set for his landmark meeting with KJU, but kept the world guessing for now about the when and where. (Zeke Miller and Matthew Pennington, AP)
- US President Donald Trump said Fri. a time and place have been determined for the planned meeting with N.Korean leader KJU. (VOA)
- Trump said Fri. that he will not offer to remove US troops from SK or reduce their presence there during his summit with KJU. But Trump left open the possibility of doing so in the future. (David Nakamura, *WaPo*)
- UN aviation agency directors will visit NK next week to discuss an earlier request by Pyongyang to open new air routes to SK, the organization said in a statement on Fri. (Allison Lampert, *Reuters*)
- The US and China are discussing a possible withdrawal of a US missile defense system from SK as part of a grand bargain over NK's nuclear program. (Na Jeong-ju, Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- Trump has not asked the Pentagon for options to reduce US forces based in SK, US National Security Adviser John Bolton said in a statement on Fri. (*Reuters*)
- KJU appears to have dropped his demand for the withdrawal of US forces ahead of his summit with Trump.The SK government has stated clearly that the presence of US troops in

the country was a matter for SK and US, not NK. While Trump said he was not planning to put troop numbers "on the table" during talks with NK, he stated that he would like to save the money in the future. (Adam Taylor, *WaPo*)

- Donald Trump's national security adviser has denied the US president has ordered the Pentagon to prepare options for reducing the number of US troops in SK. (*Telegraph*)
- A White House official denied a NYT report that US President Trump was considering reducing the size of the US military forces in Korea, according to the Blue House. (*Joongang Daily*)

Prepared by Dohyun Kim, James Park, Jinny Ahn, HRNK Research Interns

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Saturday, May 5, 2018

Trump-Kim meeting: hope for millions or deceptive ploy by N.Korea's 'satanic' regime?; S. Korean presidential aide rejects talk of US troops reduction; Moon, Trump to hold summit in US on May 22

Top New:
Trump-Kim Jong Un Meeting: Hope for Millions or Deceptive Ploy by North Korea's 'Satanic' Regime? (*Christian Post*, 4/25/2018)

In North Korea:
Time stands still, freedom comes fast in North Korea, say Americans once held there (*Reuters*, 05/05/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) S. Korean presidential aide rejects talk of U.S. troops reduction (*Yonhap*, 05/05/2018)
(2nd LD) Moon, Trump to hold summit in U.S. on May 22 (*Yonhap*, 05/05/2018)
Finance chief asks for int'l support for inter-Korean efforts to denuke (*Yonhap*, 05/05/2018)
Ministry launches task force to follow up on summit agreement (*Yonhap*, 05/04/2018)
S. Korea, U.S. to work closely for successful Trump-Kim talks: Seoul official (*Yonhap*, 05/05/2018)
South Korea faces dilemma over anti-North leaflets as ties thaw (*Reuters*, 05/05/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Interview: 'Kim Jong Un is Thinking About How to Keep His Nuclear Assets' (RFA, 05/04/2018)
North and South Korean time zones get in sync (CNN, 05/04/2018)
Right on time: North Korea adjusts time zone to match South (*WaPo*, 05/05/2018)

International:

How China looks at the inter-Korean summit (*Korea Times*, 05/05/2018)
U.N. officials to visit N. Korea over air route to South: reports (*Yonhap*, 05/05/2018)
U.S., South Korea say no plans to change 'bilateral defense posture': White House (*Reuters*, 05/05/2018)
Trump says time, place set for planned US-North Korea summit (*WaPo*, 05/05/2018)

Top News:

- KJU is looking to win favorable negotiations and reduce sanctions on his regime, while doing nothing to improve the horrific human rights in the country. The Trump-Kim summit could be just another deceptive ploy by KJU of a truly "satanic" regime, said HRNK Board Member Suzanne Scholte (Stoyan Zaimov, *Christian Post*)

In North Korea:

- Freedom can come with remarkable swiftness for US citizens held prisoner by NK, an experience that may await three Americans currently detained by the reclusive nation. (Jon Herskovitz, *Reuters*)

In South Korea:

- SK's top national security adviser on Friday rejected talk of a possible downsizing of US troops on the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon and Trump will hold talks in Washington later this month ahead of Trump's meeting with NK leader KJU. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's Finance Minister Kim Dong-yeon asked Asian and Pacific leaders on Saturday to lend support for the implementation of last week's Inter-Korean peace agreement. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's foreign ministry has launched a task force to carry out follow-up measures related to the recent cross-border summit agreement. (*Yonhap*)
- Seoul's top national security advisor said Saturday the leaders of SK and the US will have close consultations in upcoming bilateral talks for a successful Washington-Pyongyang summit. (*Yonhap*)
- ROK police prevented a planned release of balloons by a defector group after a confrontation with anti-leaflet protesters. Their campaign now poses a thorny dilemma for Seoul, which is striving to keep up the momentum for inter-Korean reconciliation. (Hyonhee Shin, Heekyong Yang, *Reuters*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Besides nuclear and missile facilities, there are many sensitive places that NK cannot open to the outside, like political prison camps. If NK accepts CVID, they would eventually have to

expose their crimes against humanity, and would not be able to maintain its current system, said Thae Yong-ho, the former NK Deputy Ambassador to the UK. (RFA)

- At the stroke of midnight in Seoul on Saturday (11 a.m. ET Friday), NK adjusted its clocks 30 minutes forward to be in the same time zone as its southern neighbor. (Ray Sanchez, CNN)
- NK readjusted its time zone to match SK's on Saturday and described the change as an early step toward making the longtime rivals "become one" following a landmark summit. (AP)

International:

- Enhancing China's engagement as a supporter of the peace regime, not as the obstacle, is one of the critical missions Korea is facing. (Hwang Jae-ho, *Korea Times*)
- UN officials will visit North Korea next week to look into the country's request to open air routes to SK. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump's national security adviser John Bolton and his SK counterpart, Chung Eui-yong, reaffirmed on Friday that there were no plans to change the two countries' "bilateral defense posture" in SK. (*Reuters*)
- Trump is offering his latest teaser for a historic US summit with NK: The time and place have been set, but he's not saying when and where. (Matthew Pennington and Zeke Miller, AP)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

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Sunday, May 6, 2018

Examining Human Rights In North Korea; North Korea says US ruining mood of detente ahead of summit; North Korea slams Japan for 'freeriding' on peace efforts

Top News:

Examining Human Rights In North Korea (NPR, 05/06/2018)

In North Korea:

A third of forest areas in North Korea has been destroyed (*UPI*, 05/06/2018)
North Korea says denuclearization pledge not result of U.S.-led sanctions (*Reuters*, 05/06/2018)
North Korea says Japan must adapt to join diplomatic fray (*The Japan Times*, 05/06/2018)
North Korea says US ruining mood of detente ahead of summit (*Washington Post*, 05/06/2018)
North Korea slams Japan for 'freeriding' on peace efforts (*UPI*, 05/06/2018)
North Korean foreign ministry blasts U.S. pressure claims (*UPI*, 05/06/2018)
US 'provocation' threatens peace, says North Korea (*BBC*, 05/06/2018)

In South Korea:

(LEAD) Seoul city to expand inter-Korean cooperation organization (*Yonhap*, 05/06/2018)
Police block anti-Pyongyang leaflet launch (*Joongang Daily*, 05/06/2018)
Seoul officials recommended Panmunjom as U.S.-North Korea summit venue (*UPI*, 05/06/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Flag signed by joint Korean table tennis team headed to int'l ping pong museum (*Yonhap*, 05/06/2018)
Inter-Korean summit, 'clear victory' for the South (*Korea Times*, 05/06/2018)
South Korean convenience shop CU hopes to reopen in Kaesong (*Korea Times*, 05/06/2018)
Start with planting trees (*Joongang Daily*, 05/06/2018)
Unlike father, unlike son (*Joongang Daily*, 05/06/2018)

International:
[INTERVIEW] 'North Korea's complete denuclearization unlikely' (*Korea Times*, 05/06/2018)
Donald Trump and Theresa May 'looking forward to UK visit' (*Guardian*, 05/05/2018)
Giuliani says 'good chance' North Korea will release Americans in 'next several days' (CNN, 05/05/2018)
Giuliani says detainees in N.K. may be released over next several days (*Yonhap*, 05/06/2018)
Mao's grandson, rumored to be dead in N.K. accident, makes public appearance (*Yonhap*, 05/06/2018)
Moon-Trump meeting to facilitate US-NK summit (*Korea Times*, 05/06/2018)
Moon, Trump to discuss talks with North (*Joongang Daily*, 05/06/2018)
UK says foreign minister Johnson to meet U.S. VP Pence, discuss Iran, North Korea (*Reuters*, 05/05/2018)

Top News:

- HRNK Board member and former Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights Ambassador Robert King joined NPR's Lulu Garcia Navarro on this edition of Weekly Edition Sunday on NPR to discuss the N.Korean human rights situation. King spoke about the balance between the human rights issue—the need to keep the N.Korean regime accountable for its actions—against the security issue—the strategic need to control nuclear weapons. He also commented on the Trump administration's approach to NK as well as NK's human rights issues. (Robert King, Lulu Garcia-Navarro, NPR)

In North Korea:

- A third of NK's woodlands have been destroyed due to fires and disasters, SK's unification ministry said Sun. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- NK said on Sun. its intention to denuclearize, unveiled at a historic inter-Korean summit, was not the result of US-led sanctions and pressure, warning the US not to mislead public opinion. (Haejin Choi, Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)

- Japan must change its tune and adopt a new approach toward NK if it really wants to join the diplomatic fray in affecting rapidly evolving developments on the Korean Peninsula, the Rodong Sinmun said in a commentary on Sun. (*Kyodo*)
- With just weeks to go before President Donald Trump and N.Korean leader KJU are expected to hold their first-ever summit, Pyongyang on Sun. criticized what it called "misleading" claims that Trump's policy of maximum political pressure and sanctions are what drove NK to the negotiating table. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- N.Korean media has directed criticism at the Japanese government, while toning down disparaging remarks on SK and the US. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- NK's foreign ministry has warned Washington not to "mistake its peace-loving intentions for a sign of weakness," blasting claims that the US-led campaign of pressure and sanctions on NK paved the way for the upcoming summit between Trump and KJU. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- NK has warned the US about using "pressure and military threats" against it as the two countries prepare for a historic summit. A Foreign Ministry official said the US was deliberately provoking NK by suggesting sanctions will not be lifted until it gives up nuclear weapons. (BBC)

In South Korea:

- Seoul city government is expanding its organization involved in inter-Korean cooperation as cross-border ties are fast improving. (*Yonhap*)
- A local civic group led by a N.Korean defector attempted to send leaflets criticizing the KJU regime across the border last weekend but was blocked by police, after both Koreas agreed at their latest summit not to disseminate propaganda material into each other's country. (Lee Sung-eun, Han Young-hye, *Joongang Daily*)
- S.Korean officials have "strongly recommended" the inter-Korean border village of Panmunjom as the summit venue for US President Trump and N.Korean leader KJU, a Seoul lawmaker said Sun. (Jennie Oh, UPI)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The Korean Unification Flag signed by members of the joint Korean women's table tennis team is headed to the international ping pong museum, a S.Korean official said Sun. (*Yonhap*)
- The historic inter-Korean summit carries huge significance as it has allowed SK to act as a go-between for the US and NK, according to Balbina Hwang, a former senior adviser to the US State Department, Sun. (Kim Jae-kyoung, *Korea Times*)
- In Feb. 2016, S.Korean convenience store chain CU was evicted from an inter-Korean industrial park in the border city of Gaesong in NK as bilateral tension increased and Pyongyang shut down the joint economic venture indefinitely. But as the inter-Korean summit on Apr. 27 at Panmunjeom took a dramatic positive turn and tension eased, the Gaesong Industrial Complex may reopen. If this happens, the 124 S.Korean companies that operated in the complex could, if they choose, get their businesses back—including CU, the only convenience store chain there. (Ko Dong-hwan, *Korea Times*)

- Economic cooperation is pivotal to upholding the agreements of the Apr. 27 inter-Korean summit. While inviting S.Korean President Moon to visit Pyongyang later this year, N.Korean leader KJU suggested that Moon fly to NK instead of using the roads because of poor "road conditions." His comment underscores how much modernization work NK requires. (*Joongang Daily*)
- President Moon and N.Korean leader KJU suddenly closed the gap of the "lost 11 years" at Panmunjom. But reading the transcript from the 2007 summit between former S.Korean President Roh Moo-hyun and N.Korean leader Kim Jong-il, I think there could be something more to Kim's break from tradition. (Kang Min-seok, *Joongang Daily*)

International:

- A US expert on NK's nuclear issue—former chief US negotiator during the 1994 N.Korean nuclear crisis Robert Gallucci—said it might be unrealistic to continue pushing for "a complete, verifiable and irreversible" denuclearization (CVID) of NK's nuclear programs, despite NK's commitment to denuclearization. (Lee Suh-yoon, Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- Donald Trump and Theresa May have held talks by telephone on a range of international issues, the White House has said. A White House statement said that both leaders "reiterated they are looking forward to the president's visit to the United Kingdom in Jul." They also discussed Iran, where the UK is seeking to persuade Trump not to abandon the nuclear deal, and the situation in NK. (*Guardian*)
- Rudy Giuliani said Sat. that "there is a good chance" that three Americans detained in NK "will be released over the next several days" despite saying Thurs. that the release would take place that day. (Clare Foran, CNN)
- Rudy Giuliani said Sat. that three Americans detained in NK may be freed "over the next several days," revising his previous remark that the release may happen on Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- Mao Xinyu, the only grandson of Mao Zedong, made a public appearance last week, silencing a rumor that he was among 32 Chinese tourists killed in a traffic accident in NK last month. (*Yonhap*)
- The meeting between President Moon and his US counterpart Donald Trump on May 22 is expected to play a mediating role for Trump's following summit with N.Korean leader KJU. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- Moon will meet Trump at the White House on May 22 to discuss the upcoming NK-US summit, the Blue House said on Sat. The date and location of the high-stakes meeting between N.Korean leader KJU and Trump have yet to be announced. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Joongang Daily*)
- British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson is traveling to the US on Sun. for a two-day visit, during which he will meet Vice President Mike Pence and national security adviser John Bolton, Britain said. The discussions in Washington will center on Iran, NK, Syria and other issues, according to Britain's foreign ministry, and come ahead of a visit to Britain by President Trump planned for Jul. 13. (*Reuters*)

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, HRNK Research Intern

Monday, May 7, 2018

'Kim Jong Un is Thinking About How to Keep His Nuclear Assets'; Symposium on Possible ways of international cooperation to urge North Korea to take concrete actions to improve the human rights situation in North Korea

Top News:
Interview: 'Kim Jong Un is Thinking About How to Keep His Nuclear Assets' (RFA, 05/04/2018)
Symposium on Possible ways of international cooperation to urge North Korea to take concrete actions to improve the human rights situation in North Korea, including in the abductions issue (*UN Web TV*, 05/03/2018)

In North Korea:
All eyes now on Punggye-ri site (*Joongang Daily*, 05/07/2018)
Meet North Korea's art dealer to the West (*CNN*, 05/06/2018)
North Korea security agent dismissed for drug trafficking (*UPI*, 05/07/2018)
North Korea steps up criticism of Japan (*Yonhap*, 05/07/2018)
Textbook shortage in North Korea underscores unequal policy (*Daily NK*, 05/07/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) S. Korea's nuke envoy plans to visit U.S. this week: foreign ministry (*Yonhap*, 05/07/2018)
Moon's approval rating surges after inter-Korean summit (*UPI*, 05/07/2018)
South Koreans praise Trump for peace efforts (*Korea Times*, 05/07/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Let's help North Korea become 'normal state' (*Korea Times*, 05/07/2018)
Moon and Kim may finally use their hotline (*Joongang Daily*, 05/07/2018)
North had plan if conservatives talked to Kim (*Joongang Daily*, 05/07/2018)
Projects with North excite South's regions (*Joongang Daily*, 05/07/2018)
South Korea gave Kim Jong Un a blueprint for developing North Korea — but it could be his downfall (*Business Insider*, 05/07/2018)
South Korean provinces near North Korea see surge of tourism (*UPI*, 05/07/2018)
South Koreans give Kim Jong-un star treatment (*Korea Times*, 05/07/2018)
Start with planting trees (*Joongang Daily*, 05/06/2018)
Unlike father, unlike son (*Joongang Daily*, 05/06/2018)
Unification flag headed to table tennis museum (*Yonhap*, 05/07/2018)
What happens when smiles fade? (*Korea Times*, 05/07/2018)

International:

Chinese city pins hope on North Korea trade (*UPI*, 05/07/2018)
Crucial month awaits Korean Peninsula (*Korea Times*, 05/07/2018)
How three leaders could win a Nobel Prize (*Washington Post*, 05/06/2018)
Iranians Say Uncertainty Over Nuclear Deal Is Bringing Fear (AP, 05/07/2018)
Is Trump Making Peace With North Korea? The Country Doesn't Seem Too Happy With Him Now (*Elite Daily*, 05/07/2018)
Is Trump playing North Korea over summit itinerary? (*Korea Times*, 05/07/2018)
Johnson: Trump could be in line for Nobel Peace Prize if he fixes North Korea and Iran (*Sky News*, 05/07/2018)
Make North Korea's Nuclear Test Pause Permanent (*38 North*, 05/07/2018)
North Korea criticizes Japan for 'free riding' on peace efforts (*Korea Times*, 05/07/2018)
North Korea to US: Don't Ruin Mood of Detente (VOA, 05/06/2018)
President Trump, don't fall for North Korea's trap (CNN, 05/06/2018)
Report: Hundreds of inspectors would have to verify North Korea denuclearization (UPI, 05/07/2018)
Reports: Singapore Likely Site of US-North Korea Summit (VOA, 05/07/2018)
Quotation of the Day: North Korea May Be Hard to Fully Trust (NYT, 05/06/2018)
Seoul, Tokyo differ on trilateral talks for Pyongyang denuclearization (*UPI*, 05/07/2018)
Singapore likely venue for Trump-Kim summit: sources (*Korea Times*, 05/07/2018)
Stephan Haggard on the Panmunjon Declaration (*PIIE*, 05/07/2018)
Top U.S. lawmaker voices doubt about N.K. denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 05/06/2018)
Verifying the End of a Nuclear North Korea 'Could Make Iran Look Easy' (NYT, 05/06/2018)

Top News:

- Thae Yong-ho, NK's former deputy ambassador to the UK, defected with his family to SKin 2016. Following last week's historic summit between N. Korean leader KJU and S. Korean President Moon Jae-in, Thae told RFA's Korean Service that he believes the North will never agree to end its weapons program through a "complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization" (CVID) process. Instead, he said, Pyongyang will likely seek a way to maintain its current nuclear status, while "denuclearizing the Korean peninsula," as the two sides agreed, according to its own definition. (Yong Jae Mok, RFA)
- On Thursday, May 3, 2018, HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu attended "Human Rights Situation in the DPRK," which was hosted by the Governments of Australia, Japan, Republic of Korea, the United States and the European Union. The event featured Katsunobu Kato (Minister in Charge of the Abduction Issue of Japan), Robert Boynton (Director of the Literary Reportage concentration at New York University), Takuya Yokota (Representative of abductees' families of Japan), Koichiro Iizuka (Representative of abductees' families of Japan), Keiko Ikushima (Representative of families of missing Japanese probably related to North Korea), Seong-ho Ji (North Korean defector), Fred Warmbier and Cindy Warmbier (Parents of Otto Warmbier), Param-Preet Singh (Associate Director in International Justice, Human Rights Watch), Craig Mokhiber (Director, New York Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights), Junya Nishino (Professor of Keio University), Jonathan Pollack (Senior fellow

at the Brookings Institution), and Sung-Yoon Lee (Professor of The Fletcher School, Tufts University). (UN Web TV)

In North Korea:

- An inspection of North Korea's Punggye-ri nuclear test site will be the first test of Kim Jong-un's willingness to give up his nuclear weapons, experts say, but how far the mercurial leader will open up to international inspectors is anyone's guess. (Yoo Ji-hye, Jeong Yong-soo, Lee Seong-un, *Joongang Daily*)
- In a sleepy town in Tuscany, over 8,000 kilometers from Pyongyang, you can find one of the West's largest collections of North Korean art. (Hannah Ritchie, CNN)
- At least one N. Korea security agent who abetted drug production and circulation has been dismissed without a sentence of imprisonment or fines, a move that is angering ordinary people. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- NK ratcheted up its criticism of Japan for advocating "maximum pressure" on the communist country ahead of a planned summit between its leader KJU and Trump. (*Yonhap*)
- Frustration is rising among students and parents who have still not received their textbooks one month after the start of the spring semester. (Kim Yoo-jin, *Daily NK*)

In South Korea:

- SK's top nuclear envoy plans to visit the US this week to talk about inter-Korean summit agreements and other related issues. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in's public approval rate has surged after his summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un last month. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- After the Trump administration's tough strategies involving "maximum pressure" brought KJU to the negotiating table, many S. Koreans' views about him — and Obama — have changed dramatically. (Jung Min-ho, *Korea Times*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The historic inter-Korean summit has created a silver lining for the nuclear standoff on the Korean Peninsula. (Kim Jae-kyoung, *Korea Times*)
- President Moon and KJU will speak on a new hotline once the date for the Kim-Donald Trump summit is set, the Blue House said Monday. (Wie Moon-hee, Esther Chung, *Joongang Daily*)
- N. Korean officials were dismayed that no conservative lawmakers from the S. Korean parliament attended the post-summit dinner banquet in April, a senior official in the ruling party exclusively said. (Kim Hyoung-gu, *Joongang Daily*)
- Regional governments across the country are gearing up to resume inter-Korean cooperation projects after the two Koreas agreed to boost exchanges, visits and contacts "at

all levels" in their latest summit. (Jeon Ik-jin, Hwang Sun-yoon, Kim Bang-hyun, Kim Yoon-ho, Kim Ho, *Joongang Daily*)

- KJU received a USB drive with a blueprint for connecting his country to the world when he met President Moon — and while the device was likely meant as a sign of goodwill, it could bring Kim's downfall. (Alex Lockie, *Business Insider*)
- Following the two Koreas' Apr. 27 Panmunjom Declaration on seeking denuclearization and peace on the Korean Peninsula, travel agencies in the South are seeing growing interest in tours to the DMZ. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- Few would blame KJU, if he (tries to) jump for joy. This is not because he might win a Nobel Peace Prize but because he is very popular among an overwhelming number of S. Koreans, yes, the people of his "enemy state," which the North has vowed to unify on its terms. (Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)
- Economic cooperation is pivotal to upholding the agreements of the April 27 inter-Korean summit. While inviting President Moon to visit Pyongyang later this year, KJU suggested that Moon fly to the North instead of using the roads because of poor "road conditions." (*Joongang Daily*)
- President Moon and KJU suddenly closed the gap of the "lost 11 years" at Panmunjom. Reading the transcript from the 2007 summit between former President Roh and N. Korean leader Kim Jong-il, I think there could be something more to Kim's break from tradition. (kang Min-seok, *Joongang Daily*)
- The unification flag signed by members of the joint Korean women's table tennis team is headed to a museum. (*Yonhap*)
- The two immediate questions are whether Kim can be trusted, and whether Trump can live up to his responsibilities when he meets the N. Korean dictator. (Kevin Rafferty, *Korea Times*)

International:

- Businesses in Dandong are anticipating improvements in the Chinese border city as NK pledges economic reform and cooperation with its largest trading partner. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- A series of arranged meetings scheduled for this month will determine the fate of the Korean Peninsula, with leaders from the two Koreas, China, Japan and the US set to discuss details of Pyongyang's pledge for denuclearization. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- President Trump, KJU, and President Moon would all be considered for the Nobel Prize by agreeing to just one joint operation. (*Washington Post*)
- One way the US could be harmed is in NK, said Alireza Yarmohammadi. KJU may never take Trump seriously ahead of promised talks between the two leaders. (AP)
- Ahead of planned peace talks between the US and NK in a few weeks, it appears that there is still some friction between the nations' leaders. (Nick Ciccone, *Elite Daily*)
- Trump takes pride in his ability to keep the other party guessing before negotiating a better deal. (Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)
- SK's President has reportedly suggested Trump should win the honour for his efforts to unify Korea. When asked if he agreed with such a view, the Foreign Secretary said: "If he can

fix North Korea, and he can fix the Iran nuclear deal, then I don't see why he's any less of a candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize than Barack Obama, who got it before he even did anything." (*Sky News*)

- KJU announced on April 20 to the Korean Workers' Party that North Korea no longer needs to conduct nuclear tests and stated his intent to close the nuclear test site at Punggye-ri. (Jon Wolfsthal, *38 North*)
- NK's newspaper slammed the Japanese government Sunday for "trying to free ride on the wind of peace" without playing its part. (Jung Min-ho, *Korea Times*)
- The anticipated summit between Trump and KJU will likely take place next month in Singapore. (VOA)
- While we work to finalize the substantive conditions for your meeting with KJU, there are a lot of North Korean balls in the air. (Samantha Vinograd, CNN)
- Experts say the denuclearization of NK is likely to be the "most extensive inspection campaign in the history of nuclear disarmament." (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- NK has warned the US not to misread its overtures of peace as a sign of weakness, as Trump and KJU prepare to hold their first-ever summit. (VOA)
- "This isn't 'Trust, but verify.' It's 'Distrust everything and verify, verify, verify.'" Ernest J. Moniz, a secretary of energy in the Obama administration, who helped negotiate the Iran nuclear deal in 2015, describing the difficulty of enforcing a similar accord with NK. (NYT)
- Tokyo and Seoul have conflicting stances on whether three-way talks with China this week should include the term "complete, verifiable, irreversible dismantlement" of NK's nuclear program. (Jennie Oh, UPI)
- Singapore has emerged as the most likely venue for the planned summit between Trump and KJU, according to multiple diplomatic sources. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- Pessimism about the Trump-Kim summit abounds; Mark Landler's analysis at the New York Times is typical (link is external). But if this problem were easy it would have been solved long ago. (Stephan Haggard, PIIE)
- A top Republican congressman on Sunday voiced skepticism that NK will abandon its nuclear weapons program despite its stated willingness to do so. (*Yonhap*)
- As he weighs opening nuclear disarmament negotiations with NK, President Trump faces a regime that for decades has hidden key elements of its nuclear programs from international monitors and has banned inspectors from the country. (David E. Sanger, William J. Broad, NYT)

Prepared by Huiwon Yun, HRNK Legal Research Intern

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

Kim Jong-un holds second meeting with Xi Jinping in China; Hyundai group launches task force for inter-Korean business projects; N.Korea proposes new air route through peninsula

In North Korea:
Greenhouse businesses sprout up in North Korea's former coal country (*DailyNK*, 05/08/2018)
'Kim Jong-un willing to hold dialogue with Japan' (*Korea Times*, 05/08/2018)
Kim should ally with the U.S. (*Joongang Daily*, 05/08/2018)
N. Korea committed to implementing inter-Korean summit agreements: Christian groups (*Yonhap*, 05/08/2018)
N. Korea slams Japan for supporting sanctions amid thaw on peninsula (*Yonhap*, 05/08/2018)
North Korea proposes new air route through peninsula (*Telegraph*, 05/08/2018)
North Korea wants international flights in its airspace (*UPI*, 05/08/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) S. Korean table tennis teams return home with world bronze medals (*Yonhap*, 05/08/2018)
Hyundai Group is getting ready to do business in North Korea again (*CNN*, 05/08/2018)
Hyundai Group launches task force for inter-Korean business projects (*Yonhap*, 05/08/2018)
Hyundai Group plans cooperation with North (*Joongang Daily*, 05/08/2018)
Hyundai sets up for inter-Korean taskforce (*Korea Times*, 05/08/2018)
Lawmakers call for Pyongyang's participation in national sporting event (*Korea Times*, 05/08/2018)
Moon advises Tokyo to engage Pyongyang (*Joongang Daily*, 05/08/2018)
Moon calls for improved ties between Japan, N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 05/08/2018)
Positive image of N. Korean leader surges among S. Korean students: poll (*Yonhap*, 05/08/2018)
Regional governments reach out to North Korea for ties (*Korea Times*, 05/08/2018)
Seoul, Beijing resume military talks (*Korea Times*, 05/08/2018)
Seoul's Red Cross chief vows close cooperation with N.K. on reunions of separated families (*Yonhap*, 05/08/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
A need to mediate (*Joongang Daily*, 05/08/2018)
Kim's alarming trip (*Joongang Daily*, 05/08/2018)
Thae Yong Ho shares insights on inter-Korean summit (*DailyNK*, 05/08/2018)
Two Koreas communicate under unified standard time zone (*Yonhap*, 05/08/2018)
Unified Korea could be competitive at Asiad ping pong: S. Korean players (*Yonhap*, 05/08/2018)

International:
(4th LD) N. Korea's Kim, China's Xi hold 2nd summit ahead of Trump summit (*Yonhap*, 05/08/2018)
Center for North Korean refugees opens in UK (*Korea Times*, 05/08/2018)
Ex-U.S. envoy cautions against signing peace treaty with N. Korea before denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 05/08/2018)
Kim Jong Un holds second meeting with Xi Jinping in China (*CNN*, 05/08/2018)
Kim Jong-un meets Xi Jinping in second surprise visit to China (*Guardian*, 05/08/2018)

Kim Jong-un meets with Xi Jinping in eastern China (*Joongang Daily*, 05/08/2018)
Kim Jong-un, Xi Jinping met in China on May 7-8 (*Korea Times*, 05/08/2018)
North Korea: Kim Jong Un 'reunites' with Xi for second summit (*UPI*, 05/08/2018)
North Korea's Kim wants to talk to Trump about mutual nuclear issues, says Chinese media (*WaPo*, 05/08/2018)
North Korean leader Kim visits China, meets President Xi (*Reuters*, 05/08/2018)
Singapore likely venue for Trump-Kim summit: sources (*Korea Times*, 05/08/2018)
The Latest: Kim says he's committed to denuclearization (*WaPo*, 05/08/2018)
The mystery of Trump's fake Nobel Peace Prize nomination (*WaPo*, 05/08/2018)
The Specter of Katsura-Taft 2.0: Is a US-China Deal Far-Fetched? (*38 North*, 05/08/2018)
Trump, Chinese president discuss Xi's meeting with Kim (*WaPo*, 05/08/2018)
Trump looks forward to meeting Kim: White House (*Yonhap*, 05/08/2018)
US stands tall as Asia's most powerful country despite rising China (CNN, 05/08/2018)
WFP chief to visit N. Korea to discuss food security (*Yonhap*, 05/08/2018)
Xi Jinping and Kim Jong-un in second meeting in China (*Telegraph*, 05/08/2018

In North Korea:

- Businesses in NK's coal-producing region have built greenhouses where vegetables are grown, packaged, and shipped all over the country. (Moon Dong Hui, *DailyNK*)
- NK leader KJU expressed his willingness to have a dialogue with Japan to resolve decades-long bones of contention between the two nations, SK President Moon said in an interview with Japanese local media. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- A trilateral alliance that benefits Seoul, Washington and Pyongyang would make Beijing and Tokyo feel left out. They can be handled by the existing North-China alliance and US-Japan alliance. (*Joongang Daily*)
- Christian leaders who recently visited NK said Tuesday that a high-level Pyongyang official affirmed the country's commitment to implementing the set of inter-Korean agreements signed between the leaders of the countries last month. (*Yonhap*)
- NK lambasted Japan on Tuesday for supporting sanctions and pressure against its regime, ratcheting up its criticism of Tokyo amid expectations that the two countries could discuss normalizing diplomatic ties. (*Yonhap*)
- SK said on Tuesday that NK had proposed a new air route through the two countries, as relations between the neighbors thaw after a breakthrough meeting of their leaders last month. (*Telegraph*)
- SK confirmed NK is looking to open an international flight route so planes bound for Incheon, the SK city home to the country's flagship airport, can fly over NK territory. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)

In South Korea:

- SK men's and women's table tennis teams returned home on Tuesday after picking up bronze medals at the world championships in Sweden. (*Yonhap*)

- One of the biggest names in SK business is getting ready to take advantage of the country's improving relations with NK, as Hyundai Group announced that it's setting up a task force to prepare for the potential restarting of economic projects in NK. (Daniel Shane, CNN)
- Hyundai Group said Tuesday it has launched a task force to prepare for the possible resumption of its business projects in NK as the two Koreas move to implement a set of agreements signed during their leaders' historic summit last month. (*Yonhap*)
- Hyundai Group said Tuesday that it formed a task force focused on preparing for economic projects with NK after the success of the inter-Korean summit last month. (Kim Jee-hee, *Joongang Daily*)
- Amid rapid improvements on inter-Korean relations, Hyundai Group said Tuesday it has formed a taskforce to prepare for the possible resumption of business operation in NK. (Baek Byung-yeul, *Korea Times*)
- Dozens of lawmakers have called on the government to invite NK athletes to the National Sports Festival in October. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- Moon encouraged resumption of dialogue between Pyongyang and Tokyo, adding that KJU had expressed his willingness to do so. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)
- Moon vowed efforts to help Japan improve its ties with NK, calling it a key to denuclearizing the North and enhancing peace and stability in the countries' shared region. (*Yonhap*)
- The number of SK college students with favorable perceptions of NK leader KJU has surged about 10-fold following the historic inter-Korean summit talks in April, a poll released on Tuesday showed. (*Yonhap*)
- SK regional governments are seeking to re-establish ties with NK amid the reconciliatory mood following the historic inter-Korean summit. (Kang Seung-woo, Lee Suh-yoon, *Korea Times*)
- SK and China resumed Monday a defense policy dialogue, discussing their positions about the recent inter-Korean summit. This came more than two years after both countries held their last working-level defense policy talk in January 2016. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- The head of SK's Red Cross said Tuesday he is ready to closely cooperate with his NK counterpart on humanitarian issues, including the reunion of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Seoul must employ its best diplomacy to mediate between Pyongyang and Washington so that the momentum is not wasted. (*Joongang Daily*)
- KJU's second trip to China could be a demonstration of solidarity with Beijing or to double-check the solidity of Pyongyang's "insurance policy" with Beijing in case the US-NK summit is canceled or postponed. (*Joongang Daily*)
- Leaders around the world are talking about denuclearization of NK, but in truth they are all happy to trade actually accomplishing that goal for at least the current peace – a mutual freeze to maintain the peace and ensure that NK does not carry out any more provocations. said Thae Yong-ho, NK's former deputy ambassador to the UK. (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)

- Two Koreas communicated on Tuesday under their unified time zone for the first time in nearly three years. (*Yonhap*)
- SK table tennis players said Tuesday they believe a unified team with N.Koreans could make some noise at this year's Asian Games. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- KJU and Xi Jinping held their second summit in about 40 days, with KJU voicing his commitment to denuclearization, state media said Tuesday, ahead of an anticipated summit between KJU and Trump. (*Yonhap*)
- A community center helping NK refugees has opened in the UK. It is known to be the first support organization dedicated to NK escapees outside of SK. (Park Ji-won, *Korea Times*)
- A former top U.S. diplomat for NK policy cautioned Monday against signing a peace treaty with NK before it completely dismantles its nuclear weapons program. (*Yonhap*)
- KJU has paid a second visit to China in two months, meeting with Xi Jinping ahead of highly anticipated talks with Trump. (Steven Jiang, Ben Westcott and Sol Han, CNN)
- KJU has made a second surprise visit to China to meet Xi Jinping, amid a flurry of diplomacy as he prepares for a summit with Trump. (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)
- KJU met with Xi Jinping of China on a two-day visit to Dalian, China to coordinate for the upcoming US-NK summit. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Joongang Daily*)
- KJU and Xi Jinping held their second meeting in China's northern port city of Dalian, as KJU is seeking China's backing ahead of his summit with Trump. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- KJU met with Xi Jinping for the second time in the northeastern Chinese city of Dalian, a surprise move that comes ahead of the planned US-NK summit. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- KJU wants to talk to Trump about “phased and synchronous measures” to deal with the standoff over the North’s nuclear program, Chinese state media reported Tuesday after KJU made his second visit to China this year. (Anna Fifield and Simon Denyer, *WaPo*)
- NK leader KJU visited China and met President Xi Jinping, their second encounter in two months in a flurry of diplomatic engagement that has eased tensions on the Korean peninsula. (Michael Martina, Heekyong Yang, *Reuters*)
- Singapore has emerged as the most likely venue for the planned summit between US President Trump and NK leader KJU, according to multiple sources. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- Chinese state media have quoted KJU as telling Xi Jinping that his country remains committed to denuclearization and has no need to possess nuclear weapons if a “relevant party” drops its “hostile policy and security threats” against it, in a clear reference to the US. (AP)
- While some have suggested that Trump should win the Nobel Peace Prize for his push for talks with KJU, Trump will not win in 2018 as submissions for the prize had to be sent in by Jan. 31, some time before a potential summit with KJU had been announced. (Adam Taylor, *WaPo*)

- China's interest in Taiwan and US interests in Korea are undisputed. What is less apparent is if and why the US could be willing to give up Taiwan, and why China could be ready to give up Korea. (Ruediger Frank, 38 North)
- Trump and Xi Jinping on Tuesday discussed Xi's meetings with KJU. Xi and KJU met Monday and Tuesday in China. It was the second meeting between the Asian leaders and followed Kim's visit to Beijing in March. (Darlene Superville, AP)
- Trump is looking forward to meeting with KJU, and an announcement on the date and location could come soon, the White House said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- The US is still the most powerful nation in the Asia region in spite of a rising challenge from China, a new ranking by an Australian think tank has found. (Ben Westcott, CNN)
- The World Food Programme (WFP) said Tuesday that its chief will make an official visit to NK this week for discussions on strengthening food security in the North. (*Yonhap*)
- KJU has made a surprise visit to China, meeting Xi Jinping ahead of an expected summit between the NK leader and US president Trump. (Neil Connor, *Telegraph*)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

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Wednesday, May 9, 2018

U.S. Seeks Detainees' Release as "Sign of Goodwill"; HRNK PRESS RELEASE: HRNK WELCOMES THE RELEASE OF 3 AMERICAN DETAINEES; SK working for release of its citizens held in NK.

Top News:

U.S. Seeks Detainees' Release as "Sign of Goodwill" (CNN, 05/03/2018)
HRNK PRESS RELEASE: HRNK WELCOMES THE RELEASE OF 3 AMERICAN DETAINEES (HRNK, 05/09/2018)

In North Korea:

(2nd LD) N. Korea to release 3 U.S. captives: Cheong Wa Dae official (*Yonhap*, 05/09/2018)
Corporate autonomy expands under Kim Jong Un's strategy (*Daily* NK, 05/09/2018)
Kim breaks with his flight-phobic father, travels by plane (*WaPo*, 05/09/2018)
Kim completes 2nd China trip (*Joongang Daily*, 05/09/2018)
N. Korea cautions U.S. not to hurt dialogue atmosphere (*Yonhap*, 05/09/2018)
N. Korea needs to decentralize financial system: report (*Yonhap*, 05/09/2018)
N. Korea repeats criticism of Japan ahead of expected summit with U.S. (*Yonhap*, 05/09/2018)
North Korea Experiments in Real Estate Speculation (*RFA*, 05/08/2018)
North Korea frees 3 American prisoners ahead of a planned Trump-Kim summit (*WaPo*, 05/09/2018)
North Korea releases three US citizens in run-up to Trump summit (*Guardian*, 05/09/2018)

North Korea frees three US detainees ahead of Trump summit (BBC, 05/09/2018)
North Korea releases detained Americans ahead of planned Trump-Kim summit (*Reuters*, 05/08/2018)
North Korea's Kim 'very pleased' relationship with China at a high point: media (*Reuters*, 05/08/2018)
North Korea's real estate price polarization deeper than in the South (*Daily* NK, 05/09/2018)
North Korean authorities form new group to block foreign influence (*Daily* NK, 05/09/2018)

In South Korea:
(2nd LD) Moon urges joint efforts of Japan, China to denuclearize N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 05/09/2018)
Expert sees existing N.K. nuclear bombs as hurdle in talks with U.S. (*Yonhap*, 05/09/2018)
S. Korea's nuclear envoy to visit D.C. for talks on N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 05/09/2018)
S. Korea working for release of its citizens held in N.K. (Yonhap, 05/09/2018)
Seoul hails N. Korea's release of Americans, calls for release of own (*Yonhap*, 05/09/2018)
South Korea says release of U.S. prisoners 'positive' for upcoming Trump-Kim summit (*Reuters*, 05/09/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(Yonhap Feature) After summit, simple cold noodles from Pyongyang warm S. Koreans toward North (*Yonhap*, 05/09/2018)

International:
(LEAD) Moon, Abe call for joint efforts to denuke N. Korea, improve bilateral ties (*Yonhap*, 05/09/2018)
(LEAD) Moon, Li voice need for adequate reward for N. Korea following denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 05/09/2018)
(LEAD) Pompeo arrives in N.K. to discuss details on summit (*Yonhap*, 05/09/2018)
(2nd LD) S. Korea, Japan, China vow joint efforts to denuclearize N. Korea (Yonhap, 05/09/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korean president arrives in Japan for three-way summit with Abe, Li (Yonhap, 05/09/2018)
(LEAD) U.S. committed to cooperating with N.K. to achieve peace on peninsula: Pompeo (*Yonhap*, 05/09/2018)
'Everyone thinks so, but I would never say it': Trump weighs in on whether he's deserving of a Nobel Peace Prize (*WaPo*, 05/09/2018)
3 Americans are on the way home from North Korean prison. Here are their stories. (*WaPo*, 05/09/2018)
A defector's letter to Kim Jong-un (*Joongang Daily*, 05/09/2018)
A look at the 3 Americans released by North Korea (*WaPo*, 05/09/2018)
American detainees in North Korea are not political pawns (CNN, 05/08/2018)
An open North Korea (*Joongang Daily*, 05/09/2018)
China, Japan, South Korea agree on 'complete denuclearization' (UPI, 05/09/2018)
China, Japan and South Korea highlight unity amid North Korea moves (*Reuters*, 05/08/2018)
China Steps Up Diplomatic Efforts as Trump-Kim Meeting Nears (VOA, 05/09/2018)
China wants it both ways on North Korea. Here's why it can't (CNN, 05/09/2018)
Detainees freed in North Korea, returning to US with Pompeo (*WaPo*, 05/09/2018)

Iran Deal Exit Complicates But Shouldn't Derail Korea Talks (VOA, 05/09/2018)
Iran pullout a message to North Korea (AFP, 05/09/2018)
Japan, China, South Korea agree to cooperate on North Korea (*WaPo*, 05/09/2018)
Japan says to normalize North Korea ties if nuclear, abduction issues are solved (*Reuters*, 05/08/2018)
Kim-Xi summit proposed by N. Korea: Beijing (Yonhap, 05/09/2018)
Kim-Xi summit sends signal to Trump about China's key role (*WaPo*, 05/09/2018)
Mike Pompeo calls North Korean leader 'Chairman Un' in diplomatic faux pas ahead of Pyongyang visit (*Telegraph*, 05/09/2018)
Mike Pompeo expected 'to return from North Korea with American detainees and details of Trump-Kim summit' (*Telegraph*, 05/09/2018)
Mike Pompeo's 'PVID' statement not at issue, South Korea says (UPI, 05/08/2018)
Moon, Li, Abe affirm Panmunjom Declaration (Joongang Daily, 05/09/2018)
North Korea-US talks: Who are North Korea's American detainees? (BBC, 05/09/2018)
North Korea Releases 3 American Prisoners, Trump Says (NYT, 05/09/2018)
Pompeo, on way to Pyongyang, says has no commitment on U.S. prisoner release (*Reuters*, 05/08/2018)
Pompeo arrives in North Korea; Trump cites hope for detainees (*Reuters*, 05/08/2018)
Pompeo arrives in North Korea as anticipation builds over Trump's summit with Kim Jong Un (*WaPo*, 05/08/2018)
Pompeo en route to NKorea to finalize Trump-Kim summit (*WaPo*, 05/08/2018)
Pompeo flies to Pyongyang for the second time (*Joongang Daily*, 05/09/2018)
Pompeo heads to N.K. to establish 'framework' for summit (*Yonhap*, 05/09/2018)
Pompeo in NKorea to finalize summit, seek Americans' release (*WaPo*, 05/09/2018)
Pompeo in North Korea ahead of Trump-Kim talks (BBC, 05/09/2018)
Pompeo makes second visit to North Korea to finalise summit details (*Guardian*, 05/09/2018)
Pompeo returning from North Korea with three U.S. detainees: Trump (*Reuters*, 05/09/2018)
Pompeo visits North Korea again ahead of Trump-Kim summit (CNN, 05/08/2018)
Secretary of State Pompeo visits Pyongyang, could leave with detained Americans (*Joongang Daily*, 05/09/2018)
Seoul, Tokyo, Beijing agree on joint efforts for NK denuclearization (*Korea Times*, 05/09/2018)
South Korea, China agree North Korea should be given aid if it denuclearizes: South Korea (*Reuters*, 05/09/2018)
The Latest: Trump rules out DMZ as summit site (*WaPo*, 05/09/2018)
The Lawfare Podcast: Mira Rapp-Hooper and Steph Haggard Preview the North Korea Summit (*Lawfare*, 05/07/2018)
These are the three Americans released by North Korea (CNN, 05/09/2018)
Three Americans freed by North Korea ahead of Trump-Kim summit (*Reuters*, 05/08/2018)
Three US detainees freed in North Korea during Mike Pompeo visit (*Telegraph*, 05/09/2018)
Timeline of recent events in US-North Korea relations (*WaPo*, 05/08/2018)
Trump: 3 Americans Detained in N. Korea Released, Heading Home (VOA, 05/09/2018)
Trump: American prisoners in North Korea headed home with Pompeo (UPI, 05/09/2018)
Trump, Xi Agree North Korea Sanctions Should Remain in Place for Now (VOA, 05/09/2018)
Trump, Xi agree sanctions should continue on North Korea: White House (*Reuters*, 05/08/2018)

Trump says 3 Americans held in North Korea have been released (CNN, 05/09/2018)
Trump says China has been very helpful on North Korea (*Reuters*, 05/09/2018)
Trump says top U.S. diplomat en route to North Korea, date set for summit (*Reuters*, 05/08/2018)
Trump Says U.S.-North Korea Summit Will Not Be at Demilitarized Zone (NYT, 05/09/2018)
Trump wants 'real deal' with N. Korea: Bolton (*Yonhap*, 05/09/2018)
Trump's Iran decision raises the stakes on North Korea (CNN, 05/09/2018)
Trump's Iran decision won't stop North Korea talks, but it might raise the price (*WaPo*, 05/09/2018)
U.S. expects China to push N. Korea to denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 05/09/2018)
U.S. says it is committed to working with North Korea to achieve peace (*Reuters*, 05/09/2018)
U.S. troops in South Korea not 'on the table' in initial North Korea talks (*Reuters*, 05/09/2018)
US Troops in Korea: From History's Vantage Point (*38 North*, 05/08/2018)
Who Are the Americans Freed By N. Korea? (VOA, 05/09/2018)
Who are the three US citizens freed by North Korea? (*Guardian*, 05/09/2018

Top News:

- In an interview for CNN's "The Situation Room," HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu discussed forced confession given by an American detained in North Korea, Kim Dong Chul, in a 2016 interview with CNN. Scarlatoiu asserted that Kim's confession was definitely forced, remarking that such forced confessions have been made by all American detained in North Korea. Scarlatoiu also commented on the conditions that these detainees face in the North Korean labor camps, which include extreme psychological pressure and physical torture. (Greg Scarlatoiu, Brian Todd, CNN)
- The Committee for Human Rights in North Korea (HRNK) welcomes the release by the DPRK of American detainees Kim Dong-chul, Kim (Tony) Sang-duk, and Kim Hak-song. But it is very important to remember that the release of foreign and South Korean abductees and the complete, verifiable, irreversible dismantlement of the North Korean political prison camps are an absolute priority if the DPRK wants to become a responsible member of the international community. (HRNK)

In North Korea:

- NK is soon expected to release three US citizens held in the communist state, an official from Seoul's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said Wed., in an apparent goodwill gesture ahead of a historic meeting between its leader KJU and US President Donald Trump. (*Yonhap*)
- N.Korean politics has changed in numerous ways under ruler KJU. His father, Kim Jong Il oversaw the military first (songun) era. In contrast, KJU's rule has been defined by nationalism. Kim has sought to use business strategies to inject rationality into governance and increase effectiveness. (Na Jong Won, *Daily NK*)
- Unlike his dictator father, who famously shunned air travel, N.Korean leader KJU jetted off to the northeastern Chinese city of Dalian this week, becoming the first N.Korean ruler to fly abroad in 32 years. (Hyung-Jin Kim, AP)

- N.Korean media confirmed KJU's second visit to China in less than two months this week to hold talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping, reporting on Tues. night that the Pyongyang leader mentioned ways to "more actively and closely boost the tactical cooperation" between the two countries amid a whirlwind of diplomacy on the Korean Peninsula. (Lee Sung-eun, Jeong Yong-soo, *Joongang Daily*)
- NK on Wed. called on the US to show sincerity and restrain from words and acts that could ruin the atmosphere for dialogue ahead of an unprecedented summit between the two countries. (*Yonhap*)
- NK needs to carry out financial decentralization in order to establish a financial system that would help its burgeoning market system work properly, a report said Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- NK's media has been pouring out criticism against Japan for advocating continued sanctions against Pyongyang ahead of its expected summit with the US. (*Yonhap*)
- In a new venture in capitalist economics, N.Korean authorities have begun offering high-rise apartments for sale to Chinese and N.Korean investors with the option for new owners to sell them again at a higher price, N.Korean sources say. (Joonho Kim, Leejin Jun, Richard Finney, RFA)
- Three American men who had been imprisoned by NK are on their way to the US, President Trump announced Wed. after they were released to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo during his visit to Pyongyang. (Carol Morello, Anna Fifield, David Nakamura, *WaPo*)
- NK has released three US citizens ahead of a meeting between KJU and Donald Trump. The US president said he would travel to Andrews air force base just outside Washington to meet them. (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)
- NK has freed three US citizens from prison, according to a tweet from US President Donald Trump. It is viewed as a goodwill gesture ahead of a historic summit between Mr. Trump and NK's KJU. (BBC)
- NK released three American detainees and handed them over to US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Wed., clearing a major obstacle to an unprecedented summit between President Donald Trump and N.Korean leader KJU. (Makini Brice, Susan Heavey, *Reuters*)
- N.Korean leader KJU said he was very pleased his country's relationship with China had reached a high point, N.Korean state media said on Tues., confirming his meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping. (*Reuters*)
- In theory, socialism is based on equality for all of its members in the spheres of politics, the economy, and culture. NK claims that its highest goal is for its people to enjoy happy lives and that "the Party and the people are working together to decide their fates." However, an objective assessment of NK's realities shows that the standard of living for NK's elite and the regular people are completely different from state propaganda. (Jo Hyun, *Daily NK*)
- After the Apr. 27 Moon-Kim Summit, an inspection unit has been formed by the N.Korean authorities with the pretext of blocking "capitalist phenomenon", tasked with conducting wide scale crackdowns. (Ha Yoon Ah, *Daily NK*)

In South Korea:

- S.Korean President Moon called for the active support of Japan and China in ridding NK of its nuclear ambitions Wed., calling it an essential element to ensure peace and security on the Korean Peninsula, as well as in the Northeast Asia region. (Yonhap)
- NK's stockpile of around 20 nuclear bombs will be the key hurdle in its ongoing denuclearization negotiations with the US, a S.Korean expert argued on Wed. (Yonhap)
- SK's top nuclear envoy headed to the US on Wed. for consultations on NK ahead of back-to-back summit talks among the countries that will likely redefine regional security conditions. (Yonhap)
- SK will continue to make active efforts to secure the release of six S.Koreans detained in NK, the unification ministry said Wed, amid reports that the release of US citizens held in the communist country is imminent. (Yonhap)
- SK welcomed the release of three American citizens held by NK on Wed., calling for the release of six of its own held captives in the communist state. (Yonhap)
- SK's presidential Blue House welcomed the release of American prisoners from NK on Wed., saying the move would have a "positive effect" for upcoming talks between NK's leader KJU and US President Donald Trump. (Reuters)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- With the so-called noodle diplomacy, major Pyongyang naengmyeon restaurants across SK were inundated with waves of S.Koreans wanting to experience the N.Korean delicacy at the date of the summit. Nearly two weeks after the summit, the popularity is still growing. (Yonhap)

International:

- S.Korean President Moon and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe stressed the importance of cooperation between their countries in ridding NK of its nuclear weapons. (Yonhap)
- S.Korean President Moon and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang agreed Wed. to continue working together to peacefully denuclearize NK, while stressing the need for the international community to offer the impoverished North adequate rewards in return. (Yonhap)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo arrived in NK on Wed. to discuss details of the upcoming summit between the two countries, the Associated Press reported. (Yonhap)
- The leaders of SK, Japan and China reaffirmed their joint efforts to peacefully rid NK of its nuclear ambitions in a three-way summit in Tokyo on Wed. (Yonhap)
- S.Korean President Moon arrived in Tokyo on Wed. for a summit with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang that is widely expected to focus on the countries' joint efforts to rid NK of its nuclear ambitions. (Yonhap)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Wed. that Washington is committed to cooperating with NK to achieve peace on the Korean Peninsula, according to news reports. (Yonhap)
- President Trump said Wed. that "everyone" thinks he deserves a Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to rid NK of nuclear weapons—but added that it's not something he would say out loud. (John Wagner, WaPo)

- President Trump announced on Wed. morning that Kim Hak-song, Kim Sang-duk and Kim Dong-chul were en route to the US, released as a goodwill gesture ahead of the proposed summit between Trump and N.Korean leader KJU. (Amanda Erickson, Rick Noack, *WaPo*)
- In this open letter to KJU, defector An Chan-il penned the following: "We N.Korean defectors have been living with the stigma of being traitors to socialism, but we dream of the day when we can play our role as pioneers of capitalism for the people in NK. Many Vietnamese who fled their country after communism returned home with riches and contributed to the economy's opening to the world. N.Korean defectors also hope for the same chance to contribute to their mother country. In his upcoming summit with KJU, US President Donald Trump will mention defectors. We hope the meeting will be as fruitful as the one between Moon and Kim." (An Chan-il, Joongang Daily)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has left NK with three American detainees who were released ahead of an upcoming meeting between President Donald Trump and N.Korean leader KJU, the US president said in a tweet Wed. The following article takes a look at the three Americans, who were held by NK for alleged subversion, espionage and other unspecified hostile acts. (Hyung-Jin Kim, AP)
- The administration's apparent opening of NK is something to be lauded, and, if ultimately successful, should be praised as a major diplomatic accomplishment. However, they should not forget that the discussions surrounding our fellow citizens, who are likely being confined in very harsh conditions, involve real human beings whose families continue to hold onto every possible word of hope coming from our leaders. (Josh Campbell, CNN)
- Though a hermit kingdom, NK aspires to become internationalized. Internationalization is the only way for NK to become a normal state and can ensure NK stays on a nuclear-free path. Inter-Korean ventures must be reevaluated in the context of advancing and internationalizing the N.Korean markets. Economic cooperation should go hand in hand with denuclearization. If aid goes ahead, it can slow the denuclearization procedure. (Kim Byung-yeon, *Joongang Daily*)
- Leaders of Japan, SK and China met in Tokyo Wed. and agreed to the "complete denuclearization" of the Korean Peninsula—a phrase that is raising questions about whether the three sides disagreed on terminology. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- China, Japan and SK agreed on Wed. to cooperate in seeking the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula, with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe saying recent positive momentum must be matched by "concrete action" by NK. (Kiyoshi Takenaka, Nobuhiro Kubo, *Reuters*)
- Analysts say Chinese President Xi Jinping's second meeting with N.Korean leader KJU a little more than a month from now is a sign of just how anxious Beijing is about a nuclear deal on the Korean Peninsula and the impact an agreement could have on its strategic interests. (Bill Ide, Joyce Huang, VOA)
- China has been trying to have it both ways with NK for a long time, on two issues: China wants NK to be weak, but not so weak that it would collapse, and incorrigible enough to keep the US occupied, but not so dangerous that it actually starts a war. (Yvonne Chiu, CNN)
- Three Americans detained in NK for more than a year are on their way back to the US with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, President Donald Trump announced Wed. in the latest sign

of improving relations between the two longtime adversary nations. (Matthew Lee, Catherine Lucey, AP)

- US President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw from the Iran nuclear agreement is not expected to derail diplomatic momentum to reach a deal to end NK's nuclear weapons program, but it could complicate the negotiation process, analysts say. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- President Donald Trump's withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal is a major setback to US negotiating credibility and will complicate efforts to reach an agreement with Pyongyang over its own more advanced weapons programme, analysts say. (AFP)
- China, Japan and SK warmed their chilly relations Wed., brought together by a common goal: ending NK's nuclear program. (Mari Yamaguchi, AP)
- Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Wed. his nation will normalize ties with NK if the nuclear and missile issues, along with that of the abduction of Japanese citizens, are solved comprehensively. (*Reuters*)
- This week's surprise summit between N.Korean leader KJU and Chinese President Xi Jinping in the northern Chinese city of Dalian was proposed by NK, China's foreign ministry said. (*Yonhap*)
- The surprise China-NK summit this week is intended to ensure that Beijing's voice is heard when N.Korean leader KJU holds a historic meeting with President Donald Trump. (Christopher Bodeen, AP)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo appeared to have made a diplomatic faux pas and referred to N.Korean leader KJU as 'Chairman Un' ahead of a visit to Pyongyang on Wed. (Neil Connor, *Telegraph*)
- Mike Pompeo, the US secretary of state, arrived in NK on Wed. amid hopes he would return with three detained Americans. (Rozina Sabur, Chris Graham, *Telegraph*)
- There is no dispute between US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Seoul regarding the expressions used to describe NK's denuclearization process, SK's foreign minister said Tues. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Leaders from SK, Japan and China on Wed. adopted a special statement in support of the Panmunjom Declaration, which was signed at the inter-Korean summit last month and confirmed the shared goal of the two Koreas of complete denuclearization. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Joongang Daily*)
- Three Americans detained in NK are on their way home after being released in what is likely to be a goodwill gesture ahead of unprecedented talks between the leaders of US and NK. (BBC)
- President Trump announced on Wed. that NK had freed three American prisoners, removing a bitter and emotional obstacle ahead of a planned meeting between him and the young leader of the nuclear-armed nation. (Choe Sang-hun, NYT)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Tues. he had not received a commitment from Pyongyang that three American prisoners would be released when he visits NK. (*Reuters*)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo arrived in Pyongyang on Wed. to prepare an unprecedented summit between N.Korean leader KJU and Donald Trump, while the US president signaled the possibility that three Americans detained in the country could soon be released. (*Reuters*)

- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo arrived in NK early Wed. to nail down critical details for an upcoming summit between President Trump and N.Korean leader KJU, raising hopes that three American prisoners could soon be released. (Carol Morello, David Nakamura, Anna Fifield, *WaPo*)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was heading to NK on Wed. to finalize details of a planned historic summit between President Donald Trump and NK leader KJU. (Matthew Lee, AP)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo flew into Pyongyang on Wed. to finalize details of President Donald Trump's summit with N.Korean leader KJU and successfully secured the release of three Americans detained by the regime. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo traveled to NK Tues., hoping to put in place a "framework" for a successful meeting between the two countries' leaders. (*Yonhap*)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo traveled to NK on Wed. to finalize plans for a historic summit between President Donald Trump and NK's leader, KJU. (Matthew Lee, AP)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is making a surprise visit to NK, with speculation growing that he will bring home three jailed Americans. Pompeo's visit is intended to lay the groundwork for a historic summit between N.Korean leader KJU and US President Donald Trump. (BBC)
- The US secretary of state has made a second surprise visit to NK to finalise plans for a historic summit between Donald Trump and KJU. (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)
- US President Donald Trump said on Wed. that three Americans detained by NK have been released and are on their way home with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. (*Reuters*)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo arrived in Pyongyang Wed. local time to continue preparations for President Donald Trump's upcoming summit with N.Korean leader KJU. (Zachary Cohen, Laura Korean, Kevin Liptak, Betsy Klein, CNN)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo flew into Pyongyang on Wed. to continue planning President Donald Trump's summit with N.Korean leader KJU and possibly secure the release of three Americans detained by the regime. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)
- The leaders of SK, Japan and China have pledged to cooperate in pushing for the denuclearization of NK and creating permanent peace in Northeast Asia. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- S.Korean President Moon and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said on Wed. NK should be guaranteed economic aid if it were to undertake complete denuclearization, a S.Korean presidential official said. (*Reuters*)
- President Donald Trump is ruling out the Korean Demilitarized Zone for his upcoming summit with N.Korean leader JU. He ruled that option out Wed. as he kicked off a Cabinet meeting at the White House. Trump said details of the KJU meeting will be announced in the next two or three days. The meeting is expected to be held in late May or early Jun. (AP)
- To understand what to expect from US President Trump's upcoming summit with N.Korean leder KJU, Lawfare editor-in-chief Benjamin Wittes spoke on Fri. with Mira Rapp-Hooper from Yale Law School's Paul Tsai China Center, and Stephan Haggard from the University of California-San Diego to discuss how we got here, what would make the Trump-Kim summit successful, and predications for the future of northeast-Asian security (Matthew Kahn, Benjamin Wittes, Mira Rapp-Hooper, Stephan Haggard, *Lawfare*)

- Three American citizens held for months in NK have been released, US President Donald Trump announced Wed. Kim Dong Chul, Kim Hak-song and Kim Sang Duk were freed during US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's second visit to the N.Korean capital of Pyongyang in two months. (Joshua Berlinger, CNN)
- NK released three American prisoners and handed them over to US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Wed., clearing a major obstacle to an unprecedented summit between President Donald Trump and N.Korean leader KJU. (Makini Brice, Matt Spetalnick, *Reuters*)
- Three American prisoners have been freed from NK and are heading back to the US with Mike Pompeo, the US secretary of state, Donald Trump, the US president announced on Wed. (Rozina Sabur, Julian Ryall, Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo arrived in NK on Wed. to finalize details of a planned summit between President Donald Trump and N.Korean leader KJU. This article provides a timeline of recent events in the US-NK relations. (AP)
- President Donald Trump says three Americans who were detained in NK have been released and they are on their way home, accompanied by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. (Nike Ching, VOA)
- The three remaining Americans being held in NK have been released and are headed home, US President Donald Trump said Wed. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- The White House says President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed Tues. that sanctions against NK should remain in place "until it permanently dismantles its nuclear and missile programs." (VOA)
- US President Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed in a phone call on Tues. that it was important to continue sanctions on NK over its nuclear and missile programs until it permanently dismantles them, the White House said. (*Reuters*)
- President Donald Trump announced Wed. that three Americans held in NK have been released and are on their way back home. (Zachary Cohen, Karl de Vries, CNN)
- US President Donald Trump said on Wed. that China has aided efforts with NK, hours after Trump announced that Pyongyang had released three detained Americans. (*Reuters*)
- President Donald Trump said on Tues. that US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was currently on his way to NK and that the two countries had agreed on a date and location for a meeting between Trump and N.Korean leader KJU. (*Reuters*)
- US President Trump said on Wed. he will announce the site for a summit with N.Korean leader KJU within three days and it will not be held at the demilitarized zone along the border between the two Koreas. (Jim Oliphant, NYT)
- US President Trump wants a "real" nuclear deal with NK, a message that was sent in his withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal, his top national security aide said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- President Donald Trump's scrapping of the Iran deal he inherited raised the stakes for a N.Korean agreement he hopes to build, a contradiction over two aspiring nuclear powers that pose the biggest foreign policy challenge yet for his administration. (Jeff Zeleny, Kevin Liptak, CNN)
- Although Trump's decision to withdraw the US from the Iran nuclear deal has complicated the diplomatic process, few analysts expect KJU to just walk away from the negotiations. (Anna Fifield, *WaPo*)

- The US expects China to use its "unique leverage" to push NK onto the path to denuclearization, the State Department said Tues. in response to the latest meeting between the Chinese and N.Korean leaders. (*Yonhap*)
- The US is committed to working with NK to achieve peace on the Korean peninsula, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told N.Korean officials in Pyongyang on Wed. (*Reuters*)
- The US troop presence in SK would not be part of initial negotiations with NK, US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said on Wed., ahead of expected talks between President Donald Trump and N.Korean leader KJU. (Phil Stewart, Idrees, Ali, *Reuters*)
- Robert Carlin recently observed that despite Pyongyang's historical demands for the removal of US forces as a condition for peace, it might not want to see US forces rapidly depart. Consistent with this, there was no direct mention of US forces in the Panmunjom Declaration following the Inter-Korean Summit, and S.Korean President Moon has stated KJU would not insist on their withdrawal. Pyongyang understands as well as anyone that the US presence is embedded within a larger geopolitical and strategic architecture. Yet it is unclear whether or not US President Trump understands this. This matters because while Trump may be inclined to remove or at least draw down US troops, history demonstrates even a determined president cannot so easily disentangle US forces from the highly militarized peninsula. (Clint Work, *38 North*)
- The three U.S. citizens held in NK—Kim Dong Chul, Kim Sang-duk, and Kim Hak-song—have spent long months trapped in the reclusive nation, accused of crimes against the government. (*VOA*)
- NK has granted an "amnesty" to three US citizens ahead of a planned summit between Donald Trump and the N.Korean leader, KJU. They are Kim Dong Chul, Kim Sang-duk, and Kim Hak-song. (Julia Carrie Wong, *Guardian*)

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, HRNK Research Intern

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Thursday, May 10, 2018

North Korea Frees American Prisoners, Lifting Hurdle to Nuclear Talks; 'Welcome home': 3 Americans released from North Korea ahead of Trump-Kim summit; North Korea summit: Trump greets freed American detainees

Top News:

North Korea Frees American Prisoners, Lifting Hurdle to Nuclear Talks (NYT, 05/09/2018)
'Welcome home': 3 Americans released from North Korea ahead of Trump-Kim summit (*Circa*, 05/09/2018)
North Korea summit: Trump greets freed American detainees (BBC, 05/10/2018)

'Welcome home': 3 Americans released from North Korea ahead of Trump-Kim summit (WJLA *Washington D.C.*, 05/09/2018)
Don't forget about other foreigners trapped in North Korea's prison camps, human rights activists warn (*Telegraph*, 05/10/2018)
Report: South Korea Wants 6 Released From NKorea (*NewsMax*, 05/09/2018)
Kim's capitalist kingdom of Korea (FOX*Business*, 05/10/2018)
Trump mutes his attacks on North Korea's 'depraved' policies (*Politico*, 05/08/2018)

In North Korea:
(3rd LD) Kim says Trump meeting will be positive for Koreas (*Yonhap*, 05/10/2018)
Colonel in the Department of the General Staff accused of graffiti executed by firing squad (*Daily* NK, 05/10/2018)
N.K. Buddhist body sends prayer to S. Korea in support for recent inter-Korean agreements (*Yonhap*, 05/10/2018)
N. Korea sends out new signal by releasing Americans on leader's amnesty (*Yonhap*, 05/10/2018)
North Korea agrees to warn of activity hazardous to aviation: U.N. agency (*Reuters*, 05/10/2018)
North Korea airline plans new China charter flights amid diplomatic thaw (*Reuters*, 05/10/2018)
North Korea's Kim says releases three American detainees upon U.S. request: KCNA (*Reuters*, 05/09/2018)
Restrictions on freedom of movement throw wedding plans into disarray (*Daily* NK, 05/10/2018)

In South Korea:
(2nd LD) S. Korean foreign minister to meet Pompeo in D.C. (*Yonhap*, 05/10/2018)
(Yonhap Interview) Minister says smaller firms should play key role in inter-Korean projects (*Yonhap*, 05/10/2018)
Optimism over summit buoys Seoul stocks (*Joongang Daily*, 05/10/2018)
Seoul expects North Korea to release its citizens as well (*Korea Times*, 05/10/2018)
South Korea's Moon Gives Diplomacy a Chance (VOA, 05/10/2018)
South Korean foreign minister to strategize with Pompeo ahead of Korea summits (*Reuters*, 05/09/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Moon asked Kim to free South Koreans in North (*Joongang Daily*, 05/10/2018)
S. Korea proposes holding high-level inter-Korean talks next week: official (*Yonhap*, 05/10/2018)
South Korea Hands Kim Jong-un a Path to Prosperity on a USB Drive (NYT, 05/10/2018)
South Korea preparing to join table tennis contest in Pyongyang (*Korea Times*, 05/10/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) Trump rules out inter-Korean border for Kim meeting (*Yonhap*, 05/10/2018)
(2nd LD) Trump says he will soon announce time, place of N. Korea summit (*Yonhap*, 05/10/2018)
(2nd LD) Trump welcomes arrival of three Americans released from N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 05/10/2018)
(LEAD) Trump preps Singapore meeting with N. Korean leader: news report (*Yonhap*, 05/10/2018)
3 Americans held by North Korea have arrived back in the United States. Here are their stories (*WaPo*, 05/10/2018)

Analysts: Speed of Denuclearization Emerging as Key Summit Issue (VOA, 05/10/2018)
Bring our detainees home (*Joongang Daily*, 05/10/2018)
China, Japan poles apart over NK (*Korea Times*, 05/10/2018)
CNN Poll: Three-quarters approve of Trump's plans to meet with Kim Jong Un (CNN, 05/10/2018)
Donald Trump says Kim Jong-un wants to bring North Korea 'into the real world' as he greets freed US detainees with flags and fanfare (*Telegraph*, 05/10/2018)
Donald Trump to meet Kim Jong-un in Singapore for North Korea summit (*Telegraph*, 05/10/2018)
Freed Americans tell of abuse, torture and hunger inside North Korea's prison camps (*Telegraph*, 05/10/2018)
History in the making as Trump welcomes prisoners home (CNN, 05/10/2018)
Hope, fear and pragmatism (*Joongang Daily*, 05/10/2018)
Kim, Trump to meet in Singapore on June 12 (*Korea Times*, 05/10/2018)
Mind games: North Korean detention may have scarred U.S. prisoners (*Reuters*, 05/09/2018)
N. Korea, China strengthen aviation cooperation (*Yonhap*, 05/10/2018)
No, Trump can't count on a hawk's advantage in making peace with North Korea (*WaPo*, 05/10/2018)
North Korea Releases Three US Prisoners Ahead of Planned Trump-Kim Summit (RFA, 05/09/2018)
North Korea's release of US prisoners doesn't mean peace (*Guardian*, 05/10/2018)
Obituary: The Maximum Pressure Policy (*38 North*, 05/09/2018)
Plane carrying Americans freed by North Korea lands near Washington (*Reuters*, 05/10/2018)
Pompeo: Date, location of Trump-Kim meeting may be announced next week (*Yonhap*, 05/10/2018)
Pompeo Returns from North Korea with Three U.S. Hostages (*Foundation For Defense of Democracies*, 05/10/2018)
President Trump welcomes 3 Americans freed by North Korea (CNN, 05/10/2018)
Schumer warns Trump against 'quick, bad' deal with North Korea (*Reuters*, 05/10/2018)
Singapore likeliest option for Trump-Kim summit: U.S. official (*Reuters*, 05/09/2018)
Summit between Kim Jong-un and Donald Trump will take place in Singapore – report (*Guardian*, 05/10/2018)
Summit is set: Trump-Kim to meet June 12 in Singapore (*WaPo*, 05/10/2018)
Summit likely to be held in Singapore, not Panmunjom (*Joongang Daily*, 05/10/2018)
The 'Asian Switzerland': Why Singapore 'has been chosen to host Trump-Kim summit' (*Telegraph*, 05/10/2018)
The release of Americans held by North Korea shows almost anything can cause a media fight (*WaPo*, 05/10/2018)
The U.S.-North Korea summit could be Trump's 'Nixon-to-China' moment (*WaPo*, 05/10/2018)
There cannot be any tricks (*Joongang Daily*, 05/10/2018)
Three US detainees released by North Korea thank Donald Trump for securing their freedom (*Telegraph*, 05/10/2018)
Trump: North Korea Summit Will Be in Singapore on June 12 (VOA, 05/10/2018)
Trump, Kim Jong Un meeting to take place in June (UPI, 05/10/2018)
Trump-Kim Jong-un summit set for Singapore on 12 June (BBC, 05/10/2018)
Trump announces date for June summit with Kim Jong-un in Singapore (*Guardian*, 05/10/2018)
Trump announces June 12 summit in Singapore with North Korean leader (*WaPo*, 05/10/2018)
Trump announces North Korea summit will be in Singapore (CNN, 05/10/2018)
Trump Eyes Breakthrough After NKorea Frees Americans (NYT, 05/10/2018)

Trump Greets 3 Americans Freed From North Korea (NYT, 05/10/2018)
Trump Greets Americans Released by North Korea (VOA, 05/10/2018)
Trump greets three released by North (*Joongang Daily*, 05/10/2018)
Trump Meets 3 Americans Held In North Korea As They Arrive In U.S. (*NPR*, 05/10/2018)
Trump offers hero's welcome to three Americans freed by North Korea (*WaPo*, 05/10/2018)
Trump says to meet with North Korea's Kim on June 12 in Singapore (*Reuters*, 05/10/2018)
Trump thanks Kim Jong Un as he welcomes home detainees from North Korea (*Politico*, 05/10/2018)
Trump welcomes back Americans freed by North Korea (*Reuters*, 05/10/2018)
Trump welcomes home American prisoners held in North Korea (*UPI*, 05/10/2018)
Trump welcomes home three Americans released by North Korea (*Guardian*, 05/10/2018)
U.N. rights expert urges release of 6 South Koreans held in North (*Reuters*, 05/10/2018)
U.S.-North Korea Summit Set for June 12 in Singapore, Trump says (NYT, 05/10/2018)
Upbeat Trump welcomes U.S. prisoners released by North Korea (*Reuters*, 05/10/2018)
We should all pull for Pompeo over Bolton (*WaPo*, 05/10/2018)
Will American Travelers Be Able to Return to North Korea? (NYT, 05/10/2018)

Top News:

- The Washington-based Committee for Human Rights in North Korea welcomed the release of the three US citizens who were imprisoned in NK, but urged the North to release other detainees said to be held there, and to shut down its camps for political prisoners. HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu stated, "It is a time to remember the nationals of Japan, SK, and other countries who were abducted and are still held in NK. It is also a time to remember the 120,000 men, women, and children held in NK's political prison camps as well as political prisoners held at other unlawful detention facilities." (Choe Sang-Hun, NYT)
- According to Greg Scarlatoiu executive director of HRNK, the prisoner release is not a matter of geopolitical machinations. Rather, it is a sign the Trump administration is taking N.Korean human rights violations seriously. He states, "What I have seen so far is encouraging and makes me quite hopeful that human rights is on the agenda and will stay on the agenda." (Leandra Bernstein, *Circa*, *WJLA Washington D.C.*)
- According to HRNK, some 120,000 people are believed to be imprisoned in NK without due process, according to the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea (HRNK). (BBC)
- The Committee for Human Rights in North Korea said the release of the three Americans "is a time to rejoice and heal". HRNK added, however, that it is important "to remember the nationals of Japan, SK and other countries who were abducted and are still held in NK." The statement added that "It is also a time to remember the 120,000 men, women and children held in NK's political prison camps, as well as political prisoners held at other unlawful detention facilities." (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- HRNK welcomed the release of the three Americans, but noted many are still being held in NK. "It is time to remember the nationals of Japan, SK, and other countries who were abducted and are still held in NK," said Greg Scarlatoiu, the executive director of the committee. "It is also a time to remember the 120,000 men, women, and children held in NK's political prison camps, as well as political prisoners held at other unlawful detention facilities," he added. (Joe Crowe, NEWSMAX)

- HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu stated that NK is still a one-man system, and the regime "thrives on control, surveillance, punishment." HRNK Board Member David Maxwell suggested that Kim needs to produce "substantial outcomes from the summits and subsequent negotiations." He stated "if Kim has created high expectations and they are not realized, it could undermine the legitimacy of the regime." (Gordon G. Chang, FOXBusiness)
- Greg Scarlatoiu, Executive Director of HRNK, commented that the concern was that "raising human rights would have obstructed a nuclear deal." He stated, "To put it simply, they didn't want to upset the N.Koreans." (Nahal Toosi, Politico)

In North Korea:

- N.Korean leader KJU has said that his upcoming meeting with US President Donald Trump will be a positive development in light of recent tensions on the Korean Peninsula. (Yonhap)
- A colonel in the Department of the General Staff accused of defacing NK's Apr. 25 House of Culture with graffiti critical of the KJU regime was recently publicly executed, according to sources in NK. (Lee Sang Yong, Daily NK)
- NK's Buddhist Federation has sent a prayer to its S.Korean counterpart in celebration of the recent inter-Korean summit declaration ahead of this month's observation of Buddha's Birthday, a S.Korean Buddhist association said Thurs. (Yonhap)
- The unprecedented formalities behind NK's release of three Americans have drawn attention, as Pyongyang's media said Thurs. that they were all set free by an amnesty granted by the chairman of the North's State Affairs Commission. (Yonhap)
- NK has agreed not to engage in activities hazardous to aviation without advanced notice, a UN aviation agency official said on Thurs., an assurance that could lead to major airlines resuming flights through its airspace. (Reuters)
- NK's Air Koryo plans to launch charter flights between Pyongyang and Chengdu in south-west China, two airline officials told Reuters, amid a major improvement in diplomatic relations between the neighbors. (Reuters)
- N.Korean leader KJU said he accepted a US suggestion to release to American detainees and gave them amnesty, state media said on Thurs. (Reuters)
- There are reports that NK has lowered the requirements needed to receive visas for travel abroad, however, ordinary N.Koreans in general cannot dream of travelling abroad nor do they enjoy the right to freely travel within their own country. According to sources in NK, the country has instead recently tightened restrictions over the travel of its citizens. N.Koreans are particularly finding it more difficult to move between Pyongyang and the areas along the NK-Chinese border. (Jo Hyon, Daily NK)

In South Korea:

- S.Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha will travel to the US this week for talks with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on NK and alliance issues, her ministry announced Thurs. (Yonhap)

- SK's minister for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) has said smaller companies should play a leading role in economic cooperation between the two Koreas amid growing hopes for cross-border projects after their two leaders' historic summit last month. (*Yonhap*)
- Seoul's main bourse closed slightly higher on Thurs., riding on improved investor sentiment on the upcoming summit between the US and NK. (Choi Hyung-jo, *Yonhap*)
- After NK freed three American detainees, Wed., SK expects NK to do the same quickly for six S.Koreans being detained in NK. Cheong Wa Dae said it will do its best for the release of the six detainees. (Choi Ha-young, *Korea Times*)
- During his first year in office, S.Korean President Moon's persistent pursuit of diplomacy, often working in parallel with US President Trump's "maximum pressure" campaign, played a significant role in persuading NK to engage in talks to end its nuclear program. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- SK's foreign minister will meet US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo for the first time on Fri., with discussions expected to set the stage for a summit between their leaders later in May, her ministry said in a statement. (*Reuters*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- SK has appealed to NK for the release of its own citizens, a Blue House spokesman said Wed. night, after three American detainees were freed in a surprise move ahead of a landmark summit meeting between N.Korean leader KJU and US President Donald Trump. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Daily*)
- SK has proposed holding high-level talks with NK next week to discuss follow-up measures on agreements reached by their leaders during their recent summit, a unification ministry official said Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- NK's leader, KJU, left, and President Moon of SK at the Demilitarized Zone in SK last month. During the meeting, Moon handed KJU a USB drive with an economic plan for the Korean Peninsula. (Choe Sang-hun, NYT)
- SK is preparing to participate in a table tennis event in NK next month, the sport's national governing body in Seoul said Thurs. The Korea Table Tennis Association (KTTA) said it will soon submit entries to take part in the Pyongyang Open tournament in the NK capital for the first time from Jun. 13 to 17. (*Korea Times*)

International:

- US President Donald Trump on Wed. ruled out the inter-Korean border as the venue for his upcoming meeting with N.Korean leader KJU. (*Yonhap*)
- US President Donald Trump has told his S.Korean counterpart Moon that he will soon announce the date and location of his planned summit with N.Korean leader KJU, Moon's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said Wed., apparently confirming that the historic US-NK summit has been arranged. (*Yonhap*)

- US President Donald Trump on Thurs. welcomed the arrival of three Americans released by NK a day earlier in yet another conciliatory gesture ahead of the upcoming summit between the two countries. (*Yonhap*)
- US officials are making preparations for a meeting in Singapore between President Donald Trump and N.Korean leader KJU, a news report said Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- After long stints in labor camps and days of rumors about their release, three Americans who were held prisoner in NK finally came home early Thurs. morning, shortly before 3 a.m. (Amanda Erickson,Rick Noack, *WaPo*)
- Pyongyang's interest in taking "incremental" steps and Washington's opposition to this "phased" approach toward denuclearization is emerging as differences that need to be resolved for a successful summit between President Trump and N.Korean leader KJU, according to analysts.(VOA)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo arrived at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, on Thurs. bringing in three Korean-Americans who were detained in NK. President Donald Trump flew to the military base near Washington to greet the three US citizens on their return. The three detainees expressed deep appreciation for the efforts made by Trump, Pompeo and other Americans to bring them home, the State Department said. (*Joongang Daily*)
- The latest talks among the leaders of SK, Japan and China in Tokyo, Wed., revealed that Tokyo and Beijing have conflicting positions over how to handle NK, analysts said Thurs. (Park Ji-won, *Korea Times*)
- About three-quarters of Americans (77%) approve of President Donald Trump's decision to meet with N.Korean leader KJU, according to a new CNN poll conducted by SSRS. Trump's approval rating for handling the situation with NK has jumped 10 points since late Mar. (Grace Sparks, Jennifer Agiesta, CNN)
- The three Korean-Americans detained for over a year by Pyongyang were finally home. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- Trump's long-awaited meeting with KJU will take place in Singapore on Jun. 12, the president has said. (Rozina Sabur, *Telegraph*)
- Welcoming three freed American detainees back on to US soil on Thurs., Trump, the US President, thanked KJU for their release and said the N.Korean leader had been "excellent to these three incredible people." (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- President Donald Trump welcomed home three American prisoners from NK, citing their release as proof that his diplomacy with the isolated state is delivering. (Stephen Collinson, CNN)
- The NK-SK summit should rightly be hailed as an important diplomatic achievement, and the Moon administration deserves an ample share of the credit. Yet in both SK and the US, we are seeing skepticism and fear that are no less warranted than the current bubble of optimism. Rather than denigrating the summit, we should take a pragmatic stance, waiting to see what the negotiations around the Kim-Trump summit reveal about both Kim and Trump's thinking. (Stephen Haggard, *Joongang Daily*)
- US President Trump said Thurs. he will meet NK leader KJU on Jun. 12 in Singapore. "The highly anticipated meeting between KJU and myself will take place in Singapore on Jun. 12th," Trump wrote on Twitter. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)

- Three Americans released from N.Korean captivity on Wed. are at risk of a range of symptoms, from crippling anxiety to severe depression, as a result of the trauma experienced during their imprisonment. (Joseph Ax, *Reuters*)
- NK and China are moving to expand direct flight routes between Pyongyang and major Chinese cities on the back of growing improvements in their bilateral relationship, tourism officials said Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- With the release of three US prisoners in NK, face-to-face talks between Trump and KJU appear to be on the horizon. He's now confirmed that the talks will be in Singapore on Jun. 12. After a year of bellicose rhetoric on NK, does Trump's hawkish stance give him a political advantage to make a deal with the enemy? (Sarah Kreps, Elizabeth N. Saunders, Kenneth Schultz, *WaPo*)
- NK has released three American prisoners, US officials said Wed., ahead of an expected summit between the country's leader KJU and US President Donald Trump that will focus on denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. (Jung Min Noh, Joshua Lipes, Sungwon Yang, *RFA*)
- High expectations for the coming summit between KJU and Trump are unrealistic and dangerous. (Polly Toynbee, *Guardian*)
- A family spokesman confirmed today that the maximum pressure policy passed away on Apr. 27, 2018. This was not noticed at the time since it was still walking around in policy circles in Washington, but physicians later determined that the policy lost all ability to affect the outside world sometime between the moment that KJU trod on the red carpet in Beijing and the second he crossed the line into the ROK sector in Panmunjom. The policy is expected to enjoy some form of zombie existence at least until the upcoming summit between US President Donald Trump and KJU, but all medical experts expect its corporeal form will crumble into dust quickly if the US attempts to make use of it. (Joseph DeThomas, *38 North*)
- A plane carrying three Americans released by NK landed at a military base bear Washington early on Thurs., where US President Donald Trump was waiting to greet them. (*Reuters*)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Wed. that he hopes to announce the date and venue for a meeting between US President Donald Trump and N.Korean leader KJU early next week. (*Yonhap*)
- The return home of three American hostages is a cause for celebration, yet the moment remains bittersweet given the tragic death of Otto Warmbier as a result of the trauma he endured in captivity. Furthermore, 24 million N.Koreans continue to suffer every day under KJU's brutal rule. The US should continue its policy of maximum pressure to ensure NK's rapid denuclearization, yet also must address its abhorrent human rights violations.(Mathew Ha, *Foundation for Defense of Democracies*)
- Under an American flag and dark night sky, US President Donald Trump personally welcomed home three American detainees Thurs. morning after they were released from NK. (Allie Malloy, Jeff Zeleny, Ben Westcott, *CNN*)
- US Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer said Thurs. that the release of three detained American citizens was "no great accomplishment" of N.Korean leader KJU and that President Trump was weakening US foreign policy by exalting the release. (*Reuters*)
- Singapore has emerged as the likeliest location for a planned summit meeting between US President Donald Trump and NK leader KJU, a US official said on Wed. (*Reuters*)

- The first summit between a sitting US president and a N.Korean leader will take place in Singapore, CNN reported on Wed. (Julian Borger, *Guardian*)
- Trump will meet with KJU in Singapore on Jun. 12, Trump announced Thurs., hours after suggesting that the release of three Americans held in NK heralded a potential breakthrough toward denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula. (Matthew Lee, Jill Colvin, Zeke Miller, AP)
- The first NK-US summit is expected to be held in Singapore after US President Donald Trump ruled out the other possible venue that had been named, Panmunjom, the truce village at the inter-Korean border. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)
- Singapore has reportedly been chosen to host the much-anticipated meeting between Trump and KJU in the coming weeks. (Chris Graham, *Telegraph*)
- The release of US citizens held hostage by a rogue regime would seem to be a moment for a president to bask in good press. Relations between President Trump and the media are seldom so uncomplicated, however. (Callum Borchers, WaPo)
- Several commentators have observed that Trump's overtures to NK echo Richard Nixon's embrace of Communist China in the early 1970s. Nixon's policy not only led to better international relations with Beijing, but also proved to be a big success at home. (Michaela Mattes, Jessica L.P. Weeks, WaPo)
- KJU is not foolish to think he can get away with figurative promises with Trump. In the final game, the players must throw the cards on the table. There cannot be any tricks. He can persuade Trump of dismantlement in return for security for at least two years. Upon confirming his genuine dedication, Trump could offer grand overtures. Kim also could make bold decisions if large-scale economic aid and normalization of diplomatic ties are promised as soon as NK completely dismantles its nuclear weapons. (*Joongang Daily*)
- The three Americans headed back to the US after being released by NK have thanked President Trump and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo for securing their freedom. (Nicola Smith, Ben Riley-Smith, Rozina Sabur, *Telegraph*)
- US President Trump has announced that his summit with N.Korean leader KJU will take place in Singapore on June 12. (Steve Herman, VOA)
- President Trump said Thurs. his meeting with N.Korean leader KJU will take place in June. (Sarah Shayanian, UPI)
- US President Donald Trump will meet N.Korean leader KJU in Singapore on 12 Jun., he has said. Mr. Trump's announcement came hours after he welcomed home three American detainees released by NK. (BBC)
- Donald Trump disclosed on Thurs. that his nuclear summit with KJU will take place on 12 Jun. in Singapore. (Julian Borger, *Guardian*)
- President Trump announced Thurs. that his summit with N.Korean leader KJU will occur Jun. 12 in Singapore, a high-stakes step in his bid to curb the rogue nation's nuclear weapons program. (David Nakamura, John Wagner, WaPo)
- President Donald Trump will meet with N.Korean leader KJU on Jun. 12 in Singapore, the US president announced Thurs. on Twitter. (Jeremy Diamond, CNN)
- President Trump celebrated the return Thurs. of three Americans freed by NK and suggested their release heralded a potential breakthrough toward the goal of denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula. (NYT)

- President Trump and Melania Trump met the three Americans at an air base in Maryland. He praised the N.Korean leader, KJU, and said that the end goal was to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula. (Katie Rogers, NYT)
- US President Trump personally welcomed three freed Americans returning home from NK early Thurs. morning, declaring "we're starting off on a new footing" with Pyongyang. (Steve Herman, VOA)
- US President Donald Trump greeted in person three Korean-American detainees released by NK as they landed at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland in the dead of the night, underscoring that their release was a step toward denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)
- Three American men who had been held by NK touched US soil once again early Thurs., where they were met by President Trump, who has hailed his diplomacy with N.Korean leader KJU for winning their freedom. (Scott Neuman, NPR)
- Three Americans held captive for more than a year in NK arrived at Joint Base Andrews outside Washington well before dawn Thurs. to a hero's welcome featuring President Trump, Vice President Pence and first lady Melania Trump. (David Nakamura, Carol Morello, *WaPo*)
- President Donald Trump said on Thurs. that he will meet N.Korean leader KJU for a historic summit on Jun. 12 in Singapore where the US leader will try to persuade Pyongyang to give up its nuclear weapons. (*Reuters*)
- President Donald Trump welcomed home three Americans formerly imprisoned by NK on Thurs., greeting them in a dramatic scene that played out in the early morning hours on the tarmac at Joint Base Andrews. (Louis Nelson, Zoya Sheftalovich, *Politico*)
- A plane carrying three Americans released by NK landed at a military base bear Washington early on Thurs. to be welcomed by US President Donald Trump and his wife, Melania. (Roberta Rampton, David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)
- Three Americans detained in NK arrived at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland on Thurs. morning, where they were greeted by President Trump. (Ray Downs, UPI)
- Three Americans released by NK landed in the US in the early hours of Thurs., with Trump waiting on the tarmac to greet their plane. (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)
- The United Nations human rights investigator on NK called on Thurs. for six S.Korean nationals in custody there to be freed, voicing concern over conditions of their detention. (*Reuters*)
- President Trump announced on Thurs. that his meeting with the N.Korean leader, KJU, will be held on Jun. 12 in Singapore. (Eileen Sullivan, NYT)
- President Donald Trump welcomed three Americans who had been held prisoner in NK back home on Thurs., thanking its leader KJU for their release and sounding upbeat about a planned US-NK summit. (Roberta Rampton, David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)
- Pompeo's initial success in setting the stage for a summit with NK leader KJU and the freeing of three American prisoners makes him the most important and influential national security figure in the Trump administration. (Jennifer Rubin, *WaPo*)
- Americans have been banned from visiting NK since last fall. Operators say they are hoping possible negotiations between President Trump and KJU will change that. (Elaine Glusac, NYT)

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, Dohyun Kim, James Park, HRNK Research Interns

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Friday, May 11, 2018

Kim, Trump to meet in Singapore on June 12; The Daily 202: Trump reassures anxious hawks that he's willing to walk away from North Korea talks; North Korea Tells UN Aviation Group No More ICBM Tests;

In North Korea:

Exclusive: North Korean traders offering cheap coal on hopes sanctions will ease - Chinese traders (*Reuters*, 05/11/2018)
More North Koreans look to traditional medicine for cures (*Daily* NK, 05/11/2018)
North Korea commits cybercrime but exercises 'caution' (*UPI*, 05/11/2018)
North Korean nuclear test site closure raises fears of environmental crisis (*Telegraph*, 05/11/2018)
North Koreans in dark about time, location of Trump, Kim summit (*UPI*, 05/11/2018)
North Korea Tells UN Aviation Group No More ICBM Tests (NYT, 05/11/2018)
N. Korea vows to halt unannounced missile tests (*Yonhap*, 05/11/2018)
[Photos] Sections of the Amnok River near Dandong, China, blocked with barbed wire fence(*Daily* NK, 05/11/2018)
Report: North Korea weapons could be flown to France (*UPI*, 05/11/2018)
Why North Korea's Kim Jong-un feels comfortable with Singapore (*BBC*, 05/11/2018)

In South Korea:

(LEAD) Now is golden chance to achieve denuclearization, peace on peninsula: unification minister (*Yonhap*, 05/11/2018)
(LEAD) Seoul to confirm free will of former N. Korean restaurant workers (*Yonhap*, 05/11/2018)
Moon vows continued, increased exchanges with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 05/11/2018)
Renewed hopes for reunion, visit to homeland (AP, 05/11/2018)
Seoul to re-examine arrival of North Korean women (AP, 05/11/2018)
South Korea says trying to verify complaints by North Korea waitress 'defectors' (*Reuters*, 05/11/2018)
Tale of North Korean Waitresses Who Fled to South Takes Dark Turn (NYT, 05/11/2018)
U.S. told Seoul about Singapore summit with N. Korea a week ago: official (*Yonhap*, 05/11/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

Hollow peace is worse than none (*Joongang Daily*, 05/11/2018)
Finding balance in Northeast Asia (*Joongang Daily*, 05/11/2018)
At summit, a Westernized Kim on display (*Joongang Daily*, 05/11/2018)

International:

(5th LD) Trump: N. Korea summit to take place in Singapore June 12 (*Yonhap*, 05/11/2018)
Ash Carter says US needs concrete plan to make sure North Korea drops nuke program(CNN, 05/11/2018)
Chatter Grows About Trump's Nobel Peace Prize Prospects (VOA, 05/11/2018)
China Welcomes Kim-Trump Summit as 'Important Step' (NYT, 05/11/2018)
Commentary: Did Korea progress deal final blow to Iran nuclear accord? (*Reuters*, 05/11/2018)
Japan PM to NKorea: Release Japanese Abductees or No Aid (AP, 05/11/2018)
Kim, Trump to meet in Singapore on June 12 (*Korea Times*, 05/11/2018)
Korean-American CIA official plays role for Trump-Kim summit (*Korea Times*, 05/11/2018)
On U.S.-North Korea Talks, China May Hold the Cards (NYT, 05/11/2018)
Optimism rises over NK-US summit (*Korea Times*, 05/11/2018)
'Pacing, verification critical points of NK-US summit' (*Korea Times*, 05/11/2018)
Singaporeans excited about hosting Trump-Kim summit (*Korea Times*, 05/11/2018)
Singapore ties with US, NKorea make city-state summit site (AP, 05/11/2018)
Singapore to host Trump, Kim (*Joongang Daily*, 05/11/2018)
The Daily 202: Trump reassures anxious hawks that he's willing to walk away from North Korea talks (*WaPo*, 05/11/2018)
Ties with US, North Korea make Singapore optimum choice (AP, 05/11/2018)
Trevor Noah Thinks Kim Jong-un Has Brainwashed Trump (NYT, 05/11/2018)
Trump approaches geopolitics like The Apprentice – but this is not his show (*Guardian*, 05/11/2018)
Trump hopes 'America First' abroad leads to wins at home (CNN, 05/11/2018)
Trump, Kim summit in Singapore presents logistical challenges for North Korea (*Reuters*, 05/11/2018)
Trump-Kim summit must succeed (*Joongang Daily*, 05/11/2018)
The Trump-Kim summit must succeed, but Seoul must also ensure the safety of the South Korean people in any kind of deal. (*Joongang Daily*)
Trump's Instinct in Korea Crisis and Elsewhere Is 'Go Big' (NYT, 05/11/2018)
Trump's Poll Numbers Rising; North Korea Developments Could Help (VOA, 05/11/2018)
Trump to be flexible on N. Korea denuclearization deadline: expert (*Yonhap*, 05/11/2018)
Trump will meet Kim in Singapore on June 12 (*Joongang Daily*, 05/11/2018)
"We Don't Know the Real Motives of North Korea Leader" (CNN, 05/11/2018)

In North Korea:

- Some N.Korean traders are offering cheap coal to Chinese buyers who are stockpiling it at ports inside the isolated country, hoping recent diplomatic moves lead to an easing of sanctions barring purchases of N.Korean coal, three Chinese traders told Reuters. (*Reuters*)
- As distrust of Western medicine increases among N.Koreans, a rising preference for traditional Korean medicine is emerging, report sources in the country. (Kang Mi-jin, Moon Dong-hui, *Daily NK*)

- N.Korea engages in cybercrime to make money -- but not all analysts agree whether the regime should be blamed for recent attacks, or whether the country is showing a change in online behavior with its turn to diplomacy. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Closing down NK's nuclear test site at Punggye-ri is going to be more complicated and fraught with risk than has previously been suggested, with analysts suggesting that acting in haste for short-term political gain might lead to an environmental crisis. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- Ordinary N.Koreans may still not know US President Trump and KJU are scheduled to meet on June 12 in Singapore. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- NK has informed a UN aviation agency that it will not conduct unannounced missile tests or further intercontinental ballistic missile launches because its nuclear arms program is now complete and it no longer needs to do such testing. (NYT)
- NK has promised to not carry out unannounced missile tests and to abstain from other activities hazardous to commercial aviation in a recent meeting with officials of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), an American media report said Fri. (*Yonhap*)
- "The barbed wire isn't set up near the Sino-Korean Friendship Bridge, so cruise lines should be able to continue operating there. The barbed wire fence appears to instead be set up along unfrequented areas in order to block smuggling activities." (Ha Yoon-ah, *Daily NK*)
- The US asked NK to remove five nuclear weapons, that would be then flown to France for destruction, according to a S.Korean press report. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- "non-party, non signatory state to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court", so in theory there's no danger of the N.Korean leader being drawn into human rights abuse cases while he's here. (Karishma Vaswani, BBC)

In South Korea:

- SK's unification minister said Fri. that the current situation provides a "golden opportunity" to achieve denuclearization and bring permanent peace to the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's government said Fri. that it is trying to verify a recent news report alleging some of the 12 female N.Korean restaurant workers who defected to the South two years ago came to Seoul against their will. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon vowed to expand cross-border exchanges with North Korea on Fri., saying an increase in exchanges may eventually lead to the unification of the divided Koreas. (*Yonhap*)
- Ko is among the some 130,000 people separated from family by the 1950-53 Korean War registered with a government-run system for separated families managed by the Ministry of Unification. (Kim Ji-soo, Lee Suh-yoon, *Korea Times*)
- SK says it will look closer into the circumstances surrounding the arrival of a dozen N.Korean restaurant workers in 2016 after a television report suggested some of the women might have been brought to the South against their will. (AP)
- Several N.Korean waitresses who arrived in SK in 2016 in a group of 13 defectors have said they were coerced into leaving, and a S. Korean ministry that handles ties with the North said on Fri. it was trying to verify their account. (*Reuters*)

- The manager and three of the women claim that the waitresses did not even know they were going to SK when the manager took them out of China at the behest of the South's National Intelligence Service. (Choe Sang-hun, NYT)
- SK was told the historic US-NK summit will be held in Singapore at least a week earlier, an official from Seoul's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said Fri., hours after US President Trump revealed the location of his anticipated meeting with N.Korean leader KJU. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- We should want diplomacy to work, but we must recognize that any gains on denuclearization will be incremental. (Michael Green, *Joongang Daily*)
- The peace declaration and agreement are two sides of a coin. The solution to create a new Northeast Asian order is a process of finding a balance, not a subtraction. Korea should not be bitter and welcome China's return. (Shin Kyung-jin, *Joongang Daily*)
- There is hope that KJU's education abroad may make him a different leader from his father. (*Joongang Daily*)

International:

- US President Trump announced Thurs. that his meeting with N.Korean leader KJU will take place in Singapore June 12. (*Yonhap*)
- Former US Secretary of Defense Ash Carter said Fri. US should be cautious of any promises made by NK at the upcoming summit between President Trump and KJU. (CNN)
- Now, President Trump's supporters are pushing for him to be the next US leader to win the Nobel Peace Prize — a move that's being met by smirks and eye rolls in Europe, where Trump remains deeply unpopular. (VOA)
- North Korea's key ally, China, said Fri. it welcomes the progress made by the US and NK in setting up next month's summit between their leaders. (NYT)
- It seems clear that, from Trump's perspective, the Iran deal and the diplomatic advances with NK are closely related – and that his policy of "maximum pressure" is paying off. (Maysam Behravesh, *Reuters*)
- Japan's prime minister on Fri. warned N.Korean leader KJU that Japan will not provide major economic assistance unless the North resolves the issue of Japanese citizens it abducted decades ago. (AP)
- US President Trump said Thurs. he will meet N.Korean leader KJU on June 12 in Singapore to discuss the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- Andrew Kim, head of the Korea Mission Center (KMC) under the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), appears to have played a leading role in coordinating the summit between President Trump and N.Korean leader KJU slated for June 12. (Choi Ha-young, *Korea Times*)
- Along the Chinese border with NK, the evidence of Beijing's leverage in the coming talks between President Trump and the N.Korean leader, KJU, is everywhere. (Jane Perlez, NYT)
- Analysts are cautiously forecasting that the upcoming Pyongyang-Washington summit could produce a big deal on denuclearization, after US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo returned

from Pyongyang with three Americans detained in NK and both of the nations showed satisfaction over the current process toward the summit. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)

- While it appears N.Korean leader KJU is ready to negotiate with the US on denuclearization, pacing and verification of the process will be two highly contentious facets of the process, according to a NK expert. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- Most Singaporeans are excited about their country hosting the upcoming historic summit between US President Trump and N.Korean leader Kim Jong-un. (Kim Jae-kyoung, *Korea Times*)
- Singapore's diplomatic ties with NK and its relative proximity made the Southeast Asian city-state a natural choice for the historic summit between President Trump and N.Korean leader KJU. (Annabelle Liang, AP)
- US President Trump announced on Thurs. that he would meet N.Korean leader KJU on June 12 in Singapore for a landmark summit. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Daily*)
- President Trump used an Indiana rally Thurs. to soothe conservative fears that he's going to make too many concessions to the N.Koreans. (James Hohmann, *WaPo*)
- With the Demilitarized Zone on the Korean Peninsula out of contention, the small nation of Singapore is a natural choice for the historic summit between US President Trump and N.Korean leader KJU, analysts say. (AP)
- Trevor Noah said President Trump might have come down with Stockholm syndrome after praising NK's leader, KJU, for his "excellent" treatment of three American prisoners. (Giovanni Russonello, NYT)
- The US president thinks he will call the shots at his meeting with KJU in Singapore, but might find Kim is the one in control. (Julian Borger, *Guardian*)
- The President is taking his political chaos theory beyond America's borders and racking up wins for his faithful political base. (Stephen Collinson, CNN)
- N.Korean leader KJU's trip to Singapore for talks with US President Trump poses logistical challenges that are likely to include using Soviet-era aircraft to carry him and his limousine, as well as dozens of security and other support staff. (Jack Kim, Jamie Freed, *Reuters*)
- The way President Trump sees it, why go for a solid single when you can swing for a home run? (NYT)
- It was a made-for-TV moment that all presidents would relish, but it seemed especially significant for the man who turned a reality TV career into a successful bid for the presidency. (Jim Malone, VOA)
- US President Trump appears open to lowering the bar for a big deal in denuclearization talks with N.Korean leader KJU, though he's not considering moving the goal post itself, a well-known pundit here said Fri. (Lee Chi-dong, *Yonhap*)
- US President Trump announced Thurs. he will meet N.Korean leader KJU on June 12 in Singapore for a historic first summit between the two nations. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Joongang Daily*)
- Former top US diplomat on North Korean policy, Joesph Yun, says pushing for NK to be part of the international community is worth trying, even if it takes time. (CNN)

Prepared by Dohyun Kim, HRNK Research Intern

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Saturday, May 12, 2018

US offers to help N.Korea's economy if it 'quickly' denuclearizes; N.Korean defector group sends anti-Pyongyang leaflets to North; S.Korea's deputy nuclear envoy to visit IAEA for coordination on NK denuclearization

In North Korea:
Inside the mountain base still on alert to North Korea's missile threat (CNN, 05/11/2018)
Kim Jong-un brings Beijing to heel (*Korea Times*, 05/12/2018)
N. Korean diplomats caught taking banned luxury goods out of Austria (*Yonhap*, 05/12/2018)
N. Korea downsizes annual tank firing contest: officials (*Yonhap*, 05/12/2018)
North Korea: UN gains 'unprecedented access' during visit (BBC, 05/12/2018)

In South Korea:
Moon shines as he drives diplomacy with Pyongyang (*WaPo*, 05/11/2018)
N. Korean defector group sends anti-Pyongyang leaflets to North (*Yonhap*, 05/12/2018)
S. Korea's deputy nuclear envoy to visit IAEA for coordination on NK denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 05/12/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Renewed hopes for reunion, visit to homeland (*Korea Times*, 05/11/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) U.S. offers to help N. Korea's economy if it 'quickly' denuclearizes (*Yonhap*, 05/12/2018)
It's far too early for Trump to take credit on North Korea (*WaPo*, 05/11/2018)
Mike Pompeo offers aid to North Korea in exchange for forfeiting nukes (*Guardian*, 05/11/2018)
Mike Pompeo promises North Korea future 'brimming with prosperity' if it denuclearises (*Telegraph*, 05/12/2018)
Pompeo promises North Korea future 'brimming with prosperity' if it denuclearizes (*Reuters*, 05/12/2018)
Pompeo says talks with North Korea's Kim were 'warm' (CNN, 05/11/2018)
The surprise coalition of Trump critics supporting the Kim Jong Un meeting (CNN, 05/11/2018)
Traveling with Pompeo on secret mission to North Korea (*WaPo*, 05/12/2018)
Trump, Kim summit in Singapore presents logistical challenges for North Korea (*Reuters*, 05/12/2018)
Trump thanks Singapore for hosting Kim summit in call (*WaPo*, 05/11/2018)
Trump thanks Singapore leader for hosting N. Korea summit (*Yonhap*, 05/12/2018)
Trump shouldn't expect an approval spike after the North Korea prisoner release (*WaPo*, 05/11/2018)
US hopes North Korea will become close partner, Pompeo says (*WaPo*, 05/12/2018)
US President Thanks Singapore for Hosting US-North Korea Talks (VOA, 05/11/2018)

US to North Korea: No Sanctions Relief Until Permanent, Verifiable Denuclearization (VOA, 05/12/2018)

In North Korea:

- North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), the joint Canada-US organization tasked with warning of incoming threats from the sky, continues to monitor NK's nuclear program with the same intensity it did at the height of NK's missile testing. (Scott McLean, CNN)
- The upcoming Kim-Trump summit will be full of promise and peril. However, so far Kim has proved adept on the international stage. He even forced his dominating neighbor and nominal ally to come calling, twice. Whatever happens next, Kim has transformed Northeast Asia. (Doug Bandow, *Korea Times*)
- NK diplomats stationed in Austria have been caught attempting to take luxury goods banned under UN sanctions out of the European country, an American news report said Sat. (*Yonhap*)
- NK is said to have sharply scaled down an annual firing contest for its armored units, apparently reflecting the rising detente on the peninsula, government officials in Seoul said Sat. (*Yonhap*)
- The head of the UN's World Food Programme (WFP) believes there is a "sense of optimism" among NK's leaders after enjoying what he said was unprecedented access to the country. (BBC)

In South Korea:

- Moon doesn't have the power to resolve NK's weapons programs on his own. But in hustling between Pyongyang and Washington to set up the Kim-Trump summit and offering to broker other meetings with Pyongyang, Moon is fulfilling his promise to push SK into the driver's seat in diplomacy with the North. (Kim Tong-Hyung, AP)
- A group of NK defectors scattered leaflets critical of the NK regime across the border to the North on Saturday despite the government's recommendation not to. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's foreign ministry announced Saturday the country's deputy nuclear envoy will visit the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) next week for consultations on NK. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Separated from his family by the 1950-53 Korean War, many S.Koreans hope to see their families in North once again, inspired by detente brought on by the April 27 Summit. (Kim Ji-soo, Lee Suh-yoon, *Korea Times*)

International:

- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo offered Friday to help boost NK's economy if the regime swiftly dismantles its nuclear weapons program. Pompeo spoke after coming out of talks with SK Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha. (*Yonhap*)
- It is not too late to accredit Trump on NK once KJU really does want to join the civilized world, boost his economy, feed his people and make nice with his neighbors, and if Trump succeeds in effectively securing peace in the region. (Kathleen Parker, *WaPo*)
- US secretary of state Mike Pompeo has offered economic help to impoverished NK if it gives up its nuclear weapons, as the two countries prepare for an historic summit between Trump and KJU. (*Guardian*)
- NK can look forward to "a future brimming with peace and prosperity" if it agrees to quickly give up its nuclear weapons, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo pledged on Friday ahead of a historic summit between Trump and KJU. (*Telegraph*)
- NK can look forward to “a future brimming with peace and prosperity” if it agrees to quickly give up its nuclear weapons, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo pledged on Friday ahead of a historic summit between Trump and KJU. (Lesley Wroughton, David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said his conversations with NK leader KJU were "warm" and "good." (Nicole Gaouette and Ryan Browne, CNN)
- Most Americans who disapprove of Trump overall tend to disapprove of how Trump is handling just about every issue. That is, except for his upcoming meeting with NK leader KJU, according to the latest CNN poll. (Ryan Struyk, CNN)
- Pompeo's second trip to Pyongyang began with quiet words from State Department officials: "Apply for a new passport immediately. You may soon be going to a country for which ordinary US passports are not valid for travel." (Matthew Lee, AP)
- KJU’s trip to Singapore for talks with Trump poses logistical challenges that are likely to include using Soviet-era aircraft to carry him and his limousine, as well as dozens of security and other support staff. (Jack Kim, Jamie Freed, *Reuters*)
- Trump is thanking the prime minister of Singapore for agreeing to host his upcoming summit with KJU. (AP)
- Trump thanked Singapore's leader Fri for hosting his upcoming meeting with NK leader KJU in the city-state, the White House said. (*Yonhap*)
- Despite some applause from the public for the release of three men who had been held prisoner by NK, Trump shouldn’t expect an approval spike. (Philip Bump, *WaPo*)
- The US aspires to have NK as a “close partner” and not an enemy, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said, noting that the US has often in history become good friends with former adversaries. (Josh Lederman and Matthew Lee, AP)
- Trump has spoken with Singapore's prime minister, Lee Hsien Loong, a day after announcing he and KJU will hold an historic meeting in the southeast Asian city-state. (Steve Herman, VOA)
- Chief diplomats from the US and SK said Friday that a complete denuclearization by NK requires robust verification, and that sanctions against Pyongyang would not be lifted unless it took concrete and further steps toward denuclearization. (Nike Ching, VOA)

Prepared by James Park, HRNK Research Intern

Sunday, May 13, 2018

'Welcome home': 3 Americans released from North Korea ahead of Trump-Kim summit; Report: South Korea Wants 6 Released From NKorea; Pompeo: US firms could invest in North Korea and Kim may get ‘security assurances’

TOP NEWS:
'Welcome home': 3 Americans released from North Korea ahead of Trump-Kim summit(*KEPR19*, 05/09/2018)
Report: South Korea Wants 6 Released From NKorea (*NewsMax*, 05/09/2018)

In North Korea:
40% of North Koreans suffer from malnutrition, says WFP (*Korea Times*, 13/05/2018)
Agricultural research center opens in N. Korea (*Korea Times*, 13/05/2018)
Greenhouses become new source of income in N. Korea (*Korea Times*, 13/05/2018)
Kim needs to prove his sincerity (*Joongang Daily*, 14/05/2018)
Kim Jong-un wants to be 'normal' leader (*Korea Times*, 13/05/2018)
North Korea details plans to dismantle nuclear bomb test site (*Reuters*, 13/05/2018)
N. Korea vows not to make unannounced missile tests (*Korea Times*, 13/05/2018)
N. Korean Olympic ice hockey player cleared of doping offense: report (*Yonhap*, 13/05/2018)
N. Korean state media outlets widely report nuclear test site dismantlement plan (*Yonhap*, 13/05/2018)
NK's oil, diesel prices dive despite sanctions: report (*Yonhap*, 13/05/2018)
North Korea, US in talks over denuke roadmap (*Korea Times*, 13/05/2018)
Pyongyang 'scales down' annual tank exercise (*Korea Times*, 13/05/2018)
Pyongyang to scrap nuclear site (*Joongang Daily*, 14/05/2018)

In South Korea:
Cheong Wa Dae welcomes N. Korea's pledge to dismantle nuclear test site (*Yonhap*, 13/05/2018)
Opposition leader downplays N. Korea's pledge to dismantle nuclear test site as 'nothing new'(*Yonhap*, 13/05/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Firms making inquiries about opening operations at now-shuttered Kaesong complex(*Yonhap*, 13/05/2018)
Moon, Kim to talk over inter-Korean hotline 'soon' (*Korea Times*, 13/05/2018)
N. Korean Buddhists send prayer to Seoul to mark joint summit (*Korea Times*, 13/05/2018)
N.K. restaurant in Dubai becomes haunt for S. Koreans (*Yonhap*, 13/05/2018)

International:
First North-U.S. summit could be at five-star hotel (*Joongang Daily*, 14/05/2018)
(LEAD) Pompeo: U.S. may allow private investment in N. Korea if it denuclearizes (*Yonhap*, 13/05/2018)
Pompeo and Bolton outline North Korea plans as talks approach (CNN, 13/05/2018)
Pompeo: US firms could invest in North Korea and Kim may get 'security assurances'(*Guardian*, 13/05/2018)
Pompeo: U.S. to lift sanctions on North Korea if it meets demands (*Reuters*, 13/05/2018)
Pompeo: US Will Need to Give Kim Jong Un Security Assurances (NYT, 13/05/2018)
Three former US prisoners in North Korea leave Walter Reed Medical Center (CNN, 13/05/2018)
Trump hails test site dismantlement as 'very smart and gracious gesture' (*Korea Times*, 13/05/2018)
Trump, Kim likely to meet at Shangri-La Hotel (*Korea Times*, 13/05/2018)
Trump to visit Seoul after meeting with Kim Jong-un: report (*Korea Times*, 13/05/2018)
Trump welcomes N.K's nuclear test site dismantlement plans as 'very smart and gracious gesture' (*Yonhap*, 13/05/2018)
U.S. can help North's economy, Pompeo says (*Joongang Daily*, 14/05/2018)
U.S. wants N.K. to ship part of nuclear, missile stockpiles out of country within months: sources (*Yonhap*, 13/05/2018)
US Would Offer North Korea 'Security Assurances' if It Ends Nuclear Program (VOA, 13/05/2018)

TOP NEWS:

- According to Greg Scarlatoiu executive director of the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, the prisoner release is not a matter of geopolitical machinations. Rather, he sees it as a sign the Trump administration is taking N.Korean human rights violations seriously. (Leandra Bernstein, KEPR19)
- "It is time to remember the nationals of Japan, SK, and other countries who were abducted and are still held in NK," said Greg Scarlatoiu, the executive director of the committee. (Joe Crowe, *NewsMax*)

In North Korea:

- NK still needs continued humanitarian assistance because many mothers and young children there still relied on aid to meet their nutritional needs, UN World Food Program (WFP) chief David Beasley said Fri. (Kang Aa-young, *Korea Times*)
- Agricultural research center opens in N. Korea: Vegetables are planted at a research lab operated by NK's new agricultural research center. The center opened on May 9 with the aim of improving the country's agricultural technology and helping to rebuild the economy. (*Korea Times*)
- NK is increasingly building greenhouses in coal-mining areas as part of efforts to rebuild its economy hit by UN Security Council (UNSC) sanctions, according to sources familiar with Pyongyang. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)

- We hope KJU makes a wise choice. In the past, the six-party talks went down the drain because of unexpected problems in the process of verification in the complex stages of denuclearization — a nuclear freeze, disabling, verification and dismantlement. (*Joongang Daily*)
- N.Korean leader KJU is believed to be speeding efforts to make his country appear as a "normal state" in line with his move to dismantle its nuclear program. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- NK has scheduled the dismantlement of its nuclear bomb test site for sometime between May 23 and 25 in order to uphold its pledge to discontinue nuclear tests, the country's state media reported on Sat. a month ahead of a historic summit. (Christine Kim, David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)
- NK has vowed to not carry out unannounced missile tests and other activities hazardous to commercial aviation, according to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- NK's Kim Un-hyang, who participated in the PyeongChang Winter Olympics as a member of the unified inter-Korean ice hockey team, has been cleared of a doping offense as a banned substance detected from her sample showed an "extremely low concentration," an online news outlet specializing in the Olympics reported recently. (*Yonhap*)
- N.Korean state media outlets on Sun. widely reported the country's decision to dismantle its nuclear test site, a move seen as underscoring its seriousness about denuclearization. (*Yonhap*)
- The prices of gasoline and diesel fuel in the northern part of NK showed sharp drops this month due to the probable resumption of China's supply or expectations of such a resumption amid the detente surrounding the Korean Peninsula, a US broadcaster reported Sun., citing an Osaka-based NK specialist news media. (*Yonhap*)
- NK will dismantle its nuclear test site in Punggye-ri between May 23 and 25, the first step toward its "complete denuclearization" in line with an agreement reached between the leaders of the two Koreas, April 27. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- NK has scaled down its annual exercise involving tank and other armored vehicle units, according to sources familiar with Pyongyang. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- NK announced Sat. it would invite international journalists to cover the dismantling of its northern nuclear test site between May 23 and 25, adding that its authorities were currently taking "technical measures" to carry out the process. (Lee Sung0eun, *Joongang Daily*)

In South Korea:

- SK's presidential office on Sun. welcomed NK's announcement of its plan to dismantle the country's nuclear test site, saying the move will be helpful in building trust between the United States and the North ahead of their upcoming summit. (*Yonhap*)
- The leader of the main opposition LKP on Sun. downplayed NK's pledge to dismantle its nuclear test site as "nothing new," saying what's important is what to do with the North's nuclear weapons. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- A number of firms are making inquiries about the now-shuttered joint industrial complex in NK's border city of Kaesong, industry sources said Sun., as the two Koreas move to implement a set of agreements signed during their leaders' historic summit last month. (*Yonhap*)
- Leaders of the two Koreas will talk over the inter-Korean hotline "soon," SK's presidential office said in yet another sign of inter-Korean rapprochement before the historic summit between N.Korean leader KJU and US President Trump in Singapore on June 12. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- A group of N.Korean Buddhists has sent a prayer to SK in commemoration of the historic summit between President Moon and N.Korean leader KJU at the truce village of Panmunjeom on April 27. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- A N.Korean restaurant specializing in "Pyongyang naengmyeon" bustles with S.Koreans even at late lunchtime, with most of them ordering the dish that originated in the North's capital. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- With the looming summit between US President Trump and N.Korean leader KJU in Singapore next month, experts have narrowed down possible locations for the historic summit. (Chun Su-jin, Park Hyun-ju, Esther Chung, *Joongang Daily*)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Sun. offered to allow the American private sector to invest in NK if the regime agrees to fully dismantle its nuclear weapons program. (*Yonhap*)
- Senior Trump administration officials are outlining new details of their plans to work toward the denuclearization NK as President Trump prepares for his meeting with N.Korean leader KJU next month. (Maegan Vazquez, CNN)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Sun. that if NK agrees to fully dismantle its nuclear weapons program, the Trump administration will allow the American private sector to invest in the country. (*Guardian*)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Sun. that Washington will agree to lift sanctions on NK if the country agrees to completely dismantle its nuclear weapons program, a move that would create economic prosperity that “will rival” SK. (Sarah N. Lynch, *Reuters*)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Sun. that the US will need to "provide security assurances" to NK's KJU if the adversaries are to reach a nuclear deal. (NYT)
- The three former American prisoners who were detained in NK have left Walter Reed National Military Medical Center after their evaluations and are now reunited with their families. (Kate Sullivan, CNN)
- US President Trump has welcomed NK's announcement of details of its plan to dismantle its nuclear test site as "a very smart and gracious gesture." (*Korea Times*)
- US President Trump and N.Korean leader KJU are expected to meet at the Shangri-la Hotel next month, according to industry sources and experts, Sun. (*Korea Times*)

- US President Trump will visit SK and Japan after his historic meeting with N.Korean leader KJU in Singapore on June 12, Japanese media Nikkei reported Sun. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- US President Trump has welcomed NK's announcement of details of its plan to dismantle its nuclear test site as "a very smart and gracious gesture." (*Yonhap*)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that the United States is ready to help NK achieve economic prosperity if it takes "bold action to quickly denuclearize" after a meeting with his S.Korean counterpart in Washington on Fri. (Esther Chung, *Joongang Daily*)
- The United States has demanded that NK ship some of its nuclear weapons, fissile material and long-range missiles out of the country within months after next month's summit between the two countries, sources said Sun. (*Yonhap*)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Sun. that if NK agrees to full denuclearization, the US is prepared to "provide security assurances" for the Pyongyang government and allow private American investment to build out the country's woefully inadequate electrical grid. (Ken Bredemeier, VOA)

Prepared by Dohyun Kim, HRNK Research Intern

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Monday, May 14, 2018

3 Americans Freed by NK Reunited With Families; Kim must send his nukes to US: Bolton; NK officials visit China ahead of summit with US

In North Korea:

Kim Jong-un 'wants 14 Gaeseong-like towns' (*Korea Times*, 05/14/2018)
'Mean and foolish': North Korea says Japan is stalling peace over cold war abductions (*Guardian*, 05/14/2018)
N. Korea enjoys 4.5 percent rise in income through trade in past 20 yrs (*Yonhap*, 05/14/2018)
N. Korea's ultimate goal is to become nuclear weapons state: former N.K. diplomat (*Yonhap*, 05/14/2018)
North Korea to publicly blow up nuclear test site on May 23-25 (*Korea Times*, 05/13/2018)
North's former UK envoy says it won't give up all nukes (*Joongang Daily*, 05/14/2018)

In South Korea:

(LEAD) Moon welcomes planned dismantlement of N. Korean nuclear test site (*Yonhap*, 05/14/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

2 Koreas expected to hold high-level talks this week: Seoul official (*Yonhap*, 05/14/2018)
(LEAD) Gyeonggi plans to restart reforestation project for N.K. (*Yonhap*, 05/14/2018)
(LEAD) Koreas to field limited number of joint teams at Asian Games: official (*Yonhap*, 05/14/2018)

Peace talks ignite land buying frenzy along South Korea's fortified border (*Reuters*, 05/13/2018)
S. Korean leader praises North's plan to dismantle nuke site (*Washington Post*, 05/14/2018)
South Korean companies poised to invest in the North if sanctions relax (*Guardian*, 05/14/2018)

International:
3 Americans Freed by North Korea Reunited With Families (NYT, 05/13/2018)
Bolton: U.S. focused on total denuclearization in North Korea, Iran (*UPI*, 05/13/2018)
China's Dandong city, on North Korea border, curbs buying frenzy in property market(*Reuters*, 05/14/2018)
Closing North Korea nuclear test site an important step, U.N. chief says (*Reuters*, 05/14/2018)
Ex-diplomat Thae Yong-ho: North Korea likely to limit denuclearization (UPI, 05/14/2018)
Is the administration backing off Trump's demand that North Korea get rid of its nukes?(*Washington Post*, 05/14/2018)
Kim must send his nukes to U.S.: Bolton (Joongang Daily, 05/14/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korea officials visit China ahead of summit with U.S. (*Yonhap*, 05/14/2018)
N. Korea may not demand pullout of USFK in return for ties with U.S.: ex-minister (*Yonhap*, 05/14/2018)
Pompeo promises prosperity (*Joongang Daily*, 05/14/2018)
Pompeo says U.S. assuring Kim that it does not seek his overthrow (*Washington Post*, 05/13/2018)
Pompeo: US firms could invest in North Korea if it denuclearizes (*Korea Times*, 05/15/2018)
Pro-North Korea body: Waitresses should reunite with family (UPI, 05/14/2018)
Reports: North Korean Envoys Visit China (VOA, 05/14/2018)
South Korea, Singapore pledge joint efforts for successful U.S.-N.K summit (*Yonhap*, 05/14/2018)
Staid Singapore Prepares for Historic Trump-Kim Summit (VOA, 05/14/2018)
US pressures North Korea to ship nuclear weapons overseas before sanctions lifted, according to reports (*Telegraph*, 05/14/2018)
US Promises N. Korea Economic Investment After Denuclearization (VOA, 05/14/2018)

In North Korea:

- Thae Yong-ho, a senior N.Korean diplomat who defected to SK in 2016, says in his memoire that NK wanted 14 industrial parks like the one set up at the border town of Gaeseong as example of inter-Korean business cooperation. (Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)
- NK has claimed that its cold war abductions of Japanese citizens has been "resolved" and accused Japan of trying to wreck recent progress towards the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. (Justin McCurry, *Guardian*)
- NK has enjoyed up to a 4.5 percent increase in real income growth through trade over the past 20 years, a Bank of Korea (BOK) report showed Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- NK's ultimate goal is to become a nuclear weapons state, a former N.Korean diplomat said Mon., expressing skepticism over the possibility of NK eventually abandoning its nuclear weapons. (*Yonhap*)
- NK announced Sat. it will publicly dismantle its northern nuclear test site in a ceremony scheduled for between May 23 and 25, adding it is taking "technical measures" to that end. (*Korea Times*)

- NK will never give up its nuclear weapons, and will only downsize its stockpile, said Thae Yong-ho, Pyongyang's former deputy ambassador to the United Kingdom, who defected to SK in 2016. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Daily*)

In South Korea:

- S.Korean President Moon on Mon. hailed NK's decision to permanently shut down its only known nuclear test site later in the month, noting it will mark the start of the process to denuclearize the communist state and also reaffirm Pyongyang's commitment to denuclearization. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- SK and NK are expected to hold high-level talks this week to discuss how to take forward the deal reached between their leaders last month, in which they agreed to halt all hostile acts against each other, open a joint liaison office, and vowed various economic cooperation efforts. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's Gyeonggi Province said Mon. that it plans to reopen its suspended seedling breeding center in NK if the upcoming talks between N.Korean leader KJU and US President Trump go well and UN sanctions on NK are subsequently lifted. (*Yonhap*)
- SK and NK may only be able to field a limited number of unified teams at this year's Asian Games, the head of Seoul's Olympic body said Mon., dampening hopes for bringing Korean athletes together in several sports. The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) confirmed that it will only support joint Korean teams as long as they aren't granted extra roster spots. (*Yonhap*)
- With NK pledging to reduce tensions and renew ties with its southern neighbor, SK's hottest property market is now along the heavily fortified border between the two countries. (Joori Roh, Cynthia Kim, *Reuters*)
- S.Korean President Moon on Mon. welcomed NK's announcement that it is set to dismantle its only nuclear test site, calling it a start to the country's nuclear disarmament. (Hyung-Jin Kim, AP)
- S.Korean companies are exploring ways to invest in NK should the country relinquish is nuclear weapons, as Washington signals US firms may also fund projects in the future. (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)

International:

- The Pentagon says three Americans released by NK have left a Washington-area hospital and have reunited with their families. A Pentagon spokeswoman, Maj. Carla M. Gleason, says in a statement that the men "were grateful, in good spirits and coping well." (NYT)
- White House national security adviser John Bolton said Sun. the administration has placed a priority on achieving full denuclearization in NK and Iran, including the removal of non-nuclear weapons. (Daniel Uria, UPI)

- The Chinese city of Dandong, which lies on the border with NK, is tightening regulation of its property market after speculators pushed up home prices as they bet on Pyongyang's pledge to rebuild its economy. (*Reuters*)
- Irreversibly closing NK's nuclear test site is an important step that could pave the way for progress at talks between US President Donald Trump and N.Korean leader KJU, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Mon. (*Reuters*)
- A high-profile N.Korean defector who fled Pyongyang's embassy in London is voicing skepticism about KJU's intent to completely denuclearize. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- During an interview on Sunday, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo seemed to suggest that a deal may come up shy of making NK get rid of all of its nukes, contrary to President Trump's past assurances. (Aaron Blake, *Washington Post*)
- John Bolton, US President Donald Trump's national security adviser, said Sun. that NK's denuclearization would entail the dismantling of its nuclear weapons and delivering them to an American nuclear research facility in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)
- A delegation of N.Korean officials visited China on Mon. in what appears to be a trip aimed at discussing follow-up measures to a recent summit between their leaders and cooperation on the upcoming US-NK summit talks, sources said. (*Yonhap*)
- NK may choose to overlook the stationing of US troops in SK in exchange for establishing diplomatic ties with Washington, a former S.Korean unification minister said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said American private investors will be allowed to do business in NK's energy, agricultural and technology sectors if the regime completely denuclearizes, stressing Pyongyang will "certainly" be relieved of sanctions and be given "more" as well. (Lee Sung-eun, Jeong Yong-soo, *Joongang Daily*)
- The US is assuring N.Korean leader KJU that his ouster is not part of the agenda for the summit next month between Kim and President Trump, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Sun. (Carol Morello, Anne Gearan, *Washington Post*)
- The US is prepared to offer NK security assurances and bountiful private investment if it makes the strategic choice to give up its nuclear weapons, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo pledged Sun. (*Korea Times*)
- A pro-Pyongyang newspaper in Japan is calling for the repatriation of the 12 N.Korean waitresses and their manager brought to the SK in 2016. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- A delegation from NK arrived in Beijing Mon. for talks, according to news outlets in Japan and SK. (VOA)
- The foreign ministers of SK and Singapore vowed Mon. to work together to support the upcoming summit between the US and NK in the Southeast Asian country, Seoul's ministry said. (*Yonhap*)
- Singapore, a highly manicured city-state shaped by skyscrapers and luxury hotels, is preparing for perhaps the most crucial international diplomatic event of the decade. (AP)
- The US has told NK that is must start shipping nuclear weapons, fissile material and some of its long-range missiles out of the country within a couple of months of the Jun. summit between KJU, the N.Korean leader, and President Donald Trump, according to S.Korean media. (Julian Ryall, Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- The US has indicated it is prepared to open the N.Korean economy to significant private investment, if a nuclear deal can be reached. But even if economic restrictions were lifted,

the restrictive and repressive state would likely still present a challenging environment for foreign investment. (Brian Padden, VOA)

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Tuesday, May 15, 2018

NK blasts US for taking issue with human rights situation ahead of summit; NK invites 8 S.Korean journalists to witness nuclear test site dismantling; NK begins dismantling nuclear test site, according to satellite photos

In North Korea:

(2nd LD) N.K. invites 8 S. Korean journalists to witness nuclear test site dismantling (*Yonhap*, 05/15/2018)
A sneak peek into North Korea's divorce court (*Korea Times*, 05/15/2018)
Dismantling of North Korea nuclear site 'well under way', satellite images show (*Guardian*, 05/14/2018)
Fate of 10,000 Pyongyang nuclear scientists up in the air (*Korea Times*, 05/14/2018)
Is Kim going down Gorbachev's path? (*Korea Times*, 05/15/2018)
N. Korea proposes holding high-level inter-Korean talks Wednesday: Seoul (*Yonhap*, 05/15/2018)
N. Korea blasts U.S. for taking issue with human rights situation ahead of summit (*Yonhap*, 05/15/2018)
N. Korea's party officials visiting China amid thawing relations (*Yonhap*, 05/15/2018)
N. Korea has started dismantling nuclear test site: 38 North (*Yonhap*, 05/15/2018)
No longer 'traitors,' North Korean defectors regarded with envy (*DailyNK*, 05/15/2018)
North Korea begins dismantling nuclear test site, according to satellite photos (*Telegraph*, 05/15/2018)
North Korea conducts crackdown on cadres illicitly procuring wealth (*DailyNK*, 05/15/2018)
North Korea has Begun Dismantlement of the Punggye-ri Nuclear Test Site (*38 North*, 05/14/2018)
North Korea monitors claim nuclear test site dismantling has begun (CNN, 05/15/2018)
North Korea removing nuclear facilities in test site (*Korea Times*, 05/15/2018)
North Korean delegation visits China: reports (*Korea Times*, 05/14/2018)
North Korean official involved in smuggling ring defects (*DailyNK*, 05/14/2018)
Once a luxury, smartphones now a necessity in North Korea (*DailyNK*, 05/15/2018)
Pyongyang's public bicycle rental a step toward normality? (*Korea Times*, 05/15/2018)
Pyongyang officials go to study China reforms (*Joongang Daily*, 05/15/2018)
Safety, verification questions hang over North Korea's plan to close nuclear site (*Reuters*, 05/15/2018)

True motivation for Kim's denuclearization (*Korea Times*, 05/15/2018)
With the Rodong Sinmun in reach, more North Koreans are talking international relations(*Daily*NK, 05/14/2018)
Were North Korean restaurant workers 'kidnapped' to South? (*Korea Times*, 05/14/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) Without denuclearization timeline, Kim-Trump summit will fail: scholar (*Yonhap*, 05/15/2018)
7 pct of N. Koreans could move to South in event of sudden reunification: report (*Yonhap*, 05/15/2018)
Banks plan to re-enter the North (*Joongang Daily*, 05/15/2018)
Incremental North Korean denuclearization will be unacceptable: South Korea official (*Reuters*, 05/15/2018)
Moon clears his calendar to concentrate on summits (*Joongang Daily*, 05/15/2018)
N.K. diplomats to attend S. Korea-hosted forum in Kazakhstan: Seoul official (*Yonhap*, 05/15/2018)
N. Korea's move to denuke to have modest impact on S. Korean economy: report (*Yonhap*, 05/15/2018)
The knowledge threat (*Joongang Daily*, 05/15/2018)
Seoul finds it 'hard to confirm' abduction of South Korean reporter to North (*Korea Times*, 05/14/2018)
South Korea welcomes US investment proposals for NK (*Korea Times*, 05/14/2018)
South Korea wants inspectors to attend North Korean nuclear dismantlement (UPI, 05/15/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(4th LD) 2 Koreas agree to hold high-level talks Wednesday (*Yonhap*, 05/15/2018)
Koreas in close consultations ahead of N. Korea-U.S. summit: official (*Yonhap*, 05/15/2018)
Two Koreas to hold talks today (*Joongang Daily*, 05/15/2018)
Two Koreas to hold talks as North prepares to shut test site (*Reuters*, 05/15/2018)

International:
Iran is not North Korea (*Joongang Daily*, 05/15/2018)
Is Mike Pompeo backing off Trump's demand that North Korea get rid of its nukes? (*Washington Post*, 05/14/2018)
N. Korea will always be recessed nuclear weapons state: Gallucci (*Yonhap*, 05/15/2018)
Pyongyang leadership is optimistic: WFP head (*Joongang Daily*, 05/15/2018)
Trump, Kim likely to 'reach accord' in Singapore (*Korea Times*, 05/15/2018)
Trump's rhetoric matches Kim's actions: White House (*Yonhap*, 05/15/2018)
U.N. agency said to wait for N.K. invitation to nuke site dismantlement ceremony (*Yonhap*, 05/15/2018)
UN Prepares to Boost Food Aid to North Korea (VOA, 05/15/2018)
U.S. knows of North's secret uranium site (*Joongang Daily*, 05/15/2018)
We're setting ourselves up for failure on North Korea (*Washington Post*, 05/14/2018)
WFP chief says 'tremendous sense of optimism' in N. Korea amid peace efforts (*Yonhap*, 05/15/2018)
Why Singapore is Ideal for US-North Korea Summit (VOA, 05/14/2018)

In North Korea:

- NK has invited eight S.Korean journalists to an event to showcase the dismantling of its nuclear test site scheduled for next week, Seoul's unification ministry said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- A NK bestseller "Friend" says there are no major differences in the causes of divorce between a capitalist society and the reclusive regime that is NK. (Park Jin-hai, *Korea Times*)
- NK has begun dismantling the country's only known nuclear test site, according to satellite photos, following through on a promise made by leader KJU ahead of his meeting with Trump. (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)
- While the communist state's unexpected step has raised expectations of peace across Northeast Asia, the objective will take longer than many have hoped because the future whereabouts of NK scientists. (Ko Dong-hwan, *Korea Times*)
- Is NK's KJU going down the path of the last Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev? The two have converged a lot so far, but of course we know about the end of Gorbachev's story, while Kim's remains open-ended. (Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)
- NK has proposed holding high-level inter-Korean talks this week to discuss follow-up measures on agreements their leaders reached in a historic summit held last month, Seoul's unification ministry said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- NK blasted the US on Tuesday for taking issue with the North's human rights situation, calling it "unacceptable" and "extremely rude" for a dialogue partner. (*Yonhap*)
- A group of NK's ruling party officials is visiting China, the North's state media said Tuesday, amid signs of thawing relations between the two countries following recent summits between their leaders. (*Yonhap*)
- Satellite imagery shows that NK has begun dismantling its nuclear test site in line with its promise, a US website monitoring the reclusive regime said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- What do ordinary N.Korean people think about defectors? According to sources inside the country, rather than feeling wary of them, more and more residents are feeling envious about the opportunities afforded to defectors. Having a defector in the family is economically advantageous for market activities. (Kim Yoo Jin, *DailyNK*)
- NK has begun dismantling facilities at its nuclear test site, according to a satellite survey conducted by American researchers. (Rob Crilly, *Telegraph*)
- Multiple sources in NK have reported that the NK authorities are cracking down on government officials who have accumulated wealth through illicit means. (Kim Yoo Jin, *DailyNK*)
- After initial reporting of plans to allow experts and media personnel to observe the closing of NK's Punggye-ri Nuclear Test Site, now scheduled for next week, commercial satellite imagery from May 7 provided the first definitive evidence that dismantlement of the test site was already well underway (*38 North*)
- Satellite images appear to show NK is shuttering its nuclear test site, according to analysts from NK monitoring site 38 North. (Joshua Berlinger, *CNN*)
- NK has begun the dismantlement of its nuclear test site at Punggye-ri, the closure of which it plans to disclose to foreign media, satellite imagery showed Tuesday. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)

- A NK delegation arrived in Beijing on Monday, Japanese media said, as the two allies step up diplomatic contacts ahead of a landmark meeting between KJU and Trump. (AFP)
- A low-level cadre in Ryanggang Province has reportedly defected from NK after taking part in a smuggling operation on the suggestion of his superiors. The cadre decided to defect after finding out he was going to be accused of "promoting an anti-socialism agenda." (Kang Mi Jin, DailyNK)
- Smartphones were once regarded as a sign of wealth in North Korea, but are now considered a necessity with residents demanding services and features such as high quality audio. (Kang Mi Jin, DailyNK)
- Is NK closer to the "normal" way of life enjoyed by the outside world than has been portrayed? Or is it unique to the North's capital of Pyongyang? A public city bike rental system Ryomyong was launched in January. (Jung Da-min, Korea Times)
- A delegation of Workers' Party Central Committee senior officials traveled from Pyongyang to Beijing Monday to learn from China's economic reforms. Their visit follows diplomatic warming between NK and China following recent back-to-back summits by their leaders. (Joongang Daily)
- A botched tunnel collapse could spread radioactive debris. Nuclear material might be buried, but accessible enough to be dug up and reused in a weapon. And even if all the testing tunnels are destroyed, NK engineers could simply dig a new one if they want to conduct another nuclear test. (Reuters)
- Three views of KJU's motivation for decnulearization could be 1) historical view, 2) the "nukes versus economy" paradox, and 3) Kim's long-term plan for dictatorship. (Lee Seong-hyon, Korea Times)
- More N.Koreans are showing an interest in politics and international relations following the inter-Korean summit and are discussing news from the Rodong Sinmun at markets throughout the country (Kim Yoo Jin, DailyNK)
- A two-year-old controversy around 12 N.Korean restaurant workers, who fled a state-controlled restaurant in China, has been rekindled, following a media report in which three of them claimed they were "kidnapped." (Choi Ha-young, Korea Times)

In South Korea:

- Next month's summit between the leaders of NK and the US will be successful only if it produces a concrete timeline for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, a SK scholar said on Tuesday. (Yonhap)
- A sudden reunification of the Korean Peninsula would cause great confusion, which would include large scale migration of N.Koreans to the South, an economic report said Tuesday, calling for concrete steps to reduce the gap before integration. (Yonhap)
- S.Korean cash may soon be flowing back into the Kaesong Industrial Complex in the North, and local banks are gearing up to become the ones to manage it. (Joongang Daily)
- An incremental NK approach to denuclearization at a June 12 summit with Trump will not be acceptable to the US president or the people of SK, SK's special national security adviser said on Tuesday. (Reuters)

- With a summit with Trump rapidly approaching, Moon is minimizing his official activity this week to prepare for the White House meeting and concentrate on how to bring Washington and Pyongyang closer to cutting a deal in Singapore on June 12. (*Joongang Daily*)
- NK will send two diplomats to an international forum hosted by SK's government in Kazakhstan this week, apparently reflecting the recent improvement in inter-Korean relations, a unification ministry official said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- NK's denuclearization would have broad positive implications for the SK economy, but its imminent impact would be modest, a global investment bank said Tuesday.(*Yonhap*)
- NK won't easily give up its nuclear weapons and its scientist and engineers — its nuclear brain trust. Washington must come up with a concrete plan to keep a close watch on NK nuclear specialists. Otherwise, the nuclear threat could resurface in the future. (*Joongang Daily*)
- It is hard to confirm a lawmaker's claim that Pyongyang agents abducted a NK defector-turned-journalist last year and are holding him in a dungeon, SK's unification ministry said Monday. (Kang Aa-young, Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- Seoul welcomed Washington's plan to allow US firms to invest in NK if Pyongyang completely dismantle its nuclear arsenal. A Cheong Wa Dae official said Monday that SK expects such a proposal to be put into practice as soon as possible. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- The SK government could request the North to allow nuclear inspectors to attend the dismantlement of its nuclear test site in Punggye-ri, after Tokyo and Washington expressed concerns an audience of journalists may not be enough for the event planned for May 23-25. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Two Koreas will hold high-level talks this week to discuss follow-up measures on agreements their leaders reached in a historic summit held last month, Seoul's unification ministry said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- Two Koreas are in close and continuous dialogue, an official from Seoul's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae confirmed Tuesday, apparently to fine-tune their methods of denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula ahead of a historic US-NK summit.(*Yonhap*)
- Two Koreas will hold a high-level meeting today at the border village of Panmunjom - in the same building where both their leaders held a landmark summit last month - in order to discuss ways to implement agreements made in the declaration they signed at the summit.(*Joongang Daily*)
- Two Koreas will hold high-level talks on Wednesday to discuss steps needed to uphold the pledge to denuclearize the Korean peninsula, SK said. (Christine Kim, *Reuters*)

International:

- The modus operandi of Iranian leaders when it comes to addressing pressure is to become inflexible, steadfast and retaliatory.The same can be said of the Kim regime. If the Trump

team doesn't play its cards right, we could end up with more of the war rhetoric. (*Joongang Daily*)

- Pompeo suggests that a deal might come up shy of making NK get rid of all of its current nukes. He said that the objective was to prevent NK from having the capability to strike the US with a nuclear weapon. And he explicitly called for its getting rid of missiles, without saying the same about existing warheads. (Aaron Blake, *Washington Post)*
- A former American negotiator on Monday cast doubts over the prospect of irreversibly dismantling NK's nuclear weapons program. (*Yonhap*)
- After returning from a four-day trip to NK last week, the executive director of the UN World Food Programme (WFP) said on Tuesday that he feels a "tremendous sense of optimism" from the country's leadership that it will turn "a new page in history" amid a whirlwind of diplomacy with the outside world. (*Joongang Daily*)
- Trump and KJU are likely to reach a deal at their June meeting in Singapore, and if the two leaders walk away from Singapore without a deal, they would be worse off than if there had been no summit as it will reduce options to a potential conflict, according to a noted political scientist on international relations, Tuesday. (Kim Jae-kyoung, *Korea Times*)
- Trump's changing rhetoric on NK is a reflection of KJU's recent gestures of goodwill, the White House said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) said it has yet to be invited to observe NK's dismantlement of its Punggye-ri nuclear test site, according to a US radio report Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- The head of the UN World Food Program (WFP) on Tuesday said the NK leadership is hopeful that following a possible denuclearization deal, the international community will increase humanitarian aid for millions of people in the country who are living in poverty and suffering from malnutrition. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- Washington is currently aware of the location of one or two of Pyongyang's secret uranium enrichment facilities, and NK leader KJU is expected to acknowledge their existence and allow them to be inspected in the upcoming North-US summit, according to a diplomatic source. (*Joongang Daily*)
- Pompeo must stop promising the unattainable based on the hope that the NK regime has fundamentally changed its purpose. The administration should start figuring out where we could conclude some important, verifiable steps toward reducing tension.(Jennifer Rubin, *Washington Post*)
- N.Koreans are buoyed with a "tremendous sense of optimism" that recent diplomatic efforts will pave the way for a new future, the chief of a UN food aid agency who recently visited Pyongyang said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- The historic summit between the US and NK will take place next month in Singapore, about 5,000 kilometers south of the NK capital, Pyongyang. Some reasons Singapore was chosen include security, past experience, and diplomatic ties. (VOA)

Prepared by Sohee Ha, James Park, HRNK Research Interns

Wednesday, May 16, 2018

N. Korea cancels high-level talks with S. Korea over military drill; White House: U.S. still hopeful for North Korea summit; South Korea says North's decision to suspend inter-Korean talks 'regrettable'

In North Korea:

(2nd LD) N. Korea cancels high-level talks with S. Korea, threatens to nix U.S. summit(*Yonhap*, 16/05/2018)
(4th LD) N. Korea threatens to rethink Trump-Kim summit (*Yonhap*, 16/05/2018)
A timeline of North Korea's backtracking on denuclearization talks (*WaPo*, 16/05/2018)
(News Focus) N. Korea's angry reactions portend tough negotiations ahead (*Yonhap*, 16/05/2018)
N. Korea cancels high-level talks with S. Korea over military drill (*Yonhap*, 16/05/2018)
N. Korea Escalates Threat to Pull Out of Summit with US (VOA, 16/05/2018)
N. Korea offers to join global ban on nuclear testing (*Yonhap*, 16/05/2018)
North Korea appears to be fixing up railways before foreign journalists arrive (*Daily*NK, 16/05/2018)
North Korea criticizes US senate passing of NKHR Reauthorization Act: 'It Won't Work'(*Daily*NK, 16/05/2018)
North Korea expands threat to cancel Trump-Kim summit, saying it won't be pushed to abandon its nukes (*WaPo*, 16/05/2018)
North Korea: Full response to US remarks on Trump-Kim summit (*BBC*, 16/05/2018)
North Korea is dismantling its nuclear site, but is it abandoning its arsenal or hiding evidence?(*Reuters*, 16/05/2018)
North Korea officials in China get schooled on economic growth (UPI, 05/15/2018)
North Korea plays hardball ahead of summit (*Korea Times*, 05/16/2018)
North Korea says may reconsider summit with Trump, suspends talks with South (*Reuters*, 16/05/2018)
North Korea's Would-Be Investors Can Learn Lessons From Myanmar (*Bloomberg*, 05/16/2018)
North Korea takes aim at John Bolton as it threatens to scrap Trump summit over nuclear demands (*Telegraph*, 05/16/2018)
NK threatens to cancel Trump summit (*Korea Times*, 05/16/2018)
North Korea threatens to cancel Trump summit (*BBC*, 16/05/2018)
North Korea threatens to cancel Trump summit over nuclear demands (*Guardian*, 16/05/2018)
North Korea Threatens to Scrap Trump Meeting on Nuclear Demands (*Bloomberg*, 05/15/2018)
North Korea-US talks: Kim is in this for economic guarantees (*BBC*, 16/05/2018)
North Korea 'will join efforts for a total ban on nuclear tests', ambassador tells UN (*Telegraph*, 05/15/2018)
Pyongyang cancels talks with Seoul over joint military drill, threatens to call off summit with U.S. (*Joongang Daily*, 16/05/2018)
Pyongyang 'reconsiders' summit with U.S., cancels talks with South (*Joongang Daily*, 16/05/2018)
Pyongyang 'reconsiders' Trump summit (*Joongang Daily*, 16/05/2018)

Squawking from Pyongyang (*Joongang Daily*, 16/05/2018)

In South Korea:
(2nd LD) S. Korea voices regret over N. Korea's unilateral suspension of talks (*Yonhap*, 16/05/2018)
(3rd LD) S. Korea voices regret over N. Korea's unilateral suspension of talks (*Yonhap*, 16/05/2018)
A heartfelt plea to President Moon: Please bring back my husband (*Daily*NK, 16/05/2018)
Despite North's protest, air drill will proceed as planned (*Joongang Daily*, 16/05/2018)
Ex-negotiator on NK advises US to be careful about rhetoric (*Korea Times*, 05/16/2018)
Expert urges factual study and staff training to modernize N.K. ports (*Yonhap*, 16/05/2018)
For young defectors, life in the South is a real drag (*Joongang Daily*, 16/05/2018)
Hold the champagne (*Joongang Daily*, 16/05/2018)
Korea's former '$5' embassy to reopen as museum in Washington (UPI, 05/15/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea, U.S. reaffirm unity against N. Korea's pre-summit threats (*Yonhap*, 16/05/2018)
Rival parties give mixed responses to N.K.'s cancellation of talks (*Yonhap*, 16/05/2018)
Restoring North Korea's forests (*Joongang Daily*, 16/05/2018)
Seoul remains hopeful despite North Korea's suspension of dialogue (*Yonhap*, 16/05/2018)
S. Korean businessmen discuss investment in N.K. with regional counterparts (*Yonhap*, 16/05/2018)
S. Korea planning to set up tree nursery for forestry cooperation with N.K. (*Yonhap*, 16/05/2018)
S. Korea to contact N. Korea on abrupt cancellation of talks: minister (*Yonhap*, 16/05/2018)
S. Korea working to find 'true' reason for delay in inter-Korean dialogue: official (*Yonhap*, 16/05/2018)
South Korea says North's decision to suspend inter-Korean talks 'regrettable' (Reuters, 16/05/2018)
'The summit is the final chance to handle the nuclear crisis' (*Joongang Daily*, 16/05/2018)
(Yonhap Feature) Anti-N.K. leaflet campaign under pressure amid inter-Korean thaw (*Yonhap*, 16/05/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Entrepreneurs with NK roots come to fore (*Korea Times*, 05/16/2018)
Hyundai to form international consortium for NK biz (*Korea Times*, 05/16/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) U.S. continues to plan N. Korea summit: State Department (*Yonhap*, 16/05/2018)
Analysis: Ahead of summit, North Korea lobs barbs at Bolton (AP, 16/05/2018)
Australia supports North Korea-US summit, Julie Bishop says (*Guardian*, 16/05/2018)
B-52 bomber excluded from drills after North Korea complains (UPI, 05/16/2018)
CIA Korea head paved way for Kim Jong Un, Mike Pompeo meeting (UPI, 05/15/2018)
China says goodwill needed for Korean peninsula denuclearization (*Reuters*, 16/05/2018)
China's Xi says supports North Korea efforts to develop economy (*Reuters*, 16/05/2018)
China urges North Korea not to cancel Trump summit (AP, 16/05/2018)
China Urges North Korea Not to Cancel Trump Summit (VOA, 16/05/2018)
False Starts, Failures in Diplomacy With North Korea (NYT, 16/05/2018)
For Pentagon, South Korea drills became a crucial but quiet endeavor (*Reuters*, 16/05/2018)
Indian minister holds talks in North Korea, first trip in 20 years (*Reuters*, 16/05/2018)
Kim Risks Empowering Trump Hawks With Threat to Torpedo Summit (*Bloomberg*, 05/16/2018)

North Korea's About-Face? It's a Return to Form (NYT, 16/05/2018)
Timeline of Recent Events on the Korean Peninsula (NYT, 16/05/2018)
The Trump-Kim Jong Un summit looks like it's on thin ice as North Korea flips on the US(*Business Insider*, 15/05/2018)
Trump is all in on a North Korea summit that might not happen (CNN, 16/05/2018)
Trump Is 'Ready to Meet' Despite North Korea's Threat on Summit (*Bloomberg*, 05/16/2018)
Trump's Korea hopes thrown into turmoil (CNN, 16/05/2018)
WFP Chief: I felt a lot optimism in N. Korea (CNN, 16/05/2018)
White House Brushes Aside North Korea's Threats to Cancel Summit With Trump (NYT, 16/05/2018)
White House Cautious on Fate of US-North Korea Summit (VOA, 16/05/2018)
White House downplays Bolton comments after North Korea outcry (CNN, 16/05/2018)
White House hopeful Kim-Trump summit will occur (*Korea Times*, 05/16/2018)
White House scrambles to interpret North Korea summit threat (CNN, 16/05/2018)
White House: U.S. still hopeful for North Korea summit (*Reuters*, 16/05/2018)

In North Korea:

- NK said Wed. it is canceling high-level talks with SK and threatened to pull out of a summit with US over the allies' ongoing military exercises. (*Yonhap*)
- A senior N.Korean official warned Wed. that Pyongyang will reconsider the agreed-upon summit talks with US if it comes under continued pressure to "unilaterally" abandon its nuclear program. (*Yonhap*)
- Less than three weeks ago, N.Korean leader KJU and S.Korean President Moon spent a day shaking and holding hands, hugging and listening to Korean pop after sunset. (Rick Noack, *WaPo*)
- Through its latest bouts of anger, NK appears to have shown it is set to drive a hard bargain with US over its regime security and economic benefits in return for denuclearization steps, analysts said Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- NK said Wed. it is canceling high-level talks with SK planned for later in the day due to ongoing military exercises between the South and US. (*Yonhap*)
- NK's sudden threat to pull out of the upcoming summit with the US raises new doubts of whether a denuclearization deal is possible. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- NK will join global efforts to ban nuclear weapons testing, an official from the regime has said, following an earlier pledge to halt all nuclear and ballistic missile tests. (*Yonhap*)
- There are reports that NK is preparing construction on a railway that would be used to transport foreign reporters to the scheduled destruction of the Punggye-ri nuclear weapons site. (Jo Hyon, *DailyNK*)
- NK's state newspaper has criticized the N.Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2017, which was passed by the US Senate on April 24. (*DailyNK*)
- NK is rapidly moving the goal posts for next month's summit between leader KJU and President Trump, saying US must stop insisting that the North "unilaterally" abandon its nuclear weapons program and stop talking about a Libya-style solution to the standoff. (Anna Field, *WaPo*)

- N.Korean Deputy Foreign Minister Kim Kye-gwan has warned his country could pull out of a summit with US President Trump, accusing Washington of harbouring sinister intentions. (BBC)
- Satellite imagery shows NK dismantling facilities at its nuclear test site, but experts say the images can't reveal whether it is the first step toward full denuclearization, or an attempt to cloak nuclear capabilities from outside observers. (Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- Top officials of NK's Workers' Party are in China to get a better understanding of economic reform, according to Beijing's foreign ministry. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Political analysts presume NK's abrupt cancellation of high-level inter-Korean talks and threats to reconsider the Washington-Pyongyang summit are aimed at taking the lead ahead of talks over its denuclearization. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- NK threw next month's summit between KJU and US President Trump into doubt on Wed., threatening weeks of diplomatic progress by saying it may reconsider if Washington insists it unilaterally gives up its nuclear weapons. (Christine Kim, Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- As the world waits to see if US President Donald Trump and NK leader KJU actually meet, investors hoping to profit from peace on the Korean peninsula could learn lessons from Myanmar. (Matthew Burgess, Alyssa McDonald, *Bloomberg*)
- Donald Trump's historic meeting with KJU has been thrown into uncertainty as NK warned it could be cancelled over US military exercises and if Washington presses ahead with its one-sided demand for Pyongyang to give up its nuclear arsenal. (Ben Riley-Smith, Nicola Smith, Neil Connor, *Telegraph*)
- NK threatened to cancel the planned summit between its leader KJU and US President Donald Trump, Wed., saying Washington is "unilaterally" demanding the regime relinquish its nuclear weapons. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- NK has said it may pull out of a summit with US President Trump if the US insists it gives up its nuclear weapons. (BBC)
- NK has abruptly cancelled high-level talks with Seoul and threatened to pull out of a planned summit with Trump if the US continues to insist on the regime giving up all of its nuclear weapons. (Julian Borger and Justin McCurry, *Guardian*)
- NK threatened to walk away from its meeting with President Donald Trump next month if the US made a "one-sided demand" for the regime to surrender its nuclear weapons. (Kanga Kong, Andy Sharp, *Bloomberg*)
- In April of this year though, about five years after announcing his Byungjin policy, KJU said the North had achieved what it needed to on the nuclear front, and could now shift its concentration to the economy. (Karishma Vaswani, BBC)
- NK plans to join international efforts to implement a total ban on nuclear weapons tests, it told the UN disarmament body Tues. (*Telegraph*)
- NK called off a planned high-level meeting with SK early today, just hours before it was to take place at the border village of Panmunjom, blaming Seoul's ongoing joint drill with Washington as an "undisguised challenge" to the inter-Korean declaration signed at the South-North summit last month. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Daily*)
- Pyongyang threatened to pull out of its planned summit with Washington on Wed., saying it had no choice but to "reconsider" the landmark meeting if the US keeps driving the regime into a "corner" by forcing it to abandon its nuclear arsenal. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Daily*)

- Pyongyang threatened to pull out of its planned summit with Washington on Wed., saying it had no choice but to “reconsider” the landmark meeting if US keeps driving the regime into a “corner” by forcing it to abandon its nuclear arsenal. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Daily*)
- NK suddenly announced it would put off high-level talks just a few hours before they were to take place. Early Wed., Pyongyang notified Seoul of its intention to not attend the meeting after finding fault with a joint SK-US Air Force drill. (*Joongang Daily*)

In South Korea:

- SK expressed regret over NK's unilateral decision to cancel inter-Korean talks planned for Wed., calling on Pyongyang to return to dialogue as soon as possible. (*Yonhap*)
- SK expressed regret over NK's unilateral decision to cancel inter-Korean talks planned for Wed., calling on Pyongyang to return to dialogue as soon as possible. (*Yonhap*)
- A press conference drawing attention to the addition of another name to the list of S.Korean civilians detained by NK was held at the National Assembly’s Jungron Hall on May 11. The press conference included the participation of the family of a N.Korean defector, and a tearful reading of a petition to be delivered to South Korean President Moon. (Kang Mi-jin, *DailyNK*)
- SK's defense minister and the commander of the USFK held an emergency meeting on Wed. and agreed to proceed with ongoing military exercises as planned after NK abruptly called off a high-level meeting with the South in protest of the drill. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)
- A former negotiator for the inter-Korean summit in 2000 advised Washington, Wed., to give NK a chance to "save face," saying unnecessary harsh rhetoric may spoil the upcoming denuclearization talks with NK. (Park Ji-won, *Korea Times*)
- A S.Korean scholar on Wed. called for surveying NK's port facilities and pushing for the training of the North's port operators as the first step in the upcoming inter-Korean economic cooperation. (*Yonhap*)
- Despite growing interest in N.Korean society after the inter-Korean summit last month, young defectors are still battling prejudice and struggling to find jobs in the South. (Kim Ji-a, Laura Song, *Joongang Daily*)
- What is urgent is stopping NK's nuclear capabilities. Casual talk of a McDonald’s in Pyongyang can come later. We must concentrate on a serious — and feasible — plan to denuclearize NK. (Kim Hyun-ki, *Joongang Daily*)
- A historical building in Washington, D.C., that belonged to Korea but was seized by Imperial Japan for a mere $5 will reopen as a museum to the public next Tues. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- The top diplomats of SK and US held emergency phone talks Wed. in a show of solidarity against NK's renewed brinkmanship ahead of key summit meetings. (*Yonhap*)
- S.Korean ruling and opposition parties on Wed. gave mixed responses to NK's unilateral cancellation of high-level talks with Seoul and threat to pull out of a planned summit with US. (*Yonhap*)
- Experts support the S.Korean government’s will to help NK’s reforestation efforts. Despite sanctions, the international community does not mind such a plan being reviewed before

denuclearization because reforestation is a humanitarian issue. (Kim Young-hoon, *Joongang Daily*)

- SK apparently believes NK is still faithful to its commitment to denuclearize despite the communist state's decision to indefinitely suspend its cross-border dialogue with the South, an official from the presidential office Cheong Wa Dae indicated Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- S.Korean corporate representatives held talks with their US and Japanese counterparts over a possible joint investment in NK, a local business lobby said Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- SK plans to set up a tree nursery on its eastern border city of Goseong as it seeks to promote cooperation with NK in the field of forestry, ruling party officials said Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- SK will deliver its position to NK on its unilateral and abrupt decision to cancel the planned high-level inter-Korean talks, Seoul's unification minister said Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- SK is moving to identify NK's true intention in delaying inter-Korean dialogue scheduled to be held Wed., an official from the presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's decision on Wed. to suspend a ministerial-level inter-Korean meeting is regrettable and is not in line with a historic declaration announced between the two Koreas in late April, SK's unification ministry said. (*Reuters*)
- Han Yong-sup, a professor at Korea National Defense University, has a long resume related to NK's denuclearization. His recent book, "The Fate of North Korea's Nuclear Weapons," uses N.Korean source material to explore the process of nuclear weapons development through three generations of leadership in Pyongyang. (Han Yong-sup, *Joongang Daily*)
- Lee Min-bok has flown more than a thousand balloons north of the inter-Korean border every year, sending anti-North Korean leaflets, one dollar bills, medicines and USB sticks containing S.Korean pop music and soap operas. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- As SK and NK take steps toward economic cooperation, entrepreneurs who have their roots in NK are expected to play a role. Having contributed to economic development with diligence and vitality symbolizing people from NK, they now expect to contribute to their hometowns. (Yoon Ja-young, *Korea Times*)
- One of the best-known names in business in SK is preparing to take advantage of the country's improving relations with NK. While there are lots of questions over whether US companies want to invest heavily in NK given the many uncertainties, Hyundai Group is betting big on new kinds of gambles there. (Kim Yoo-chul, *Korea Times*)

International:

- US said Tues. it continues to plan for a historic summit between US President Trump and N.Korean leader KJU despite the regime's threat to withdraw. (*Yonhap*)
- NK has a message for US President Trump ahead of next month's summit: Don't listen to your new hard-line national security adviser, John Bolton. (Eric Talmadge, AP)

- 'I have said from the outset that NK must demonstrate concrete, verifiable steps that it is genuine in its desire to denuclearise and to work towards peace on the Korean peninsula,' Julie Bishop says (*Guardian*)
- Joint exercises between the US and SK will move forward but the B-52 strategic bomber and eight F-22 Raptors will not be deployed during drills. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- The head of the CIA's Korea Mission Center has kept a low profile but should be credited for the recent meetings between Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and KJU according to S.Korean press reports. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- China said on Wed. all parties should demonstrate goodwill and sincerity to create a conducive atmosphere for denuclearization on the Korean peninsula, after NK cast doubt on a summit with US. (*Reuters*)
- China supports NK's efforts to develop its economy and improve relations with SK, state radio on Wed. quoted President Xi as saying. (*Reuters*)
- China on Wed. urged ally NK not to cancel a historic summit between its leader, KJU, and US President Trump. (Christopher Bodeen, AP)
- China on Wed. urged ally NK not to cancel a historic summit between its leader, KJU, and US President Trump. (VOA)
- Pyongyang breaking off a high-level meeting with Seoul and threatening to scrap next month's historic summit with Washington over regular allied military drills is seen as a move by Kim to gain leverage and establish that he's entering the crucial nuclear negotiations from a position of strength. (NYT)
- Before NK's condemnation of US-SK military drills, even US policy wonks who follow every twist and turn of events on the Korean peninsula probably did not know much about them. That was no accident. (Phil Stewart, *Reuters*)
- India has sent a government minister to NK for the first time in nearly two decades for talks on political and regional issues, the foreign ministry said on Wed., following signs of a thaw on the Korean peninsula. (Sanjeev Miglani, *Reuters*)
- KJU's regime just launched a blistering attack on John Bolton, one of the most hawkish Trump administration members. NK may end up emboldening the US national security adviser instead. (Andy Sharp, David Tweed, *Bloomberg*)
- Wed.'s news that NK was considering calling off KJU's planned June meeting with President Trump reflected a pattern by the unpredictable regime: diplomatic outreach, followed by erratic behavior and, in many cases, an outright rejection of peace overtures. (Gerry Mullany, NYT)
- After a few months of rapprochement, NK abruptly called off scheduled high-level talks with SK on Wed. and warned US that a planned summit with President Trump could be at risk. (NYT)
- The North Korean government threatened to cancel the impending summit between President Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un. (Johan Haltiwanger, David Choi, *Business Insider*)
- He's spent weeks cooing about the prospects of a high-level summit, set for June 12 in Singapore, with NK and the prospect of a huge diplomatic win -- getting that country to agree to international demands to end its nuclear program. (Z. Byron Wolf, CNN)

- The White House pushed back on reports that the scheduled nuclear talks with NK could be unraveling, saying President Donald Trump is ready to meet next month despite a threat pull out from KJU's regime. (Terrence Dopp, *Bloomberg*)
- An unexpected series of threats from the enclosed Stalinist state threatened to nix next month's planned summit in Singapore between Trump and NK's leader KJU and sink White House hopes of a spectacular foreign policy success. (Stephen Collinson, CNN)
- World Food Programme's Executive Director David Beasley talks to Christiane Amanpour about his recent trip to NK, where he says he found a new sense of optimism. (CNN)
- The White House brushed aside threats by NK on Wed. to cancel an upcoming summit meeting between President Trump and the North's leader, KJU, saying it was still "hopeful" the meeting will happen — but that Mr. Trump would be fine if it did not. (Mark Landler, Choe Sang-hun and Jane Perlez, NYT)
- The White House is taking a wait-and-see approach on whether next month's Singapore summit between President Trump and N.Korean leader KJU will take place after Pyongyang expressed sharp reservations about US demands that it dismantle its nuclear weapons program. (VOA)
- The White House on Wed. downplayed comments by national security adviser John Bolton, who recently invoked Libya's decision to denuclearize during the Bush administration as a model for US policy on NK, potentially placing a planned US-North Korea summit in jeopardy. (Veronica Stracqua, CNN)
- The White House is "still hopeful" the summit between NK's KJU and US President Donald Trump will proceed despite Pyongyang's threat to cancel it, spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said Wed. (AFP)
- President Trump's aides were working Wed. to determine whether overnight warnings from NK might scuttle a highly anticipated summit with KJU, even as some in the administration conceded the threats were an expected bump in any dealing with the unpredictable hermit regime. (Kevin Liptak, CNN)
- The US is still hopeful about a planned summit with N.Korean leader KJU but President Trump is prepared for a tough negotiation process, White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said on Wed. (*Reuters*)

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Thursday, May 17, 2018

N.Korean defectors at risk after TV interviews; N. Korean media: Dialogue and war drills can't co-exist; SK's unification ministry seeks talks with NK to implement summit agreements; NK objects to 'Libya Model' of denuclearization

Top News:
North Korean defectors at risk after TV interviews (*UPI*, 05/17/2018)

In North Korea:
Kim wants a Donald Trump-John Bolton breakup (CNN, 05/16/2018)
N. Korean media: Dialogue and war drills can't co-exist (*Yonhap*, 05/17/2018)
North Korea calls ex-diplomat 'human garbage' (*UPI*, 05/16/2018)
North Korea Cancellation Threats a Bargaining Tool, Analysts Say (VOA, 05/17/2018)
North Korea Is Selling Facial Recognition Technology, Report Finds (NPR, 05/16/2018)
North Korea says won't hold talks with 'incompetent' South unless differences settled (*Reuters*, 05/16/2018)
North Korea says won't hold talks with South unless 'issues resolved': KCNA (*Reuters*, 05/17/2018)
North Korea's missile and nuclear programme (BBC, 05/17/2018)
Revealed: North Korea Is Secretly Selling Face Scanning Tech (*Daily Beast*, 05/16/2018)
Why North Korea Is Angered by 'Libya Model' in Nuclear Talks (NYT, 05/16/2018)

In South Korea:
S. Korea forms task force to prepare joint events with N.K. to mark summit anniversary (*Yonhap*, 05/17/2018)
S.Korea to play "mediator" to resolve N.Korea-U.S. summit doubts – official (*Reuters*, 05/16/2018)
S. Korea to seek G-20's backing for Korea peace process (*Yonhap*, 05/17/2018)
S. Korean NSC urges N. Korea to faithfully implement summit agreements (*Yonhap*, 05/17/2018)
Seoul pushes for successful Trump-Kim talks as North warns (*WaPo*, 05/17/2018)
South offers to mediate US-NK standoff (*Korea Times*, 05/17/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) N. Korea threatens to freeze dialogue with S. Korea over military drills with U.S. (*Yonhap*, 05/17/2018)
Dance icon Ahn Eun-me turns to N. Korea for inspiration for her latest work (*Yonhap*, 05/17/2018)
North Korea's Sudden Shift Puts South's Leader on the Spot (NYT, 05/17/2018)
S. Korea's unification ministry seeks talks with N. Korea to implement summit agreements (*Yonhap*, 05/17/2018)
South Korea has reason to be skeptical — and optimistic — about dialogue with North Korea (*WaPo*, 05/16/2018)

International:
'Diplotainment at its pinnacle': Critics fear Trump's style eclipses substance on North Korea (*WaPo*, 05/16/2018)
(2nd LD) Trump on N. Korea summit: We'll see what happens (*Yonhap*, 05/17/2018)
(LEAD) Minister: N. Korea, U.S. apart over details of denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 05/17/2018)
(LEAD) Xi emphasizes friendship 'sealed in blood' with N.K. (*Yonhap*, 05/17/2018)
38 North Joins the Stimson Center (*Stimson Center*, 05/17/2018)
38 North's New Home: The Henry L. Stimson Center (*38 North*, 05/17/2018)
Ban says US pullout of Iran deal bad example for NK (*Korea Times*, 05/17/2018)

China says U.S. should cherish opportunity for peace on Korean peninsula (*Reuters*, 05/16/2018)
Donald Trump uncertain if Kim Jong-un meeting will happen as US warns sanctions will remain without summit (*Telegraph*, 05/16/2018)
Enough with the gamesmanship. Dealing with North Korea requires pragmatism. (*WaPo*, 05/16/2018)
Guam governor supports calls for Donald Trump to receive Nobel Peace Prize for North Korea talks (*Telegraph*, 05/17/2018)
How Kim Jong Un got cold feet (*WaPo*, 05/17/2018)
If Donald Trump wants a successful deal with North Korea, the US has to stop using the Libya example (*Telegraph*, 05/16/2018)
India looks to enhance ties with North Korea with ministerial visit (CNBC, 05/17/2018)
Is North Korea trying to get John Bolton fired? (CNN, 05/17/2018)
John Bolton proposed the 'Libya model' for North Korea. Why is Pyongyang so angry about it? (*WaPo*, 05/17/2018)
Kim Jong-un's warning shot to the US over nuclear talks (BBC, 05/16/2018)
N. Korea objects to 'Libya Model' of denuclearization (CNN, 05/16/2018)
North Korea summit: US hopeful Trump-Kim meet will go ahead (BBC, 05/16/2018)
North Korea Threatens to Scuttle Talks With US Over Push For Unilateral Denuclearization (RFA, 05/16/2018)
North Korea's bluff should be a White House wake-up call (*WaPo*, 05/16/2018)
North Korean Threats Are 'Splash of Cold Water' on Expectations for Talks (NYT, 05/16/2018)
Nuclear test-ban body says ready to verify Korean site closure if asked (*Reuters*, 05/16/2018)
Odds in favor of going ahead with U.S.-North Korea summit: Bolton (*Reuters*, 05/16/2018)
On North Korea, Trump is getting played by both sides (*WaPo*, 05/16/2018)
On the Chinese border, optimism for increased trade, better relations (*Joongang Daily*, 05/17/2018)
Resolution calls on North Korea to return spy ship USS Pueblo (UPI, 05/17/2018)
Summit jitters (*Joongang Daily*, 05/17/2018)
This is why North Korea reacted so strongly to Bolton's mention of the 'Libya model' (*WaPo*, 05/17/2018)
Trump: 'We'll see' if North Korea summit is on after Kim's threat to cancel (*Guardian*, 05/16/2018)
Trump: US hasn't been notified about threat to cancel summit (*WaPo*, 05/16/2018)
Trump faces North Korea dilemma after Bolton infuriates Pyongyang (*Guardian*, 05/16/2018)
Trump responds to North Korea balking on summit (CNN, 05/16/2018)
Trump says he will continue to insist on denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula (*WaPo*, 05/16/2018)
Trump's national security adviser believes US-North Korea summit will still happen (CNN, 05/16/2018)
U.S. demanded North Korea ship some nuclear warheads, ICBM abroad within six months: media (*Reuters*, 05/17/2018)
U.S. hopeful Trump-Kim meeting will go ahead (CNN, 05/16/2018)
US has a daunting to-do list to get ready for NKorea summit (*WaPo*, 05/17/2018)
WH on N. Korea summit threat: We expected this (CNN, 05/16/2018)
What Role Will the UN Play in Trump's North Korea Talks? (VOA, 05/17/2018)
White House hopeful Kim-Trump summit will occur (*Korea Times*, 05/17/2018)

White House pulls back from Libya model for North Korea (*Joongang Daily*, 05/17/2018)
White House shoots down Libya model (*Joongang Daily*, 05/17/2018)
Who has upper hand in U.S. and North Korea negotiations? (CNN, 05/16/2018)
Why did an Indian minister just go to North Korea? (BBC, 05/17/2018)
With the North Korea talks at risk, has Trump maxed out on 'maximum pressure'? (*Telegraph*, 05/17/2018)
Xi talks to delegation from North (*Joongang Daily*, 05/17/2018)
Xi told Kim he'll support him even if Trump meeting fails (*Joongang Daily*, 05/17/2018)

Top News:

- Greg Scarlatoiu, executive director of HRNK in Washington, said claims of a S.Korean spy agency abduction of N.Koreans has no credibility. Scarlatoiu said that NK is picking on the waitresses because it is a high-profile case, stating that "they would really like to see one or two or all of the return to NK to make an example out of them, to threaten others, make sure they don't defect, [as well as] threaten defectors in SK." He continued by stating that "the regime is very bothered by the findings of the United Nations Commission of Inquiry and they want them to go away." (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

In North Korea:

- The choicest words in the N.Korean statement were directed at the ultra-hawkish Bolton. "We do not hide our feeling of repugnance toward him," said senior N.Korean diplomat Kim Kye Gwan in the official statement. (David Rothkopf, CNN)
- NK's media on Thurs. repeated its rhetoric opposing joint military drills by SK and the US, over which it abruptly cancelled planned talks with Seoul the previous day. (*Yonhap*)
- NK condemned a high-profile defector in SK as part of a series of verbal attacks that have put the US and SK on edge, including top officials overseeing military exercises on the peninsula. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- After a months-long diplomatic thaw in relations, NK on Wed. abruptly threatened to withdraw from planned talks between US President Trump and Leader KJU. Analysts tell VOA's Korea service that the move may be a negotiating tactic ahead of the summit scheduled for Jun. 12 in Singapore. (Jesusemen Oni, VOA)
- NK has been secretly selling facial recognition technology, fingerprint scanning and other products overseas. That's what researchers at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies found by investigating the country's information technology networks. (Sasha Ingber, NPR)
- NK's chief negotiator called the S.Korean government "ignorant and incompetent" on Thurs., denounced US-S.Korean air combat drills and threatened to halt all talks with SK unless its demands are met. (Joyce Lee, Heekyong Yang, *Reuters*)
- NK won't sit down for talks with SK unless issues that led to the suspension of a high-level meeting this week are resolved, the Korean Central News Agency said. (*Reuters*)

- A series of successful missile and nuclear tests throughout 2017 demonstrated NK's growing power and military expertise. (BBC)
- NK's activity in the global IT sector is a significantly underappreciated problem with several dimensions. It represents another source of continued revenue for NK. At present, Pyongyang is not prohibited from providing these sorts of services per se; UN sanctions have focused mostly on banning the export of N.Korean material goods, including electronics. (Andrea Berger, Cameron Trainer, *Daily Beast*)
- When NK suddenly threw a historic summit meeting with US into question on Wed., it cited—five times—the fate of another country and another leader, half a world away, as an example of why no one should trust US efforts to disarm another nation. (Megan Specia and David E. Sanger, NYT)

In South Korea:

- SK has formed a task force to arrange joint events with NK to celebrate their first summit meeting held in 2000, a unification ministry official said Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- SK is seeking to mediate to bridge the gap between the US and NK as they appear to have "some kind of difference in stances" ahead of a planned summit, an official at SK's presidential Blue House said on Thurs. (Joyce Lee, *Reuters*)
- SK said Thurs. it will try to muster support from the other Group of 20 member states for a nuclear-free Korea and regional peace. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's National Security Council (NSC) on Thurs. called on NK to faithfully implement agreements for denuclearization and peace reached at the recent inter-Korean summit, one day after the communist state abruptly called off a high-level meeting largely aimed at discussing ways to implement the summit agreements. (*Yonhap*)
- NK strongly criticized SK over ongoing US-S.Korean military exercises on Thurs. and said it will not return to talks with its rival until Seoul resolves its grievances. (Kim Tong-Hyung, AP)
- Seoul will play a more active role in helping Washington and Pyongyang narrow the gap for their denuclearization talks, after NK threatened to cancel the planned summit between its leader KJU and US President Trump, Cheong Wa Dae said Thurs. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- NK threatened again Thurs. to not hold talks with SK unless Seoul stops an ongoing military exercise with the US, casting a pall over inter-Korean ties after last month's historic summit. (*Yonhap*)
- The decades-old division of SK and NK has produced two uniquely different variations of what was previously one single Korean culture. Dance may be one of the few cultural sectors where the division is most acutely felt, given that dancing entails little communication, other than the purely physical movement of bodies. With little outside influence and the communist party's control of the arts, NK is where the archetype of Korean culture is better preserved, compared with SK, where culture underwent a wild transformation. (*Yonhap*)

- A week ago, things could not be going better for President Moon of SK. He was successfully arranging a meeting between NK's leader, KJU, and President Trump. Now, the matchmaking role that has defined Mr. Moon's presidency is suddenly in doubt. (Choe Sang-hun, NYT)
- SK's unification ministry said Thurs. that it will continue to urge NK to come out for talks to discuss follow-up measures to their recent summit agreements. (*Yonhap*)
- After months of a tense war of words between the US and NK, S.Koreans are looking forward to the next steps toward the promise of denuclearization and a permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula. But S.Koreans are not without skepticism—and the latest threats from NK to withdraw from the Jun. summit with President Trump are a reminder that cooperation on the Korean Peninsula won't be easy to secure. (Il Hyun Cho, Seo-Hyun Park, *WaPo*)

International:

- President Trump's strategy on NK has played out in full public view over 16 months with dramatic, made-for-TV moments designed to focus global attention on his risky faceoff with dictator KJU. But as N.Korean officials abruptly cast doubt this week on Trump's planned historic summit with Kim in Singapore next month, critics fear that a president determined to declare victory where his predecessors failed will allow his desire for a legacy-making deal to override the substance of the negotiations. (David Nakamura, *WaPo*)
- US President Donald Trump said Wed. that he will see "what happens" as to the fate of his planned meeting with N.Korean leader KJU. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's top diplomat said Thurs. there's a gap between NK and the US on ways to achieve the common goal of a nuclear-free Korea. (*Yonhap*)
- Chinese President Xi Jinping has met with visiting N.Korean ruling party officials and emphasized the importance of advancing a friendship "sealed in blood" between the two countries, NK's state-run media reported Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- From the Stimson Center's Press Release: "38 North, the website devoted to providing informed policy and technical analysis of NK, joins the Stimson Center as of Jun. 1, 2018. The 38 North team, led by Joel Wit and Jenny Town, will become an important part the Center's growing East Asia Program." (*Stimson Center*)
- 38 North is moving to The Henry L. Stimson Center, a Washington-based research center working to solve the world's greatest threats to security and prosperity. (*38 North*)
- Former UN Secretary General Ban said Wed. the US withdrawing from the Iranian nuclear deal does not serve as a good precedent for negotiating an agreement with NK. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- The measures NK has taken to ease tension on the Korean peninsula should be acknowledged, and all other parties, especially the US, should cherish the opportunity for peace, the Chinese government's top diplomat, Wang Yi, said. (*Reuters*)
- Trump has conceded he does not know if his meeting with KJU will go ahead after N.Korean officials openly criticized his administration's demands. (Ben Riley-Smith and Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- In this opinion piece for the *Washington Post*, New Jersey Senator Bob Menendez writes that the improving relations between NK and SK present a historic opportunity for

denuclearization and lasting peace. However, he also states that the US must be clear-eyed about the challenges ahead. (Bob Menendez, WaPo)

- Nine months after NK threatened to launch ballistic missiles into waters around Guam, the governor of the Pacific island has joined the campaign for President Trump to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- Whether the summit goes forward, NK has shown how closely it is keeping tabs on the US news cycle—and how it's adept at influencing that news cycle as well. (Adam Taylor, WaPo)
- The potential collapse of Jun. talks between KJU and Trump is a warning sign that the White House should refrain from championing the denuclearization of Libya as a successful model for NK to follow. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- India, bolstered by recent peace signals from NK, is moving to strengthen ties with the reclusive regime. (Nyshka Chandran, CNBC)
- By focusing their ire on Bolton, the N.Koreans kept the door open to positive relations with Trump, while signaling that Bolton at the table in Jun. would not be in the US leader's interest. (Jamie Tarabay, CNN)
- Apart from the ongoing US-S.Korean air force drills, NK appeared especially dismayed by suggestions from US national security adviser John Bolton that a Libya-style solution could work with NK. (Rick Noack, WaPo)
- NK is making its demands clear. This has very little to do with military drills and more to do with the Sun. talk shows in the US during which John Bolton and Mike Pompeo outlined what might be on offer if KJU gave up his nuclear weapons. (Laura Bicker, BBC)
- NK threatening to withdraw from talks with the US but experts say, based on prior actions, the White House should have seen this coming. (CNN)
- The Trump administration is hopeful its summit with NK will go ahead, despite threats of cancellation. (BBC)
- NK on Wed. threatened to scuttle a planned summit between its leader KJU and US President Trump over Washington's push for its unilateral denuclearization, but the White House said it won't back down on its demands and expects "tough negotiations" with Pyongyang. (RFA)
- NK's threat to call off the summit meeting between dictator KJU and President Trump next month is surely a bluff, but all the same it should serve as a wake-up call for the White House. (WaPo)
- The White House on Wed. brushed aside threats by NK to cancel a summit meeting between President Trump and its leader, KJU, but the harsh words underscored the chasm that will separate the two leaders next month in Singapore over how to deal with NK's nuclear arsenal. (Mark Landler, NYT)
- The world's main nuclear test-ban body stands ready to verify NK's closure of its test site but it has yet to be asked and the process would take weeks rather than days, its chief said on Wed. (*Reuters*)
- The odds are still in favor of going ahead with a Jun. summit between President Donald Trump and N.Korean leader KJU, US national security adviser John Bolton said on Wed., despite Pyongyang's threat to call off the unprecedented meeting. (*Reuters*)
- In this opinion piece, Paul Waldman opinions that it's entirely possible Trump will make some kind of agreement in which the N.Koreans pledges to do something that costs them

little and which they might renege on anyway, just so he can say he got a win and tell everyone he's the greatest negotiator in history. NK, like everyone else in the world, is realizing not just that this isn't true, but also that Trump actually believes it—and that as a result, it won't be that hard to manipulate him. (Paul Waldman, WaPo)

- Traffic once again clogs the Friendship Bridge connecting China and NK. Most of the freight trucks here have Chinese license plates, but here and there, plates from NK's North Pyongan Province can also be seen. (Ko Soo-suk, Shim Kyu-seok, *Joongang Daily*)
- As the White House prepares President Donald Trump for his meeting with NK's KJU, a movement is building in Congress to return a US Navy spy ship. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Washington and Pyongyang are battling over details of denuclearization. Their war of nerves will deepen with less than a month before the summit. Nevertheless, we hope Trump does his best to achieve complete denuclearization in a deal of the century. (*Joongang Daily*)
- Elizabeth N. Saunders asked Malfrid Braut-Hegghammer, an associate professor of political science at the University of Oslo who wrote a book on the Libyan and Iraqi nuclear programs, to explain why the Libya analogy has become a stumbling block for diplomacy between the US and NK in this analysis piece for the *Washington Post.* (Elizabeth N. Saunders, WaPo)
- Pyongyang threatened to withdraw over 'one-sided demands' but Trump says he hasn't been told talks have been axed. (*Guardian*)
- Amid fresh uncertainty over his planned summit with N.Korean leader KJU, President Donald Trump said Wed. that he is committed to pressing for the country to abandon its nuclear program as part of any meeting. (Zeke Miller, Catherine Lucey, AP)
- Trump is keen to keep his appointment in Singapore but the row involving his national security adviser presents a serious hurdle. (*Guardian*)
- Trump says "we'll see" in response to NK threatening to cancel an upcoming summit. (CNN)
- President Trump said Wed. that he will continue to insist on denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, despite threats from N.Korean officials to cancel a much-anticipated Jun. 12 summit. (Jenna Johnson, WaPo)
- President Trump's national security adviser, John Bolton, told a radio host Wed. he believes the summit with KJU will happen, despite recent threats from NK to withdraw. (Kevin Liptak, CNN)
- The US has demanded NK ship some nuclear warheads, an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) and other nuclear material overseas within six months, the Asahi newspaper said on Thurs., citing several sources familiar with N.Korean issues. (*Reuters*)
- Christopher Hill, former. US Ambassador to SK says NK is looking for more concrete measures by the US ahead of the historic summit. (CNN)
- President Donald Trump and his team have a daunting to-do list to work through as they prepare for next month's expected summit with N.Korean leader KJU. (Catherine Lucey, Zeke Miller, Matthew Lee, AP)
- After NK threatened to withdraw from talks, the White House is trying to manage expectations. (Barbara Starr, CNN)
- On Fri., UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will meet US President Trump at the White House for their first meeting since the American president withdrew from the Iran nuclear agreement. (William Gallo, VOA)

- The White House is "still hopeful" the summit between NK's KJU and US President Trump will proceed despite Pyongyang's threat to cancel it, spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said Wed. (AFP)
- The White House on Wed. indicated the Libya model advocated by its national security adviser John Bolton was not applicable to denuclearizing NK, apparently reacting to NK's threat to pull out of a summit scheduled for next month. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Joongang Daily*)
- The White House said Wed. that the Libya model advocated by National Security Advisor John Bolton was not applicable to denuclearizing NK, apparently reacting to NK's threat to pull out of a summit scheduled for next month. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Joongang Daily*)
- The panel weighs in on NK threatening to cancel the upcoming summit between President Trump and KJU. (CNN)
- On Thur., India revealed that it had sent a minister to NK for the first time in two decades. (Soutik Biswas, BBC)
- When NK threatened to call off next month's summit with the US, because of the insistence it give up its nuclear weapons, the White House appeared to have been caught off guard. (John Hemmings, *Telegraph*)
- China supports NK's efforts to develop its economy, Chinese President Xi Jinping told a group of NK's ruling Workers' Party senior officials in a meeting in Beijing Wed., as the two sides emphasized friendly cooperation, enhanced exchanges and "blood ties." (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)
- Chinese President Xi Jinping told N.Korean leader KJU during their summit last week that Beijing has his back even if the NK-US summit scheduled for next month fails, according to a government source in Seoul. (Jeong Yong-soo, Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)

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Friday, May 18, 2018

Letter asks Trump to remember political prisoners in North Korea negotiations; Defectors juggle mixed sentiments on Korean détente; Trump tells NK's Kim to denuclearize or risk overthrow

Top News:

Letter asks Trump to remember political prisoners in North Korea negotiations (*Catholic News Agency*, 05/17/2018)

In North Korea:

Ahead of Trump summit, Kim Jong Un crafts a careful message (*WaPo*, 05/17/2018)
Kim told Pompeo he is willing to accept U.S. troop presence for now (*Joongang Daily*, 05/18/2018)

N.K. holds party's military commission meeting to decide on 'organizational' matters (*Yonhap*, 05/18/2018)
N. Korea offers to join global efforts for nuke test ban (*Yonhap*, 05/18/2018)
North Korean Hackers Are Spreading Spyware On Google Play And Targeting Defectors Via Facebook (*Forbes*, 05/17/2018)
North Koreans Indifferent to Propaganda Trumpeting Kim Jong Un's Diplomacy (RFA, 05/17/2018)
Pyongyang 'reconsiders' Trump summit (*Joongang Daily*, 05/18/2018)
Wider availability of canned foods reflects market development in North Korea (*DailyNK*, 05/18/2018)

In South Korea:
Businessmen renew call to visit shuttered industrial complex in N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 05/18/2018)
Moon looks to narrow gap between U.S., N.K. at summit with Trump (*Yonhap*, 05/18/2018)
S. Korea seeks reopening of air routes through NK airspace (*Korea Times*, 05/18/2018)
South Korea asks: Who is that mystery man with Pompeo and Kim? (*WaPo*, 05/17/2018)
South Korea's President Heads to Washington to Salvage Nuclear Deal (VOA, 05/18/2018)
South Korean presidential aide "very disturbed," retracts U.S. alliance statement (UPI, 05/18/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) No N. Korea response to Seoul's list of journalists to cover test site dismantlement (*Yonhap*, 05/18/2018)
(Yonhap Feature) Trump's planned summit with Kim fuels hope among S. Korean businessmen (*Yonhap*, 05/18/2018)
'North won't talk with South unless issues are resolved' (*Korea Times*, 05/17/2018)
Defectors juggle mixed sentiments on Korean détente (*Korea Times*, 05/18/2018)
Inter-Korea economic projects to be linked to denuclearization (UPI, 05/17/2018)
Inter-Korean relations face murky outlook (*Korea Times*, 05/18/2018)
Messages in bottles sent across the sea to North Korea (CNN, 05/17/2018)
North Korea 'declines' South Korea media for nuclear site event; China urges 'stability' (*Reuters*, 05/18/2018)
North Korea rebuffs list of South Korean journalists (UPI, 05/18/2018)
North Korea's about-face complicates South Korea's pitch to Trump (*Reuters*, 05/18/2018)
Pyongyang won't give visas to South Koreans to cover nuclear site closure (CNN, 05/18/2018)
S. Korea downplays N. Korea's threats to cancel talks (*WaPo*, 05/18/2018)
Seoul tries to find true reasons for N. Korea's behavior, with deal in mind (*Yonhap*, 05/18/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) Trump rules out Libya model for N. Korea's denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 05/18/2018)
(LEAD) China denies Trump's view that Xi could be influencing N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 05/18/2018)
38 North to join Stimson Center in June (*Yonhap*, 05/18/2018)
Atlantic Council chief underlines importance of allies standing united in historic moment (*Yonhap*, 05/18/2018)
Donald Trump blames China for North Korea's threat to cancel face-to-face meeting (*Telegraph*, 05/17/2018)

Donald Trump's threat to Kim Jong-un: make a deal or suffer same fate as Gaddafi (*Guardian*, 05/18/2018)
If it happens, it happens: Trump says not told anything on North Korea summit (*Reuters*, 05/17/2018)
If North Korea wants to meet, 'we'll be there': White House (*Korea Times*, 05/18/2018)
Is Kim going down Gorbachev's path? (*Korea Times*, 05/18/2018)
Is Xi Jinping the puppetmaster behind North Korea's pushback on talks? (CNN, 05/18/2018)
Key Differences Over Denuclearization Put Trump-Kim Summit in Peril (VOA, 05/17/2018)
Kim-Trump summit to be 'huge success or complete failure,' says behavior analyst [PHOTOS] (*Korea Times*, 05/18/2018)
Maximum pressure on North Korea is gone, and it isn't coming back (*WaPo*, 05/17/2018)
No more naivety (*Joongang Daily*, 05/18/2018)
No plans to cut back US-South Korea drills: Pentagon (*Korea Times*, 05/18/2018)
North, South and U.S. at verbal loggerheads (*Joongang Daily*, 05/18/2018)
North Korea is acting up because Trump has it cornered (*WaPo*, 05/18/2018)
North Korea summit: Trump says deal with US will save Kim Jong-un (BBC, 05/18/2018)
Nuclear deal Trump seeks with North Korea could mirror Iran deal he hates (*WaPo*, 05/18/2018)
Pro-Pyongyang paper denounces Bolton as hurdle to N.K.-U.S. relations (*Yonhap*, 05/18/2018)
Pyongyang's Brushback Pitch (*38 North*, 05/18/2018)
Trump: Kim Jong-un can stay in power after abandoning nukes (*Korea Times*, 05/18/2018)
Trump: N. Korea Will Be Rich, Protected If It Forgoes Nukes (VOA, 05/18/2018)
Trump: North Korea still preparing summit 'like nothing happened' (*Korea Times*, 05/18/2018)
Trump: U.S. not considering 'Libyan model' in North Korea negotiations (UPI, 05/18/2018)
Trump, still planning summit, reassures and warns Kim Jong Un (CNN, 05/18/2018)
Trump is getting briefed on North Korea — by the media (*WaPo*, 05/17/2018)
Trump just contradicted Bolton on North Korea. What's the 'Libya model' they disagree on? (*WaPo*, 05/17/2018)
Trump Offers North Korea's Kim Political Safeguards, but Warns of 'Total Decimation' (WSJ, 05/17/2018)
Trump offers reassurance that North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un would remain in power under nuclear deal (*WaPo*, 05/17/2018)
Trump really wants the (North Korean) show to go on (CNN, 05/18/2018)
Trump says no 'Libya model' for N. Korea's denuclearization (*Korea Times*, 05/18/2018)
Trump seeks to placate North Korea's Kim over uncertain summit (*Reuters*, 05/17/2018)
Trump tells NK's Kim to denuclearize or risk overthrow (*WaPo*, 05/17/2018)
Trump's fresh approach for North Korea denuke: 'South Korean model' (*Korea Times*, 05/18/2018)
U.S. and South Korea to Discuss North's 'Bright Future' (NYT, 05/18/2018)
UN Panel Asks Biggest Oil Traders for North Korea Information (*Bloomberg*, 05/18/2018)
US has no plans to downsize drills over NK threat (*Korea Times*, 05/18/2018)
US Lawmakers Unperturbed by North Korean Threat to Cancel Summit (VOA, 05/16/2018)
US references to Libya model ahead of Kim Summit confuse (*WaPo*, 05/18/2018)
White House moving forward with summit plans; US officials believe North Korea is posturing (CNN, 05/17/2018)
White House shoots down Libya model (*Joongang Daily*, 05/18/2018)

Top News:

- HRNK founding director and board member Nicholas Eberstadt, and HRNK board member and former US Ambassador Winston Lord were among the 50+ signatories to a letter sent to President Trump and key foreign policy leaders on May 17th. This letter requested that the US incorporate human rights in the nuclear negotiations set for Jun. 10 in Singapore and urged the US president to negotiate the release of the remaining prisoners in NK's labor camps. (Courtney Grogan, *Catholic News Agency*)

In North Korea:

- In a country where there is no Twitter but lots of fake news, N.Koreans are getting a very different take than US media-watchers on what got the two leaders to the negotiating table and what they will be trying to accomplish. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- N.Korean leader KJU told US State Secretary Mike Pompeo during their meeting earlier this month that he was willing to accept the US military's current presence in SK but expects that presence to be reduced in the future, a source with knowledge of the meeting told the JoongAng Ilbo on Wed. (Kim Hyun-ki, Jung Hyo-sik, *Joongang Daily*)
- NK said Fri. the ruling party's powerful military commission has held a meeting to determine personnel reshuffle and organizational matters to beef up national defense both militarily and politically. (*Yonhap*)
- A senior N.Korean diplomat has said his country's recent move to stop nuclear tests is an "important process" for global disarmament and it will join international efforts for a "total" halt of nuclear tests. (*Yonhap*)
- Despite the recent detente with the US and SK, NK continues to launch cyberattacks across the globe. And in recent months, attempts were made by a mysterious hacker crew called the Sun Team to infiltrate the Android phones of N.Korean defectors via phishing attempts on Facebook and malware hosted on Google Play, according to research from McAfee. (Thomas Fox-Brewster, *Forbes*)
- N.Korean citizens have been largely unmoved by state propaganda heralding the diplomatic achievements of national leader KJU, according to sources in the nuclear-armed, sanctions-hit state. (Ji-eun Kim, Leejin Jun, Richard Finney, RFA)
- Pyongyang threatened to pull out of its planned summit with Washington on Wed., saying it had no choice but to "reconsider" the landmark meeting if the US keeps driving the regime into a "corner" by forcing it to abandon its nuclear arsenal. (*Joongang Daily*)
- One aspect of a change in the markets is the wider presence of N.Korean-made instant foods. An inside source informed Daily NK about this trend, describing the emergence of instant foods that resembled some of those available in SK. The fact that canned foods are now widely available and accessible to normal folks is indicative of dramatic change. (Unification Media Group, *DailyNK*)

In South Korea:

- A group of S.Korean businessmen on Fri. renewed their call to visit the shuttered industrial complex in NK to inspect facilities they left behind. (*Yonhap*)
- S.Korean President Moon will try to use his summit with US President Donald Trump to broker a nuclear deal between the US and NK, a presidential aide said Fri. (*Yonhap*)
- The S.Korean government is preparing to reopen air routes that go through N.Korean airspace to save time on flights to Russia as well as Europe and North America, according to government officials. (Park Ji-won, *Korea Times*)
- Who was that white-haired Korean American man sitting at the table with Pompeo and KJU on May 9? The one smiling and laughing with Kim and Pompeo, the one featured on the front page of NK's Rodong newspaper and on the state television channel. The mystery man was the subject of intense speculation in the S.Korean media. (Anna Fifield, Min Joo Kim, *WaPo*)
- NK's recent threat to pull out of the upcoming nuclear summit with the US has added new urgency to S.Korean President Moon's visit to Washington next Tues. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- A top adviser to S.Korean President Moon is challenging statements attributed to him in The Atlantic, as he defended the need to maintain a US troop presence on the Korean Peninsula. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- NK has not responded to the Seoul government's list of journalists chosen to attend the ceremony for the dismantlement of its nuclear test site, the S.Korean unification ministry said Fri. (*Yonhap*)
- The Jun. 12 summit—the first between the leaders of the two enemies since the 1950-53 Korean War—is primarily meant to be a forum for discussion on how to rid NK of its nuclear weapons. However, S.Korean businessmen believe that improved ties between the US and NK could eventually lead to the lifting of international sanctions imposed on Pyongyang, which in turn could offer new business opportunities in the isolated country. (Kim Kwang-tae, *Yonhap*)
- A high-level N.Korean official said Thurs. that it would be difficult to continue talks with SK unless issues that led to the cancellation of previous high-level negotiations were resolved. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- The rapid pace toward peace is raising a mixed bag of questions for different groups of Koreans, long accustomed to division and tension on the peninsula following the 1950-53 Korean War. For some 30,000 N.Korean defectors who have settled in SK, however, the questions and apprehensions are about security and stability. (Jung Da-min, Kim Ji-soo, *Korea Times*)
- SK said it will be linking any inter-Korea economic cooperation projects with progress on denuclearization, a day after NK issued warning statements targeting joint exercises and US officials. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- NK's sudden shift in stance is creating a murky outlook in the recently thawing inter-Korean relations, putting the brakes on implementing the Panmunjeom Declaration. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)

- Activists including Jeong Gwang-il and his fellow volunteers hurl hundreds of plastic bottles into the sea. The activists say that each two-liter (0.5 gallon) bottle is an improvised care package, filled with a kilogram of uncooked white rice and a single US dollar bill, goods it would take the average N.Korean 40 days to earn. (Ivan Watson, Jungeun Kim, Stella Ko, Jo Shelley, CNN)
- NK has declined to accept a list of S.Korean journalists hoping to observe the closure of its nuclear test site, SK said on Fri., raising new questions about NK's commitment to reducing tension. (Heekyong Yang, *Reuters*)
- NK is not responding to a S.Korean request to accept a list of S.Korean journalists who are scheduled to attend the dismantlement of the Punggye-ri nuclear site. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- S.Korean President Moon has been riding high after a string of successes with NK, seeing his popularity surge after his historic meeting with KJU as he looks ahead to the US-NK summit he helped engineer next month. But just days before a key meeting with US President Donald Trump, Pyongyang has made Moon's role as a diplomatic go-between much harder, calling his government "ignorant and incompetent" and pulling out of inter-Korean talks. (Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- S.Korean journalists may not be allowed to enter NK to cover the closure of Pyongyang's nuclear test site, authorities in Seoul said, less than a week after they were reportedly invited. (Yoonjung Seo, Joshua Berlinger, CNN)
- SK said Fri. it believes NK remains committed to improving relations despite strongly criticizing Seoul over ongoing US-S.Korean military drills and insisting it will not return to talks unless its grievances are resolved. (Kim Tong-Hyung, AP)
- SK continues to search for ways to resume dialogue with NK ahead of the US-NK summit, an official from Seoul's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said Fri., apparently suggesting NK's recent suspension of inter-Korean dialogue may not be meant to be anything permanent. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- US President Donald Trump said Thurs. he is not considering a so-called Libya model for dismantling NK's nuclear weapons program and would offer strong security guarantees in return for denuclearization. (*Yonhap*)
- China dismissed US President Trump's assertion Fri. that President Xi Jinping might be behind NK's sudden shift to a recalcitrant attitude. (*Yonhap*)
- 38 North, a US website dedicated to monitoring developments in NK, will join the Stimson Center think tank next month. (*Yonhap*)
- The head of a major US-based policy think tank on Fri. emphasized the importance of SK and the US standing united at a time when history is being made on the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- Donald Trump has blamed China for KJU's apparent change of heart over their face-to-face meeting as he attempted to bring NK back to the table. (Ben Riley-Smith, *Telegraph*)
- Donald Trump has threatened KJU with the same fate as Muammar Gaddafi if the N.Korean leader "doesn't make a deal" on his nuclear weapons programme. (Julian Borger, *Guardian*)

- President Donald Trump on Thurs. distanced himself from comments from his national security adviser that led NK to cast doubt on a planned summit and said as far as he knew the meeting with KJU was still on track. (*Reuters*)
- The US said Thurs. it was ready to proceed with next month's summit between President Donald Trump and N.Korean leader KJU, putting the ball back in Pyongyang's court after it threatened to scrap the meeting. (AFP)
- Is NK's KJU going down the path of the last Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev? The two have converged a lot so far, but of course we know about the end of Gorbachev's story, while Kim's remains open-ended. (Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)
- US President Donald Trump suggested Thurs. Beijing could be behind NK's recent harsh rhetoric against Washington in the past week, which has thrown the Jun. summit in Singapore into doubt. (Ben Westcott, CNN)
- Against this blurry backdrop of questions and uncertainties of the NK-US summit, Lim Moon-su, a seasoned behavior analyst based in Seoul, may be able to provide some answers. Lim has analyzed the N.Korean leader's personality traits based on his behavior, gestures and facial expressions in dozens of video clips, including ones captured during the Apr. 27 inter-Korean summit. He also has explored Trump's personality in the same manner to estimate the depth of Kim-Trump chemistry, which could determine the fate of the Jun. meeting. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- Although the US stated Thurs. that summit preparations are moving forward, NK's threat to cancel the planned talks with the US signals its frustration over Washington's position on how to denuclearize Pyongyang, said former US officials who dealt with NK extensively. (Christy Lee, VOA)
- Columnist Josh Rogin writes that while the Trump administration says that the US and its allies can go back to the "maximum pressure campaign" if the upcoming summit between the US and NK fails or doesn't happen at all, actually doing so would be difficult if not impossible, as the pressure is already diminishing. (Josh Rogin, *WaPo*)
- We must never let down our guard. Governments both liberal and conservative have been naïve about NK in the past. They doubted that Pyongyang could complete its nuclear and missile programs this fast. They underestimated NK's engineering as well as the resilience of its economy. (Lee Sang-ryeol, *Joongang Daily*)
- The Pentagon is not considering cutting back the joint US-S.Korean military exercises that have drawn angry condemnation from Pyongyang ahead of a planned US-NK summit, an official said Thurs. (AFP)
- US President Donald Trump said he is not looking to the Libya model for denuclearizing Pyongyang, stressing on Thurs. at the White House that his deal with KJU would make NK "very rich" and provide the young leader "very adequate protection." (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Daily*)
- In this opinion piece for the *Washington Post*, Marc Thiessen writes that NK's recent temper tantrum over US-S.Korean military exercises and its threat to pull out of its upcoming summit with President Trump are signs that Trump's NK strategy is working. (Marc Thiessen, *WaPo*)

- President Donald Trump has said the US is not pursuing the "Libya model" for the denuclearisation of NK. Mr. Trump said KJU would stay in power if he made a deal, and hinted he could be deposed if he refused. (BBC)
- President Trump says he wants to strike a nuclear deal with NK that would benefit “the whole world” by neutralizing a looming threat, and he is willing to trade economic concessions to help make it happen. (Anne Gearan, WaPo)
- A pro-N.Korean newspaper in Japan on Fri. poured raw criticism on US President Trump's national security adviser, John Bolton, warning that he might have a negative impact on future relations between the two countries. (Yonhap)
- NK has just delivered a brushback pitch, warning the US and SK that inclusion of nuclear assets like the B-52s in joint military exercises—not the exercises themselves—is inconsistent with President Trump’s pledge at President Moon’s urging to move toward peace in Korea. And peace is a critical part of Pyongyang’s aim in its diplomatic give-and-take with Washington and Seoul.That’s why US and S.Korean military authorities were right to cancel the B-52 flights. (Leon V. Sigal, 38 North)
- US President Donald Trump tried to put his summit with KJU back on track Thurs., offering the N.Korean leader guarantees of staying in power if he abandons nuclear weapons. (AFP)
- US President Donald Trump predicted Thurs. that NK "would be very rich"—and he promised the Kim family dynasty "very adequate protection" to stay in power—if the country agreed to give up its nuclear weapons. (Steve Herman, VOA)
- N.Korean officials are continuing to hold talks on next month's planned summit with the US despite this week's threat to cancel the meeting, US President Donald Trump says. (DPA)
- President Donald Trump dismissed the idea of applying the "Libyan model" for denuclearizing NK, as previously proposed by national security adviser John Bolton. (Daniel Uria, UPI)
- President Donald Trump on Thurs. said US and N.Korean officials are continuing to prepare for a scheduled diplomatic summit next month, even as Pyongyang threatened in recent days to pull out of what would be a historic first meeting between a N.Korean leader and US president. (Jeremy Diamond, Kevin Liptak, CNN)
- President Trump professed Thurs. to know no more than the reporters questioning him about whether NK might cancel his scheduled meeting next month with its leader, KJU. (Callum Borchers, WaPo)
- President Trump contradicted his national security adviser Thurs. on NK policy after an angry rebuke from Pyongyang over John Bolton’s comments. Bolton had recently suggested that Libya could serve as a model for persuading NK to give up its nuclear weapons program. (Rick Noack, WaPo)
- President Donald Trump acknowledged new doubts about the fate of his coming meeting with N.Korean leader KJU, expressing surprise over the uptick in harsh language from Pyongyang while shifting blame to China for the latest uncertainty. Still, the president sought to entice Mr. Kim to the negotiating table by pairing an offer of political safeguards with a fresh round of threats. (Michael C. Bender, Jonathan Cheng, WSJ)
- President Trump on Thurs. reassured N.Korean dictator KJU that he would remain in power under a nuclear deal with the US, emphasizing that his administration is not seeking regime

change amid threats from Pyongyang to cancel a historic summit next month. (David Nakamura, Philip Rucker, WaPo)

- President Donald Trump wants KJU to understand he really wants them to meet. The President's prolonged discourse on NK in an Oval Office photo-op Thurs. indicated just how much he has invested in the summit—when Pyongyang threatened to blow up on Wed. over US-S.Korean military exercises and US demands for an irreversible decommissioning of NK's nuclear weapons. (Stephen Collinson, CNN)
- US President Donald Trump on Thurs. tried to put his summit with NK's KJU back on track, saying he would not seek to implement a so-called "Libya model" for denuclearization that would force Pyongyang to give up its arms and see Kim ousted. (AFP)
- US President Donald Trump sought on Thurs. to placate NK's leader KJU after Pyongyang threatened to scrap an unprecedented summit, saying Kim's security would be guaranteed in any deal and his country would not suffer the fate of Muammar Gaddafi's Libya, unless that could not be reached. (Steve Holland, David Brunnstrom, Reuters)
- President Donald Trump laid out a stark choice for NK's KJU ahead of their planned summit next month: Abandon nuclear weapons and be rewarded with "protections," or risk being overthrown and possible death if the arsenal remains. (Lolita C. Baldor, Zeke Miller, AP)
- US President Donald Trump said he pursues a "S.Korean model," not a "Libyan model," for the denuclearization of NK. (Yi Whan-woo, Korea Times)
- When the S.Korean president meets with President Trump in Washington next week, the two will discuss security assurances and economic incentives for a denuclearizing NK, following up on Mr. Trump's reassuring words for NK's young leader, a presidential aide in Seoul said on Fri. (Choe Sang-Hun, NYT)
- A United Nations Security Council panel is asking the world's biggest oil traders to disclose the actions they are taking to stop the sale of crude oil and petroleum products to NK in violation of sanctions. (Andy Hoffman, Bloomberg)
- The US has no plans to downsize joint military exercises with SK over the ongoing verbal provocations from NK, the US defense department said Thurs. (Lee Min-hyung, Korea Times)
- US lawmakers of both parties have told VOA they are not surprised by NK's threat to cancel an upcoming summit between President Donald Trump and KJU. (Michael Brown, VOA)
- Libya is suddenly on the lips of President Donald Trump and his hawkish national security adviser John Bolton ahead of the much-vaunted summit with NK leader KJU, or more precisely, the "Libya model" is. (Associated Press)
- The White House is moving forward with preparations for a summit next month between President Donald Trump and N.Korean leader KJU despite recent N.Korean statements, White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said Thurs. (Kevin Liptak, Jeremy Diamond, CNN)
- The White House said Wed. that the Libya model advocated by National Security Advisor John Bolton was not applicable to denuclearizing NK, apparently reacting to NK's threat to pull out of a summit scheduled for next month. (Kang Jin-kyu, Joongang Daily)

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, HRNK Research Intern

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Saturday, May 19, 2018

NK demands SK send back restaurant workers; SK says 2 N. Koreans defect to South across western sea border; Is KJU fooling the world in 'dismantling' NK's nuclear testing site?

In North Korea:
North Korean soldier dies of starvation on train (*DailyNK*, 05/18/2018)
Punggye-ri Nuclear Test Site: Possible Stand to Observe Explosive Tunnel Closure Identified (*38 North*, 05/18/2018)

In South Korea:
S. Korea welcomes Trump's new pick for U.S. ambassador (*Yonhap*, 05/19/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(3rd LD) S. Korea says 2 N. Koreans defect to South across western sea border (*Yonhap*, 05/19/2018)
N. Korea demands return of defectors from S. Korea (*Yonhap*, 05/19/2018)
North Korea demands South Korea send back restaurant workers (*WaPo*, 05/19/2018)
Two North Koreans defect in latest upset for diplomatic thaw on Korean peninsula (*Telegraph*, 05/19/2018)

International:
Is Kim Jong-un fooling the world in 'dismantling' North Korea's nuclear testing site?(*Telegraph*, 05/19/2018)
Kim told Pompeo he is willing to accept U.S. troop presence for now (*Joongang Daily*, 05/19/2018)
N. Korean diplomat arrives in China (*Yonhap*, 05/19/2018)
North Korea's about-face complicates South Korea's pitch to Trump (*Reuters*, 05/18/2018)
North Koreans remain in the dark regarding US-North Korea summit (*DailyNK*, 05/19/2018)
US B-52 bombers changed flight plan after North Korea threatened Trump summit (CNN, 05/18/2018)
Why North Korean defectors learn English (3) (*Korea Times*, 05/19/2018)

In North Korea:

- A soldier who had completed his military service and was heading home has died of starvation largely due to delays in NK's rail system. (Jo Hyun, *DailyNK*)
- Recent commercial satellite imagery from May 15 indicates additional steps towards closure have been taken at NK's Punggye-ri Nuclear Test Site, possibly including preparations to build a safe reviewing stand for visitors to observe the explosive closure of all three Punggye-ri portal areas. (*38 North*)

In South Korea:

- SK on Sat. hailed US President Donald Trump's nomination of Admiral Harry Harris, head of the US Pacific Command, as Washington's top envoy to Seoul. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Two N.Koreans crossed the tense western sea border into SK on a small boat earlier Saturday, officials have said, the latest in a string of defections by N.Koreans in recent years. (*Yonhap*)
- NK on Sat. called for the release of N.Korean defectors that it claims have been lured and kidnapped by SK, offering a possible reason for its recent suspension of dialogue with Seoul. (*Yonhap*)
- NK on Sat. reiterated its demands for SK to send back 12 N.Korean restaurant workers who came to the South in 2016, saying such a move would demonstrate Seoul's willingness to improve relations. (Kim Tong-Hyung, AP)
- Two N.Koreans, including a military officer, defected to the South early on St. morning in the latest upset for Pyongyang after a fractious week in which KJU threatened to pull out of June talks with Donald Trump, the US president. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)

International:

- NK has been accused of trying to fool the world with the closure of its nuclear test site this week, as upcoming talks between Donald Trump and KJU hang in the balance. (Neil Connor, *Telegraph*)
- N.Korean leader KJU told U.S. State Secretary Mike Pompeo during their meeting earlier this month that he was willing to accept the US military's current presence in SK but expects that presence to be reduced in the future, a source with knowledge of the meeting told the JoongAng Ilbo on Wed. (Kim Hyun-ki, Jung Hyo-sik, *Joongang Daily*)
- A N.Korean diplomat responsible for Southeast Asian affairs arrived in Beijing on Sat., sparking speculation that he may visit Singapore ahead of a planned summit between US President Donald Trump and N.Korean leader KJU. (*Yonhap*)
- S.Korean President Moon has been riding high after a string of successes with NK, seeing his popularity surge after his historic meeting with KJU as he looks ahead to the US-NK summit he helped engineer next month. But just days before a key meeting with US President Donald Trump, Pyongyang has made Moon's role as a diplomatic go-between much harder, calling his government "ignorant and incompetent" and pulling out of inter-Korean talks. (Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- There are wide-ranging reports regarding the upcoming US-DPRK summit planned for June 12, but ordinary N.Koreans have received very little information about the event. (Kim Yoo Jin, *DailyNK*)

- The US, SK and Japan agreed this week to shift a planned flight of at least two nuclear-capable B-52 bombers so they would not fly over the Korean Peninsula, according to two US defense officials. (Barbara Starr, Zachary Cohen, CNN)
- Casey Lartigue Jr., co-founder of the Teach North Korean Refugees Global Education Center, compiled statements from interviews with refugees about learning English. (Casey Lartigue Jr., *Korea Times*)

Prepared by Lauren Jackson, HRNK Research Intern

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Sunday, May 20, 2018

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Monday, May 21, 2018

Who is that mystery man with Pompeo and Kim?; N. Korea stays mum on proposed list of S. Korean journalists to cover nuclear site shutdown; Moon heads to U.S. for talks on upcoming U.S.-N. Korea summit

Top News:
South Korea asks: Who is that mystery man with Pompeo and Kim? (*WaPo*, 05/17/2018)

In North Korea:
Former People's Committee official repatriated from China (*DailyNK*, 05/21/2018)
In North Korea nuke site closure, spectacle trumps substance (*WaPo*, 05/21/2018)
N. Korean paper warns against dependence on foreign nations for economic growth (*Yonhap*, 05/21/2018)
North Korea charges $10,000 per reporter to cover Punggye-ri nuclear site blowup (*Korea Times*, 05/21/2018)
North Korea denounces defectors, ignores calls from South (*UPI*, 05/21/2018)
North Korean authorities promote China relations to residents, but urge caution to officials(*DailyNK*, 05/21/2018)
North Korean spy 'vanishes' in China (*Korea Times*, 05/21/2018)

North Korea traced defectors with malware-infected Android apps: McAfee (*Korea Times*, 05/21/2018)
Pyongyang preps for Punggye-ri shutdown (*Korea Times*, 05/20/2018)
Why North Korea is destroying its nuclear test site (BBC, 05/20/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) Moon heads to U.S. for talks on upcoming U.S.-N. Korea summit (*Yonhap*, 05/21/2018)
Moon Enters Talks With Trump With Driver's Seat at Stake (NYT, 05/21/2018)
Moon to help Trump narrow opinion gap with Kim (*Korea Times*, 05/21/2018)
NK defector issue re-emerging as snag in inter-Korean relations (*Korea Times*, 05/20/2018)
Trading nukes for aid (*Joongang Daily*, 05/21/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(4th LD) N. Korea stays mum on proposed list of S. Korean journalists to cover nuclear site shutdown (*Yonhap*, 05/21/2018)
Banks ramp up prep for possible inter-Korean cooperation (*Yonhap*, 05/21/2018)
Civic group planning joint summit events unable to visit N.K. due to no invitation (*Yonhap*, 05/21/2018)
Four S. Korean reporters head to N. Korea's nuke-testing site (*Yonhap*, 05/21/2018)
Reporters from South start trip to demolition (*Joongang Daily*, 05/21/2018)

International:
Could North Korean defectors affect Trump summit? (BBC, 05/21/2018)
Denuclearisation: The word Trump and Kim can't agree on (BBC, 05/21/2018)
Inter-Korea Relations Hit Impasse Over Military Drills and Defectors (VOA, 05/21/2018)
NYT: Trump weighing political risks of North Korea meeting (CNN, 05/21/2018)
South Korea, U.S. to work closely on summit after Pyongyang's about-face (Reuters, 05/20/2018)
Trump Grappling With Risks of Proceeding With North Korea Meeting (NYT, 05/20/2018)
Trump presses China on North Korea border ahead of summit (Reuters, 05/21/2018)
Trump the dealmaker should understand Trump the president's North Korea problem (*WaPo*, 05/21/2018)
Trump urges China to control N.K. border until after nuclear deal (*Yonhap*, 05/21/2018)
Trump warns China to stay 'strong & tight' on North Korea border (*WaPo*, 05/21/2018)
U.S. senator: Trump wants to end N.K. crisis in first term (*Yonhap*, 05/21/2018)
Will toughness on Iran help Trump with North Korea? Here are three reasons to doubt it.(*WaPo*, 05/21/2018)

Top News:

- Andrew Kim, the head of the CIA's Korea Mission Center, he is central to planning the summit between President Trump and Kim Jong Un, scheduled to take place in Singapore on June 12. (Anna Fifield and Kim Min-joo, *WaPo*)

In North Korea:

- The head of a local People's Committee industry organization in Ryanggang Province who defected to China in late 2016 due to a power struggle was arrested recently and sent back to NK in early May. (Kang Mi-jin, *DailyNK*)
- Foreign journalists will be allowed to journey deep into the mountains of NK this week to observe the closing of the country's Punggye-ri nuclear test site in a much-touted display of goodwill before leader KJU's planned summit with President Trump next month. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- NK's main newspaper on Mon. warned against depending on foreign countries for economic growth ahead of its historic summit planned with US next month. (*Yonhap*)
- NK is demanding that each foreign reporter pay $10,000 for a visa to cover the planned dismantlement of a nuclear test site in Punggye-ri, Seoul government officials said Mon. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- NK is keeping up a campaign of pressure against the South, a policy that is culminating in unresponsiveness at Panmunjom and the retraction of invitations to SK journalists to observe the shutdown of its main nuclear site. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- In lectures delivered to ordinary residents, NK's authorities have been expressing the need to strike a conciliatory approach with China. However, in lectures to party cadres, the authorities are ordering officials to ramp up caution in their dealings with the Chinese. (Lee Sang-yong, *DailyNK*)
- A N.Korean senior spy in China possibly went into hiding in Feb. with the aim of defecting, Tokyo Shimbun reported Mon. (Ko Dong-hwan, *Korea Times*)
- N.Korean hackers traced defectors with three malware-infected Android apps, US cyber security company McAfee claims. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- NK is seemingly preparing to dismantle its nuclear test site in the northern village of Punggye-ri, scheduled for May 23 to 25, considering its presumed railroad repair work spotted by the government and construction seen in satellite images. (Choi Ha-young, *Korea Times*)
- NK has said it will start dismantling its nuclear test site this week, in a ceremony to be attended by foreign journalists. But what would it take for the country to truly "denuclearise"? (Catherine Dill, BBC)

In South Korea:

- S.Korean President Moon headed to Washington on Mon. on an apparent mission to help broker a nuclear deal between US and NK ahead of their first-ever summit next month. (*Yonhap*)
- For a few months, everything seemed to be clicking for S.Korean President Moon as he pieced together crucial nuclear negotiations between US and NK following a year of intense animosity. But he now enters a White House meeting with President Trump with his status in the diplomatic driver's seat in doubt. (AP)

- President Moon has embarked on a mission to set a joint strategy with US President Trump to help him have a successful summit with N.Korean leader KJU and achieve the North's denuclearization. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- The issue of N.Korean defectors to the South is again heightening tension between the Koreas, as the reconciliatory atmosphere has suddenly gone sour following the North's unilateral cancellation of high-level inter-Korean talks last week. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- KJU must see the big picture and trust SK and US. He must accept CVID. A peace treaty and diplomatic relations with US will not guarantee the complete regime security that the North wants. That is why the North must join the global economic system. (Lee Ha-kyung, *Jooang Daily*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- NK has not accepted SK's proposed list of journalists chosen to cover a ceremony for the dismantlement of a nuclear test site planned for this week, the unification ministry said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- S.Korean banks are redoubling efforts to tap into possible business opportunities in NK in the wake of a recent thaw in inter-Korean relations, sources said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- A civic group's planned visit to NK to discuss joint events marking the first inter-Korean summit in 2000 will not take place as the North has not sent an invitation, the group said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- Four S.Korean reporters departed for China en route to NK on Mon. to cover the planned demolition of its nuclear test site. (*Yonhap*)
- S.Korean journalists flew to Beijing Mon. morning on their way to cover the dismantling of a nuclear test site in NK - without Pyongyang's approval to come. (Kang Jin-kyu, Yoo Jee-hye, Shim Kyu-seok, *Joonang Daily*)

International:

- Two N.Koreans defected to the South at the weekend, highlighting an issue that has been a source of constant tension over the years. (BBC)
- If Trump and KJU do meet, there's only one thing they'll talk about - denuclearisation. Trouble is, they have very different ideas on what that means. (Tessa Wong and Subin Kim, BBC)
- In addition to growing concerns that NK will pull out of the upcoming nuclear summit with US, prospects for improved inter-Korean relations have also stalled, as Pyongyang demands that US-SK joint military drills be scaled back, and a group of defectors be returned. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- President Trump is becoming increasingly worried about the political risks of the US-NK summit in Singapore next month, administration and foreign officials told NYT. (Maegan Vazquez, CNN)

- S.Korean President Moon and US President Trump held discussions on Sun. to ensure that the NK-US summit remains on track after NK threatened to pull out of the high-level talks. (Jeongmin Kim, *Reuters*)
- President Trump, increasingly concerned that his summit meeting in Singapore next month with NK's leader could turn into a political embarrassment, has begun pressing his aides and allies about whether he should take the risk of proceeding with a historic meeting that he had leapt into accepting, according to administration and foreign officials. (David E. Sanger, NYT)
- US President Trump urged China on Mon. to maintain a secure border with NK, pressing Beijing ahead of his anticipated meeting with N.Korean leader KJU next month aimed at denuclearization. (*Reuters*)
- It's just that Trump the dealmaker should have anticipated the way in which Trump the president was weakening his own negotiating position. (Philip Bump, *WaPo*)
- US President Trump urged China on Mon. to tightly control its border with NK until after he signs a nuclear deal with the regime. (*Yonhap*)
- Amid uncertainty over a planned US-NK summit, President Trump pushed Mon. for China to continue "strong & tight" trade sanctions against KJU's regime until a possible accord over the North's nuclear program. (Johan Wagner and Philip Rucker, *WaPo*)
- US President Trump wants to end the N.Korean nuclear crisis during his current term, and will likely use military means if diplomacy fails, an American senator said Sun. (*Yonhap*)
- President Trump fulfilled a campaign promise when he walked away from the 2015 Iran agreement. The question now is whether he can reasonably expect to negotiate a better deal with Iran, let alone with NK — which already has an advanced nuclear weapons program and sees nuclear weapons as a cornerstone of its national security. (James H. Lebovic, *WaPo*)

Prepared by Dohyun Kim, HRNK Research Intern

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Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Trump suggests summit with N.Korea's Kim could be delayed; Moon arrives in Washington for talks with Trump ahead of US-NK summit; N.Korea declines to accept list of S. Korean journalists to cover nuke site dismantlement

In North Korea:

(3rd LD) N. Korea declines to accept list of S. Korean journalists to cover nuke site dismantlement (*Yonhap*, 05/22/2018)

As summit looms, North Korean media return to angry tone (*WaPo*, 05/22/2018)

Demand Grows in North Korea For US Novels, Movies as Summit Nears (RFA, 05/21/2018)

‘Getting Past No’ with Kim Jong Un: The Psychology of Negotiation, and Kim’s ‘Art of the Deal’ (*38 North*, 05/21/2018)
NK again proves its unpredictability (*Korea Times*, 05/22/2018)
N. Korea declines to accept list of S. Korean journalists to cover nuke site dismantlement (*Yonhap*, 05/22/2018)
NK rejects S.Korean pool reporters to cover nuke site blowup (*Korea Times*, 05/22/2018)
NK rejects S.Korean press coverage of Punggye-ri (*Korea Times*, 05/22/2018)
North Korea publicizes nuclear dismantlement in state media (*UPI*, 05/22/2018)
North Korean authorities exploit homeless children (*DailyNK*, 05/22/2018)
North Korea's nuclear test site: is blowing up Punggye-ri just for show? (*Guardian*, 05/21/2018)
To experts, North Korea dismantling nuclear site is like destroying evidence (*CNN*, 05/22/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) Moon arrives in Washington for talks with Trump ahead of U.S.-N. Korea summit (*Yonhap*, 05/22/2018)
CVID, PVID, SVID and what else? (*Korea Times*, 05/22/2018)
N. Korea-U.S. summit will be held as scheduled despite tensions: Seoul official (*Yonhap*, 05/22/2018)
Seoul eyes '99.9% chance of Kim-Trump meeting taking place as planned’ (*Korea Times*, 05/22/2018)
S. Korea expresses regret over N.K. not allowing its journalists to cover nuclear site demolition (*Yonhap*, 05/22/2018)
South Korea's Moon heads for Trump talks to try to keep summit on track (*Guardian*, 05/22/2018)
S.Korean journalists en route to North Korea nuclear test site (*Korea Times*, 05/21/2018)
Trump-Kim summit is ‘99.9%’ on: Blue House (*Joongang Daily*, 05/22/2018)
Who’s to blame for the hiccup in North Korea talks? South Koreans say Bolton (*WaPo*, 05/21/2018)
Validity of ruling party's election pledges on inter-Korean joint projects questioned (*Korea Times*, 05/22/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
South’s press snubbed by North (*Joongang Daily*, 05/22/2018)
Northern flip-flops (*Joongang Daily*, 05/22/2018)

International:
Commemorative coin for Trump-Kim summit unveiled (*Korea Times*, 05/22/2018)
Commentary: A reality check on Korea nuclear talks (*Reuters*, 05/22/2018)
Donald Trump says North Korea summit 'may not happen' next month (*Telegraph*, 05/22/2018)
Foreign media arrive for North Korea nuke site closing (*WaPo*, 05/22/2018)
Foreign reporters on way to NK's nuke site (*Korea Times*, 05/22/2018)
Jimmy Carter says Trump could snag the Nobel Prize ... if he secures NK peace deal (*CNN*, 05/22/2018)
Mike Pence warns Kim Jong-un not to 'play' Trump amid crisis talks over summit (*Telegraph*, 05/22/2018)
Moon's role with Kim and Trump (*Korea Times*, 05/21/2018)
Moon, Trump set for talks on upcoming U.S.-N. Korea summit (*Yonhap*, 05/22/2018)
National Endowment Democracy to award North Korea human rights activists (*UPI*, 05/22/2018)

Pence: North Korea will end like Libya only if 'Kim Jong Un doesn't make a deal' (CNN, 05/22/2018)
Pence warns KJU not to 'play' Trump (*Korea Times*, 05/22/2018)
Pompeo says Kim meeting reflects commitment to diplomacy (*Yonhap*, 05/22/2018)
North Korea oozes with the 'blood of endless revenge' as South Korean president travels to Washington (*Telegraph*, 05/22/2018)
North Korea summit: Pence warns Kim Jong-un not to 'play' Trump (BBC, 05/22/2018)
The Latest: Pence says US has made no concessions to NKorea (*WaPo*, 05/22/2018)
The White House's wishful thinking on Iran and North Korea (*WaPo*, 05/22/2018)
Trump aides growing skeptical of Kim summit as South Korea's President visits (CNN, 05/21/2018)
Trump casts doubt on June summit with Kim (CNN, 05/22/2018)
Trump keeps giving Kim the upper hand (CNN, 05/21/2018)
Trump says there is a chance his summit with North Korea's Kim won't happen (*Reuters*, 05/22/2018)
Trump still planning on Kim meeting: Mnuchin(*Yonhap*, 05/22/2018)
Trump the dealmaker facing challenges ahead of NKorea summit (*WaPo*, 05/22/2018)
Trump to meet South Korea's Moon amid signs that partnership is faltering on North Korea (*WaPo*, 05/21/2018)
Trump suggests summit with NKorea's Kim could be delayed (*WaPo*, 05/22/2018)
Trump urges China to maintain tight NK border (*Korea Times*, 05/22/2018)
Trump willing to walk away from North Korea summit: Pence (*Reuters*, 05/21/2018)
U.N. seeks help of oil traders to enforce North Korea sanctions (*Reuters*, 05/22/2018)
U.S. bolsters Asia ballistic missile defense as Trump-Kim summit nears (*Reuters*, 05/22/2018)
US ambassador nominee hawkish on NK, China (*Korea Times*, 05/21/2018)
U.S. hopeful on North Korea summit but no concessions made: Pence (*Reuters*, 05/22/2018)
US, South Korea Presidents to Discuss Threat to Scrap Trump-Kim Summit (VOA, 05/22/2018)
US troops and Korea (*Korea Times*, 05/22/2018)
US wary of North Korean cyber prowess ahead of Kim-Trump summit (CNN, 05/21/2018)
What South Korea's Moon has but Trump does not: A sky-high approval rating (*WaPo*, 05/22/2018)
With North Korea summit on shaky ground, Trump to press South Korean leader (*Reuters*, 05/21/2018)
With North Korea, this time is different (*WaPo*, 05/21/2018)

In North Korea:

- NK declined to accept the list of SK journalists chosen to cover the dismantling of its nuclear test site Tuesday, making it technically hard for the SK media to join the event scheduled for this week. (*Yonhap*)
- NK media stepped up their rhetorical attacks on SK and joint military exercises with the US, warning Tuesday that a budding detente could be in danger. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- Interest in US novels and movies is growing in NK following the announcement that US-NK summit talks may be held next month in Singapore, sources in the nuclear-armed, one-party state say. (RFA)
- KJU and his negotiators indeed have carefully studied Trump's The Art of the Deal, probably also William Ury's works. So how will KJU apply those lessons learned in Singapore next

month? Only time will tell. So far, he has made all the right diplomatic moves. (Kenneth B. Dekleva, 38 North)

- NK's refusal to issue entry visas for S.Korean reporters to observe the shutdown of its nuclear test site casts doubt on whether it is serious about improving relations with SK, experts said Tuesday. (Choi Ha-young, *Korea Times*)
- NK declined to accept the list of SK journalists chosen to cover the dismantling of its nuclear test site Tuesday, making it technically hard for the SK media to join the event scheduled for this week. (*Yonhap*)
- NK declined to accept the list of S.Korean journalists chosen to cover the dismantling of its nuclear test site Tuesday, making it technically hard for the S.Korean media to join the event scheduled for this week (*Korea Times*)
- NK has refused visas for S.Korean journalists to enter the North to cover the regime's shutdown of its Punggye-ri nuclear testing site this week. But reporters from the US, UK, China and Russia received visas and left for NK on Tuesday. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- NK media is promoting the upcoming demolition of Punggye-ri ahead of the event and has permitted foreign journalists to air broadcasts of their arrival in Wonsan, a coastal city south of the nuclear test site. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- The NK authorities are now extorting homeless children for money, according to sources inside the country. These children, known as "kkotjebi" in NK, live in squalid conditions and do not receive support or protection from the authorities. (Kim Yoo Jin, *DailyNK*)
- NK has invited a handful of journalists to watch as it dismantles its only known nuclear test site, but experts warn the move is purely symbolic. (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)
- No weapons inspectors or individuals with any kind of expertise were expected to attend the event, which NK has said would "ensure transparency of discontinuance of the nuclear test." According to experts, evidence of NK nuclear weapons that might have been collected will now be lost to the world. (Jamie Tarabay, CNN)

In South Korea:

- SK President Moon arrived in Washington on Monday for talks with Trump about strategies for Trump's upcoming high-stakes summit with NK leader KJU. (*Yonhap*)
- Only time will tell how to verify the end of a nuclear NK with a comprehensive listing of all its atomic sites, factories and weapons whether the big deal with respect to CVID, PVID or SVID mutually among the two top leaders would be satisfying or not. (Lee Sun-ho, *Korea Times*)
- The upcoming summit between NK and the US will go on as scheduled despite fresh tensions on the Korean Peninsula, Seoul's top security official said here Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- Regarding some American media reports that Trump and his aides are skeptical about the outcome of the summit considering NK's changing attitude, Chung said Seoul officials have not felt such skepticism so far in their contacts with Washington officials. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- SK on Tuesday expressed regret over NK not allowing its journalists to visit the country and witness the dismantling of a nuclear test site slated for this week. (*Yonhap*)

- The SK president Moon is due to hold talks in the White House with Trump on Tuesday amid growing uncertainty over Trump's planned N.Korean summit in Singapore next month. (Julian Borger, *Guardian*)
- Four S.Korean journalists arrived in Beijing, Monday, on their way to NK to witness the regime's planned dismantling of a nuclear test site. But it remains undetermined whether they can enter the North, with Pyongyang suddenly renewing its provocative rhetoric against Seoul and declining to accept a list of journalists. (Lee Min-hyung , *Korea Times*)
- A senior Blue House official said it was "99.9 percent likely" that an historic NK-US summit will take place next month amidst growing worries about the North threatening to pull out of the meeting. (*Joongang Daily*)
- Trump is blaming KJU for changing the scope of their summit talks planned for next month and will doubtless air his frustrations when he meets with Moon in Washington on Tuesday. But in SK, many say the blame for the sudden problems in the diplomatic process lies squarely at the feet of someone else: John Bolton. (Anna Fifield, *WaPo*)
- DPK's peace agenda focuses on inter-Korean changes at the central and local government levels. The opposition Liberty Korea Party however is raising its voice over the validity of the agenda. LKP spokeswoman Jun Hee-kyung pointed out such discussions before the North's denuclearization are premature. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Foreign correspondents flew into NK Tuesday to witness the dismantling of the Punggye-ri nuclear test site but SK reporters weren't among them after Pyongyang refused to let them in. (*Joongang Daily*)
- What counts most is SK's stance. It must counter Pyongyang's calculated actions with determination. If we cannot stand on principle, denuclearization is a pipe dream. (*Joongang Daily*)

International:

- A commemorative coin featuring Trump and NK's KJU has been struck by the White House Communications Agency ahead of their planned summit next month. (AFP)
- When Trump and Moon first agreed to meet in Washington Tuesday, they seemed to genuinely believe they might be on the brink of a major rapprochement with the North. Now, there are concerns over whether the much-touted summit between Trump and KJU scheduled for Singapore on June 12 will happen at all. (Peter Apps, Reuters)
- Trump has cast doubt over whether his highly-anticipated meeting with KJU, the NK leader, will go ahead next month. (Nick Allen, Rozina Sabur, *Telegraph*)
- A small group of foreign journalists arrived in North Korea on Tuesday to cover the dismantling of the country's nuclear test site later this week, but without South Korean media initially also scheduled to participate. (*WaPo*)

- About two dozen journalists from Western and Chinese news organizations arrived in NK on Tuesday to witness the closure of its nuclear test site, an indication that the shutdown will go ahead amid renewed diplomatic uncertainty. (*Korea Times*)
- Former President Jimmy Carter says Trump has a shot at winning the Nobel Peace Prize if he's able to work out a significant peace deal on the Korean Peninsula. (Maegan Vazquez, CNN)
- Mike Pence, the US vice-president has warned NK not to try to "play" President Trump, who is willing to "walk away" from the negotiating table if his planned summit with KJU fails. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- Trump and his administration simply cannot be trusted. Following rather than leading Trump will make Moon untrustworthy to the skittish N.Koreans. If his government is to be successful it is time for him to tell Trump how this will go, what he will get, and what he can't do. (Stephen Costello, *Korea Times*)
- Moon and Trump were set to hold talks here Tuesday that many believe could decide the fate of Trump's scheduled summit with NK leader KJU (*Yonhap*)
- The National Endowment for Democracy has selected four SK-based NK human rights organizations for its annual Democracy Awards. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- US Vice President Mike Pence warned NK that it could end up like Libya if it fails to make a nuclear deal with Washington. (Sophie Tatum and James Griffiths, CNN)
- "It would be a great mistake for KJU to think he could play Trump," Pence said amid growing concerns that the meeting could become an embarrassing failure for Trump if he does not achieve his goal of getting NK to abandon its nuclear weapons. (*Korea Times*)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Monday that President Trump's willingness to meet with the NK leader is a reflection of US commitment to diplomacy. (*Yonhap*)
- After weeks of distinctly watered-down criticisms of its enemies, NK is once again ratcheting up its rhetoric as SK and the US carry out joint military exercises and Moon holds talks in Washington with Trump. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- US Vice-President Mike Pence has warned NK's KJU not to "play" President Trump if they meet next month. (BBC)
- Vice President Mike Pence says no concessions have been given or offered to NK in the run-up to a June summit between Trump and KJU. (AP)
- It's unclear what the maximalist stance struck by Bolton and Pompeo will achieve other than pushing the countries closer to military conflict. The White House might be talking about maximum pressure, but what's really happening is that it is moving to accommodate Kim. (Ishaan Tharoor, *WaPo*)
- Administration aides have grown increasingly skeptical the summit between Trump and KJU will come to fruition amid harsh rhetoric from Pyongyang and concerns over the meeting's agenda. (Kevin Liptak and Jeremy Diamond, CNN)
- The historic diplomatic encounter planned .for three weeks from now between Trump and KJU appeared in doubt on Tuesday as Trump questioned whether preparations could be completed in time. (Kevin Liptak, CNN)
- KJU's recent threat to pull out of the upcoming summit with Trump appears to be a ploy to take advantage of Trump's main weakness as a negotiator: He often makes major concessions without securing anything of significance in exchange. (YJ Fischer, CNN)

- Trump said on Tuesday there was a substantial chance his summit with KJU would not take place as planned on June 12 amid concerns Kim is not committed to denuclearization. (Steve Holland, Jeff Mason, *Reuters*)
- Trump has not changed his mind about meeting with NK leader KJU next month, one of his Cabinet members said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- Weeks before his planned NK summit, Trump is staring down a dealmaker's worst nightmare: overpromising and under-delivering. As the US-NK summit draws near, the president and his allies are growing increasingly anxious about how he can score a win on the world stage. (Catherine Lucey and Zeke Miller, AP)
- Trump will meet with SK President Moon at the White House on Tuesday amid signs that his close partnership with Seoul in brokering a historic nuclear deal with KJU is faltering. (David Nakamura, *WaPo*)
- Trump suggested Tuesday that a planned historic meeting with KJU could be delayed. He said, "There's a very substantial chance that it won't work out" for June 12. (Zeke Miller and Catherine Lucey, AP)
- Trump on Monday urged China on Monday to maintain a secure border with NK, pressing Beijing ahead of his anticipated meeting with KJU next month aimed at denuclearization. (*Korea Times*)
- Trump is willing to walk away from an unprecedented summit with KJU scheduled for next month, US Vice President Mike Pence said on Monday, after NK called into question the meeting last week. (*Reuters*)
- A UN monitoring group wants to enlist the help of the world's biggest oil trading companies to enforce sanctions that cap the amount of crude and related products NK can import, the coordinator said. (Julia Payne, *Reuters*)
- The USS Milius, one of the US Navy's most advanced guided missile destroyers, arrived in Japan on Tuesday to reinforce defenses against any ballistic missile attacks by NK, or anyone else in East Asia. (Tim Kelly, *Reuters*)
- Attention is being drawn to how the new US ambassador to Seoul will affect Washington's stance toward Pyongyang, as the nominee is known as a hawk toward NK and China. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- The US remains hopeful about a planned June 12 summit with NK but has not made concessions in advance of the historic meeting to discuss denuclearization, US Vice President Mike Pence said on Tuesday. (*Reuters*)
- Trump and Moon are set to meet at the White House Tuesday amid increasing skepticism of the chances for a successful US-NK summit and doubts the meeting will take place as planned. (Steve Herman, VOA)
- If SK and NK sign a pece treaty and stick to it, the rationale for the US military presence here will be weakened sharply. If the two Koreas maintain a de facto unified state and seek and win the status of a permanently neutral country by persuading the surrounding powers, they will need no foreign soldiers on the peninsula. (Choi Sung-jin, *Korea Times*)
- The US intelligence community is exploring acquiring or developing new technological means of protecting its communication channels prior to the planned meeting between Trump and KJU in June in Singapore. (Jenna McLaughlin, CNN)

- Trump and Moon are coming at that shared goal from much different political positions: While Trump's approval numbers are mired in the low 40s, Moon's approval stands at 75 percent of S.Koreans. (Adam Taylor, WaPo)
- Three weeks before an unprecedented US-NK summit is supposed to take place, Trump will meet Moon on Tuesday as US officials try to figure out whether Pyongyang is serious about negotiating a deal on denuclearization. (Christine Kim, Matt Spetalnick, David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)
- Consolidating permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula would be a fitting final chapter of that story of American sacrifice and diplomatic success. (Cho Yoon Je, WaPo)

Prepared by James Park, Dohyun Kim, Sohee Ha, HRNK Research Interns

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Wednesday, May 23, 2018

There are no human rights in North Korea. Greg Scarlatoiu @GordonGChang @TheDailyBeast; North Korea: civil society groups confront abysmal rights climate; The Latest: Pompeo Hopeful N. Korea Talks Will Take Place

Top News:

There are no human rights in North Korea. Greg Scarlatoiu @GordonGChang @TheDailyBeast (*John Batchelor Show*, 05/16/2018)

North Korea: civil society groups confront abysmal rights climate (*Democracy Digest*, 05/22/2018)

In North Korea:

(6th LD) N. Korean official: Nuke-test site demolition may be possible on Thursday (*Yonhap*, 05/23/2018)

Central Military Commission Meeting Held (*NK Leadership Watch*, 05/23/2018)

How to get to North Korea's nuclear site (CNN, 05/23/2018)

North Korea designates Chagang Province as special zone, possibly to conceal nuclear weapons (*Daily*NK, 05/23/2018)

North Korea presses on with nuclear site closure despite summit doubts (*Guardian*, 05/23/2018)

North Korean media stir up optimism ahead of nuclear site shutdown (*Korea Times*, 05/23/2018)

North Korea's Punggye-ri Nuclear Test Site: Viewing Areas Identified and Preparations for Closure Continue (*38th North*, 05/22/2018)

Restaurant manager reveals he tricked North Korean waitresses into defecting (CNN, 05/21/2018)

In South Korea:

GS Chairman urges group to find role in inter-Korean affairs (*Korea Times*, 05/23/2018)

Over 70% South Koreans back cultural exchanges with North Korea (*Korea Times*, 05/23/2018)
S. Koreans increasingly favorable to N. Korea: poll (*Yonhap*, 05/23/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(5th LD) S. Korean journalists in N. Korea to cover nuke-testing site demolition (*Yonhap*, 05/23/2018)
[INTERVIEW] 'NK economic growth, democracy should go hand in hand' (*Korea Times*, 05/23/2018)
(LEAD) KT creates task force for inter-Korean exchange (*Yonhap*, 05/23/2018)
Long way to go before Koreas recover mutual trust: unification minister (*Yonhap*, 05/23/2018)
North accepts list of South Korean journalists to cover dismantling of nuclear test site(*Joongang*, 05/24/2018)
Pyongyang relents, Seoul gov't flies 8 reporters to Wonsan (*Joongang*, 05/24/2018)
'The North's devastated forests leave it vulnerable to disaster' (*Joongang*, 05/24/2018)

International:
China says hopes U.S.-North Korea summit can proceed smoothly (*Reuters*, 05/23/2018)
Diplomacy gives jolt of energy to North Korea-China trade (*Joongang*, 05/24/2018)
Fear of ignorance (*Joongang*, 05/24/2018)
Hawks versus doves (KOR) (*Joongang*, 05/24/2018)
International journalists depart for North Korea's nuclear test site, as experts warn demolition could destroy valuable evidence (*Telegraph*, 05/23/2018)
Mike Pompeo: Top priority is North Korea denuclearization (UPI, 05/23/2018)
Nikki Haley says she used Trump's unpredictability to win North Korea sanctions (CNN, 05/23/2018)
N. Korea Approves S. Korean Journalists to Observe Nuclear Test Site Closing (VOA, 05/23/2018)
NK ramping up criticism over joint air drills (*Korea Times*, 05/23/2018)
Nobel laureate Maguire, female activists to lead peace march near DMZ (*Yonhap*, 05/23/2018)
Parties show mixed reactions to Korea-U.S. summit (*Yonhap*, 05/23/2018)
Pentagon Report: Nukes Are Central to North Korea Strategy (NYT, 05/22/2018)
Pompeo promises 'zero concessions' to North Korea until 'credible steps' are made (*WaPo*, 05/23/2018)
Pompeo says 'bad deal' with North Korea not an option, hopeful about summit (*Reuters*, 05/23/2018)
Russian foreign minister Lavrov plans to visit North Korea: agencies (*Reuters*, 05/23/2018)
S. Korea Tries to Ease Trump's Doubts Over N. Korea Summit (VOA, 05/23/2018)
The Latest: Pompeo Hopeful N. Korea Talks Will Take Place (NYT, 05/23/2018)
The Road to Singapore: Trump, the Two Koreas and the Quality of Mercy (*National Interest*, 05/22/2018)
Trump Backs Away From Demand for Immediate North Korean Denuclearization (NYT,05/22/2018)
Trump has a 'strong' denuclearizing plan (*Joongang*, 05/24/2018)
Trump says summit with North Korea's Kim Jong-un may be delayed (BBC, 05/23/2018)
Trump's North Korea summit was a history-making gamble. Now it may not happen. (CNN, 05/23/2018)
What if NK makes offer US can't refuse? (*Korea Times*, 05/23/2018)
What the US and North Korea mean when they talk about 'denuclearization' (CNN, 05/23/2018)

Top News:

- HRNK, Korea Economic Institute of America, and the International Council on Korean Studies held its annual conference entitled "Security Issues on the Korean Peninsula" on Thursday, May 17th. Topics included panels about human rights in NK, NK's economy, Korea's troop deployment to the Vietnam War, and a keynote address by Lt. General Raymond Ayres. (*John Batchelor Show*)
- Some 40 organizations, representing more than 200 NGOs, sent a letter to Moon asking him to urge KJU to act on UN human rights recommendations; engage on inter-Korean human rights issues; push for the reunion of separated families; and increase inter-Korean people-to-people contact. The organizations also called on the S.Korean government to provide NK humanitarian aid with appropriate monitoring. (*Democracy Digest*)

In North Korea:

- A N.Korean official said Wed. that, weather permitting, the country will soon dismantle its nuclear test facilities. (*Yonhap*)
- DPRK state media reported on May 18 that the Workers' Party of Korea Central Military Commission held its first enlarged meeting since the 7th Party Congress in May 2016. KJU chaired and guided the meeting. (*NK Leadership Watch*)
- A small coterie of foreign reporters has set off on a marathon journey to a remote location in NK to witness Pyongyang's purported destruction of the Punggye-ri nuclear test site. (James Griffiths, CNN)
- The N.Korean government has named Chagang Province a "Special Songun (military-first) Revolutionary Zone" and has reportedly created plans to designate the province a strategic region for the military. The region is mountainous, and harbors ideal terrain in which to conceal the country's nuclear weapons. (Lee Sang Yong, *DailyNK*)
- NK is pushing ahead with plans to close the country's only known nuclear test site despite confusion over the fate of a planned summit between its leader, KJU, and Trump. (*Guardian*)
- N.Korean media have been using the impending shutdown of the Punggye-ri nuclear testing site for propaganda. (Lee Suh-yoon, *Korea Times*)
- Recent commercial satellite imagery indicates additional preparations for the announced closure of NK's Punggye-ri Nuclear Test Site that could take place in the next few days, depending on weather. (Frank V. Pabian, Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., Jack Liu, *38th North*)
- Heo Gang-il, the manager of the restaurant in the Chinese port city of Ningbo, said that the 12 N.Korean waitresses didn't defect -- he tricked them into going to SK at the bidding of SK's spy agency, the National Intelligence Service. (Paula Hancocks, Jungeun Kim, Yoonjung Seo, CNN)

In South Korea:

- GS Group Chairman Huh Chang-soo said Wednesday that the group needs to find opportunities in the ever changing world international affairs, but especially those on the Korean Peninsula. (Nam Hyun-woo, *Korea Times*)
- More S.Koreans are in favor of inter-Korean economic and cultural exchanges and these sentiments are largely based on economic considerations, according to a state-run think tank's annual survey issued Wed. (Choi Ha-young, *Korea Times*)
- South Koreans who perceive North Korea as a partner for cooperation and favor the reunification of the two countries have increased significantly this year, according to a survey released on Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Eight S. Korean journalists arrived in NK on Wed. by government plane to cover the dismantlement of its nuclear test facilities expected later this week. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's No. 2 mobile carrier, KT Corp., said Wed. it has created a task force to support inter-Korean economic cooperation and expand exchanges in information and communications technology. (*Yonhap*)
- Talks are rampant about investments into NK, along with international efforts to denuclearize the North, which are expected to involve lifting of economic sanctions against it. Amid speculation whether KJU would follow the path of China or Vietnam, Cho Jung-hun, head of the Institute of Unification at Ajou University, calls for "political liberation" as a factor that needs to be considered in any development plan. (Choi Ha-young, *Korea Times)*
- SK and NK are standing in the initial stage of what will be a long-haul process of rebuilding mutual trust after a decade of hiatus, Seoul's unification minister said Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea accepted the list of South Korean journalists to cover the dismantling of the Punggye-ri nuclear test site on Wednesday morning. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang*)
- A group of eight South Korean journalists flew into North Korea on Wednesday afternoon after Pyongyang, at the last minute, accepted Seoul's list of reporters to cover the dismantling of the Punggye-ri nuclear test site. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang*)
- After the meeting between the two Koreas last month, the first inter-Korean cooperation project pursued by the government is replanting trees on the bare mountains of the North. SK's Blue House decided to form a task force team dedicated to expanding forestation cooperation with the North. (Yang Young-yu, *Joongang*)

International:

- China's Foreign Ministry said on Wed. China has played a positive role on the Korean peninsula and hopes the planned US-NK summit can proceed smoothly. (*Reuters*)
- Spirits are rising on both sides of the Yalu River, which separates NK from China, following KJU's meeting with Xi Jinping in Dalian. With relations between the two countries warming after a prolonged freeze following KJU's rise to power in 2011, China's border town of Dandong, which faces North Korea, has been witnessing renewed economic expansion. (Ko Soo-suk, Shim Kyu-seok, *Joongang*)

- Kim Hyun-ki discusses his surprise at Trump's remarks on following the "Libya model" and remarks made by so-called pro-Moon figures on NK's peace offensive. (Kim Hyun-ki, *Joongang*)
- Hopes for the denuclearization of NK have receded. After Pyongyang criticized the SK-US joint air force drills and Trump hinted at the possibility of canceling his summit with KJU, the prospects for such a historic meeting are getting slimmer. (*Joongang*)
- International journalists on Wed. set out on an arduous journey to witness the dismantlement of NK's nuclear test site, Punggye-ri – an event that experts predict will be more about PR than substance. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- Pompeo said Wed. his top national security priority is the denuclearization of NK, but whether the summit between Trump and KJU occurs hinges on KJU's willingness. (Anna Kook, UPI)
- US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley said she used Trump's unpredictability to get the Chinese to back tougher international sanctions on North Korea. (Laura Koran, CNN)
- Eight S.Korean journalists arrived in NK Wed. after receiving a last-minute approval by the reclusive regime to observe the dismantling of the North's nuclear test site. (VOA)
- NK is ramping up criticism about the joint air force exercises by Seoul and Washington, calling them a "rash act of military provocation." (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- Mairead Maguire, the 1976 Nobel Peace Prize laureate, and dozens of other female activists from around the world will march toward the DMZ this week in a campaign to call for lasting peace with NK. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's political parties on Wed. showed mixed reactions to the outcome of a summit between Moon and Trump in Washington. (*Yonhap*)
- Mike Pompeo said on Wed. the US is prepared to walk away from nuclear negotiations with NK if an upcoming meeting between Trump and KJU heads in the wrong direction. (Lesley Wroughton, Patricia Zengerle, *Reuters*)
- Mike Pompeo sought Wed. to mitigate lawmakers' concerns that Trump's diplomatic venture withNK is faltering, stressing that the US had made "zero concessions" to the regime and would continue to hold firm until Pyongyang takes "credible steps" toward denuclearization. (Karoun Demirjian, John Hudson, *WaPo*)
- Moon was more optimistic than Trump about prospects for the US-NK nuclear summit, following their meeting in Washington on Tues. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- A Pentagon report to Congress says NK sees nuclear weapons as central to its security, an assessment that would seem to complicate Trump's effort to persuade the North's dictator, KJU, to give them up. (AP)
- Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov plans to visit North Korea, Russian news agencies quoted a foreign ministry spokeswoman as saying on Wednesday. (*Reuters*)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo says it is ultimately up to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un whether a planned summit with President Donald Trump takes place. (AP)
- The latest twists and turns in the proposed upcoming Singapore Summit have all the makings of the classic 1940 B-grade comedy "Road to Singapore," with Bob Hope, Bing Crosby and Dorothy Lamour. (Dennis P. Halpin, *National Interest*)
- President Trump opened the door on Tuesday to a phased dismantling of North Korea's nuclear weapons program, backing away from his demand that the North's leader, Kim

Jong-un, completely abandon his arsenal without any reciprocal American concessions. (Mark Landler, NYT)

- Trump said he has a "strong idea" of how to denuclearize NK and that he preferred the process to be "all-in-one," as he headed into a summit with Moon Tues. in Washington. (Kang Jin-kyu, Sarah Kim, *Joongang*)
- Trump has said there is a "very substantial chance" a historic summit with NK's KJU next month may not happen. (BBC)
- Trump's spur-of-the-moment decision to agree to a face-to-face meeting with NK leader KJU represented an unprecedented opportunity, but also a huge risk, most recently highlighted by a case of cold feet on both sides. (Stephen Collinson, CNN)
- NK has just reminded the US that it is intent on negotiating with the US, not accepting an administration diktat, especially one explicitly modeled after the Libya deal, which ultimately ended in the gruesome death of Moammar Gadhafi, who agreed to its terms. (Doug Bandow, *Korea Times*)
- Over the past decade, US and SK have had one clear goal when it comes to denuclearization in NK: CVID -- complete, verifiable, irreversible dismantlement of Pyongyang's program. (Ben Westcott, CNN)

Prepared by Lauren Jackson, HRNK Research Intern

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Thursday, May 24, 2018

Letter to Chairman KJU; With KJU, There's No "Win-Win"; Going Global: KJU-Trump NK Summit; Trump team praises brutal N.Korean leader; N.Korean defector resigns from spy agency think tank

Top News:

Letter to Chairman Kim Jong-un (*White House*, 05/24/2018)
With Kim Jong Un, There's No 'Win-Win' (*WSJ*, 05/24/2018)
Going Global 5/21/18 Guest Greg Scarlatoiu Exec Dir of HRNK : Kim Jong Un - Trump North Korea Summit(*Going Global*,05/21/2018)
Trump team praises brutal North Korean leader (CNN, 05/24/2018)
N.Korean defector resigns from spy agency think tank (*Yonhap*, 05/24/2018)

In North Korea:

(2nd LD) NK threatens to walk away from planned summit with US (*Yonhap*, 05/24/2018)
(4th LD) NK demolishes nuclear test site (*Yonhap*, 05/24/2018)
Analysts: Site demolition no guarantee of NK denuclearization (*UPI*, 05/24/2018)

Can Trump Guarantee KJU Will Stay if NK Denuclearizes? (VOA, 05/24/2018)
Choe Son Hui Issues Statement on Forthcoming US-DPRK Summit (*NK Leadership Watch*, 05/24/2018)
Don't miss Kim's real leverage (*Joongang Daily*, 05/24/2018)
High-profile defector quits state-sponsored job (*Joongang Daily*, 05/24/2018)
KJU's brother 'crazy about made-in-US guitar' (*Korea Times*, 05/24/2018)
(LEAD) NK says it 'completely' dismantled nuclear test site (*Yonhap*, 05/24/2018)
(News Focus) NK shows 'pre-emptive' goodwill gesture with nuke site removal (*Yonhap*, 05/24/2018)
NK blows up nuclear test site amid doubts over summit (*Reuters*, 05/24/2018)
NK blows up Punggye-ri nuke site (*Korea Times*, 05/24/2018)
NK blows up tunnels at Punggye-ri nuclear test site (CNN, 05/24/2018)
NK casts doubt on summit and warns US of 'nuclear showdown' (*The Guardian*, 05/24/2018)
NK collapses tunnels at nuclear test site: media reports (*Reuters*, 05/24/2018)
NK confirms dismantling of nuclear site (*Reuters*, 05/24/2018)
NK Demolishes Nuclear Test Site as Journalists Watch (NYT, 05/24/2018)
NK 'destroys' nuclear test site as world's media watches (*The Guardian*, 05/24/2018)
NK escalates tug-of-war with US ahead of summit (*Korea Times*, 05/24/2018)
N. Korean delegates visit major Chinese trade port (*Yonhap*, 05/24/2018)
NK's nuclear test site becomes a thing of the past (*Yonhap*, 05/24/2018)
NK nuclear test tunnels at Punggye-ri 'destroyed' (BBC, 05/24/2018)
NK 'preparing to hide nuclear arsenal in remote mountain province' (*Telegraph*, 05/24/2018)
NK Said It Destroyed Nuclear Site, Hours Before Trump Canceled Meeting (NYT, 05/24/2018)
NK says US Vice-President Pence's comments 'stupid' (BBC, 05/24/2018)
NK Shuts Down Nuclear Site (VOA, 05/24/2018)
NK slams 'ignorant and stupid' Pence, renews summit threat (*Korea Times*, 05/24/2018)
NK threatens to pull plug on summit with U.S. for second time (*Joongang Daily*, 05/24/2018)
NK threatens to scrap Trump summit after Mike Pence's 'ignorant and stupid' remarks (*Telegraph*, 05/24/2018)
NK to Reconsider Summit if US Continues 'Evil Acts' (VOA, 05/24/2018)
Pyongyang threatens to pull plug on summit (*Joongang Daily*, 05/24/2018)
Some in NK's elite face reduced rations and isolation from market system (*Daily NK*. 05/24/2018)
The Punggye-ri Nuclear Test Site: A Test Tunnel Tutorial (*38North*, 05/23/2018)
Trump: We'll Know Fate of Nk Summit by Next Week (VOA, 05/24/2018)

In South Korea:
(2nd LD) Moon urges direct talks between Trump, KJU to resolve standoff (*Yonhap*, 05/24/2018)
(LEAD) Moon convenes meeting with top security officials after Trump cancels NK summit (*Yonhap*, 05/24/2018)
Moon returns home after summit with Trump (*Yonhap*, 05/24/2018)
N.Korean defector resigns from spy agency think tank (*Korea Times*, 05/24/2018)
Report: Ex-N.Korean diplomat resigns from S.Korean think tank (UPI, 05/24/2018)
SK could propose reconvening canceled talks with NK: official (*Yonhap*, 05/24/2018)
SK's presidential office says it's trying to figure out Trump's intention (*Yonhap*, 05/24/2018)
Summits give aged N.Korean spies hope of returning home (*WaPo*, 05/24/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

Cheong Wa Dae hints at resuming contact with NK (*Korea Times*, 05/24/2018)

International:

Britain Disappointed After Trump Cancels NK Summit: UK PM May (NYT, 05/24/2018)
China says it hopes NK-US summit proceeds smoothly (*Reuters*, 05/24/2018)
Grandstanding All Around as NK's Punggye-ri Nuclear Test Site is about to Close (38*North*, 05/23/2018)
How Kim-Trump tensions escalated: The more the U.S. said 'Libya,' the angrier North Korea got (*WaPo*, 05/24/2018)
Human rights an afterthought ahead of US-North Korea summit (*WaPo*, 05/24/2018)
KJU knows the stakes, Pompeo tells Congress (*Joongang Daily*, 05/24/2018)
North Korea carries out what it says is the demolition of its nuclear test site in the presence of foreign journalists (*WaPo*, 05/24/2018)
North Korea declares its nuclear test site disabled hours before Trump cancels summit(*WaPo*, 05/24/2018)
N.Koreans Defy Sanctions With Restaurants in Cambodia (*Bloomberg*, 05/22/2018)
NK must disarm before any economic relief, says Mike Pompeo (*The Guardian*, 05/24/2018)
North Korea slams Pence as summit with Trump grows shakier (*WaPo*, 05/24/2018)
North Korea summit nixed, Trump's foray into high-stakes diplomacy flops (WaPo, 05/24/2018)
NK, US to hold working-level talks in Singapore (*Korea Times*, 05/24/2018)
Pompeo: Fate of US-NKorea summit rests with KJU (*WaPo*, 05/23/2018)
Pompeo out of sync with Trump on NK (*Politico*, 05/23/2018)
(2nd LD) Pompeo says he raised human rights issue with KJU (*Yonhap*, 05/24/2018)
Pompeo: Trump-KJU Summit Still on Schedule (VOA, 05/24/2018)
Pompeo: US will walk away from NK talks if deal isn't right (*Yonhap*, 05/24/2018)
READ: Trump's letter to KJU canceling the summit (CNN, 05/24/2018)
Secretary of State Mike Pompeo says US received no responses from North Korea to outreach on Singapore summit planning (*WaPo*, 05/24/2018)
Shaky talks (*Korea Times*, 05/24/2018)
Should you worry about a U.S. war with North Korea? Not really. (*WaPo*, 05/24/2018)
Shutting down North Korea's test site is not as easy as it looks. Ask France, Britain and the U.S. (*WaPo*, 05/24/2018)
The bad timing of Trump's North Korea letter (*WaPo*, 05/24/2018)
The Latest: Pompeo Not Saying if SK Was Notified(NYT, 05/24/2018)
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Trump administration wants more high-level talks with NK before summit (CNN, 05/24/2018)
Trump calls off meeting with KJU due to NK's 'open hostility(*Telegraph*, 05/24/2018)
Trump Calls Off Summit Meeting With N.Korean Leader (NPR, 05/24/2018)
Trump Calls Off NK Summit (VOA, 05/24/2018)
Trump cancels summit with NK scheduled for next month(*Reuters*,05/24/2018)
Trump cancels KJU summit amid NK 'hostility' (*BBC*, 05/24/2018)
Trump cancels talks with NK in letter to KJU (*UPI*, 05/24/2018)

Trump cancels summit, citing 'open hostility' by North Korea (*WaPo*, 05/24/2018)
Trump Cancels NK Summit (WSJ, 05/24/2018)
Trump cancels June 12 summit with North Korea's Kim, citing 'tremendous anger and open hostility' in recent statement (*WaPo*, 05/24/2018)
Trump canceled the summit with North Korea. Here's the real missed opportunity. (*WaPo*, 05/24/2018)
Trump Cancels Summit, Citing 'Open Hostility' by NK (NYT, 05/24/2018)
(2nd LD) Trump cancels NKsummit (*Yonhap*, 05/24/2018)
Trump cancels North Korea nuclear summit (*The Guardian*, 05/24/2018)
Trump's foolish conviction on North Korea (*WaPo*, 05/24/2018)
Trump-KJU summit: Words that could anger NK (BBC, 05/24/2018)
Trump-KJU summit 'depends on KJU' - Mike Pompeo (BBC, 05/24/2018)
Trump's North Korea rhetoric was always bold predictions tempered with a ya-never-know(*WaPo*, 05/24/2018)
Trump says summit with NK's KJU may be delayed (BBC, 05/24/2018)
Trump says will know next week if NK summit to go ahead (*Reuters*, 05/24/2018)
Trump says he might accept a 'phase-in' of North Korea's denuclearization (*WaPo*, 05/24/2018)
Trump says US military is 'ready if necessary' to respond to 'foolish or reckless act' by North Korea (*WaPo*, 05/24/2018)
Trump says US military is 'ready if necessary' to respond to 'foolish or reckless act' by North Korea (*WaPo*, 05/24/2018)
Trump says it's 'possible' that North Korea summit happens June 12 or later, awaits 'constructive' steps from Kim (*WaPo*, 05/24/2018)
Trump says 'maximum pressure campaign will continue' against North Korea (*WaPo*, 05/24/2018)
Trump says 'phase-in' denuclearization of NK may be necessary (*Yonhap*, 05/24/2018)
(LEAD) Trump says will know next week if NK summit still on (*Yonhap*, 05/24/2018)
Trump scraps summit with NK (*The Hill*, 05/24/2018)
Trump's Relationship With NK Just Got More Dangerous (NYT, 05/24/2018)
Trump warns NK against 'foolish or reckless' acts (*Yonhap*, 05/24/2018)
UN Chief Guterres Calls for Dialogue After Trump Cancels NK Summit (NYT, 05/24/2018)
UN clears N. Koreans' travel to Singapore summit: reports (*Yonhap*, 05/24/2018)
UN exempts N.Koreans meeting with Trump from sanctions (*WaPo*, 05/23/2018)
UN Secretary-General: "Deeply concerned" by the cancellation of the summit between Donald Trump and North Korea's Kim (*WaPo*, 05/24/2018)
[URGENT] Trump cancels summit with KJU (*Korea Times*, 05/24/2018)
White House: NK's Response to Pence Was 'Last Straw' (NYT, 05/24/2018)
Why nuclear war with North Korea is less likely than you think (*WaPo*, 05/24/2018)

Top News:

- "I was very much looking forward to being there with you. Sadly, based on the tremendous anger and open hostility displayed in your most recent statement, I feel it is inappropriate, at this time, to have this long-planned meeting," Trump wrote. "Therefore, please let this letter

serve to represent that the Singapore summit, for the good of both parties, but to the detriment of the world, will not take place."(*White House*)

- In this piece for the WSJ, Nicholas Eberstadt, a founding director and current board member of HRNK, states that none of the ordinary rules of diplomacy apply with NK. He states that with NK, there is no "win-win," as NK only believes in "win-lose" outcomes. He provides a few suggestions for new approaches that the Trump administration should consider when dealing with NK. (Nicholas Eberstadt, WSJ)
- On May 21st, 2018, HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu appeared on Going Global with David Delgado, which ranked #67 of 100 on Mixlr's trending chart. For this segment, Scarlatoiu discussed a range of issues like NK's songbun classification system, the gulag-style political prison camps, and the UN Commission of Inquiry Report (COI). He asserted that the Kim regime is aware of the human rights situation in the country and is attempting to twist the arm of the Moon administration in SK over the defection of 12 restaurant workers. The Kim regime, according to Scarlatoiu, fears the N.Korean escapees because they know the truth behind NK's abysmal human rights situation. Finally, Scarlatoiu said that the only way for the KJU regime to survive is to do away with its nuclear weapons and political prison camps and to implement true reform. (Greg Scarlatoiu, David Delgado, *Going Global*)
- President Trump on Thurs. left open the possibility his nuclear summit with N.Korean leader KJU will still take place, just hours after cancelling it. "It's possible that the existing summit could take place, or a summit at some later date," Trump said during a bill signing ceremony at the White House. (Jordan Fabian, CNN)
- Thae Yong-ho, a high-profile N.Korean defector, has offered to quit a think tank affiliated with SK's spy agency, its official said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)

In North Korea:

- NK will reconsider the planned summit with the US if Washington sticks to "unlawful and outrageous acts," its vice foreign minister said Thursday.(*Yonhap*)
- NK destroyed its only known nuclear test site with a series of explosions over several hours on Thursday, taking an initial step toward denuclearization, according to S.Korean journalists visiting the area. (*Yonhap*)
- NK's dismantlement of its nuclear site in Punggye-ri is symbolic but ultimately does not guarantee the regime will end nuclear testing or comply with the US calls for denuclearization, the US and S.Korean analysts say. (UPI)
- Experts are doubtful whether the US could "guarantee" that KJU would remain in power if NK denuclearizes as Trump promised during his meeting with Moon. (VOA)
- DPRK Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choe Son Hui (Ch'oe Son-hu'i) issued a statement on DPRK-US relations, ahead of the not-canceled-yet US-DPRK summit. Madame Choe also lambasted recent media comments of senior US Government officials. (*NK Leadership Watch*)
- KJU has decided to show Trump that the White House hasn't cornered the market on drama, much less the Nobel Prize for bringing the two Koreas peace in their time. As the leader of a regime known for its bombast and abrupt about-faces, KJU's threat to cancel their meeting

in Singapore next month is par for the course in dealing with Pyongyang. But KJU also is sending a message: their agenda needs to go beyond his nuclear weapons and missiles. (Kent Harrington,*Joongang Daily*)

- Thae Yong-ho, the loquacious N.Korean diplomat whose defection to SK in 2016 made him the highest-ranking official to defect in nearly 20 years, resigned from his post as adviser at an institute affiliated with the National Intelligence Service, the country's spy agency, on Wednesday. (*Joongang Daily*)
- Some of Kim Jong-chul's personal details can be found in a newly published book by high-profile N.Korean defector Thae Yong-ho. In the book, "Password for the secretariat on the third floor: Thae Yong-ho's testimony," Thae described the N.Korean leader's elder brother as a person "crazy about music and guitars." (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- NK said Thursday that it "completely" dismantled its only known nuclear test site, calling the move an important process toward global nuclear disarmament.(*Yonhap*)
- NK took an initial but potentially important step toward denuclearization Thursday by tearing down its underground nuclear test facilities, less than three weeks before summit talks with the US(*Yonhap*)
- NK followed through on a pledge to blow up tunnels at its nuclear test site on Thursday, N.Korean state media reported, as part of steps that have reduced tension on the Korean Peninsula and raised the possibility of a summit with the US. (Joyce Lee, *Reuters*)
- NK dismantled its Punggye-ri nuclear testing site, Thurs., in what it claims was its first step toward denuclearization. (Kim Bo-eun, Joint Press Corps., *Korea Times*)
- NK appeared to destroy at least three nuclear tunnels, observation buildings, a metal foundry and living quarters at its Punggye-ri nuclear test site on Thursday, in a process observed by invited international journalists. (CNN)
- NK cast further doubt on a planned summit between its leader, KJU, and Trump, warning that Pyongyang could make the US "taste an appalling tragedy". Vice foreign minister says nation will not 'beg the US for dialogue' and threatens America will 'taste an appalling tragedy' (*The Guardian*)
- NK followed through on a pledge to blow up tunnels used for nuclear testing on Thursday, S.Korean media reported, as part of steps that have reduced tension on the Korean peninsula and raised the possibility of a summit with the US.(*Reuters*)
- NK has completely dismantled its Punggye-ri nuclear test ground "to ensure the transparency of discontinuance of nuclear test," state news agency KCNA said on Thursday. (*Reuters*)
- KJU made good on his promise to demolish his country's nuclear test site, which was formally closed in a series of huge explosions Thursday as a group of foreign journalists looked on. (NYT)
- NK claims to have dismantled its only known nuclear test site, detonating explosives and collapsing its entrances in front of international television crews in a highly symbolic move.(*The Guardian*)
- A senior N.Korean diplomat said Thurs. she would have to ask the country's leader KJU to pull out of a planned meeting with Trump unless Washington stops "insulting" the regime. (Park Ji-won, *Korea Times*)

- NK's ruling party delegation visited Ningbo, a major Chinese trade port in the eastern coastal province of Zhejiang, this week apparently in search of opportunities for bilateral economic cooperation, sources in Beijing said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- NK's only known atomic bomb test site has become a thing of the past as the country delivered on its promised first step toward denuclearziation by destroying the facility on Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- NK appears to have blown up tunnels at its only nuclear test site, in a move to reduce regional tensions. Foreign reporters at the Punggye-ri site in the north-east said they witnessed a huge blast. Pyongyang later said the site had been dismantled. The move by the North is seen as part of a diplomatic rapprochement with SK and the US.(BBC)
- NK has designated remote Chagang Province as a Special Songun [military-first] Revolutionary Zone, fuelling suspicions that the region is being turned into a mountain redoubt for the regime's atomic weapons and missile programmes despite Pyongyang's promises to scrap its nuclear arsenal.(*Telegraph*)
- NK said on Thursday that it had destroyed its only known nuclear test site, three weeks before its leader, KJU, had been planning to meet with Trump. (NYT)
- A senior N.Korean official has dismissed remarks by Pence as "stupid", casting further uncertainty about a planned meeting between the two countries' leaders. (BBC)
- NK shut down its Punggye-ri nuclear test site on Thursday to demonstrate its commitment to denuclearization in advance of the planned the US-NK summit. The development came hours before Trump called off the highly anticipated meeting. (VOA)
- NK hit out at US Vice President Mike Pence Thurs., calling him "ignorant and stupid" as the reclusive state made a renewed threat to cancel an upcoming summit between the two countries. (AFP)
- Pyongyang threatened to pull out of its planned summit with Washington on Thursday for the second time in two weeks, accusing the US of offending its "goodwill" by saying NK could end up like Libya if it doesn't denuclearize. (*Joongang Daily*)
- NK hit out at Pence on Thursday, calling him "ignorant and stupid" as the reclusive state made a renewed threat to cancel an upcoming summit between the two countries. (*Telegraph*)
- NK is saying it will reconsider a summit with Trump if the US continues with what it calls "evil acts." (VOA)
- Pyongyang threatened to pull out of its planned summit with Washington on Thursday for the second time in two weeks, accusing the US of offending its "goodwill" by saying NK could end up like Libya if it doesn't denuclearize. (*Joongang Daily*)
- As international sanctions against NK continue, there have been reports that the provision of supplies to the descendants of those who fought against Japan and recipients of distinctions from the state is decreasing. Sources in NK say that this situation will accelerate the disaffection loyalists feel toward the regime. (Kim Yoo Jin, *Daily NK*)
- As the upcoming closure of NK's Punggye-ri Nuclear Test Site appears to be on track, there are still lingering questions about the layouts of the various test tunnels. While possible tunnel schematics have been proposed, a close study of commercial satellite imagery and other open source information suggests that the N.Koreans likely modeled their nuclear test tunnels after older designs used by the US, France and Pakistan. (38North)

- Trump said Wednesday that the US would know by next week whether he will meet with KJU on June 12 in Singapore as scheduled. (VOA)

In South Korea:

- Moon urged the leaders of the US and NK to directly talk to each other Friday, hours after Trump called off his scheduled meeting with North Korean leader KJU.(*Yonhap*)
- Moon convened a meeting with top security officials on Thursday night after the US Trump abruptly cancelled his planned summit with KJU, the presidential office said.(*Yonhap*)
- Moon returned home Thursday following his two-day trip to the US for a bilateral summit with Trump that largely focused on Trump's upcoming meeting with KJU. (*Yonhap*)
- Thae Yong-ho, former N.Korean diplomat who defected to SK in 2016, has quit his job at an institute affiliated with the nation's spy agency, the institute said Thurs. He had been serving as an advisory researcher. (Choi Ha-young, *Korea Times*)
- A high-profile defector who recently published a book on the N.Korean regime has resigned from his position at SK's Institute for National Security Strategy. (UPI)
- SK could propose reconvening the high-level talks with NK that were unilaterally called off at the last minute by the communist nation last week, a Cheong Wa Dae official said Thursday.(*Yonhap*)
- SK's presidential office said Thursday it is seeking to figure out the background of Trump's abrupt cancellation of his agreed-upon summit with NK's leader KJU.(*Yonhap*)
- The Associated Press recently spoke with seven of the former spies, all men in their 80s and 90s who insist NK is their "ideological homeland." Though they have seen past efforts to negotiate their return fall apart, the men are filled with renewed optimism after the leaders of the Koreas held a summit last month and pledged to resolve all humanitarian issues caused by their nations' 70 years of division. (Hyung-Jin Kim, AP)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The government is considering contacting NK to restart a suspended high-level dialogue, in a move to revive the inter-Korean peace momentum, Cheong Wa Dae said Thursday. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)

International:

- Britain is disappointed at the cancellation of the planned meeting next month between Trump and KJU, a spokeswoman for Prime Minister Theresa May said on Thursday. (NYT)
- China said on Thursday that it hopes a planned summit between the leaders of NK and the US can proceed smoothly, after Trump cast further doubt over whether the meeting would go ahead. (*Reuters*)
- As NK continues to prepare for the imminent closure of its Punggye-ri Nuclear Test Site, some media reports continue to misrepresent certain aspects of this act, claiming that by

dismantling buildings and closing the tunnels, these unilateral actions are tantamount to destruction of evidence and site sanitization. However, despite whatever actions may be taken in the next couple of days at the nuclear test site, the forensic evidence will outlast any explosions that may be used to collapse or seal the test tunnels. (38North)

- If you're serious about peace and denuclearization, maybe don't mention Libya. That appeared to be the message NK had for US once again on Thurs. when Pyongyang lashed out at Vice President Pence. (Rick Noack, WaPo)
- Ahead of a planned summit with N.Korean leader KJU, President Trump's focus has been on stagecraft, the will-they-or-won't-they drama and visions of a legacy-defining nuclear deal. The human rights woes of N.Koreans have been more of an afterthought. (Zeke Miller and Catherine Lucey, AP)
- Pompeo told congressional members in Washington on Wednesday that KJU understood that his country's economic prosperity hinges on a "strategic shift" which, in Pompeo's words, would result in "complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula." (*Joongang Daily*)
- NK carries out what it says is the demolition of its nuclear test site in the presence of foreign journalists. (AP)
- NK claimed Thurs. it destroyed its key nuclear weapons testing site, setting off explosions to collapse underground tunnels hours before President Trump called off a planned June 12 summit with N.Korean leader KJU. (Anna Fifield, WaPo)
- At least three and possibly more N.Korean restaurants are operating in Cambodia in apparent violation of UN sanctions that took effect earlier this year. (Sheridan Prasso, *Bloomberg*)
- Mike Pompeo has said the US will use a summit between Trump and KJU to demand NK completely and rapidly surrenders its nuclear weapons programme before it receives any economic relief. (*The Guardian*)
- NK has lobbed another verbal salvo at Washington ahead of an increasingly embattled plan for its leader, KJU, and President Trump to meet next month, calling Vice President Pence a "political dummy" and saying it is just as ready to meet in a nuclear confrontation as at the negotiating table. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- Trump has canceled the NK summit, sending a bizarrely informal and personal letter. His stated reason — KJU's comments — seems implausible (Jennifer Rubin, WaPo)
- The US and NK are set to hold working-level talks this weekend in Singapore ahead of a planned historic meeting between Trump and KJU, according to overseas reports, Thursday. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Wednesday he's "very hopeful" that a planned the US-NK summit will proceed but laid the fate of the historic meeting squarely with KJU, who won't be reassured by US demands for "rapid denuclearization." (Matthew Lee, Matthew Pennington, AP)
- The new secretary of state, Mike Pompeo has been Trump's point man on dealing with Pyongyang. He has traveled twice to meet with NK's reclusive leader and intends to lead the US side of any future nuclear negotiation. Yet this week, Pompeo found himself in a spot all too familiar to other Trump aides: out of sync with the president. (Nahal Toosi, *Politico*)

- Pompeo said Wed. that he raised the issue of NK's human rights abuses when he met leader KJU. (*Yonhap*)
- The top US diplomat who held face-to-face talks with KJU has assured lawmakers the US will negotiate only a strong denuclearization deal with Pyongyang. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo testified on Capitol Hill Wednesday ahead of an expected June 12 summit in Singapore between Trump and KJU (VOA)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Tues. that the US will walk away from nuclear talks with NK if the deal isn't "right." (*Yonhap*)
- Based on the tremendous anger and open hostility displayed in NK most recent statement, Trump feel it is inappropriate, at this time, to have this long-planned meeting. Therefore, please let this letter serve to represent that the Singapore summit, for the good of both parties, but to the detriment of the world, will not take place.(CNN)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo says US received no responses from NK to outreach on Singapore summit planning. (AP)
- The planned Jun. 12 summit between Trump and KJU in Singapore is less than 20 days away. But it is unclear if the meeting will take place as scheduled, as both sides are hinting at either delaying or even scrapping the talks. (*Korea Times*)
- There are plenty of reasons not to panic. Consider structural factors like geography and military capabilities help encourage peace, also the historical record, which suggests that preemptive wars rarely happen. (Dan Reiter, *WaPo*)
- NK's ruling regime may have sent the most significant signal to date that it is willing to denuclearize on Thurs., when it said it had blown up the Punggye-ri nuclear testing site in the country's mountainous northeast. But while closing down that site could end testing there, history shows that its nuclear legacy will likely endure for a very long time. (Rick Noack, *WaPo*)
- On Thurs., Trump announced that he has canceled a planned summit next month with N.Korean leader KJU, where the two leaders had been set to discuss denuclearization, among other issues. (Adam Taylor, *WaPo*)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo says he was involved in discussions late Wednesday and early Thursday that led to Trump's decision to pull out of a planned summit with KJU. But, he would not say exactly which, if any, other countries were given a head's up on the decision, including SK. (NYT)
- The Latest on President Trump canceling his planned summit with NK. (AP)
- The Trump administration wants additional high-level talks with NK and assurances from KJU that he is committed to giving up his nuclear program before next month's planned historic summit in order for the meeting to go ahead, a senior administration official involved in planning for the talks told CNN. (CNN)
- Trump has cancelled his highly anticipated meeting with KJU, accusing the N.Korean leader of "tremendous anger and open hostility"(*Telegraph*)
- Trump has called off a highly anticipated Jun. 12 summit with North Korean leader KJU. His decision comes hours after N.Korean Vice-Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui, in remarks carried on the country's official KCNA news service, said it would not "beg the US for dialogue" and warned that it could make Washington "taste an appalling tragedy." (Scott Neuman, Brett Neely, *NPR*)

- Trump has called off his planned June 12 summit in Singapore with KJU. "I was very much looking forward to being there with you (in Singapore)," Trump said in a letter to KJU released by the White House. "Sadly, based on the tremendous anger and open hostility displayed in your most recent statement, I feel it is inappropriate at time time to have this long planned meeting." (VOA)
- Trump on Thursday called off a planned summit with KJU, even after NK followed through on a pledge to blow up tunnels at its nuclear test site.(*Reuters*)
- Trump has cancelled a planned summit with KJU. He said he had made the decision based on the "tremendous anger and open hostility" in a recent N.Korean statement. Trump said it would be "inappropriate" to hold the summit as scheduled in Singapore on 12 June.(BBC)
- Trump is canceling the much anticipated summit with KJU. In a letter, Trump cited "tremendous anger and open hostility" from official N.Korean statements for the decision. (UPI)
- In a dramatic diplomatic turn, President Trump on Thurs. called off next month's summit with NK's KJU, calling the cancellation a "tremendous setback" for peace and stressing that the US military was ready to respond to any "foolish or reckless acts" by the North. (Catherine Lucey, Zeke Miller and Matthew Lee, AP)
- Trump on Thurs. called off the planned summit with NK, writing in a letter to the country's leader that he didn't want to go forward with the meeting because of "tremendous anger and open hostility displayed in your most recent statement." (Peter Nicholas, WSJ)
- Trump cancels June 12 summit with NK's Kim, citing 'tremendous anger and open hostility' in recent statement. (AP)
- President Trump announced Thurs. that the planned June 12 summit with N.Korean leader KJU is canceled. What does the cancellation mean? Does face-to-face diplomacy really matter? (Marcus Holmes and Keren Yarhi-Milo, *WaPo*)
- In a dramatic diplomatic turn, Trump on Thursday canceled next month's summit with KJU, citing the "tremendous anger and open hostility" in a recent statement by the North. (NYT)
- Trump on Thursday canceled a planned summit with North Korean leader KJU, citing the latter's "tremendous anger and open hostility."(*Yonhap*)
- Trump has cancelled his planned summit with the KJU, blaming his decision on a threatening statement from the Pyongyang regime.(*The Guardian*)
- Trump's narcissism and his lack of empathy are a hindrance in foreign affairs. He has to put himself in the shoes of his adversaries and that he cannot do. (Richard Cohen, *WaPo*)
- When Trump was trading insults with KJU just a few months ago, many wondered whether it was fuelling the prospect of all-out war. But despite barbs ranging from "little rocket man" to "mentally deranged US dotard", the pair agreed to hold talks in Singapore on 12 June. Some recent angry words have highlighted how precarious the situation is, and Trump now says the talks may not happen on time. (BBC)
- The planned summit between Trump and KJU depends on the N.Korean leader, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has said. (BBC)
- Over the course of Trump's discussion of a possible thaw in relations with NK, he has been deliberate about inflating the best-case scenario, usually tempering that with a casual "but you never know." (Philip Bump, *WaPo*)

- Trump has said there is a "very substantial chance" a historic summit with KJU next month may not happen. (BBC)
- Trump said on Wednesday he would know next week whether his summit with KJU would take place on June 12 in Singapore as scheduled, casting further doubt on plans for the unprecedented meeting. (James Oliphant, Lesley Wroughton, *Reuters*)
- US might accept a “phase-in” of NK's denuclearization but the dismantling of KJU's nuclear program must progress “rapidly,” President Trump said in an interview broadcast Thurs. (John Wagner, *WaPo*)
- Trump says US military is ‘ready if necessary’ to respond to ‘foolish or reckless act’ by NK. (AP)
- Trump says it’s ‘possible’ that NK summit happens June 12 or later, awaits ‘constructive’ steps from Kim. (AP)
- Trump says ‘maximum pressure campaign will continue’ against NK. (AP)
- Trump said Thursday he would be okay with the phased dismantlement of NK’s nuclear weapons program if it is "rapid."(*Yonhap*)
- Trump said Wednesday he will know next week whether his meeting with KJU will happen as planned. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump on Thurs. canceled his nuclear summit with N.Korean leader KJU, citing Kim’s “tremendous anger and open hostility” toward the US. (Jordan Fabian, Brett Samuels, *The Hill*)
- Trump topped a particularly inept diplomatic period by canceling his summit with the KJU. The previous policy of maximum economic pressure on NK may no longer be viable, so the risk is that Trump ends up reaching for the military toolbox. (Nicholas Kristof, NYT)
- Trump warned NK on Thursday against "foolish or reckless" acts after he canceled a planned summit with leader KJU.(*Yonhap*)
- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres voiced deep disappointment on Thursday at the cancellation of the planned meeting next month between Trump and KJU, announced earlier by the White House. (NYT)
- A UNs panel on Wednesday granted temporary exemptions from sanctions for N.Korean officials traveling to Singapore for a US-NK summit.(*Yonhap*)
- A UN committee on Wednesday granted KJU’s entire delegation an exemption from UN sanctions ahead of its scheduled trip to Singapore to meet with Trump. (Edith M. Lederer, AP)
- UN Secretary-General: “Deeply concerned” by the cancellation of the summit between Trump and NK's Kim. (AP)
- Trump cancelled his summit with KJU, citing "tremendous anger and open hostility" in a recent statement from Pyongyang, in a letter released by the White House. White House officials say backchannels for discussions with NK still open. But NK must first change its rhetoric. (*DPA, Reuters*)
- NK's reaction to comments by US Vice President Mike Pence were the "last straw" that led the White House to cancel Trump's planned summit with KJU, a White House official said on Thursday.(NYT)

- Other factors, including geography and military capabilities, will matter more than tweets or the characteristics of leaders. And these factors reduce the likelihood of war. (Michael C. Horowitz and Elizabeth N. Saunders, WaPo)

Prepared by Sohee Ha, Jinny Ahn, Dohyun Kim, HRNK Research Interns

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Friday, May 25, 2018

Going Global 5/21/18 Guest Greg Scarlatoiu Exec Dir of HRNK : Kim Jong Un - Trump North Korea Summit; Donald Trump: June 12 meeting with Kim Jong-un could still happen

Top News:

Going Global 5/21/18 Guest Greg Scarlatoiu Exec Dir of HRNK : Kim Jong Un - Trump North Korea Summit (*Going Global*, 05/21/2018)

In North Korea:

Demolitions witnessed at test site (*Joongang*, 05/26/2018)
Doubts linger over 'demolition' of North Korea nuke site (*Korea Times*, 05/25/2018)
Kaesong companies haven't given up hope (*Joongang*, 05/26/2018)
Kim Jong Un Visits a Railway Construction Site in Kangwo'n (*NK Leadership Watch*, 05/25/2018)
Kim Jong-un's brother demanded diplomat keep HMV open late during Clapton concert visit, defector recalls (*Telegraph*, 05/25/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korea says Punggye-ri dismantlement represents 'peace-loving' efforts (*Yonhap*, 05/25/2018)
N. Korea cancels joint taekwondo demonstration in Vatican (*Yonhap*, 05/25/2018)
N. Korean group backs enforcement of inter-Korean peace declaration (*Yonhap*, 05/25/2018)
North Korea crisis in 300 words (BBC, 05/25/2018)
North Korea 'preparing to hide nuclear arsenal in remote mountain province' (*Telegraph*, 05/25/2018)
Once viewed as underpaid errand runners, Inminban leaders appear to be gaining more authority (*Daily*NK, 05/25/2018)
P'unggye-ri Nuclear Test Site Demolished (In some places) (NK *Leadership Watch*, 05/25/2018)
Reporters in North Korea subjected to lockdown, Internet blackout (UPI, 05/25/2018)
Ruling party cautiously hopeful despite Trump's cancellation of summit with Kim (*Yonhap*, 05/25/2018)
Slamming on the brakes (KOR) (*Joongang*, 05/26/2018)
The day we saw North Korea's nuclear tunnels go up in smoke (CNN, 05/25/2018)
What is the situation in North Korea? (BBC, 05/25/2018)

In South Korea:

(LEAD) Cancellation of U.S.-N.K. summit expected to have limited impact on S. Korean market: BOK (*Yonhap*, 05/25/2018)

(LEAD) Moon convenes meeting with top security officials after Trump cancels N.K. summit(*Yonhap*, 05/25/2018)

(LEAD) Seoul shares end lower on summit cancellation (*Yonhap*, 05/25/2018)

(LEAD) South Korea vows to faithfully implement summit agreement with N.K. (*Yonhap*, 05/25/2018)

Moon's broker role faces setback (*Korea Times*, 05/25/2018)

North reacts cordially to Trump's cancelling of summit (*Joongang*, 05/26/2018)

Seoul shares trim earlier losses on tech gains (*Yonhap*, 05/25/2018)

S. Korea seeks to encourage direct communication between Trump, Kim (*Yonhap*, 05/25/2018)

S. Korean firms hold out hope for inter-Korean projects (*Yonhap*, 05/25/2018)

S. Korea's central bank holds meeting to watch impact of U.S.-N.K. summit cancellation(*Yonhap*, 05/25/2018)

South Korea 'trying to figure out Trump's intention' (*Korea Times*, 05/25/2018)

South Korea vows to faithfully implement summit agreement with North (*Korea Times*, 05/25/2018)

Trump cancels summit with Kim Jong-un in Singapore (*Joongang*, 05/25/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

Inter-Korean relations are key to boosting industry: Official (*Joongang*, 05/26/2018)

Justice for defectors (*Joongang*, 05/25/2018)

N. Korean political police call defectors in South Korea to persuade them to come back(*DailyNK*, 05/25/2018)

Pyongyang relents, Seoul gov't flies 8 reporters to Wonsan (*Joongang*, 05/25/2018)·

International:

(2nd LD) Pompeo says dialogue efforts to continue: Seoul ministry (*Yonhap*, 05/25/2018)

(3rd LD) Moon urges direct talks between Trump, Kim to resolve standoff (*Yonhap*, 05/25/2018)

(3rd LD) N. Korea says open to talks with U.S. despite Trump's cancellation of summit(*Yonhap*, 05/25/2018)

Asia Surprised Trump Canceled North Korea Nuclear Summit (VOA, 05/25/2018)

Analysts are mixed on cancellation's impact (*Joongang*, 05/26/2018)

Canceling Singapore meeting may not be as bad as it looks (*Korea Times*, 05/25/2018)

Dealmaker Trump takes page from own playbook and walks away (*Korea Times*, 05/25/2018)

Did these US-South Korean military drills cause Kim's change of heart? (CNN, 05/25/2018)

Donald Trump: June 12 meeting with Kim Jong-un could still happen (*Telegraph*, 05/25/2018)

Donald Trump says North Korea summit could be back on (*Guardian*, 05/25/2018)

Everybody Plays Games': How Trump Seesaws on Major Deals (NYT, 05/25/2018)

Germany regrets collapse of Trump-Kim summit (*Reuters*, 05/25/2018)

Japan's Abe says efforts to clinch U.S.-N.Korea summit must continue (*Reuters*, 05/25/2018)

Let's End Pyongyang's Game of Political Detentions (*38th North*, 05/24/2018)

Markets tumble after Trump nixes summit (*Joongang*, 05/26/2018)

Men with fragile egos should not have the world's faith placed in them (CNN, 05/25/2018)

Moon urges Trump, Kim to talk directly to resolve standoff (*Korea Times*, 05/25/2018)

(News Focus) Despite summit cancellation, U.S., N. Korea seen leaving door open for talks(*Yonhap*, 05/25/2018)
'No Nobel Peace Prize for Trump': South Koreans slam cancellation of summit (*Reuters*, 05/25/2018)
North Korea leaves door open for 'desperately necessary' Trump summit (*Guardian*, 05/25/2018)
North Korea urges US to revive summit (*Korea Times*, 05/25/2018)
North Korea ready to talk 'at any time' with Donald Trump (BBC, 05/25/2018)
North Korea 'willing to speak with the US anytime' (*Korea Times*, 05/25/2018)
North Korean merchants look for new products to sell amid warming ties with Beijing and Seoul (*Daily*NK, 05/25/2018)
On again? Trump says still chance of June 12 North Korea summit (*Reuters*, 05/25/2018)
Pyongyang's calm diplomatic point scoring opens the door to a future summit with the US(*Telegraph*, 05/25/2018)
Pyongyang 'greatly regrets' Trump's cancellation (*Joongang*, 05/26/2018)
S. Korea will continue working for U.S.-N.Korea dialogue with patience: PM (*Yonhap*, 05/25/2018)
Summit collapse foils chance to press North Korea on suspicious sites (*WaPo*, 05/25/2018)
The North Korea summit farce makes it clear again: Trump is dangerous (*Guardian*, 05/25/2018)
Trump Accuses Dems of 'Rooting Against' NKorea Talks (NYT, 05/25/2018)
Trump calls North Korea's statement 'warm' and 'productive' (*Korea Times*, 05/25/2018)
Trump calls N. Korea's statement 'warm' and 'productive' (*Yonhap*, 05/25/2018)
Trump Distorts Democrats' Positions on North Korea and MS-13 (NYT, 05/25/2018)
Trump Says North Korea Summit May Be Rescheduled (NYT, 05/25/2018)
Trump says North Korea summit talks continue: 'Could even be the 12th' (CNN, 05/25/2018)
Trump-Kim summit 'not lost, but delayed': USFK commander (*Yonhap*, 05/25/2018)
Trump-Kim North Korea summit: What just happened? (BBC, 05/25/2018)
Trump: North Korea summit could still happen on 12 June (BBC, 05/25/2018)
Trump's canceled North Korea summit: Art of the deal or no deal?
Trump's withdrawal from Kim summit plunges East Asia into uncertainty (CNN, 05/25/2018)
U.S. defense chief suggests Trump-Kim summit could be back on (*Reuters*, 05/25/2018)
U.S.-North Korea summit needed, Chinese VP Wang says (*Reuters*, 05/25/2018)
Who knew diplomacy with North Korea was so hard? (*Guardian*, 05/25/2018)
White House: N. Koreans did not show up at summit prep meetings (*Yonhap*, 05/25/2018)
White House: North Korea 'stood us up' (CNN, 05/25/2018)

Top News:

- On May 21st, 2018, HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu appeared on Going Global with David Delgado, which made the top 100 out of thousands of programs, ranking #67 on Mixlr's trending chart. For this segment, Scarlatoiu discussed a range of issues including NK's songbun classification system, the gulag-style political prison camps, and the UN Commission of Inquiry Report (COI). He asserted that the Kim regime is trying to hide and distort the reality of its human rights situation and is attempting to twist the arm of the Moon administration in SK over the defection of 12 restaurant workers. The Kim regime, according to Scarlatoiu, fears the N.Korean escapees because they know the truth behind NK's abysmal human rights situation. Finally, Scarlatoiu said that the only way for the KJU

regime to survive is to do away with its nuclear weapons and political prison camps and to implement true reform. (Greg Scarlatoiu, David Delgado, *Going Global*)

In North Korea:

- NK blew up three tunnels at a nuclear test site in front of a group of journalists from SK and four other countries Thurs., though it was unclear to them whether the nuclear site was completely shut down. (Esther Chung, Joing Press Corps, *Joongang*)
- NK said it had totally destroyed all tunnels at its Punggye-ri nuclear test site, Thurs., but international reporters who witnessed the event said their lack of expertise in nuclear technology meant they couldn't verify the complete dismantlement. (Choi Ha-young, *Korea Times*)
- Despite Trump's decision to call off a June summit with KJU, local companies with factories in the Kaesong Industrial Complex remain optimistic and plan to continue their efforts to return to the site one day. (Song Kyoung-son, *Joongang*)
- DPRK state media reported on May 25 that KJU (Kim Cho'ng-u'n) inspected the Koam Tapch'o'n Railways on the DPRK's east coast in Kangwo'n Province. (*NK Leadership Watch*)
- The older brother of KJU, tdemanded that Pyongyang's embassy in London use its influence to keep the HMV store in Oxford Street open late at night so he could go shopping during a visit to Britain in May 2015, according to the diplomat who defected in 2016. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- NK's state media said Fri. the demolition of its only known nuclear test site has demonstrated its "peace-loving" efforts and pursuit of a "total halt" to nuclear tests. (*Yonhap*)
- A planned demonstration of the Korean martial art taekwondo by a joint Korean team has been unilaterally canceled by the North, according to sources Fri. (*Yonhap*)
- A N.Korean council on cross-border reconciliation has called for the enforcement of a recent inter-Korean summit declaration designed to foster lasting peace on the divided peninsula, a Seoul-based civic group said Fri. (*Yonhap*)
- The N.Korean stand-off is a crisis that, at worst, threatens nuclear war. It's complicated - but let's take a step back. (BBC)
- NK has designated remote Chagang Province as a Special Songun [military-first] Revolutionary Zone, fuelling suspicions that the region is being turned into a mountain redoubt for the regime's atomic weapons and missile programmes despite Pyongyang's promises to scrap its nuclear arsenal. (Julian Ryalls, *Telegraph*)
- Multiple sources in NK have reported that the responsibilities and authority wielded by inminban leaders (similar to a local neighborhood watch organization) seems to be expanding in places throughout the country. These individuals are notionally in charge of the lowest-level form of administrative unit in North Korea. (Kang Mi Jin, *DailyNK*)
- The underground nuclear test site at P'unggye-ri, Kilchu County, North Hamgyo'ng was dismantled on May 24 in an event covered by representatives of the international news media. According to DPRK state media, the demolition at P'unggye-ri was conducted "under a decision made" during the third plenum (plenary meeting) of the 7th Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee. (*NK Leadership Watch*)

- Foreign reporters in NK to witness the demolition of the country's nuclear site were banned from leaving their hotel for several hours, following Trump's decision to cancel his summit with KJU. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) said Friday that peace hopes are still alive as North Korea announced its openness for talks with the US anytime in response to Washington's cancellation of a planned summit with Pyongyang. (*Yonhap*)
- NK on Thurs. claimed to have demolished its nuclear test site at Punggye-ri, from which tremors traveled metaphorically around the world through six detonations of nuclear devices over the last 12 years. Explosions were set off in three tunnels and observed by reporters from SKand four other countries: the US, United Kingdom, China, and Russia. A fourth tunnel, where the first test was conducted in 2006, was already abandoned and never used again. (*Joongang*)
- CNN reporters recount watching NK's nuclear tunnels explode. (Tim Schwarz and Will Ripley, CNN)
- For decades, NK has been one of the world's most secretive countries. It shares a border with SK, and the two countries have not gone on with each other for a long time. A N.Korean leader has not stepped foot in SK for 65 years, and the leaders of the countries have not met for 10 years. But that has just changed. KJU has now met with Moon at the border between the two countries. In order to understand why this is so important, we need to look back over the last few decades at the history of this secretive country. (BBC)

In South Korea:

- The recent cancellation of the US-NK summit will likely have a limited impact on the S. Korean financial market, a senior central bank official said Fri. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon convened a meeting with top security officials on Thursday night after Trump abruptly cancelled his planned summit with KJU, the presidential office said. (*Yonhap*)
- Seoul shares ended lower Fri. as the abrupt cancellation of the US-NK summit weighed on investor sentiment despite gains in technology stocks. The won rose against the dollar. (*Yonhap*)
- Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon said Fri. that the government will do its part to faithfully implement the agreement reached by the leaders of the two Koreas last month, despite the US decision to cancel the highly anticipated summit with the North. (*Yonhap*)
- The sudden decision by the US to cancel a planned Jun. 12 summit with NK has caught Moon, who had been working as a broker between the adversaries for their talks over the North's denuclearization, off guard. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- Trump called off a planned summit with KJU in a letter released by the White House on Thurs. but said the same day he was "waiting" for the N.Korean leader to give a cue for dialogue, leaving open the possibility that a meeting could still be held. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang*)
- Seoul stocks trimmed earlier losses late Fri. morning as investors bought technology stocks, cushioning some of the impact on the market from the canceled summit between the US and NK. (*Yonhap*)

- SK will continue with efforts to improve ties with NK and induce direct communication between the leaders of the US and NK so as to put their scrapped talks back on track, Seoul officials said Fri. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's Hyundai Group on Friday expressed disappointment over Trump's decision to cancel his planned summit with N.Korean leader KJU, but it vowed not to give up hope for the resumption of inter-Korean economic projects. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's central bank said Fri. that it held an emergency meeting to check the impact of the latest cancellation of the US-NK summit on the local financial market. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's presidential office said Thurs it is seeking to figure out the background of Trump's abrupt cancellation of his agreed-upon summit with KJU. (*Yonhap*)
- Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon said Fri. that the government will do its part to faithfully implement the agreement reached by the leaders of the two Koreas last month, despite the US decision to cancel the highly anticipated summit with the North. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump on Thurs. canceled his summit with KJU scheduled for Jun. 12 in Singapore in an angry response to the North's statement warning of a "nuclear showdown." (Kang Jin-kyu, *Joongang*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The Korea JoongAng Daily sat down on Thurs. with Kim Yeon-myung, a former ITF official and vice president of the Korea Transport Institute (KOTI), a government-run think tank that conducts research transport policies and makes policy proposals to the central government. Kim attended this year's summit to discuss the significance of SK's leadership of next year's ITF and the country's growing role in the global transportation industry. (Choi Hyung-jo, *Joongang*)
- Bae Myung-bok discusses the plight of the 12 N.Korean waitresses who defected to SK and how inter-Korean relations are growing icy because of the defectors. (Bae Myung-bok, *Joongang*)
- As NK makes increasingly aggressive calls for the return of a group of restaurant workers in China who defected en masse to SK in 2016, it has come to light that the regime is also making efforts to persuade other defectors in SK to return to the North. (Lee Sang Yong, *DailyNK*)
- A group of eight S.Korean journalists flew into NK on Wed. afternoon after Pyongyang, at the last minute, accepted Seoul's list of reporters to cover the dismantling of the Punggye-ri nuclear test site. (*Joongang*)

International:

- Mike Pompeo said Fri. his country remains committed to dialogue with NK despite Trump's decision to call off his summit talks with the communist nation's leader next month, according to Seoul's foreign ministry. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon urged the leaders of the US and NKto directly talk to each other Fri., hours after Trump called off his scheduled meeting with KJU. (*Yonhap*)

- A senior N.Korean official said Fri. his country is still willing to talk with the US, in response to Trump's abrupt decision to pull out of his planned summit with the North's leader. (*Yonhap*)
- NK and its neighbors in the region reacted with caution to Trump's decision Thurs. to cancel the US-NK nuclear summit. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- Financial authorities scrambled to assuage domestic markets on Fri., saying that Trump's withdrawal would only have a limited impact on Korean financial markets. But others expressed more cautious opinions, indicating that the recent cancellation will pile up uncertainties on deteriorating investor sentiment. (Park Eun-jee, *Joongang*)
- The latest round of tit for tat between Washington and Pyongyang falls short of a battle cry but is more likely part of an extended effort to jockey for a better position in what proves to be a long, twisted road toward a lasting peace. (Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)
- For Trump, KJU may be the deal that got away. Trump and his team weathered insults, tolerated unanswered phone calls and waited hours for negotiating partners who never showed up as they sought to keep the planned Singapore summit with Kim on track. (*Korea Times*)
- Military drills on the Korean Peninsula are always a source of tension, but this year's Max Thunder exercises were on another level. They're the drills NKcalled an "intentional military provocation" and cited as the reason for canceling inter-Korean talks. (Paula Hancocks, CNN)
- Trump has performed yet another about-turn on NK, suggesting the Jun. 12 meeting with its leader KJU which he cancelled could be back on. (Ben Riley-Smith, Neil Connor, *Telegraph*)
- Trump has suggested his summit with KJU could still go on as planned, marking yet another dramatic reversal for the US president who just a day earlier canceled the meeting in a letter to the N.Korean leader. (Sabrina Siddiqui, Benjamin Haas, Justin McCurry, *Guardian*)
- From "Little Rocket Man" to the scheduling of a historic peace summit and back again, Trump's dizzying back-and-forth on NK is par for the course for a president who likes to keep his audience guessing. As Trump himself said Fri., "Everybody plays games." (AP)
- The German government regrets that a planned meeting between Trump and KJU has been canceled, a spokeswoman said on Fri. (*Reuters*)
- Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Fri. he regretted the cancellation of a summit between Trump and KJU and said the world should keep working to ensure such a meeting can happen. (*Reuters*)
- Although the summit is now off, the issue of the arrest of American citizens remains to be dealt with. In any future talks, the US should insist that Pyongyang's game of political detentions must come to an end. (Roberta Cohen, *38th North*)
- Seoul shares ended lower Fri., as Trump's sudden cancellation of the US-NK summit weighed on investor sentiment despite gains by technology stocks. (Song Kyoung-son, *Joongang*)
- The world could only sit passively by this week as two men toyed with the fate of humanity, on the flawed assumption that Trump and KJU had our collective best interests at heart. (Beatrice Fihn, CNN)
- Moon urged the leaders of the US and NK to directly talk to each other Fri., hours after Trump called off his scheduled meeting with KJU. (*Yonhap*)
- Despite Trump's surprise decision to call off his planned summit with KJU, both sides appear to be leaving the door open for their nuclear negotiations, analysts said Fri. (*Yonhap*)

- Many S.Koreans were fuming on Fri. after Trump canceled a historic summit with KJU, feeling they had been cheated of a chance of a lifetime to live in peace. (Joori Roh, Reuters)
- Regime's vice foreign minister says meeting cancellation is 'regrettable' as S.Korean president says he is 'perplexed' by US president's decision. (Ben Haas, Justin McCurry, *Guardian*)
- Despite Trump cancelling the Jun. 12 summit with KJU to discuss the regime's denuclearization, it appears a meeting could take place not too far in the future, as both sides seem willing to engage in dialogue. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- NK has said it is still willing to talk "at any time in any form" after Trump abruptly cancelled his summit next month with KJU. (BBC)
- A top N.Korean official said Fri. his country is still willing to talk with the US, responding to Trump's abrupt decision to pull out of his planned summit with the North's leader. (*Yonhap*)
- Daily NK's sources reported that lately, merchants, have been busy trying to think of new business ideas in order to capitalize on the anticipated improvement in relations that is expected to follow from the recent summits between the Koreas and Pyongyang and Beijing. (Kang Mi Jin, *DailyNK*)
- Trump on Fri. dangled the possibility that a Jun. 12 summit with KJU could still take place, just a day after he canceled the meeting citing Pyongyang's "open hostility." (Roberta Rampton, Christine Kim, *Reuters*)
- After a dramatic 24 hours, NK's measured response to Trump's cancellation of the Jun. 12 Singapore summit was a diplomatic win that paves the way for future talks. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- Trump called off a planned summit with KJU in a letter released by the White House on Thurs. but said the same day he was "waiting" for the N.Korean leader to give a cue for dialogue, leaving open the possibility that a meeting could still be held. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang*)
- Seoul will keep working to create a mood for dialogue between the US and NK, Prime Minister Lee Nak-yon said during a joint press conference with Austrian Prime Minister Sebastian Kurz on Fri. (*Yonhap*)
- The cancellation of next month's US-NK summit has delayed a confrontation over key elements of Pyongyang's advanced weapons programs, including what some Western intelligence officials say is a second uranium-enrichment site operating inside the country. (Joby Warrick, Souad Mekhennet, WaPo)
- This is where hubris and arrogance lead. By indefinitely postponing his summit with KJU in a fit of petulance and political cowardice, Trump has squandered a golden opportunity for peace on the Korean peninsula, plunged the Asia-Pacific region into a period of renewed uncertainty, blindsided America's allies, and resurrected the dread prospect of nuclear war. (Simon Tisdall, *Guardian*)
- Trump on Fri. accused Democrats of "rooting against" upcoming nuclear talks with NK, and said his political opponents were trying to coddle gang members. (AP)
- Trump on Friday welcomed NK's statement that it was still willing to meet despite his cancellation of the summit. He called the North's reaction "warm and productive" and expressed hope for "long and enduring prosperity and peace." (AP)

- Trump called NK's response to his cancellation of the Jun. 12 Singapore summit with the North's leader KJU "warm" and "productive." (*Yonhap*)
- Trump accused Democrats of “rooting against us in our negotiations with North Korea” and “coming to the defense of MS-13.” Neither claim is true. (Linda Qiu, NYT)
- Trump said on Fri. that his administration was back in touch with NK and the two sides may reschedule his summit meeting with KJU, perhaps even on the original Jun. 12 date, a stunning reversal just a day after the president canceled the get-together. (Peter Baker, NYT)
- Trump told reporters Fri. he remains open to holding a summit with KJU on Jun. 12. (Veronica Stracqualursi and Kevin Liptak, CNN)
- The commander of the U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) said Fri. that Trump's cancellation of the planned summit with KJU would mean the delay, not loss, of the unprecedented chance for rapprochement. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump has just cancelled what would have been a historic summit with KJU. The shock move could undo months of diplomatic effort and throws the future of the Korean peninsula back into doubt. (BBC)
- Trump has said his summit with NK's leader could still happen on 12 Jun., despite earlier cancelling the meeting. (BBC)
- After Trump canceled a historic US-NK summit set for Jun. 12, the administration said it would resume its maximum pressure campaign, signaled new sanctions are likely and expressed hope another meeting can be scheduled. (Nicole Gaouette, CNN)
- SK, China and Japan woke up Fri. to a new and uncertain diplomatic reality, after US Trump canceled what many considered to be the best chance of striking a deal for peace on the Korean Peninsula. (Ben Westcott, Yoko Wakatsuki, Sophie Jeong, CNN)
- U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis said on Fri. that a recently scrapped summit between the leaders of the US and NK may still take place if diplomats can pull it off. (*Reuters*)
- Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan said on Fri. that a summit between the US and NK was necessary to ensure security on the Korean Peninsula. (*Reuters*)
- Just as soon as NK began playing hardball, Trump took his toys and went home. Who knew dealing with NK was so hard? Well, just about everybody. Everybody except Trump, that is. (Michael Fuchs, *Guardian*)
- The White House said Thurs. that Trump's scrapping of a planned summit with NK was due in part to the N.Koreans' failure to show up for advance meetings. (*Yonhap*)
- Beyond the insults and brinksmanship that contributed to the cancellation of the historic meeting between Trump and KJU was the seeming reluctance from NK to actually proceed with plans for the summit, which had been destined to take place in Singapore on Jun. 12. (Jamie Tarabay, CNN)

Prepared by Lauren Jackson, HRNK Research Intern

Saturday, May 26, 2018

North and South Korean leaders hold surprise meeting; Trump says N. Korea summit could still happen June 12; White House team to leave for Singapore to prep for possible North Korea summit

In North Korea:
KJU Visits Wo'nsan-Kalma Tourist Zone Construction (*NKleadershipwatch*, 05/26/2018)
N. Korea's ruling party member appointed to head of military's political bureau (*Yonhap*, 05/26/2018)

In South Korea:
Scholar calls for opening of Yonhap branch in Pyongyang (*Yonhap*, 05/26/2018)
S. Korea's unification minister calls for dialogue to resolve differences (*Yonhap*, 05/26/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) Leaders of divided Koreas hold surprise meeting over U.S.-N.K. summit (*Yonhap*, 05/26/2018)
Kim Jong-un Meets South Korean Leader in Bid to Salvage U.S. Talks (NYT, 05/26/2018)
Korean leaders meet in surprise summit (BBC, 05/26/2018)
Leaders of two Koreas hold surprise meeting as Trump revives hopes of summit with North(*Reuters*, 05/26/2018)
Moon, Kim meet again at Panmunjeom (*Korea Times*, 05/26/2018)
Moon meets Kim Jong-un in unannounced, quickly arranged meeting at DMZ (*Joongang Daily*, 05/27/2018)
North and South Korean Leaders Hold Surprise 2nd Summit (NYT, 05/26/2018)
North and South Korean leaders hold surprise meeting (CNN, 05/26/2018)
North and South Korean leaders meet as US indicates summit may happen after all(*Guardian*, 05/26/2018)
North, South Korean Leaders Meet to Discuss Possible Summit (VOA, 05/26/2018)
S. Korea, N. Korea hold second summit (*Yonhap*, 05/26/2018)
South Korean president meets Kim Jong-un in surprise summit (*Telegraph*, 05/26/2018)
South Korean president met North Korea's Kim Jong Un Saturday: Seoul (*Reuters*, 05/26/2018)

International:
(4th LD) Trump says N. Korea summit could still happen June 12 (*Yonhap*, 05/26/2018)
Abe, Putin to discuss North Korea (*Korea Times*, 05/26/2018)
Canceled Summit Raises Stakes for China Over North Korea (NYT, 05/26/2018)
Donald Trump hails 'very productive talks with North Korea' amid signs Kim Jong-un summit could go ahead (*Telegraph*, 05/26/2018)
IAEA 'ready to verify North Korea's denuclearization' (*Korea Times*, 05/26/2018)

Kang, Pompeo agree to seek conditions for dialogue with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 05/26/2018)
Keeping Summit Hopes Alive Suggests Kim Jong-un May Need a Deal (NYT, 05/26/2018)
Key US allies 'perplexed' as Trump treats friends like enemies (CNN, 05/26/2018)
Mattis: U.S.-N. Korea summit could still happen (*Yonhap*, 05/26/2018)
Trump says his administration is unified on North Korea approach (NYT, 05/26/2018)
Trump says 'productive' talks held on reinstating N Korea summit (BBC, 05/26/2018)
Trump Says US-North Korea Talks Could be Back on (VOA, 05/26/2018)
White House team to leave for Singapore to prep for possible North Korea summit (*Reuters*, 05/26/2018)
White House: U.S. will be ready if N. Korea summit takes place June 12 (*Yonhap*, 05/26/2018)

In North Korea:

- DPRK state media reported on May 26 that KJU toured the construction of the Wo'nsan-Kalma coastal tourist zone. (*NKleadershipwatch*)
- A member of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) has been appointed to the head of the powerful General Political Bureau of NK's armed forces, raising speculation that it might be aimed at strengthening the ruling party's grip on the military. (*Yonhap*)

In South Korea:

- A S.Korean journalism scholar on Sat. said it's time to consider allowing Yonhap News Agency, SK's key newswire, to open a branch office in NK. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's unification minister called for the need to resolve any challenges through dialogue on Sat., apparently referring to a recent setback in efforts for the North and US to hold a summit to discuss denuclearization. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- S.Korean President Moon held a surprise second meeting with N.Korean leader KJU on Sat., the presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said, in an apparent move to convince Kim to hold his scheduled summit with US President Trump. (*Yonhap*)
- The leader of NK, KJU, met unexpectedly with President Moon of SK on Sat. to discuss salvaging a canceled summit meeting between Mr. Kim and President Trump, a new twist in the whirlwind of diplomacy over the fate of the North's nuclear arsenal. (Choe Sang-hun, NYT)
- The leaders of NK and SK have met in the demilitarised border area between the two countries. (BBC)
- S.Korean President Moon held a surprise meeting with N.Korean leader KJU on Sat. in an effort to ensure a high-stakes summit between Kim and US President Trump takes place successfully, S.Korean officials said. (Soyoung Kim and Roberta Rampton, *Reuters*)

- S.Korean President Moon met N.Korean leader KJU on Sat. to discuss Kim's possible upcoming summit with US President Trump, Cheong Wa Dae said. It was the second meeting of the two leaders after their first on April 27. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- President Moon attended an unannounced, hurriedly arranged meeting with N.Korean leader KJU on the northern side of the demilitarized zone Sat. afternoon, their second meeting in a month, as the diplomatic rollercoaster over a Kim-Trump meeting took another surprising turn. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Joongang Daily*)
- N.Korean leader KJU and S.Korean President Moon met for the second time in a month on Sat., holding a surprise summit at a border truce village to discuss Kim's potential meeting with President Trump, Moon's office said. (AP)
- The leaders of NK and SK held a surprise meeting Sat., their second in a month, two days after President Trump abruptly canceled a summit meeting with N.Korean dictator KJU. (Jungeun Kim, CNN)
- The N.Korean leader, KJU, met his S.Korean counterpart on Sat., two days after Trump cancelled a planned summit with Kim. (Benjamin Haas and Lauren Gambino, *Guardian*)
- S.Korean President Moon met Sat. afternoon with N.Korean leader KJU near the two Koreas' heavily militarized border. The leaders exchanged views on how to prepare for the North's possible summit with US President Trump, the S.Korean presidential office said. (Peggy Chang, VOA)
- The leaders of SK and NK held a second summit, Seoul's presidential office said Sat. (*Yonhap*)
- SK said President Moon met with NK's leader KJU on Sat. inside the Demilitarised Zone dividing the two nations, a day after US President Trump said his summit with Pyongyang could still go ahead. (*Telegraph*)
- S.Korean President Moon met N.Korean leader KJU on Sat. to discuss Kim's possible upcoming summit with US President Trump, the South said, the second inter-Korean summit in as many months. (*Reuters*)·

International:

- US President Trump said Fri. his planned meeting with N.Korean leader KJU could still take place June 12, after canceling the summit a day earlier. (*Yonhap*)
- Japanese Prime Minister Abe will hold talks with Russian President Putin in Moscow on Sat., hoping to make progress on economic cooperation on a group of islands that the countries have disputed over for decades. (DPA)
- President Trump's abrupt withdrawal from his planned summit with NK raises the stakes for China to show that it can steer the North toward easing tensions over its nuclear program. But despite a recent warming in ties, Beijing's influence over its neighbor may be overstated. (AP)
- Trump said US was having "very productive talks with North Korea", suggesting the June 12 meeting with its leader KJU which he cancelled could be back on. (Ben Riley-Smith and Neil Connor, *Telegraph*)

- The chief of the IAEA has told visiting S.Korean Prime Minister Lee that the UN body will be ready to verify NK's denuclearization if relevant countries reach an agreement. (Yonhap)
- The top diplomats of SK and US agreed to work together to create conditions for dialogue with NK amid a canceled summit between US President Trump and N.Korean leader KJU, the State Department said Fri. (Yonhap)
- When President Trump on Thurs. abruptly canceled their much anticipated summit meeting on June 12, the N.Korean response was remarkably diplomatic and cordial, holding open the hope that the meeting could still take place. (Choe Sang-hun, NYT)
- President Trump's decision to cancel his historic meeting with NK's KJU left SK's President "perplexed" and sparked angry protests in Seoul. One sign read: "We condemn Trump." (Nicole Gaouette, CNN)
- US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Fri. that a canceled summit between US and NK could be back on if the two sides reach an agreement. (Yonhap)
- US President Trump said in a tweet on Sat. that his administration is unified in its approach to NK. (Reuters)
- US President Trump says "very productive talks" have been held with NK on reinstating the summit with leader KJU. (BBC)
- Top White House officials Fri. expressed optimism that the talks could be back on after a surprising response from NK. (Jesusemen Oni, VOA)
- A White House team will leave as scheduled for Singapore this weekend to prepare for a possible summit between US President Trump and N.Korean leader KJU, a White House spokeswoman said on Sat. (Reuters)
- US will be ready if a canceled summit between President Trump and N.Korean leader KJU happens on June 12 as originally planned, the White House said Fri. (Yonhap)

Prepared by Dohyun Kim, HRNK Research Intern

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Sunday, May 27, 2018

(2nd LD) US officials cross into NK for summit preparations: report; NK says it never expects US economic aid

In North Korea:
(LEAD) N. Korea's media extensively report 2nd inter-Korean summit (*Yonhap*, 05/27/2018)
N. Korea backs Panmunjeom Declaration (*Korea Times*, 05/27/2018)
Pyongyang warns of foreign dependence (*Korea Times*, 05/27/2018)
Reshuffle at top of Pyongyang's army politburo (*Joongang*, 05/28/2018)

In South Korea:
S. Korea discusses follow-ups to inter-Korean summit, future Trump-Kim summit (*Yonhap*, 05/27/2018)

South Korea Urges North to Salvage Nuclear Summit with US (VOA, 05/27/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) Parties welcome results of inter-Korean summit (*Yonhap*, 05/27/2018)
Kim worried about regime's security, says Moon (*Joongang*, 05/27/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) U.S. officials cross into N. Korea for summit preparations: report (*Yonhap*, 05/27/2018)
(3rd LD) N. Korea's Kim reaffirms pledge to denuclearize, willingness to meet Trump (*Yonhap*, 05/27/2018)
Analysis: Wide US-North Korea gulf over nuclear deal terms (*WaPo*, 05/26/2018)
American officials cross into North Korea as planning continues for on-again off-again summit(*Telegraph*, 05/27/2018)
China expresses support for Trump-Kim summit (*Yonhap*, 05/27/2018)
China says hopes Trump-Kim summit can happen as planned (*Reuters*, 05/27/2018)
Denuclearization talks back on track (*Korea Times*, 05/27/2018)
(News Focus) A roller-coaster ride for nuclear diplomacy, Moon's mediator role (*Yonhap*, 05/27/2018)
N. Korea says it never expects U.S. economic aid (*Yonhap*, 05/27/2018)
North Korea's Kim Jong-un 'set on Trump summit' (*BBC*, 05/27/2018)
North Korea-US summit on track, says Moon, after candid talks with 'friend' Kim Jong-un (*Guardian*, 05/27/2018)
North Korea walks tightrope between US and China (*Korea Times*, 05/27/2018)
READ: The White House's background briefing on the North Korea Summit (CNN, 05/27/2018)
Trump: Plan for June summit with North Korea 'hasn't changed' (UPI, 05/27/2018)
Trump suggests North-U.S. summit will be held June 12 (*Joongang*, 05/27/2018)
US Delegation in N.Korea for Talks on Preparations for Summit (VOA, 05/27/2018)
US delegation travels to North Korea for potential summit preparation (CNN, 05/27/2018)
U.S. officials in North Korea to prepare for U.S. summit: report (*Reuters*, 05/26/2018)
U.S. officials meet with North Koreans despite uncertainty surrounding Trump-Kim meeting(*WaPo*, 05/27/2018)

In North Korea:

- The surprise summit between Moon and KJU has been extensively reported in the North's media targeting its own people. (*Yonhap*)
- NK's Korean Council for Reconciliation and Cooperation has called for prompt implementation of the declaration jointly announced by Moon and KJU at their first summit on April 27. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- Rodong Sinmun, the official newspaper of North Korea's ruling Workers' Party, has warned against relying on other countries for economic growth. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- Kim Su-gil, a senior official of North Korea's ruling Worker's Party, was recently appointed the People's Army general politburo director, replacing Kim Jong-gak after a mere four months. (Sarah Kim, Kim Eun-bin, *Joongang*)

In South Korea:

- The presidential office Cheong Wa Dae held a meeting Sun. to discuss steps to implement an agreement reached at the latest inter-Korean summit and SK's role in encouraging the success of a US-NK summit, Seoul officials said. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon said he urged KJU to directly engage with Washington to salvage the Jun. 12 nuclear summit with the US, when the two leaders held a surprise second inter-Korean summit Sat. (Brian Padden, VOA)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- SK's ruling party on Sun. welcomed Moon's second summit with KJU, lauding it for rekindling peace-building efforts on the peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon said Sun. that KJU made clear a commitment to "complete denuclearization" but also expressed concerns about his own regime's security during a surprise summit held Sat. afternoon in Tongilgak, a N.Korean-controlled building on the northern side of the border village of Panmunjom. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Joongang*)

International:

- A group of US officials crossed the inter-Korean border to NK on Sun. for talks to prepare for a summit between Trump and KJU, a report said. (*Yonhap*)
- KJU has reaffirmed his willingness to denuclearize and hold a summit with Trump, Moon. (*Yonhap*)
- Even if conciliatory rhetoric revives US-NK summit plans, Trump and KJU must overcome a gaping disconnect over what a deal on the North's nuclear weapons would look like. (Matthew Pennington, *WaPo*)
- American officials crossed into NK on Sun. to press ahead with preparations for an on-off summit between Trump and KJU, the latest twist in a frantic round of diplomatic manoeuvring to salvage the meeting. (Rob Crilly, *Telegraph*)
- China on Sun. expressed its support for a planned summit between Trump and KJU, stressing that direct dialogue between the leaders is the key to solving the nuclear standoff. (*Yonhap*)
- China's Foreign Ministry said on Sun. it hoped a summit between Trump and KJU, originally set for Singapore next month, could happen as planned and be successful. (*Reuters*)
- The second summit between Moon and KJU shows Moon's determination to take the initiative on the path toward denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, according to officials and analysts, Sun. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- The frenetic diplomacy over a historic summit between the US and NK for the past few days shone the spotlight on the middleman role of Moon, who emphasized that only direct dialogue and mutual trust between the leaders of the two countries can solve the nuclear standoff. (*Yonhap*)

- NK on Sun. fumed at US reports that the country is seeking economic assistance from the US in return for denuclearization. (*Yonhap*)
- It is KJU's "fixed will" that a summit with Trump in Singapore should go ahead, state media say. (BBC)
- CNN released the transcript of the White House's briefing on the NK summit. (CNN)
- Moon says North still committed to denuclearisation after surprise talks requested by Kim. (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)
- KJU appears to be pursuing balanced diplomacy between the United States and China in a bid to hold the summit with Trump while maintaining Pyongyang's decades-old alliance with Beijing. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- Trump said a plan for a Jun. 12 summit in Singapore with KJU is "moving along very nicely" and "hasn't changed." (Allen Cone, UPI)
- Trump said Sat. he is still "looking at Jun. 12 in Singapore" for a summit with N.Korean leader KJU, which he abruptly called off on Thurs., reviving expectations that a historic meeting might take place as initially planned. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang*)
- A group of US officials crossed into NK on Sun. for talks on preparations for a summit between Trump and KJU, according to *The Washington Post*. (Steve Herman, VOA)
- A US delegation traveled to NK on Sun. for preparatory talks ahead of a potential meeting between Trump and KJU, three senior US officials with knowledge of the situation tell CNN. (Elise Labott, Kevin Liptak, Sophie Tatum, CNN)
- US officials crossed into NK on Sun. to hold talks on preparations for a possible summit, a US newspaper reported, as KJU reaffirmed his commitment to meet with Trump. (Hyonhee Shin, Matt Spetalnick, *Reuters*)
- A team of US officials crossed into NK on Sun. for talks to prepare for a summit between Trump and KJU, as both sides press ahead with arrangements despite the question marks hanging over the meeting. (Anna Fifield, Joby Warrick, *WaPo*)

Prepared by Lauren Jackson, HRNK Research Intern

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Monday, May 28, 2018

Moon may visit Singapore during Trump-Kim summit; South Korea calls for more impromptu talks with North Korea as U.S. prepares for summit; North Koreans react to potential Trump-Kim summit, hopeful for aid

In North Korea:

(4th LD) N. Korean delegation in Beijing en route to Singapore to prepare summit: sources(*Yonhap*, 05/28/2018)

N. Koreans react to potential Trump-Kim summit, hopeful for aid (*Daily NK*, 05/28/2018)

N. Korea to stick to own timetable for denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 05/28/2018)

In South Korea:
(3rd LD) Parliament fails to pass resolution on summit declaration (*Yonhap*, 05/28/2018)
Moon, the powerful peacemaker (*Korea Times*, 05/28/2018)
Recap: South Korea's economic plans for North Korea (*NKeconwatch*, 05/28/2018)
Renewed chance of summit buoys Seoul bourse (*Joongang Daily*, 05/28/2018)
Seoul avoiding nuke details: Lee (*Joongang Daily*, 05/28/2018)
Seoul making preparations for June 1 inter-Korean high-level talks (*Korea Times*, 05/28/2018)
South Korea calls for more impromptu talks with North Korea as U.S. prepares for summit(*Reuters*, 05/28/2018)
Unification minister to lead South for high-level talks with North (*Korea Times*, 05/28/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
KJU Holds Second Meeting with Moon (*NKleadership*, 05/27/2018)
Moon instructs preparations for 'frequent' summit talks with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 05/28/2018)
S. Korea making preparations for high-level talks with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 05/28/2018)
Why two Koreas are seeking to get closer (*Korea Times*, 05/28/2018)

International:
(LEAD) Amb. Sung Kim back in N. Korea for summit preparatory talks (*Yonhap*, 05/28/2018)
(2nd LD) Trump says truly believes in N. Korea's potential (*Yonhap*, 05/28/2018)
American, North Korean officials talk in Panmunjom, Singapore (*Joongang Daily*, 05/28/2018)
In Washington, North Korea's 'denuclearization' talk draws skepticism (*Wapo*, 05/27/2018)
Moon may join U.S., N. Korean leaders in Singapore for 3-way summit: official (*Yonhap*,05/28/2018)
Moon may visit Singapore during Trump-Kim summit (*Korea Times*, 05/28/2018)
'Moon, not Trump, deserves Nobel Peace Prize,' says ex-US secretary (*Korea Times*, 05/28/2018)
N. Korea won't give up nuclear weapons: Victor Cha (*Yonhap*, 05/28/2018)
Taking the driver's seat (*Joongang Daily*, 05/28/2018)
Talks attempt to save summit for Trump-Kim (*Joongang Daily*, 05/28/2018)
The grand bargain (*Joongang Daily*, 05/28/2018)
Trump confirms US negotiators in North Korea for summit talks (*Guardian* , 05/28/2018)
Trump-Kim summit: President Moon could attend, says South Korea (BBC, 05/28/2018)
Trump-Kim summit: Is it still on? (CNN, 05/28/2018)
Trump says U.S. officials arrive in North Korea to prepare for talks (*Reuters*, 05/27/2018)
Trump: 'truly believes in North Korea's economic potential' (*Korea Times*, 05/28/2018)
US delegation in talks with N.K officials on inter-Korean border: State Department (Yonhap, 05/28/2018)
US, North Korean Officials Hold Talks on Possible Trump-Kim Summit (VOA, 05/27/2018)
US, North Korea in pre-summit talks at DMZ (*Korea Times*, 05/28/2018)
US, North Korean Officials Race to Resurrect Trump-Kim Meeting (NYT, 05/27/2018)
US, North Korea preparing Trump-Kim summit (BBC, 05/27/2018)
US officials in summit planning talks with North Korea at Panmunjom: State Department (*Reuters*, 05/27/2018)

US officials meet with North Koreans despite uncertainty surrounding Trump-Kim summit(*Wapo*, 05/27/2018)

In North Korea:

- A senior N.Korean official arrived in Beijing on Monday, apparently on his way to Singapore for a summit preparatory meeting with the US, diplomatic sources here said. (*Yonhap*)
- N.Korean residents are holding out hope that the potential Trump-Kim high level summit, initially set to occur on June 12 in Singapore will result in economic aid from the US (Ha Yoon Ah , *DailyNK*)
- NK said Monday it will move in accordance with its own timetable to help achieve a nuclear-free world, attaching great importance to the recent destruction of its nuclear weapons test site. (*Yonhap*)

In South Korea:

- The National Assembly failed Monday to adopt a resolution to support the April inter-Korean summit as rival parties differed on the wording on NK's denuclearization. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump and KJU may be the main characters of the nuclear standoff drama that has been unfolding with a series of reversals and twists. But without backup and setting by Moon, the whole play may have not been on stage at all. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- Moon ordered a joint inter-Korean research effort to examine future economic cooperation ahead of the anticipated lifting of international sanctions against NK following an upcoming NK-US summit, which will follow up the inter-Korean summit that was held on Apr. 27. (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, *NKeconwatch*)
- Korean stocks closed higher Monday on hopes for the revival of talks between the leaders of the US and NK following a surprise inter-Korean summit over the weekend. The Korean won appreciated against the US dollar. (*Joongang Daily*)
- Prime Minister Lee Nak-yon said Sunday in London that the US asked SK not to discuss in detail methods to denuclearize NK as it is a matter to be decided by Washington and Pyongyang. (*Joongang Daily*)
- SK is making preparations for high-level talks with NK slated for later this week to discuss follow-up measures to the historic summit between their leaders last month, the unification ministry said Mon (*Korea Times*)
- Moon said on Monday there could be more impromptu talks and summits with KJU, as US officials prepare for a historic meeting between Trump and KJU. (*Reuters*)
- Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon is expected to lead a S.Korean delegation for high-level talks with NK, which will resume on June 1 under an agreement reached at the latest inter-Korean summit. (Park Ji-won, *Korea Times*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- KJU met with Moon at T'ongil House on the DPRK side of P'anmunjo'm during the afternoon of May 26. (*NKleadership*)

- Moon ordered his aides Mon to make necessary arrangements for his unexpected meetings with KJU in the future, saying he plans to meet the N.Korean leader whenever necessary. (Yonhap)
- SK is making preparations for high-level talks with NK slated for later this week to discuss follow-up measures to the historic summit between their leaders last month, the unification ministry said Monday. (Yonhap)
- The May 26 inter-Korean summit shows how the two Koreas might mend their erstwhile rivalry, combine their forces and become united on the international stage. So respectively facing the existential threat from their historic benefactors, the two Koreas appear to be finding comfort in each other's arms for now, their long lost sense of brotherhood awakened. (Oh Young-jin ,Korea Times)

International:

- A decade after crossing the inter-Korean land border with box-loaded documents on NK's nuclear program, Amb. Sung Kim is back in talks with NK. (Yonhap)
- Trump said Sunday that he believes NK will be a great economic nation one day, setting a positive tone ahead of his potential meeting with KJU. (Yonhap)
- Meetings between American and N.Korean officials are underway simultaneously in Panmunjom and Singapore as the two nations strive to revive a June 12 summit between Trump and KJU. (Joongang Daily)
- NK's apparent offer to discuss the "complete denuclearization" of the Korean Peninsula was met with skepticism by lawmakers and security experts in Washington, even as many cautiously welcomed reports that an imperiled summit between Trump and KJU may soon be back on track (Joby Warrick, Wapo)
- Moon could make a trip to Singapore for a three-way summit with his US and N.Korean counterparts next month, depending on the outcome of ongoing discussions between Washington and Pyongyang, a ranking government official here said Mon. (Yonhap)
- Moon may visit Singapore while the summit between Trump and KJU is taking place there next month, a Cheong Wa Dae official said Mon. (Park Ji-won, Korea Times)
- Robert Reich, a former US cabinet member, has praised Moon's "broker diplomacy" between Trump and KJU, saying the world was "fortunate to have Moon at the helm" in SK "at this fragile point in time." (Kang Aa-young, Park Si-soo, Korea Times)
- A former US nuclear negotiator on Sun cast doubt on the prospects of NK's denuclearization, saying the communist regime is unlikely to give up its nukes in a potential summit with the US. (Yonhap)
- Moon must set his goal clearly. Is it an agreement or stopping a war? Is it a complete denuclearization or a freeze? A contract must be written clearly. An ambiguous contract can be a reason to scrap it. If expectations are raised without a clear goal, we will face a whole new level of disagreement. (Joongang Daily)
- Meetings between American and N.Korean officials are underway simultaneously in Panmunjom and Singapore as the two nations strive to revive a June 12 summit between Trump and KJU. (Sarah Kim, Joongang Daily)

- The US also needs to present NK with detailed action plans to satisfy its need for regime safety. We hope the international community offers a complete, verifiable and irreversible guarantee of regime security in exchange for the North's acceptance of CVID. That's the swap that's needed. (*Joongang Daily*)
- Trump confirmed on Sun that US negotiators were in NK for talks ahead of his planned summit with KJU– a meeting the US president said was cancelled only three days before. (*Guardian*)
- S.Korean officials have said Moon could attend a possible summit between Trump and KJU. Any attendance by Moon would be dependent on the progress of pre-summit talks between the US and N.Korean leaders, said the Blue House. (BBC)
- Trump and KJU were planning to meet in Singapore on June 12, and, until just a few days ago, everything appeared to be on track. Right now, it appears so based on Trump's comments Sat night. But that doesn't mean it's certain to happen, as the last few days have proven. (Joshua Berlinger, CNN)
- Trump said on Sun his team arrived in NK to arrange for his possible meeting with KJU. (*Reuters*)
- Trump said Sunday that he believes NK will be a great economic nation one day, setting a positive tone ahead of his potential meeting with KJU. (*Korea Times*)
- US officials have crossed the border into NK to continue preparations for a potential meeting between Trump and KJU, the State Department said Sun. (*Yonhap*)
- US and NK officials met at the demilitarized zone Sun to talk about a possible summit between Trump and KJU. (VOA)
- Former US Amb to Seoul Sung Kim and NK's vice foreign minister Choe Son-hui represent each side (*Korea Times*)
- The US and NK on Sun kicked off an urgent, behind-the-scenes effort to resurrect a summit meeting between their two leaders by June 12, racing to develop a joint agenda and dispel deep skepticism about the chances for reaching a framework for a lasting nuclear agreement in so little time. (NYT)
- A US team is holding talks with N.Korean officials to prepare a possible meeting between Trump and KJU. (BBC)
- A US delegation is meeting with N.Korean officials in Panmunjom, at the border between North and South, about a possible US-NK summit, a State Department spokeswoman said on Sun. (*Reuters*)
- A team of US officials crossed into NK on Sun for talks to prepare for a summit between Trump and KJU, as both sides pressed ahead with arrangements despite the question marks hanging over the meeting. (*Wapo*)

Prepared by Sohee Ha, HRNK Research Intern

Tuesday, May 29, 2018

Top N.Korean official headed for New York; Japan says it has detected apparent Chinese ship breaking NK sanctions

In North Korea:
Former North Korea spy chief heads to United States for talks: Yonhap (*Reuters*, 05/29/2018)
High-Ranking North Korean Official Is Traveling To New York (NPR, 05/29/2018)
Illegal buying and selling of fertilizer rampant in North Hamgyong Province (*Daily*NK, 05/29/2018)
Kim Jong-un's right-hand man Kim Yong-chol travelling to US for talks (*Telegraph*, 05/29/2018)
North Korea denuclearization could take a decade, experts say (CNN, 05/29/2018)
North Korea's Kim Yong-chol heads to US for talks (BBC, 05/29/2018)
North Korea's Sinchon Museum should also be shut down (*Daily*NK, 05/29/2018)
Senior North Korean official in Beijing en route to Singapore for Trump-Kim summit discussions (*Straits Times*, 05/28/2018)
Top N. Korean Official Heading to US for Talks on Summit (VOA, 05/29/2018)

In South Korea:
A senseless reshuffle (KOR) (*Joongang Daily*, 05/30/2018)
Moon's masterstroke (*Joongang Daily*, 05/30/3018)
The school teaching North Korean refugees how to live in the South (*Guardian*, 05/28/2018)
Why Moon Jae-in should go to Singapore (*Korea Times*, 05/29/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(3rd LD) Two Koreas exchange delegation lists for high-level talks (*Yonhap*, 05/29/2018)
(LEAD) Economic cooperation with N. Korea to become new growth engine for SK's economy (*Yonhap*, 05/29/2018)
(News Focus) S. Korean firms rev up prep for possible inter-Korean projects (*Yonhap*, 05/29/2018)
N. Korea again demands repatriation of 13 restaurant workers (*Yonhap*, 05/29/2018)
Ruling party chief hints at possibility of two Koreas' declaration of an end to Korean War (*Yonhap*, 05/29/2018)
South Korea keeps door open to more talks with North Korea (*Axios*, 05/28/2018)

International:
Analysis: North Korea Sees US Economic Handouts as Threat (*New York Times*, 05/29/2018)
Hardly a bromance (*Joongang Daily*)
In measured tone, North slams joint military drills (*Joongang Daily*, 05/30/2018)
Japan desperate to remain part of nuke talks (*Korea Times*, 05/29/2018)
Japan navy spots suspected China ship next to NKorea tanker (*Washington Post*, 05/29/2018)
Japan says it has detected apparent Chinese ship breaking North Korea sanctions (*Reuters*, 05/29/2018)
Korea: real deal (*Korea Times*, 05/29/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea vows full support for N. Korea-U.S. summit (*Yonhap*, 05/29/2018)
NK raising voices against joint drills ahead of summit (*Korea Times*, 05/29/2018)

North Korea calls for end to Seoul-Tokyo intelligence sharing (UPI, 05/29/2018)
North Korea summit: Trump says Kim aide on way to New York (*Guardian*, 05/29/2018)
North's envoys fly to U.S. for meetings (*Joongang Daily*, 05/30/3018)
Pundits agree talks will happen. But what comes next? (*Joongang Daily*, 05/29/2018)
Senior N.K. official arrives in Beijing en route to U.S. for summit preparations (*Yonhap*, 05/29/2018)
Senior N.Korean Official's US Visit Reminiscent of 2000 Trip (*New York Times*, 05/29/2018)
Singapore's presidential palace may host Kim-Trump summit: report (*Korea Times*, 05/29/2018)
Top Aide to Kim Jong-un Is Bound for U.S., Trump Says (*New York Times*, 05/29/2018)
Top North Korean official headed for New York (*UPI*, 05/29/2018)
Top North Korean official Kim Yong Chol heading to US (CNN, 05/29/2018)
Top North Korean official on his way to U.S. for talks on Trump-Kim summit (*Washington Post*, 05/29/2018)
Trump confirms N.K. official's U.S. visit for summit prep (*Yonhap*, 05/29/2018)
Trump, Japan's Abe to Meet Ahead of Possible US-North Korea Summit (VOA, 05/28/2018)
Trump says top North Korean official headed to New York to discuss summit (*Reuters*, 05/29/2018)
US, N. Korea Officials Negotiating on Possible Trump-Kim Summit (VOA, 05/29/2018)
US, N. Korean Officials Negotiate Possible Trump-Kim Summit (VOA, 05/28/2018)
White House says Trump and Abe agree to meet before expected U.S.- North Korea summit(*Reuters*, 05/29/2018)

In North Korea:

- Former NK spy chief and senior official Kim Yong Chol is headed to the US after stopping over in Beijing, presumably for talks with US officials regarding a possible summit between KJU and Trump, SK's Yonhap News Agency said on Tues. (*Reuters*)
- The former head of N.Korean military intelligence is traveling to New York, according to Trump, who says Kim Yong Chol is coming to the US to discuss the possible summit with KJU. (Elise Hu, Bill Chappell, NPR)
- N.Korean sources report that as the country gears up for the harvest season, organized business groups are siphoning off fertilizer from the Hungnam Fertilizer Plant and selling it to established suppliers. (Kim Yoo Jin, *Daily*NK)
- Former N.Korean spy chief and senior official Kim Yong Chol is heading to the US for high level talks aimed at reviving the prospects of a summit in Singapore between KJU and Trump. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- Any diplomatic agreement in which North Korea agreed to give up its nuclear weapons could take as long as 10 years to implement, according to a new analysis from former US officials. (Joshua Berlinger, CNN)
- One of NK's most senior officials is travelling to New York, as preparations for a planned summit gather pace. Former intelligence chief Gen Kim Yong-chol is the most senior N. Korean official to visit the US since 2000. (BBC)
- This museum is a centrepiece of anti-American propaganda in NK. Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il found time to visit the museum and called the US 'wolves in human clothing' that are 'our most evil of enemies'. KJU visited the museum in Nov. 2014 to criticize the US directly. (Jo Hyon, *Daily*NK)

- A senior N.Korean official arrived in Beijing on Mon. (May 28), apparently on his way to Singapore for preparatory talks leading up to a potential summit between N.Korean leader KJU and Trump. (*Straits Times*)
- Trump has confirmed a top N.Korean official is to visit New York for talks related to a planned summit between Trump and KJU. (Steve Herman, VOA)

In South Korea:

- Prime Minister Lee Nak-yon indicated that the Moon administration's cabinet will be reshuffled following the June local elections. (*Joongang Daily*)
- Moon's news conference on May 27 revived the US-NK summit that had almost vanished. (Chun Young-gi, *Joongang Daily*)
- Pak Sool is one of nearly 100 N.Korean students at the Yeomyung school in Seoul, a place designed to teach those new to S.Korean society. The school's mission is to educate – both a standard range of subjects and the quirks of assimilating – but there is also a hope its students will be at the forefront of a possible unification of the two neighbours. (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)
- It's paramount that Moon go to Singapore where the historic summit between Trump and KJU will be held, not for the symbolism of a person who mediated their meeting, but to troubleshoot a communication gap between the couple; one is from Mars the other from Venus. (Lee Seong-hyon, *Korea Times)*

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The two Koreas on Tues. exchanged lists specifying the members of their delegations to this week's high-level talks that will follow up on the April agreement on peace and reconciliation between their leaders, Seoul's unification ministry said. (*Yonhap*)
- Resumption of economic cooperation with NK is expected to become a new growth driver for SK's financial sector and its many industries, Seoul's top financial regulator said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- S.Korean companies are accelerating their preparations for prospective cross-border projects with NK in the wake of the recent rapprochement on the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- NK on Tues. stepped up its demand for the repatriation of former N.Korean restaurant workers who defected to SK in April 2016. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's ruling party chief on Tues. floated the possibility of the two Koreas declaring an end to the Korean War before the signing of a multilateral peace treaty by countries engaged in the 1950-53 conflict. (*Yonhap*)
- There could be more talks and summits between Moon Jae-in and KJU, Moon said on Monday according to Reuters, as US officials prepare for a possible summit between Kim and Trump. (Stef W. Kight, *Axios*)

International:

- The US-NK summit appears to be back on track, but Pyongyang is showing increased impatience at comments coming out of Washington that what leader KJU really wants, even more than his nuclear security blanket, is American-style prosperity. (AP)
- In the Oval Office summit on May 22, Donald Trump hardly played a courteous host to his S.Korean guest, Moon, who flew to Washington in order to keep up the dialogue momentum with NK. (Nam Jeong-ho, *Joongang Daily*)
- NK on Tues. renewed its call for the US and SK to halt their joint military exercises, but with less bellicose rhetoric in light of growing hope that a summit meeting between Trump and KJU will happen after all. (Shim Kyu-seok, *Joongang Daily*)
- Japan seems to be desperate to get involved in the ongoing nuclear negotiations among the two Koreas and the US, amid concerns that it has been sidelined in talks ahead of the historic summit between the US and NK. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- Japan's Foreign Ministry says a Japanese navy surveillance aircraft has spotted a suspected Chinese-flagged ship apparently transferring fuel to a N.Korean tanker on the open seas. (AP)
- Japan on Tuesday said it had detected what appeared to be a Chinese-flagged vessel, 350 km (218 miles) off Shanghai, conducting illegal transfers to a North Korean ship. (*Reuters*)
- The summit is on, it's off, it's sort of on again. It's amateur night every night at the White House, and the fate of the US-N.Korean summit scheduled for Singapore on 12 Jun. will be decided by the coin Trump flips each day: heads three days in a row means "yes," tails three days in a row and the meeting stays cancelled. (Gwynne Dyer, *Korea Times*)
- SK said Tues. it will focus all efforts on laying the groundwork for the success of ongoing diplomacy on NK. (*Yonhap*, 05/29/2018)
- Joint military exercises between SK and the US are likely to become a key topic at the denuclearization talks between the US and NK. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- NK is calling for the termination of a military intelligence-sharing agreement between SK and Japan in a statement that reflects an increasing trend toward interference from Pyongyang. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- A top aide to KJU was on his way to the US on Tues., Trump said in a tweet. (*Guardian*)
- Gen. Kim Yong-chol, a high-ranking North Korean general who oversees inter-Korean policy, was set to fly to New York Wednesday, possibly bringing a message from Pyongyang's leader Kim Jong-un to U.S. President Donald Trump ahead of an anticipated summit. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)
- In a series of dramatic twists and turns, rapprochement between NK and the US remains both tenuous and unremittingly hopeful. After abruptly canceling his summit meeting with KJU last Thurs., Trump raised the possibility on Sat. that talks would proceed as planned on Jun. 12 in Singapore. (*Joongang Daily*)
- A senior N.Korean official arrived in Beijing on Tues. apparently en route to the US to hold preparatory talks over a possible summit between the leaders of the two countries. (*Yonhap*)
- KJUs dispatch of a top lieutenant to the US suggests that preparations for a summit between him and Trump are in the final stages. But history shows that such trips don't always lead to summits: The high hopes raised by a similar North Korean mission to Washington to set up a summit 18 years ago ended up dashed. (AP)

- Singapore's presidential palace, also known as the Istana, could host the summit between KJU and Trump, a report said on Tues. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- NK's top nuclear weapons negotiator was headed for New York on Tues. and expected to meet with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo as officials race to settle on an agenda for a Jun. 12 summit meeting between the North's leader, KJU, and Trump in Singapore. (Jane Perlez, Choe Sang-Hun, *New York Times)*
- NK is sending a senior official to New York for possible talks with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- One of KJU's top officials is traveling to the US as the two countries lay the groundwork for on-again, off-again talks between Kim and Trump in Singapore on Jun. 12. (Joshua Berlinger, Yoonjung Seo, CNN)
- A top N.Korean official is on his way to US for talks about a landmark summit between KJU and Trump, as efforts to the make the meeting happen go into overdrive. (Anna Fifield, *Washington Post*)
- Trump confirmed Tues. that N.Korean vice chairman Kim Yong-chol is heading to New York as part of ongoing preparations for his talks with the communist country's leader. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe plan to hold face-to-face discussions before a planned summit between Trump and KJU. (Steve Herman, VOA)
- A senior N.Korean official is headed to New York to discuss an upcoming summit, Trump said on Tues., the latest indication that an on-again-off-again meeting between Trump and NK's leader may go ahead next month. (Josh Smith, Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)
- SK's Yonhap news agency reported Tues. a top N.Korean official traveled to Beijing, and planned to fly on to New York on Wed. potentially for talks related to a planned summit between Trump and KJU. (Steve Herman, VOA)
- US and N.Korean officials met again Mon. at the demilitarized zone to talk about a possible summit between Trump and KJU. (Ken Bredemeier, VOA)
- Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe discussed NK by phone on Mon. and confirmed they would meet before an expected US-NK summit, the White House said. (*Reuters*)

Prepared by Lauren Jackson, HRNK Research Intern

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Wednesday, May 30, 2018

U.S. 'very engaged' on N.K. human rights issue: official; Trump confirms N.K. official's U.S. visit for summit prep; Serious summit talks start in NY

In North Korea:

(LEAD) Top N. Korean official heads to New York for talks with Pompeo (*Yonhap*, 05/30/2018)

Explainer: The man sent by North Korean leader to U.S. for high-level talks (*Reuters*, 05/30/2018)
Improving quality of life in North Korea in an era of peace (*DailyNK*, 05/30/2018)
Kim Jong-un unlikely to give up nuclear weapons but may open burger joint, according to CIA assessment (*Telegraph*, 05/30/2018)
Kim Yong Chol, A Biography (*38 North*, 05/29/2018)
Kim Yong-chol: the ultimate North Korean regime insider (*Guardian*, 05/30/2018)
North Koreans get a taste of Facebook in Pyongyang (*UPI*, 05/30/2018)
N. Korean official's US visit reminiscent of 2000 diplomacy (*Washington Post*, 05/30/2018)
North Koreans respond to the shutdown of the Punggye-ri nuclear site (*DailyNK*, 05/30/2018)
N. Korean Spy Chief Called 'Man Who Whispers in Kim Jong Un's Ear' (VOA, 05/29/2018)
Ordinary North Koreans dare to speak out despite fear (*BBC*, 05/30/2018)
The CVIG card (*Joongang Daily*, 05/30/2018)
Top North Korean official to meet Pompeo (*Korea Times*, 05/30/2018)
Top North Korea envoy to hold crucial talks in U.S. about summit (*Reuters*, 05/30/2018)
Why Kim Yong Chol, the loyal former North Korean spy chief en route to the US, may have blood on his hands (*Telegraph*, 05/29/2018)

In South Korea:
Cheong Wa Dae official in Singapore ahead of Trump-Kim summit: source (*Yonhap*, 05/30/2018)
N. Korea, U.S. can narrow differences on denuclearization: Seoul official (*Yonhap*, 05/30/2018)
PM underlines US role in denuke talks with NK (*Korea Times*, 05/30/2018)
Pundits agree talks will happen. But what comes next? (*Joongang Daily*, 05/30/2018)
Seoul's top diplomat asks for Islam world's support for inter-Korean peace (*Yonhap*, 05/30/2018)
S. Korea's defense minister to visit Singapore for security forum (*Yonhap*, 05/30/2018)
U.S.-North Korea differences over denuclearization remain 'significant,' South Korean official says (*Washington Post*, 05/30/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
A chance for a big deal (*Joongang Daily*, 05/30/2018)
No more deviation (*Joongang Daily*, 05/30/2018)
Seoul braces for North's tough demands ahead of high-level talks (*Yonhap*, 05/30/2018)

International:
(LEAD) Trump confirms N.K. official's U.S. visit for summit prep (*Yonhap*, 05/30/2018)
(4th LD) Pompeo, N. Korean official to meet in New York: White House (*Yonhap*, 05/30/2018)
(5th LD) N. Korea, U.S. speed up summit preparations (*Yonhap*, 05/30/2018)
At Singapore regional defense dialogue, it won't be all North Korea (*Reuters*, 05/30/2018)
Both Sides Preparing as if US-North Korea Summit Is a Go (AP, 05/30/2018)
Could Trump's zig-zag course to a North Korea summit actually work? (*Washington Post*, 05/30/2018)
Experts show mixed reactions to NK's nuke site destruction (*Korea Times*, 05/30/2018)
Japan to push for high-level talks with N. Korea in August (*Yonhap*, 05/30/2018)
NBC: CIA report says North Korea won't denuclearize (*Korea Times*, 05/30/2018)
Pompeo to Meet with Top N. Korean Official in NY (VOA, 05/29/2018)

Russian foreign minister 'soon' to visit N.K. (*Yonhap*, 05/30/2018)
Russia's foreign minister is headed to North Korea (*CNN*, 05/30/2018)
Russia says Lavrov to visit North Korea on May 31 (*Reuters*, 05/30/2018)
Russia's top envoy to meet Ri Yong-ho in Pyongyang (*Joongang Daily*, 05/30/2018)
Serious summit talks start in NY (*Joongang Daily*, 05/30/2018)
'The carnival ride': Trump's renewed fixation on a June 12 summit date sends officials scrambling (*Washington Post*, 05/30/2018)
Trump or Kim: who is more strategic? (*Korea Times*, 05/30/2018)
Trump is wrong about North Korea, says the CIA (*Washington Post*, 05/30/2018)
U.S. State Department calls out North on religious freedom (*Joongang Daily*, 05/30/2018)
U.S. 'very engaged' on N.K. human rights issue: official (*Yonhap*, 05/30/2018)
US says North Korea behind malware attacks (*AP*, 05/30/2018)
U.S., North Korea conclude second round of Panmunjom talks (*UPI*, 05/30/2018)
White House: US 'continues to actively prepare' for summit (*Washington Post*, 05/30/2018)

In North Korea:

- A high-ranking N.Korean official left Beijing for NY on Wed apparently to meet with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. (*Yonhap*)
- When Kim Yong Chol lands in NY this week, he will become the most senior N.Korean envoy to hold talks with American officials on US soil in 18 years. (Doina Chiacu, Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)
- NK will enjoy the benefits of development that will push it into becoming a modern and civilized country. To bring NK into the "smart era," new infrastructure in the country will be led by ICT-driven development based on convenient, environmentally-friendly, and intelligent technology. The benefits of development will be enjoyed by N.Koreans and newly-arrived S.Korean migrants. Now, the only thing left is for the two Korean governments to move forward with determination to improve the lives of their citizens. (Na Jong-Won, *DailyNK*)
- American intelligence officers assessing NK intentions ahead of a possible nuclear summit believe the regime has no intention of giving up its weapons but might be amenable to opening a burger restaurant in the capital Pyongyang. (Rob Crilly, *Telegraph*)
- Kim Yong Chol has traveled to the US where he will meet with senior US government officials in NYC. Kim is the most powerful, senior DPRK official to visit the US since Vice Marshal Jo Myong Rok's 2000 visit to Washington, DC. There are some key points to know about the 72-year-old Kim. (*38 North*)
- Kim Yong-chol, the septuagenarian former spy chief due to arrive in NY on Wed for talks with Mike Pompeo, is the ultimate N.Korean regime insider. (*Guardian*)
- N.Koreans are being introduced to social media applications like Facebook through workshops held by foreign non-profit organizations. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- KJU's dispatch of a top lieutenant to the US suggests that preparations for a meeting between him and Trump are in the final stages. But history shows that such trips don't always lead to summits: The high hopes raised by a similar N.Korean mission 18 years ago ended up dashed. (Hyung-Jin Kim, *Washington Post*)

- The Rodong Sinmun published a statement from the country's Nuclear Weapons Research Institute regarding the shutdown of Punggye-ri on May 25 along with a news article. Reactions have been split between those who believe that the nuclear site has been blown up and those who do not believe it happened, report in-country sources. Most N.Koreans are reportedly suspicious of the state news reports. (Kim Yoo-Jin, *DailyNK*)
- Observers of the reclusive North, including the Wilson Center's Jean Lee, believe "Kim Yong Chol is the man who whispers in KJU's ear. Not only does he advise him on strategy, but he also conveys the leader's demands." (VOA)
- Speaking to ordinary citizens inside NK is almost impossible, with visitors heavily policed and communication with the outside world blocked. But two residents were willing to speak to the BBC's Victoria Derbyshire programme, despite the threat of death or imprisonment. (Michael Cowan, *BBC*)
- Pyongyang would do well to realize its habitual stubbornness does no benefit to negotiations with the US and, in the worst case scenario, may truly lead to the cancellation of its summit with the US. (*Joongang Daily*)
- Key N.Korean and US officials will meet in NY, Wed, to possibly draw up the draft of an agreement on denuclearizing the North ahead of a summit between their leaders in Singapore, June 12. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- A top N.Korean official was headed to NY on Tue for talks with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, the latest indication that an on-again-off-again summit between Trump and KJU may go ahead next month. (Josh Smith, Matt Spetalnick, *Reuters*)
- The former spy chief turned top nuclear negotiator is considered to be one of the most influential N.Korean officials outside of the Kim family dynasty - but he is also highly controversial. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)

In South Korea:

- An official from SK's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae has been dispatched to Singapore, the venue of an upcoming US-NK summit, an informed source here said Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- NK and the US have differences on how to achieve denuclearization but the gap could be bridged, Seoul's unification minister said Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- Prime Minister Lee Nak-yon has emphasized the role of the US in denuclearizing NK, saying that ensuring the security of the KJU regime was key to resolving the issue. (Park Ji-won, *Korea Times*)
- Effective negotiations must begin to address denuclearization and a peace arrangement. Once the North decommissions its nukes, they must be transported out of the country. This will probably take around three to six months, but when it is complete, economic sanctions should be lifted and followed by investment and aid. Concerns about the concealment of any nuclear arms can be put off until later. Once NK is properly integrated into the international economy, concealment of any nukes may become meaningless anyway. (*Joongang Daily*)
- SK's Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha asked the Islamic countries on Tues for prayers and support for peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)

- S.Korean Defense Minister Song Young-moo will attend a regional security forum in Singapore this week amid brisk diplomacy over NK's nuclear program, long considered the biggest regional security threat, his ministry said Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- Amid a flurry of diplomatic efforts to salvage a June 12 US-NK summit, the S.Korean unification minister warned Wed that "significant" differences remain between the two countries on how to achieve denuclearization. (Michelle Ye Hee Lee, *Washington Post*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- KJU has the opportunity to shift his bet on nuclear development to develop his country economically. He can only achieve that when he really sees through denuclearization. To achieve the goal, Seoul must act as an honest broker — and a wise adviser — between Washington and Pyongyang. The economy is the invisible hand and the most powerful weapon to bring seismic changes to NK as well as peace and co-prosperity to the Korean Peninsula. (Kim Byong-yeon, *Joongang Daily*)
- What concerns us is NK is demanding that 12 N.Korean defectors be repatriated after they already became S.Korean citizens. Our Unification Ministry expressed an intention to "solve the problem through dialogue." If the government agrees to discuss their fate to curry favor with NK, that's a big problem. As long as Pyongyang makes unreasonable demands, the international society will doubt its sincerity about denuclearization. (*Joongang Daily*)
- SK said Wed the two Koreas will resolve contentious issues through dialogue in the face of the North's fresh demand for the repatriation of defectors ahead of this week's high-level talks. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- Trump confirmed Tues that a senior N.Korean official is heading to NY as part of ongoing preparations for his potential meeting with KJU. (*Yonhap*)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will meet with a senior N.Korean official in New York this week, the White House said Tues, as the two sides ramp up preparations for a potential summit between their leaders. (*Yonhap*)
- A hectic round of working-level discussions between NK and the US is under way in Korea and Singapore, raising the prospect of their leaders holding an unprecedented bilateral summit next month. (*Yonhap*)
- When senior defense officials from around the world, including US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, meet in Singapore this weekend, it won't be all about the US-NK summit scheduled to be held in the same city later in June. (Idrees Ali, Raju Gopalakrishnan, *Reuters*)
- Rapid-fire diplomacy played out on two continents in advance of an "expected" summit between Trump and KJU, the strengthening resolve coming after a series of high-risk, high-reward gambits by the two leaders. (*AP*)
- Will KJU really give up the bargaining chip that brought him to the door of a meeting with an American president? It sounds unlikely. But that's the Singapore bargain, and if it can't be reached, well, one thing you learn covering labor negotiations is that although strikes can

bring devastating harm to both sides, they happen if talks collapse. (David Ignatius, *Washington Post*)

- Experts have shown mixed reactions to the North's destruction of the nuclear test site. Some argue it should be taken as the first step toward the North's denuclearization, while others claim it should not be taken as a sign that the reclusive regime is willing to give up its nuclear weapons. (Kim Jae-kyoung, *Korea Times*)
- Japan plans to push for a foreign ministers meeting with NK in August should the North make progress toward denuclearization after the summit between the US and the communist country, the Japanese news agency has said. (*Yonhap*)
- A new US intelligence assessment has concluded that NK will not give up its nuclear weapons any time soon, NBC News reported Wed. (Jung Min-ho, *Korea Times*)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will meet later this week with a N.Korean four-star general in NY for talks related to a planned summit between Trump and KJU, according to the White House. (Steve Herman, VOA)
- Russia's top diplomat will visit NK to meet amid ongoing preparations for Pyongyang to hold its unprecedented summit with the US, according to the North's state-media on Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will visit NK on Thurs, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement, the latest move in Pyongyang's push for diplomatic rapprochement. (Jamie Tarabay, CNN)
- Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov will visit NK on Thurs to hold talks with his counterpart Ri Yong Ho about the situation on the Korean peninsula, the Russian Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday. (*Reuters*)
- Russia's foreign minister plans to visit NK today to discuss bilateral relations and "pressing international issues" with the N.Korean minister, Moscow announced Wed. (*Joongang Daily*)
- Kim Yong-chol, the highest-ranking N.Korean official to visit the US in 18 years, was set to meet US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in NY, their third meeting in two months, to finalize a first summit between the two countries. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)
- The flurry of activity surrounding possible talks between Trump and KJU appeared to be driven in large part by Trump's fixation on keeping a June 12 date for the meeting — even though the president himself had abruptly called the whole thing off earlier. In a series of tweets since then, Trump has suggested the summit will take place as scheduled in Singapore, even though his own advisers had warned last week it might be too late. (David Nakamura, Anna Fifield, *Washington Post*)
- Ahead of the upcoming Singapore summit possibly on June 12, Trump and KJU are playing their own games to look less eager to secure negotiation leverage. Both parties have flip-flopped on their stance toward the historic meeting over the past week but it seems that they will highly likely meet in Singapore as scheduled. (*Korea Times*)
- There is no reason to believe NK intends to give up its nuclear weapons, we have argued repeatedly. We mused as to whether the CIA and other intelligence agencies have actually detected a change in NK's strategic goals, and if not, why was the president gambling on a summit premised on complete denuclearization. (Jennifer Rubin, *Washington Post*)
- The US State Department lambasted NK in its annual report on religious freedom Tues, two weeks before Trump and KJU could meet in Singapore, but the department equivocated on

whether the issue would be on the summit agenda or raised during pre-summit meetings between working-level officials. (*Joongang Daily*)

- The US is "very engaged" in efforts to end NK's human rights abuses as the two sides prepare for a potential meeting between their leaders next month, a senior US official said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- The Trump administration issued a fresh warning Tues about malicious N.Korean cyber activity, as that nation's leader dispatched a top adviser to NY to prepare for a possible summit on its nuclear arsenal. (AP)
- The US and NK concluded a second round of talks at Panmunjom on Wed as the two sides also met in Singapore to discuss the potential summit between Trump and KJU. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- The US "continues to actively prepare" for an "expected summit" between Trump and KJU in Singapore, the White House said Tues as diplomatic efforts were underway on two continents to prepare for the historic meeting. (Catherine Lucey, Zeke Miller and Kim Tong-Hyung , *Washington Post*)

Prepared by Sohee Ha, HRNK Research Intern

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Thursday, May 31, 2018

Trump Says NK Envoys to Deliver Him a Letter from KJU; NK Human Rights Activists Consider Options Beyond Summit; Two Koreas may hold joint event to mark Jun. 15 Declaration

In North Korea:

Activist expects N. Korea to conceal half of nuclear weapons (*Yonhap*, 05/31/2018)
Denuclearization of N. Korea Probably Unachievable, Experts Say (VOA, 05/31/2018)
North Korea Human Rights Activists Consider Options Beyond Summit (VOA, 05/31/2018)
North Korea's Yongbyon Nuclear Research Center: Possible Preparation for Reprocessing Campaign in Early May? (*38 North*, 05/301/2018)
Personnel Adjustments at KPA General Political Bureau (*NK Leadership Watch*, 05/31/2018)
Second North group goes to China (*Joongang*, 06/1/2018)

In South Korea:

Seoul allows monk to take trip to North to boost ties (*Joongang*, 06/1/2018)
South Korean monk to visit North Korea in first civilian exchange (*Korea Times*, 05/31/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

(LEAD) Moon voices need to support inter-Korean cooperation following denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 05/31/2018)

Two Koreas may hold joint event to mark June 15 Declaration (*Korea Times*, 05/31/2018)

International:

(2nd LD) Kim meets Russia's top diplomat in Pyongyang (*Yonhap*, 05/31/2018)
(7th LD) Pompeo, N. Korean official meet in New York, prepare for summit (*Yonhap*, 05/31/2018)
Blue House aide prepping for summit in Singapore (*Joongang*, 06/1/2018)
China expresses intention to play role in declaring formal end to Korean War (*Yonhap*, 05/31/2018)
Donald Trump praises 'very good' North Korean meetings as he awaits letter from Kim Jong-un (*Telegraph*, 05/31/2018)
Former Japanese leader wishes for success of N.K.-U.S. summit (*Yonhap*, 05/31/2018)
Key North Korea official meets Pompeo in New York (BBC, 05/31/2018)
Kim Jong Un Complains of US 'Hegemonism' as Summit Nears (*New York Times*, 05/31/2018)
Kim Jong Un criticizes officials for 'outdated diplomacy' following public letter from Trump (*Daily*NK, 05/31/2018)
Mike Pompeo tweets 'great opportunity' for North Korea after steak dinner (UPI, 05/31/2018)
Moon may travel to Singapore for three-way summit to declare end of Korean War (*Yonhap*, 05/31/2018)
Moscow invites Kim Jong-un to visit (*Korea Times*, 05/31/2018)
North Korea nuclear talks get underway (*Korea Times*, 05/31/2018)
North Korea's negotiator is not a very nice man (CNN, 05/31/2018)
North Korea summit: uninvited guests could foil Trump's objectives (*Guardian*, 05/31/2018)
Pompeo, Kim confer over New York meal (*Joongang*, 06/1/2018)
Pompeo Meets Kim Jong Un's Top Deputy on Summit Plans (VOA, 05/31/2018)
Racing to the summit (*Korea Times*, 05/31/2018)
Russia enters North Korean diplomatic fray as Lavrov calls for phased lifting of sanctions on visit (*Telegraph*, 05/31/2018)
Russian foreign minister meets Kim Jong Un, calls for lifting of sanctions (CNN, 05/31/2018)
Russia's Lavrov invites North Korea's Kim to Russia: foreign ministry (*Reuters*, 05/31/2018)
Russia's top diplomat in Pyongyang to discuss ties, Korean Peninsula issues (*Yonhap*, 05/31/2018)
S. Korea, U.S. in close consultation over summit preparatory talks with N.K. (*Yonhap*, 05/31/2018)
Three places shortlisted for NK-US summit (*Korea Times*, 05/31/2018)
Trump approach risks disaster, warns architect of previous North Korea talks (*Guardian*, 05/31/2018)
Trump: N. Korean delegation to bring letter from Kim Friday (*Yonhap*, 05/31/2018)
Trump Says North Korea Envoys to Deliver Him a Letter from Kim Jong-un (*New York Times*, 05/31/2018)
Trump says North Korea talks positive, expects Kim letter (*Reuters*, 05/31/2018)
US-NKorea open talks in New York aimed at salvaging summit (*Washington Post*, 05/31/2018)
U.S., North Korea to hold second day of nuclear talks (*Reuters*, 05/31/2018)
US presses North Korea for 'historic' plan to disarm as Pompeo meets Kim aide (*Guardian*, 05/31/2018)

In North Korea:

- A renowned S.Korean activist for N.Korean human rights said Thurs. that the North's regime will never give up its nuclear weapons under any circumstances. (*Yonhap*)
- Amid a flurry of rapidly evolving diplomatic activities aimed at reviving the summit between Washington and Pyongyang, experts contacted by VOA's Korean Service say that completely denuclearizing NK probably is unachievable. (Kim Youngnam, VOA)
- NK human rights advocates are considering more practical ways to reform the repressive practices of the KJU government, as denuclearization talks continue to end the country's economic and diplomatic isolation. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- Commercial satellite imagery of the Yongbyon Nuclear Scientific Research Center from May 6 indicates activity around the Radiochemical Laboratory's Thermal Plant that could be early signs of a possible reprocessing campaign. However, it remains unclear if that is the case since there is no sign of the specialized railcars that are usually associated with this process. (*38 North*)
- Late last week, DPRK state media publicized two highly significant personnel changes to the Korean People's Army high command. In a report about KJU on-site visit to the Wo'nsan-Kalma tourism zone, state media identified General Kim Su Gil as Director of the KPA General Political Bureau and Col. Gen. Son Chol Ju as deputy director for organization for the GPB. (*NK Leadership Watch*)
- A delegation of 200 working-level officials from NK's ruling Workers' Party is visiting China to study the country's development model amid warming bilateral ties, multiple sources here told the JoongAng Ilbo Thurs. (Yeh Young-june, Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang*)

In South Korea:

- Seoul allowed a Buddhist monk to visit Pyongyang today to discuss the restoration of a temple at Mount Kumgang and strengthen ties with Buddhist leaders in the North, the first time the Moon administration gave permission to a S.Korean to physically engage in civilian-to-civilian interactions with N.Koreans, Seoul's Unification Ministry announced Thurs. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang*)
- The unification ministry said Thurs. it approved a visit by a S.Korean monk to NK, to discuss restoring a temple there. It will be the first civilian exchange to take place since the launch of the Moon administration in May last year. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Moon on Thurs. called for measures to support economic cooperation with NK, stressing a need to readjust government spending to support cross-border exchanges in case Pyongyang abandons its nuclear ambition. (*Yonhap*)
- The two Koreas may hold a joint event to commemorate the Jun.15 joint declaration between the two made in 2000 by the heads of both governments. Participation of the leaders and their unification chiefs is likely dependant on the outcome of the Kim-Trump summit on Jun. 12. (Park Ji-won, *Korea Times*)

International:

- KJU met the top Russian diplomat in Pyongyang on Thurs., the Russian Foreign Ministry said. (*Yonhap*)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and a senior N.Korean official met in New York Wed. as both sides push to salvage a highly anticipated summit between their leaders. (*Yonhap*)
- An official from the Blue House has been dispatched to Singapore, the site of a highly anticipated meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, but the presidential office denied speculation that the trip was related to the summit. (Shim Kyu-seok, *Joongang*)
- China on Thurs. signaled its intention to actively engage in the process of formally ending the 1950-53 Korean War, as SK appears to be pushing for the declaration through a three-way summit with the US and NK. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump has praised "very good meetings" with NK as it emerged a personal letter from KJU is being delivered to the president ahead of their planned meeting. (Ben Riley-Smith, *Telegraph*)
- Former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda said Thurs. that he wishes for a "great success" from the NK-US summit slated for Jun. 12 in Singapore. (*Yonhap*)
- The right-hand man to KJU has met US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in New York to discuss a historic summit. (BBC)
- KJU complained of "US hegemonism" to Russia's visiting foreign minister on Thurs., as one of his top lieutenants was in New York trying to pave the way for a summit with Trump in Singapore next month. (AP)
- Following Trump's public letter cancelling the US-DPRK summit, an order emanating directly from KJU was reportedly sent to the N.Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and Korean Workers' Party Organization and Guidance Department (OGD) commanding that "outdated diplomacy practices be replaced and for creative diplomacy to be practiced." (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met with Kim Yong Chol, vice chairman of the central committee of the Korean Workers' Party, and the two men and their aides shared dinner in New York, according to Pompeo's Twitter account. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Moon may travel to Singapore next month to hold a three-way summit with his US and N.Korean counterparts, Seoul officials noted Thurs., possibly suggesting that Washington and Pyongyang may currently be considering a formal end to the Korean War as an incentive to the North for its denuclearization. (*Yonhap*)
- Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in Pyongyang on Thurs. invited KJU to visit Russia, Moscow said, during the first meeting between the head of the reclusive state and a Russian official. (*Korea Times*)
- A senior N.Korean official and the top US diplomat had dinner in New York as Trump and KJU try to salvage prospects for a high-stakes nuclear summit. It's the highest-level official N.Korean visit to the US in 18 years. (AP)
- NK's leading nuclear negotiator, Kim Yong Chol and his congenial American counterpart, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, share several common lines on their resumés. Both began

their careers as officers in their respective armies, Pompeo finishing first in his class at West Point. Both eventually had leadership roles in their respective nations' parliaments. And both headed their countries' intelligence agencies. (David A. Andelman, CNN)

- Trump hopes to choose from a quick and easy menu at next month's Singapore summit with KJU. (Simon Tisdall, *Guardian*)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Kim Yong-chol, a high-ranking N.Korean official, had a dinner meeting in New York Wed. evening, feasting on steak and corn, to pave the way to a historic summit next month between their two leaders. (*Joongang*)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is holding more talks Thurs. in New York with the right-hand man to KU about a potential summit next month between Kim and Trump. (Steve Herman, VOA)
- It does look like Singapore is on again. You can't have so many emissaries going back and forth, between Pyongyang and New York, between Washington and Singapore, between Pyongyang and Singapore, between Manila and Panmunjeom, without thinking these guys are serious, something's up. (Donald Kirk, *Korea Times*)
- Sergey Lavrov, the Russian foreign minister, arrived in Pyongyang on Thurs. on a mission to get Moscow back into the diplomatic fray surrounding NK and, ultimately, boost Russia's economic and security standing in the region. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov met with KJU during a trip to Pyongyang Thurs., as Moscow steps up efforts to increase its influence in the region ahead of proposed talks between Kim and Donald Trump. (Steve George, CNN)
- Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov invited KJU to Russia and passed on best wishes from President Vladimir Putin, the Russian Foreign Ministry said on Thurs. (*Reuters*)
- Russia's top diplomat arrived in NK on Thurs., the North's state media reported, amid a flurry of diplomacy under way between the North and the US for a summit. (*Yonhap*)
- SK and the US have been in close consultation over working-level talks with NK aimed at setting the stage for a Washington-Pyongyang summit, the foreign ministry here said Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- Three places seem to be on the shortlist for the historic summit between Trump and KJU slated for Jun. 12 in Singapore. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times)*
- Trump's approach to peace talks with NK has a high risk of "disastrous" results, according to a former senior Japanese diplomat who led breakthrough negotiations with the previous Kim Jong-il regime. (Daniel Hurst, *Guardian*)
- Trump said a N.Korean delegation in New York is expected to bring him a letter from leader KJU on Fri. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump said on Thurs. that a delegation of officials from NK was expected to deliver him a letter from their leader, KJU, in an extraordinary meeting on Fri. in Washington. (Gardiner Harris, *New York Times*)
- Trump said talks with NK in New York have been very positive and he is expecting the delegation from Pyongyang to travel to Washington on Fri. to deliver a letter to him from leader KJU. (*Reuters*)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and NK's former military intelligence chief opened talks Thurs. to try to salvage an on-again, off-again summit betweenTrump and KJU. (Matthew Lee, Josh Lederman, Christopher Bodeen, AP)

- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and high-ranking N.Korean official Kim Yong Chol will try to settle nuclear disagreements and set up a historic summit between their leaders, holding a second day of meetings on Thurs. in New York. (Rodrigo Campos, Daniel Bases, *Reuters*)
- The N.Koreans will have to lay out a disarmament plan in the next few days if a planned summit between Trump and KJU is to go ahead on schedule in two weeks' time, a senior US state department official said on Wed. (Julian Borger, *Guardian*)

Prepared by Lauren Jackson, HRNK Research Intern

6. JUNE

Friday, June 1, 2018

North Korea human rights violations should be addressed in summit talks; Only Freedom Can Disarm Kim; The Backlash Against Civil Society Access and Participation at the United Nations

Top News:
North Korea human rights violations should be addressed in summit talks (*The Hill*, 05/31/2018)
Only Freedom Can Disarm Kim (*The Wall Street Journal*, 05/31/2018)
New Report | The Backlash Against Civil Society Access and Participation at the United Nations (International Service for Human Rights, 05/31/2018)

In North Korea:
(2nd LD) N.K. leader Kim stresses he is committed to denuclearization of Korean Peninsula(*Yonhap*, 06/01/2018)
Kim Jong-un complains to Russia over 'US hegemonism' (*Guardian*, 05/31/2018)
Kim Jong Un complains of US 'hegemonism' as summit nears (*Washington Post*, 05/31/2018)
Kim Jong-un says 'will for denuclearization remains consistent and fixed' (*Korea Times*, 06/01/2018)
Kim talks denuclearization pledge with Lavrov (*Joongang Daily*, 06/01/2018)
New barbed-wire fencing installed in Chagang Province (*DailyNK*, 06/01/2018)
N. Korea leader may take cue from China, Russia (*Korea Times*, 06/01/2018)
North Korean farmers who lost land to the state find new ways to farm (*DailyNK*, 06/01/2018)
North Korean human rights - potential flashpoint (*Korea Times*, 06/01/2018)
North Korea crisis in 300 words (BBC, 05/31/2018)
North Korea seeks foreign investors at Mount Kumgang (UPI, 05/31/2018)
Opening up North Korea's railways – could the world's longest train journey be getting an extension? (*Telegraph*, 06/01/2018)
Senior North Korean Official Chastises South Korean Reporter (NYT, 06/01/2018)

In South Korea:
For South Korean Christians, reunification with North is a religious goal (UPI, 06/01/2018)
Likability of N.K., U.S. leaders rise among S. Koreans: poll (*Yonhap*, 06/01/2018)
South Korea may try for a three-way summit in Singapore with U.S. and North Korea(*Washington Post*, 06/01/2018)
S. Korean university students push for exchanges with North (*Yonhap*, 06/01/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(6th LD) N. Korea proposes holding joint events in South to mark 2000 summit (*Yonhap*, 06/01/2018)

(8th LD) Koreas agree to hold military dialogue, family reunion talks this month (*Yonhap*, 06/01/2018)
A chance for a big deal (*Joongang Daily*, 06/01/2018)
Despite Budding Detente, North Korea Continues Crackdown on South Korean Influence(*RFA*, 05/31/2018)
Koreas agree to open communication channel in Kaesong (*Joongang Daily*, 06/01/2018)
Koreas set to hold high-level talks to discuss implementation of summit agreement (*Yonhap*, 06/01/2018)
Koreas to resume military dialogue June 14 (*Korea Times*, 06/01/2018)
North Korea suggests joint celebration of first inter-Korean summit in the South (*Korea Times*, 06/01/2018)
North, South Korea agree to talks on military issues, family reunions: joint statement (*Reuters*, 06/01/2018)
Sending leaflets to North Korea remains thorny issue (*Korea Times*, 06/01/2018)
The Latest: Koreas Agree to Hold Military, Red Cross Talks (NYT, 06/01/2018)
Two Koreas begin high-level talks at DMZ (*Korea Times*, 06/01/2018)
Two Koreas make progress, agree to talks on military, family reunions (*Reuters*, 06/01/2018)
Two Koreas 'skip lunch' to discuss cooperation, exchange (*UPI*, 06/01/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) Pompeo cites 'real progress' toward U.S.-N. Korea summit (*Yonhap*, 06/01/2018)
(2nd LD) Pompeo, N. Korean official hold summit prep talks (*Yonhap*, 06/01/2018)
(2nd LD) Security forum opens in Singapore amid focus on N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 06/01/2018)
(4th LD) Trump: N. Korean delegation to bring letter from Kim Friday (*Yonhap*, 06/01/2018)
Commentary: Forget the 'Libya model' for North Korea (*Reuters*, 06/01/2018)
Kim-Trump summit: Top officials meet to salvage summit (BBC, 05/31/2018)
Japan Navy Spots NKorea Tanker Suspected of Illegal Transfer (NYT, 06/01/2018)
Japan urges Trump to take a hard line with North Korea (*Washington Post*, 06/01/2018)
North Korean delegation to meet Trump with Kim Jong-un's letter (*Korea Times*, 06/01/2018)
North Koreans to Meet Trump; Deliver Letter From Leader (NYT, 06/01/2018)
Pompeo: 'Real Progress' Made in Meeting with North Korea's Top Deputy on Potential Summit (VOA, 06/01/2018)
Russia's Lavrov calls for end to North Korea sanctions (UPI, 05/31/2018)
Singapore testing security measures before N. Korea-U.S. summit (*Yonhap*, 06/01/2018)
Trump Dangles Aid Before North Korea. But Does Kim Jong-un Want It? (NYT, 06/01/2018)
Trump hints at more meetings with Kim (*Joongang Daily*, 06/01/2018)
Trump Expected to Receive Personal Letter from N. Korean Leader (VOA, 06/01/2018)
Trump expecting personal letter from Kim Jong-un as summit date nears (*Guardian*, 05/31/2018)
US confident on plans for Trump-Kim talks (BBC, 05/31/2018)
U.S. deploys F-22 Raptors to Japan as denuclearization in doubt (UPI, 06/01/2018)
US-NKorea Letter Diplomacy Is a Throwback to a Different Era (NYT, 06/01/2018)
US Sanctions Have a Weak Spot: Tiny Allies Like Latvia (NYT, 06/01/2018)
What will U.S. give North Korea in exchange for nukes? Ahead of summit, question looms(*Washington Post*, 06/01/2018)

Top News:

- The ongoing talks between US and NK will hopefully allow President Trump to prioritize human rights in negotiations. While denuclearization of NK is certainly an important goal of any summit, any rapprochement between US and NK over the long term must have as its centerpiece an end to the human rights atrocities committed by KJU's regime. (Thomas Barker, *The Hill*)
- Domestic accountability is a necessary condition for making any agreement with the US stick. (Claudia Rosett, *The Wall Street Journal*)
- There are many different approaches States employ to keep critical voices out of multilateral spaces. ISHR's new report outlines what these are and provides a road map for States and UN representatives to prevent and counter restrictions on civil society participation in UN processes. (*ISHR*)

In North Korea:

- N.Korean leader KJU has reaffirmed that he is committed to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and expressed hope for a phased process in resolving the issue. (*Yonhap*)
- KJU has complained of "US hegemonism" to Russia's visiting foreign minister as one of his top lieutenants visited NY trying to ensure that a summit with Trump goes ahead. (*Guardian*)
- N.Korean leader KJU complained of "US hegemonism" to Russia's visiting foreign minister on Thurs., as one of his top lieutenants was in New York trying to pave the way for a summit with President Trump in Singapore next month. (Eric Talmadge and Hyung-jin Kim, AP)
- KJU told Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov he was committed to denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, the official KCNA reported Fri. (*Korea Times*)
- N.Korean leader KJU reaffirmed his commitment to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and expressed hope for a phased process in resolving the issue on Thurs. KJU made the remark in talks with visiting Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in Pyongyang, according to the KCNA. (*Joongang Daily*)
- The N.Korean authorities are strengthening existing barbed-wire fences and installing new ones along the Sino-DPRK border in Chagang Province to prevent smuggling and defections across the border. (Kang Mi-jin, *DailyNK*)
- KJU is expanding diplomacy with China and Russia before his summit with Trump on June 12. (Park Ji-won, *Korea Times*)
- N.Korean residents who had small plots of land on mountains confiscated under the KJU regime's reforestation policy have been making deals with collective farm officials to receive new plots to grow food. (Kim Yoo-jin, *DailyNK*)
- Human rights abuses in NK are a global concern, but the US and SK have taken a refrained approach to this issue recently. This is possibly because the two allies have a common understanding that raising human rights issues now could spoil ongoing denuclearization talks with NK. (Lee Suh-yoon, *Korea Times*)

- As the US and NK prepare for a historic summit, let's take a step back and look at the crisis that at worst could threaten nuclear war. (BBC)
- NK is looking for investors in its Mount Kumgang Tourist Zone after a decade of isolation following the fatal shooting of a S.Korean tourist at the resort in 2008. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- For fans of rail travel, it raises the prospect of one day taking a train from Moscow all the way to Seoul - an odyssey that would amount to the longest rail journey on Earth. (Anthony Lambert, *Telegraph*)
- Bitter rivals NK and SK are on talking terms again, but their surprising cordiality still has moments of awkwardness, such when a senior N.Korean official scolded a S.Korean reporter over a question he didn't like. (AP)

In South Korea:

- Korean Christians who support reunification see it as a political and religious goal. And although it's an uphill struggle, they believe with faith anything is possible. (Diane Winston, UPI)
- The favorability ratings of both N.Korean leader KJU and US President Trump exceeded 30 percent among S.Korean adults, a poll showed Fri., ahead of their possible summit to discuss denuclearization and peace. (*Yonhap*)
- As senior US and N.Korean officials worked toward reviving an aborted meeting between KJU and President Trump, SK on Thurs. expressed interest in a three-way summit in Singapore that would add S.Korean President Moon to the mix. (Michelle Ye Hee Lee and John Hudson, *Washington Post*)
- Students of Seoul National University (SNU) said Fri. that they have asked the Ministry of Unification to approve contact with students of Kim Il Sung University, NK's most prestigious school of higher learning, to discuss academic exchanges. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- NK on Fri. proposed holding joint events in SK to mark the anniversary of the two Koreas' first ever summit in 2000, a unification ministry official said. (*Yonhap*)
- The two Koreas agreed Fri. to hold general-level military talks on June 14 at the truce village of Panmunjom as part of efforts to ease tensions between the two countries. (*Yonhap*)
- KJU has the opportunity to shift his bet on nuclear development to develop his country economically. He can only achieve that when he really sees through denuclearization. To achieve the goal, Seoul must act as an honest broker — and a wise adviser — between Washington and Pyongyang. The economy is the invisible hand and the most powerful weapon to bring seismic changes to NK as well as peace and co-prosperity to the Korean Peninsula. (Kim Byung-yeon, *Joongang Daily*)
- Though N.Korean media have been highlighting the atmosphere of reconciliation that followed recent successful meetings between leader KJU and S.Korean President Moon,

authorities in the authoritarian state are carefully watching residents who have a taste for still-banned money and movies from the South, sources inside the country said. (Jieun Kim, RFA)

- The two Koreas agreed to open a joint liaison office in the Kaesong Industrial Complex, an inter-Korean business project, and discussed hosting a celebration between the two countries for the first time in a decade during meetings at the border on Fri. (*Joongang Daily*)
- SK and NK are set to hold high-level talks Fri. to discuss steps to implement the agreement reached by their leaders during their April summit. (*Yonhap*)
- The two Koreas agreed to resume high-level military talks on June 14 to discuss measures to ease border tensions and vitalize exchanges in all sectors during their high-level talks at the truce village of Panmunjeom, Fri. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- NK suggested during high-level talks on Fri. that the two Koreas hold a joint celebration of the anniversary of a historic 2000 inter-Korean summit this month in the South, an official in Seoul said. (*Korea Times*)
- The two Koreas agreed during a high-level meeting on Fri. to hold talks later this month on military issues and reunions of families separated by the Korean War, a joint statement said. (*Reuters*)
- Amid inter-Korean detente, private citizens launching balloons carrying NK leaflets and USB storage devices containing news and information about prosperous SK have been causing ire in NK, as well as SK. (Kim Ji-soo & Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)
- NK and SK have agreed to hold military and Red Cross talks later this month on reducing tensions and resuming reunions of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War. (AP)
- SK and NK began high-level talks Fri. to discuss steps to implement the agreement reached by their leaders in their April and May summits. (*Korea Times*)
- The two Koreas agreed at a high-level meeting on Fri. to hold talks this month on military issues and reunions of families divided by the 1950-53 Korean War, they said in a statement. (Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)
- NK and SK held a marathon session of talks at Panmunjom on Fri., ahead of a senior N.Korean official's possible visit to the White House. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

International:

- US and NK have made "real progress" toward a fruitful summit between their leaders on dismantling the North's nuclear weapons program, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and a senior N.Korean official held talks in New York Thurs. to try to salvage a highly anticipated summit between their leaders. (*Yonhap*)
- Asia's key defense forum opened in Singapore on Fri., with NK's nuclear issue high on the agenda, at a time when regional security faces a potential turning point. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. Trump said a N.Korean delegation in New York is expected to bring him a letter from leader KJU on Fri. (*Yonhap*)

- NK is not like Libya. And those who think that Washington should look to the North African nation as a precedent for either denuclearization or regime change in Pyongyang are heading either for confusion or disappointment. (Karl P. Muller, *Reuters*)
- The right-hand man to N.Korea leader KJU and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo have concluded two days of talks in New York. (BBC)
- Japan's FM said Fri. that a Japanese warship has spotted a N.Korean tanker and another ship with a Korean name apparently transferring fuel on the open seas in violation of UN sanctions. (AP)
- As Japan's security is now largely in President Trump's hands, Tokyo's mission is to keep Trump close and hold him to tough terms as he prepares for a potential sitdown with KJU. (Josh Rogin, *Washington Post*)
- Trump said a N.Korean delegation in NY is expected to bring him a letter from leader KJU on Fri. (*Korea Times*)
- A top aide to KJU was en route to Washington Fri. to hand a letter from the N.Korean leader to President Trump, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said after reporting "good progress" in talks between the two sides to revive an on-again, off-again nuclear summit. (AP)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said "real progress" had been made in negotiations Thurs. with N.Korean leader KJU's top deputy in New York about the potential summit between Kim and President Trump. (Nike Ching, VOA)
- Russia is pushing for the lifting of NK sanctions following FM Sergey Lavrov's visit to Pyongyang on Thurs., where he met with his N.Korean counterpart Ri Yong Ho and leader KJU. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- N.Korean Embassy cars were on standby at the underground parking lot of a Singapore hotel throughout Fri. (*Yonhap*)
- NK wants US to know: It's not about the money. (Motoko Rich, NYT)
- Trump said on Thurs. that there could be additional meetings with KJU beyond their scheduled June 12 summit - or none at all. (*Joongang Daily*)
- US President Trump is set to receive a personal letter Fri. from N.Korean leader KJU ahead of preparations for a potential summit later this month between the two men. (VOA)
- A top aide to KJU is to due to travel to Washington on Fri. to hand a letter from the N.Korean leader to Trump after senior officials claimed substantial progress had been made in preparing a summit between the two leaders (*Guardian*)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has said preparations for talks with NK are "moving in the right direction" but that there is "a great deal of work to do". (BBC)
- US has deployed F-22 Raptors to Okinawa, a sign US military pressure against NK has not eased, according to press reports. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- A N.Korean envoy is coming to Washington bearing a letter for President Trump from KJU. (AP)
- When US hit NK with sanctions last year, Pyongyang's state-owned banks found a quiet backchannel to keep money flowing to the country's ballistic missile programs, the US says: the tiny European country of Latvia. (AP)
- As the Trump administration races to prepare for a possible nuclear summit, a central question looms over the diplomatic push: What does NK want in exchange for a promise to

denuclearize, and what is US willing to give? (Missy Ryan, David Nakamura and Karen Deyoung, *Washington Post*)

Prepared by Dohyun Kim, HRNK Research Intern

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Saturday, June 2, 2018

Trump says June 12 summit with North Korea's Kim is back on; Seoul welcomes revival of Trump-Kim summit; A Look at Trump's Meeting With Korea's Kim Yong Chol

In North Korea:
(3rd LD) N. Korean official arrives at White House to meet Trump (*Yonhap*, 06/02/2018)
Kim's tunnel explosions a goodwill gesture? Not so fast (CNN, 06/01/2018)
N. Korea Continues Cyberattacks Ahead of Summit (VOA, 06/01/2018)
N. Korea urges faithful implementation of agreements from inter-Korean summit (*Yonhap*, 06/02/2018)

In South Korea:
South Koreans are beginning to like Trump and Kim Jong Un more, despite summit chaos (*Washington Post*, 06/01/2018)
S. Korean defense chief says N. Korea different from past (*Yonhap*, 06/02/2018)
Seoul welcomes revival of Trump-Kim summit (*Yonhap*, 06/02/2018)
Trump's North Korea summit raises déjà vu concerns (CNN, 06/01/2018)
With U.S.-North Korea summit back on, the South welcomes 'historic' talks after diplomatic blitz (*Washington Post*, 06/02/2018)
World shouldn't question Kim Jong Un's motives, says South Korean defense minister (CNN, 06/02/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

International:
(LEAD) Allies' defense chiefs vow full support for summit diplomacy on N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 06/02/2018)
(LEAD) Singapore testing security measures before N. Korea-U.S. summit (*Yonhap*, 06/01/2018)
(2nd LD) Security forum opens in Singapore amid focus on N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 06/01/2018)
(3rd LD) Mattis: U.S. troops in Korea not issue to discuss with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 06/02/2018)
(6th LD) Trump puts N. Korea summit back on for June 12 (*Yonhap*, 06/02/2018)
A Look at Trump's Meeting With Korea's Kim Yong Chol (VOA, 06/01/2018)
Britain Says North Korean Surveillance 'Vitally Important' (AP, 06/02/2018)

Donald Trump says North Korea summit on 12 June is back on (*Guardian*, 06/01/2018)
It's Back On: Trump to Meet Kim in Singapore on June 12 (VOA, 06/02/2018)
Mattis: US troops in Korea not issue to discuss with Pyongyang (*Korea Times*, 06/02/2018)
Pushing the Envelope: Why Was Kim's Letter for Trump So Big? (AP, 06/02,2018)
S. Korean, U.S. defense chiefs hold talks in Singapore (*Yonhap*, 06/02/2018)
The Trump White House's rookie mistake on North Korea (*Washington Post*, 06/01/2018)
Trump Announces Summit Meeting With Kim Jong-un Is Back on (NYT, 06/01/2018)
Trump: 'It's a get-to-know-you situation' (BBC, 06/01/2018)
Trump-Kim talks: North Korea's Kim Yong-chol arrives at White House (BBC, 06/01/2018)
Trump makes an about-face, revives summit with North Korean leader (*Reuters*, 06/02/2018)
Trump meets with North Korean official, says June 12 Singapore summit is back on(*Joongang Daily*, 06/02/2018)
Trump, NKorea's Kim back on for summit (*Washington Post*, 06/02/2018)
Trump puts North Korea summit back on for June 12 (*Korea Times*, 06/02/2018)
Trump says June 12 summit with North Korea's Kim is back on (*Reuters*, 06/02/2018)
Trump says Singapore summit with Kim is back on (CNN, 06/01/2018)
U.S. delegation holds 3rd round of summit prep talks with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 06/02/2018)
US-North Korea: Trump says summit with Kim is back on (BBC, 06/01/2018)

In North Korea:

- A senior N.Korean official arrived at the White House Fri to deliver a letter from his leader, KJU, to Trump. (*Yonhap*)
- What first appeared to be a gesture indicating NK might be willing to dismantle its nuclear weapons program appears to have been little more than a propaganda effort for the world's cameras. (Barbara Starr, Zachary Cohen, CNN)
- Even as it signals a willingness to give up its nuclear arms, NK is brandishing another well-known weapon in its arsenal: cyber. Under heavy sanctions over its nuclear weapons program, the cash-starved government in Pyongyang has for many years used cyberattacks to steal money from banks and other institutions. (Masood Farivar, VOA)
- NK on Saturday stressed the need to implement the agreements from the latest inter-Korean summit regardless of changes in conditions, an apparent call for SK to improve its ties with the communist state even if its ongoing denuclearization talks fail. (*Yonhap*)

In South Korea:

- Despite the tumultuous week, S.Koreans remain hopeful for a successful summit between Trump and KJU, a new poll suggests. As of this week, both Trump and KJU are enjoying their highest approval ratings ever in SK, according to a new Gallup Korea poll released Fri (Michelle Ye Hee Lee, *Washington Post*)

- S.Korean Defense Minister Song Young-moo voiced optimism Sat that the upcoming NK-US summit will be fruitful, saying Pyongyang, with its young leader, is apparently different now from how it was in the past (*Yonhap*)]
- SK welcomed the apparent revival of the historic US-NK summit Sat, hours after Trump said he will meet KJU as scheduled. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump has thrown another twist into N.Korean summit saga, announcing he will meet with KJU on June 12 after all—and raising some concern that history may be repeating itself. (Nicole Gaoutte, Elise Labott, CNN)
- SK gave a major sigh of relief Sat after the White House revived plans for a landmark summit with NK that has already stirred new openings between Seoul and KJU's regime. (*Washington Post*)
- S.Korean Defense Minister Song Young-moo said that the international community should not question KJU's motives, as it could hinder progress in bringing about the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. (Joshua Berlinger, Steve George, CNN)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

International:

- The defense chiefs of SK and the US agreed Sat to maintain their robust alliance in the face of NK's recent peace offensive. (*Yonhap*)
- A team of N.Korean officials visited a luxury Singapore hotel Friday afternoon, apparently seeking to determine whether leader KJU will stay there when he travels here for a summit with Trump. (*Yonhap*)
- Asia's key defense forum opened in Singapore on Fri, with NK's nuclear issue high on the agenda, at a time when regional security faces a potential turning point. (*Yonhap*)
- The Pentagon chief made it clear that his country is not negotiating with NK on the future of American troops stationed on the peninsula, as the leaders of the two sides will soon meet here each other. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump on Friday put a summit with KJU back on for June 12 following weeks of uncertainty over whether it would take place. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump on Friday met for 80 minutes in the Oval Office with a general he described as the second most powerful man in NK. Afterward, Trump told reporters on the White House South Lawn that the June 12 summit in Singapore between him and KJU was back on. (VOA)
- Britain's defense secretary said Sat that his country's military will continue monitoring N.Korean vessels suspected of carrying prohibited goods as it is "vitally important" that his country helps enforce international sanctions. (AP)
- Trump has announced that a 12 June summit with Kim KJU will go ahead as planned in Singapore, saying it would mark the beginning of a negotiating process with NK that could involve several such meetings. (*Guardian*)
- The summit between Trump and NK's KJU will go on as originally planned on June 12 in Singapore. Trump made the announcement at the White House Friday, after receiving a letter from KJU that was hand delivered by his top nuclear negotiator. (Mary Alice Salinas, VOA)

- The Pentagon chief made it clear Sat that his country is not negotiating with NK on the future of American troops stationed on the peninsula, as the leaders of the two sides will soon meet here each other. (*Korea Times*)
- Trump on Friday declared that his on-and-off summit with KJU was on again. The announcement came after Trump hosted a senior N.Korean envoy at the White House and he delivered a personal letter from KJU that was inside a white envelope nearly as large as a folded newspaper. (AP)
- The defense chiefs of SK and the US had bilateral talks in Singapore on Sat at a "historic moment" for regional security. (*Yonhap*)
- The Trump administration is making a substantial rookie error. They've fallen for the oldest diplomatic trap in the book — making inputs (meetings, conferences, "dialogue," etc.) the goal rather than determining what result they will accept and how to get it. (Jennifer Rubin, *Washington Post)*
- Trump will fly to Singapore this month after all for a landmark summit meeting with KJU but he now anticipates a more drawn-out negotiation than once envisioned and indicated that he will stop increasing pressure on the regime while talks proceed. (Peter Barker, NYT)
- Now their summit is back on, Trump says his 12 June meeting with KJU could be the first of many. The US president, flanked by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, made the announcement after talks with a senior N.Korean envoy at the White House. (BBC)
- The highest-ranking N.Korean official to visit the US in nearly 20 years has arrived at the White House to meet Trump. (BBC)
- Trump, in a complete reversal, said on Fri he would hold a summit with KJU on June 12 in Singapore in the latest twist in the high-stakes diplomacy over eliminating Pyonyang's nuclear arms program. (Jeff Mason, Steve Holland, *Reuters*)
- Trump said that his summit with KJU is back on for June 12 in Singapore, after meeting with the highest-ranking official from Pyongyang to visit Washington in 18 years on Fri. (*Joongang Daily*)
- After a week of hard-nosed negotiation, diplomatic gamesmanship and no shortage of theatrics, Trump has announced that the historic nuclear-weapons summit he had canceled with KJU is back on. (*Washington Post*)
- Trump on Fri put a summit with KJU back on for June 12 following weeks of uncertainty over whether it would take place. (*Korea Times*)
- Trump, after meeting with a senior envoy from Pyongyang, said a planned summit with KJU was back on for June 12 in Singapore. (*Reuters*)
- A week after abruptly scrapping his prized summit with KJU, Trump buoyantly announced on Fri the historic talks were back on for June 12 in Singapore. (Kevin Liptak, CNN)
- The US delegation to summit preparation talks held a third round of talks with NK's team in the border village of Panmunjom earlier in the day, sources said Sat. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump's summit with KJU in Singapore on 12 June is back on, the US president says, a week after it was scrapped. (BBC)

Prepared by Sohee Ha, HRNK Research Intern

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Sunday, June 3, 2018

Trump, Moon, Kim to declare war's end: source; (2nd LD) Mattis: No relief to sanctions on NK until denuclearization; NK's human rights: What Trump and Kim won't talk about

In North Korea:
Kim Jong-un's choice (*Joongang*, 06/4/2018)
N. Korea brings in moderate as new defense minister: report (*Yonhap*, 06/3/2018)
N. Korean newspaper slams S. Korean participation in military exercises (*Yonhap*, 06/3/2018)
Pyongyang makes another top military reshuffle (*Joongang*, 06/4/2018)

In South Korea:
Seoul must be in the loop (*Joongang*, 06/4/2018)
S. Korean steel makers to enjoy potential benefits from N. Korea: analysts (*Yonhap*, 06/3/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Blurred lines (*Joongang*, 06/4/2018)
What to do in unified Korea? (*Korea Times*, 06/4/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) Mattis: No relief to sanctions on N. Korea until denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 06/3/2018)
Chances growing for tripartite summit among Trump, Kim, Moon (*Korea Times*, 06/3/2018)
Is China trying to torpedo Kim-Trump summit? (*Korea Times*, 06/3/2018)
Is Trump giving North Korea a pass on nukes? (CNN, 06/3/2018)
(LEAD) IFRC official anticipates greater humanitarian engagement with N.K. amid peace efforts (*Yonhap*, 06/3/2018)
Mattis: Sanctions Stay on N. Korea Until Denuclearization Progress (VOA, 06/3/2018)
Mattis sees a 'bumpy road' ahead (*Joongang*, 06/4/2018)
Moon's role crucial for successful Singapore summit (*Korea Times*, 06/3/2018)
(News Focus) In Singapore, S. Korea's minister counters doubts about nuclear talks with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 06/3/2018)
North Korea's human rights: What Trump and Kim won't talk about (BBC, 06/3/2018)
North Korea State Media says Syria's Assad Wants to Meet Kim (VOA, 06/3/2018)
No sanctions relief without steps to denuclearize, Mattis tells North Korea (CNN, 06/3/2018)
Planning Trump-Kim Meeting: Who Sits Where, What Will They Eat and Who Pays? (NYT, 06/3/2018)
Pushing the envelope: Why was Kim's letter for Trump so big? (*Washington Post*, 06/3/2018)
Relief for North Korea only after clear, irreversible steps to denuclearization: Mattis (*Reuters*, 06/3/2018)

Report: Bashar al-Assad to visit Kim Jong Un in North Korea (UPI, 06/3/2018)
Senior N. Korean official arrives in Beijing on way back home from U.S. (*Yonhap*, 06/3/2018)
Seoul, Washington likely to downscale joint drills (*Korea Times*, 06/3/2018)
S. Korea, U.S. to avoid hype for joint defense drills (*Yonhap*, 06/3/2018)
Stumbling to a summit (*Joongang*, 06/4/2018)
Syrian President to meet Kim Jong Un in North Korea, report says (CNN, 06/3/2018)
Syria's Bashar al-Assad considers trip to meet Kim Jong Un, North Korea says (*Washington Post*, 06/3/2018)
Syria's Assad says will visit North Korea, news agency reports (*Reuters*, 06/3/2018)
The U.S. is trying to find a discreet way to pay for Kim Jong Un's hotel during the summit(*Washington Post*, 06/3/2018)
Trump, Moon, Kim to declare war's end: source (*Joongang*, 06/4/2018)
U.S., N. Korea hold 4th round of summit prep talks at Panmunjom (*Yonhap*, 06/3/2018)

In North Korea:

- NK replaced its defense minister last month, the latest in a series of military changes as KJU expresses his willingness to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula. (Jeong Yong-soo, *Joongang*)
- The US and NK have gone all-out to make the most of momentum toward a "new era of peace, prosperity and security." After receiving a letter from KJU delivered by Kim Yong-chol in Washington, Trump predicted that the meeting with Kim on Jun. 12 in Singapore was set to be "ultimately a successful process." (*Joongang*)
- NK has brought in a more moderate defense minister ahead of a summit with the US, a report in Tokyo claimed Sun. (*Yonhap*)
- NK on Sun. slammed SK's participation in joint multinational exercises, saying it ran counter to an inter-Korean declaration reached at a summit earlier in the year. (*Yonhap*)

In South Korea:

- Replacement of the armistice with a peace treaty, aid to NK, and the future of US troops in SK are some of the issues that are said to be discussed at the US-NK summit, together with a denuclearization scheme. But they must not be accepted by the Trump administration without close consultation with Seoul. (*Joongang*)
- S.Korean steel makers could see benefits from NK's possible economic opening following the planned summit between Trump and KJU, analysts here said Sun. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- On April 20, an inter-Korean hotline was established between the office of Moon in the Blue House and the State Affairs Commission in NK. A hotline can prevent accidental or minor issues from escalating into war, and the presence of an inter-Korean hotline itself can help alleviate tension on the peninsula. (Kang Min-seok, *Joongang*)

- The on-again off-again Jun. 12 talks between KJU and Trump are just nine days away. The venue is chosen and the main agenda is under discussion. However, we know that anything can happen before the meeting actually takes place in Singapore as planned. (Kim Ji-myung, *Korea Times*)

International:

- US Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis said there should be "no relief" to UN-led sanctions on NK until its full denucelarization, citing an expected "bumpy road" to negotiations. (Lee Chi-dong, *Yonhap*)
- Likelihood is growing that Moon will join the leaders of NK and the US following their Jun. 12 summit in Singapore to discuss declaring an end to the 1950-53 Korean War, after Trump mentioned the possibility. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- Trump's bromance with Chinese President Xi Jinping has yielded few practical results. To the contrary, US-Chinese relations increasingly seem headed for rough waters. (Doug Bandow, *Joongang*)
- Trump appears finally to be acknowledging the limitations of his anti-KJU tirades, and as a result, seems to be edging towards a weaker nuke deal than he used to have with Iran. (Nic Robertson, CNN)
- The secretary-general of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), an international aid agency, has voiced hopes that ongoing diplomacy for peace on the Korean peninsula will create greater opportunities to support the socially vulnerable in impoverished NK. (Song Sang-ho, *Yonhap*)
- US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis says international sanctions on NK will only be lifted when Pyongyang takes concrete steps to dismantle its nuclear program. (William Gallo, VOA)
- US Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis said NK will not receive any sanctions relief until it demonstrates “verifiable and irreversible steps” to denuclearize, adding that Washington anticipated a “bumpy road” leading up to the Jun. 12 summit with Pyongyang as both countries iron out details for their first bilateral leaders’ meeting. (Lee Chul-jae, *Joongang*)
- Hopes for the Singapore summit between the US and NK are running high after Trump confirmed Fri. the historic meeting is back on for Jun. 12. Analysts said the roles of Moon and Chinese President Xi Jinping, from this point, will be critical to ensure success for the summit. (Kim Jae-kyoung, *Korea Times*)
- Making his Shangri-La Dialogue debut, SK's military chief focused on convincing the world that it's worth resuming full-fledged denuclearization talks with a NK that appears to be different from what it was in the past. (Lee Chi-dong, *Yonhap*)
- The UN says N.Koreans live under "systematic, widespread and gross human rights violations". But human rights will almost certainly not be on the table when the two leaders meet. (BBC)
- NK's state-run news agency reported Sun. that Syria's President Bashar Assad is interested in visiting NK and meeting KJU. (AP)
- NK will not get any sanctions relief until it has demonstrated "verifiable and irreversible" steps to denuclearization, US Defense Secretary James Mattis said Sun. (Steve George, CNN)

- It seems as if all they would really need is a room with a table and some chairs.
  The reality, however, is that planning the coming summit meeting between Trump and KJU to discuss NK's nuclear future will require deciding countless, infinitesimal details, often via tricky diplomatic negotiations. (Motoko Rich, NYT)
- KJU is known for pushing the envelope with threats and bluster as he seeks to leverage his nuclear weapons program into security and economic benefits for his country. But lately he's gained notoriety for his envelopes alone. (Kim Tong-hyun, AP)
- US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said on Sun. NK will receive relief only after it takes clear and irreversible steps to end its nuclear program, adding it would be a bumpy road to a summit between US and N.Korean leaders. (Idrees Ali, *Reuters*)
- Syrian President Bashar al-Assad is set to visit KJU, N. Korean media reported Sun. (Daniel Uria, UPI)
- A senior N.Korean official arrived in Beijing on Sun. on his way back home from a rare trip to the US that included a meeting with Trump. (*Yonhap*)
- SK and the US regular joint military exercises are likely to be scaled down, following Saturday's agreement between defense ministers of the two countries to create "positive conditions" for the upcoming summit between Trump and KJU. (Choi Ha-young, *Korea Times*)
- SK and the US plan to keep their regular combined military exercises low-key in a bid to help maintain the peace mood, a Ministry of National Defense official said Sun. (Lee Chi-dong, *Yonhap*)
- Trump deserves some credit for taking the risk of holding a summit with KJU. Yet along the way, the many disabilities of his decision-making style have been on display, and they suggest the many risks that still lie ahead. (Stephan Haggard, *Joongang*)
- Days before KJU is set to meet Trump in Singapore, the N.Korean leader is revealing plans to meet yet another leader -- Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. (Sheena McKenzie, Sandi Sidhu, CNN)
- Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has expressed interest in traveling to NK to meet KJU, N.Korean media reported Sun., adding another layer of possible intrigue onto the planning for next week's summit between Trump and the N.Korean leader. (Brian Murphy, *Washington Post*)
- Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said he plans to visit North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, North Korean state media reported on Sunday, potentially the first meeting between Kim and another head of state in Pyongyang. (Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- At an island resort off the coast of Singapore, US event planners are working day and night with their N.Korean counterparts to set up a summit designed to bring an end to Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program. (Josh Hudson, *Washington Post*)
- Moon will join KJU and Trump in Singapore next week to declare an end to the Korean War, which has technically been running for 68 years, according to a diplomatic source. (Kang Jin-kyu, Kim Hun-ki, *Joongang*)
- The US and NK held a fourth round of working-level talks on Sun. in preparation for their summit later this month, sources here said. (*Yonhap*)

Prepared by Lauren Jackson, HRNK Research Intern

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Monday, June 4, 2018

Why the U.S. Must Discuss North Korea's Prison Camps at the Trump–Kim Summit; Shutdown of nuclear site 'throwing sand in the eyes of the enemy,' according to OGD document; Japan's focus on abduction invites North Korea scorn

Top News:
Why the U.S. Must Discuss North Korea's Prison Camps at the Trump–Kim Summit (The Heritage Foundation, 06/01/2018)

In North Korea:
Is Kim Jong-un replacing top military leaders to fend off coup ahead of Trump summit? (*The Telegraph*, 06/04/2018)
North Korea's three new military leaders are loyal to Kim, not policies (*Reuters*, 06/04/2018)
(Yonhap Interview) Int'l Red Cross ready to expand humanitarian support for N. Korea(*Yonhap*, 06/04/2018)
Shutdown of nuclear site 'throwing sand in the eyes of the enemy,' according to OGD document (*DailyNK*, 06/04/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Discussion over end to Korean War to be start point for permanent peace: Choo (*Yonhap*, 06/04/2018)
Inter-Korean cultural exchanges expected to rise after sports talks (*Yonhap*, 06/04/2018)
North Korea 'military reshuffle' raises eyebrows in Seoul (*The Korea Times*, 06/04/2018)
North Korea's railway-side reforestation campaign: Preparation for an inter-Korean railway system? (*DailyNK*, 06/04/2018)
South Korea Tamps Down Hopes for Peace Declaration at North Korea Summit (*The Wall Street Journal*, 06/04/2018)

International:
'All smiles' as Kim Jong-un and Sergey Lavrov meet (BBC, 06/04/2018)
Anti-nuke Nobel winner ICAN offers to pay for Trump-Kim summit (*Reuters*, 06/04/2018)
Asian traditional medicine association to invite N. Korea to meeting (*Yonhap*, 06/04/2018)
Japan's focus on abduction invites North Korea scorn (UPI, 06/04/2018)
Kim may meet Xi, Putin ahead of U.S. summit (*Korea Joongang Daily*, 06/04/2018)
Kremlin invites North Korea's Kim Jong-un to Russia (*The Telegraph*, 06/04/2018)

North Korea's friends in Southeast Asia are ready to return to business as usual (*The Washington Post*, 06/04/2018)
North Korea's isolation crumbling as Trump abandon's 'maximum pressure' campaign (*USA Today*, 06/04/2018)
Putin invites N.K. leader Kim to visit Vladivostok in Sept. (*Yonhap*, 06/04/2018)
Senate Democrats demand Trump hold the line in North Korea talks (*The Washington Post*, 06/04/2018)
Singapore may pay accommodation for Kim Jong-un's visit for summit (*The Korea Times*, 06/04/2018)
Top Diplomats of S. Korea, Singapore hold talks over Trump-Kim summit (*Yonhap*, 06/04/2018)
U.N. watchdog confident of North Korea role if nuclear deal is struck (*Reuters*, 06/04/2018)
U.S., N. Korea hold 5th round of summit prep talks at Panmunjom (*Yonhap*, 06/04/2018)

Top News:

- In this paper the author, Olivia Enos, presents the case for U.S. diplomats to push for the complete, verifiable, irreversible, dismantlement of North Korea's prison camps during the negotiations over nuclear disarmament. HRNK is heavily featured in this publication as Enos cites HRNK Board of Directors member Roberta Cohen's works "A Challenge for Humanitarian Action in North Korea," "Time to Address North Korea's Prison Labor Camps," and "A Serious Human Rights Negotiation with North Korea." Additionally, David Hawk's "Hidden Gulag," Amanda Mortwedt Oh's "The Human Rights Factor: Changes Under Kim Jong-Un," Robert Collins and Amanda Mortwedt Oh's "From Cradle to Grave," and Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., Andy Dinville, and Mike Eley's "North Korea Imagery Analysis of Camp 16" are all HRNK publications cited by Enos. (Olivia Enos, *The Heritage Foundation*)

In North Korea:

- North Korea has replaced its three most senior military officials with less hawkish appointees, with analysts suggesting Kim Jong-un is sidelining hardline factions who are opposed to his shift away from the longstanding "military first" policy. (Julian Ryall, *The Telegraph*)
- The recent replacement of three top military officials is being seen as a move by Kim Jong-un to bring the KPA further under his influence. The officers removed from office were seen as more wedded to the past nuclear policy and analysts suspect they were replaced by those with strong loyalties to Kim Jong-un. This shake-up in leadership will seemingly allow KJU to negotiate denuclearization without KPA opposition. (Hyonhee Shin, Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- The head of the Red Cross stated that his organization wished to capitalize on the recent diplomatic breakthroughs with North Korea to expand the mission of the Red Cross there. He offered for his organization to be used as a third-party intermediary for the ongoing peace talks and the organization is aiming to facilitate reunification of families separated during the Korean War, as well as improving North Korean "health, water, and disaster preparedness." (Koh Byung-Joon, *Yonhap*)

- The North Korean regime simply put on a show for the outside world during an event staged in front of foreign journalists showing the 'destruction' of the Punggye-ri nuclear site in Kilju, North Hamgyong Province on May 24, claim sources in North Korea. (Moon Dong Hui, *DailyNK*)

In South Korea:

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Choo Mi-e, leader of South Korea's ruling Democratic Party, made a statement outlining her belief that the official end to the Korean War would be a "starting point for setting up a permanent peace regime" between the two Koreas. (*Yonhap*)
- High ranking officials from the two Koreas met at Panmunjon on Friday to discuss implementation of agreements reached by President Moon and KJU in April. The two nations agreed to meet again on June 18th to discuss sports cooperation. After the meeting a spokesman for South Korea's culture ministry stated that discussions on cultural exchange would likely increase after more serious issues had been resolved. (*Yonhap*)
- Recent changes in KPA leadership are being closely monitored by South Korean authorities as they evaluate the implications for the advancement of denuclearization. Reports point to the Kim regime preparing for a shift in nuclear policy and aiming to prevent "objections" by military officials. (AFP)
- With the possibility that the linking of railways and roads between North and South Korea were discussed during a high-level inter-Korean meeting on June 1, there are reports that the North Korean authorities are taking efforts to reforest the areas around railroads in the country. (Kim Yoo Jin, *DailyNK*)
- South Korean officials are playing down the likelihood of an imminent peace declaration after President Donald Trump suggested that he could declare an end to the Korean War at next week's U.S.-North Korea summit. (Andrew Jeong, *The Wall Street Journal*)

International:

- KJU and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov met in Pyongyang on May 31st. While many focus on the substance of the meeting, Russian social media and others are fixated on the doctored footage presented from the meeting. (Sherie Ryder, BBC)
- Following a report that costs of attending the summit in Singapore may be too substantial for the Kim regime to bear, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) has offered to cover the costs using money from their 2017 Nobel Peace Prize. They called this a "once in a generation opportunity" and wish to help ensure the summit takes place. (Jack Kim, Fathin Ungku, *Reuters*)
- The Global University Network of Traditional Medicine has agreed to invite representatives from Pyongyang Medical University to their annual gathering which will be held in Hong-Kong. Attendees will discuss effective treatments and methods that fall under traditional East Asian practices. (*Yonhap*)

- N. Korea has denounced Japan's insistence that the abduction of Japanese citizens by N. Korea be discussed as part of peace negotiations. N. Korea states it wishes to move beyond past transgressions, citing Japanese aggression towards N. Korea, but Prime Minister Shinzo Abe insisted that the issue was not up for negotiation on the Japanese side. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Ahead of the June 12th summit with President Trump, North Korean officials are leaving open the possibility of Kim Jong-un meeting with the presidents of China and Russia. Currently the N. Korean leader is monitoring the negotiations leading up to the summit, but given the recent increase in diplomacy between the North, China, and Russia some suspect he may engage the leaders bilaterally to ensure the regime's security should the negotiations deteriorate. (Jeong Yong-soo, Sarah Kim, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- Russia has invited KJU to visit the country, becoming the latest major power to seek an audience with the North Korean leader, the Kremlin confirmed on Monday. (Nicola Smith, *The Telegraph*)
- The nations of Southeast Asia tend not to favor implementing "maximum pressure" sanctions regimes, instead seeking out open relationships with their regional partners. Since the Trump and Moon administrations have already acted favorably towards the Kim regime, the author believes that Southeast Asia will begin a flow of cash into N. Korea and begin to reopen the N. Korean economy for business. (Anna Fifield, *The Washington Post*)
- President Trump's overtures to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un have produced a small wave of diplomatic openings, dismantling the isolation he promoted a year ago as part of his "maximum pressure campaign" to battle the North's nuclear weapons program. (Oren Dorell, *USA Today*)
- Russian President Vladimir Putin sent a letter to KJU inviting him to a global forum that will be hosted by Russia in Sept. of this year. The letter was delivered by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov during his trip to Pyongyang. (*Yonhap*)
- The Senate's top Democrats insisted in a letter to President Trump on Monday that any deal with North Korea must completely dismantle Pyongyang's nuclear and ballistic missile programs permanently — and that the White House must loop Congress in on its plans before negotiations begin. (Karoun Demirjian, *The Washington Post*)
- The Singaporean government has offered to cover the cost of KJU's visit to the country as it is expected the North Korean regime is struggling financially as a result of the sanctions campaign. (Lee Ming-hyung, *The Korea Times*)
- The top diplomats from Singapore and South Korea spoke over the phone to affirm a mutual understanding over the need for success on June 12th. Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha acknowledged Singapore's support for the summit and both diplomats agreed to keep an open dialogue leading up to the event. (*Yonhap*)
- The U.N. atomic watchdog is confident that it is best placed to verify any nuclear deal reached with North Korea and would be able to deploy quickly, the head of the agency said on Monday. (*Reuters*)
- Officials from the U.S. and N. Korea met on Monday to negotiate an agenda for the summit next week. The delegations were headed by the the U.S. ambassador to the Phillipines, Sung Kim, and N. Korea's Vice Foreign Minister Choe Sun-hui. The main topics discussed were how to accomplish N. Korean CVID and a security guarantee from Washington. (*Yonhap*)

Prepared by Jack Maerz, HRNK Research Intern

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Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Ambassador Robert King and Executive Director Scarlatoiu quoted in the Wall Street Journal; Scarlatoiu with CNN's Brian Todd: Trump Confirms Jun. 12 Summit with KJU; American Detainees Set Free–What is Next for N.Korean Human Rights

Top News:
Ambassador Robert King and Executive Director Scarlatoiu quoted in the Wall Street Journal: "Gulag's Shadow Falls on Korea Summit" (*Wall Street Journal*, 06/4/2018)
Executive Director Scarlatoiu with CNN's Brian Todd: Trump Confirms June 12 Summit with Kim Jong Un (CNN, 06/1/2018)
American Detainees Set Free–What is Next for North Korean Human Rights? (NK *Hidden Gulag*, 06/5/2018)

In North Korea:
Commentary: From inside North Korea, clues about Kim's agenda (*Reuters*, 06/5/2018)
Top N.K. officials increase economy-related activities (*Yonhap*, 06/5/2018)
What the North Koreans Told Me About Their Plans (*38th North*, 06/5/2018)

In South Korea:
Seoul stocks buoyed by optimism over summit (*Joongang*, 06/6/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) S. Korea asks N. Korea to grant immunity to officials at liaison office to open in North (*Yonhap*, 06/5/2018)
Retail investors borrow high-risk loans for 'inter-Korean stocks' (*Korea Times*, 06/6/2018)
S. Korea seeks diplomatic immunity for officials at Gaeseong complex (*Korea Times*, 06/5/2018)

International:
Agreement on meaning of denuclearization is win for Trump: Gallucci (*Yonhap*, 06/5/2018)
Chinese airline to resume flights to North Korea (*Washington Post*, 6/5/2018)
Forget the Libya model (*Joongang*, 06/6/2018)
Kim-Trump summit gets a time and date (*Joongang*, 06/6/2018)
(LEAD) Air China to resume Beijing-Pyongyang route amid improved diplomatic ties (*Yonhap*, 06/5/2018)

(LEAD) Int'l Red Cross hopes for 'next-phase' cooperation with S. Korea on humanitarian challenges (*Yonhap*, 06/5/2018)
Leaders from two Koreas may meet in Russia in September (*Korea Times*, 06/6/2018)
Mattis denies troop drawdown (*Joongang*, 06/6/2018)
NK, US leaders may have multiple summits (*Korea Times*, 06/5/2018)
Report: North Korea's Kim Yong Chol proposed casino to Trump (UPI, 06/5/2018)
S. Korea, U.S. working on diplomatic schedule after Trump-Kim summit: Seoul official(*Yonhap*, 06/5/2018)
Some Worry Trump Is Overlooking Other Issues With NKorea (NYT, 06/5/2018)
Trump hopes summit with N. Korea will be 'start of something big' (*Yonhap*, 06/5/2018)
'US delegation will be staying at Shangri-La Hotel' (*Korea Times*, 06/5/2018)
Walking in North Korea's shoes (*Korea Times*, 06/5/2018)
What do North Korea's neighbors want from Trump-Kim summit? (*Korea Times*, 06/5/2018)
Welcoming the summit (*Joongang*, 06/6/2018)

Top News:

- The Wall Street Journal cited HRNK Board member Ambassador Robert King and HRNK's Executive Director Scarlatoiu in its article about NK's political prison camps and the upcoming US-NK summit. Ambassador King said that opening [the summit] with a call for gulag closure would be a "bridge too far" as the regime would see that as a challenge to its political system. Executive Director Scarlatoiu stated that bringing up human rights "is the right thing to do morally, legally, and politically." According to Scarlatoiu, failing to raise human rights would signal weakness on a critically important problem. (Alastair Gale, *Wall Street Journal*)
- HRNK's Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu spoke with CNN about the upcoming US-NK summit. Scarlatoiu said that the "maximum pressure campaign, the sanctions regime against North Korea has taken a serious bite out of the regime. KJU has been quite desperate." When asked about the human rights violations occurring in North Korea, Scarlatoiu explained, "You're talking about five to six political prison camps, 120,000 men, women, and children held in political prison camps pursuant to a system of guilt by association, induced malnutrition, torture, public executions, secret executions. You're talking about a regime that's investing heavily in its tools of death." Brian Todd quoted HRNK saying, "[The] South Korean government has been censoring media recordings [sent by activists into North Korea] to delete information critical of the Kim regime." (CNN)

(The link may not work with some browsers. It is easiest to open it on a hand-held device.)

- Grace Warwick discussed the opportunity the Trump administration has to bring up the fundamental issues in NK's human rights landscape at the upcoming US-NK summit in her NK Hidden Gulag blog post. Warwick writes that in order to make progress in transforming NK's systematic human rights violations, Trump needs to address the core issues such as political prison camps, guilt by association, *inminban* (neighborhood watch system), and other forms of surveillance and control. (Grace Warwick, *NK Hidden Gulag*)

In North Korea:

- It's been a roller coaster ride for anyone following plans for a Jun. 12 summit between Trump and KJU. The actors were contradictory, the stage sets numerous and the messages chaotic. Within days of Trump's May 24 cancellation of the Singapore meeting – and then the withdrawal of his withdrawal – Moon met with the US president in Washington and with KJU on the northern side of the demilitarized zone to help keep the summit alive. (Katharine Moon, *Reuters*)
- Choe Ryong-hae, believed to be NK's second-most powerful man after KJU, has recently increased his economy-related activities, apparently on behalf of Kim, who is busy preparing for his Jun. 12 summit with Trump in Singapore. (*Yonhap*)
- What exactly do the N.Koreans mean when they say they're willing to denuclearize? And how exactly would they do so? These are the key mysteries at the heart of the upcoming Trump-Kim summit—and indeed they threatened to derail the whole thing this week when KJU objected to National-Security Adviser John Bolton's vision for it. (Joel Wit, *38th North*)

In South Korea:

- Korean shares ended higher Tues. as construction and casinos gained on hopes of cross-border development projects in NK ahead of a US-NK summit next week, analysts said. (*Joongang*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- SK has asked NK to grant immunity to S.Korean officials to be stationed in a liaison office the two Koreas recently agreed to establish in the North's border city of Kaesong, sources said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- An increasing number of retail investors have been taking out high-interest loans from securities firms to invest in "inter-Korean stocks" amid the recent thaw in relations between two Koreans. (Jhoo Dong-chan, *Korea Times*)
- The S.Korean government has asked NK to give diplomatic immunity to S.Korean officials who will be stationed at a liaison office to be set up inside the Gaeseong Industrial Complex (GIC) in NK according to an agreement made at the inter-Korean summit earlier. (Park Ji-won, *Korea Times*)

International:

- Trump will be achieving something in his engagements with NK if they agree on the meaning of denuclearization, a former nuclear negotiator said Mon. (*Yonhap*)

- State-owned Air China will resume flights to NK's capital on Wed., an airline employee said, amid preparations for a possible meeting between Trump and KJU. (AP)
- NK is not like Libya, and those who think that Washington should look to the North African nation as a precedent for either denuclearization or regime change in Pyongyang are heading either for confusion or disappointment. (Karl Mueller, *Joongang*)
- The first summit between NK and the US will start at 9 a.m. next Tues. in Singapore, and working-level discussions between the two countries have been "very positive" so far with "significant progress" made, the White House said on Mon. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang*)
- China's national carrier will resume flights between Beijing and Pyongyang this week amid improved Sino-NK ties, a company official said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- US Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis reiterated that American troops in SK were "not going anywhere" amid speculation that Pyongyang was demanding Washington pull them out in return for its denuclearization ahead of a planned summit between Trump and KJU next Tues. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang*)
- With Russian President Vladimir Putin inviting KJU to his country, expectations are that leaders from the two Koreas may meet in Russia this fall for the first time in a third country. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- The head of an international Red Cross organization said Tues. that he wishes to have "next-phase" cooperation with SK as improving inter-Korean relations draw attention to humanitarian issues in NK. (*Yonhap*)
- The leaders of NK and the US may have multiple meetings to discuss Pyongyang's denuclearization, after the White House called the planned Jun. 12 summit the "first meeting," indicating the nuclear disarmament talks may take some time to be concluded. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- The senior N.Korean official who met with Trump at the White House on Fri. may have proposed the construction of a casino, according to a S.Korean press report. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- SK is in talks with the US over their diplomatic schedule to follow the upcoming summit between Trump and KJU, a Seoul official said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump is largely focusing on a nuclear deal as he prepares for his summit with NK next week. That Trump might give little attention to human rights abuses and security concerns in the region worry both supporters and critics. White House officials say the plight of the N.Korean people isn't a priority for the summit. (AP)
- Trump said Tues. he hopes his planned summit with KJU will be the beginning of "something big." (*Yonhap*)
- The US delegation for the Jun. 12 summit with NK will be unpacking their bags at the Shangri-La Hotel, a hotel official said Mon. (Kim Jae-kyoung, *Korea Times*)
- At last, a landmark meeting between Trump and KJU has become a certainty — unless, of course, Trump changes his mind once again. (Choi Sung-jin, *Korea Times*)
- When Trump announced in March that he would meet with KJU, the news set off a flurry of diplomacy -- not only between Washington and Pyongyang, but also throughout Asia. (DPA)
- The White House made it official. On Mon., Sarah Huckabee Sanders, the White House press secretary, announced the summit between Trump and KJU will be held in Singapore on Jun. 12, at 9 a.m. (*Joongang*)

Prepared by Lauren Jackson, HRNK Research Intern

Wednesday, June 6, 2018

Trump has decried NK's 'brutality.' But will human rights remain high on summit agenda?; All signs point to North Korea preparing a bait-and-switch; Trump should test KJU on this important humans rights issue

Top News:
Trump has decried North Korea's 'brutality.' But will human rights remain high on summit agenda? (*Washington Post*, 06/06/2018)
All signs point to North Korea preparing a bait-and-switch (*The Hill*, 06/06/2018)
Trump should test Kim Jong Un on this important humans rights issue (*The Hill*, 06/06/2018)

In North Korea:
N. Korea Denuclearization Could Cost $20 Billion (VOA, 06/06/2018)
North Koreans doubt rumors that long-dead distributions to be resumed (*Daily NK*, 06/06/2018)
N.K. leader wants to test U.S. seriousness at summit: ex-envoy (*Yonhap*, 06/06/2018)
North Korean Military May Benefit From Kim's Charm Offensive (NYT, 06/06/2018)
Kim Appoints Loyalists to N. Korea's Top Military Posts (VOA, 06/06/2018)
Kim Jong-un is asking China for investment (*Joongang Daily*, 06/06/2018)
Kim's Singapore trip raises questions about security (UPI, 06/06/2018)
Kim Jong-un: The new kid on the diplomatic block (BBC, 06/05/2018)

In South Korea:
(2nd LD) Moon to push for recovery of remains of war dead in DMZ (*Yonhap*, 06/06/2018)
Moon pays tribute to Korea's fallen (*Joongang Daily*, 06/06/2018)
Pullout concerns grow (*Joongang Daily*, 06/06/2018)
Russia hopes for successful Trump-Kim summit: Seoul's nuclear envoy (*Yonhap*, 06/06/2018)
South Korea calls for recovering soldier remains from DMZ (UPI, 06/06/2018)
What is the Assembly doing? (*Joongang Daily*, 06/06/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Unification funds are a hot ticket (*Joongang Daily*, 06/06/2018)

International:
(LEAD) U.S. not paying for N. Koreans' stay in Singapore: State Dep't (*Yonhap*, 06/06/2018)
(2nd LD) Trump, Kim to meet at Capella Hotel in Singapore: White House (*Yonhap*, 06/06/2018)

Abe is back to talk to Trump — with a list of Japan's concerns about North Korea (*Washington Post*, 06/06/2018)
Abe to Press Trump to Raise Issue of Abducted at Kim Summit (NYT, 06/06/2018)
Death, POWs and buried silver: Chequered history of Trump-Kim summit venue (*Reuters*,06/06/2018)
Dennis Rodman 'will be in Singapore for Trump-Kim summit' (Telegraph, 06/06/2018)
Four mysteries about US-North Korea summit (*Korea Times*, 06/06/2018)
GOP senators: Trump promises Congress a vote on any North Korea deal (CNN, 06/05/2018)
Japan's ethnic Koreans loyal to Pyongyang look to summit to bring peace, boost status(*Reuters*, 06/06/2018)
Japan PM seeks Trump's assurances over North Korea in latest two-way chat (*Reuters*, 06/06/2018)
North Korea summit should avoid talk of human rights, top expert and Trump supporter say(Washington Post, 06/05/2018)
Putin praises 'brave' Trump over planned meeting with North Korea's Kim (*Reuters*, 06/05/2018)
Putin: US Would Need to Offer Firm Guarantees to N. Korea (AP, 06/06/2018)
Security to be ultra-tight for Trump-Kim summit (*Joongang Daily*, 06/06/2018)
Sentosa island in Singapore chosen for Donald Trump summit with Kim Jong-un (*Telegraph*, 06/06/2018)
Singapore's foreign minister to visit North Korea ahead of Trump-Kim summit (*Reuters*, 06/06/2018)
Singapore FM to Visit North Korea, Ahead of Kim-Trump Summit (VOA, 06/06/2018)
Singapore to restrict airspace during U.S.-North Korea summit (*Reuters*, 06/06/2018)
The holiday resort with a dark past that will host historic Trump-Kim summit (*Telegraph*, 06/06/2018)
Trump-Kim meeting: Preparations going well, says US (BBC, 06/05/2018)
Trump-Kim Singapore summit venue is set (CNN, 06/06/2018)
Trump-Kim summit set for Singapore's Sentosa Island: White House (*Reuters*, 06/05/2018)
Trump, Kim will meet at Sentosa's Capella Hotel (*Korea Times*, 06/06/2018)
Trump's North Korea summit may bring peace declaration - but at a cost (*Reuters*, 06/05/2018)
Understanding the Trumpian slip (*Joongang Daily*, 06/06/2018)
What will be the outcome of Trump and Kim Jong-un's nuclear summit? (*The Guardian*, 06/05/2018)
White House Announces Venue for Trump-Kim Summit in Singapore (VOA, 06/06/2018)

Top News:

- The Washington Post cited HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu in its article about NK's human rights issues and the upcoming US-NK summit agenda. Scarlatoiu said that he believes it could be a now-or-never moment for the US to put human rights on the table. It will be increasingly difficult, he added, to add human rights to possible follow-up talks if a framework is set. (Brian Murphy, *Washington Post*)
- Chuck Downs, who is former HRNK board member and executive director, contributed to The Hill about reasons to believe that NK's regime has not change its ways and the summit will not succeed. According to Downs, no matter how much we offer, the regime will stymie

our best efforts, in the interest of protecting its leader's tenuous hold on absolute power and total control over its population. (Chuck Downs, *The Hill*)

- Trump can test KJU's resolve for real change by bringing up an important human rights issue, which is the reunion of families divided between the US and NK. Promoting family reunions does not preclude the US from pursuing its efforts to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula. To the contrary, it can serve as a much needed booster. (Olivia Schieber, Cecilia Joy Pérez, *The Hill*)

In North Korea:

- Arms control experts estimate that the dismantlement of NK's nuclear program could take a decade to complete, and cost $20 billion, if a nuclear agreement is reached Trump and KJU when they meet in Singapore on June 12. (VOA)
- Rumors are spreading that the N.Korean authorities have resumed public distributions in certain regions. Public distributions are allotments of food given to residents in exchange for their work in state jobs. In many regions, such public distributions have long been defunct. Given the rapid improvement in North-South relations, some residents are postulating that this could be aid from the South, while others believe it is an attempt to blunt criticism against the authorities for seizing private gardens used by the residents to grow food. (Kang Mi Jin,*Daily NK*)
- KJU probably wants to test the US's commitment to any nuclear deal when he meets with Trump next week, a former US envoy said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- While raising hopes for denuclearization and a peace treaty to finally end the Korean War, KJU's newly found focus on diplomacy comes with an ironic flipside: It could be a godsend for his generals. (NYT)
- The three generals KJU moved into key positions before the Singapore summit with the US are "fanatically devoted to the N.Korean system and the Kim family's leadership." (VOA)
- KJU has requested Chinese investment from President Xi Jinping to develop four economic zones in the North, said a source familiar with the May 9 summit in Dalian, northeastern China, between the two leaders on Tues. (*Joongang Daily*)
- KJU's trip to Singapore will mark the first time the N.Korean leader will be traveling abroad with advance notice - a move that could pose risks to his safety. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- But little did KJU know he was going to get THE prize. A summit with the US president. It gave him the diplomatic street cred he was hoping for. And it also offered him an opportunity to say NK was open for business. When KJU walks out to greet Trump in Singapore, it's worth remembering that in just six months he has gone from complete international isolation to being one of two leaders at the centre of one the world's biggest geo-political dramas. (BBC)

In South Korea:

- Moon said Wednesday he will push for the recovery of the remains of fallen soldiers in the Demilitarized Zone dividing the Koreas in line with the improvement of ties with the North. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon on Wed promised to recover remains of soldiers killed during the 1950-53 Korean War from the demilitarized zone if inter-Korean relations improve to allow such an undertaking. (Joongang Daily)
- As the strong alliance has been the cornerstone of SK's security over the past seven decades, a pullout of US Forces is a matter of life and death. Washington and Pyongyang must not make a deal over such a critical issue. The Moon administration must prevent such a mishap. At the same time, Moon must not forget that a declaration to end the war — which he is ardently pushing for — can serve as an excuse for a pullout of USFK. (*Joongang Daily*)
- SK's top nuclear envoy said Tues that Russia has expressed hopes for a successful summit between Trump and KJU planned for next week. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon said his administration will prioritize the recovery of soldier remains buried in the demilitarized zone. (Elizabeth Shim ,UPI)
- The National Assembly must act. Rather than watching the government's efforts idly, the National Assembly needs to show bipartisan will and wisdom. The government should explain the situation in detail and ask for support and cooperation. They must end the consuming history of confrontation and discord and leave a future of peace and prosperity for the next generation. If we miss this golden opportunity, politicians blinded by party interests must pay a considerable part of the price. (Bae Myung-bok , *Joongang Daily*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- As hopes for peace sweep the Korean Peninsula ahead of the historic NK-US summit on June 12, investment firms are hoping to cash in on optimism through so-called unification funds. These funds mostly invest in construction and steel companies, which are projected to rise in value if the two Koreas agree to economic cooperation. (*Joongang Daily*)

International:

- The US is not paying for N.Korean officials to stay in Singapore for next week's summit between Trump and KJU, the State Department said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump and KJU will meet at the Capella Hotel in Singapore on June 12, the White House said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- Abe is scheduled to meet with Trump on Thursday. Abe's hastily arranged Washington trip suggests that Japanese leaders have deep concerns about the Trump administration's approach to NK, as well as trade and US-China relations. (*Washington Post*)
- Abe unable to meet NK's leader himself, is heading to Washington to try to make sure Trump doesn't overlook Japan's security and other concerns at the unprecedented US-NK summit next week. (NYT)

- A resort island off Singapore that once housed a prisoner of war camp run by wartime Japanese forces and was called "Rear Death Island" is the venue for Tuesday's summit between Trump and KJU. (Dewey Sim, Aradhana Aravindan, *Reuters*)
- Dennis Rodman, the former NBA basketball player, will reportedly be in Singapore at the time of the highly anticipated summit between Trump and KJU next week (*Telegraph*)
- Each of the NK, the US and SK, the three key stakeholders in this grand game, ends up seeking something that is not in its element, resembles wishful thinking and so is lacking in its sincerity. (Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)
- Republican senators, anxious about high-stakes US talks with KJU, say they have received commitments from Trump and his top lieutenants that Congress would get a vote on any nuclear deal reached with NK. (Elizabeth Landers, Manu Raju, CNN)
- Ethnic Koreans in Japan loyal to Pyongyang hope next week's historic US-NK summit will help bring reconciliation on the Korean peninsula and clarify their own murky legal status. (Kwiyeon Ha, *Reuters*)Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, seeking to draw on his close ties with Trump in talks on Thurs, will urge the US leader not to forget Tokyo's security concerns in his drive for a historic deal with KJU. (*Reuters*)
- The former US diplomat who secured an American prisoner's release from NK warned Tues against prioritizing human rights concerns or other non-nuclear matters in the upcoming summit between Trump and KJU. (Karoun Demirjian, *Washington Post*)
- Putin said on Wed a decision by Trump to set up a meeting with KJU was "brave and mature", and said that he was expecting a "positive outcome". (*Reuters*)
- Putin warned that the US will have to offer NK solid security guarantees if it wants to strike a denuclearization deal. (AP)
- The Capella Hotel on Singapore's resort island of Sentosa was named the venue for next week's historic summit between Trump and KJU by the White House on Wed. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)
- The summit between Trump and KJU will be on Singapore's southern island of Sentosa, the White House said on Tues as preparations accelerated for next week's event. (*Telegraph*)
- Singapore's Minister for Foreign Affairs Vivian Balakrishnan will visit NK from Thursto Fri, the Singapore government said in a statement, days before it plays host to the leaders of NK and the US at a summit. (*Reuters*)
- Singapore says its foreign minister will visit Pyongyang later this week, just days before the city-state hosts the leaders of NK and the US for a highly anticipated summit. (VOA)
- Singapore airspace will be restricted during the planned US-NK summit next week, according to a notice to airmen posted by aviation authorities on Wed, which is likely to result in delays at one of Asia's busiest airports. (*Reuters*)
- After weeks of negotiations, NK and the US may not have progressed towards a deal on nuclear weapons, but they have at least decided on a luxurious setting for their leaders to meet next week – the Capella hotel on the Singaporean island of Sentosa. (*Telegraph*)
- The US has said preparations for the 12 June between Trump and KJU in Singapore are going well. The White House said the two men would first meet at 09:00 local time and that Trump was receiving daily briefings. But it said sanctions would not be lifted against NK unless it gave up its nuclear weapons. (BBC)

- The US and NK have settled on a venue for the summit between Trump and KJU, White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said Tues. (Jeremy Diamond, CNN)
- Trump and KJU will be on Singapore's southern island of Sentosa, the White House said on Tues as preparations accelerated for next week's event. (Steve Holland, Aradhana Aravindan, *Reuters*)
- The historic summit next week between Trump and KJU will take place at the Capella Hotel on Singapore's resort island of Sentosa, the White House said Tues. (Kim Jae-kyoung, *Korea Times*)
- If Trump's summit next week with KJU produces a peace declaration formally ending the Korean War as he has suggested, it could give the US president a big headline-grabbing, made-for-TV moment on the world stage. (*Reuters*)
- The S.Korean government, meanwhile, is already euphoric about the possibility of a peace treaty and renewed inter-Korean projects and relations. But the result can be fatally flawed if Trump walks away with a Nobel Peace prize and KJU is left with eased sanctions, while the bill lands on SK. (Kim Hyun-ki ,*Joongang Daily*)
- Without progress on nuclear disarmament, the meeting will be called a failure – but Trump will need to make big concessions. (Julian Borger, *The Guardian*)
- The White House says next week's summit in Singapore between Trump and KJU will be held at the Capella hotel on Sentosa Island. (VOA)

Prepared by Sohee Ha, HRNK Research Intern

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Thursday, June 7, 2018

NK's Illegal Weapons Trade_The Proliferation Threat From Pyongyang; Human rights should be on agenda of NK talks: U.N. expert

Top News:
North Korea's Illegal Weapons Trade_ The Proliferation Threat From Pyongyang(*Foreign Affairs*, 06/07/2018)

In North Korea:
Beatings, killings, gulags: North Korea rights abuses likely to be ignored at summit (*The Guardian*, 06/06/2018)
Kim Jong-un's Image Shift: From Nuclear Madman to Skillful Leader (NYT, 06/07/2018)
Kim Jong Un's regime is using American technology, researchers find (CNN, 06/07/2018)
North Korea demolishes main missile test stand (UPI, 06/07/2018)
North Korea demolished missile testing facility last month, report says (*The Guardian*, 06/06/2018)

North Korea 'destroys missile test facility' in signal ahead of Trump-Kim summit (*Telegraph*, 06/07/2018)
N. Korea destroys missile test stand: 38 North (*Yonhap*, 06/07/2018)
N. Korean media remaining silent on Trump summit (*Korea Times*, 06/07/2018)
North Korea Razing Key Missile Test Stand (*38 North*, 06/06/2018)
North Korea Razes Missile Test Facility Ahead of Meeting With Trump (NYT, 06/07/2018)
North Korea razes missile test site, monitoring group 38 North says (CNN, 06/07/2018)

In South Korea:
A strange turn (*Yonhap*, 06/07/2018)
Opposition leader says Trump should walk away if North Korea rejects CVID (*Korea Times*, 06/07/2018)
South denies inter-Korean liaison office related to resumption of Kaesong Industrial Complex(*Yonhap*, 06/07/2018)
S. Korean Conservative Leader Pessimistic About US-North Korea Summit (VOA, 06/07/2018)
S. Korea seeks early declaration of Korean War ending (*Yonhap*, 06/07/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) S. Korea to send team to N. Korea to prepare for opening of liaison office (*Yonhap*, 06/07/2018)
Excessive volatility found among shares linked to cross-border ties: KRX (*Yonhap*, 06/07/2018)
Two Koreas to unite for East Asian competition (*Korea Times*, 06/07/2018)
Unified Korean team to fight at East Asian Judo Championships (CNN, 06/06/2018)

International:
(LEAD) (News Focus) Kim Jong-un, Trump set for showdown on CVID, CVIG (*Yonhap*, 06/07/2018)
(2nd LD) (News Focus) Regional powers jockey for peninsula influence ahead of Trump-Kim summit (*Yonhap*, 06/07/2018)
(2nd LD) Singaporean foreign minister arrives in Pyongyang to prepare Trump-Kim summit(*Yonhap*, 06/07/2018)
Abe wants to make Trump's North Korea talks even more complicated (CNN, 06/07/2018)
A US-North Korea friendship would be perfect bulwark against China (CNN, 06/06/2018)
Before Trump-Kim Summit, Japan's Prime Minister Visits White House (VOA, 06/07/2018)
Bolton takes back seat, but remains looming North Korea summit presence (*Reuters*, 06/06/2018)
China blocks online searches insulting Kim Jong-un (*Korea Times*, 06/07/2018)
Dennis Rodman 'considering going to Singapore' for historic summit, agent says (CNN, 06/06/2018)
First Ignore, Then Disparage: Reporting Trump's Nuclear Diplomacy (*38 North*, 06/06/2018)
Giuliani: Kim Jong Un 'begged' for summit to be rescheduled (CNN, 06/07/2018)
Giuliani says he hasn't heard from WH about his remark that Kim 'begged' for summit (CNN, 06/07/2018)
How publicity-hungry NBA star Dennis Rodman finds himself between Trump and Kim ahead of historic peace talks (*Telegraph*, 06/07/2018)
Human rights should be on agenda of North Korea talks: U.N. expert (*Reuters*, 06/07/2018)

‘It’s about the attitude’: Trump says he doesn’t have to prepare much for his summit with North Korea’s leader (*Washington Post*, 06/07/2018)
Kim begged for summit on hands and knees: Trump attorney (*Yonhap*, 06/07/2018)
(*Joongang Daily*)
Kim Jong-un begged Trump on his knees to revive summit, Rudy Giuliani says (*The Guardian*, 06/06/2018)
Kim Jong-un 'got on hands and knees and begged for Trump summit', Rudy Giuliani says(*Telegraph*, 06/07/2018)
Kim Jong-un won’t give up his nukes, UK ex-foreign ministers warn Donald Trump (*Telegraph*, 06/06/2018)
Maximum pressure and no less (*Joongang Daily*, 06/07/2018)
Promises on North Korea are easy to make but hard to keep. Here’s why. (*Washington Post*, 06/07/2018)
Report: CIA advised Trump that Kim Jong Un was worthy of a 'deal' (UPI, 06/07/2018)
Singaporean foreign minister leaves for Pyongyang to prepare Trump-Kim summit (*Yonhap*, 06/07/2018)
Singapore highlights regional stakes in U.S., North Korea summit (UPI, 06/07/2018)
The roller-coaster ride leading to historic Trump-Kim summit (*Reuters*, 06/07/2018)
The shallow optimism for Trump's summit with North Korea (CNN, 06/07/2018)
Top envoy from Singapore flies to Pyongyang (*Joongang Daily*, 06/07/2018)
Trump and Kim could meet for second day in Singapore (CNN, 06/06/2018)
Trump-Kim summit: Abe heads to US amid surge of diplomacy (BBC, 06/07/2018)
Trump mulls inviting Kim Jong-un to his golf resort in Florida (*Korea Times*, 06/07/2018)
Trump Takes His Own Brand of Diplomacy to North Korea Summit (NYT, 06/06/2018)
UN expert sees North Korea summit as chance for reforms (*Washington Post*, 06/07/2018)
U.S. House wants to stay in the loop on North’s nukes (*Joongang Daily*, 06/07/2018)
U.S. may want follow-up summit (*Joongang Daily*, 06/07/2018)

Top News:

- Professor Bruce Bechtol highlights an issue that continues to be overlooked during the current flurry of summit diplomacy: NK's significant illegal weapons trade in conflict areas of the world, in particular in the Middle East and Africa. According to Bechtol, unless the US is allowed to inspect all nuclear sites at the time of its choosing, and until it becomes clear that NK has completely dismantled its nuclear program, Washington must keep up the pressure on Pyongyang’s illegal economic activities—proliferation key among them. (Bruce E. Bechtol, *Foreign Affairs*)

In North Korea:

- Former soldier recounts cruelty as US president prepares for summit with leader KJU, where dire human rights record is unlikely to be broached (Benjamin Haas, Daniel Hurst, *The Guardian*)

- With a dazzle of diplomatic initiatives in the run-up to his historic June 12 summit meeting with Trump in Singapore, KJU has effectively redefined himself. Some S.Koreans now see him as more reliable than Trump despite the decades-long alliance between their country and the US. (NYT)
- Despite tough US sanctions, NK's leaders have gotten their hands on the latest products from companies such as Apple and Microsoft, according to a new report. (Sherisse Pham, CNN)
- NK appears to have demolished its major missile test stand last month before it went on to dismantle its Punggye-ri nuclear test site. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- Satellite imagery shows that NK razed some facilities used for testing ballistic missiles, according to US website 38 North. (*The Guardian*)
- New satellite images indicate that NK is demolishing the test stand for intercontinental ballistic missiles at Iha-ri, just 16 months after the facility was first used for a test launch. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- Satellite imagery shows that NK has been destroying a missile test stand in the wake of its leader's pledge to suspend testing of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles, a US website showed Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- N.Korean state-run media outlets have kept mum for over 10 days about the planned summit between KJU and Trump which is slated for June 12, possibly out of uncertainty about its denuclearization initiatives. (Choi Ha-young, *Korea Times*)
- New commercial satellite imagery indicates that NK is razing the missile test stand at the Iha-ri Driver Training and Test Facility north of the city of Kusong in the wake of KJU's April statement announcing a unilateral suspension of ballistic missile and nuclear tests. (*38 North*)
- Satellite imagery indicates that NK is razing some facilities used for testing one of its most dangerous missiles after its leader, KJU, announced a moratorium on nuclear and long-range missile tests, according to an analysis released this week. (Choe Sang-Hun, NYT)
- Satellite images appear to show that NK has dismantled one of its missile testing sites, according to an analysis published by 38 North, a prominent NK monitoring group. (Joshua Berlinger, CNN)

In South Korea:

- The Moon administration needs to check if there is any hindrance in the path toward denuclearization. Our top priority is removing the nuclear threat from NK. Establishing a permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula comes next. Coincidently, the House of Representatives in the US has proposed a bipartisan bill for the Trump administration to regularly submit a report on the progress of denuclearization. It is time for the Moon administration to act wisely. (*Yonhap*)
- The chief of the main opposition Liberty Korea Party (LKP) said Thurs that the US should pull out of next week's summit with NK if Pyongyang does not agree to complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization (CVID). (*Korea Times*)

- SK on Thurs denied that a liaison office that the two Koreas agreed to open in the North's border town of Kaesong is related to a possible resumption of the long-suspended operation of a joint economic complex there. (*Yonhap*)
- The conservative leader of SK's main opposition party on Thurs spoke out against the upcoming US–NK summit. He also voiced concern that political considerations are driving Trump and Moon to compromise joint security for more false denuclearization promises from KJU. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- SK is pushing for an early agreement with NK and the US to officially end the Korean War, a largely symbolic, political move to pave the way for a peace regime on the peninsula, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Thurs. (Lee Chi-dong, *Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- As hopes for peace sweep the Korean Peninsula ahead of the historic NK-US summit on June 12, investment firms are hoping to cash in on optimism through so-called unification funds. These funds mostly invest in construction and steel companies, which are projected to rise in value if the two Koreas agree to economic cooperation. (*Joongang Daily*)

International:

- After months of a fragile mood of peace, KJU and Trump will hold high-stakes talks in Singapore next week that could transform the regional and global security landscape. Two acronyms sum up their goals -- CVID and CVIG. (Lee Chi-dong, *Yonhap*)
- World powers are jostling for influence over the Korean Peninsula ahead of next week's summit between Trump and KJU,which is expected to mark a shift in Northeast Asian geopolitics and security. (Song Sang-ho, *Yonhap*)
- Singapore's top diplomat arrived in Pyongyang on Thurs, the North's state media reported, on an apparent mission to help prepare next week's historic summit between Trump and KJU set to take place in the Southeast Asian nation. (*Yonhap*)
- Japan regards the abductions as "a critical issue concerning the sovereignty of Japan and the lives and safety of Japanese citizens, "one that precludes any normalization of relations with Pyongyang until it is resolved. (James Griffiths, Yoko Wakatsuki, CNN)
- NK is in serious need of a military and economic counterweight against China -- and the US can serve in that capacity. True, it is distasteful to be friends with a regime responsible for massive human rights violations. Yet pragmatism is a long-standing tradition in US foreign relations. (S. Nathan Park, CNN)Abe is visiting the White House on Thurs to impress upon Trump Japan's interests ahead of Trump's historic summit next week with KJU. (VOA)
- Just weeks after John Bolton's hardline rhetoric infuriated NK and nearly derailed a planned summit between KJU and Trump, the US national security adviser appears to have taken a back seat to Pompeo for the historic meeting. (Matt Spetalnick, David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)
- China has completely blocked Internet searches for words and articles that could be used to insult KJU, sources here said Thurs, reflecting warming bilateral relations between the two countries. (*Korea Times*)

- Former NBA star Dennis Rodman is "considering going to Singapore," for the upcoming summit between Trump and KJU, his agent told CNN. (Brian Todd, Clare Foran, CNN)
- What better way to start than to sit down at the negotiating table with KJU or to say, as the President has, that he is prepared to negotiate an end to the Korean war and to normalize relations – something his predecessors never did. Ultimately, he may have to find a way to forge an alliance with Pyongyang alongside the one with Seoul. How else to assure KJU that he will be secure enough to consider yielding his nuclear arms? But don't take my word it. Report the real news. (Leon V. Sigal, *38 North*)
- KJU "begged" Trump to reschedule their summit meeting after Trump abruptly canceled it last month, Trump's personal lawyer, Rudolph Giuliani said Wed. (Brad Lendon, CNN)
- Rudy Giuliani said the White House has not spoken to him about his comments that KJU "begged" for a summit between the US and N.Korean leaders. (Dana Bash, Maegan Vazquez, CNN)
- When Trump meets KJU at the historic summit in Singapore next week the chances of securing any deal will hinge on whether they can form a personal working relationship. Few will have a keener insight into how this dynamic could play out than former NBA star Dennis Rodman. (Mike Wright, *Telegraph*)
- A UN expert has called for the US and other powers to put human rights firmly on the agenda of their talks with NK, saying it would help make any progress towards denuclearisation "sustainable".
- With his high-stakes summit with KJU just days away, Trump offered some insight Thurs into how much preparation remains — apparently not much. (John Wagner, *Washington Post*)
- KJU got on his hands and knees to beg for the reinstatement of a meeting with Trump, the latter's attorney said Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump lawyer says KJU must understand the US is in a position of strength (*The Guardian*)
- Rudy Giuliani, the former New York Mayor, on Wed boasted that Trump's tough line had forced KJU to beg to re-schedule a high-profile summit after the president abruptly called off the meeting. (*Telegraph*)
- KJU is unlikely to give up his nuclear weapons despite his summit with Trump, former UK foreign ministers who covered Asia have warned. (Ben Riley-Smith, *Telegraph*)
- The goal of the summit is not to win the Nobel Peace Prize by declaring the end of the Korean War. It is to achieve the concrete and practical goal of removing nuclear warheads and ballistic missiles held by NK and removing their production facilities. If it is achieved, peace and prosperity will be guaranteed on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia. (Park Sung-soo, *Joongang Daily*)
- The US and NK would be foolish to trust any promises the other side makes in Singapore. Without a minimum of trust, any deal would be either cosmetic, incomplete or doomed to fail. (Andrew Kydd, *Washington Post*)
- A CIA report on NK's KJU may have influenced Trump's approach to Pyongyang, according to a Japanese press report. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Singapore's top diplomat left for Pyongyang on Thurs to prepare next week's historic summit between Trump and KJU, sources said. (*Yonhap*)

- N.Koreans hold favorable views of Singapore, a country with an advanced free-market economy, and their trust in the nation may explain why KJU considers it a safe location for the summit with Trump. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Pompeo and Trump's national security adviser, John Bolton, have pursued different approaches in the run-up to next week's summit between the US president and KJU in Singapore. (*Reuters*)
- Trump's summit with KJU is poised to be the most popular action of his presidency so far, even though a new survey shows most Americans believe the eventual goal of any negotiations -- "complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization" -- will never happen. (Ryan Struyk, CNN)
- Singapore's foreign minister traveled to Pyongyang Thurs for a two-day visit as the Southeast Asian city-state prepares to host a historic summit between Trump and KJU next week. (*Joongang Daily*)
- Talks between Trump and KJU in Singapore could go into a second day if they're going well, sources told CNN. (Jeremy Diamond, James Griffiths, CNN)
- Abe is set to hold a last-minute meeting with Trump, days before the US president meets KJU. (BBC)
- Trump may invite KJU to his Florida compound Mar-a-lago, Bloomberg reported Wed. (Ko Dong-hwan, *Korea Times*)
- Heading into his expected summit with KJU, Trump has a record on the international stage that suggests he'll seek to charm the dictator and look for an agreement that he can pitch as a win — even if it's more a triumph of appearance than policy. But never bet against the possibility that he'll just walk away. Trump's unpredictable negotiating style has been on full display in the run-up to the historic June 12 summit in Singapore. (NYT)
- A UN human rights expert on NK Nsays he hopes next week's US-NK summit will lead to increased dialogue with KJU on humanitarian issues. (*Washington Post*)
- A bipartisan group of lawmakers in the US House of Representatives introduced a bill on Wed that would require the Trump administration to provide a detailed report on NK's nuclear weapons program to set a "baseline" for progress on negotiations with the KJU regime. (*Joongang Daily*)
- Trump is reportedly toying with the idea of offering KJU a second summit at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Florida, possibly in the fall if the first bilateral summit goes smoothly next week.

Prepared by Sohee Ha, HRNK Research Intern

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Friday, June 8, 2018

White House's Hard Line on Refugees Reduces Number of North Korean Defectors; FROM 'PUNK KID' TO 21ST CENTURY TYRANT; Greg Scarlatoiu on NHK

Top News:
White House's Hard Line on Refugees Reduces Number of North Korean Defectors (WSJ, 06/08/2018)
FROM 'PUNK KID' TO 21ST CENTURY TYRANT: KIM JONG UN SEIZES HIS MOMENT (WSJ, 06/08/2018)
Greg Scarlatoiu on NHK International Report David Sneddon (*NHK International*, 06/05/2018)
Trump-Kim Summit: What To Look For (*The Epoch Times*, 06/07/2018)

In North Korea:
After Years of Dim Prospects, New Possibilities for N. Korean Economy (VOA, 06/08/2018)
Cargo truck rolls over in Ryanggang Province, killing 21 (*Daily NK*, 06/08/2018)
North Korea Uses US Tech for 'Destructive Cyber Operations' (VOA, 06/08/2018)
North Korean authorities heighten control over residents before US-NK summit (*Daily NK*, 06/08/2018)
Trump Kim summit: What North Koreans are being told (BBC, 06/08/2018)

In South Korea:
U.S. Embassy gate crasher claims he sought asylum (*Joongang Daily*, 06/08/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Former top officials, politicians call for complete denuclearization, end to Korean War (*Yonhap*, 06/08/2018)
KBS reporters trespass on North envoy's house (*Joongang Daily*, 06/08/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korean team visits N. Korea to prepare launch of liaison office (*Yonhap*, 06/08/2018)
Seoul officials inspect Kaesong complex (*Joongang Daily*, 06/08/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) Trump says summit with N. Korea is about 'attitude' (*Yonhap*, 06/08/2018)
(4th LD) Trump says he could invite Kim to U.S. if summit goes well (*Yonhap*, 06/08/2018)
A failed Trump-Kim summit would be a catastrophe (CNN, 06/08/2018)
Analysis: What Trump Inherited from Obama (VOA, 06/07/2018)
As Kim arrives in Singapore, no North Korean comrades in sight (*Reuters*, 06/07/2018)
China must beware of summit's unintended consequences (CNN, 06/07/2018)
Dennis Rodman traveling to Singapore for North Korea summit (CNN, 06/08/2018)
France's Macron, Trump talk trade, North Korea in 'cordial' G7 meeting: official (*Reuters*, 06/08/2018)
How the last attempt at peace talks with North Korea made the situation worse (*The Telegraph*, 06/08/2018)

KCNA: Singapore's top diplomat's visit to North Korea 'warm, friendly' (*UPI*, 06/08/2018)
Kim Jong-un impersonator says he was held in Singapore (*The Guardian*, 06/08/2018)
(LEAD) Trump says summit with N. Korea 'all ready to go' (*Yonhap*, 06/08/2018)
NGOs Call on North Korean Leader to End Human Rights Abuses (*RFA*, 06/07/2018)
North Korea deploys assassination squad to kill anti-espionage agent (*Daily NK*, 06/08/2018)
N. Korean leader expected to arrive in Singapore on Sunday: report (*Yonhap*, 06/08/2018)
N. Korean, Singaporean foreign ministers meet ahead of Kim-Trump summit (*Yonhap*, 06/08/2018)
[Photo] Smuggling activities increase across Sino-North Korean border (*Daily NK*, 06/08/2018)
Pompeo to visit S. Korea after N. Korea summit (*Yonhap*, 06/08/2018)
Singapore summit: Everything there is to know about Donald Trump's meeting with Kim Jong-un(*The Telegraph*, 06/08/2018)
Singaporeans split over bearing costs for Trump-Kim summit (*The Korea Times*, 06/08/2018)
The North Korea summit: A photo op or a disaster? (*The Washington Post*, 06/07/2018)
Trump hints at accord to end war (*Joongang Daily*, 06/08/2018)
Trump is a useless negotiator, and Kim Jong-un will know that (*The Guardian*, 06/08/2018)
Trump, Moon, Kim to declare war's end: source (*Joongang Daily*, 06/08/2018)
Trump Rejects Reports He's Not Well Prepared for N. Korea Summit (VOA, 06/08/2018)
Trump says he will bring up human rights with Kim Jong Un (CNN, 06/08/2018)
Trump urged to meet Kim halfway for success (*The Korea Times*, 06/08/2018)
Vladimir Putin says North Korea ready for constructive steps (*UPI*, 06/08/2018)
'We don't need his advice!': Trump complains that Schumer is offering unneeded guidance on North Korea (*The Washington Post*, 06/08/2018)
Will the US or China Rain on the North-South Parade? (*38 North*, 06/07/2018)

Top News:

- The admission of N. Korean refugees has declined drastically since Trump took office. This is attributed to their stance on stricter vetting for immigrant admission into the US. Tom Barker and board member Roberta Cohen are quoted in the article. (Louise Radnofsky, WSJ)
- The life of KJU remains somewhat a mystery prior to his assumption of power, and his domestic practices are seemingly glossed over as the world focuses on his blitz of international diplomacy. HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu is quoted outlining the mentality and practices of the Kim regime as follows: To instill fear, Mr. Kim uses brutal practices such as public executions with antiaircraft guns and imprisoning three generations of a dissenter's family, according to Greg Scarlatoiu, who runs the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, a Washington, D.C.-based advocacy group. "This is a highly paranoid regime built on an us-versus-them mentality, where the Kims truly fear their own people," said Mr. Scarlatoiu, who grew up under Romania's brutal dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. (John Lyons, WSJ)
- HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu was interviewed for a report on the abduction of David Sneddon. The interview portion of the report begins around 6:33. (*NHK International*)
- As the summit approaches many are focusing on the US objectives heading into the meeting. This article focuses on what NK, SK, China, Japan, and Russia are hoping to achieve as a result of the meeting. Included under the S. Korean perspective is a quote from HRNK

Director of Programs Rosa Park illustrating the call from elements of S. Korean civil society to have human rights discussed at the summit. (Paul Huang, *The Epoch Times*)

In North Korea:

- N. Korean leader KJU has been signaling his desire to open up the reclusive state's economy, ushering in what some analysts believe could be a "reform and opening up era" similar to what happened in China four decades ago. But how far NK is willing to go and what concrete measures it is willing to or could take remain unclear, especially with sanctions still firmly in place. (Bill Ide, VOA)
- A cargo truck heading to a construction site in Samjiyon-gun, Ryanggang Province, rolled over on June 3, killing 21 people, Daily NK has learned from sources in NK. (Kim Yoo Jin, *Daily NK*)
- North Korea's senior leadership has been exploiting loopholes in international sanctions to obtain the U.S. technology that Pyongyang uses to conduct "destructive cyber operations," according to a global cyberthreat intelligence company. (Kim Youngnam, VOA)
- The N. Korean authorities are cracking down on the spread of outside information and internal unrest in light of the upcoming US-NK summit on June 12. (Kim Yoo Jin, *Daily NK)*
- NK, which goes to enormous lengths to control what information reaches the eyes and ears of its citizens, tends not to report on important events until after they happen and has not directly mentioned the 12 June meeting, due to be held in Singapore. (Alistair Coleman, BBC)

In South Korea:

- The Gender Equality Ministry official who rammed his car into the gate of the U.S. Embassy building in central Seoul Thursday evening told the police that he believed he could get political asylum in the United States that way. (Kim Kyu-seok, *Joongang Daily*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- A group of former top officials and political leaders in SK issued a statement Friday, calling on NK and the US to agree to the CVID of the Korean Peninsula at their upcoming summit. (*Yonhap*)
- Two S. Korean journalists were detained in Singapore after allegedly trespassing on the grounds of the North Korean ambassador's residence on Thursday, according to Seoul's presidential office. The Blue House advised the press covering the upcoming US-NK summit in Singapore to show some restraint in their reporting zeal. (Shim Kyu-seok, *Joongang Daily*)
- A group of S. Korean officials and civilians visited NK on Fri. to prepare for the opening of a liaison office in NK's border city of Kaesong. The 14-member team headed by Vice Unification Minister Chun Hae-sung took the western land route and crossed the military demarcation line for a trip to inspect possible locations and facilities. (*Yonhap*)

- A 14-member South Korean delegation led by Vice Unification Minister Chun Hae-sung visited the N. Korean border town of Kaesong on Fri. to review an industrial park that was shut down in Feb. 2016 and held working-level discussions with N. Korean officials about opening an inter-Korean liaison office there. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Daily*)

International:

- US Pres. Trump said Thurs. that his summit with N. Korean leader KJU isn't so much about being prepared as it is about wanting to "get things done." (*Yonhap*)
- US Pres. Trump said Thurs. that he could invite NK leader KJU to the US if their meeting next week goes well. The highly anticipated summit in Singapore is five days away as the two sides try to reach a deal on dismantling NK's nuclear weapons program in exchange for security guarantees. Trump said he is prepared to walk if the negotiations don't go well, but he also dangled the possibility of a follow-up meeting in Washington. (*Yonhap*)
- The summit may well end without major progress towards the elimination of nuclear weapons in Korea. But whatever the outcome, the summit must be seen as an early step in a complicated negotiation, and the diplomatic process must continue. (Dr. Ira Helfand, CNN)
- During a meeting regarding the transition, former President Barack Obama presented President-elect Donald Trump with two options for dealing with North Korea, said Jon Wolfsthal, a close Obama aide who served as senior director at the National Security Council for arms control and nonproliferation during the Obama administration. (Dong Hyuk Lee, VOA)
- Stella Choi, the principal of a Korean language school in a drab tower in downtown Singapore, works just across the elevator lobby from the modest suites that make up NK's embassy. Yet the S. Korean national, who runs the iSpeak Korean Language Centre, says she has neither seen nor spoken to any of her NK neighbors or people entering the embassy since they moved in two years ago. (John Geddie, Fathin Ungku, *Reuters*)
- If Trump and KJU make peace and agree to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula in their Singapore summit, the benefits would be felt across the region, not least in China, or so conventional wisdom has it. Beijing would presumably see the threat of war in a bordering country almost disappear, trade sanctions lifted and a longtime ally in Pyongyang enter a new era of stability. Not so fast, Asia analysts say. Beware the law of unintended consequences. (Brad Lendon, CNN)
- Former NBA star Dennis Rodman is traveling to Singapore for the upcoming summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. (Veronica Stracqualursi, CNN)
- French President Macron and US President Trump, who exchanged terse Twitter messages ahead of the G7 summit, had a brief "very cordial" discussion about trade and NK, a French official said on Friday. (*Reuters*)
- The US and NK have agreed to a first meeting of their respective leaders and announced plans for talks that could, in a best-case outcome, bring peace and security to north-east Asia. History suggests, however, that numerous hurdles still need to be overcome – and many of them are very high. (Julian Ryall, *The Telegraph*)

- The Singaporean foreign minister's visit to Pyongyang was made public in NK state media on Friday, a day after Vivian Balakrishnan arrived in NK to meet with officials. Pyongyang's state-controlled news agency KCNA reported Fri. Balakrishnan met with Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho to discuss "bilateral cooperation." (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- An Australian comedian known for impersonating the North Korean leader, Kim Jong-un, said he was detained by Singapore's authorities on Friday and questioned about his political views. (*The Guardian*)
- US Pres. Trump said Thursday that his summit with N. Korean leader KJU is "all ready to go" at the top of a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the White House. (*Yonhap*)
- Five days before a much-anticipated summit between the leaders of the United States and North Korea, 52 nongovernmental organizations and coalitions sent a letter to the NK's ruler KJU on Thursday, calling on him to undertake reforms to end serious rights abuses in the repressive, autocratic nation. (Roseanne Gerin, RFA)
- Following the apparent defection of the former head of operations for the Ministry of State Security (MSS)'s Overseas Anti-Espionage Department in China's north-east, the N. Korean authorities dispatched a five-man assassination squad and have alerted their overseas intelligence agents in an effort to track down and kill him. (Lee Sang Yong, *Daily NK*)
- N. Korean leader KJU is expected to arrive in Singapore on Sunday, two days ahead of the historic talks with Trump, a news report said Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- The top diplomats of NK and Singapore held talks in Pyongyang on Thurs. ahead of the highly anticipated summit between N. Korean leader KJU and US Pres. Trump, NK's state media reported. (*Yonhap*)
- The Sino-North Korean border region near Dandong, Liaoning Province, has seen a recent rise in smuggling activities, and Chinese authorities are increasingly turning a blind eye to the activity, report Daily NK sources in China. (Moon Dong Hui, *Daily NK*)
- US Secretary of State Pompeo said Thurs. he will travel to SK after next week's summit between the US and N. Korean leaders to discuss the results of the historic meeting. (*Yonhap*)
- he tiny Asian city-state of Singapore is gearing up for the biggest reality show on the planet next week as US Pres. Trump, N. Korean leader KJU, their entourages and several thousand journalists sweep into town. (Nicola Smith, *The Telegraph*)
- Most Singaporeans are excited about their country playing host to the historic summit between US President Trump and N. Korean leader KJU. But not all are happy about the city-state bearing the cost of the summit slated to be held at the Capella Hotel on Singapore's resort island of Sentosa, June 12. (Kim Jae-Kyoung, *The Korea Times*)
- Trump's combination of stream-of-consciousness "reasoning" and consistently empty hyperbole resembles the kid who never read the book for the book report and is vamping until the bell rings. His understanding of even basic terms (e.g., trade deficit) is practically nonexistent. So should we expect anything different on the North Korean nuclear problem, the most dangerous national-security challenge of our time? (Jennifer Rubin, *The Washington Post*)

- U.S. President Donald Trump said Thursday he could “sign an agreement” to end the Korean War at the North Korea-U.S. summit in Singapore next Tuesday. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Joongang Daily*)
- On Tuesday, Trump will have the chance to demonstrate this self-vaunted talent when he comes face-to-face with Kim Jong-un of North Korea – just two unpredictable guys with terrifying nuclear arsenals getting to know each other. The first instinct of all those who prefer peace to Armageddon will surely be to wish the two men luck. Even those who are squeamish at the sight of a red carpet rolled out for the hereditary dictator of a slave state with a record of starving and torturing its own people know the lines. (Jonathan Freedland, *The Guardian*)
- President Moon will join N. Korean leader KJU and US President Trump in Singapore next week to declare an end to the Korean War, which has technically been running for 68 years, according to a diplomatic source. (*Joongang Daily*)
- US Pres. Trump is defending his preparations for next week's high-stakes summit with NK's KJU, telling reporters on Fri. "I've been preparing for this all my life." Before departing Washington for G-7 talks in Quebec, the president said he was taking along "15 boxes of work" he will be reviewing ahead of his meeting with KJU in Singapore on June 12. (VOA)
- President Donald Trump said Friday he plans to address human rights when he meets with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un at the upcoming Singapore summit. "We'll bring it up," the President told reporters before departing for the G7 Summit. (Jennifer Hansler, CNN)
- US Pres. Trump and N. Korean leader KJU must meet each other halfway to produce tangible outcomes at the June 12 summit, according to an international security expert. (Kim Jae-kyoung, *The Korea Times*)
- Russian President Putin made the case for optimism on NK Friday, Russian news agencies reported. Putin, who is in China this week for the 18th Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit, told reporters Pyongyang is prepared to move in a new direction. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- President Trump lashed out Friday at Senate Minority Leader Schumer (D-N.Y.), complaining that he was offering unneeded advice in advance of Trump’s high-stakes summit with N. Korean leader KJU on Tues. (John Wagner, *The Washington Post*)
- A Great Power competition is brewing on the Korean peninsula. In some ways, it is like centuries past, in which trading and security architectures are at stake. But there is a new component: competition over Korean hearts and minds during a period of rapprochement between two rival Korean states. If NK and SK can continue momentum towards peace-building, they will put tremendous pressure on China and the US to follow. (Andy Abrahamian, *38 North*)

Prepared by Jack Maerz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250716211324/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/white-houses-hard-line-on-refugees-reduces-number-of-north-korean-defectorsfrom-punk-kid-to-21st-century-tyrant-greg-scarlatoiu-on-nhk?e=%5BUNIQID%5D

Saturday, June 9, 2018

Trump says he will bring up human rights with KJU; Trump: KJU summit success likely decided 'in first minute'

Top News:
Trump says he will bring up human rights with Kim Jong Un (CNN, 06/9/2018)

In North Korea:
After nukes and summits, can Kim Jong Un reform North Korea's economy? (CNN, 06/9/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korean leader visits seafood restaurant ahead of historic summit (*Yonhap*,06/9/2018)
N. Korea's nominal head to attend opening ceremony of World Cup (*Yonhap*,06/9/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Woodstock revisited: Peace on the peninsula with the DMZ Peace Train Music Festival (*Korea Times*, 06/9/2018)

International:
2 KBS reporters ordered to leave Singapore on Saturday (*Yonhap*, 06/9/2018)
Asia's regional powers eye Singapore summit warily from the sidelines (*Telegraph*, 06/9/2018)
Donald Trump: Kim Jong-un summit success likely decided 'in first minute'(*Guardian*, 06/9/2018)
Flight from Pyongyang lands in Singapore ahead of North Korean leader's arrival(*Reuters*, 06/9/2018)
Former NBA star Rodman to head to Singapore for U.S.-North Korea summit(*Reuters*, 06/9/2018)
How President Trump should play the summit (*Korea Times*, 06/9/2018)
How to Use Sanctions as a Lever, Not Just a Hammer: A Proposal for Phased Sanctions Relief (*38 North*, 06/8/2018)
In advance of summit, 'Singapore City' on North Korea's border booms (*Reuters*, 06/9/2018)
Japanese activist urges Tokyo to compensate colonial-era victims in N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 06/9/2018)
(LEAD) Trump: I've prepared all my life for N. Korea summit (*Yonhap*, 06/9/2018)
(LEAD) Trump ready to provide security assurances to N. Korea: Pompeo (*Yonhap*, 06/9/2018)
No Need to Prepare to Meet Kim Jong-un? Trump Has a Point (NYT, 06/9/2018)
Peace? Sure, But Singaporeans Hope for Summit Tourism Bump (VOA, 06/9/2018)
Pompeo says North Korea nukes must all go before sanctions end (CNN, 06/8/2018)
Singaporean foreign minister arrives in Beijing after visit to Pyongyang (*Yonhap*, 06/9/2018)
Tough talk: US envoys on how to negotiate with North Korea (*Washington Post*, 06/9/2018)
Trump Has 'Clear Objective' for North Korea Summit (VOA, 06/9/2018)
Trump-Kim summit: North Korea leader may get US invite (BBC, 06/8/2018)
Trump, Kim to fly into Singapore on Sunday (*Korea Times*, 06/9/2018)

Trump's Singapore gambit is money (CNN, 06/9/2018)
Two South Korean journalists will be expelled from Singapore (*Korea Times*, 06/9/2018)
'US may normalize relations with NK' (*Korea Times*, 06/8/2018)
War is no option even if the Korean summit fails (*Korea Times*, 06/8/2018)

Top News:

- Trump said Fri. he plans to address human rights when he meets with KJU at the upcoming Singapore summit. "We'll bring it up," the President told reporters before departing for the G7 Summit. (Jennifer Hansler, CNN)

In North Korea:

- Following the successful intra-Korean summit and the coming meeting between KJU and Trump, people on both sides of the DMZ are looking again to renew business and trade ties that have been almost completely severed in the past decade. (James Griffiths, CNN)
- KJU has visited a newly built seafood restaurant in Pyongyang ahead of his historic meeting with Trump in Singapore next week, the North's media reported Sat. (*Yonhap*)
- NK's nominal head of state Kim Yong-nam will attend next week's opening ceremony of the World Cup in Russia, the North's official media said Sat. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The "DMZ Peace Train Music Festival" will be held on Jun. 23 and 24 in Cheorwon, a small town near the DMZ. The man responsible for planning the festival, Kong Yoon-young, aims to stage a symbolic music event in a place more commonly known as the world's most heavily fortified border, a place where the South and North point guns in both directions, and communism and democracy face off against each other. (Young H.K. Pae, *Korea Times*)

International:

- Two reporters of S.Korean public broadcaster KBS are expected to return to Korea on the order of Singaporean authorities, the network said Sat. (*Yonhap*)
- As Trump, the US president meets KJU, North Korea's leader, for one of the most unconventional and unpredictable summits in recent history, regional powers China, Japan and Russia will be watching warily from the sidelines. (Nicola Smith, Julian Ryall, Neil Connor, *Telegraph*)
- Trump will know if KJU is serious about their summit in Singapore on Tues. "in the first minute", the US president said on Sat., speaking to reporters at the G7 summit in La Malbaie, Canada. (Martin Pengelly, *Guardian*)
- A rare direct flight from Pyongyang landed in Singapore on Sat. ahead of the expected arrival of KJU for a summit with Trump to discuss ending the North's isolation and its nuclear program. (Dewey Sim, Fathin Ungku, *Reuters*)

- Former National Basketball Association star Dennis Rodman said on Fri. he will be heading to Singapore for the planned Jun. 12 summit between Trump and KJU. (*Reuters*)
- The summit almost certainly is going to happen. Neither party can afford to cancel this late. How best to make it a success? (Doug Bandow, *Korea Times*)
- The Trump administration's "maximum pressure" campaign has led to a dramatic escalation in the scope and enforcement of US and international sanctions against NK. As talks with NK move forward on both the North-South and US-DPRK tracks, the phasing and structure of sanctions relief and any economic aid packages will be a critically important issue. (Daniel Wertz, *38th North*)
- Even as the island nation of Singapore rushes to get ready for the historic meeting of Trump and KJU, one of its namesakes is basking in the publicity too - on China's border with NK. (*Reuters*)
- Hideki Yano, a Japanese civic activist devoted to supporting victims of Japan's colonial rule, said Sat. that the Japanese government is liable to pay compensation to colonial-era victims now living in NK. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump said Fri. he has been preparing all his life for his upcoming high-stakes meeting with KJU. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump is ready to provide NK with the security assurances it seeks if the regime takes steps to dismantle its nuclear weapons program, the top US diplomat said. (*Yonhap*)
- When Trump declared that he did not really need to prepare for his legacy-defining meeting with NK's leader, he drew sighs or snickers from veterans of past negotiations. But he had a point: In his own unorthodox way, Trump has been preparing for this encounter his entire adult life. (Mark Landler, NYT)
- From summit-themed burgers and online scalpers peddling "World Peace" medallions and "Peace Out from Lion City" T-shirts, Singaporeans are cashing in on a historic meeting between Trump and KJU. (VOA)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo reiterated US calls for NK to completely rid itself of all remnants of its nuclear weapons program before international sanctions are lifted on the pariah nation. (Jaime Crawford, CNN)
- Singapore's Minister for Foreign Affairs Vivian Balakrishnan arrived in Beijing on Saturday after visiting Pyongyang to discuss details about North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's imminent visit to the country for a historic summit with U.S. President Donald Trump. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump's Singapore summit with KJU may be unprecedented, but during a quarter-century of on-off nuclear talks with NK, US officials have learned a thing or two about dealing with an inscrutable adversary and have tried many tactics to get their way: quiet persuasion, black humor and even walking out of the room. (Matthew Pennington, AP)
- Trump said Sat. he has "a clear objective" for his upcoming nuclear summit with KJU, though he acknowledged that potential progress "will always be spur of the moment." (VOA)
- Trump said he would consider KJU to the White House if their summit in Singapore goes well. (BBC)
- Trump will fly into Singapore and check in at The Shangri-La Hotel on Sun., two days ahead of his historic summit with KJU, according to hotel officials, Fri. (Kim Jae-kyoung, *Korea Times*)

- Trump has signaled his opening -- and maybe best -- gambit when he meets with KJU in Singapore in the coming days. (Nic Robertson, CNN)
- Two S.Korean journalists will be expelled from Singapore Sat. for trespassing into the residence of the N.Korean ambassador to Singapore, according to multiple sources, Sat. (Kim Jae-kyoung, *Korea Times*)
- Trump said Thurs. his country has expectations to normalize relations with NK if Pyongyang's denuclearization is agreed upon in his summit with KJU next week and follow-up talks. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- The summit with NK is back on. But if the Trump-Kim tete-a-tete goes badly, what is needed is more diplomacy, not war, as the administration suggested. (Dough Bandow, *Korea Times*)

Prepared by Lauren Jackson, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250716211332/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-trump-says-he-will-bring-up-human-rights-with-kju-trump-kju-summit-success-likely-decided-in-first-minute?e=8a9aae5198

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Sunday, June 10, 2018

Trump's favourite North Korean defector urges president not to forget human rights; Trump, Kim land in Singapore; Business as usual in North Korea

In North Korea:
Business as usual in North Korea as public unaware of summit (AP, 06/10/2018)
Fareed: Kim regime is brutal, but rational (CNN, 06/10/2018)
Inside North Korea: a pastel fairyland built to forget (*The Guardian*, 06/10/2018)
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(2nd LD) N. Korean leader Kim arrives in Singapore ahead of N.K.-U.S. summit: report (*Yonhap*, 06/10/2018)
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Singapore expels two Korean journalists over trespass (*The Korea Times*, 06/10/2018)

Singapore-North Korea trade can grow if sanctions lifted: PM Lee (*Reuters*, 06/10/2018)
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Surveillance Helps Secure Singapore for Trump-Kim Summit (VOA, 06/10/2018)
Time for a plan (*Korea Joongang Daily*, 06/10/2018)
Trump arrives in Singapore ahead of historic North Korea summit (CNN, 06/10/2018)
Trump believes the North Korea summit is all about him. But Kim has a plan, too (*The Guardian*, 06/09/2018)
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Trump Kim summit: Stop romanticising a dictator, say North Korea artists (BBC, 06/10/2018)
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Trump must get North Korea to come completely clean (*The Washington Post*, 06/10/2018)

In North Korea:

- With all the international attention focused on Singapore and the historic summit between Pres. Trump and N. Korean leader KJU, Pyongyang must be buzzing with excitement, right? Well, it might be, if anyone knew what was going on. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- As the two sides meet and talk, it probably ends the idea of North Korea as crazy. Some of Washington's biggest mistakes have been when it has treated countries or governments as 10 feet tall and fanatical or lunatic. And for years, the conventional wisdom about North Korea was that it was unpredictable, irrational and thus undeterrable. After all, people said, just look at the bizarre rituals and crazy haircuts of its leaders. (Fareed Zakaria, CNN)
- When Trump and KJU finally meet face-to-face at their momentous summit in Singapore on Tues., it will be more than a coming together of two powerful men with a penchant for missiles and curious haircuts. Beyond the jocular Twitter exchanges over nuclear war, the president and the supreme leader share a dearly held passion for outre architecture and flamboyant interiors. (Oliver Wainwright, *The Guardian*)
- As riveting as this turbulent drama may be, such external events are not the drivers of Pyongyang's decision-making. Since the beginning of 2018, when KJU began his active campaign to portray his regime as a serious international player and hypothetically cooperative partner, analysts and commentators have been obsessed with whether KJU is sincere or staging an elaborate hoax. No one can know what Pyongyang's "real" intentions are. But we can look inside the N. Korean society for clues. (Katherine H.S. Moon, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- The behavior of the media workers and of North Korean security guards, who later accosted tourists taking photos, offered a glimpse into how isolated, tightly regimented North Korea works, just as Tuesday's summit raises the prospect, perhaps still distant, that it might be about to take the first step towards emerging from its Cold War shell. (Soyoung Kim, Grace Lee, *Reuters*)

In South Korea:

- When the United States and North Korea hold a historic summit on Tuesday, supporters of former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung say it will be the culmination of a mission launched two decades ago by the Nobel Peace Prize winner. (Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- SK's National Assembly has seen an increase in the number of bill proposals by legislators pushing to bolster economic exchanges with NK on the back of warming relations with Seoul and a planned historic summit between NK and the US, parliamentary data showed Sun. (*Yonhap*)
- These days, it seems that scarcely no South Korean company isn't looking north. Hopes are high that with a diplomatic opening – if this time is different, which we really don't know – North Korea will be open for business. And aside from some Chinese companies and entities, no other have the know-how and language skills to make investments in North Korea profitable. Indeed, those that have happened have largely been in the realm of "adventure capital", that is, high risks with the potential of high rewards. It seems that relatively few have reached the latter. (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, *North Korea Economy Watch*)
- S. Korean companies are gradually moving to position themselves to enter NK's largely untapped market once international sanctions are lifted, corporate sources said Sun. (*Yonhap*)
- With the historic first-ever meeting between a N. Korean leader and a sitting US president about to take place in Singapore, there's growing optimism in Seoul over economic cooperation between the two Koreas and the positive impact that could have on the S. Korean stock market. (Lee Ho-jeong, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- Yuhan-Kimberly Ltd., a maker of sanitary products in SK, indicated Sun. that it could provide seedlings to NK if SK and NK agree to join hands for a forestation project in the North. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- N. Korean leader KJU flew into Singapore on Sun., two days ahead of his planned historic summit with US Pres. Trump set to take place in the city-state. (*Yonhap*)
- N. Korean leader KJU met Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien-loong on Sun. as he visited the city-state for his historic summit with US Pres. Trump this week. (*Yonhap*)
- US Pres. Trump and N. Korean leader KJU arrived in Singapore on Sunday as they are set to hold a historic summit this week over Pyongyang's denuclearization. (*Yonhap*)
- On Sun., US Pres. Trump and N. Korean leader KJU arrived in Singapore for an historic summit at the Capella Hotel. The two leaders' arrival two days before their meeting on Tues. shows how much significance they attach to the summit. However, their appearance two days before the scheduled date could also represent an uphill battle for both sides to set the agenda for a successful summit. (*Korea Joongang Daily*)

- There will be a lot of spin going on when President Donald Trump emerges from his summit in Singapore with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Tuesday. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- In the sudden rush of diplomacy involving NK, China has appeared to have the upper hand, hosting the N. Korean leader, KJU, twice before his long-anticipated Singapore summit meeting with Pres. Trump even begins. Yet as KJU prepares to finally meet Trump in Singapore on Tues., some analysts say Beijing appears to be getting a sudden case of the jitters. (Jane Perlez, NYT)
- Britain's North Korean ambassador has been secretly helping Donald Trump prepare for his meeting with Kim Jong-un. (Ben Riley-Smith, *The Telegraph*)
- China has offered a flight for N. Korean leader KJU, who arrived in Singapore Sun. for a summit with US Pres. Trump, according to a flight route tracker. (Lee Min-hyung, *The Korea Times*)
- "KOREAN WAR TO END!" US Pres. Trump tweeted that ebullient statement after an historic meeting between his S. Korean counterpart Moon and N. Korean leader KJU at the demilitarized zone (DMZ) in April. (James Griffiths, CNN)
- In Quebec at the G7 (the traditional way of doing things) the sherpas, political advisers and draftsmen toiled through two nights to find a form of words that all sides could sign up to. In Singapore, from everything I've heard this will not be the modus operandi. This is the new politics, and is much more to Trump's liking. (Jon Sopel, BBC)
- The N. Korean defector whose harrowing story was used by Trump to highlight the brutality of KJU's regime during his State of the Union address has urged the US president to hammer home the issue of human rights at Tues.'s Singapore summit. (Junho Lee, Nicola Smith, *The Telegraph*)
- Trump issued a warning to KJU that he was offering a "one shot" deal for NK to denuclearise and re-enter the international community. (Nick Allen, *The Telegraph*)
- Across the region, there are signs that US Pres. Trump's campaign of "maximum pressure" on Pyongyang to give up its nuclear weapons is weakening ahead of his summit with N. Korean leader KJU in Singapore on Tues. (Brenda Goh, Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- On State of the Union, Sen. Dianne Feinstein discusses Pres. Trump's upcoming summit with NK. (CNN)
- Pres. Trump flies to Singapore this week for a potentially legacy-making moment when he meets with N. Korean leader KJU to discuss a nuclear deal. Based on his tweets, it is clear that Trump is eager to demonstrate to the world that he can make this work and accomplish what his predecessors failed to do. Indeed, he appears more interested in achieving a deal with NK than he is in maintaining peace with some of our oldest allies. (Julian Zelizer, CNN)
- Now as Pres. Trump lands in Singapore for a historic summit with the N. Korean leader KJU, many of Trump's advisers quietly worry he is overly eager to ink another deal -- the biggest of his career -- that could define his presidential legacy. (Jeremy Diamond, CNN)
- Two top senators indicated Sun. that they generally agree on what a good nuclear deal with North Korea might look like, but they differed sharply on whether to back it up with a military Plan B. (Paige Winfield Cunningham, *The Washington Post*)
- Nearly three decades of dealing with NK over its nuclear weapons program has taught the world many lessons — most of them cautionary — but gives no simple path to successful denuclearization. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea Joongang Daily*)

- This week US Pres. Trump will finally come face to face with a leader who is virtually half his age, who inherited his position from his father and grandfather, and who is venerated by the millions of N. Koreans who labor to keep his regime fed and in power. (Jamie Tarabay, CNN)
- N. Korean leader KJU and US Pres. Trump arrived in Singapore, Sun., for their historic summit in the city-state scheduled for June 12. (Kim Jae-kyoung, Yi Whan-woo, *The Korea Times*)
- Security further tightened in Singapore on Sunday ahead of the upcoming summit between US Pres. Trump and N. Korean leader KJU in the city-state. (*Yonhap*)
- US Pres. Trump arrived in Singapore on Sun., as he is set to hold a historic summit with N. Korean leader KJU this week. (*Yonhap*)
- The porous border says a lot about the intentions of NK and China. (BBC)
- Kim Yong-nam, North Korea's nominal head of state, will join the opening ceremony of the World Cup in Russia this week, according to Pyongyang's state-controlled Korean Central News Agency (KCNA). (Yi Whan-woo, *The Korea Times*)
- N. Korean leader KJU is scheduled to depart Singapore at 2 p.m. local time on Tues., a source who is involved in the planning of his visit to the city-state for a summit with US Pres. Trump said on Sun. (*Reuters*)
- As Pres. Trump prepares to meet KJU in Singapore, the focus is rightly on nuclear weapons. But let's not forget something else: NK is by far the most totalitarian country in the world. (Nicholas Kristof, NYT)
- Pope Francis said on Sun. he hoped a forthcoming summit in Singapore between US Pres. Trump and N. Korean leader KJU will lead to peace for Korea. (*Reuters*)
- While the Blue House is probably relieved that Pres. Trump's summit with KJU is back on track for June 12, the mood in official Washington is much more subdued. Pres. Trump himself appears excited about meeting KJU, but senior officials around him have come to realize that they will have an extremely difficult time preparing their boss for this high-risk encounter with the N. Korean leader. (Michael Green, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- Pres. Trump is willing to consider establishing official relations with NK and even eventually putting an embassy in Pyongyang, according to two sources familiar with preparations for the Singapore summit. "It would all depend what he gets in return," said a source close to the White House. "Denuclearization would have to be happening." (Jonathan Swan, Mike Allen, *Axios*)
- Two staff from SK's national broadcaster have been deported from Singapore after they were arrested for trespassing at the home of the N. Korean ambassador to the city-state, police said on Sun. (Fathin Ungku, Aradhana Aravindan, *Reuters*)
- Singapore's government expelled two S. Korean journalists Sat. for trespassing into the residence of the N. Korean ambassador to the country. (Kim Jae-kyoung, *The Korea Times*)
- Trade between Singapore and NK could grow if UN sanctions against it are lifted, the city-state's prime minister, Lee Hsien Loong, said on Sun., as his country prepared to host a historic US-NK summit. (*Reuters*)
- Smuggling on the NK-China border is thriving because border controls have eased following the summits between the countries' leaders in March and May, according to sources familiar with Pyongyang. (Yi Whan-woo, *The Korea Times*)

- It's no accident Singapore was chosen to host the historic summit between US Pres. Trump and N. Korean leader KJU. One big reason: the city is extremely safe and tightly controlled. In fact, it has one of the world's lowest crime rates. That's in part because the country's pervasive system of surveillance. (Bill Gallo, VOA)
- The tension is high in Singapore as security tightens to receive an unusual couple this week — US Pres. Trump and N. Korean leader KJU — for the first-ever summit between the leaders of the two countries at Sentosa Island. The special zone areas are strictly restricted and so is the skylines as the world's most powerful leader and the head of the world's most reclusive state sit down for a landmark deal that could put the Korean Peninsula on a new path and officially close the chapter on the Cold War legacy. (*Korea Joongang Daily*)
- Pres. Trump touched down in this Southeast Asian city-state Sun. evening, 36 hours before his highly anticipated summit with N. Korean leader KJU is set to kick off. (Jeremy Diamond, CNN)
- In 1789, a year of revolution, Benjamin Franklin wrote that nothing was certain except death and taxes. His adage may be due an update as Donald Trump prepares for a mould-breaking summit with North Korea's Kim Jong-un in Singapore on Tuesday. (Simon Tisdall, The Guardian)
- Pres. Trump is in Singapore for his upcoming summit with N. Korean leader KJU, a meeting the U.S leader says he is feeling "very good" about. (Steve Herman, VOA)
- N. Korean leader KJU and US Pres. Trump both arrived in Singapore on Sun., setting the stage for their historic summit in the Southeast Asian nation on Tuesday. (Sarah Kim, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- Leaders from several countries are rushing to have their moment with the man once shunned because of his nuclear weapons programme and dire human rights record. "So many have died at the hands of his regime yet people can say he is now humane," he says. "They are romanticising a dictator and glamourising his regime. This is all very wrong." (BBC)
- Trump flew in aboard Air Force One, a few hours after KJU touched down with his entourage. The two men are staying in separate hotels, not far from each other, and are preparing for Tuesday's meeting on the resort island of Sentosa. (BBC)
- But by almost any measure, the preparations for the summit were fast-tracked - officials who worked in previous administrations said they would start getting ready months or even years for their meetings with N. Korean officials.Trump's supporters applauded him for his speed at organising the work before the meeting was scheduled. "It would've taken two weeks just for Kerry to get his bicycles to Singapore," said Fox Business' Lou Dobbs, making fun of John Kerry, the former US secretary of state. For others, though, Trump's quickfire approach - and the speeded-up timetable - is worrisome. They say the pace of the preparations could put the negotiations in jeopardy. (Tara McKelvey, BBC)
- DENUCLEARIZATION? IT is a big word, and so is the challenge facing President Trump as he heads toward a summit with Kim Jong Un centered on reducing or eliminating the threat of North Korea's nuclear weapons and missile systems. There's no easy, snap-your-fingers recipe, and there are big traps. How do we know? Because it was tried after the collapse of the Soviet Union, which produced a host of good lessons. (*The Washington Post*)

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The Smallness of Trump's North Korea Diplomacy; Never Give up on the Human Rights of North Koreans; US won't bring up NK human rights issues

Top News:
The Smallness of Trump's North Korea Diplomacy (*Bloomberg*, 06/11/2018)
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U.S. won't bring up North Korea's human rights issues at Singapore summit (*NBC News*, 06/11/2018)
Kim-Trump meeting: More theatrics than substance? (*Al Jazeera*, 06/11/2018)

In North Korea:
(LEAD) (US-NK summit) N.K. leader Kim leaves hotel possibly for city tour in Singapore (*Yonhap*, 06/11/2018)
(3rd LD) (US-NK summit) North Korean media reports Kim-Trump summit (*Yonhap*, 06/11/2018)
(US-NK summit) N. Korean leader Kim embarks on city tour in Singapore: report (*Yonhap*, 06/11/2018)
(US-NK summit) N. Korea leader Kim may tour economic facilities in Singapore: source (*Yonhap*, 06/11/2018)
(US-NK summit) N.K. media disclose Kim's use of chartered Chinese plane (*Yonhap*, 06/11/2018)
Chinese companies may invest in North Korea. American not so much (CNN, 06/11/2018)
Kim Jong-undercover: North Korean security bars onlookers from snapping leader (*The Guardian*, 06/10/2018)
North Koreans finally told about Kim Jong-un's Singapore summit with Donald Trump (*The Telegraph*, 06/11/2018)
N. Korean fishing boat rescued off east coast, crew members want to go back (*Yonhap*, 06/11/2018)
North Korea gets first big dose of Trump summit news (AP, 06/11/2018)
North Korea media breaks tradition to report summit (BBC, 06/11/2018)
'Profound talks': North Koreans receive first news of Kim-Trump summit (*The Guardian*, 06/11/2018)
Rocket man: How Kim Jong-un emerged from his father's shadow to silence the doubters (*The Telegraph*, 06/11/2018)
'The dark shadows' are back (*Korea Times*, 06/11/2018)

The summit of the century: how much will it all cost? (BBC, 06/11/2018)
Trump Kim summit: North Korea eyes 'new relationship' with US (BBC, 06/11/2018)
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Who has Kim Jong Un's 'nuclear button' in Pyongyang while he's away? (*Reuters*, 06/11/2018)
Who is Ri Chun-hee, North Korea's melodramatic star newsreader who announced Kim's trip to Singapore (*The Telegraph*, 06/11/2018)
With unusual fanfare, North touts leader's trip abroad (*Joongang Daily*, 06/11/2018)

In South Korea:
(US-NK summit) Moon aide expects 'good' result from Trump-Kim summit (*Yonhap*, 06/11/2018)
(US-NK summit) Moon says Trump-Kim summit will only mark start of 'long process' (*Yonhap*, 06/11/2018)
Finance minister proposes aid fund for North (*Joongang Daily*, 06/11/2018)
Moon optimistic on eve of 'the encounter of the century' (*Joongang Daily*, 06/11/2018)
Optimism over summit buoys Seoul stocks (*Joongang Daily*, 06/11/2018)
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S. Korea to conduct survey on separated families (*Yonhap*, 06/11/2018)

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(LEAD) S. Korea informs N. Korea of delegation to military talks (*Yonhap*, 06/11/2018)
North Korea's past action no indication of future behavior: South Korea adviser (*Reuters*, 06/11/2018)
South Korea's Moon: Reaching accord with North Korea could take years (*The Washington Post*, 06/11/2018)

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(LEAD) (US-NK summit) Kim Jong-un, Trump brace for make-or-break talks (*Yonhap*, 06/11/2018)
(LEAD) Moon, Trump hold last minute talks on Singapore summit (*Yonhap*, 06/11/2018)
(LEAD) (US-NK Summit) Pompeo: U.S. will ensure verification of N. Korea's denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 06/11/2018)
(LEAD) (US-NK summit) Trump: N. Korea summit to 'work out very nicely' (*Yonhap*, 06/11/2018)
(2nd LD) (US-NK summit) N. Korea, U.S. meet for last-minute summit preparations (*Yonhap*, 06/11/2018)
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(US-NK summit) Past negotiations over N.K. nukes marred by distrust, security dilemma, political hurdles (*Yonhap*, 06/11/2018)
(US-NK summit) S. Korean, Singaporean ministers hold phone talks (*Yonhap*, 06/11/2018)
(US-NK summit) Success of Trump-Kim summit hinges on face-to-face meeting of leaders: Seoul official (*Yonhap*, 06/11/2018)
(US-NK summit) Trump-Kim meeting brings back memories of Cold War summit diplomacy (*Yonhap*, 06/11/2018)
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(US-NK summit) U.S.-N. Korea summit to be one-day event: White House (*Yonhap*, 06/11/2018)

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Donald Trump to tell Kim Jong-un he can stay in power - as long as he gives up nuclear weapons (*The Telegraph*, 06/11/2018)
For All His Deals, Trump Has Never Faced an Adversary Like Kim Jong-un (NYT, 06/11/2018)
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President Trump, leave the hugs at home (CNN, 06/10/2018)
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US Says Talks with N. Korea Moving 'More Quickly Than Expected' (VOA, 06/11/2018)
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What Trump and Kim can learn from High School Musical (*The Guardian*, 06/11/2018)
White House optimistic for Trump-Kim summit amid positive NK report (UPI, 06/11/2018)
Who's at the negotiating table? The trusted advisers flanking Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un (*The Telegraph*, 06/11/2018)
World to watch 'talks of the century' (*Korea Times*, 06/11/2018)

Top News:

- HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu had a significant rebuddle for the point of view that much is to be learned from observing the N. Korean personnel in Singapore in his interview for Bloomberg: "Greg Scarlatoiu, the executive director of the Washington-based Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, told me it's "wishful thinking" to expect U.S.

personnel stationed in Pyongyang to learn new insights into a totalitarian regime that has perfected the surveillance and subterfuge common in police states. As for Clapper's hope that a U.S. mission could help break the isolation the regime imposes on its people, Scarlatoiu is skeptical. He noted that regime elites live in Pyongyang, whereas the people who most suffer from the regime live outside of the capital. "I don't think European diplomats in Pyongyang have a chance to look at the real North Korea because they are under heavy surveillance and their movements are so restricted," he said. "Why would we expect something different for American diplomats?"" (Eli Lake, *Bloomberg*)

- Can the US remove a nuclear threat and guarantee human rights and dignity simultaneously? President Trump please take note, America already did it and with a much more dangerous foe. During the Cold War, President Reagan and then Secretary of State George Shultz used the issue of freedom for Soviet Jewry as the litmus test for Soviet intentions on Nuclear Disarmament. Eventually, human rights prevailed and the communist system dissolved without a shot being fired. The US should counter Kim's cycle of "charm offensives," not through appeasement but through verifiable changes in North Korea. It is important to witness the blowing up of one nuclear test site. Of equal importance will be the dismantling of Kim's Gulag. When that occurs and only then can the world be assured that the two estranged Koreas are on the path to a peaceful reunification and a hopeful future for all. (Abraham Cooper, Greg Scarlatoiu, *HRNK Insider*)
- Two administration officials tell NBC News the US has decided not to bring up human rights at the summit. And Trump has made clear he would be willing to offer security guarantees and financial aid to KJU if he gives up his nuclear arsenal. HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu is quoted in the piece, stating,"How can we guarantee the existence of a regime that is committing crimes against humanity and holding 120,000 men, women and children in prison camps?" (Ken Dilanian, *NBC News*)
- Hardline N. Korean critics remain sceptical about the hastily arranged meeting and unchartered venture into summit diplomacy. "This is truly unprecedented," Greg Scarlatoiu, HRNK Executive Director told Al Jazeera. "That said, one can never be comfortable dealing with North Korea. The regime has breached each and every promise it has made through bilateral or multilateral diplomatic interaction." (Tom Benner, *Al Jazeera*)

In North Korea:

- KJU left his hotel possibly for a nighttime tour of Singapore on Mon, the eve of his summit with Trump. (*Yonhap*)
- NK's state media on Mon. reported leader KJU's arrival in Singapore, saying he and Trump will discuss issues of denuclearization, permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula and other matters "required by the changed era." (*Yonhap*)
- KJU embarked on a tour of Singapore on Mon, the eve of his summit with Trump. (*Yonhap*)
- KJU is expected to tour a set of facilities showcasing Singapore's economic advancement on Mon ahead of his summit with Trump in the city state, a diplomatic source said. (*Yonhap*)
- In an unusual move, Pyongyang's media have disclosed that the airplane used by leader KJU over the weekend to fly to Singapore for summit talks with Trump was from China. (*Yonhap*)

- Pres. Trump is due to meet N. Korean leader KJU on Tues. for a summit that the United States hopes will lead to N. Korean nuclear disarmament. US Secretary of State Pompeo raised the possibility last month that US companies could invest in the isolated country if that happens. There are big doubts whether it will — but even if the meeting leads to a breakthrough, experts say investors should still view NK with extreme caution. And if anyone moves fast to take advantage, it's likely to be China. (Daniel Shane, CNN)
- Only regime cameramen allowed to take shots, giving insight into a country that has only just been told its leader has left the country (*The Guardian*)
- N. Koreans were offered a rare glimpse into their reclusive leader's schedule on Mon. after the tightly controlled state media issued surprisingly detailed reports of his trip to Singapore. (Nicola Smith, Ben Riley-Smith, *The Telegraph*)
- A N.Korean fishing boat was rescued while floating in waters off SK's east cost on Mon, and all five of its crew members have expressed their desire to go back home, officials said. (*Yonhap*)
- N. Koreans got their first big dose of news Monday that their leader KJU had arrived in Singapore for what even the state-run media was calling a historic meeting with US Pres. Trump. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- NK's state-run media are already reporting on KJU's trip to Singapore to meet Trump - before the 12 June meeting has taken place. (Alistair Coleman, BBC)
- N.Koreans have received news that the country's leader, KJU, has arrived in Singapore for what the state-run media described as a historic meeting with Trump. (*The Guardian*)
- Once described by Kim Jong-il's personal sushi chef as a "chip off the old block", KJU has succeeded in carving out his own reputation as a ruthless leader to be taken seriously. (Chris Graham, *The Telegraph*)
- A group of well-built bodyguards with short crew cuts accompanied KJU in Singapore. The men, whom S.Korean media called "Dark shadows" during the inter-Korean summit in April, moved in a tight formation to keep their boss shielded on his first day in Singapore, Sun. (Ko Dong-hwan, *Korea Times*)
- The much anticipated summit of the century between the US and NK has arrived - and Singapore is playing host. The world's media is here, hotels are booked out, security is on high alert and both leaders have brought big delegations. (Karishma Vaswani , BBC)
- N.Korean state media have raised the possibility that the isolated country could "establish a new relationship" with the US. (BBC)
- The world once again got a glimpse of KJU's suited running bodyguards as they escorted his motorcade in Singapore. But they're more than just a piece of spectacle, because when it comes to the leader's security, NK leaves absolutely nothing to chance. (BBC)
- NK is one of the most insular states in the world and command and control of its nuclear facilities is kept within a tight, impenetrable circle. But analysts who closely watch NK believe it is unlikely KJU would have come to Singapore without being confident of the arsenal's security - and the ability to order its use. (Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- When NK's government told its public about leader KJU's upcoming "historic meeting" in Singapore with Donald Trump, the US president, the announcement fell inevitably to Ri Chun-hee. (Julian Ryall, *The Telegraph*)

- NK's state media on Mon. trumpeted KJU's arrival in Singapore for a historic summit with Trump, breaking from the usual practice of only reporting the leader's foreign visits after his return home. (*Joongang Daily*)

In South Korea:

- A S.Korean presidential aide expressed expectations on Mon. that the upcoming summit between Trump and KJU will yield a positive result, though they may engage in an intense tug of war. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon on Mon. expressed hope for the success of this week's US-NK summit, but said it will only mark the start of a "long process" of denuclearizing the communist state, which he said could take years. (*Yonhap*)
- Korean Finance Minister Kim Dong-yeon on Mon. raised the possibility of an international fund for rebuilding NK. "The best scenario is for NK to open up to the international community as fast as possible," said the finance minister at an international forum held in Tokyo on Mon. (*Joongang Daily*)
- Moon expressed high hopes for today's summit between Trump and KJU, calling the meeting between the two "the encounter of the century" on Mon. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Joongang Daily*)
- Korea's main bourse ended higher Mon. as the upcoming summit between the US and NK raised hopes for eased tensions on the Korean Peninsula and greater chances for inter-Korean economic projects. (*Joongang Daily*)
- Prosecutors have started looking into allegations that a dozen N.Korean restaurant workers were brought into the South against their will in 2016 in a political maneuver by the then-Park Geun-hye government, a lawyers group said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- SK plans to conduct a survey on surviving families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War in preparation for a family reunion event that the two Koreas recently agreed to hold in mid-August, the unification ministry said Mon. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- SK's defense ministry on Mon. sent to the North the list of its delegation to general-grade talks scheduled for later this week, officials said. (*Yonhap*)
- NK's past action should not be used to try to predict its future behavior, the special national security adviser to S. Korean Pres. Moon said in Tokyo on Mon., during a panel discussion on NK. (*Reuters*)
- SK's president on Mon. welcomed the upcoming Singapore summit as a "historic milestone" to ease tensions on the Korean Peninsula but noted that Seoul must be part of any future negotiations with NK, which he said could take years. (Brian Murphy, *The Washington Post*)

International:

- Having spent a night at their Singapore hotels just hundreds of meters apart, Trump and KJU are making their 11th-hour preparations for an epoch-making tete-a-tete. (Lee Chi-dong, Yonhap)
- Moon and Trump held a telephone conversation on Mon, Moon's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said. (Yohnap)
- Pompeo said Mon. that the US will make sure to verify any dismantlement of NK's nuclear weapons program. (Yonhap)
- Trump on Mon. expressed optimism about his upcoming meeting with KJU, saying he thinks it's "going to work out very nicely." (Yonhap)
- Senior N.Korean and US diplomats held last-minute talks in Singapore on Mon. to come up with a draft agreement to be presented to the leaders of the two countries, according to officials. (Yonhap)
- Pompeo said Mon. that US and N.Korean officials held "substantive" talks to hammer out the details of a nuclear agreement ahead of their leaders' meeting the following day. (Yonhap)
- Both NK and the US have expressed expectations for the outcomes of their first summit meeting set to open in Singapore on Tues. (Yonhap)
- Past negotiations, including the six-party aid-for-disarmament talks, have failed to remove the North's nuclear threats due to deep-seated distrust, a security dilemma, domestic political obstacles and geopolitical dynamics. The Trump-Kim summit on Tues. is expected to be a touchstone for whether the leaders can overcome such past hurdles and clinch a deal that many hope will help establish a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula. (Song Sang-ho, Yonhap)
- The top diplomats of SK and Singapore agreed Mon. to continue close cooperation on regional security, especially as the Southeast Asian city state is set to host the NK-US summit meeting. (Yonhap)
- The success of the historic US-NK summit will likely be determined by the leaders' face-to-face meeting rather than by prior working-level negotiations, an official from Seoul's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said Mon. (Yonhap)
- The planned summit between Trump and KJU harks back to the historic encounters between American and Soviet leaders during the Cold War aimed at fostering peace, analysts said. (Yonhap)
- Trump celebrated his birthday a little early Mon. with hours to go before a high-stakes nuclear summit with KJU. (Yonhap)
- Trump and KJU will meet for one day on Tues, the White House said, announcing the detailed schedule for the historic summit. (Yonhap)
- The White House on Mon. responded with optimism to NK's reported willingness to discuss denuclearization and peace at this week's meeting between their leaders. (Yonhap)
- The US and NK have been engaged in a last-minute tit-for-tat to gain a better position ahead of the June 12 summit here. Reuters reported Sunday night that KJU plans to depart from Singapore at 2 p.m., only five hours after the designated start time of the summit — 9 a.m. at the Capella Hotel. (Kim Jae-kyoung, Korea Times)
- Trump and KJU are to meet in Singapore on Tues for a summit that will be the first of its kind between leaders of the rival nations. Ten other historic moments in relations between US and NK: Korean war, Spy ship captured, Ax murder, Carter visits north, Agreed

framework, Vice Marshal visit us, Albright to North, Six-nation talks, Escalating tests and New détente (*Korea Times*)

- Dry wit. Disarming humility. An appreciation for wiggle room, and lots of it. After six years of self-imposed isolation from the world stage, N. Korean leader KJU has demonstrated a surprisingly well stocked toolbox of negotiating tactics in high-stakes summits with the presidents of SK and China over the past two months. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- Pres. Trump exuded confidence Mon. on the eve of his landmark meeting with KJU of NK. But US and N. Korean diplomats were engaged in difficult last-minute negotiations to bridge gaps on some of the most basic issues dividing the two sides. (Mark Landler, NYT)
- In a summit preceded by tug-of-war posturing between the US and NK, even minute security details have become fodder for diplomatic grandstanding. (*Joongang Daily*)
- The eyes of the world are on Trump's meeting with KJU on Tues., and teams on both sides have been frenetically scrambling to make sure the right image is presented. Amid the broader question of nuclear disarmament there is the issue of "optics" - how the biggest photo opportunity of the year will look to support bases at home and to the rest of the world. (Nick Allen, *The Telegraph*)
- Success in Singapore this week could have a downside for China. Any breakthrough in Tues.'s talks between N. Korean leader KJU and US Pres. Trump, after years of nuclear threats, would be an economic win for Seoul and others in the region. NK itself may profit from a détente. President Xi Jinping, though, might lose critical negotiating leverage as trade tensions escalate. (Christopher Beddor, *Reuters*)
- China may not be participating directly in the summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, but in some ways Beijing will be the invisible third party in the room. (Bill Ide, VOA)
- As both sides recognize the legitimacy of denuclearization, we hope they have a successful summit. We urge KJU to make a far-reaching decision. NK must be born again as a normal state after abandoning its "treasured sword" once and for all. (*Joongang Daily*)
- South Carolina Rep. Sen. Graham on Sun. urged Dems. to sign onto an authorization to use military force against NK as a precautionary measure in case Pyongyang and Washington fail to reach a diplomatic agreement during next week's summit in Singapore. (Maegan Vazquez, CNN)
- Ahead of tomorrow's US-NK summit, the first between a sitting US president and a N. Korean leader, and following the recent Punggye-ri Nuclear Test Site closing event, Daily NK sat down with Kim Dong Yub, professor at the Institute for Far East Studies of Kyungnam University, to discuss these developments and potential strategies going forward. (*Daily NK*)
- Leaders are to hold meeting next week to discuss NK's nuclear weapons. (*The Guardian*)
- Donald Trump on Monday was preparing to tell Kim Jong-un he would not be toppled as North Korea's leader if he agreed to give up his nuclear weapons. (Ben Riley-Smith, Nicola Smith, *The Telegraph*)
- Pres. Trump has imagined himself at the center of high-stakes nuclear negotiations since at least the mid-1980s, when he tried, unsuccessfully, to persuade the Reagan administration that it needed a New York real estate deal maker to lead arms-control talks with the Soviet Union. Now, Trump finally has a nuclear negotiation of his own to conduct, not with the

Russians, but with a N. Korean leader half his age, KJU, the country's volatile, repressive leader. (David E. Sanger, Choe Sang-Hun, NYT)

- Former U.S. Secretary of Defense Bill Perry, who negotiated with NK a generation ago, is looking for three signals that the summit between Pres. Trump and N. Korean leader KJU has been a success. (Tom Miles, *Reuters*)
- Pres. Trump is looking to score a historic coup by securing a nuclear deal with NK - but making sure Pyongyang sticks to the agreement could be even harder. (Jenna McLaughlin, CNN)
- Singapore summit follows series of agreements torpedoed by mistrust and unkept promises (Julian Borger, *The Guardian*)
- Trump and KJU are the unlikeliest of statesmen, but fate has thrown the US President and the N. Korean tyrant an opportunity granted to few historic figures -- together they can change the world. (Stephen Collinson, CNN)
- The Singapore summit is a negotiation for denuclearization in return for some kind of new security structure — the essential interest of SK. Until recently, anticipation was high, but expectations have quickly turned to pessimism. It is necessary to evaluate the summit calmly, not emotionally. To this end, we must set an appropriate viewpoint and standard for evaluation. (Wi Sung-lac, *Joongang Daily*)
- People who argue that Pres. Trump should set aside the issue of human rights when he meets KJU on Tues. ignore the fact that KJU's regime is not just guilty of the abuses usually chronicled by advocacy groups — torture, disappearances and the like. It is founded on, and sustained by, crimes against its population so massive and monstrous that they almost defy description. (Jackson Diehl, *The Washington Post)*
- The outcome of the summit remains uncertain, considering the intricacies of issues and unpredictability of the two leaders. Regardless of what agreement the two leaders reach, the bottom line for a successful summit is for the two sides to come up with a "joint declaration." (Kim Jae-kyoung, *Korea Times*)
- With one day left until their historic meeting, Trump and KJU underwent low-key final preparations on Mon. for their high-stakes summit in Singapore. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)
- NK's state media said on Mon. its leader KJU and US Pres. Trump will discuss a "permanent and durable peace-keeping mechanism" on the Korean Peninsula, denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and other issues of mutual concern. (*Reuters*)
- Shortly after a group of suited N. Korean diplomats set out from their Singapore hotel on Mon. for talks with US officials on the eve of a historic summit, a bigger group of N. Koreans headed out in summery shirts for some shopping. (Joyce Lee, Dewey Sim, *Reuters*)
- The event will be historic but the path to a meaningful agreement is strewn with obstacles (Benjamin Haas, *The Guardian*)
- After leaders arrive or historic talks, NK lays out plan for what the pair will discuss (Benjamin Haas, *The Guardian*)
- Trump and KJU will discuss issues of denuclearization, permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula and other matters "required by the changed era," when they meet this week, the North's state media said Mon. (*Yonhap*)

- Pres. Trump and KJU of NK will hold the first-ever meeting between leaders of their two countries on Tues. morning in Singapore, carrying with them hopes to end seven decades of hostility and the threat of a nuclear confrontation. (NYT)
- Moon and Trump discussed, Mon, ways to hold a successful summit between the latter and KJU. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- US Pres. Donald Trump may have promised that NK will become "very rich" on the back of American investment if Pyongyang ditches nuclear weapons but economists and academics who have studied the isolated country say it is China not the US that will be the engine of any transformation. (Cynthia Kim, Christian Shepherd, *Reuters*)
- N. Korean leader KJU, who rarely ventures outside his isolated country, visited tourist sites on Singapore's waterfront on Mon., hours before a historic summit with US Pres. Trump. (Jack Kim, Steve Holland, *Reuters*)
- US Secretary of State Pompeo said on Mon. the "ultimate objective" of a historic summit with NK had not changed and the US was "eager to see" if NK was sincere about denuclearization. (*Reuters*)
- While speaking before a NK-US summit in Singapore, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo says the US possesses the technical expertise needed to dismantle NK's weapons program. (CNN)
- Modeled on the PDB, which the director of national intelligence prepares for the President almost daily, my Presidential Weekly Briefing focuses on the topics and issues the President needs to know to make informed decisions. Here's this week's briefing: KJU has probably been carefully preparing for your meeting in Singapore. We assess that he has likely spent time studying you, Mr. President, as well as US political developments and your relationships abroad. He will try to rely on a bag of tricks to gain the upper hand in the negotiations and on the world stage. (Samantha Vinograd, CNN)
- As we hurtle toward another potentially pivotal moment in the 70-year-long enmity between these two countries, I've been thinking back to that day in 2008, which came toward the end of my first four-year stint covering NK. I was hopeful back then that the ping-ping diplomacy of American violinists could lead to the kind of rapprochement that the ping-pong diplomacy of the 1970s brought with China. (Anna Fifield, *The Washington Post*)
- KJU presides over a totalitarian government widely known as one of the world's worst human rights abusers. But as the young N. Korean leader basks in the international spotlight ahead of his unprecedented meeting Tues. with US Pres. Trump, there has been very little discussion about human rights. (William Gallo, VOA)
- Security is being tightened in Singapore ahead of the June 12 summit between Trump and KJU on Tuesday. (Kang Aa-young, *Korea Times*)
- Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said Sun. the host country for the Pyongyang-Washington summit on Tues. will bear the costs of the historic meeting. Costs for the summit are estimated at $S20 million ($US15 million). Almost half of the cost is for security. (Ko Dong-hwan, *Korea Times*)
- Singapore's PM Lee Hsien Loong tells CNN's Christiane Amanpour that Kim Jong Un is a "confident young leader" who wants to take North Korea down a new path. (CNN)
- It's a measure of KJU's confidence as N. Korean leader that he's left his country to meet US Pres. Trump in Singapore, the farthest he's traveled since taking on his father's role in 2011. But even as KJU prepares to meet with Trump at a resort island in the tiny city-state, he has

a phalanx of loyalists and hardliners watching from home, waiting to see what he agrees to before returning to NK. (Jamie Tarabay, CNN)

- Limited-edition NK–US summit commemorative medallions will be produced by The Singapore Mint in honor of the country's role as host for today's summit. According to the mint, the medallion "will mark the historical summit for world peace, celebrate its duty as host and duty as gate way to economy and security, connecting East and West." (Kim Min-ji, *Joongang Daily*)
- The vast scope of NK's atomic program means ending it would be the most challenging case of nuclear disarmament in history. Here's what has to be done to achieve — and verify — the removal of the nuclear arms, the dismantlement of the atomic complex and the elimination of the NK's other weapons of mass destruction. (William J. Broad, David E. Sanger, Troy Griggs, NYT)
- Trump and KJU are set to sit down together on Tues in Singapore for an historic summit. It will be the first face-to-face meeting between leaders of the two countries, which have been hostile to each other for more than six decades. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- It is a mistake to see the Singapore meeting between Trump and KJU as a negotiation. This is a show, put together by two leaders who have very different aims for the talks (*The Guardian*)
- It was on, then off, then on again. Now, the highly anticipated summit meeting between Pres. Trump and the N. Korean leader KJU looks set to go ahead on Tues., with delegations from both sides in place. Here is what to know before the historic meeting — the first between a sitting American president and a N. Korean leader. (Megan Specia, NYT)
- Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) evidenced a bit of the foolish thinking that has gotten the US into the position of giving KJU an international stage — and maybe more — for nothing. He suggested, "Peace, where we have a win-win solution; military force where they — we devastate the N. Korean regime and stop their program by force; or to capitulate like we've done in the past." He added, "Trump is not going to capitulate, so there's really only two options — peace or war." (Jennifer Rubin, *The Washington Post*)
- US Secretary of State Pompeo says the US demand for NK's denuclearization has not changed, ahead of Tues.'s meeting between Trump and KJU. Pompeo also said he is "very optimistic" about the summit. (Bill Gallo, VOA)
- Pres. Trump and his team projected confidence Mon. on the eve of a high-stakes summit with N. Korean leader KJU, vowing that the US would not repeat past missteps in negotiating with the rogue, nuclear-armed nation. (David Nakamura, Philip Rucker, *The Washington Post*)
- US Pres. Trump spoke to his S. Korean counterpart by telephone on Mon., a day before Trump holds a historic summit with NK's leader, SK's presidential office said. (Reuters)
- As Trump and KJU prepare for their historic summit in Singapore, both leaders have brought a host of courtiers to advise on the particulars of any agreement. The N.Korean side is steeped in experience negotiating with Americans, while the US officials are a mix of Trump confidants and the small circle that hammered out the details leading up to the summit. (Benjamin Hass, Julian Borger, *The Guardian*)
- NK state media reported Mon. that leader KJU and US Pres. Trump will discuss denuclearization and establishing a "durable peace-keeping mechanism" on the Korean Peninsula during their historic summit on Tues. (Joshua Berlinger, CNN)

- NK is to be offered unprecedented security guarantees when KJU meets Trump in Singapore, the US secretary of state has said on the eve of the summit. (*The Guardian*)
- Pres. Trump and N. Korean leader KJU will be making history here on Tues. morning when they shake hands for the first time. Whether that historic first meeting between a sitting US president and N. Korean leader proves substantive is another matter. And that is what the world will be waiting to learn as Trump and KJU head into the Capella Hotel on Singapore's Sentosa island. (Jeremy Diamond, CNN)
- Trump's gut-check negotiating style and fragile patience face a supreme test in his summit with KJU of NK, a nation that long ago mastered the diplomacy of delay, obfuscation and illusory promises of disarmament. (Stephen Collinson, CNN)
- The self-perpetuating outrage machine got into full swing in the House of Commons when Theresa May made her debut at the despatch box as PM on July 18, 2016. She was leading a debate on whether parliament should authorise the renewal of the Trident nuclear deterrent. (Tom Harris, *The Telegraph*)
- With NK backed into a corner, Trump must pander to KJU's vanity. The meeting could redefine international relations (Simon Jenkins, *The Guardian*)
- Envoys from the US and NK are holding talks to iron out any last-minute differences before Tues.'s historic summit between Pres. Trump and N. Korean leader KJU in Singapore. (Steve Herman, VOA)
- The US says its discussions with NK are moving "more quickly than expected" ahead of the summit in Singapore on Tues. (BBC)
- Pres. Trump will leave Singapore Tues. night after his historic summit with N. Korean leader KJU the White House said Mon., adding that talks between US and N. Korean officials are "are ongoing and have moved more quickly than expected." (Steve Herman, VOA)
- As Trump, the US president meets KJU, NK's leader, for one of the most unconventional and unpredictable summits in recent history, regional powers China, Japan and Russia will be watching warily from the sidelines. (Nicola Smith, Julian Ryall, Neil Connor, *The Telegraph*)
- Trump and KJU circus has been a bit like an episode of The Secret Life of 5 Year Olds. There's been name-calling (KJU's a "little rocket man"; Trump's an "old lunatic") and size comparisons ("I too have a Nuclear Button, but it is a much bigger & more powerful one than his!"). (Lucinda Everett, *The Guardian*)
- White House officials said Mon. they are optimistic a shift in US-N. Korean policy is coming ahead of the historic summit between Pres. Trump and KJU. (Ed Adamczyk, UPI)
- Trump is set to meet with KJU on Singapore on Tues., the first ever accord between a sitting US president and a N. Korean leader. A small army of diplomats, experts and officials have been working tirelessly behind the scenes in the run-up to the historic summit to ensure it goes without a hitch. (Rozina Sabur, Nicola Smith, *The Telegraph*)
- After a series of dramatic twists and turns, Trump and KJU will finally sit down together /web/20250716211655/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/the-smallness-of-trumps-north-korea-diplomacynever-give-up-on-the-human-rights-of-north-koreansus-wont-bring-up-nk-human-rights-issues?e=8a9aae5198Tues. to discuss the denuclearization of the reclusive regime. (Kim Jae-kyoung, *Korea Times*)

Prepared by Jack Maerz, Sohee Ha HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250716211655/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/the-smallness-of-trumps-north-korea-diplomacynever-give-up-on-the-human-rights-of-north-koreansus-wont-bring-up-nk-human-rights-issues?e=8a9aae5198

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Tuesday, June 12, 2018

Inside the human rights abuses in NK; Headliners: KJU; Joint Statement of Trump and KJU at the Singapore Summit

Top News:
Inside the human rights abuses in North Korea (*FOX News*, 06/11/2018)
Headliners: Kim Jong-un (*MSNBC*, 06/12/2018)
Joint Statement of President Donald J. Trump of the United States of America and Chairman Kim Jong Un of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at the Singapore Summit (*White House*, 06/12/2018)
Press Conference by President Trump (*White House*, 06/12/2018)
Never Give Up on the Human Rights of North Koreans (*Algemeiner*, 06/11/2018)
North Koreans Also Have Human Rights (*Jewish Journal*, 06/11/2018)
At Trump-Kim summit, human rights is a back-burner issue (*Asahi Shimbun*, 06/12/2018)
Trump may not bring it up, but Kim's human rights record is among the world's worst (*Chicago Tribune*, 06/12/2018)

In North Korea:
Atrocities Under Kim Jong-un: Indoctrination, Prison Gulags, Executions (NYT, 06/11/2018)
How North Korea Is Spinning the Summit (NYT, 06/12/2018)
I Escaped North Korea. Here's My Message for President Trump. (NYT, 06/11/2018)
In pictures: Kim Jong-un in surprise Singapore tour (BBC, 06/12/2018)
Kim Jong-un pledges nuclear disarmament at summit with Trump (*The Guardian*, 06/12/2018)
Kim Trump summit: North Korea state TV not airing summit news (BBC, 06/12/2018)
North Korea Calls on China to Increase Border Patrols During US-North Korea Summit (RFA, 06/11/2018)
North Korea convenes meeting ahead of talks with U.S. to prohibit use of the terms 'reform and opening' (*Daily* NK, 06/12/2018)
North Korea's Kim to fly out of Singapore at 9 pm: sources (*Reuters*, 06/12/2018)
North Korea's Kim visits Singapore's sky bar, gardens in surprise evening tour(*Reuters*, 06/12/2018)
North Korean media quiet on historic Trump-Kim summit (CNN, 06/12/2018)

North Korean officials fear an emboldened Kim after summit with Trump (*Daily* NK, 06/12/2018)
[PROFILE] Kim's entourage (*Korea Times*, 06/12/2018)
Read all about it: North Korea state media plasters front pages with leader's Singapore trip (*Reuters*, 06/12/2018)
Residents warned to stay vigilant during Kim Jong Un's 'overseas visit' (*Daily* NK, 06/12/2018)
Security-wary Kim Jong-un avoids using US pen provided for historic agreement signing (*Telegraph*, 06/12/2018)
Trump Kim summit: Missed chance to discuss human rights, says defector (BBC, 06/12/2018)
Who Wants to Do Business in North Korea? (NYT, 06/12/2018)

In South Korea:
(2nd LD) S. Korea's Moon says U.S.-N. Korea summit will write new history of peace(*Yonhap*, 06/12/2018)
(LEAD) (US-NK summit) Parties see U.S.-N.K. summit's impact on elections as limited (*Yonhap*, 06/12/2018)
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Here's what South Koreans think about Donald Trump, Kim Jong Un and the Singapore summit (CNN, 06/11/2018)
Moon lauds meeting as 'a great victory' (*Joongang Daily*, 06/13/2018)
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South Koreans skeptical about peace after summit (*Korea Times*, 06/12/2018)
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(US-NK summit) S. Korean retailers express hope for inter-Korean projects (*Yonhap*,06/12/2018)
Why the two Koreas will probably never become one country again (UPI, 06/12/2018)

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A brief guide to Dennis Rodman's long, weird history with North Korea (*The Washington Post*, 06/12/2018)
'A glorified photo op': your responses to the Trump-Kim summit (*The Guardian*, 06/12/2018)
A meeting of equals: what we learned from the Trump and Kim handshake (*The Guardian*, 06/12/2018)
A new chapter begins (*Joongang Daily*, 06/13/2018)
'Alpha male' handshakes as Trump, Kim meet, but body language shows some nerves (*Reuters*, 06/12/2018)
AP FACT CHECK: Trump distorted history on North Korea (AP, 06/12/2018)
China suggests North Korea sanctions relief as Trump, Kim meet (*Reuters*, 06/12/2018)

DealBook Briefing: How the Trump-Kim Summit Could Reshape the Economy (NYT, 06/12/2018)
Defectors visit the newsroom on summit day (*Joongang Daily*, 06/13/2018)
Dennis Rodman cries as he hails Trump-Kim summit: 'I'm so happy' (*The Guardian*, 06/12/2018)
Dennis Rodman gets emotional discussing Trump and Kim (CNN, 06/12/2018)
Dennis Rodman Praises Kim-Trump Meeting: 'I'm So Happy!' (NYT, 06/11/2018)
Dennis Rodman weeps with joy at summit between Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un(*Telegraph*, 06/12/2018)
Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un share historic handshake (*Telegraph*, 06/12/2018)
Donald Trump meets Kim Jong-un: The handshake, the meeting and signing of joint statement - everything we know about the Singapore summit (*Telegraph*, 06/12/2018)
Donald Trump says US to stop 'war games' with South Korea (CNN, 06/12/2018)
Donald Trump shows Kim Jong-un Hollywood-style video laying out the stakes of summit (*Telegraph*, 06/12/2018)

Emotional Dennis Rodman says Kim trying to change North Korea (*Reuters*, 06/12/2018)
Ending military exercises? Trump's plan for North Korea was China's plan first. (*The Washington Post*, 06/12/2018)
Former Diplomat, N. Korea Negotiator Optimistic, Cautious on Trump-Kim Meeting(VOA, 06/11/2018)
Former DNI James Clapper on North Korea talks: 'I've long been an advocate of involving Dennis Rodman' (CNN, 06/11/2018)
Global stocks, dollar retreat after U.S.-North Korea summit (*Reuters*, 06/12/2018)
Guterres: UN Agencies Ready to Support DPRK Denuclearization (VOA, 06/11/2018)
Historic Trump-Kim summit ends with promise, light on substance (*Reuters*, 06/12/2018)
'I'm so happy': Dennis Rodman weeps as Trump and Kim meet (*Korea Times*, 06/12/2018)
Instant View: Trump and Kim pledge to work toward denuclearization at historic summit (*Reuters*, 06/12/2018)
Iran warns North Korea: Trump could cancel deal before getting home (*Reuters*, 06/12/2018)
Japan's Abe says Trump-Kim statement a step toward North Korea denuclearization(*Reuters*, 06/12/2018)
Key moments from the Trump-Kim summit (CNN, 06/12/2018)
Kim explores Singapore at night (*Joongang Daily*, 06/13/2018)
Kim Jong Un goes for surprise nighttime walk ahead of summit (CNN, 06/11/2018)
Kim Jong-un meets Donald Trump at historic summit in Singapore (*Joongang Daily*,06/13/2018)
Kim returns to North Korea as Trump lavishes praise (*The Washington Post*, 06/12/2018)
Kim takes center stage of global diplomacy (*Korea Times*, 06/12/2018)
Kim tries to show 'image of openness' through Singapore tour (*Korea Times*, 06/12/2018)
Koreatown celebrates historic Trump-Kim summit (CNN, 06/12/2018)
Last chance for Korean Americans hoping to find lost family members (CNN, 06/11/2018)
Mattis: 'I Don't Believe' US Troop Reduction is on Table at Singapore Summit (VOA, 06/11/2018)
McConnell praises Trump's efforts on North Korea (*The Washington Post*, 06/12/2018)
Members of Senate working group will attend future talks with North Korea, Idaho senator says (CNN, 06/11/2018)
Moments after their first encounter (*Korea Times*, 06/12/2018)

North Korea summit: US president says 'we will be fine' as meeting nears (*The Guardian*, 06/11/2018)
Singapore summit: what we learned about Trump-Kim meeting (*The Guardian*, 06/12/2018)
Peace with Pyongyang: Legal Implications for the United States and South Korea(*38 North*, 06/11/2018)
POW deal with North Korea followed strong lobbying by Defense Department: 'It's a humanitarian issue' (*The Washington Post*. 06/12/2018)
Rand Paul calls Lindsey Graham 'a danger' for floating military use authorization for North Korea (CNN, 06/11/2018)
Reporters thought this video was North Korea propaganda. It came from the White House. (*The Washington Post*, 06/12/2018)
Residents of China border city hope U.S.-North Korea summit spurs peace, and business (*Reuters*, 06/12/2018)
Russia ready to help implement North Korea deal: agencies (*Reuters*, 06/12/2018)
Selfies, Cheers Greet Kim in Singapore (VOA, 06/11/2018)
Senator Graham: Trump put 'presidency on the line' with North Korea meeting (*The Washington Post*, 06/12/2018)
Singapore PM: Kim has 'intention to do something' (CNN, 06/11/2018)
Singapore summit: Asia reacts to the Trump-Kim meeting (CNN, 06/12/2018)
Text of the Trump-Kim Summit Agreement (VOA, 06/12/2018)
'The bromance of the century': Trump's bizarre trailer for his summit with Kim (*The Guardian*, 06/12/2018)
The Daily 202: In Kim he trusts. Trump sounds naive after meeting North Korea's leader. (*The Washington Post*, 06/12/2018)
The good and the bad from Trump's North Korea summit (*The Washington Post*, 06/12/2018)
The human rights atrocities under Kim Jong-un that were not mentioned during summit (*Telegraph*, 06/12/2018)
The most bizarre moments from the Kim-Trump summit (*The Guardian*, 06/12/2018)
The North Korea summit was a triumph of Trumpian stagecraft, and the media fell for it (*The Washington Post*, 06/12/2018)
The Singapore summit is a global exercise in Donald Trump damage limitation (*The Guardian*, 06/12/2018)
The Trump-Kim Summit Statement: Read the Full Text (NYT, 06/12/2018)
These sanctions will keep squeezing North Korea's economy (CNN, 06/12/2018)
Trump and Kim conclude summit by signing agreement (*Joongang Daily*, 06/13/2018) Trump and
Trump and Kim Have Just Walked Us Back From the Brink of War (NYT, 06/12/2018)
Trump and Kim See New Chapter for Nations After Summit (NYT, 06/11/2018)
Trump and Kim Star in Video at Singapore Summit (VOA, 06/12/2018)
Trump Concession Over Military Drills Blindsides Many South Koreans (NYT, 06/12/2018)
Trump departs Singapore after North Korea summit, says leaving early because 'there was nothing more we could have done' (AP, 06/12/2018)
Trump Gushes Over North Korea (NYT, 06/12/2018)
Trump: 'I'd absolutely invite Kim to White House' (*Korea Times*, 06/12/2018)
Trump: Imprisoned North Koreans will 'be one of the great winners' of summit (CNN, 06/12/2018)
Trump, Kim Exchange Summit Commitments (VOA, 06/12/2018)

Trump-Kim Lunch: Who Attended, What They Ate (VOA, 06/11/2018)
Trump, Kim pass hamburger lunch (*Korea Times*, 06/12/2018)
Trump-Kim Summit Raises Cautious Hope for World (AP, 06/12/2018)
Trump, Kim sign historic pact for denuclearization (*Korea Times*, 06/12/2018)
Trump Proclaims Summit as 'Fantastic...Positive' (VOA, 06/12/2018)
Trump says he believes Japan, South Korea are prepared to help North Korea economically but US 'won't have to help them' (AP, 06/12/2018)
Trump says he halted plans last week for 300 new North Korea sanctions designations because it would be 'disrespectful' (AP, 06/12/2018)
Trump says he talked up North Korea's real estate, beachside hotel opportunities in Kim Jong Un meeting (AP, 06/12/2018)
Trump says Kim makes 'unwavering commitment' to denuclearize (*Reuters*, 06/12/2018)
Trump says Kim 'trusts me, and I trust him' (CNN, 06/12/2018)
Trump says North Korea is Prepared to Give Up its Nuclear Arsenal 'Very Quickly'(VOA, 06/12/2018)
Trump says Kim will move immediately on denuclearization: Fox News (*Reuters*, 06/12/2018)
Trump says that his agreement with North Korea will be good for China (*Reuters*,06/12/2018)
Trump says to stop 'expensive', 'provocative' South Korea war games (*Reuters*, 06/12/2018)
Trump says Warmbier's death was not in vain, North Korean summit was a result(*Reuters*, 06/12/2018)
Trump: Summit is 'bold step' toward peace for North Korea (UPI, 06/12/2018)
Trump surprises with pledge to end military exercises in South Korea (*Reuters*, 06/12/2018)
Trump to Suspend Military Exercises on Korean Peninsula (NYT, 06/12/2018)
Trump to VOA: 'We're Going to Denuke North Korea' (VOA, 06/12/2018)
Trump-Kim summit pleases China, while Japan puts on brave face (*Reuters*, 06/12/2018)
Trump Kim summit: Full text of the signed statement (BBC, 06/12/2018)
Trump Kim summit: Five odd moments from the day (BBC, 06/12/2018)
Trump Kim summit: Handshake moment explained in pictures (BBC, 06/12/2018)
Trump Kim summit: Rhetoric versus reality (BBC, 06/12/2018)
Trump Kim summit: US and North Korean leaders hold historic talks (BBC, 06/12/2018)
Trump Kim summit: US president hails deal after historic talks (BBC, 06/12/2018)
Trump Kim summit: What food was on the diplomatic menu? (BBC, 06/12/2018)
Trump's North Korea summit falls short of Nixon-goes-to-China moment (*Reuters*, 06/12/2018)
Trump's reality TV diplomacy makes for a good show. But what's the result? (*The Guardian*, 06/12/2018)
Trump really has achieved a historic breakthrough – for the Kim dynasty (*The Guardian*, 06/12/2018)
Trump upbeat ahead of North Korean summit; Kim visits Singapore sites (*Reuters*, 06/12/2018)
Trump Was Outfoxed in Singapore (NYT, 06/12/2018)
Trump: We will stop 'war games' (CNN, 06/12/2018)
Trump's North Korean gamble ends with 'special bond' with Kim (CNN, 06/11/2018)
Trump will end up agreeing that North Korea can keep its nukes (*The Washington Post*, 06/12/2018)
U.N. nuclear watchdog says ready to help North Korea denuclearization (*Reuters*, 06/12/2018)
Unscripted Moments Steal the Show at Trump-Kim Singapore Summit (NYT, 06/12/2018)
U.S. and North Korea say progress made at summit in Singapore (AP, 06/12/2018)

U.S., foreign markets await impact of Trump-Kim summit (*UPI*, 06/12/2018)
U.S. military in Korea says no guidance on cancelling war games (*Reuters*, 06/12/2018)
US, North Korea Summit Opens in Singapore With Handshakes, Wary Smiles (RFA, 06/11/2018)
US to suspend military exercises with South Korea, Trump says (*The Guardian*, 06/12/2018)
Vague on Details, Trump Is Betting on 'Special Bond' With Kim to Deliver Deal (NYT, 06/12/2018)
Video starring Trump and Kim makes unscripted appearance at Singapore summit(Reuters, 06/12/2018)
What body language experts saw when Trump and Kim Jong Un met (*The Washington Post*, 06/12/2018)
What Happened in the Trump-Kim Meeting and Why It Matters (NYT, 06/12/2018)
What have Trump and Kim signed? We read between the lines (*The Guardian*, 06/12/2018)
What's in a name? Kim, Trump signatures show ambition, experts say (*Reuters*, 06/12/2018)
What just happened? Experts break it down (CNN, 06/12/2018)

Top News:

- HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu appeared on FOX News Mon. and spoke about the human rights violations taking place in NK. Scarlatoiu described NK's political prison camps where over 120,000 people are imprisoned and subjected to malnutrition, torture, forced labor, and public and secret executions. In regards to the US-NK summit, Scarlatoiu said, "[The summit] must be informed diplomacy, diplomacy based on the full understanding of the true nature of the regime." (*FOX News*)
- HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu was interviewed by MSNBC about KJU and discussed the plight of political prisoners under the N.Korean regime. (MSNBC)
- Trump and KJU released a joint statement after the US-NK summit in Singapore Tues. (*White House*)
- Trump gave a press conference after the US-NK summit in Singapore Tues. regarding the outcome of negotiations and the joint statement released. (*White House*)
- The Algemeiner published an article by Rabbi Abraham Cooper and HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu urging Trump to put the release of Japanese, other foreign and S.Korean abductees, the reunion of separated Korean families, and the complete, verifiable, irreversible dismantlement of the North Korean political prison camps, as the bill the Democratic People's Republic of Korea must foot to become a normal and responsible member of the international community. (Rabbi Abraham Cooper, Greg Scarlatoiu, *Algemeiner*)
- The Jewish Journal published an article by Rabbi Abraham Cooper and HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu urging Trump to address human rights violations at the US-NK summit in order for NK to become a normal and responsible member of the international community. (Rabbi Abraham Cooper, Greg Scarlatoiu, *Jewish Journal*)
- HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu and Rabbi Abraham Cooper were quoted in an article by the Associated Press about the US-NK summit. Scarlatoiu and Cooper wrote, "Kim Jong Un wants security guarantees, but history has taught time and again liberal democracies shouldn't try to guarantee the survival of a regime that runs political prison camps and commits crimes against humanity." (AP)

- The Chicago Tribune quoted HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu, saying that human rights in North Korea has too often been "sacrificed on the altar" of higher-priority nuclear and missile negotiations. (Barbara Demick, Tracy Wilkinson, *Chicago Tribune*)

In North Korea:

- With the meeting of President Trump and Kim Jong-un of North Korea on Tuesday in Singapore, human rights groups are watching for Mr. Trump to bring up North Korea's widespread crimes against humanity. (Maya Salam, Matthew Haag, NYT)
- Video outlining the actions of the N. Korea regime leading up to the Singapore summit with Pres. Trump. (NYT)
- In this video op-ed, a N. Korean defector, Yeonmi Park, urges the US to put pressure on KJU to end his human rights abuses. She tells Pres. Trump that now is not the time for photo opportunities, but rather strong actions. Millions of N. Koreans are suffering under the Kim regime and Mr. Trump must do something to help them, she says. (NYT)
- KJU went on a surprise night-time tour of Singapore, ahead of his historic summit with Trump. (BBC)
- US gives NK security guarantees in document signed at end of historic meeting (Julian Borger, *The Guardian*)
- N.Koreans switching on the news, are not seeing any reports on the historic meeting between Trump and KJU. (BBC)
- NK has called on China to set up an emergency alert along the two countries' border during the much-anticipated summit between US Pres. Trump and NK's leader KJU, sources inside the isolated nation said. (Hyemin Son, RFA)
- The N. Korean authorities held a video conference with high-ranking Party cadres ahead of the summit with the US instructing them not to use the terms "reform and opening up." This appears to be a precautionary measure implemented in response to the heightened expectations of N. Korean residents for "greater freedoms" arising from the inter-Korean and US-NK talks. (*Daily NK*)
- KJU is due to leave Singapore at 9 p.m. local time (1300 GMT), two sources familiar with the plans said. (*Reuters*)
- Reclusive KJU went on an evening tour of Singapore on Mon, posing with city-state officials at a tropical garden before visiting an infinity pool atop a landmark waterfront hotel, to the surprise of guests. (John Geddie, Dewey Sim, *Reuters*)
- The handshake, the menu, the positioning of flags -- every aspect of the meeting between US Pres. Trump and N. Korean leader KJU has been dissected and analyzed in the world's media. But in NK, Tues's historic summit didn't even merit a mention. (Angela Dewan, CNN)
- Korean Workers' Party cadres in NK have been expressing concerns in the run-up to the US-NK summit, according to sources inside the country. (Kim Yoo Jin, *Daily NK*)
- Much attention will be on Kim Jong Un at his historic summit Tues. with Trump. But the 34-year-old North Korean leader also brought a group of trusted lieutenants to Singapore, with at least four high-powered women including his own sister. (*Korea Times*)

- Just hours after KJU wrapped up a surprise evening sightseeing tour of Singapore on Mon, the N. Korean newspaper Rodong Sinmun crammed its front page with photographs snapped of the reclusive leader. (Christine Kim, Jumin Park, *Reuters*)
- NK has implemented a special security decree for the US-NK summit, taking effect in the border regions and lasting until June 12, the scheduled date for the summit. (Kang Mi Jin, *Daily NK*)
- KJU appeared unwilling to use the American pen provided for him as he signed the historic denuclearization deal with Trump today. (Mike Wright, *Telegraph*)
- Defector Grace Jo said, "I feel very sorry that human rights are not being discussed, we can't separate the nuclear issue from human rights issues. They developed nuclear arms while people were dying of starvation, others in prisons." (Hugo Bachega, BBC)

In South Korea:

- Moon hailed the outcome of the summit between his US and N.Korean counterparts Tues., calling it a historic event that will end what he called the last remaining conflict of the Cold War and write a new history of peace and cooperation on the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- S.Korean parties evaluated Tues. that the historic summit between the US and NK will have a limited impact on the upcoming local elections. (*Yonhap*)
- Some people in Seoul on Tues said they are happy just to see US Pres. Trump and N. Korean leader KJU talking to each other rather than trading threats of war. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- The biggest moment in decades on the Korean peninsula -- the on-again, off-again summit between US Pres. Trump and N. Korean Leader KJU -- is just hours away from happening in Singapore. It's being covered like a monumental event, with news networks from around the world flooding the region to soak up every second of the historic meeting. But how is the average person in the region processing the summit -- and what it might mean for not just the Korean peninsula but the world? (Chris Cilliza, CNN)
- Moon lauded the historic summit between Trump and KJU on Tues., calling the encounter in Singapore an event that removed "the last remaining Cold War legacy on earth." (Kang Jin-kyu, *Joongang Daily*)
- The S. Korean business community on Tues. hailed the historic summit between the leaders of NK and the US as it could offer new business opportunities for Asia's fourth-largest economy. (Kim Kwang-tae, *Yonhap*)
- Agreement welcomed in SK amid bemusement over war games and dismay from N.Korean refugees (Benjamin Haas, Justin McCurry, *The Guardian*)
- The Unification Ministry on Tues. gave the green light for students of Seoul National University to contact students of Kim Il Sung University, NK's most prestigious school of higher learning, to discuss academic exchanges, the S.Korean university's students said. (*Yonhap*)
- As Trump and KJU shook hands at a historic summit in Singapore on Tues, S.Koreans stopped in their tracks to watch the event unfurl on live television. (Reuters)
- Moon vowed on Tues. to write "new history" with NK, praising KJU's decision to hold a summit with the US in Singapore. (*Reuters*)

- S.Koreans of different age groups expressed mixed feelings about the prospect of peace on the Korean peninsula following the summit between the US and NK. (Lee Suh-yoon, Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)
- S. Koreans expressed joy and concern in response to the denuclearization agreement reached at the historic US-NK summit in Singapore on Tues. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- SK's presidential office said on Tues. that it needs to seek clarity on Trump's intentions are after he said Washington will stop joint military exercises. (*Reuters*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- In their Panmunjom Declaration concluded at the recent summit between the leaders of NK and SK, Moon and KJU agreed to pursue talks on a peace treaty as well as denuclearization. Although the agenda for the June 12, 2018 Trump-KJU summit in Singapore is a work in progress, there seems to be agreement that the two sides will begin discussions on a peace treaty to replace the armistice that ended the Korean War. (Charles Kartman, *38 North*)
- Just about everyone has assumed that the ideological divisions between NK and SK are so great that any discussion of political ideology or governance will be so divisive that it must be studiously avoided. Instead, it is assumed, the focus must fall on neutral issues like trade and investment. (Emanuel Pastreich, *Korea Times*)
- NK on Tues. sent the South the list of members of its delegation to this week's inter-Korean military talks, Seoul's defense ministry said. (*Yonhap*)
- S.Korean retailers are expressing optimism over new business opportunities in NK in the wake of the recent rapprochement on the Korean Peninsula as Trump and KJU held a historic summit on Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- It seems ages since a lingering handshake began across the demarcation line that separates NK and SK. Much has happened since -- and now, the once unthinkable has happened with a summit between NK's KJU and the US's Trump. But in all the frenzied coverage of that summit -- which yielded an agreement widely considered anemic -- it's easy to forget that the unprecedented peace process between the Koreas was already underway. (Niki J.P. Alsford, UPI)

International:

- China expressed welcome and support for the NK-US summit held in Singapore on Tues., saying the joint declaration made by Pyongyang and Washington marked a milestone to bring peace to the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump and KJU are set to hold a summit in Singapore on Tues., a historic opportunity to peacefully end the N.Korean nuclear threat. (*Yonhap*)
- KJU reaffirmed his commitment to the "complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" in a written agreement with Trump on Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- The US Forces Korea said Tues. that it had received "no updated guidance" yet related to the regular exercises with SK that Trump said he will stop. (Song Sang-ho, *Yonhap*)

- Trump and KJU were meeting in Singapore on Tues., a historic opportunity to peacefully end the N.Korean nuclear threat. (Yonhap)
- Trump said Tues. that he will stop "provocative and expensive" war games with SK in a surprise reference to the joint military exercises Pyongyang has criticized as a rehearsal of invasion. (Yonhap)
- Yonhap summarized the joint statement that Trump and KJU signed after holding summit talks on Tues. in Singapore. (Yonhap)
- SK's top diplomat was briefed by her American counterpart on Tues. on the results of the NK-US summit talks and delivered a congratulatory message for the "success" of the historic event. (Yonhap)
- The summit between Trump and KJU and the joint statement that followed fell short of mentioning details about Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program, causing some analysts here to predict the event will have a limited impact on the financial market. (Kim Deok-hyun, Yonhap)
- The historic summit between Trump and KJU on Tues. might be promising to give what the North has really wanted for decades: getting recognized by the world's most powerful country and normalizing bilateral ties with it. (Yonhap)
- Beef ribs and soy-braised cod were among the dishes served to Trump and KJU during a working lunch at their summit in Singapore on Tues. (Yonhap)
- The mood for a thaw in US-NK ties that has emerged after their historic summit is expected to pose a tricky geopolitical question to China: what if its traditional ally falls into the orbit of its core competitor? (Song Sang-ho, Yonhap)
- China expressed welcome and support for the NK-US summit held in Singapore on Tues., vowing to play a constructive role to help implement summit agreements. (Yonhap)
- Moon and Trump agreed to closely coordinate their steps following the latter's historic meeting with KJU, the White House said Tues. (Yonhap)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Tues. he had phone talks with S. Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha on the outcome of a historic Singapore summit with NK. (Yonhap)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will visit SK this week to personally explain the outcome of the US-NK summit to his S.Korean counterparts, an official from Seoul's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said Tues. (Yonhap)
- Tensions were running high in Singapore on Tues., as watertight security measures were enforced for the opening of the historic summit between KJU and Trump. (Yonhap)
- From security to media coverage support, Singapore has led logistical preparations for Tuesday's historic summit between Trump and KJU on its resort island of Sentosa. (Yonhap)
- Tuesday's summit agreement between the US and NK lacks specifics on Pyongyang's denuclearization but marks a meaningful start on an issue that used to be a nonstarter, analysts said. (Song Sang-ho, Yonhap)
- In their maiden meeting Tues., KJU and Trump opted for a broad-brush compromise on establishing a peace regime in Korea, a tall order linked to denuclearization. (Yonhap)
- Tuesday's agreement between the leaders of NK and the US on American soldiers killed or missing in action during the Korean War is expected to provide momentum to resume a long-stalled recovery and repatriation project. (Yonhap)

- Trump and KJU took a walk near the Capella Hotel, their summit venue, in Singapore after a working lunch Tues., local media reported. (Yonhap)
- KJU and Trump will sign an agreement to maintain the momentum of their Singapore summit, a news report said Tues. (Yonhap)
- Trump said Tues. that the dismantlement of NK's nuclear weapons program will take place as soon as "mechanically, physically" possible, but refused to set a deadline. (Yonhap)
- Trump said Tues. that his Singapore summit with KJU has yielded a "lot of progress." (Yonhap)
- Besides what they called a "comprehensive" deal, Trump and KJU grabbed media attention on Tues. with unexpected but tension-easing moments, especially so for heads of decades long adversaries. (Yonhap)
- It was a remarkable moment as Pres. Trump and KJUwalked toward one another and shook hands just after 9 a.m. local time in Singapore. It was also a made-for-TV moment as the two men exchanged pleasantries -- "Nice to meet you Mr. President," KJU said to Trump -- before quickly heading to chairs where they made brief statements. (Chris Cillizza, CNN)
- Pres. Trump held a news conference in Singapore on Tues after his meeting with the N. Korean leader, KJU. These are excerpts from his remarks, followed by the full transcript. (NYT)
- When Dennis Rodman announced last week that he'd be in town for the historic Singapore summit to "offer whatever support is needed" to his pals Pres. Trump and N. Korean dictator KJU, the rest of the world predictably went "huh?" But the five-time NBA champion is no stranger to Pyongyang — or inserting himself into complex world affairs. (Helena Andrews-Dyer, The Washington Post)
- Readers are skeptical of Singapore summit's potential impact and concerned about future diplomacy (The Guardian)
- Trump and KJU showed respect for each other from the moment they met at the Capella hotel (Benjamin Hass, The Guardian)
- Trump and KJU concluded an historic summit in Singapore on Tues. agreeing to the "complete denuclearization" of the Korean Peninsula in a joint statement. (Sarah Kim, Joongang Daily)
- In their first moments of meeting each other, Trump and KJU both sought to project a sense of command but displayed some anxiety at the start of their high-stakes summit in Singapore. (Sam Holmes, Miral Fahmy, Reuters)
- Pres. Trump celebrated his historic summit with NK's leader Tues with remarks that twisted history and raised false hope that the remains of all missing Americans from the Korean War will be coming home. (Matthew Pennington, Calvin Woodward, AP)
- China suggested on Tues that sanctions relief could be considered for NK if the country abides by UN resolutions, as Trump and KJU pledged to work for denuclearization. (Reuters)
- The U.S. and North Korea concluded their historic talks in Singapore with an agreement that could, eventually, lead to a denuclearized Korean Peninsula. But there are economic effects that could flow from the pact. We have some questions. (Andrew Ross Sorkin, NYT)
- The historic summit between Trump and KJU was the talk of the town in many circles on Tues. - including among a group of N.Korean defector students participating in a one-day journalism

- program at the Korea JoongAng Daily office in central Seoul. (Esther Chung, *Joongang Daily*)
- On the sidelines of the historic meeting, the former basketballer and friend of KJU says he has been vindicated (Justin McCurry, Julian Borger, *The Guardian*)
- It's been described as the biggest diplomatic breakthrough of the 21st century, but to former basketball star Dennis Rodman, Tues's meeting between N. Korean leader KJU and US Pres. Trump was a beautiful moment between two good friends. (Steve George, CNN)
- When Pres. Trump and KJU began their historic meeting in Singapore on Tuesday, it seemed inevitable that The Worm, as Mr. Rodman is known, would make an appearance. (Austin Ramzy, NYT)
- Dennis Rodman, the former basketball star, broke down on live television as he described his feelings of vindication at the historic meeting between Trump and KJU as well as the threats he endured for his unlikely friendship with the leader of a pariah state. (Rob Crilly, *Telegraph*)
- Trump has met KJU, shaking the N.Korean leader's hand and posing for the cameras at a historic summit in Singapore. (Ben Riley-Smith, *Telegraph*)
- In a major breakthrough, Trump and KJU signed what the Trump Said was a “very important” and “pretty comprehensive” joint statement. KJU declared the "world will see a major change" and that he and Trump had "decided to leave the past behind" as they signed the document. (Rob Crilly, Barney Henderson, *Telegraph*)
- The US military will stop "war games" on the Korean Peninsula, US Pres. Trump said Tues, as he announced details of his discussions with N. Korean leader KJU. (Brad Lendon, CNN)
- Trump, the former reality television star with a knack for theatrics, tried a dose of Hollywood drama as he sought to sway KJU during their historic summit. (*Telegraph*)
- Former US basketball star Dennis Rodman, one of a handful of Westerners to have met KJU, said the young leader was trying to make changes in his country. (*Reuters*)
- Trump cut a deal with N. Korean dictator KJU — and China is going to like it. (Emily Rauhala, *The Washington Post*)
- Former US Ambassador to the UN and a frequent negotiator in NK, Bill Richardson, spoke to VOA's Ira Mellman about Pres. Trump's meeting with N. Korean leader KJU in Singapore. (VOA)
- Dennis Rodman, a retired professional basketball player, is one of the few people who knows both US Pres. Trump and N. Korean leader KJU, and that makes him an important resource, former DNI James Clapper said in a CNN interview. (Sophie Tatum, CNN)
- World stocks slipped on Tues and the dollar retreated from a three-week high after a US-NK summit aimed at the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. (*Reuters*)
- UN Secretary-General António Guterres has welcomed the planned meeting between the US and N. Korean leaders in Singapore, saying it is "a promising development for global peace and security." (Margaret Besheer, VOA)
- Trump said KJU pledged at a historic summit on Tuesto move toward complete denuclearization, while the US promised its old foe security guarantees. (Steve Holland, Soyoung Kim, Jack Kim, *Reuters*)
- Former NBA star Dennis Rodman openly wept on television in a live interview from Singapore as Trump and KJU met for the first time. (AP)
- Trump and KJU pledged on Tues to work toward complete denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, and signed a ‘comprehensive’ document at a landmark summit in Singapore. In

turn, Washington committed to provide security guarantees for the Asian nation, though the joint statement was light on specifics. (*Reuters*)

- Iran warned KJU on Tues against trusting Trump, saying he could cancel their denuclearization agreement within hours. (Bozorgmehr Sharafedin, *Reuters*)
- Abe welcomed the joint statement signed by Trump and KJU in Singapore as a first step in the denuclearization of NK. (*Reuters*)
- Trump and KJU met Tues in front of the world's cameras, against the backdrop of flags of the US and NK. The leaders approached each other on a red carpet from separate outdoor hallways at the airy and luxurious Capella Hotel on Singapore's Sentosa Island. When it came time to finally shake hands, the they both flashed guarded smiles. (Joshua Berlinger, Lauren Said-Moorhouse, Jessie Yeung, CNN)
- KJU went on a surprise tour of Singapore on Mon. night with his top aides and Singaporean officials. The following day, NK's state media described it as an opportunity for the leader to learn about the Southeast Asian city-state's social and economic development. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang Daily*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un went on a surprise tour of downtown Singapore on Monday night, just hours before he was due to take part in a landmark meeting with US President Donald Trump. (Lauren Said-Moorhouse, CNN)
- Trump and KJU kicked off what is being called the summit of the century at 9:00 a.m. on Tues. at Capella Hotel in Singapore's southern resort island of Sentosa. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)
- KJU is, according to totalitarian NK's state media, an internationally respected statesman who is widely recognized as having transformed NK into "a top country in the world." A man who is revered for his genius and vision but also for his kindness. But don't just take the propagandists' word for it. The most powerful man in the world thinks so too. (Anna Fifield, *The Washington Post*)
- KJU's summit with Trump in Singapore, Tues., apparently helped him change his reputation from a "madman" to a "normal leader," analysts says. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- Is it a sign that KJU is interested in opening up his reclusive regime? Or was it just his gesture to show his confidence ahead of a historic summit with Trump? These are some of the questions arising after Kim, who arrived in Singapore Sunday for the landmark meeting, took a surprise nighttime tour of Singapore's iconic sites, Monday. (Kim Jae-kyoung, *Korea Times*)
- It was the handshake many Korean Americans never thought they'd see in their lifetime -- one between a US president and a N. Korean leader. For dozens who gathered in the heart of Koreatown in LA, the historic meeting between Pres. Trump and KJU, brought cheers and tears. This was more than a handshake -- but a lifetime of waiting to see these two countries share a stage. (Kyung Lah, Madison Park, CNN)
- It has been more than 70 years since Kyung Joo Lee fled NK, leaving behind three older brothers and an older sister. Lee has spent every day since praying that his four siblings managed to remain safe and survive the hardships that have come to define his former country. Now, almost seven decades later and with the US and NK on the verge of a potential diplomatic breakthrough, 90-year-old Lee is hopeful that he might at last find out what happened to his family. (Natasha Chen, CNN)

- US Secretary of Defense Mattis said he does not believe a reduction of US troop numbers on the Korean Peninsula will be up for discussion when Pres. Trump and N. Korean dictator KJU meet Tues in Singapore. (Carla Babb, VOA)
- Speaking on the Senate floor just a few hours after Trump departed, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) praised what he called "an historic first step in negotiations." (*The Washington Post*)
- The White House and Secretary of State Pompeo have agreed that representatives from a Senate working group will attend any future negotiations with NK that come out of the summit, Sen. Risch said Mon. (Sophie Tatum, CNN)
- KJU made another impressive appearance before the world, this time with his greeting message in English, at the momentous summit with Trump held on Sentosa Island, Singapore, Tues. (Choi Ha-young, *Korea Times*)
- Assurance comes after Mike Pompeo says Trump will offer KJU security guarantees that go further than 2005 agreement (Julian Borger, Benjamin Hass, *The Guardian*)
- Trump and KJU agree to denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. The article deals with main developments (*The Guardian*)
- Reaching a peace treaty to end the Korean War is frequently interpreted as a N. Korean "trap" rather than as the key to resolving the nuclear crisis and the decades-old Korean Question in general. Many fear that it could legitimize NK as a nuclear weapons state, split the alliance between the United States and SK, even trigger a reunification under N. Korean leadership. (Henri Féron, *38 North*)
- Pres. Trump and N. Korean leader KJU delivered a joint statement Tues seeking a landmark deal to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula. But nestled in the document was a short bullet point that addresses a long-running concern of US veterans groups: the recovery of the remains of thousands of American troops who were killed or captured in NK during the Korean War. (Lisa Rein, John Hudson, *The Washington Post*)
- KY Rep. Sen. Rand Paul suggested that his colleague SC Rep. Sen. Lindsey Graham is a "danger" for suggesting that Congress sign onto an authorization to use military force against NK should the US fail to reach a diplomatic agreement during the summit. (Veronica Stracqualursi, Dana Bash, CNN)
- Reporters crowded into a Singapore auditorium Tues, expecting Pres. Trump to walk out and announce the results of his historic meeting with N. Korean leader KJU. Suddenly, two huge screens on either side of the empty podium came to life. Soaring music boomed over the speakers, and the reporters were bombarded with a montage portraying NK as some sort of paradise. (Avi Selk, *The Washington Post*)
- Residents of the Chinese city that stands to benefit the most from a positive outcome from Tues's historic US-NK summit in Singapore said they were hopeful that it would lead to peace and bolster cross-border business. (*Reuters*)
- Russia has a positive assessment of the deal between Trump and KJU, but "the devil is in the detail", TASS news agency cited Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov as saying on Tues. (*Reuters*)
- Just hours before what could be the most important meeting of his life, a seemingly relaxed and confident KJU took a night on the town in Singapore, taking selfies and being greeted by cheering onlookers. (William Gallo, VOA)

- Senators react to President Trump's meeting with Kim Jong Un on June 12. (*The Washington Post*)
- PM Lee Hsien Loong gives Amanpour his analysis of the NK summit, China's role, and says he understands -- but is skeptical of -- Trump's 'America's First' strategy. (CNN)
- As Tuesday's landmark summit between the leaders of the US and NK drew to a close, questions remained for US allies in East Asia as to what Trump and KJU's budding relationship will mean for the region. (Joshua Berlinger, CNN)
- Pres. Trump and Chairman KJU conducted a comprehensive, in-depth, and sincere exchange of opinions on the issues related to the establishment of new US-NK relations and the building of a lasting and robust peace regime on the Korean Peninsula. President Trump committed to provide security guarantees to NK, and KJU reaffirmed his firm and unwavering commitment to complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. (VOA)
- The US president presented NK's leader with an action-movie trailer as part of their Singapore meeting. The Guardian's chief film critic isn't impressed (Peter Bradshaw, *The Guardian*)
- Trump expressed a bewilderingly high degree of confidence after meeting with KJU that the N. Korean leader is personally committed to giving up the nuclear weapons that ensure his grip on power. (Breanne Deppisch, Joanie Greve, *The Washington Post*)
- First, the good news. The fact that Trump held this meeting with KJU is a positive thing, in the sense that it means nuclear war is less likely in the short term. (Greg Sargent, *The Washington Post*)
- Trump spoke of a "new history" being made, but NK's past history of human rights abuses appeared to have been forgotten in Singapore. (Neil Conner, *Telegraph*)
- Amid carefully orchestrated pageantry of meeting there were several strange elements (Benjamin Haas, *The Guardian*)
- All the problems the media has in conveying a true picture of Trump's presidency were on display in Singapore on Mon night. (Margaret Sullivan, *The Washington Post*)
- We should understand what the world is hoping for when we look at the Trump-KJU summit (Richard Wolffe, *The Guardian*)
- Joint Statement of Pres. Trump of the US and Chairman KJU of NK at the Singapore Summit. (NYT)
- After the unprecedented summit between Pres. Trump and KJU, the array of international sanctions on NK is back in focus. (Jethro Mullen, CNN)
- KJU signed a joint statement during their historic summit in Singapore on Tues. calling for the "complete denuclearization" of the Korean Peninsula. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)
- There is a phrase in Korean: "Begun is half-done." It means when tackling a difficult task, half of the battle is getting started. Despite the many warts in Pres. Trump's unconventional diplomacy toward NK, we have to give him credit. Only five months ago, based on my conversations with this administration, I thought we were headed down an inexorable path toward a devastating war. (Victor Cha, NYT)
- Pres. Trump shook hands with KJU of NK on Tues. and offered a major concession during the first summit meeting between their nations, a momentous step in an improbable courtship between the world's largest nuclear power and the most reclusive one. (Mark Landler, NYT)

- During the historic summit in Singapore Tues between Pres. Trump and N. Korean Leader KJU, Trump played a video that presented potential opportunities for the isolated country if it agrees to eliminate its nuclear arsenal. (VOA)
- For S. Koreans who have long felt threatened by nuclear war, seeing Pres. Trump and NK's leader shake hands and sign an agreement on improving ties brought relief, if not closure, to the decades-old standoff. But the optimism was quickly tempered by a shocker. Hours after the summit meeting with KJU in Singapore was over, Trump said he planned to end annual joint military exercises with SK, emphasizing their expense. (Choe Sang-hun, NYT)
- Trump departs Singapore after NK summit, says leaving early because 'there was nothing more we could have done.' (AP)
- After months of venomous barbs and apocalyptic threats of war, the meeting between Pres. Trump and the N. Korean leader KJU was unquestionably a relief, with its handshakes and effusive politeness. (NYT)
- Trump said Tues. he would "absolutely" invite KJU to the White House. (Jung Min-ho, *Korea Times*)
- Pres. Trump said the roughly 100,000 political prisoners in NK are going to be "the great winners" of his historic summit with dictator KJU. (Betsy Klein, CNN)
- In an agreement signed Tues in Singapore, N. Korean leader KJU "reaffirmed his firm and unwavering commitment to complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," while US Pres. Trump "committed to provide security guarantees" to NK. (Steve Herman, VOA)
- Here are the participants and the menu for the working lunch between Pres. Trump and the U.S. delegation, and KJU and the N. Korean delegation, according to White House Deputy Press Secretary Raj Shah. (VOA)
- There was no hamburger lunch after all. Trump and KJU had a rather formal set-course lunch instead during their summit at the Capella Hotel, Singapore, Tues. The menu revealed by the White House was a combination of Western and Korean food plus Chinese and Malay dishes. (Kang Aa-young, *Korea Times*)
- Cheers in SK and a one-page "extra" edition of a Japanese newspaper greeted Tues's unprecedented summit between Trump and KJU. China's foreign minister said the meeting "is creating a new history." (AP)
- Trump and KJU signed a historic pact to achieve "complete denuclearization" of the Korean Peninsula in return for a regime security guarantee following their summit in Singapore, Tues. (Kim Jae-kyoung, *Korea Times*)
- US Pres. Trump said his historic meeting Tues in Singapore with N. Korean leader KJU went "better than anybody could have expected." (Stever Herman, VOA)
- Trump says he believes Japan, South Korea are prepared to help North Korea economically but US 'won't have to help them.' (AP)
- Trump says he halted plans last week for 300 new NK sanctions designations because it would be 'disrespectful.' (AP)
- Trump says he talked up NK's real estate, beachside hotel opportunities in KJU meeting. (AP)
- Trump said on Tues North KJU had made an "unwavering commitment" to the complete denuclearization of the Korean peninsula but sanctions against NK would remain in effect. (*Reuters*)

- Pres. Trump said he trusts KJU and that he has received the same trust in return following a historic sitdown with the N. Korean leader. (Veronica Stracqualursi, CNN)
- US Pres. Trump says NK is prepared to give up its nuclear arsenal "very quickly." Trump made the comments in Singapore after meeting with N. Korean leader KJU. Trump's comments go further than what was actually agreed to in the written document signed by both leaders. (William Gallo, VOA)
- Trump said on Tues he believes KJU will move immediately on steps toward denuclearization and that the process is moving rapidly, according to an interview with Fox News. (*Reuters*)
- Trump on Tues. praised China's President Xi Jinping for helping secure an agreement toward NK's denuclearization, and said the deal would be good for Beijing. (*Reuters*)
- Trump said on Tues the US was stopping "very provocative" and costly military exercises with SK to facilitate denuclearization negotiations with NK. (*Reuters*)
- US college student Otto Warmbier did not die in vain days after he was released from N.Korean custody in 2017, as his death helped initiate a process that led to Tues's historic summit with NK, Trump said. (*Reuters*)
- US Pres. Trump heralded the signing of a joint statement with KJU that pledged complete denuclearization and credited the N. Korean leader for taking the "first bold step" for his people. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Trump's declaration on Tues. that he intended to end joint military exercises in Korea seemed to be news to both S.Korean and US military officials. (Josh Simth, Reuters)
- Pres. Trump said Tues that he was suspending military exercises on the Korean Peninsula and that he expected the N. Korean leader, KJU, to move "very quickly" to dismantle his nuclear arsenal after a day of discussions in Singapore. (NYT)
- Pres. Trump spoke with VOA contributor Greta Van Susteren after his summit talks with N. Korean leader KJU in Singapore about what the two discussed and what to expect next. (Greta Van Susteren, VOA)
- With Trump setting the course for normalizing ties with NK and even saying war games with SK would end, China appeared a winner from Tues's summit, as Japan tried putting a brave face on the outcome. (*Reuters*)
- Trump, Kim launch historic Singapore summit with a handshake (*Reuters*, 06/12/2018)
- Trump and KJU shook hands and smiled as they started a historic summit on Tues, just months after they traded insults and threats of nuclear war (Reuters)
- Trump and KJU have signed a document following a landmark summit in Singapore - the first between a sitting US president and a N.Korean leader. (BBC)
- Trump's meeting with KJU in Singapore was a historic event, marking the first time that current heads of the two countries have met. From the historic handshake between the two leaders to the signing of a joint agreement, experts have analysed the meeting and its significance for future US-NK relations. But there were some odd moments of the day, which have got people talking. (BBC)
- Trump and KJU have finally shaken hands. But nobody knew exactly how it would play out. Here we break down the images from an extraordinary morning to explain how each moment unfolded. (BBC)

- Watching reactions to the Singapore summit as it unfolded became the ultimate foreign policy Rorschach test - everyone came away with a different picture of what happened. (Jenny Town, BBC)
- Trump and KJU have become the first sitting US president and N.Korean leader to meet, an unprecedented development after a year of exchanging threats. (BBC)
- Trump says his historic talks with KJU that ended in a joint agreement were "tremendous". (BBC)
- For a man who likes well-done steaks with a side of tomato ketchup, it was quite a complicated menu. (BBC)
- Trump's dramatic meeting with KJU may have been choreographed to look like a Nixon-goes-to-China moment, but the summit appears to have failed to secure any concrete commitments by Pyongyang for dismantling its nuclear arsenal. (Matt Spetalnic, David Brunnstrom, Reuters)
- No progress on NK will be possible without diplomacy. But diplomacy must be done right (The Guardian)
- With a shake of the hand, the US president has tightened KJU's grip over an enslaved nation – and got almost nothing in return (Jonathan Freeland, The Guardian)
- Trump said on Mon. his historic summit with KJU in Singapore could "work out very nicely" as officials from both countries sought to narrow differences on how to end a nuclear stand-off on the Korean peninsula. (Steve Holland, Christophe Van der Perre, Reuters)
- Trump made a huge concession — the suspension of military exercises with SK. That's on top of the broader concession of the summit meeting itself, security guarantees he gave NK and the legitimacy that the summit provides his counterpart, KJU. (Nicholas Kristof, NYT)
- Pres. Trump holds a news conference after his meeting with N. Korean leader KJU, saying the US will stop joint military exercises with S. Korea. (CNN)
- Nearly five hours of unprecedented and surreal talks between US Pres. Trump and NK's KJU culminated on Tues with fulsome declarations of a new friendship but just vague pledges of nuclear disarmament. (Kevin Liptak, CNN)
- What just happened? That's what everyone is struggling to figure out today after the brief summit between Pres. Trump and N. Korean leader KJU. When I spoke today to Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.), who sits on the Foreign Relations Committee, he was blunt: "I don't think they accomplished anything except for a photo op." (Paul Waldman, The Washington Post)
- The UN nuclear watchdog welcomed the joint statement of Trump and KJU on Tuesday and said it was prepared to undertake verification activities. (Reuters)
- When the President of the US pulls out an iPad and shows the leader of NK a slick, bombastic video — essentially a Hollywood-style trailer presenting NK possible future, featuring fighter jets and missile launches cut together with images of dancing children, artisanal pizza and time-lapse sunrises over skyscrapers — you know this is not an ordinary summit meeting. (Motoko Rich, NYT)
- Pres. Trump and N. Korean leader KJU praised their progress at Tues's summit in Singapore toward getting rid of nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula. But Trump faced sharp questions at home about whether he got little and gave away much — including a promise to stop US military exercises with SK. (AP)

- Stocks opened mixed around the world Tues as investors tried to assess the first-ever meeting between a sitting US president and N. Korean leader. (Susan McFarland, UPI)
- US military forces in Korea have not received any direction to cease joint military drills, a spokesman said on Tues, after Trump said war games would be ended amid talks with NK. (Reuters)
- US Pres. Trump and N. Korean leader Kim Jong Un shook hands and smiled to open their summit in Singapore on Tues, historic talks among old foes aimed at resolving a long-running nuclear standoff on the Korean peninsula. (Paul Eckert, RFA)
- US move in exchange for N.Korean denuclearization pledge takes Seoul by surprise (Julian Borger, *The Guardian*)
- On paper, there is nothing President Trump extracted from North Korea's leader, Kim Jong-un, in their summit meeting that Mr. Kim's father and grandfather had not already given to past American presidents. (David E. Sanger, NYT)
- When Trump sat down to make the case for peace to KJU on Tuesday, he rolled out what amounted to a movie trailer starring the two leaders. (*Reuters*)
- In front of a backdrop of alternating US and N. Korean flags, Pres. Trump and N. Korean leader KJU approached from opposite sides of a stage and shook hands in the middle. (Monica Ulmanu, Kevin Uhrmacher, *The Washington Post*)
- Even the most informed observer might struggle to know what to make of the summit meeting between President Trump and Kim Jong-un of North Korea. (Max Fisher, NYT)
- Document hailed by US president as 'very comprehensive' does not go much further than existing denuclearization agreement (Justin McCurry, *The Guardian*)
- KJU's distinctive signature, penned on a historic agreement with Trump on Tues, indicates his ambition and creativity, handwriting experts said. (*Reuters*)
- CNN Opinion asked a group of expert commentators to weigh in with their reactions to the historic meeting between Trump and KJU. The views expressed here are solely theirs. (CNN)

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250716213434/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-inside-the-human-rights-abuses-in-nk-headliners-kju-joint-statement-of-trump-and-kju-at-the-singapore-summit?e=8a9aae5198

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

The Situation Room; US-NK Summit Special Part; At Trump-Kim summit, human rights is a back-burner issue

Top News:

The Situation Room (CNN, 06/12/2018)
US-North Korea Summit Special Part 5 (TBS 101.3 *This Morning*, 06/12/2018)
At Trump-Kim summit, human rights is a back-burner issue (*The Courier*,06/12/2018)
At Trump-Kim summit, human rights is a back-burner issue (*The Day*, 06/11/2018)
The Women Kim Jong Un Brought To The North Korea Summit All Have Very Different Roles (*Bustle*, 06/12/2018)
At Singapore summit, North Korea racked up wins (*The Hill*, 06/12/2018)

In North Korea:
(3rd LD) N. Korea says Trump recognizes phased, simultaneous actions toward denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 06/13/2018)
Diverse scenarios considered to develop North Korea's economy (*Korea Times*,06/13/2018)
Kim Jong-un hailed victor in 'meeting of century' by North Korean media (*Guardian*, 06/13/2018)
Mahathir: Malaysia to Reopen Embassy in North Korea (*RFA*, 06/12/2018)
My holiday in North Korea – what I learned in the world's most secretive state(*Telegraph*, 06/13/2018)
N. Korean leader arrives in Pyongyang after Trump summit: reports (*Yonhap*, 06/13/2018)
North Korea country profile (*BBC*, 06/13/2018)
North Korea Has Broad but Optimistic Reaction to Kim-Trump Summit (VOA, 06/13/2018)
North Korea lauds, and basks in, Kim's summit performance (*AP*, 06/13/2018)
North Korea Says It Won Major Concessions From Trump in Singapore (NYT, 06/13/2018)
North Korean media praises Trump in 'meeting of the century' (CNN, 06/13/2018)
North Koreans share expectations on U.S.-North Korea summit (*Daily NK*, 06/13/2018)
Restrictions on resident movement in Pyongyang strengthened around summit(*Daily NK*, 06/13/2018)
Rocket man: How Kim Jong-un emerged from his father's shadow to silence the doubters (*Telegraph*, 06/13/2018)
Three days with the North Koreans: awkward glances and a scant smile (*Reuters*, 06/13/2018)

In South Korea:
(3rd LD) Seoul hints at possible suspension of joint military drills with U.S. (*Yonhap*, 06/13/2018)
Analysts see no immediate impact of Trump-Kim summit on S. Korean stocks(*Yonhap*, 06/13/2018)
Ruling party wins elections by landslide (*Joongang Daily*, 06/13/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Koreas to pursue college exchange (*Joongang Daily*, 06/13/2018)
Summit raises hopes for Kaesong reopening (*Joongang Daily*, 06/13/2018)
Two Koreas to hold high-level military talks tomorrow (*Korea Times*, 06/13/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) Pompeo to brief Moon on outcome of U.S.-N. Korea summit (*Yonhap*,06/13/2018)
(2nd LD) Trump boasts outcome of summit with N.K. leader Kim (*Yonhap*,06/13/2018)
'(3rd LD) Trump says 'no more nuclear threat' from N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 06/13/2018)
A long way to go (*Joongang Daily*, 06/13/2018)

Americans confused about summit outcome (*Korea Times*, 06/13/2018)
Americans have long hoped for a peaceful denuclearization of North Korea (CNN, 06/12/2018)
Analysts slam Trump for stopping joint military drills (*Korea Times*, 06/13/2018)
Arms expert makes sense of the Trump-Kim summit (CNN, 06/13/2018)
Bill Richardson: U.S., North Korea statement has 'no meat on bones' (*UPI*, 06/12/2018)
China hails its 'indisputable' role in outcome of Trump-Kim summit (*Guardian*, 06/13/2018)
China the biggest winner of Kim-Trump summit (*Korea Times*, 06/13/2018)
China wasn't invited to the Singapore summit - but it got everything it wanted(*Telegraph*, 06/13/2018)
Does the Trump-Kim summit and declaration mean anything for the North Korean economy? (*North Korea Economy Watch*, 06/12/2018)
Donald Trump's achievement in Singapore is worth celebrating (*Telegraph*, 06/13/2018)
Ending the US-South Korea war games would be a win for Beijing (CNN, 06/13/2018)
Ex-spy or genteel diplomat? North Korea's choices for nuclear talks with Pompeo(*Reuters*, 06/13/2018)
Fact-checking President Trump's claims about the North Korea deal (*The Washington Post*, 06/13/2018)
Faux trailer promises prosperity in the North (*Joongang Daily*, 06/13/2018)
GOP Sen. Jim Risch: No North Korea deal without verification (CNN, 06/12/2018)
Graham: Trump citing cost for end of war games is 'ridiculous' (CNN, 06/13/2018)
Häagen-Dazs, hotels and Dennis Rodman: Scenes from the US-North Korea summit(CNN, 6/12/2018)
In Singapore, Trump Says He will Halt US-S. Korea "War Games" (VOA, 06/13/2018)
Iran deal comparisons cloud Trump's North Korea summit (AP, 06/13/2018)
Iran warns Kim Jong-un: 'Don't trust Trump' (*Korea Times*, 06/13/2018)
Is the U.S. overlooking human rights in North Korea? (CNN, 06/13/2018)
James Clapper: US is 'in a much better place' after Trump-Kim summit (CNN, 06/13/2018)
Kim had a great summit. And he didn't even need to give anything away (CNN, 06/12/2018)
Kim's debut, Trump's isolation (*Joongang Daily*)
KJU Does Singapore (Poor Boys and Pilgrims with Families) Volume III (*North Korea Leadership Watch*, 06/13/2018)
KJU Does Singapore (Three Days Without You, Thought I'd Forget) Volume I (*North Korea Leadership Watch*, 06/13/2018)
Lingering questions from the Trump-Kim summit (CNN, 06/13/2018)
Listen to 'The Daily': What Trump Gave Kim (NYT, 06/13/2018)
MAGIC WALL: Kim's "big change" (CNN, 06/12/2018)
McConnell on N. Korea: Our eyes are wide open (CNN, 06/12/2018)
Meet the aides who spoke for Trump and Kim (*Joongang Daily*, 06/13/2018)
Mr. Trump, where's the beef? (*Korea Times*, 06/13/2018)
(News Focus) Trump's plan to stop joint military drills stirs dispute (*Yonhap*, 06/13/2018)
North Korea Is a Nuclear Power. Get Used to It. (NYT, 06/12/2018)
North Korea says nuclear dismantling is a 'step-by-step' process with U.S. rewards along the way (*The Washington Post*, 06/12/2018)

North Korea: Trump has agreed on step-by-step denuclearization process by North in return for US concessions (AP, 06/12/2018)
Pelosi: 'Nothing' to indicate North Korea no longer nuclear threat (*The Washington Post*, 06/13/2018)
Pledge to scrap engine test site raises questions (*Joongang Daily*, 06/13/2018)
Pompeo: North Korea understands 'there will be in-depth verification' of nuclear commitments in any deal with US (AP, 06/13/2018)
Pompeo says US wants North Korea to take major nuclear disarmament steps by end of Trump's first term (AP, 06/13/2018)
Pompeo to brief Moon on outcome of US-North Korea summit (*Korea Times*, 06/13/2018)
President Trump showed Kim Jong Un this Hollywood-style video to pitch him on peace (CNN, 06/12/2018)
President Trump's astonishing words about the people of North Korea (CNN, 06/12/2018)
Reaction to the Singapore Summit (*38 North*, 06/12/2018)
Republicans in Congress caution Trump against trusting North Korea (CNN, 06/12/2018)
Returning to US after summit with Kim Jong Un, Trump tweets, 'There is no longer a Nuclear Threat from North Korea' (AP, 06/13/2018)
Senior Republican senator suggests Trump-Kim deal lacks substance (*Guardian*, 06/12/2018)
Sen. Menendez criticizes 'anemic' Trump-Kim summit statement (CNN, 06/12/2018)
Singapore's immense gains (*Joongang Daily*, 06/13/2018)
Singapore Summit Produces High Hopes, Little Details (VOA, 06/13/2018)
Senate Republicans demand vote on potential North Korea deal (UPI, 06/12/2018)
Stephan Haggard and Mira-Rapp Hooper on the Summit (*PIIE*, 06/13/2018)
The 49 wildest quotes from Donald Trump's Singapore press conference (CNN, 06/12/2018)
The Trump-Kim Summit Was Unprecedented, but the Statement Was Vague (NYT, 06/12/2018)
The two really important people at the summit (beside Trump and Kim) (CNN, 06/13/2018)
Trump and Kim agree to recovery of US military remains from Korean War (CNN, 06/12/2018)
Trump declares NK 'no longer a nuclear threat' (CNN, 06/13/2018)
Trump in surprise summit move says he will halt Korea war games (*Reuters*, 06/13/2018)
Trump, Kim co-star in U.S.-made summit film mixing propaganda, Hollywood(*Reuters*, 06/13/2018)
Trump, Kim Make History With Singapore Summit (VOA, 06/13/2018)
Trump-Kim Summit Creates New Anxieties for Asian Allies (NYT, 06/13/2018)
Trump Kim summit: North Korean media celebrate meeting (BBC, 06/13/2018)
Trump Kim summit: Pentagon remains 'ironclad' after war games cancelled (BBC, 06/13/2018)
Trump-Kim Summit Produces High Hopes, Few Details (VOA, 06/12/2018)
Trump-Kim Summit Sparks Diverging Reactions on Capitol Hill (VOA, 06/12/2018)
Trump Kim summit: US president lauds deal despite skepticism (BBC, 06/13/2018)
Trump-Kim summit: world scrambles to decipher 'denuclearisation' deal – as it happened (*Guardian*, 06/13/2018)
Trump Made Kim a Movie Trailer. We Made It Better. (NYT, 06/12/2018)
Trump: No More Nuclear Threat from North Korea (VOA, 06/13/2018)
Trump on Kim: Without exchange of insults 'we wouldn't have been here' (CNN, 06/13/2018)
Trump promises to halt 'war games' but offers few details (*Joongang Daily*,06/13/2018)
Trump says accused human rights abuser Kim Jong Un 'loves his people' (CNN, 06/12/2018)
Trump Says Kim Jong Un, a Noted Human Rights Violator, 'Has to Be a Rough Guy'(VOA)

Trump says North Korea no longer a nuclear threat; North highlights concessions(*Reuters*, 06/13/2018)Trump sees 'new future' for North Korea, but path unclear (AP, 06/13/2018)
Trump's pledge to stop 'provocative' military exercises provokes alarm and confusion in Seoul and Washington (CNN, 06/12/2018)
US Gets Little in Return For Pledge to Suspend Military Exercises After Trump-Kim Summit: Experts (RFA, 06/12/2018)
(US-NK summit) Trump, Kim take first step toward peace on Korean Peninsula(*Yonhap*, 06/13/2018)
US to suspend military exercises with South Korea, Trump says (*Guardian*, 06/13/2018)
VOA's Enua Lee Discusses US-North Korea Summit (VOA, 06/12/2018)
Watch: Trump brings Kim aspirational video showing 'new world' (UPI, 06/12/2018)
What next for North Korea-US talks and the steps to denuclearization (*Telegraph*,06/13/2018)
Why the translators? Trump and Kim talk the same condo-constructing language(*Telegraph*, 06/13/2018)
World Leaders Mostly Voice Approval of Trump-Kim Agreement (VOA, 06/12/2018)
VOA's Enua Lee Discusses US-North Korea Summit (VOA, 06/12/2018)
Watch: Trump brings Kim aspirational video showing 'new world' (UPI, 06/12/2018)
World Leaders Mostly Voice Approval of Trump-Kim Agreement (VOA, 06/12/2018)

Top News:

- Brian Todd from CNN's "The Situation Room" interviewed HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu about the Kim regime's human rights violations. Scarlatoiu said, "All prisoners, and in particular political prisoners, are subjected to a relentless, vicious cycle of forced labor and induced malnutrition, public executions, secret executions, [and] torture." (CNN)
- HRNK's Amanda Mortwedt Oh was interviewed on TBS 101.3 This Morning about the US-NK summit. Mortwedt Oh urged Trump to bring up human rights during the summit. (*TBS 101.3 This Morning)*
- The Courier published an article quoting HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu and Rabbi Abraham Cooper about the US-NK summit. Scarlatoiu and Cooper urged Trump to seek "the complete, verifiable, irreversible dismantlement" of N.Korean political prison camps. They wrote that "history has taught time and again liberal democracies shouldn't try to guarantee the survival of a regime that runs political prison camps and commits crimes against humanity." (AP)
- The Day published an article quoting HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu and Rabbi Abraham Cooper about the US-NK summit. Scarlatoiu and Cooper urged Trump to seek "the complete, verifiable, irreversible dismantlement" of N.Korean political prison camps. (AP)
- Bustle published an article quoting HRNK's Amanda Mortwedt Oh about how NK treats women. Mortwedt Oh wrote, "Women are still discriminated against in NK, despite NK's claims to the contrary. We can look to the numbers of N.Korean escapees, approximately 80% of whom are women, as an indicator that women are the ones having to flee the regime." (Caitlin Cruz, *Bustle*)
- The Hill published an article by HRNK former board member Chuck Downs about the US-NK summit. Downs writes that "today's comprehensive agreement is certainly historic, but it

doesn't change the nature of the N.Korean regime. Instead, it purports to ensure that regime's survival." (Chuck Downs, *The Hill*)

In North Korea:

- NK's state media said Wed. that KJU and Trump shared the view that "step-by-step" and "simultaneous" actions are important to achieve peace and denuclearization. (*Yonhap*)
- With the historic first summit between Trump and KJU adding to a peaceful mood on the peninsula, diverse scenarios are being considered to help NK develop its economy. (Yoon Ja-young, *Korea Times*)
- NK has hailed the summit between Trump and KJU as marking the end to hostile relations with the US, with state media depicting the meeting as a diplomatic victory for its leader. (Justin McCurry, *Guardian*)
- Malaysia will reopen its Pyongyang embassy, PM Mohamad said in signaling a potential warming in bilateral relations that were strained after last year's assassination of the N. Korean leader's estranged half-brother at a Kuala Lumpur airport. (RFA)
- Minty Clinch writes about her observations during her time spent in NK in April. (Minty Clinch, *Telegraph*)
- KJU returned to Pyongyang Wed. morning after a historic summit with Trump in Singapore, state media reported. (*Yonhap*)
- For decades NK has been one of the world's most secretive societies. It is one of the few countries still under nominally communist rule. (BBC)
- The first official reaction from the Kim regime on the Singapore summit with US Pres. Trump is trickling in and initial comments are broad and optimistic. (VOA)
- The news on television and the front page of the ruling Workers' Party newspaper was something N. Koreans never would have imagined just months ago — their leader KJU warmly shaking hands with Pres. Trump. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- A day after its leader's historic talks with Pres. Trump, NK wasted no time on Wed spinning the results in its favor, claiming it had won major concessions from the US. (Choe Sang-Hun, NYT)
- North Korea has praised the outcome of Tuesday's summit between US President Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un, with state media declaring the meeting an "epoch-making" event of "great significance." (Euan McKirdy, CNN)
- With all eyes on the first US-NK summit, many N.Korean residents appear to have high expectations that the talks will be successful and help improve their standard of living. Daily NK asked several of its sources in NK to ask residents about their thoughts ahead of the summit. (Kang Mi-jin, *Daily NK)*
- There are reports of a tense atmosphere in NK due to the US-NK summit, with strengthened security in the border regions and restrictions on the movement of residents in Pyongyang. (*Daily NK*)
- Once described by Kim Jong-il's personal sushi chef as a "chip off the old block", KJU has succeeded in carving out his own reputation as a ruthless leader to be taken seriously. (*Telegraph*)

- At the end of the second night of living in the same ritzy Singapore hotel as KJU, a member of his security staff sat beside a Reuters reporter in the lobby and smiled. (Fathin Unku, Soyoung Kim, *Reuters*)

In South Korea:

- SK's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae hinted at the possibility of suspending the country's joint military drills with the US, citing a need to assist denuclearization negotiations with NK. (*Yonhap*)
- The historic summit between Trump and KJU is unlikely to have an immediate impact on the S.Korean stock market as it would take time to reduce risks from the North's nuclear weapons program, analysts said Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- The Democratic Party (DP) was leading in all but four of the country's biggest races in Wed's local-level elections as of 9:30 p.m. The landslide victory means liberals could control 13 out of 17 major provincial and mayoral seats, based on vote counts by the National Election Commission on Wed evening. (*Joongang Daily*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- SK's Unification Ministry, which handles relations with the North, gave the green light on Tues for students of Seoul National University to contact students of Kim Il Sung University, the North's most prestigious institution of higher learning, to discuss academic exchanges, the S.Korean university's students said. (*Joongang Daily*)
- After the first-ever summit between Trump and KJU ended on a positive note Tues, expectations are growing that the inter-Korean Kaesong Industrial Complex will reopen, two years after it was shut down. (Lee Ho-jung, *Joongang Daily*)
- SK's defense ministry on Mon sent to the North the list of its delegation to general-grade talks scheduled for later this week, officials said. (*Korea Times*)

International:

- Pompeo will personally brief Moon on the outcome of the historic US-NK summit, an official from Moon's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said Wed (*Yonhap*)
- Trump on Wed. boasted of the results of his historic summit with KJU in Singapore the previous day. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump tweeted Wed. that the world should feel "safer" because NK poses no nuclear threat to the world. (*Yonhap*)
- The joint statement also showed how bumpy the road to denuclearization will be. Many security experts based the summit's success on three conditions. Will the phrase "complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization" be part of the agreement? Will the agreement set a timetable for denuclearization? And will the North take pre-emptive action by dismantling and shipping its nuclear weapons and intercontinental ballistic missiles to the US? (*Joongang Daily*)

- Many Americans, including experts, questioned the appropriateness of Trump saying how "honored" he was to meet a dictator. Trump also announced that the US will stop joint military drills with SK, a major concession to the KJU regime. The agreement includes no detailed timeline of NK's denuclearization effort. (Jane Han, *Korea Times*)
- There was nearly ubiquitous (77% in CNN's May poll) American support for Trump's decision to meet with N. Korean leader KJU. (Grace Sparks, CNN)
- Global analysts have criticized Trump for his plan to halt joint military drills with SK, which he announced Tues at a press conference following his summit with KJU. (Kim Jae-kyoung, *Korea Times*)
- Jeffrey Lewis of the Middlebury Institute of Intl. Studies at Monterey explains the crucial difference in the way the US and NK interpret the word "denuclearization." (CNN)
- Trump's negotiations with KJU paves the path to diplomacy, but doubts remain among experts whether the joint statement signed Tues in Singapore provides a guarantee Pyongyang will comply with US requirements for denuclearization. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Trump's surprise announcement that the US would halt military exercises was a measure first proposed by Beijing. (Lily Kuo, *Guardian*)
- The outcome of the Singapore summit between Trump and KJU was good news for one absent but key player: China. (*Korea Times*)
- Not so long ago, China was written off as a bystander to landmark events with regards to NK. But Xi Jinping, the Chinese president, didn't need an invite to this week's historic summit to ensure his interests were represented and his objectives achieved. (Neil Connor, *Telegraph*)
- The short answer is: no. One of the most notable absences from the US security perspective was that of CVID – complete, verifiable, irreversible dismantlement of North Korea's nuclear weapons. From a North Korean perspective, diplomatic hardliners may be asking: what about sanctions relief? Neither the statement at the end, nor Trump's press conference, gave any word on sanctions relief. (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, *North Korea Economy Watch*)
- From reporting by the likes of the BBC, one would imagine the summit in Singapore was either a disaster or a well-spun flop. In reality, it was a moment of historic importance. (*Telegraph*)
- KJU flew into Singapore on a Chinese plane for his summit with US Pres. Trump and left with a prized concession long sought by Beijing: the suspension of US-SK war games. (Ben Westcott, Brad Lendon, Matt Rivers, CNN)
- Two of KJU's closest aides - a former military intelligence chief and the country's foreign minister - are being talked of as the most likely candidates to negotiate with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on denuclearization. (Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)
- Here's a roundup of claims made by Pres. Trump at a news conference on June 12 and in an interview with George Stephanopoulos of ABC News about his talks in Singapore with N. Korean leader KJU. (Glenn Kessler, *The Washington Post*)
- It was one of many idiosyncrasies from an unconventional summit. During a meeting between American and N.Korean officials, Trump showed KJU a four-minute video filled with flashy visuals, quick cuts and a deep voiceover urging an unnamed protagonist to make the right decision for his people. (*Joongang Daily*)
- Idaho's GOP Sen. Jim Risch said on Tuesday the US would not make a nuclear agreement with North Korea without a verification regime. (Eli Watkins, CNN)

- President Donald Trump's reasoning for the United States stopping war games on the Korean Peninsula because of cost is "ridiculous," Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham said Tuesday night. (Sophie Tatum, CNN)
- Tues's meeting between US Pres. Trump and N. Korean leader KJU was one surreal summit. At one point, KJU even told Trump that people would view the Singapore talks as something out of "a science fiction movie." From Häagen-Dazs ice cream to Trump's suggestion that NK could develop some of "the best hotels in the world" to an emotional Dennis Rodman, here are memorable scenes from the summit. (Clare Foran, CNN)
- The Singapore Summit ended Tues with the US and NK committed to denuclearizing the Korean peninsula. But the seemingly biggest headline does not even appear in the official signed summit agreement, with Pres. Trump repeatedly expressing his commitment to halt what he called joint military 'war games' between the US and ally SK. (VOA)
- Pres. Trump's triumphant assertions about the success of the unprecedented Singapore summit are being met with skepticism and outright derision from critics seizing on the contradiction between his withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal and his willingness to accept vague pledges from N. Korean leader KJU. (Matthew Lee, AP)
- Iran has thrown a spanner into the works. Just hours after the historic meeting ended, the Middle East country jumped into the ring and warned the North's leader: "Don't trust Trump." (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- NK wants to engage with the international community, but activists say human rights need to be part of the deal. Sokeel Park with Liberty in NK speaks with News Stream. (CNN)
- Former DNI Clapper said the US is in a "much better place" after the summit between Trump and N. Korean leader KJU. (Marc Rod, CNN)
- KJU couldn't have scripted his Singapore sojourn any better himself. As he toured the streets on a night-time walkabout and posed for selfies with the Singaporean foreign minister, he was treated more like a rock star than a pariah autocrat. (Jamie Tarabay, CNN)
- KJU, who had been a synonym for isolation, made a spectacular debut on the international stage by touring Singapore's Marina Bay at night and meeting with Trump on Sentosa Island. Trump has pulled KJU out of isolation, but is himself trapped in isolation. It is ironic that the isolation of Trump, who brought NK to the negotiation table, has become a major variable hindering the nuclear resolution. KJU seemed happy to have a night out in Singapore, while Trump was busy sending angry tweets. The contrasting leaders remind us that nothing lasts forever in life and history. (Kim Hyun-ki, *Joongang Daily*)
- KJU met with US Pres. Trump at Sentosa Island, Singapore, from the morning to mid-afternoon local time on June 12 (Tues). The meeting was due "to the fixed decision and will of the top leaders of the two countries to put an end to the extreme hostile relations between the DPRK and US, which lingered for the longest period on the earth in terms of acute confrontation and to open up a new future for the sake of the interests of the peoples of the two countries and global peace and security." (*North Korea Leadership Watch)*
- KJU departed on an Air China passenger plane for Singapore on the morning of June 10 (Sun) for "the historic first summit meeting and talks" with Trump, President of the US. (*North Korea Leadership Watch*)
- Hopes for peace were palpable as they radiated out of Singapore. Given the real fears just six months ago that the US and NK were heading for a horrendous war amid Trump's "fire and

fury" rhetoric and KJU's nuclear tests, that is a significant achievement in itself. (Stephen Collinson, CNN)

- In a joint statement, Pres. Trump and the N. Korean leader, KJU, committed to complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. Why is a seemingly significant promise being dismissed by critics as meaningless? (Michael Barbaro, NYT)
- A year ago, Trump threatened "fire and fury" against NK. Now, Trump believes he and KJU are headed towards peace. Is this "big change" real? (CNN)
- Sen. Majority Leader McConnell praised the Trump administration for their NK summit, but echoed the President in stating "our eyes are wide open" in regards to dealing with NK. (CNN)
- When Trump and KJU held their historic one-on-one meeting in Singapore on Tues, there were only four people in the room: Trump, KJU and their interpreters. On Trump's side was Lee Yun-hyang, chief of the interpreting services division at the U.S. State Department, and KJU had Kim Ju-song, the North Korean leader's go-to man for English translations. (*Joongang Daily*)
- Trump's end appears lean on beef for now but, if we follow through his long game, we may find ourselves with cattle at the end.*Korea Times*)
- Trump's plan to stop "war games" with SK is stirring up heated debate, with supporters calling it a good-will gesture to facilitate NK's denuclearization and naysayers a blow to the bilateral alliance. (*Yonhap*)
- NK has arrived as a nuclear power, and there is no going back. Once the reality-show theatrics of the Singapore summit meeting subside, we are left with the reality that NK was just recognized as a de facto nuclear weapons power. (Vipin Narang, Ankit Panda, NYT)
- NK's state-run media is framing the agreements reached at the Singapore summit as a "step-by-step" process intended to bring US rewards in exchange for gradual moves by Pyongyang to dismantle its nuclear program. (Brian Murphy, *The Washington Post*)
- North Korea: Trump has agreed on step-by-step denuclearization process by North in return for US concessions. (AP)
- House Minority Leader Pelosi on June 13 said Dems. support diplomacy with NK, but cautioned that "nothing" from the Trump-KJU summit indicates it is no longer a nuclear threat. (*The Washington Post*)
- If Pyongyang destroys a "major missile engine testing site," as Trump said it would on Tues after his summit with KJU, the move could indicate the young leader's willingness to denuclearize. But as with the dismantlement of the Punggye-ri nuclear test site last month, just how far the regime will go in closing down the area - and whether it will have any effect on its nuclear capabilities - remains unknown. (*Joongang Daily*)
- Pompeo: NK understands 'there will be in-depth verification' of nuclear commitments in any deal with US. (AP)
- Pompeo says US wants NK to take major nuclear disarmament steps by end of Trump's first term. (AP)
- Pompeo will personally brief Moon on the outcome of the historic US-NK summit, an official from Moon's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said Wed. (*Korea Times*)

- Pres. Trump pitched a message of peace between the US and NK by showing N. Korean dictator KJU a Hollywood-style video during the historic Singapore summit. (Saba Hamedy, CNN)
- In his post-summit interview Tuesday with ABC's George Stephanopoulos, Pres. Trump said something quite astonishing about how the citizens of NK view their supreme leader. (Michael Bociurkiw, CNN)
- The only possible reaction to the summit is disappointment. We all knew that both leaders wanted a good show and a lot of positive talk, and there was no reason to think that they would fail to deliver. They delivered. The only real question was whether the American president would get more—specifically some clarity from the N. Korean chairman on what he meant by denuclearization and when it might happen. We got none of that. (Robert L. Gallucci, *38 North*)
- After a historic summit in Singapore, Republicans back home are warning Pres. Trump on Tues not to let the lure of a deal with NK cloud the realities of dealing with a dictator. (Jeremy Herb, Lauren Fox, Manu Raju, Phil Mattingly, CNN)
- Returning to US after summit with Kim Jong Un, Trump tweets, 'There is no longer a Nuclear Threat from North Korea' (AP)
- Lawmakers in Washington were skeptical of Donald Trump's confidence in striking a deal with a dictator after the president's historic Singapore meeting with KJU. (Sabrina Siddiqui, Lauren Gambino, *Guardian*)
- New Jersey's Sen. Menendez criticized the joint statement Pres. Trump and N. Korean leader KJU issued after their summit Mon, calling it "anemic" with "very little substance on anything." (Marc Rod, CNN)
- It is hard to estimate long-term benefits. In an interview with Reuters, the Singapore Tourism Board's marketing and communications director Olive Chong said, "As with all high-profile visits, it places Singapore on the map for international audiences and showcases Singapore as an ideal destination, especially for business and meetings." Hong Kong's South China Morning Post called Singapore "Asia's Geneva." (Choi Ji-young, *Joongang Daily*)
- US Pres. Trump defended his agreement with N. Korean leader KJU, saying the world "has taken a big step back from potential nuclear disaster." (Steve Herman, VOA)
- Rep. Senators on Tues called for Pres. Trump to submit any final arrangement between the US and NK to Congress for a vote. (Daniel Uria, UPI)
- The Singapore summit was a test of Pres.Trump's unpredictable and transactional approach to international negotiations. Just after the declaration dropped, Ben Wittes at Lawfare interviewed Stephan Haggard and Mira Rapp-Hooper, a senior fellow at Yale's Paul Tsai China Center, on the outcome. We talked about the substance of the summit, how it impacts the US security alliances in the Asia Pacific, and what might come next for the US–NK relationship. (Stephen Haggard, *PIIE*)
- Before hopping aboard Air Force One to head back to the United States after his historic summit in Singapore with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, President Donald Trump spent more than an hour(!) talking and taking questions from the assembled media. It was quite a performance. (Chris Cillizza, CNN)
- In a day of personal diplomacy that began with a choreographed handshake and ended with a freewheeling news conference, Pres. Trump deepened his wager on NK's leader on Tues,

arguing that their rapport would bring the swift demise of that country's nuclear program. (Mark Landler, NYT)

- When Pres. Trump and N. Korean leader KJU held their historic talks Tues in a Singapore hotel, they weren't in the room alone. Someone had to interpret for them. (Doug Criss, CNN)
- Pres. Trump and N. Korean leader KJU recommitted to recovering and immediately repatriating the remains of prisoners of war and soldiers declared missing in action during the Korean War as part of a denuclearization agreement signed in Singapore on Tues. (Maegan Vazquez, CNN)
- President Donald Trump declared Wed that the N. Korean regime no longer poses a nuclear threat following his summit with KJU, even though the meeting produced no verifiable proof that the rogue regime will discontinue its nuclear program. (Veronica Stracqualursi, Stephen Collinson, CNN)
- Trump made a stunning concession to KJU on Tues. about halting military exercises, pulling a surprise at a summit that baffled allies, military officials and lawmakers from his own Republican Party. (Steve Holland, Soyoung Kim, Jack Kim, *Reuters*)
- When Trump sat down to make the case for peace to KJU on Tues., he rolled out what amounted to a movie trailer starring the two leaders. (*Reuters*)
- Pres. Trump and N. Korean leader KJU made history with their summit meeting in Singapore. But beyond the handshakes, casual strolls and shared asides, many analysts and experts are already wondering what exactly the enduring substance of the summit will be and whether it could boost Trump's political rating at home. (Jim Malone, VOA)
- For America's allies in Asia, the outcome of Pres. Trump's summit meeting with KJU has been decidedly mixed. On the good side, they no longer have to be on alert for the imminent outbreak of war on the Korean Peninsula. But the widely anticipated Trump-KJU meeting on Tues left them with new anxieties. Trump's concessions to NK exacerbated their fears about the US's long-term commitment to safeguarding the region. (Motoko Rich, NYT)
- NK has celebrated the Trump-Kim summit as a great win for the country, with state media reporting that the US intends to lift sanctions. (BBC)
- The Pentagon has reassured allies of its "ironclad" security commitments, after Trump cancelled its Korean military exercises. (BBC)
- N. Korean leader KJU agreed Tues "to complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" during a historic summit with US Pres. Trump, who then unexpectedly said he was suspending military drills with SK. (Steve Herman, VOA)
- American lawmakers differed sharply in their reaction to the first-ever face-to-face meeting between a sitting US president and a N. Korean leader. (Michael Bowman, VOA)
- Trump has declared that NK is no longer a nuclear threat, following his summit with KJU. (BBC)
- As Trump continues to fly home from his summit in Singapore with KJU, political allies of the president are struggling a bit to get on the same page in describing what Trump agreed to. (Tom McCarthy, Matthew Weaver, Kate Lyons, *Guardian*)
- Pres. Trump arrived at the historic meeting with KJU of NK with a secret weapon: a fake movie trailer portraying the two leaders as heroes tied to each other by destiny. So the Opinion video team recut Trump's trailer in an effort to make it better and more honest. (Taige Jensen, Japhet Weeks, Leah Varjacques, Adam B. Ellick, NYT)

- US Pres. Trump declared Wed, "There is no longer a Nuclear Threat from North Korea," as he returned home from a summit in Singapore with N. Korean leader KJU. (Steve Herman, VOA)
- On Tues morning local time, history was made as US Pres. Trump and N. Korean leader KJU shook hands in Singapore. The handshake marked the start of the summit between the leaders, and displayed a stark contrast from the insults that had previously been thrown out by both men in the months leading up to the sit-down meeting. (Sophie Tatum, CNN)
- Among the few pledges that came out of the historic summit between Trump and KJU on Tues was one made by Trump to stop his country's "war games" with SK if the North follows through on steps to denuclearize. But the scale of such a drawdown, and which exercises qualify as "war games," remains in question. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang Daily*)
- President Donald Trump praised N. Korean dictator KJU -- a man who leads a government that outside observers say brutalizes and starves its own citizens -- as someone who "loves his people." (Maegan Vazquez, CNN)
- Following his historic meeting with KJU, US Pres. Trump said KJU "has to be a rough guy,"but is also a leader who "loves his people," despite the N. Korean leader's disturbing human rights history. (VOA)
- NK no longer poses a nuclear threat, nor is it the "biggest and most dangerous problem" for the US, Trump said on Wed. on his return from a summit in Singapore with KJU. (Christine Kim, *Reuters*)
- Pres. Trump wrapped up his five-hour nuclear summit with N. Korean leader KJU with surprisingly warm words and hope for "a bright new future" for KJU's isolated and impoverished nation. Yet he immediately faced pointed questions at home about whether he got little and gave away much in his push to make a deal with the young autocrat — including an agreement to halt US military exercises with SK. (Zeke Miller, Catherine Lucey, Josh Lederman and Foster Klug, AP)
- Pres. Trump's announcement that the US will stop military exercises with SK startled Tokyo and Seoul, unsettled US lawmakers, and took at least some parts of the Pentagon by surprise. (Nicole Gaouette, Barbara Star, Ryan Browne, CNN)
- Washington has pledged to suspend military exercises on the Korean Peninsula following a historic summit between US Pres. Trump and NK's leader KJU, prompting experts to question why the move was made without substantive concessions on denuclearization from Pyongyang. (Albert Hong, So Young Kim, Yong Jae Mok, Hee Jung Yang, RFA)
- Trump and KJU's historic summit on Tues signaled the start of warming ties between Cold War foes and the possible onset of peace on the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump has ordered the suspension of US military exercises with SK, in a surprise concession at an extraordinary summit with KJU. (Julain Borger, *Guardian*)
- Euna Lee, a VOA Korean Service executive producer, discusses her thoughts on the US-NK Summit between Pres. Trump and N. Korean Leader KJU. (VOA)
- US Pres. Trump brought a four-minute video to the Singapore summit, showing N. Korean leader KJU a vision of his nation's future without nuclear weapons. (UPI)
- Donald Trump has demanded NK denuclearise and KJU has said he is committed to doing so. But what happens next, and what the two sides even mean by "denuclearisation," remain open questions. (Nick Allen, *Telegraph*)

- Trust Trump to snatch comedy from the jaws of victory. After a carefully choreographed summit, Trump threw a press conference, declared he hadn't slept for 25 hours and launched into an exhilarating dialogue about NK's potential for real estate. (Tim Stanley, *Telegraph*)
- Major leaders across Asia and the world mostly voiced approval for Tues's agreement between US Pres. Trump and N. Korean leader KJU to push toward ending Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program, even as SK and others adopted a more cautious stance. (Ken Bredemeier, VOA)
- Washington has pledged to suspend military exercises on the Korean Peninsula following a historic summit between US Pres. Trump and NK's leader KJU, prompting experts to question why the move was made without substantive concessions on denuclearization from Pyongyang. (Albert Hong, So Young Kim, Yong Jae Mok, Hee Jung Yang, RFA)
- Euna Lee, a VOA Korean Service executive producer, discusses her thoughts on the US-NK Summit between Pres. Trump and N. Korean Leader KJU. (VOA)
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https://web.archive.org/web/20250716213507/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-the-situation-room-us-nk-summit-special-part-at-trump-kim-summit-human-rights-is-a-back-burner-issue?e=8a9aae5198

Thursday, June 14, 2018

International Edition 1305 EDT;Pompeo: No sanctions relief for NK until complete denuclearization

Top News:
International Edition 1305 EDT (VOA, 06/13/2018)

In North Korea
Gushing North Korean broadcaster Ri Chun Hee hails Trump-Kim summit (*Reuters*, 06/14/2018)
Kim Jong-un Isn't Tough. North Koreans Are. (NYT, 06/14/2018)
N. Korea expected to take denuclearization measures within 2-3 weeks: ex-minister(*Yonhap*, 06/14/2018)

N.K. news outlet reports Kim's return from Trump summit (*Yonhap*, 06/14/2018)
North Koreans discontent over abandonment of nuclear weapons (*Daily* NK, 06/14/2018)

In South Korea
(2nd LD) Moon says U.S.-N. Korea summit moved world back from brink of war(*Yonhap*, 06/14/2018)
(3rd LD) Moon says he may consider suspending military drills with U.S. if necessary(*Yonhap*, 06/14/2018)
Banks preparing for possible resumption of inter-Korean projects (*Yonhap*, 06/14/2018)
Conservatives reel from election loss (*Joongang Daily*, 06/14/2018)
Election gives DP chance to expand 'J-nomics' (*Joongang Daily*, 06/14/2018)
Getting the short end of the stick (*Joongang Daily*, 06/14/2018)
J-nomics to get momentum following election victory (*Korea Times*, 06/14/2018)
Leaders of two biggest opposition parties step down after election failures (*Korea Times*, 06/14/2018)
Moon can slurp gravy from no-beef summit (*Korea Times*, 06/14/2018)
Moon cautions against 'arrogance' after sweeping election win (*Korea Times*, 06/14/2018)
S. Korea mulling tour programs in N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 06/14/2018)
Seoul closes office for delayed N.K. rights foundation (*Yonhap*, 06/14/2018)
South Korea will consider 'change' to pressure on North, review drills with U.S.(*Reuters*, 06/14/2018)
South reviews halt to exercises (*Joongang Daily*, 06/14/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship
(3rd LD) Koreas holding military talks to discuss easing tensions (*Yonhap*, 06/14/2018)
(5th LD) Two Koreas agree to completely restore military communication lines(*Yonhap*, 06/14/2018)
Denuclearization talks may give momentum to new economic road map for 2 Koreas(*Yonhap*, 06/14/2018)
New documentary released on unified Korean women's hockey team at PyeongChang (*Yonhap*, 06/14/2018)
South, North military meet in Panmunjom (*Joongang Daily*, 06/14/2018)

International
(3rd LD) Pompeo: U.S. still wants 'CVID' to resolve N. Korea issue (*Yonhap*, 06/14/2018)
(4th LD) Pompeo says U.S., allies will push for 'CVID,' Kim understands need for quick denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 06/14/2018)
Alliance in flux (*Joongang Daily*, 06/14/2018)
China's Xi says hopes U.S., North Korea keep making effort for political resolution(*Reuters*, 06/14/2018)
'Complete denuclearization clear between US, NK' (*Korea Times*, 06/14/2018)
Donald Trump shrugs off Kim's human rights record: 'He's a tough guy' (*Guardian*,06/14/2018)
Ending US-ROK Military Exercises: An Idea Whose Time Has Come (*38 North*, 06/13/2018)
Half of Americans think the North Korea summit will help decrease the nuclear threat(*Washington Post*, 06/14/2018)
Japan eyes Kim-Abe summit but abductees' families urge caution (*Reuters*, 06/14/2018)
Japan, North Korea officials meet in Mongolia (UPI, 06/14/2018)

Japan working to arrange Abe-Kim summit: reports (*Korea Times*, 06/14/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea, U.S., Japan discuss post-summit strategy over N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 06/14/2018)
Mike Pompeo loses temper when asked about North Korean disarmament(*Guardian*, 06/14/2018)
Mike Pompeo warns North Korea sanctions will not be lifted before denuclearisation(*Telegraph*, 06/14/2018)
Mr. Trump, where's the beef? (*Korea Times*, 06/14/2018)
North Korea: Pelosi versus Peace (*Joongang Daily*, 06/14/2018)
North Korea sanctions remain until complete denuclearisation, says US (BBC, 06/14/2018)
North Korea sanctions to stay until full denuclearisation, says US (*Guardian*, 06/14/2018)
North Korean media releases footage of Trump saluting Pyongyang general on Kim's Singapore trip (*Telegraph*, 06/14/2018)
North, South Korea hold military talks amid U.S. plan to stop drills (*Reuters*, 06/14/2018)
Pompeo appreciates China's help on Trump-Kim summit (*Reuters*, 06/14/2018)
Pompeo: No sanctions relief for North Korea until complete denuclearization (CNN, 06/14/2018)
Pompeo says North Korea sanctions to remain until complete denuclearization(*Reuters*, 06/14/2018)
Pompeo talks North Korea, South China Sea with China's Xi (*Reuters*, 06/14/2018)
Pompeo: U.S., N. Korea to seek 'quick' denuclearization process (*Yonhap*,06/14/2018)
Reports: Japan Seeking Direct Talks Between PM Abe, N. Korea's Kim (VOA, 06/14/2018)
S. Korea-US joint military drills likely to be halted (*Korea Times*, 06/14/2018)
South Korea's Moon Jae-in: Joint drills should be 'reviewed' (UPI, 06/14/2018)
Summit shines Singapore's strategic diplomacy (*Korea Times*, 06/14/2018)
Summit was actually a win (*Joongang Daily*, 06/14/2018)
This is not the first time Trump unwittingly starred in foreign propaganda (CNN, 06/14/2018)
Trump admin expected to suspend August US-S. Korea drill as Pentagon scramble
Trump administration insists agreement means North Korea will denuclearize(*Washington Post*, 06/14/2018)
Trump Kim summit: Imagine a North Korean family (BBC, 06/14/2018)
Trump Kim summit: US wants 'major N Korea disarmament' by 2020 (BBC, 06/14/2018)
Trump must still hold North Korea accountable for cyberattacks (*The Hill*, 06/14/2018)
Trump pick for South Korea ambassador says North Korea remains a nuclear threat(CNN, 06/14/2018)
Trump Saluted a North Korean General, Setting Off a Debate (NYT, 06/14/2018)
Trump seemingly justifies brutal actions by Kim and says he's 'very smart' (CNN, 06/14/2018)
Trump's agreement with Kim is a step backward, experts say (*Joongang Daily*, 06/14/2018)
U.S. Insists Sanctions Will Remain Until North Korea Denuclearizes (NYT, 06/14/2018)
US: No sanctions relief before North Korea denuclearizes (*Washington Post*,06/14/2018)
What was Donald Trump thinking when he saluted a North Korean general? (CNN, 06/14/2018)
What were the results of the Trump-Kim summit? (BBC, 06/14/2018)
With Trump-Kim Summit Over, What Now? (VOA, 06/14/2018)

Top News:

- HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu on Voice of America International Edition: "Will Kim Jong-un be able to get away with crimes against humanity just because he developed nuclear weapons and sat at the same table with the leader of the free world?" (VOA)

(Scarlatoiu's intervention begins around 4:49 in the show)

In North Korea

- N. Korean television presenter Ri Chun Hee has for years announced the biggest news in her own effusive style, and this week she returned to the airwaves to herald KJU's historic meeting with Trump. (Yijin Kim, Daeun Yi, *Reuters*)
- Trump is well known for liking people he thinks are tough. Not war heroes like Senator John McCain, or Gold Star parents like Khizr and Ghazala Khan, but authoritarians like Vladimir Putin of Russia, whom he's hailed as a "strong leader," or China's president for life, Xi Jinping, "a good man" for whom the president has "great respect." (Bari Weiss, NYT)
- NK is expected to take measures to denuclearize within the next two to three weeks following this week's historic summit between Washington and Pyongyang in Singapore, an expert on NK said Thurs. (Yonhap)
- NK's state media said Thurs that its leader KJU has returned to Pyongyang after "successfully" completing his landmark summit with Trump in Singapore. (*Yonhap*)
- NK's recent signing of a denuclearization agreement is said to be spreading negative sentiment among N.Koreans. (Kim Yoo-jin, *Daily NK*)

In South Korea

- Moon welcomed the outcome of the recent US-NK summit Thurs, calling it a great success that moved the entire world away from the possibility of a war. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon on Thurs said SK may consider suspending its joint military drills with the US to help build trust and ease tensions with NK. (*Yonhap*)
- S.Korean banks have stepped up preparations for a possible resumption of economic projects in NK, as a historic summit between Trump and KJU raised hopes of more reconciliation between Seoul and Pyongyang. (*Yonhap*)
- The leaders of two opposition parties resigned on Thurs as the country's conservatives begin a process of soul-searching after bruising defeats in nationwide elections on Wed. (*Joongang Daily*)
- The ruling Democratic Party's landslide victory in Wed's regional elections has put it in a powerful position for the future. (*Joongang Daily*)
- "That's the worst negotiation in 70 years of US diplomacy with NK," said a former high-level diplomat in Seoul. The four agreements from the Trump-KJU summit show he is not wrong. NK is responsible for nuclear provocations but has gotten two rewards — establishment of US-NK relations and a peace regime on the Korean Peninsula. (Kang Cha-ho , *Joongang Daily*)

- The landslide victory of the governing party in the local elections is expected to add momentum to the controversial economic policies of the Moon administration. Economists however point out that with political issues having overshadowed economic failures in the election, the government should make up for shortcomings in policies amid deteriorating economic figures. (Yoon Ja-young, *Korea Times*)
- The leaders of the country's two largest opposition parties offered to resign Thursday, following crushing defeats in local elections and by-elections for 12 Assembly seats the day before. (Park Ji-won, *Korea Times*)
- Moon's role as an honest broker is now hard to dispute. Moon's position has been made even more solid, giving him more leeway than at any other time to maneuver. (Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)
- Moon said Thurs that the huge public support for the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) in Wed's local elections and the by-elections for parliamentary seats would give the government momentum in pursuing its reform drives. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- The culture ministry said Thurs that it is looking into potential opportunities for S.Korean tourism to NK amid a thaw on the divided peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's unification ministry said Thurs that it has closed the office for a state-run foundation for NK's human rights, whose launch has been delayed for nearly two years amid political differences. (*Yonhap*)
- SK will have to be flexible when it comes to military pressure on NK if it is sincere about denuclearization, and it will review its position on military exercises with the US, Moon said on Thurs. (*Reuters*)
- SK is reviewing the suspension of joint military exercises with the US, Moon said during a meeting with his National Security Council on Thurs, emphasizing that “flexibility” is needed in the process amid ongoing dialogue and trust-building with NK. (*Joongang Daily*)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- SK and NK are holding their first high-level military talks in more than 10 years Thurs to discuss ways to ease cross-border tensions. (*Yonhap*)
- The two Koreas agreed Thurs to completely restore their military communication lines during their first general-grade military talks in more than a decade, their joint statement showed. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon's "new economic road map" for the Korean Peninsula may get its needed momentum once NK's denuclearization gets on track, with details getting added to the unified market and economic cooperation belts that he envisioned, according to watchers here Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- A new documentary has been released on the unified Korean women's hockey team at the PyeongChang Winter Games, featuring behind-the-scenes footage and interviews with key figures to shed light on their unprecedented Olympic experience. (*Yonhap*)
- SK and NK discussed ways to ease tension on the border during a general-level military meeting Thurs at the truce village of Panmunjom, following up on an inter-Korean

agreement signed by both countries' leaders during their first summit on April 27. (*Joongang Daily*)

International

- Pompeo said Thurs. his administration has not dropped the aim of denuclearizing NK in a "complete, verifiable and irreversible" manner, apparently in response to criticism about the Singapore summit deal. (*Yonhap*)
- Pompeo said Thurs the US has not dropped the aim of denuclearizing NK in a "complete, verifiable and irreversible" manner and that KJU understands he must denuclearize "quickly." (*Yonhap*)
- Ending military exercises eventually could lead to the drawdown of US troops in SK. Seoul authorities must come up with measures to ensure the public that the country's security front won't come under risk as the result of closer ties between Washington and Pyongyang. (*Joongang Daily*)
- China President Xi Jinping told visiting US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Thurs. he hopes the US and NK keep making unremitting efforts for a political resolution to the Korean Peninsula issue, Xinhua news agency said. (*Reuters*)
- Pompeo on Thurs said the agreement reached at the NK-US summit this week was clear about NK's complete denuclearization in a comprehensive sense, despite the words verifiable and irreversible being omitted in the accord. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- Trump has dismissed concerns about the widely condemned human rights record of the North Korean dictator, Kim Jong-un, praising him as a "tough guy", a "smart guy" and a "great negotiator". (Ed Pilkington, *Guardian*)
- According to news reporting, President Trump said on June 12 that the United States will end its annual joint military exercises with South Korea while diplomacy with North Korea continues. (William McKinney, *38 North*)
- After his historic meeting with Kim Jong Un, President Trump assured the American people that his summit would help decrease the nuclear threat posed by North Korea. "Sleep well tonight!" he tweeted. (Eugene Scott, *Washington Post*)
- Japan is eyeing a meeting between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, government sources said on Thursday, while the foreign minister said a summit would have to bring results on the issue of Japanese abducted by Pyongyang. (Yoshifumi Takemoto, Elaine Lies, *Reuters*)
- Officials from Tokyo and Pyongyang met informally on the sidelines of the Ulaanbaatar Dialogue in Mongolia, Japanese media reported, possibly to address the issue of abducted Japanese citizens. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- Japan is working to arrange a meeting between Abe and KJU after the North Korean leader said he was open to talks, local media reported Thurs. (*Korea Times*)
- The top diplomats of SK, the US and Japan had talks in Seoul on Thurs on NK, emboldened by the first-ever Pyongyang-Washington summit talks. (*Yonhap*)

- Mike Pompeo has said the US and NK are close to agreement on a broad range of issues, but has lashed out at reporters when asked about how Pyongyang's disarmament would be verified. (Julian Borger, Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)
- Pompeo, the US secretary of state, on Thurs. stressed that there would be no sanctions relief for NK while is still has nuclear weapons, showing the first signs of a rift with Pyongyang over the outcome of Tues.'s historic summit. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- For Trump, the June 12 summit in Singapore was supposed to be all about the denuclearization of NK. By that standard, Trump almost flunked but got by with an unbearable D. There is a chance his D can be upgraded to a passable C or proud B. (Oh Young-jin , *Korea Times*)
- Which is worse: The specter of nuclear war, or giving Trump credit for a significant diplomatic accomplishment? In her official statement on Trump's Singapore summit with KJU, US House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi makes it clear that a few million incinerated human beings are a small price to pay to keep the 68-year-old Korean War going. Maybe not forever, but at least until there's a Democrat in the White House. (*Joongang Daily*)
- NK will not see any economic sanctions lifted until it has demonstrated "complete denuclearisation", US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has said. (BBC)
- Tough sanctions against NK will remain in place until its complete denuclearisation, the US secretary of state, Mike Pompeo, has said, apparently contradicting NK's view that the process agreed at this week's summit would be phased and reciprocal. (*Guardian*)
- Trump saluted a N. Korean general during his summit with KJU in Singapore, it has emerged. (Nick Allen, *Telegraph*)
- NK and SK failed to reach any concrete agreement during their military talks on Thurs., as two-star generals from both sides met just two days after Trump floated his plan to halt joint exercises with SK. (Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)
- Mike Pompeo said on Thurs. he appreciated all the work China did to help this week's summit between Trump and KJU happen. (*Reuters*)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has said there will be no sanctions relief for NK while it maintains nuclear weapons, contradicting N. Korean state media who said it could take place "as progress is made." (Ben Westcott, Jungeun Kim, Jennifer Hauser, CNN)
- Tough sanctions will remain on NK until its complete denuclearization, the US secretary of state said on Thurs., apparently contradicting the North's view that the process agreed at this week's summit would be phased and reciprocal. (Christine Kim, Michael Martina, *Reuters*)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo conveyed U.S. resolve for "complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization" of the Korean Peninsula with Chinese President Xi Jinping, the State Department said on Thurs., as well as concerns about Chinese activities in the South China Sea. (*Reuters*)
- Pompeo said Thurs his administration has not dropped the aim of denuclearizing NK in a "complete, verifiable and irreversible" manner. (*Yonhap*)
- Japanese news outlets say officials are seeking to arrange a summit between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and KJU. (VOA)

- SK and the US may suspend their regular joint military exercises after Trump announced the suspension as a concession to NK in return for denuclearization, and Moon later also implied the possibility. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- Annual joint exercises between the US and SK should be "reviewed," if they coincide with dialogue with NK, Moon said Thurs. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Seoul needs to take lessons to strengthen global status (Kim Jae-kyoung, Korea Times)
- In the end, diplomacy can work — as a process, not an event. There is no Big Bang theory of nuclear diplomacy. If no further progress is made toward peace on the Korean Peninsula, all this — the back-and-forth, the Moon-KJU meetings, the Singapore summit itself — is at worst another good start that faded. It is more likely, however, a turning point. (Peter Van Buren , *Joongang Daily*)
- Trump's military salute, returned to a North Korean general, is raising questions about the appropriateness of the deference he paid to aides of KJU during nuclear talks in Singapore this week. (Z. Byron Wolf, CNN)
- The Trump administration is expected to announce the formal suspension of planning for major August multilateral military drills on the Korean Peninsula as soon as Thurs., according to several administration officials with knowledge of White House, State Department and Defense Department planning on how to carry out Trump's decision announced at the Singapore summit. (Barbara Starr, Pamela Brown, Ryan Browne, CNN)
- The Trump administration on Thurs. defended its overture to NK, insisting that it is not leaving Pacific allies vulnerable and that vague language in the 1.5-page agreement signed by Trump and KJU represents a solid commitment from NK to get rid of its nuclear weapons. (Anne Gearan, John Hudson, *Washington Post*)
- After his landmark meeting with leader KJU, Trump said he would consider dropping sanctions against NK, once it's made progress on nuclear disarmament. But how might this economic change make its way through to ordinary people in the impoverished country long shut off from the outside world? (Andreas Illmer, BBC)
- The US hopes to see "major disarmament" by NK by the end of 2020, says Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. (BBC)
- Trump concluded his first summit with KJU in Singapore. In recent weeks, the president stated he is no longer interested in a maximum pressure strategy and KJU has temporarily halted ballistic missile and nuclear weapons tests as part of his charm offensive. Nonetheless, NK has intensified cyberattacks on the South, a blatant violation of the pledge Kim made at his April summit with the president of SK. (Mathew Ha, Trevor Logan, *The Hill*)
- Harry Harris, the Trump administration's nominee to be ambassador to SK, said NK continues to be a nuclear threat and that major military exercises should be paused to give KJU a chance to prove whether he is "serious." (Nicole Gaouette, CNN)
- NK put its own spin on the historic meeting between its leader, KJU, and Trump in a video that aired on state television on Thurs., two days after they met in Singapore. (Megan Specia, NYT)
- Trump seemingly justified the brutal actions of KJU, and said he thinks the two leaders "understand each other." (Sophie Tatum, CNN)
- Their summit was large on theatrics, but the outcome was short on details. (*Joongang Daily*)

- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told Asian powers on Thurs. that Trump was sticking to demands that NK surrender its nuclear weapons, as he sought to hold together a fragile consensus on maintaining tough sanctions against the North despite Trump's declaration that it was "no longer a nuclear threat." (Jane Perlez, Choe Sang-hun, NYT)
- The US will not ease sanctions against NK until it denuclearizes, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Thurs., as he reassured key Asian allies that Trump had not backed down on Pyongyang's weapons program. (Josh Lederman, Christopher Bodeen, AP)
- During his brief trip to Singapore for a historic summit with KJU, Trump was introduced to N. Korean Gen. No Kwang Chol. Trump extended his hand. Chol saluted. Trump saluted back. Then the two men shook hands. (Chris Cillizza, CNN)
- Now that the dust has settled on the Trump-Kim summit, it is worth taking a moment to assess what, if anything, was achieved. Trump certainly does diplomacy differently. (Jonathan Marcus, BBC)
- What now? That is the question from the White House in Washington to the Blue House in Seoul — and perhaps also inside the Ryongsong Residence in Pyongyang. (Steve Herman, VOA)

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250720211233/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-international-edition-1305-edtpompeo-no-sanctions-relief-for-nk-until-complete-denuclearization?e=8a9aae5198

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Friday, June 15, 2018

On human rights for North Korea; Trump may not bring it up, but Kim's human rights record is among the world's worst

Top News:
On human rights for North Korea (*Washington Times*, 06/11/2018)
Trump may not bring it up, but Kim's human rights record is among the world's worst (Chicago Tribune, 06/11/2018)
Defector: Trump 'Stabbed the Heart' of North Koreans at Summit (VOA, 06/13/2018)
As Trump courts Kim, a reminder of the regime's brutality: ANALYSIS (*ABC News*, 06/14/2018)
Report to Congress on U.S. Sanctions on North Korea (*USNI News*, 06/14/2018)

In North Korea
After the Summit, North Korea Shows Trump in a Striking New Light (*Time*, 06/15/2018)
No Indications of Missile Test Stand Dismantlement Yet at Sohae Satellite Launch Facility (*38 North*, 06/14/2018)

North Korean documentary gives rare peek into Kim-Trump summit [FULL VERSION] (*Korea Times*, 06/15/2018)
North Korean film on Kim's Singapore trip reveals new focus on economy (*Reuters*, 06/15/2018)

In South Korea
Cheong Wa Dae discusses measures to ease military tension (*Korea Times*, 06/15/2018)
S. Korea reviewing civic group's request to visit N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 06/15/2018)
S. Korean official: Announcement 'coming soon' on US military exercises (*The Hill*, 06/15/2018)
US forces in South Korea 'not subject' to US-North Korea talks (*Aljazeera*, 06/15/2018)
U.S. forces in South Korea not subject to North Korea-U.S. talks: South Korea official (*Reuters*, 06/15/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship
[INTERVIEW] Historical consciousness in era of unification (*Korea Times*, 06/15/2018)
Koreas announce delegations for talks on sports cooperation (*Yonhap*, 06/15/2018)
Koreas to boost ties private sector (*Korea Times*, 06/15/2018)
Military talks restore hotlines (*Joongang Daily*, 06/15/2018)
S. Korea to send team to Kaesong to repair facilities for liaison office (*Yonhap*, 06/15/2018)
Work begins on Kaesong liaison office (*Joongang Daily*, 06/15/2018)

International:
(LEAD) Trump says he gave N.K. leader direct phone number to call (*Yonhap*, 06/15/2018)
'They're looking forward to their day in court': After summit, Otto Warmbier's parents press on with lawsuit against North Korea (*Washington Post*, 06/14/2018)
'Why can't we just do it?': Trump nearly upended summit with abrupt changes(*Washington Post*, 06/14/2018)
AP EXPLAINS: War Games Between South Korea and United States (NYT, 06/14/2018)
Beginning of denuclearization process (*Korea Times*, 06/15/2018)
China Relaxes Customs Inspections on Border With North Korea, Despite Sanctions Assurances (RFA, 06/15/2018)
Classified Israeli report raises questions about Trump-Kim summit: report (*The Hill*, 06/15/2018)
Giving much and getting little (*Korea Times*, 06/15/2018)
In historic Kim summit, Trump gives thumbs-up to North Korean dictator — and vague peace agreement (*Mic*, 06/12/2018)
Japan PM vows to resolve abduction by holding talks with Kim (*Washington Post*, 06/14/2018)
Kim-boozled (*Joongang Daily*, 06/15/2018)
Kim's debut, Trump's isolation (*Joongang Daily*, 06/15/2018)
Major US-South Korea military drills 'suspended indefinitely': AFP (*Korea Times*, 06/15/2018)
McCain implicitly criticizes Trump for 'parroting' North Korean talking points (CNN, 06/14/2018)
On North Korea, Trump deserves more latitude and less attitude (*Washington Post*, 06/15/2018)
Post-summit hurdles (*Korea Times*, 06/15/2018)
Psychology and International Relations: The Trump Administration (PIIE, 06/14/2018)
Russia calls for lifting of secondary sanctions on N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 06/15/2018)
S. Korea, US adopt flexible defense posture (*Korea Times*, 06/15/2018)

S. Korea's vice FM to visit D.C. for discussions on N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 06/15/2018)
Singapore deports 5 South Koreans for protesting Kim-Trump summit (*Korea Times*, 06/15/2018)
South Korea and US discuss future of joint war games (*BBC*, 06/15/2018)
South, U.S. are in talks to halt military exercises (*Joongang Daily*, 06/15/2018)
Tiny Japan shipping shares jump on North Korea detente hopes (*Reuters*, 06/15/2018)
Trading troops for naught (*Joongang Daily*, 06/15/2018)
Trump jokes he wants 'my people' to 'sit up at attention' like North Koreans do for Kim Jong Un (CNN, 06/15/2018)
Trump, Kim sign agreements on denuclearization and regime security (*Joongang Daily*, 06/15/2018)
Trump: Kim's people sit up when he speaks, 'I want my people to do the same' (*The Hill*, 06/15/2018)
Trump: North Korea starts returning remains of US soldiers (*Washington Post*, 06/14/2018)
Trump administration insists agreement means North Korea will denuclearize(*Washington Post*, 06/15/2018)
Trump calls female reporter 'so obnoxious' for questions on North Korea (*The Hill*, 06/15/2018)
Trump jokes he wants his 'people' to 'sit up at attention' when he speaks, like North Koreans do with Kim Jong Un (CNBC, 06/15/2018)
Trump Salute to North Korean General Raises Eyebrows (VOA, 06/14/2018)
Trump says he will call North Korea's Kim on Sunday (*Reuters*, 06/15/2018)
Trump suggested that North Korean TV anchor should get a job in US: report (*The Hill*, 06/15/2018)
Trump's Envy of Kim Jong-un (NY*Times*, 06/15/2018)
Trump's halt of 'war games' could weaken defenses in Korea (AP, 06/15/2018)
Trump's 'McDonald's theory' for North Korea can't work without human rights(Washington Post, 06/14/2018)
U.S. ambassador nominee backs 'pause' in joint military drills with S. Korea(*Yonhap*, 06/15/2018)
US warns of North Korea cyber campaign, days after historic summit (CNN, 06/15/2018)
USFK reduction could be US next step (*Korea Times*, 06/15/2018)
Where is Trump's leverage? (*Joongang Daily*, 06/15/2018)
White House: Trump salute to NK general 'a common courtesy' (*Washington Post*, 06/15/2018)

Top News:

- Greg Scarlatoiu, executive director of the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, stated that the US could demand that China honor its commitments as a signatory of the 1951 Refugee Convention. According to Article 33, "No Contracting State shall expel or return ("refouler") a refugee in any manner whatsoever to the frontiers of territories where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion." He believes that the Trump administration could make it easier for refugees to flee NK. (Richard V. Allen and Lee Edwards and Robert Zapesochny, *Washington Times*)
- HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu stated that the issue of human rights has too often been "sacrificed on the altar" of higher-priority nuclear and missile negotiations. According to Scarlatoiu, "for almost 30 years, human rights have been excluded from talks with NK that didn't work. So how about giving it a try this time?" He added, "KJU seems to want security guarantees … but how can the US or any other liberal democracy guarantee the survival of a

regime that treats its people the way KJU does?" (Barbara Demick, Tracy Wilkinson, *Chicago Tribune*)

- Greg Scarlatoiu, with the US-based Committee for Human Rights in North Korea said he was disappointed that human rights was not discussed in any substantial way, but noted that the summit is the beginning of a longer diplomatic process. "From now on, I think there will be more chances for [the US] to bring up human rights. The president said he mentioned human rights so [there is no need to have] major concerns," Scarlatoiu stated. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- In this analysis piece for ABC News, Justin Fishel references and provides links to both last Dec.'s comprehensive report by the War Crimes Committee of the International Bar Association as well as the 2014 UN COI report. (Justin Fishel, *ABC News*)
- USNI provides a republication of of the June 11, 2018 Congressional Research Service report, North Korea: Legislative Basis for U.S. Economic Sanctions. (*USNI News*)

In North Korea

- N. Koreans are getting a new look at Trump. They see him shaking with KJU at their historic summit in Singapore, and even awkwardly saluting a three-star general. It's a far cry from the "dotard" label their government slapped on him last year. (Eric Talmadge, *Time*)
- During his post-summit press conference, Trump stated that NK was already destroying a major missile engine testing site. However, a *Chosun Ilbo* report stated that the site KJU promised to destroy is a large-scale facility in Tongchang-ri, while 38 *North* has used satellite imagery and has not yet identified any activity associated with the dismantlement of facilities. (*38 North*)
- NK's state broadcaster has released a 42-minute documentary on the Jun. 12 summit between its leader KJU and US President Trump in Singapore. The clip summarizes Kim's three-day visit to Singapore, with much footage of Kim and Trump that couldn't be seen in other media. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- NK has produced a film on leader KJU's summit meeting with US President Trump this week, feeding, as one would expect, a fervid cult of personality but also seemingly highlighting his dream of economic development. (Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)

In South Korea

- Presidential aides and senior government officials held a meeting at Cheong Wa Dae, Fri., to discuss follow-up measures for the inter-Korean Apr. 27 Panmunjeom Declaration. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- SK is mulling whether to approve a civic group's request to travel to NK to discuss inter-Korean exchanges, the unification ministry said Fri. (*Yonhap*)
- SK is expected to announce in the coming days a decision on the future of joint military drills with the US, after Trump said this week that he would suspend exercises. (Max Greenwood, *The Hill*)

- The presence of US troops in SK is not subject to negotiations between Pyongyang and Washington, as they are a matter for the alliance between the US and SK, a senior official in the presidential office in Seoul said. (*Aljazeera*)
- US military forces in SK are not subject to negotiations between NK and the US because they are a matter for the US-SK alliance, a senior official in SK's presidential office said on Fri. (Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- The detente brought with the recent developments has stirred up hopes for inter-Korean exchanges. Politicians have been quick to present pledges on inter-Korean projects at the regional and national levels while businesses such as tourism or banking set up taskforces for such projects. Discussions on academic exchanges with NK have also begun, with the Ministry of Unification approving a request from students of Seoul National University, Tues., to contact students of Kim Il Sung University. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)
- SK and NK have each formed delegations for next week's planned talks for sports exchanges, including joint participation in the upcoming Asian Games in Indonesia, SK's unification ministry said Fri. (*Yonhap*)
- A group of S.Korean advocates on cross-border reconciliation plan to visit Pyongyang, Jun. 20, to discuss ways to bolster private sector exchanges in line with the joint declaration signed at the first inter-Korean summit on Jun. 15, 2000. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- The two Koreas agreed to restore military communication channels during a meeting between army generals on Thurs. in the border village of Panmunjom. (*Joongang Daily*)
- SK will send a group of government officials and civilians to the NK border town of Kaesong next week to repair facilities for a liaison office that the two Koreas recently agreed to open for better communication, the unification ministry here said Fri. (*Yonhap*)
- A S.Korean delegation is set to visit an industrial park in the N.Korean border city of Kaesong on Tues. and Wed. to prepare for the opening of an inter-Korean liaison office there. (Hong Su-min, Shim Kyu-seok, *Joongang Daily*)

International

- US President Trump said Fri. he gave N.Korean leader KJU a direct phone number to reach him and that he plans to make a phone call to Kim. (*Yonhap*)
- The lawsuit has been filed, translated and is on its way to NK, where it will be hand-delivered. (Susan Svrluga, *Washington Post*)
- After arriving in Singapore on Sun., an antsy and bored Trump urged his aides to demand that the meeting with KJU be pushed up by a day—to Mon.—and had to be talked out of altering the long-planned and carefully negotiated summit date on the fly, according to two people familiar with preparations for the event. (Ashley Parker, Josh Dawsey, Carol D. Leonnig, Karen DeYoung, *Washington Post*)

- Trump promised to end “war games” with SK, calling them provocative, after meeting KJU earlier this week. His announcement appeared to catch both SK and the Pentagon by surprise. A brief explanation of the military exercises. (AP)
- China is relaxing customs inspections and allowing restricted goods to flow across its border with NK, according to sources, despite making assurances that it will continue to enforce sanctions against the reclusive nation until it fully dismantles its nuclear arsenal. (Joonho Kim, RFA)
- The outcome of the historic US-NK summit in Singapore was met by an outpouring of comments—mostly negative for lack of specificity in the signed joint statement, doubting N.Korean leader KJU's "firm and unswerving" commitment to "the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula." (Tong Kim, *Korea Times*)
- Israel's foreign ministry reportedly raised questions in a recent classified report about Trump’s upbeat assessment of his Tues. summit with KJU. (Max Greenwood, *The Hill*)
- Let's begin with the good news. Tues.' Singapore summit between President Trump and NK's leader KJU could have been a disaster, and it wasn't. What's more, there remains the hope—slender, but real—that the conversation and resulting joint statement by the two leaders could be a springboard to future diplomacy. But aspirations are flimsy material upon which to lean, but for now high hopes are all we have been left with. In his eagerness to make history, the president conceded much. (*Dallas Morning News*)
- Trump’s meeting with KJU was unquestionably historic. Yet what it will mean for denuclearization—and future relations between the US and NK—remains unclear. (Eric Lutz, *Mic*)
- NK has proven indefatigable at the negotiating table. Despite all the towering advantages of the world’s greatest superpower against the world’s most impoverished and reclusive state, N.Korean leader KJU stole the show from US President Trump during their historic summit meeting in Singapore. (Park Bo-gyoon, *Joongang Daily*)
- KJU, who had been a synonym for isolation, made a spectacular debut on the international stage by touring Singapore’s Marina Bay at night and meeting with Trump on Sentosa Island. Trump has pulled Kim out of isolation, but is himself trapped in isolation. It is ironic that the isolation of Trump, who brought NK to the negotiation table, has become a major variable hindering the nuclear resolution. (Kim Hyun-ki, *Joongang Daily*)
- The US military has indefinitely postponed major joint exercises with SK, an official told AFP on Thurs., acting on Trump's pledge to halt the "provocative" military drills following his summit with NK's KJU. (AFP)
- Sen. John McCain implicitly criticized Trump on Thurs. for "parroting" N. Korean and Chinese rhetoric about US-S. Korean joint military exercises following the summit between Trump and KJU earlier this week. (Marc Rod, CNN)
- Trump’s critics need to back off. He inherited this mess. Every other approach by his predecessors to stopping Pyongyang’s nuclear drive has failed. So, the president and his team are trying something new; they deserve some latitude to see if this new approach can succeed. (Marc A. Thiessen, *Washington Post*)
- The Jun. 12 summit between Trump and leader KJU has presented some tough challenges for Seoul. (*Korea Times*)

- Behavioral approaches rooted in economics and ultimately psychology are making a comeback in international relations. But a group of psychologists and psychiatrists have been taking a different approach: to question the president's fitness for office, and particularly fitness to manage nuclear weapons. (Stephan Haggard, PIIE)
- Russia called on the US and its allies on Fri. to remove individual economic sanctions they imposed on NK besides the ones put forward in the name of the UN in line with easing tensions in the region. (Yonhap)
- SK and the US are assuming a more flexible stance in their joint pressure against NK's military threats following the Jun. 12 summit between KJU and Trump in Singapore. (Yi Whan-woo, Korea Times)
- A top S.Korean diplomat will travel to the US next week for a series of meetings on NK amid conciliatory gestures from Pyongyang and renewed hopes for denuclearization, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Fri. (Yonhap)
- Five S.Korean women were deported from Singapore for protesting against the summit between US President Trump and N.Korean Leader KJU, reports said. (Kang Aa-young, Korea Times)
- The defense ministers of SK and the US have discussed the future of their joint military drills after the US president said they would be ending. (BBC)
- The S.Korean and US defense chiefs are working together to fulfill Trump's call to halt joint military exercises between the two countries, a Pentagon spokesperson said on Thurs. (Sarah Kim, Joongang Daily)
- Shares of small Japanese shippers jumped this week after the historic summit between US President Trump and N.Korean leader KJU sparked hopes of news business ties with the reclusive country. (Yoshiyuki Osada, Reuters)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo came to Seoul to brief S.Korean President Moon and officials on the results of the US-NK summit in Singapore on Tues. He sought to clarify the confusion and anxiety about the outcome. (Joongang Daily)
- Trump said Fri. he wants "my people" to sit up at attention as N.Koreans do for dictator KJU, later adding that he was joking. (Veronica Stracqualursi, CNN)
- US President Trump and N.Korean leader KJU concluded a historic summit in Singapore on Tues. agreeing to the "complete denuclearization" of the Korean Peninsula in a joint statement. (Joongang Daily)
- Trump said on Fri. that he wants "his people" to listen to him like KJU people listen to him. (Max Greenwood, The Hill)
- Trump says NK has started returning the remains of US soldiers missing during the Korean War. Speaking with Fox News on the North Lawn of the White House, Trump defended his meeting with N.Korean leader KJU, saying "they are already starting to produce the remains of these great soldiers." (AP)
- The Trump administration on Thurs. defended its overture to NK, insisting that it is not leaving Pacific allies vulnerable and that vague language in the 1.5-page agreement signed by President Trump and KJU represents a solid commitment from NK to get rid of its nuclear weapons. (Anne Gearan, John Hudson, Washington Post)
- Trump called a CBS News female reporter "so obnoxious" while taking questions on the White House lawn on Fri. morning. (Joe Concha, The Hill)

- Trump saluted a N.Korean general on the sidelines of this week's summit in Singapore, an unusual show of respect for a military figure of a foreign adversary. (Ken Bredemeier, VOA)
- Trump joked Fri. that he wants "[his] people" to listen to him the way N. Koreans do to dictator KJU. (Jacob Pramuk, CNBC)
- Trump said on Fri. he plans to call N.Korean leader KJU on Sun., following their summit in Singapore this week. (*Reuters*)
- Trump reportedly remarked during his trip to Singapore to meet with KJU about how a news anchor on state-run television talked so positively about Kim. (Morgan Gstalter, *The Hill*)
- The evidence is now overwhelming that Trump cannot resist a dictator. Footage of Trump saluting a N.Korean general proves that what's really going on here is that the president is envious of KJU, who has the absolute authority to execute his uncle with anti-aircraft machine guns, consign tens of thousands of people to the gulag, and rule through a personality cult based on ruthless indoctrination. (Roger Cohen, *NYTimes*)
- Trump's decision to suspend major US military exercises in SK could weaken allied defenses, depending on the length and scope of the hiatus. But the potential for diplomatic damage seems even greater. (Robert Burns, AP)
- Trump's plan to transform NK into a modern economy — which one might call the "McDonald's theory"—has a huge hole in it: It can happen only if Pyongyang improves on human rights. By taking human rights off the table, Trump is undermining his own goal. (Josh Rogin, *Washington Post*)
- Trump's pick for the ambassador to SK said Thurs. the allies should "pause" major combined military exercises to help test NK's seriousness about dialogue. (*Yonhap*)
- The US Department of Homeland Security said that it has identified malicious cyber activity by the N.Korean government, according to a new report released on Thurs., just days after the historic summit between Trump and N.Korean dictator KJU. (Zachary Cohen, CNN)
- With SK and the US apparently on track to suspend their joint military exercises, a string of bilateral military steps is expected to ensue in exchange for NK's sincere steps for denuclearization. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- A political leader steers two wheels in diplomacy: a small one for domestic, short-term and tactical political interests and a big one for external, long-term and strategic national interests. Until now, Trump has only steered the smaller wheel in the Korean Peninsula to get through the special counsel investigation over the Russian scandal and to win support for the midterm elections. Trump seemed more eager about the summit than Kim. To him, the Korea-US alliance is a mere financial deal, and to him, there are no Korea-US relations in the greater structure of the Northeast Asian strategy against China. (Kim Su-jeong, *Joongang Daily*)
- The White House on Thurs. defended Trump's decision to return a military salute to a N.Korean three-star general. (Laurie Kellman, *Washington Post*)

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Interns

Original newsletter archived and available here:

https://web.archive.org/web/20250720211248/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/on-human-rights-for-north-korea-trump-may-not-bring-it-up-but-kims-human-rights-record-is-among-the-worlds-worst?e=8a9aae5198

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Saturday, June 16, 2018

Trump shrugs off Kim's human rights record: 'He's a tough guy'; Call me any time: Trump says he gave KJU direct number

In North Korea:
N. Korea's nominal head leaves Russia after trip to attend World Cup opening ceremony (*Yonhap*, 06/16/2018)

In South Korea:
Seoul welcomes Trump's plan to have phone conversation with Kim Jong-un(*Yonhap*, 06/16/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Military talks restore hotlines (*Yonhap*, 06/16/2018)
North Korea general scolds South Korea officials at Panmunjom (UPI, 06/16/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) Trump says he gave N.K. leader direct phone number to call (*Yonhap*, 06/16/2018)
A historic handshake ... but what did the Trump-Kim summit really achieve? (*Guardian*, 06/16/2018)
Call me any time: Trump says he gave North Korea's Kim direct number (*Reuters*, 06/16/2018)
China Relaxes Customs Inspections on Border With North Korea, Despite Sanctions Assurances (RFA, 06/15/2018)
Donald Trump shrugs off Kim's human rights record: 'He's a tough guy' (*Guardian*, 06/16/2018)
Kim Jong-un: The story of the boy dictator who bested the US president (*Guardian*, 06/16/2018)
(LEAD) Trump promotes N.K. summit in weekly address (*Yonhap*, 06/16/2018)
South, U.S. are in talks to halt military exercises (*Yonhap*, 06/16/2018)
Summit does not deal with North Korea's hacking (*Washington Post*, 06/16/2018)
The Latest: Trump Vows to Avert Nuclear War 'at All Costs' (NYT, 06/16/2018)
The U.S.-North Korea summit and the path to be taken by Kim Jong Un (*Daily NK*, 06/16/2018)
Trump Agrees: Meeting With Kim Jong-un Gave North Korean Leader 'Credibility'(NYT, 06/16/2018)
Trump grumbles that North Korea deal not earning wide praise (*Washington Post*, 06/16/2018)
Trump quip about North Korea's Kim sparks outcry on social media (*Reuters*, 06/16/2018)

In North Korea:

- NK's nominal head of state Kim Yong-nam left Russia on Fri. (local time), wrapping up a four-day visit to attend the opening ceremony of the 2018 FIFA World Cup. (*Yonhap*)

In South Korea:

- SK's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae expressed optimism on Sat. about Trump's recent announcement that he would speak with KJU on the phone, calling it "very important progress." (Yonhap)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The two Koreas agreed to restore military communication channels during a meeting between army generals on Thurs. in the border village of Panmunjom. (Yonhap)
- Working-level military talks at Panmunjom between NK and SK became protracted and a N. Korean lieutenant general made the abrupt suggestion to not have similar conversations in the future, according to a S. Korean press report. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

International:

- Trump said Fri. he gave KJU a direct phone number to reach him and that he plans to make a phone call to Kim. (Yonhap)
- It says a lot about the world of diplomacy in 2018 that the most expert commentary on Trump and KJU's Singapore summit came from a tearful former basketball player, Dennis Rodman. (Julian Borger, Guardian)
- Trump said on Fri. he had given KJU a direct phone number and suggested he might call the N. Korean leader on Sun., following their summit in Singapore this week. (Reuters)
- China is relaxing customs inspections and allowing restricted goods to flow across its border with NK, according to sources, despite making assurances that it will continue to enforce sanctions against the reclusive nation until it fully dismantles its nuclear arsenal. (RFA)
- Trump has dismissed concerns about the widely condemned human rights record of the North Korean dictator, Kim Jong-un, praising him as a "tough guy", a "smart guy" and a "great negotiator". (Ed Pilkington, Guardian)
- KJU was never destined to rule NK. It was never preordained he would be the one to accelerate the isolated nation's nuclear weapons program, and force the US president, Trump, to sit down for a meeting of equals. (Benjamin Haas, Guardian)
- Trump released a weekly address Fri. promoting his efforts to bring peace to the world through his meeting with KJU earlier in the week. (Yonhap)
- The S. Korean and US defense chiefs are working together to fulfill Trump's call to halt joint military exercises between the two countries, a Pentagon spokesperson said on Thurs. (Yonhap)
- Among the subjects Trump apparently didn't discuss with KJU in Singapore — the regime's human rights abuses, its exports of missile technology and its mistreatment of US prisoners — there's one more: its long record of dangerous cyberattacks against sensitive targets in the US and allied nations. (Tami Abdollah, AP)

- Trump says in a video message defending his nuclear agreement with KJU that he must pursue a chance to avert nuclear conflict "at all costs." (AP)
- NK's Korean Central News Agency reported in an article entitled 'US-NK joint declaration adopted at US-NK summit' that KJU and Trump met in Singapore on Jun. 12 for the first time in a historic US-NK summit, and adopted a joint declaration. (Jo Hyon, *Daily NK*)
- Trump said on Fri. that his historic meeting with KJU gave credibility to the N. Korean leader, whom critics call a brutal dictator. The president also called Kim "the strong head" of the communist country, adding: "He speaks and his people sit up at attention. I want my people to do the same." (Eileen Sullivan, NYT)
- Trump says his deal with KJU will save tens of millions of people from a potential nuclear war. Now he just has to get everyone else on board. (Zeke Miller, Catherine Lucey, AP)
- Trump on Fri. said he wished people would "sit up at attention" for him like N. Koreans do for their leader KJU, a joke that sparked instant outrage on social media and cable news. (Roberta Rampton, *Reuters*)

Prepared by Lauren Jackson, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250716213503/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-trump-shrugs-off-kims-human-rights-record-hes-a-tough-guy-call-me-any-time-trump-says-he-gave-kju-direct-number?e=8a9aae5198

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Sunday, June 17, 2018

UN Official: 'Now Is the Time' for North Korea Human Rights; Seoul wants Pyongyang's artillery moved back; Post summit diplomacy

In North Korea:
(LEAD) N.K media underscore 'sovereignty, mutual respect' in international relations(*Yonhap*, 06/17/2018)
Four of 5 N.K. sailors repatriated last week: source (*Yonhap*, 06/17/2018)
More on North Korea's Missile Test Sites (*38 North*, 06/15/2018)
N. Korea defector recalls field trip to execution (CNN, 06/16/2018)

In South Korea:
Bulk of S. Korean trading firms want to take part in N. Korea projects: poll (*Yonhap*, 06/17/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) Koreas to hold flurry of talks over sports, family reunions, railway connections (*Yonhap*, 06/17/2018)

(LEAD) S. Korea proposes movement of N.K. long-range artillery away from border: sources (*Yonhap*, 06/17/2018)
Professor calls for reinvestigation of Cheonan sinking (*Korea Times*, 06/17/2018)
Seoul wants Pyongyang's artillery moved back (*Korea Joongang*, 06/17/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) Trump says he gave N.K. leader direct phone number to call (*Yonhap*, 06/17/2018)
(LEAD) Trump promotes N.K. summit in weekly address (*Yonhap*, 06/17/2018)
A Financier's Profit-Minded Mission to Open a Channel Between Kushner and North Korea (NYT, 06/17/2018)
Major joint drills to be halted (*Korea Joongang*, 06/17/2018)
Post US-NK summit diplomacy accelerates (*Korea Times*, 06/17/2018)
S. Korea's vice foreign minister heads to U.S. for talks on N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 06/17/2018)
Singapore show for Trump and Kim, or progress to peace? (*Korea Times*, 06/17/2018)
Trump-Kim summit: qualified success (*Korea Times*, 06/17/2018)
Trump Renews Defense of North Korea Agreement (VOA, 06/17/2018)
Trump says suspending 'war games' was his idea (*Yonhap*, 06/17/2018)
Trump's Promises to Kim Jong-un Leave U.S. and Allies Scrambling (NYT, 06/16/2018)
UN Official: 'Now Is the Time' for North Korea Human Rights (VOA, 06/17/2018)
Way too fast (*Korea Joongang*, 06/17/2018)

In North Korea:

- NK's state media on Sun stressed principles of mutual respect and sovereignty in international relations, following its agreement with the US last week to build "new" ties. (*Yonhap*)
- Four of the five N. Korean sailors rescued last week by SK's Coast Guard in the East Sea have returned home while one decided to defect, a government source said Sun.
- Following up on 38 North's recent assessment concluding that there were no changes to the Sohae (Tongchang-ri) Satellite Launch Facility, further analysis shows that there have been no alterations or activity akin to dismantlement to any of the six known launch and engine test facilities and two ejection test stands. (*38 North*)
- N. Korean defector Sungju Lee recalls going on a school trip to a public execution when he was 11 years old. (CNN)

In South Korea:

- The bulk of S. Korean trading companies want to take part in N. Korean development projects, with many showing an interest in construction, a local poll revealed Sun. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The two Koreas are set to hold a series of talks on sports, reunions of separated families, railway and road connections and forestry cooperation in the coming weeks, officials said Sun, a reminder of the ongoing thaw in cross-border ties. (*Yonhap*)
- SK proposed that NK move its long-range artillery away from the heavily fortified border in an effort to reduce tensions during last week's rare cross-border military talks, government sources here said Sun. (*Yonhap*)
- A professor has claimed Seoul should apologize to Pyongyang if a new investigation finds North Korea was not responsible for the sinking of the South Korean frigate Cheonan in 2010. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- SK is planning to ask NK to move 350 artillery pieces along the inter-Korean border aimed at Seoul back from the military demarcation line, a government official said Sun. (Lee Chul-jae, Park Yong-han, *Korea Joongang*)

International:

- US Pres. Trump said Fri he gave N. Korean leader KJU a direct phone number to reach him and that he plans to make a phone call to KJU. (*Yonhap*)
- US Pres. Trump released a weekly address Fri promoting his efforts to bring peace to the world through his meeting with N. Korean leader KJU earlier in the week. (*Yonhap*)
- An American financier approached the Trump administration last summer with an unusual proposition: The N. Korean government wanted to talk to Jared Kushner, the president's son-in-law and senior adviser. (Mark Mazzetti, Mark Landler, NYT)
- SK and the US have tentatively agreed to halt major joint military exercises as long as the US sees progress in denuclearization talks with NK, a local government source said Sun. (Lee Sung-eun, Lee Chul-jae, Park Yu-mi, *Korea Joongang*)
- Key states surrounding the Korean Peninsula are eager to form one-on-one channels with NK as a means to stay relevant in the denuclearization process, which seems to be going smoothly after agreements were made at the summit between US Pres. Trump and N. Korean leader KJU last week. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- SK's vice foreign minister embarked on a trip to the US on Sunday for talks with his US counterparts that will likely focus on joint efforts to implement a denuclearization deal with NK. (*Yonhap*)
- No details, no timetable, no verification, no mention of human rights, too many concessions, too little in return. If you're keeping score, it's easy to record a bunch of L's for Pres. Trump and a run of W's for N. Korean dictator KJU in the nuclear talks the two leaders held in Singapore. That's the traditional way of assessing such summits. But there was nothing conventional about the face-to-face meeting between Trump and Kim or the feverish run-up to it. (*Korea Times*)
- The June 12 historic summit between Pres. Trump and N. Korean leader KJU was the first face-to-face summit between the two countries since the 1948 establishment of the communist state. (Heo Mane, *Korea Times*)

- US Pres. Trump renewed his defense Sun of the agreement he reached with N. Korean leader KJU to denuclearize the Korean peninsula, saying it already has led to an end to Pyongyang's nuclear tests and "rockets flying all over the place." (Ken Bredemeier, VOA)
- US Pres. Trump said Sun it was his idea to suspend joint military exercises by SK and the US to foster favorable conditions for denuclearization talks with NK, adding that the military drills will immediately start back up if the talks collapse. (*Yonhap*)
- Pres. Trump praised the strongman tactics of NK's leader, KJU, and dismissed American military exercises with SK as a waste of money on Fri, as his administration and allies scrambled to accommodate the president's promises to KJU after their historic summit meeting this week. (Helene Cooper, Mark Landler, NYT)
- Concerned by the lack of any reference to human rights in the joint statement issued at the historic summit between Washington and Pyongyang, the UN special rapporteur on NK says "this is the time" for the US to pressure N. Korean leader KJU to engage in a dialogue with the international community to improve the lives of NK's people. (Christy Lee, VOA)
- After the Singapore summit between US Pres. Trump and N. Korean leader KJU, denuclearization and a peace process is accelerating at a dizzying pace on the Korean Peninsula. But the public has mixed feelings. While welcoming a NK without nuclear weapons and the possibility of peace in a divided land, they cannot calm their anxieties over the stunning developments. (*Korea Joongang*)

Prepared by Jack Maerz, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250716213603/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-un-official-now-is-the-time-for-north-korea-human-rights-seoul-wants-pyongyangs-artillery-moved-back-post-summit-diplomacy?e=8a9aae5198

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Monday, June 18, 2018

Top envoy starts process of ending the Korean War; Two Koreas to make joint entrance at Asian Games

In North Korea:
Defector explains North Korea's nuclear obsession (*Korea Times*, 6/18/2018)
Juche, the state ideology that makes North Koreans revere Kim Jong Un, explained (*Vox*, 6/18/2018)
N. Korea's media emphasizes summit spirit following disagreement in military talks(*Yonhap*, 6/18/2018)
North Korea 'sought diplomatic back channel through Jared Kushner' (*Telegraph*, 6/17/2018)
North Koreans likely to tune in and support South Korea in World Cup, defectors say(*Reuters*, 6/18/2018)

In South Korea:
(3rd LD) Minister: S. Korea 'flexible' on timing, format of ending Korean War (*Yonhap*, 6/18/2018)
For South Koreans, Singapore summit was far from a failure (CNN, 6/18/2018)
Korea-only experiences thrive: While tour biz suffered after Thaad, tourism start-ups succeeded (*Korea Joongang*, 6/18/2018)
New Northern Policy to get boost from detente mood (*Yonhap*, 6/18/2018)
S. Korea Flexible on Ending Joint US Military Drills (VOA, 6/18/2018)
The Choco Pie dividend: South Korean firms are drooling at the prospect of business in the North (*Washington Post*, 6/17/2018)
Top envoy starts process of ending the Korean War (*Korea Joongang*, 6/18/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(News Focus) Asian Games to provide another stage for Koreas to show unity (*Yonhap*, 6/18/2018)
Pop-up shop offers a taste of Pyongyang (*Korea Joongang*, 6/18/2018)
Rebooting Inter-Korean Economic Relations: A Challenging Road Ahead (*38 North*, 6/18/2018)
South, North to play basketball friendly (*Korea Joongang*, 6/18/2018)
Two Koreas to discuss sports exchanges at truce village (*Yonhap*, 6/18/2018)
Two Koreas to make joint entrance at Asian Games (*Korea Times*, 6/18/2018)
Yonhap, unification ministry to hold symposium on lasting peace for Korean Peninsula (*Yonhap*, 6/18/2018)

International:
A week later, President Trump is still defending North Korea agreement (*USA Today*, 6/18/2018)
After Trump Summit, Pompeo May Return Soon to North Korea (NYT, 6/18/2018)
Americans have figured it out: North Korea won! (*Washington Post*, 6/17/2018)
C.E.O.s Think the Kim Meeting Was a Bad Deal for Trump (NYT, 6/18/2018)
Chicago soldier killed in Korea finally being laid to rest (AP, 6/17/2018)
Chinese border city seeing surge in North Korea trade, activity (UPI, 6/18/2018)
Denuclearization is now solved, claims Trump (*Korea Joongang*, 6/18/2018)
How North Korea Can Strike It Rich (*Foreign Policy*, 6/10/2018)
Is Trump gaslighting the world on North Korea? (*Washington Post*, 6/18/2018)
Japan confronts risks of U.S. alliance based on dollars and deals, not values (*Reuters*, 6/18/2018)
Japan protests South Korean military drills near contested islands (CNN, 6/18/2018)
Japan's Shinzo Abe says Kim Jong Un has 'leadership' skills (UPI, 6/18/2018)
N. Korea's Kim walked away with great deal: top Democratic senator (*Yonhap*, 6/18/2018)
North Korea talks deepen Japan's dilemma (*Nikkei*, 6/18/2018)
Not so fast (*Korea Joongang*, 6/18/2018)
Poll: Majority say 'too early to tell' if North Korea summit a success (CNN, 6/17/2018)
Pyongyang should allow IAEA to inspect nuke sites (*Korea Times*, 6/18/2018)
Russia, South Korea to discuss joint projects with North Korea: RIA (*Reuters*, 6/18/2018)
Seoul: Mike Pompeo to meet with North Koreans 'soon' (UPI, 6/18/2018)
Steering North Korea to Become a Normal Country (*The Diplomat*, 6/18/2018)
'The ball is in North Korea's court' (*Korea Times*, 6/18/2018)

The man who went to the North Korean place that 'doesn't exist' (BBC, 6/18/2018)
Top Russian and US diplomats discuss Syria, North Korea (*Washington Post*, 6/18/2018)
Trump criticizes Obama in tweet after North Korea summit (*UPI*, 6/18/2018)
Trump: News media would have called Obama 'a national hero' for meeting Kim Jong Un (*Washington Post*, 6/18/2018)
US and South Korea to announce suspension of 'large-scale' military drill (*Guardian*, 6/17/2018)

In North Korea:

- North Korea's media on Monday called for South Korea to respect the spirit of the agreement the two Koreas' leaders reached in their April summit as they hold follow-up meetings to discuss cooperation in each sector. (*Yonhap*)
- As hard as it may be for Americans to grasp, millions of North Koreans appear to truly believe their government's pronouncements. The tool the state has used to convince of them of these ideas is a unique official philosophy called "juche". (Zack Beauchamp, *Vox*)
- If there is one thing that North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un will never do, it is "complete denuclearization," according to Thae Yong-ho, a former North Korean diplomat who defected to South Korea. (Jung Min-Ho, *Korea Times*)
- Senior North Korean officials wanted to get in touch with Mr Kushner because of his family relationship to Mr Trump. (Nick Allen, *Telegraph*)
- When South Korea begins competing for soccer glory at the FIFA World Cup in Russia on Monday, North Koreans will be cheering for the team, defectors living in the South say. (Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)

In South Korea:

- South Korea's top diplomat on Monday said her government aims to declare a formal end to the Korean War by the end of this year and that the leaders of North Korea and the United States have discussed the issue. (Lee Chi-Dong, *Yonhap*)
- In South Korea, discussions center less on Trump's achievements or lack of them, or his failures to live up to his own word, and more on the possibilities his summit opened up -- in particular his new relationship with Kim. (Nic Robertson, CNN)
- In Korea, travelers are flocking to new experiences such as recording in a music studio like a K-pop star, walking around the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea like a spy in the movies or trying out Seoul's famously speedy delivery service while they visit. (Jeon Young-Seon, *Korea Joongang*)
- South Korea's push to expand economic cooperation with Russia, China and their neighboring countries is expected to gain steam from the ongoing reconciliatory mood with North Korea, a presidential committee said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- Officials in Seoul are reacting cautiously to the expected suspension of U.S.-South Korea military exercises, but an influential presidential adviser sees it as an important step in the North Korea denuclearization process that is beginning to take shape. (Brian Padden, VOA)

- Dozens of companies across South Korea are jockeying for any edge to jump into North Korea if Kim Jong Un's outreach eventually opens investment in a country that needs everything from new roads to designer doorknobs. (Brian Murphy, Michelle Ye Hee Lee, *Washington Post*)
- South Korea aims to formally end the Korean War within this year but will be flexible on the specific timing and format, as the process requires consultations with Pyongyang and Washington, Seoul's top diplomat said Monday. (*Korea Joongang*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The 18th Asian Games in Indonesia this August will provide yet another stage for South and North Korea to show their sporting unity, as they agreed on Monday to march behind one flag at the event's opening ceremony. (*Yonhap*)
- To help youngsters learn more about the culture of North Korea's most cosmopolitan city Pyongyang, creative director Choi Won-seok of Filament & Co decided to do another pop-up, two years after he did the Pyongyang Coffee pop-up store in Gwanghwamun. (Lee Sun-Min, *Korea Joongang*)
- The dramatic shift in inter-Korean relations now underway provides a strategic opportunity to rethink future economic cooperation between the two Koreas. (Bradley O. Babson, *38 North*)
- South and North Korea will hold a friendly basketball game in Pyongyang on July 4 and follow up with a second game in Seoul this fall, both countries agreed Monday at the truce village of Panmunjom. (Lee Sung-Eun, *Korea Joongang*)
- Sports could work as an important stepping stone to expand inter-Korean exchanges and build peace on the Korean peninsula, the head of a South Korean delegation said Monday as he headed to Panmunjom for sports exchanges talks with North Korea. (*Yonhap*)
- South and North Korea agreed to make a joint entrance under a flag symbolizing a unified Korea at the Asian Games to be held in Indonesia in August, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism said Monday. (Kim Bo-Eun, *Korea Times*)
- Yonhap News Agency and the Ministry of Unification will co-host an annual forum in Seoul later this month to discuss ongoing efforts to denuclearize North Korea and foster a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- A week after his unprecedented meeting with Kim Jong Un, President Trump is still defending his agreement with the North Korean leader in the face of criticism that the deal lacks specifics about denuclearization. (David Jackson, *USA Today*)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo says he may return to North Korea to continue nuclear discussions "before terribly long." (AP, *NYT*)
- Asked if the summit was a success for the United States, a sizable majority (55 percent) said it was too early to tell. (Jennifer Rubin, *Washington Post*)

- “While the C.E.O.s were very pleased with the present course of the economy, they were very concerned about the geopolitical positioning,” Mr. Sonnenfeld said in a statement. “In particular, they believe that the U.S. is already being outmaneuvered in the North Korean negotiations.” (Andrew Ross Sorkin, NYT)
- On Tuesday, the remains of Army Maj. Stephen Uurtamo will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery, nearly seven decades after he was taken prisoner by the Chinese and died. (Don Babwin, AP)
- Vibrant activity has resumed at the Chinese border city of Dandong, where, according to Chinese authorities, housing prices have been rising at the fastest rate among a group of 70 Chinese cities. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Trump and Kim declared in a joint text following the summit their commitment toward complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula while guaranteeing the security of Kim’s dynastic regime. (*Korea Joongang*)
- There’s nothing to stop North Korea — sharing similar geography and human capital — from following in the footsteps of South Korea and other countries in the region. (Stephan Haggard, *Foreign Policy*)
- Critics of President Trump routinely accuse him of "gaslighting" — that is, of deliberately repeating misinformation to the extent that the public starts doubting verifiable facts and believing in Trump's self-serving talking points. (Ishaan Tharoor, *Washington Post*)
- For decades, U.S. and Japanese leaders have stressed that the two countries’ alliance was based on values such as democracy, freedom and the rule of law. Trump’s summit last week with North Korean leader Kim Jung Un failed to address Japanese security concerns such as a missile program that Tokyo sees as a direct threat. (Linda Sieg, *Reuters*)
- South Korea has angered Japan by staging military drills near a contested island chain, even as it discusses scaling back joint "war games" with the US to de-escalate tensions with North Korea. (Brad Lendon, CNN)
- Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe offered some faint praise for North Korea's Kim Jong-Un on Monday and said he would like to end a relationship of mutual distrust with Pyongyang. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un got a "great deal" out of his historic meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump last week, a top Democratic senator said Sunday, contradicting the president on his purported achievements. (*Yonhap*)
- Japan was clearly marginalized in the run-up to and during the June 12 summit between the U.S. and North Korean leaders in Singapore. The dynamics suggest that Tokyo will not play any significant role in the follow-up negotiations. (Bilahari Kausikan, *Nikkei*)
- The rumored inter-Korean meeting last week at Panmunjom to achieve arms reduction also rang alarms. North Korea has not even begun dismantling or scrapping its nuclear weapons. As the saying goes, too much is as bad as too little. (*Korea Joongang*)
- A poll released Sunday found a majority said it was "too early to tell" if the US-North Korea summit was a success for either side. (Eli Watkins, CNN)
- Liang Tuang Nah, a research fellow of the Military Studies Program at the Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies in Singapore, said that in order to show his sincerity, Kim must allow the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to inspect key nuclear sites. (Kim Jae-Kyoung, *Korea Times*)

- Russian President Vladimir Putin and his South Korean counterpart Moon Jae-in plan to discuss potential joint projects with North Korea during Moon's visit to Moscow this week, RIA news agency reported citing a Russia's foreign ministry official. (*Reuters*)
- Kang Kyung-hwa, who had exchanged a phone call with Pompeo following his visit to Seoul last week, did not specify the date of the next U.S.-North Korea meeting, but said the talks will take place in the near future, Money Today reported. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- It is now incumbent on the global community to work with Kim Jong Un to steer North Korea on a path of reform leading to the country's emergence as a responsible member of the global community. (Jongsoo Lee, *The Diplomat*)
- "Unlike in past agreements, the U.S. has not promised aid and has not even relaxed economic pressure, so the ball is in North Korea's court if it wants success." (Kim Jae-Kyoung, *Korea Times*)
- It was a visit to Pyongyang's Yanggakdo Hotel that resulted in the detention and eventual death of American student Otto Warmbier. US doctor Calvin Sun recalls his night inside a secret floor in the hotel and warns other travellers to stay away. (Megha Mohan, *BBC*)
- Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has had a call with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to discuss Syria, North Korea and plans for future U.S.-Russian contacts. (AP, *Washington Post*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump's summit with North Korea was largely hailed a success in Asia, but back home Trump is being met with measured criticism, a development the president noted in a tweet Monday morning. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- President Trump on Monday suggested a double standard in news media coverage of his achievements and those of President Barack Obama. (John Wagner, *Washington Post*)
- South Korea and the US are expected to announce the suspension of "large-scale" military drills next week, with the provision that they will restart if North Korea fails to keep its promise to denuclearise. (*Guardian*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250716213517/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-top-envoy-starts-process-of-ending-the-korean-war-two-koreas-to-make-joint-entrance-at-asian-games?e=8a9aae5198

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Tuesday, June 19, 2018

'THE ART OF THE DEAL' MEETS 'THE ART OF DECEPTION'; The Kim Family Business: After Singapore, What's Next?; Kim Jong-un visits China

Top News:

‘THE ART OF THE DEAL’ MEETS ‘THE ART OF DECEPTION’: REFLECTIONS ON THE TRUMP-KIM SUMMIT (*Daily Caller*, 06/18/2018)
The Kim Family Business: After Singapore, What’s Next? (*National Review*, 06/19/2018)

In North Korea:
[Photos] Street markets pop up in North Korea’s rural areas (*Daily* NK, 06/19/2018)
A tour of North Korea's answer to Disneyland – video (*Guardian*, 06/18/2018)
Crisis-plagued Pyongyang university seeks revival after Trump-Kim summit (*Reuters*, 06/19/2018)
North Korea to stage spectacular mass games after five-year break (*The Telegraph*, 06/19/2018)
North Korean authorities export fell trees to China to buy fertilizer (*Daily* NK, 06/19/2018)
Some North Koreans consider US-NK summit a result of Kim’s ‘resolute decision’(*Daily* NK, 06/19/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) Parties have mixed reactions to allies' suspension of military drills (*Yonhap*, 06/19/2018)
Film depicts children of NK defectors born abroad (*The Korea Times*, 06/19/2018)
President's surprise letter to elementary students (*The Korea Times*, 06/19/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) Two Koreas agree to form unified teams for Asian Games, hold basketball match in Pyongyang (*Yonhap*, 06/18/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korean team crosses into N. Korean border town to prepare for liaison office (*Yonhap*, 06/19/2018)
North & South Korea agree to some combined teams at Asian Games (BBC, 06/18/2018)
S. Korea may demand N. Korean explanation of Cheonan sinking in future: official(*Yonhap*, 06/19/2018)
S. Korean canoe federation pushing for joint team with N. Korea at Asiad, worlds(*Yonhap*, 06/19/2018)
Two Koreas moving to set up liaison office in Gaeseong (*The Korea Times*, 06/19/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) S. Korea expects Kim's China visit to facilitate denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 06/19/2018)
(8th LD) N. Korean leader Kim holds summit with Xi (*Yonhap*, 06/19/2018)
(LEAD) Chinese gov't confirms N. Korean leader's visit (*Yonhap*, 06/19/2018)
(LEAD) No daylight between S. Korea, U.S. on N.K. sanctions: Seoul official (*Yonhap*, 06/19/2018)
Administration officials say there was no call between US and North Korea this weekend (CNN, 06/18/2018)
Americans are satisfied with Trump's North Korea summit (CNN, 06/19/2018)
China’s Xi Hosts North Korea’s Kim for Talks (VOA, 06/19/2018)
China's Xi praises North Korea's Kim for Trump summit, promises support (*Reuters*, 06/18/2018)
Crucial 30 months (*The Korea Times*, 06/19/2018)
In death, one young man stands tall in North Korea relations (AP, 06/19/2018)
It is wrong to think personal relationships with dictators will save the world (*The Korea Times*, 06/19/2018)

Japan says plans for joint drills with U.S. unchanged (*UPI*, 06/19/2018)
Kim Jong-un meets Xi Jinping for third time (*Guardian*, 06/19/2018)
Kim Jong-un Returns to China, This Time With Leverage (NYT, 06/18/2018)
Kim Jong-un set to brief Xi Jinping on Trump summit during third trip to China (*The Telegraph*, 06/19/2018)
Kim Jong-un visits China after Trump summit (BBC, 06/19/2018)
N. Korea's nominal head of state returns from Moscow trip (*Yonhap*, 06/19/2018)
North Korea in Singapore: 1971 vs. 2018 (*The Korea Times*, 06/19/2018)
North Korean leader Kim Jong Un meets with Xi Jinping in Beijing (CNN, 06/19/2018)
North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visiting China: Chinese state media (*Reuters*, 06/18/2018)
North Korean leader says he wants to maintain high-level contacts with Russia: Kremlin aide (*Reuters*, 06/19/2018)
North Korea's Kim makes another trip to China. That complicates things for Trump.(*Washington Post*, 06/19/2018)
Peace treaty may follow joint drill suspension (*The Korea Times*, 06/19/2018)
Pentagon cancels Freedom Guardian military drill with South Korea (*Guardian*, 06/18/2018)
Pentagon says it's 'suspended all planning' for military exercise with South Korea(CNN, 06/18/2018)
Pentagon Suspends August Military Drills with South Korea (AP, 06/18/2018)
Pentagon Suspends Major War Game With South Korea (NYT, 06/18/2018)
Pompeo touts North Korea progress, talks tough on trade in Detroit speech (CNN, 06/18/2018)
Pompeo urged to craft timeline in follow-up talks (*The Korea Times*, 06/19/2018)
Pyongyang uses Beijing as negotiation leverage (*The Korea Times*, 06/19/2018)
S. Korea, US suspend annual military drills (*The Korea Times*, 06/19/2018)
Shockingly, China's sanctions enforcement on North Korea eases after the summit(*North Korean Economy Watch*, 06/19/2018)
Trump demands credit for getting along with Kim Jong Un (CNN, 06/19/2018)
U.S. to pause military exercises with South Korea if North Korea acts in good faith: White House (*Reuters*, 06/18/2018)
White House says it is 'not aware' of Trump-Kim phone call (*Yonhap*, 06/19/2018)
Xi calls on US, North Korea to implement Singapore agreements (AP, 06/19/2018)

Top News:

- HRNK Board of Directors Co-Vice Chair Suzanne Scholte was featured in *The Daily Caller*: Having devoted over twenty years of my life promoting freedom and human rights for the people of NK, I confess I got a very queasy stomach seeing the American flag, the symbol of freedom, next to the flag of the Kim family dictatorship – better known as the flag of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). (Suzanne Scholte, *Daily Caller*)
- From HRNK Board of Directors member, Jack David: Trump's approach is not likely to succeed. Nonetheless, the longtime US aim of completely denuclearizing the Korean peninsula is important to pursue, and we should applaud the president's imaginative approach and hope it succeeds -that N. Korean actions will follow. However, we forget at our peril that the US and our allies SK and Japan still are threatened by the Kim family business's unchanged goal. (Jack David, *National Review*)

In North Korea:

- The number of street-side vendors is increasing in NK's rural regions, revealing yet another aspect of the country's continuing marketization. (Kang Mi Jin, *Daily NK*)
- On a rare press trip to Pyongyang we were presented with a night at the bustling Kaeson Youth Park, where residents are marshalled in line by military personnel for a dose of state-sanctioned fun. But while the UN warns of food scarcity in the rest of the country, is this just a welcome distraction for the privileged few? (*Guardian*)
- Now, with the US and NK reshaping relations between the two old adversaries, Pyongyang University of Science and Technology (PUST) Pres. Yu-Taik Chon is hoping he will soon be able to return to his campus in the N. Korean capital. (Ju-min Park, *Reuters*)
- In another hint that NK may be increasingly willing to engage with the international community, Pyongyang has announced that its spectacular mass games will return this Sept after a five-year hiatus. (Julian Ryall, *The Telegraph*)
- The N. Korean authorities have been implementing a reforestation initiative by forcibly mobilizing residents to participate in tree-planting projects along highways and railway tracks. Counter-productively however, the authorities are also carrying out logging operations and shipping trees for sale to China. (Kim Yoo Jin, *Daily NK*)
- The N. Korean media have reported on a positive response from residents in regards to the historic summit meeting between Chairman KJU and US Pres. Trump. Some N. Koreans have been quoted as saying that the talks were the result of KJU's resolute decision and appear to be hopeful for change in the future. (Kang Mi Jin, *Daily NK*)

In South Korea:

- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) said Tues that it "deeply" respects SK and the US's decision to suspend their joint military drills slated for August, calling the move a proper step for peace. But the main opposition Liberty Korea Party (LKP) stressed the need for NK to show sincerity in dismantling its nuclear programs, saying that the allies should resume exercises at any time if Pyongyang reneges on its promise to denuclearize. (*Yonhap*)
- A documentary film on children of N. Korean defectors born outside their homeland, titled "Children on the Border," was screened at the National Assembly, Tues. Rep. Shim Jae-cheol of the main opposition Liberty Party of Korea hosted the screening. (Jung Da-min, *The Korea Times*)
- Elementary students from Gwangju were surprised when they recently received a letter from S. Korean Pres. Moon. After learning about the inter-Korean summits, fifth-grade students sent handwritten letters to Pres. Moon. (Grace Lee, *The Korea Times*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- SK and NK agreed to march together and form unified teams for certain sports at the upcoming Asian Games as well as to hold a basketball match in Pyongyang next month, the ministry of culture, sports and tourism said Mon. (Yonhap)
- SK sent a group of government officials and civilians to the NK border town of Kaesong Tues to work on repairs for a liaison office that the two Koreas recently agreed to open for better communication, the unification ministry said. (Yonhap)
- The two countries also agreed they would march together at the event as a sign of unity. The decisions were taken after talks between them at their shared border. (BBC)
- SK and NK may discuss the deadly and still mysterious sinking of a S. Korean warship in 2010 when and if their relations improve enough and military tensions are removed, a senior S. Korean official said Tues. (Yonhap)
- The S. Korean canoe governing body said Tues it has made joint team proposals to NK for this year's Asian Games and the dragon boat world championship. (Yonhap)
- S. Korean officials visited the Gaeseong Industrial Complex in NK, Tues, for preparations to open a joint contact office there. (Kim Bo-eun, The Korea Times)

International:

- SK expressed hope Tues that N. Korean leader KJU's ongoing visit to China will help facilitate the denuclearization process, saying Seoul and Beijing share that strategic goal. (Lee Chi-dong, Yonhap)
- N. Korean leader KJU met with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing on Tues in the latest sign of strengthening ties between the two leaders. (Yonhap)
- The Chinese government on Tues said N. Korean leader KJU's ongoing trip here is intended to strengthen "strategic communication" between the two countries. (Yonhap)
- SK and the US are united in keeping sanctions on NK until the regime makes "substantial" progress toward denuclearization, a top Seoul diplomat said Mon. (Yonhap)
- There was no call between US and N. Korean officials over the weekend, two administration officials tell CNN, despite Pres. Trump telling Fox News on Fri that he planned on "calling North Korea" over the Father's Day holiday. (Kaitlan Collins, Clare Foran, CNN)
- One week after the high-profile meeting between Pres. Trump and N. Korean leader KJU, Americans are generally satisfied with what was accomplished in the summit between the leaders, according to a CNN poll conducted by SSRS that was released on Tues. (Grace Sparks, CNN)
- Chinese Pres. Xi says he hopes NK and the US can implement the agreement they reached at last week's historic summit in Singapore, according to China's state broadcaster CCTV. Xi made his comments as he welcomed N. Korean leader KJU to China. (VOA)
- Chinese Pres. Xi offered high praise to visiting N. Korean leader KJU on Tues, lauding the “positive” outcome of his historic summit with US Pres. Trump and promising unwavering friendship. (Ben Blanchard, Reuters)
- Now that the postmortem on the summit between Trump and KJU is almost over, it is time to talk about what should come next. (Choi Sung-jin, The Korea Times)

- Otto Warmbier's legacy is still being written a year after his death. The 22-year-old US college student who died in a vegetative state in a Cincinnati hospital days after his release from NK is being remembered prominently during a dramatic shift in US-N. Korean relations. (Hiroko Tabuchi, AP)
- In Singapore, summitry made sense if it was meant to halt the rhetorical war between Trump and KJU and to advance the dismantling of NK's nuclear program. But the nauseating flattery Trump lavished on this mass murderer did little to promote those interests. Instead, it displayed how Trump's eager embrace of dictators plays into their hands. (Trudy Rubin, *The Korea Times*)
- Japan says the suspension of an annual joint drill between SK and the US does not affect Tokyo's plans for training with the US armed forces. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- One week after holding a summit with the US president, Trump, the N. Korean leader, KJU, has met the Chinese president, Xi Jinping, his third visit since March. (Lily Kuo, *Guardian*)
- NK's leader, KJU, arrived in Beijing on Tues amid an escalating trade conflict between China and the US, one that gives him an opening to play the powers against each other as Washington presses him to dismantle his nuclear arsenal. (Jane Perlez, NYT)
- N. Korean leader KJU arrived in China for a two-day visit on Tues, a week after his historic summit with Trump. (Neil Connor, *The Telegraph*)
- NK's KJU has met Chinese leader Xi in Beijing, local media report, a week after meeting US Pres. Trump. Chinese state TV did not say what the two leaders had talked about. However they were expected to discuss sanctions and KJU's general commitment to denuclearise the Korean peninsula. (BBC)
- NK's nominal head of state Kim Yong-nam has returned from his trip to Russia, where he attended the opening ceremony of the World Cup soccer finals, NK's state media reported Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- The Singapore summit between US Pres. Trump and N. Korean leader KJU on June 12, 2018, reminds me of some happenings regarding NK I experienced in Singapore 47 years ago. (Lee Sun-ho, *The Korea Times*)
- N. Korean leader KJU and Chinese Pres. Xi met in Beijing Tues for their first face-to-face talks since Kim's historic summit with US Pres. Trump in Singapore on June 12. (Steven Jiang, Joshua Berlinger, Ben Westcott, CNN)
- NK leader KJU is in China on a two-day visit, Chinese state TV said on Tues, his third visit to NK's major ally this year. (*Reuters*)
- N. Korean leader KJU is in China. Again. KJU arrived on Tues for his third visit to China in the span of three months, meeting with Pres. Xi at the Great Hall of the People, in the heart of Beijing. (Hiroko Tabuchi, *Washington Post*)
- NK leader KJU sent a letter to Russian Pres. Putin saying that he wants to maintain high-level contacts with Russia, Kremlin foreign policy aide Yuri Ushakov said on Tues. (*Reuters*)
- Following the decision to suspend the Ulchi Freedom Guardian (UFG) exercise, attention is on what the US and SK can offer NK next, if NK's denuclearization process is seen to progress. (Kim Rahn, *The Korea Times*)
- The US and SK have cancelled a major military exercise scheduled for Aug, a week after Trump said he would end the "war games" in a surprise concession during his summit with the N. Korean leader, KJU. (Justin McCurry, *Guardian*)

- The Pentagon has "suspended all planning" as expected for Aug joint military exercises with SK and several allies in the region, to comply with Pres. Trump's desire to pull back on so-called "war games," according to a statement from Dana White, chief Pentagon spokesperson. (Barbara Starr, CNN)
- The Pentagon on Mon formally suspended a major military exercise planned for Aug with SK, a much-anticipated move stemming from Pres. Trump's nuclear summit with N. Korean leader KJU. (AP)
- The Pentagon announced on Mon that it was suspending a major military exercise with SK that Pres. Trump had criticized as a waste of money. (Eric Schmitt, NYT)
- Secretary of State Pompeo heralded progress in the US-N. Korean relationship in a speech Mon, while calling out US friends and foes alike for their trade and economic policies. (Laura Koran, CNN)
- Following the historic Singapore summit, US Pres. Trump has come under criticism for failing to secure details, such as including complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization (CVID) in the joint statement. (Kim Jae-kyoung, *The Korea Times*)
- N. Korean leader KJU's third visit to China may be aimed at seeking China's economic support and advice on his denuclearization deal with the US, experts said Tues. China can also have a stronger say in the Korean Peninsula and denuclearization issues by having an image as NK's patron, they said. (Kim Rahn, *The Korea Times*)
- SK and the US announced the suspension of a joint military exercise slated for Aug, Tues. NK is also expected to take action to ease tensions in line with its pledge to give up its nuclear weapons. (Lee Min-hyung, *The Korea Times*)
- In perhaps the least surprising news there ever were, reports are now coming in regular intervals that Chinese enforcement of sanctions on NK is becoming less and less strict following the summit between Trump and KJU. KJU's visit today in Beijing will likely speed up the process, but the Chinese enforcement of the sanctions regime would like have become less vigilant in due course regardless. (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, *North Korean Economy Watch*)
- Pres. Trump continued to defend his budding relationship with N. Korean leader KJU on Mon, demanding credit for his role in making "initial steps toward a deal" by establishing a personal rapport with the young dictator during last week's summit in Singapore. (Zachary Cohen, CNN)
- The US and SK will put a pause on joint military exercises in Aug as long as NK acts in good faith, White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said on Mon. (*Reuters*)
- The White House said Mon it is "not aware" that US Pres. Trump called N. Korean leader KJU over the weekend as he earlier suggested. (*Yonhap*)
- Chinese Pres. Xi told N. Korean leader KJU on Tues he hopes Pyongyang and Washington can fully implement the outcome of last week's nuclear summit at which KJU pledged to work toward denuclearization in exchange for US security guarantees. (AP)

Prepared by Jack Maerz, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250720211106/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-the-art-of-the-deal-meets-the-art-of-deception-the-kim-family-business-after-singapore-whats-next-kim-jong-un-visits-china?e=8a9aae5198

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Wednesday, June 20, 2018

The shocking way North Korea would kidnap random citizens off the street; North Korea to hold mass games for first time in five years

Top News:
Greg Scarlatiou on Secure Freedom Radio, Episode 142 (*Secure Freedom Radio*, 6/19/2018)
The shocking way North Korea would kidnap random citizens off the street (NYPost, 6/18/2018)

In North Korea:
(2nd LD) N. Korean leader wraps up visit to Beijing (*Yonhap*, 6/20/2018)
Cadre-focused meeting announced after Kim Jong Un's return (*Daily NK*, 6/20/2018)
Can Kim become Deng? (*Korea Joongang*, 6/20/2018)
Kim thanks Xi for summit help (*Korea Joongang*, 6/20/2018)
North Korea: A surfers' paradise? (*Fox News*, 6/20/2018)
North Korea scraps anti-American souvenirs after summit, tour operators say(*Reuters*, 6/20/2018)
North Korea rejects remarks by U.N. rights boss as 'fabricated' (*Reuters*, 6/19/2018)
North Korea to hold mass games for first time in five years, tour group says (CNN, 6/20/2018)
North Korea's Kim Jong-un says he will work with China to secure 'true peace'(*Telegraph*, 6/20/2018)
On North Korean side of DMZ, it's change in the air (*Washington Post*, 6/20/2018)
Tackling North Korea's chronically poor sewage 'not rocket science': U.N. (*Reuters*, 6/20/2018)
The Food Insecurity Of North Korea (NPR, 6/19/2018)

In South Korea:
Dark clouds over the economy (*Korea Joongang*, 6/19/2018)
President Moon lauds U.S.-North Korea summit, calls for concrete action (UPI, 6/20/2018)
Push in Assembly for inter-Korean committee (*Korea Joongang*, 6/20/2018)
S. Korea halts its own military drill amid dialogue mood (Yonhap, 6/20/2018)
South Korea Backs Ending US Military Exercises (VOA, 6/20/2018)
Seoul welcomes outcome of Kim-Xi meeting (*Yonhap*, 6/20/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
NK defector sings songs of hope for daughter (*Korea Times*, 6/20/2018)
North Korea sanctions to remain until denuclearization achieved: South Korea minister (*Reuters*, 6/19/2018)

North, South push for joint dragon boating team (*Korea Joongang*, 6/20/2018)
Seoul expects 'reciprocal' act from North to military drill suspension (UPI, 6/20/2018)
S. Korea mulls supporting potential N. Korean startups (*Yonhap*, 6/20/2018)
S. Korean civic group to visit N. Korea to discuss exchanges (*Yonhap*, 6/20/2018)
S. Koreans visit Kaesong to prepare for liaison office (*Yonhap*, 6/20/2018)
SMEs association proposes tech training as priority for inter-Korean economic cooperation (*Yonhap*, 6/20/2018)

International:
(9th LD) N. Korean leader Kim holds summit with Xi (*Yonhap*, 6/19/2018)
(LEAD) 'Irreversible improvements' on N.K. issues needed to push up Seoul's rating: Moody's (*Yonhap*, 6/20/2018)
(LEAD) Moon says he and Putin share common goals of denuclearization, economic development (*Yonhap*, 6/20/2018)
(LEAD) N.K., Chinese leaders discuss denuclearization, pledge closer cooperation(*Yonhap*, 6/20/2018)
(News Focus) China seeks to cement leverage over N.K. amid tensions with U.S.(*Yonhap*, 6/20/2018)
A Chinese road map (*Korea Joongang*, 6/19/2018)
Altering 'Korea Armistice' offers loophole for North Korea (*Korea Times*, 6/20/2018)
Beyond Trump's Korea Fantasies (NYT, 6/19/2018)
Bolton: NK has 'dramatic choice,' talks will move quickly (*Washington Post*, 6/20/2018)
Bolton calls on N. Korea to make first move on denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 6/20/2018)
China ties sanctions on N. Korea with denuclearization process (*Yonhap*, 6/20/2018)
China's influence on North Korea grows (*Korea Times*, 6/20/2018)
Halting S.Korea-US Drills Risks Weakening N.Korea Deterrence (NYT, 6/19/2018)
It's time for Trump and Kim to make a deal (*Washington Post*, 6/19/2018)
Joint exercises with U.S. put on hold indefinitely (*Korea Joongang*, 6/20/2018)
Kim Jong-un visits China after Trump summit (BBC, 6/20/2018)
Kim leaves China as S. Korea urges 'concrete' plan on nukes (*Washington Post*, 6/20/2018)
Moon seeks three-way economic cooperation with NK, Russia (*Korea Times*,6/20/2018)
North Korea expected to return remains of hundreds of US soldiers (*Telegraph*, 6/20/2018)
North Korea to return war dead remains to US 'very soon' (*Korea Times*, 6/20/2018)
North Korea, China discuss 'true peace', denuclearization: KCNA (*Reuters*, 6/19/2018)
N. Korean leader Kim visits agriculture science center in Beijing (*Yonhap*, 6/20/2018)
No assurances on CVID (*Korea Joongang*, 6/20/2018)
On way to Moscow, Moon shares future vision (*Korea Joongang*, 6/20/2018)
Pompeo hints at another summit, trip to Pyongyang (*Korea Joongang*, 6/20/2018)
Remains of Japanese Abductees in North Korea Guarded by State Security (RFA, 6/19/2018)
S. Korea: Joint US Drills Suspended to Aid Talks With North (NYT, 6/19/2018)
Singapore business exec to travel to North Korea (UPI, 6/20/2018)
Tokyo rift (*Korea Joongang*, 6/20/2018)
Trump to Dictators: Have a Nice Day (NYT, 6/19/2018)
U.N. asks N. Korea to investigate cases of abductees, including 2 S. Korean pastors: report (*Yonhap*, 6/20/2018)

US expecting North Korea to return troop remains in coming days (CNN, 6/19/2018)
US forces preparing for North Korea to hand over war dead (*Guardian*, 6/19/2018)
Xi Jinping vows 'constructive role' in denuclearization process (*Korea Joongang*,6/20/2018)
Xi voices support for N. Korea's commitment to denuclearization, vows constructive role (*Yonhap*, 6/20/2018)

Top News:

- HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatiou was featured on Secure Freedom Radio to discuss his joint statement with Rabbi Abraham Cooper regarding North Koreans human rights. (Greg Scarlatiou, *Secure Freedom Radio*)
- From around 1977 until 1983, the number off abductees taken by North Korea reached as high as the low hundreds. North Korea has had a longtime strategy of using abductees to gain influence. "The North Korean intelligence agencies decided to use Japanese citizens in spy-training camps," said Danny Russell. Greg Scarlatoiu from the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea is doubtful that all of the abductees have been released. "The death certificates were forged," he said. "They all came from the same hospital. Some [of the deceased] supposedly died in car crashes." (Michael Kaplan, NYPost)

In North Korea:

- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un left China on Wednesday after a two-day stay in which he held talks with President Xi Jinping. Kim headed back to Pyongyang on his private jet, called Chammae-1, which took off from the Beijing international airport at around 5 p.m., according to informed sources. (*Yonhap*)
- Reports have emerged that an emergency meeting was convened for Party officials immediately after Kim Jong Un's return to North Korea from the US-NK summit. At the meeting, Kim's 'immense victory against the US' was the primary point of emphasis, without any reference to denuclearization. (Kim Yoo Jin, *Daily NK*)
- What kind of future does KJU envision for NK? The young leader has dramatically remade his image from a ruthless nemesis into a daring visionary ushering a secluded nation into the world. (Kim Byung-Yeon, *Korea Joongang*)
- The Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said Kim thanked Xi for helping him with his summit with U.S. President Donald Trump on June 12 in Singapore, and that the young leader was pleased with the "recently strengthened strategic cooperation" between China and NK. (Lee Sung-Eun, *Korea Joongang*)
- Few Westerners have experienced North Korean sun, sea and sand, but that's not to say it's entirely off-limits. (Simon Owen, *Fox News*)
- Among more generic gifts like ginseng, a North Korean shop on the tourist route to the fortified border between the two Koreas usually sold stamps, postcards and other souvenirs attacking the United States. (Josh Smith, *Reuters*)

- North Korea on Tuesday rejected allegations by the top U.N. human rights official that serious and widespread violations persisted in the country despite its diplomatic opening. (Stephanie Nebehay, *Reuters*)
- NK will hold its famous Mass Games for the first time in five years on September 9th, a Western-run tour group told CNN. Pyongyang's Mass Games have historically involved more than 100,000 performers participating in a grandiose, flamboyant blend of artistry and North Korean propaganda. (Joshua Berlinger, CNN)
- North Korea's Kim Jong-un said he will work with China to secure "true peace" on Wednesday, as Beijing seeks to take the driving seat in fast-paced diplomacy over Pyongyang's nuclear weapons. (Neil Connor, *Telegraph*)
- Lt. Col. Hwang Myong Jin has been a guide on the northern side of the Demilitarized Zone that divides the two Koreas for five years. He says that since the summits between North Korean leader KJU and the presidents of SK and the US, things have quieted down noticeably in perhaps the last place on Earth where the Cold War still burns hot. (Eric Talmadge, *Washington Post*)
- North Korea has a problem with human waste which is threatening the health of its children, according to a rare survey of family life in the reclusive country by a U.N. agency that also praised Pyongyang's "improved openness" with data. (Tom Miles, *Reuters*)
- Today, grain production hovers around 5 million tons per year, roughly double what it was in the famine-stricken '90s. But agricultural scientists and aid representatives familiar with the situation believe that the country is still unable to feed all of its population. And some question whether it even wants to. (Paul Chisholm, NPR)

In South Korea:

- Economic woes and challenges from domestic and overseas factors surfaced in force after the retreat of major plans related to NK and local elections. At home, repercussions from hikes in the minimum wage and the shortened workweek have begun to take a serious toll on the economy. (*Korea Joongang*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-In called the U.S.-NK summit a great success that went beyond his expectation while hoping measures taken after the summit, including the suspension of the U.S.-South Korea joint military drills, could bring further peace talks in the region. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- The ruling party said on Tuesday that it would push to set up a special legislative committee on inter-Korean ties to support economic cooperation between the two countries. Recent rapprochement on the Korean Peninsula is raising the prospect that the Koreas will promote economic cooperation if there is progress on the North's denuclearization. (*Korea Joongang*)
- South Korea's military has put off its own simulation-based exercise, scheduled for next week, in order to help maintain the momentum of talks with North Korea, a defense official said Wednesday. The annual command-post practice, called Taegeuk, was scheduled to begin next Tuesday for a three-day run. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha said on Wednesday that the U.S. and SK jointly made the decision to suspend combined military exercises scheduled for August, but

would not confirm if her government was given advanced notice before U.S. President Trump announced his intention to cancel the drills, after he met with North Korean leader KJU in Singapore on June 12. (Brian Padden, VOA)

- South Korea's presidential office on Wednesday welcomed the outcome of a meeting between leaders of North Korea and China, expressing hope that China will continue to play a positive role in "safe" and "complete" denuclearization of the North. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Han Ok-joung, a North Korean defector and a singer, recently revealed her story as the mother of a 20-year-old daughter who was born in China. (Jung Da-Min, *Korea Times*)
- Sanctions against North Korea will remain in place until Pyongyang can assure concerned parties such as South Korea that "complete denuclearization has been achieved", the South's foreign minister said on Wednesday. (*Reuters*)
- South Korea's governing body for canoe sports said on Tuesday that it has made proposals to NK to field a joint dragon boating team at this year's Asian Games and Dragon Boat World Championship. (*Korea Joongang*)
- SK expects a reciprocal action from NK to its recent decision to suspend U.S.-SK joint military drills. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- South Korea's venture minister said Wednesday the government is reviewing directly supporting potential North Korean startups if inter-Korean economic cooperation gets fully under way. Recent rapprochement on the Korean Peninsula has raised the prospect that the Koreas will promote economic cooperation. (*Yonhap*)
- A delegation from a South Korean civic group will visit North Korea this week to discuss exchanges in various sectors amid a thaw in inter-Korean relations, its officials said Wednesday. The unification ministry said Tuesday it had endorsed the request from the group devoted to commemorating the first-ever inter-Korean summit June 15, 2000. (*Yonhap*)
- A group of South Korean government officials and civilians crossed into the North Korea border town of Kaesong Wednesday for the second day in a row to work on repairs for a liaison office that the two Koreas recently agreed to open for better communication, the unification ministry said. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean small businesses on Wednesday proposed operating an inter-Korean technology training center and inviting global companies to a joint industrial complex with North Korea to expedite cross-border economic cooperation. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un on Tuesday held out the prospect of a new important phase in denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula if Pyongyang and Washington carry out their nuclear deal, a news report said. (*Yonhap*)

- Recent peace moves involving North Korea are not enough to ease geopolitical risks on the Korean Peninsula and to push up South Korea's sovereign rating, an analyst at Moody's Investors Service said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea and Russia share the common goal of denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula, which will lead to the joint development of not only the countries but the entire region, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- Chinese President Xi Jinping has voiced his strong support for North Korea's commitment to denuclearization and promised to keep playing a constructive role in the process, North Korean state media reported Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- The third summit between China and North Korea in less than three months on Tuesday highlighted Beijing's increasing efforts to remain a key player in the fluid geopolitics of the Korean Peninsula and strengthen its hand amid friction with the United States, analysts said. (Song Sang-Ho, *Yonhap*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un traveled to China Tuesday to meet President Xi Jinping. The real question, however, is why Kim had to go to China again after such a short period of time. (*Korea Joongang*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump's move to alter the 1953 Korean armistice agreement could provide a loophole for North Korea to dodge sanctions, according to Tara O, an adjunct fellow at Pacific Forum. (Kim Jae-Kyoung, *Korea Times*)
- Mr. Trump has been known to underdeliver on his grander promises, and no nation with a nuclear program this advanced has ever disarmed so completely. So what would a more plausible yet still positive deal look like? (NYT)
- President Donald Trump's national security adviser John Bolton says North Korea is facing a "decisive and dramatic choice" on whether to give up its nuclear program and ballistic missiles. (*Washington Post*)
- North Korea should make the first move to dismantle its nuclear weapons program before expecting any easing of sanctions from the United States, U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- China will link easing or removing sanctions on North Korea with progress in denuclearization, a Chinese government official said Wednesday, as the North's leader Kim Jong-un made another visit to Beijing this week. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's latest visit to China suggests Beijing's growing influence on the denuclearization talks, analysts said Wednesday. Kim made a two-day visit to China from Tuesday to Wednesday and met Chinese President Xi Jinping. It was his third trip to the longtime ally in three months; while the Chinese president has not yet visited Pyongyang. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- U.S. and South Korean officials are hoping the suspension of a major joint military exercise helps advance nuclear negotiations with North Korea. It's a bold gamble that could trigger a serious security crisis if the talks falter and the allies are forced to resume the drills, infuriating North Korea, analysts say. (NYT)
- Ministry spokesperson Choi Hyun-soo said the Freedom Guardian exercise won't be held this summer - at least for now - but could be resumed if NK fails to carry out denuclearization measures and slacks off on talks with the United States. (Lee Sung-Eun, Jeong Yong-Soo, Lee Chul-Jae, *Korea Joongang*)

- The American military command in SK is preparing for the North Koreans to turn over the remains of an unknown number of U.S. or allied service members who have been missing since the Korean War, U.S. officials said Tuesday. (Korea Times)
- North Korea's Kim Jong Un and Chinese President Xi Jinping came to an understanding on issues that were discussed at a summit between the two leaders, including denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, the North's state media said on Wednesday. (Christine Kim, Reuters)
- What matters most now is rapid follow-up. If Trump thinks he has done the heavy lifting, he may lose patience and move on. One Asia diplomat explains his worry this way: "There's a danger Trump will lose interest, and the situation will become worse than before if NK doesn't show some real steps." (David Ignatius, Washington Post)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un began the second day of his trip to China on Wednesday by touring a farming science center in Beijing amid signs his regime is showing growing interest in agricultural reform, according to sources. (Yonhap)
- North Korea's Kim Jong-un has met Chinese leader Xi Jinping in Beijing, local media report, a week after meeting US President Donald Trump. They were expected to discuss sanctions and Mr Kim's general commitment to denuclearise the Korean peninsula. (BBC)
- SK urged NK on Wednesday to present a plan with concrete steps toward denuclearization, raising the pressure on its leader KJU as he met with Chinese President Xi Jinping in a visit designed to convey the countries' growing closeness. (Christopher Bodeen, Washington Post)
- Once a peace regime is established, inter-Korean economic cooperation will need to include Russia for peace and co-prosperity in Eurasia, President Moon Jae-in said Wednesday. (Kim Rahn, Korea Times)
- North Korea may soon return a first out of 200 sets of remains of American soldiers who died during the Korean War, after an agreement reached last week by Kim Jong-un and Donald Trump, a US official said on Tuesday. (Telegraph)
- Trump said that he received a spoken promise on the destruction of a missile engine test site. If so, they should have postponed signing the agreement so that promise could have been included. (Kim Hyun-Ki, Korea Joongang)
- President Moon Jae-in on Wednesday described the kind of economic development possible among the two Koreas and Russia if a peace settlement takes place in the region ahead of a trip to Moscow. (Kang Jin-Kyu, Korea Joongang)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Monday that he would probably travel to NK "before too terribly long" to follow up on last week's historic summit between the two countries' leaders. (Korea Joongang)
- North Korean security officers are carefully guarding the remains of Japanese citizens kidnapped 40 years ago by state agents, monitoring the storage of their ashes in advance of possible talks normalizing relations between the two countries, sources in Pyongyang say. (Hyemin Son, Leejin Jun, Richard Finney, RFA)
- South Korea on Tuesday presented a united front with the U.S. on a decision to call off major joint military drills, one week after President Donald Trump's surprise announcement that he would suspend such exercises with the longtime Asian ally. (NYT)
- A Singaporean business executive says he hopes to "spread goodwill, love and hope" to NK after receiving an invitation from Pyongyang to visit and explore investment opportunities. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

- Between Abe and Kim is the deep river of the abductee issue. A bridge has to be built over the river to make a summit possible. The work to find a middle ground to save face for both Japan and NK has just begun. If successful, Kim will visit Tokyo in 2020 after 29 years. (Yoon Seol-Young, *Korea Joongang*)
- What's terrifying about Trump is that he seems to prefer dictators to our democratic allies everywhere. (Thomas L. Friedman, NYT)
- A U.N. working group on missing persons has requested North Korea to investigate 16 cases of enforced disappearances, two of which involve South Korean pastors, and provide information on them, the Voice of America reported Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- The Trump administration is expecting North Korea to return up to 200 sets of remains believed to be US servicemembers who died during the Korean War, according to four administration officials. Planning is underway to receive the remains from North Korea in the coming days, although the actual transfer date and location have not been finalized, the officials say. (Barbara Starr, CNN)
- US forces in SK are preparing for the North Koreans to turn over the remains of an unknown number of US or allied service members who have been missing since the Korean war, US officials have said. (*Guardian*)
- Chinese President Xi Jinping showed "strong support" for NK's stance on denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula and vowed to continuously play a "constructive role" in the process during his third summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in Beijing, the North's state media reported Wednesday morning. (Lee Sung-Eun, *Korea Joongang*)
- Chinese President Xi Jinping has voiced his strong support for North Korea's commitment to denuclearization and promised to keep playing a constructive role in the process, North Korean state media reported Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250720211744/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsthe-shocking-way-north-korea-would-kidnap-random-citizens-off-the-streetnorth-korea-to-hold-mass-games-for-first-time-in-five-years?e=8a9aae5198

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Thursday, June 21, 2018

Trump says NK has returned remains of 200 US war dead; US, S. Korean defense chiefs to discuss suspension of joint drills

In North Korea:
Kim Jong Un looks to the East for economic inspiration (CNN, 06/21/2018)
Kim Jong Un ends visit to China with a message for the US (CNN, 06/21/2018)

Kim thanks Xi for summit help (*Joongang*, 06/21/2018)
Kim, Xi discussed strategic cooperation: NK media (*Korea Times*, 06/21/2018)

In South Korea:
Moon, Medvedev vow joint efforts to establish peace, boost economic cooperation(*Yonhap*, 06/21/2018)
Moon promotes trilateral ties in Russia (*Joongang*, 06/21/2018)
S. Korea to change national identity from 'free democracy' to 'democracy' (*Yonhap*, 06/21/2018)
South Korean military halts own exercise after UFG suspension (*Korea Times*, 06/21/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Hana Financial's top executives set to visit N. Korea in August (*Yonhap*, 06/21/2018)
Inter-Korean tensions still fertile territory for films: Despite improved relations, the conflict remains a popular plotline (*Joongang*, 06/21/2018)
Koreas to discuss family reunions at Red Cross talks on Friday (*Korea Times*, 06/21/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korea has yet to send list of delegates to Red Cross meeting: Seoul official (*Yonhap*, 06/21/2018)
PM: Inter-Korean reconciliation to offer business opportunities for builders (*Yonhap*, 06/21/2018)
Seoul preps for meeting on family reunions (*Joongang*, 06/21/2018)
Two Koreas to discuss reunion of separated family members (UPI, 06/21/2018)

International:
Altering 'Korea Armistice' offers loophole for North Korea (*Korea Times*, 06/21/2018)
AP-NORC Poll: Majority approve of Trump's North Korea effort (*Washington Post*, 06/21/2018)
Arms control expert imagines the worst with North Korea (*Washington Post*, 06/21/2018)
As Kim Ends Beijing Visit, China and North Korea Craft New Messages (NYT, 06/20/2018)
China set to loosen sanctions on N. Korea after Kim's visit (*Yonhap*, 06/21/2018)
China to allow North Korea flights from Xi Jinping's ancestral province (UPI, 06/21/2018)
Commentary: The danger of Trump's decision on Korea 'war games' (*Reuters*, 06/21/2018)
Japan Cancels Missile Evacuation Drills (VOA, 06/21/2018)
Japan to halt missile attack drills after Trump-Kim summit: Kyodo (*Reuters*, 06/21/2018)
(LEAD) Mattis to visit Seoul next week for talks with S. Korean minister (*Yonhap*, 06/21/2018)
(LEAD) Trump: N. Korea has sent back remains of 200 U.S. soldiers (*Yonhap*, 06/21/2018)
No sign of North Korea dismantling nuclear weapons programme, Mattis admits(*Guardian*, 06/21/2018)
North Korea, China leaders agree to boost 'strategic, tactical' cooperation: KCNA(*Reuters*, 06/21/2018)
North Korea 'returns war dead', but no movement yet on nuclear weapons(*Telegraph*, 06/21/2018)
North Korea scraps anti-American souvenirs after summit, tour operators say(*Reuters*, 06/21/2018)
Pompeo may visit N. Korea this week or next: S. Korean lawmaker (*Yonhap*, 06/21/2018)
'The more things change...' (*Korea Times*, 06/21/2018)
Trump says North Korea has returned remains of 200 U.S. war dead (*Reuters*, 06/21/2018)
U.S. identifies North Korea missile test site it says Kim committed to destroy(*Reuters*, 06/21/2018)

U.S. Indo-Pacific commander assures Japan over North Korean denuclearization(*Reuters*, 06/21/2018)
US, S. Korean defense chiefs to discuss suspension of joint drills (*Korea Times*, 06/21/2018)
Yes, Kim Jong Un met President Trump. But China is still North Korea's most important ally. (*Washington Post*, 06/21/2018)

In North Korea:

- Touring Singaporean shipyards one day, visiting Chinese agricultural exhibitions and traffic control centers the next, KJU's engagement with the region has had a decidedly economic air of late. (Jamie Tarabay, CNN)
- KJU ended a celebratory visit to China's President Xi Jinping on Wed. with tea, praise, handshakes -- and a message for the US. (Zachary Cohen, CNN)
- The Korean Central News Agency said Kim thanked Xi for helping him with his summit with Trump on Jun. 12 in Singapore, and that the young leader was pleased with the "recently strengthened strategic cooperation" between China and NK. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang*)
- NK's state agency reported Thurs. its leader KJU and Chinese President Xi Jinping reaffirmed the states' alliance and pledged to boost "strategic cooperation" in a meeting in Beijing on Wed. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)

In South Korea:

- Moon and Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev agreed Thurs. to strengthen the countries' joint efforts to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula while also boosting their bilateral economic cooperation. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon urged Russia to join a Northeast Asian economic community amid "a historic paradigm shift on the Korean Peninsula" in a speech to the Russian legislature, the first by a S.Korean leader, in Moscow on Thurs. (Sarah Kim, *Joongang*)
- SK's government said Thurs. it will change the definition of its national and political system from "free democracy" to simply "democracy" in its new guidance for secondary school history textbooks. (*Yonhap*)
- SK has delayed an independent military exercise slated to begin later this month in efforts to ensure the smooth progress of the ongoing denuclearization and normalization talks with NK, according to the Ministry of National Defense. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Hana Financial Group CEO Kim Jung-tae and KEB Hana Bank chief Ham Young-joo plan to visit NK in Aug. at the communist country's invitation for an international youth football event, industry insiders said Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- The division of Korea is seen by many as a tragic part of the history of the peninsula. Many filmmakers over the past few decades have used the unique geopolitical situation to create

distinct stories about the tensions between the two Koreas. This year is no exception, as a slate of films depicting different elements of the relationship between the North and the South are set to hit theaters in upcoming months. (Jin Min-ji, *Joongang*)

- SK and NK will hold Red Cross talks at Mount Geumgang in the North, Fri. to discuss resuming reunions for families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- NK has yet to send SK the list of the members of its delegation to a Red Cross meeting on Thurs., one day before the talks are held to arrange a reunion of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War. (*Yonhap*)
- Prime Minister Lee Nak-yon said Thurs. he hopes reconciliation with NK will lead to business opportunities for construction firms, such as re-linking roads and railways across the heavily fortified border. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's delegation for an inter-Korean meeting discussing the reunion of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War departed Seoul on Thurs. for an overnight stay in Goseong County, Gangwon, before traveling to NK's Mount Kumgang, where the meeting is scheduled to be held today. (Lee Sung-eun, *Joongang*)
- SK will discuss organizing a North-South family reunion of those separated in the Korean War with the North on Fri. (Wooyung Lee, UPI)

International:

- Trump's move to alter the 1953 Korean armistice agreement could provide a loophole for NK to dodge sanctions, according to Tara O, an adjunct fellow at Pacific Forum. (Kim Jae-kyoung, *Korea Times*)
- A majority of Americans now approve of Trump's handling of US relations with NK, a change that comes after his historic summit with that country's leader, KJU. But most don't believe Kim is serious about addressing the international concerns about his country's nuclear weapons program. (AP)
- Trump no longer exchanges insults with KJU. But an arms control expert has some dark thoughts about the prospects for peace. (AP)
- Propaganda departments in China and NK were in full swing on Wed. as KJU concluded a two-day tour of China that painted the once-reclusive autocrat as a forward-looking leader. (Jane Perlez, NYT)
- China is apparently moving to ease sanctions on NK and strengthen bilateral economic cooperation, following KJU's most recent visit to Beijing. (*Yonhap*)
- China is developing stronger economic ties with NK following KJU's third visit to Beijing -- and the friendship is being commemorated with a symbolic flight route. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Trump's unexpected announcement that he was suspending joint US-S. Korean military exercises as part of negotiations with the North has caused consternation in Seoul as well as at the Pentagon. (Peter Apps, *Reuters*)

- Japan has decided to cancel evacuation drills staged to prepare the country for ballistic missile attacks from NK, citing the recent diplomatic thaw following last week's summit between KJU and Trump. (VOA)
- Japan has decided to halt evacuation drills to prepare for a potential N. Korean missile attack as tensions had eased following a historic summit between the leaders of the US and NK, Kyodo news agency reported on Thurs. (Reuters)
- The defense chiefs of SK and the US will hold talks in Seoul next week on the NK issue, Seoul's defense ministry announced Thurs. (Yonhap)
- Trump said Wed. that NK has sent back the remains of 200 American soldiers who were killed in the 1950-53 Korean War. (Yonhap)
- The US defense secretary, James Mattis, has said he is unaware of any steps taken by NK towards dismantling its nuclear weapons programme since the Singapore summit and does not expect any in the immediate future. (Julian Borger, Guardian)
- KJU and Chinese President Xi Jinping discussed measures to bolster "strategic and tactical" cooperation between the two countries in a second meeting on Wed., the North's state media said on Thurs. (Reuters)
- NK has yet to take any steps towards dismantling its nuclear weapons, James Mattis, the US defense secretary, confirmed on Wed. (Nicola Smith, Telegraph)
- In the wake of KJU's summit with Trump, anti-American souvenirs once sold on the N. Korean side of the Demilitarized Zone have disappeared from gift shop shelves, Western tour operators say. (Josh Smith, Reuters)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo may visit NK this weekend or next week in an effort to implement the outcome of last week's summit between the US and the North, a S. Korean opposition lawmaker said Thurs. (Yonhap)
- The most obvious lesson of the Singapore summit is that "complete denuclearization" is mission impossible. (Donald Kirk, Korea Times)
- Trump said NK had returned on Wed. the remains of 200 U.S. troops missing from the Korean War, although there was no official confirmation of the move from military authorities. (Reuters)
- The missile engine test site that Trump said KJU had committed to destroy is a major facility in the western part of the country that has been used for testing engines for long-range missiles, according to a US official. (Matt Spetalnick, Reuters)
- The US Indo-Pacific military commander told Japan's defense minister on Thurs. that Washington remained committed to the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of NK. (Reuters)
- US Defense Secretary James Mattis plans to visit Seoul next week to discuss follow-up measures for its recent decision to suspend a major joint military exercise with SK, the S. Korean Defense Ministry said Thurs. (Lee Min-hyung, Korea Times)
- This week, KJU made yet another surprise trip to China, his third in as many months. At the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, Kim and Chinese President Xi Jinping allegedly discussed denuclearization and other issues. (Amanda Erickson, Washington Post)

Prepared by Lauren Jackson, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250720211748/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-trump-says-nk-has-returned-remains-of-200-us-war-dead-us-s-korean-defense-chiefs-to-discuss-suspension-of-joint-drills?e=8a9aae5198

Friday, June 22, 2018

Kim Wins in Singapore; North, South Korea to hold reunions for families long separated by war

Top News:
Kim Wins in Singapore (*National Review*, 6/21/2018)

In North Korea:
Kim, Xi discuss strengthening tie: Pyongyang (*Korea Times*, 6/21/2018)
No Apparent Dismantlement Activities at Sohae Engine Test Site as of June 12 (*38 North*, 6/21/2018)
North Korea: A sacred mountain and other ideologies - video (*BBC*, 6/22/2018)
North Korea has a massive air force — here's why it's basically a joke (*Business Insider*, 6/21/2018)
North Korea Has a Massive Submarine Force. Here's Why It's Basically a Joke.(*National Interest*, 6/21/2018)
North Korea media tone down anti-US rhetoric (*Financial Times*, 6/21/2018)
North Koreans defy mobilization orders for Wonsan-Kalma Shore Tourist Zone construction (*Daily NK*, 6/22/2018)
Regime tightened control over key personnel prior to US-NK summit (*Daily NK*, 6/22/2018)

In South Korea:
NIS warns of scams with old North Korean cash (*Korea Joongang*, 6/22/2018)
Old North Korean money fraud alarms spy agency (*Korea Times*, 6/22/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
2 Koreas Meet to Arrange Reunions of War-Split Families (NYT, 6/21/2018)
(2nd LD) Koreas holding Red Cross talks to discuss family reunion, humanitarian issues (*Yonhap*, 6/22/2018)
(5th LD) Koreas agree to hold family reunions in August (*Yonhap*, 6/22/2018)
AP Explains: Reunions between Korean families divided by war (*Washington Post*, 6/22/2018)
As relations improve, South's banks see profits (*Korea Joongang*, 6/22/2018)
Creating a peaceful DMZ (*Korea Joongang*, 6/22/2018)
Ex-S. Korean Olympic table tennis champion 'pleased' to participate in friendly tournament with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 6/22/2018)

Family reunions on divided Korean Peninsula to resume in latest outreach(*Washington Post*, 6/22/2018)
Koreas exchange delegation lists ahead of Red Cross meeting (*Yonhap*, 6/22/2018)
North-South Korea reunions confirmed as time runs out for long-lost elderly relatives(*Telegraph*, 6/22/2018)
North and South Korea agree to resume rare family reunions (*BBC*, 6/22/2018)
North and South Korea agree to round of reunions of divided families (*Reuters*, 6/21/2018)
North, South Korea talk reuniting families split by war (*UPI*, 6/22/2018)
North, South Korea to hold reunions for families long separated by war (CNN, 6/22/2018)
Rare historic photos of Korean War you should not miss [PHOTOS] (*Korea Times*, 6/22/2018)
Rival Koreas agree to August reunions of war-split families (*Washington Post*, 6/22/2018)
South, North agree on separated family reunion in August (*Korea Joongang*, 6/22/2018)
Two Koreas hold Red Cross talks (*Korea Times*, 6/22/2018)

International:
10 firms suspected of illicitly diverting funds to North Korea (*Mainichi*, 6/22/2018)
(2nd LD) Moon, Putin vow efforts to launch FTA talks, boost cooperation (*Yonhap*, 6/22/2018)
A need to verify NKorea nuclear pledges (*Washington Post*, 6/22/2018)
'A wound that never heals': families wait for North Korea to return their war dead(*Guardian*, 6/21/2018)
Analysts: Don't Rush North Korea Denuclearization (VOA, 6/22/2018)
Arms Control Expert Imagines the Worst With North Korea (NYT, 6/21/2018)
Breaking the News Frame Of Trump's Nuclear Diplomacy (*38 North*, 6/21/2018)
China to Allow North Korea Airline to Fly Between Xi'an and Pyongyang: Media(NYT, 6/21/2018)
Chinese border town awaits North Korea trade thaw (*Financial Times*, 6/22/2018)
Chinese firms rush to N. Korea to discuss economic cooperation (*Yonhap*, 6/22/2018)
Ex-U.S. nuclear envoy says military drill suspension is 'powerful' confidence-building measure (*Yonhap*, 6/22/2018)
How To Make A North Korea Deal Work (*Huffington Post*, 6/21/2018)
'Inadequate agreement' or 'mutual will'? (*Daily NK*, 6/21/2018)
Japan confirms missile evacuations drills 'postponed' (UPI, 6/22/2018)
Japan tells banks to report suspicious transfers by JVs with North Korea: sources(*Reuters*, 6/21/2018)
Moon and Putin discuss possible projects (*Korea Joongang*, 6/22/2018)
Northeast Asia economic cooperative invites North Korea to join (UPI, 6/22/2018)
NK Pledges to Destroy Missile Test Engine Site (NYT, 6/21/2018)
Peace plays: How foreign companies have lost a bundle in North Korea (*Reuters*, 6/21/2018)
Pompeo plans North Korea meeting at 'earliest possible date': U.S. spokeswoman(*Reuters*, 6/21/2018)
Pro-N.K. paper warns unilateral demand for denuclearization won't work (*Yonhap*, 6/22/2018)
Remains of U.S. War Dead Being Returned From North Korea: Trump (NYT, 6/21/2018)
Repatriating remains (*Korea Joongang*, 6/22/2018)
South Korean president in Russia to boost economic ties (*Washington Post*, 6/22/2018)
Trump: 200 US soldiers remains returned from Pyongyang (*Korea Times*, 6/21/2018)
Trump claims success, but North hasn't budged (*Korea Joongang*, 6/22/2018)
Trump misrepresents North Korea nuclear agreement (CNN, 6/21/2018)

Trump: N.Korea Blowing Up Test Sites, 'Total Denuclearization ... Has Already Started' (VOA, 6/21/2018)
Trump: North Korea blows up 4 missile engine test sites (*Korea Times*, 6/22/2018)
Trump: North Korea 'Total Denuclearization' Started; Officials See No New Moves(NYT, 6/21/2018)
Trump officially declares North Korea still a threat, despite his claim after historic summit (*Washington Post*, 6/22/2018)
U.S. Indo-Pacific Commander Assures Japan Over North Korean Denuclearization(NYT, 6/21/2018)

Top News:

- Like it or not, this is a triumph of statecraft. To succeed in the effort that culminated last year — in the testing of a hydrogen bomb and an intercontinental ballistic missile capable of striking the US mainland — NK had to thwart a world community overwhelmingly opposed to its nuclear intentions. That meant gaming the great powers, not to mention most of the rest of the international community, for decades on end. (Nicholas Eberstadt, *National Review*)

In North Korea:

- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and Chinese President Xi Jinping discussed ways to further strengthen strategic and tactical cooperation in their latest talks, North Korean state media reported Thursday. (*Korea Times*)
- Commercial satellite imagery of North Korea's Sohae Satellite Launching Station from June 12 shows no apparent activity related to dismantlement of its rocket engine test stand. (*38 North*)
- What is juche, why do North Koreans revere a mountain, and why do they call themselves a special name? (Hyung Eun Kim, Tessa Wong, Jilla Dastmalchi, BBC)
- North Korea has a massive air force that outnumbers the South Korean and US jets it's meant to counter mostly with Russian-made fighters and bombers. North Korea's jets are old, however, and could be easily jammed by the US and South Korea. (Alex Lockie, *Business Insider*)
- North Korea's reliance on submarines exposes a harsh reality for the country: U.S. and South Korean naval and air forces are now so overwhelmingly superior that the only viable way for Pyongyang's navy to survive is to go underwater. While minimally capable versus the submarine fleets of other countries, NK does get a great deal of use out of them. (Kyle Mizokami, *National Interest*)
- Following a landmark summit between Pyongyang and Washington on June 12, anti-US vitriol has disappeared from state media reports — a development that some analysts see as preparing North Koreans for a new era in relations between the two long-time adversaries. (Bryan Harris, *Financial Times*)
- All organizations are taking part in labor mobilization and businesses have additionally assigned two people each to the construction effort because there were not enough storm troops for labor. However, the problem is that even though the authorities are trying to

expedite the construction of the Wonsan-Kalma Shore Tourist Zone, residents are objecting to mobilization. (Daily NK)

- Prior to his departure to Singapore for the historic US-NK summit, KJU took measures to reduce the possibility of a political crisis during his absence, taking several drastic preventive measures including the confiscation of mobile phones from high-ranking officials. (Ha Yoon Ah, *Daily NK*)

In South Korea:

- The National Intelligence Service (NIS) said crime rings in China and Southeast Asia have secured massive amounts of old North Korean bills and are trying to sell them on the premise that their value will jump once North Korea denuclearizes and its economy develops. (*Korea Joongang*)
- South Korea's spy agency on Thursday alerted the public to overseas fraud schemes selling defunct North Korean money, taking advantage of the country's recent move to reach out to the international community. (*Korea Times*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- North and South Korean officials met Friday for talks on resuming reunions of families divided by the 1950-53 Korean War as the rivals boost reconciliation amid a diplomatic push to resolve the North Korean nuclear crisis. (NYT)
- The two Koreas are holding Red Cross talks on Friday to discuss organizing a reunion of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War and other humanitarian issues. (*Yonhap*)
- The two Koreas agreed Friday to hold reunions of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War from Aug. 20-26 in the latest reconciliatory move between the two countries. (*Yonhap*)
- North and South Korean officials agreed Friday to hold highly emotional temporary reunions in August of families separated since the 1950-53 Korean War. A look at key issues. (Hyung-Jin Kim, *Washington Post*)
- The country's financial institutions believe that thawing relations with North Korea could lead into large-scale infrastructure projects, and are opening dedicated research and investment divisions to prepare for them. (Park Eun-Jee, *Korea Joongang*)
- The DMZ is an ironic land that has preserved endangered plants and animals at a price of symbolizing a painful war. Just like Germany's Grünes Band, a blueprint needs to be prepared for reconciliation and life. (Kim Nam-Joong, *Korea Joongang*)
- Former South Korean Olympic table tennis champion Ryu Seung-min said Friday he is "pleased" to participate in a friendly tournament with North Korea. (*Yonhap*)
- Reunions of families separated since the Korean War will resume in August as part of fast-moving engagement between NK and SK that has already led to breakthroughs including a military hotline linking the two countries, Red Cross envoys said Friday after meetings in NK. (Brian Murphy, Min Joo Kim, *Washington Post*)

- SK and NK have exchanged the lists of the members of their delegations to an upcoming Red Cross meeting which will focus on discussing on a set of humanitarian issues, including holding a reunion of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War. (Yonhap)
- Delegations from North and South Korea agreed on Friday to arrange the first reunions in three years of some of the families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War. (Telegraph)
- NK and SK have agreed to resume reunions for families who were separated when the Korean War sealed the border between two nations. Millions were separated from loved ones by the 1950-1953 conflict, with many dying before they could be reunited. (BBC)
- Delegations from North and South Korea agreed on Friday to arrange the first reunions in three years of some of the families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War. (Joyce Lee, Reuters)
- Representatives of North and South Korea met at a resort in the North's Mount Kumkang on Friday to discuss plans for a reunion of family members separated during the Korean War. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- NK and SK agreed on Friday to allow families who were separated during the Korean War to meet in August -- the first such reunions since 2015. Each side will choose 100 people to meet at the scenic Mount Kumgang resort in NK from August 20 to 26, according to a statement released by the South Korean Unification Ministry. (Yoonjung Seo, Laura Smith-Spark, CNN)
- Rare photos of the Korean War (Korea Times)
- North and South Korea agreed Friday to hold temporary reunions of families divided by the 1950-53 Korean War as they boost reconciliation efforts amid a diplomatic push to resolve the North Korean nuclear crisis. (Kim Tong-Hyung, Washington Post)
- SK and NK agreed Friday to hold a reunion of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War from Aug. 20 to 26 on Mount Kumgang, an iconic mountain just north of the inter-Korean border along the east coast. (Lee Sung-Eun, Korea Joongang)
- The two Koreas are set to hold a Red Cross meeting on Friday to discuss a set of humanitarian issues, including holding a reunion of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War, amid a thaw in inter-Korean relations. (Korea Times)

International:

- Ten joint venture companies formed by Japanese and North Korean firms and organizations may be involvement in illicit diversion of funds to NK, a UNSC investigation has found. (Takashi Narumi, Mainichi)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in and Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed Friday to work to launch negotiations for a free trade agreement (FTA) between their countries. In a summit held in Moscow, the leaders agreed to initiate "local processes" to allow the start of FTA talks. (Yonhap)
- The Trump administration on Thursday identified the missile test engine site that it says NK has pledged to destroy, but the president's latest comments about resolving the nuclear standoff have raised new questions about what concessions Pyongyang has made. (Deb Riechmann, Matthew Pennington, Washington Post)

- Rising expectations that the Pyongyang regime will hand over the remains of some of the American dead from the Korean war have reawakened cautious hope among surviving relatives. (Julian Borger, *Guardian*)
- The U.S. insistence on the complete denuclearization of North Korea could work against America's interests as political pressure mounts to make rapid progress, analysts say. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- President Trump no longer exchanges insults with North Korean leader KJU. But an arms control expert has some dark thoughts about the prospects for peace. (NYT)
- The framing of Trump's nuclear diplomacy led reporters to stick to "he said, she said" journalism, quoting first the president, then his critics, instead of trying to dog down the missing details. (Leon V. Sigal, *38 North*)
- China will allow North Korea's Air Koryo to offer flights between Xi'an and Pyongyang from July, the state-run Xi'an Evening News reported on Thursday, citing the central Chinese city's tourism authority. (NYT)
- Perched just inside China, across a bend in the Tumen River and the North Korean border, sit 1.5 square kilometres of sleek new warehouses, containers and loading docks belonging to Hunchun Posco Hyundai Logistics International. With $100m invested so far, the joint venture, is a massive bet on warming relations between China and North Korea. (Charles Clover, Sherry Fei Ju, Song Jung-A, *Financial Times*)
- Chinese companies are rushing to NK to explore opportunities for economic cooperation and investment amid growing signs of China loosening sanctions on the North in exchange for its repeated denuclearization pledges, sources said Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- A former U.S. nuclear negotiator on Friday dismissed concerns about the recent decision by Seoul and Washington to suspend their major summertime military exercise, calling it a "powerful" measure to build confidence with North Korea. (Song Sang-Ho, *Yonhap*)
- President Donald Trump's Singapore summit with KJU yielded very little in terms of firm denuclearization commitments from North Korea. It delivered nothing on human rights. In fact, the non-binding joint communique marking the summit didn't even mention human rights. (Param-Preet Singh, *Huffington Post*)
- Although the summit agreement itself may not have lived up to expectations, the leaders of both countries showed their will to open a new path. It should be noted, however, that the will of individuals can be less reliable than a substantiated document in the form of an agreement. (Ahn Jong Sik, *Daily NK*)
- The Japanese government confirmed Friday it will cancel future missile evacuation drills involving civilians, but announcements over the satellite-based J-Alert system would continue. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Japan's financial regulator has told the country's banks to report any suspicious money transfers involving 10 Japan-North Korea joint ventures, two people with direct knowledge of the matter said on Friday. (Takahiko Wada, *Reuters*)
- Korean President Moon Jae-in and Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday agreed to pursue potential trilateral economic cooperation involving the two Koreas and Russia in railroads, electricity and natural gas at a summit meeting in Moscow, an economic blueprint premised on North Korea following through on its denuclearization promises. (Kang Jin-Kyu, *Korea Joongang*)

- Member states of a multilateral Northeast Asian economic partnership agreed to invite NK, nine years after Pyongyang withdrew from the organization. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- The Trump administration on Thursday identified the missile test engine site that it says North Korea has pledged to destroy, but the president's latest comments about resolving the nuclear standoff have raised new questions about what concessions Pyongyang has made. (NYT)
- As companies from SS to Russia and China again look to cash in on easing tensions with Pyongyang, Samsung's now defunct businesses in Pyongyang and hundreds of similar failed joint ventures underline NK's status as one of the world's highest-risk investment destinations. (Ju-Min Park, Jane Chung, *Reuters*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo plans to meet with North Korean officials "at the earliest possible date" to implement the outcome of the recent leaders' summit, a State Department spokeswoman said on Thursday. (*Reuters*)
- A pro-North Korean newspaper in Japan said Friday that a "unilateral" demand for the denuclearization of North Korea won't work, calling for greater efforts to fundamentally improve the North's relations with the United States. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump said on Thursday the remains of U.S. troops missing from the Korean War were in the process of being returned to the United States from North Korea, correcting a statement he made a day earlier. (NYT)
- The US media reported that NK would send back the remains of as many as 200 US soldiers who were prisoners of war. But Trump announced that the U.S. had already received the remains of those soldiers. It was not yet confirmed if the remains had really been returned or if a repatriation process has just begun. (*Korea Joongang*)
- Following Moon's talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in the Kremlin, officials from the two countries signed agreements on cooperation in various economic projects, energy, transport and innovative technologies. (*Washington Post*)
- US President Donald Trump said Wednesday that NK has sent back the remains of 200 American soldiers who were killed in the 1950-53 Korean War. The repatriation is part of an agreement Trump signed with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un at their historic summit in Singapore last week. (*Korea Times*)
- In cabinet meetings and on the stump, US President Donald Trump has been playing up his agreement with North Korean leader KJU, bragging that the reclusive country's denuclearization is already starting. But other government officials, including his closest aides in the West Wing, have said there is no evidence of such activity since the two leaders' landmark summit on June 12. (Lee Sung-Eun, *Korea Joongang*)
- US President Donald Trump offered a misleading characterization of his deal with North Korean dictator KJU on Thursday, insisting the nation had agreed to begin "total denuclearization" right away. (Kevin Liptak, Joshua Berlinger, CNN)
- US President Donald Trump said on Thursday that NK was blowing up four of its big test sites and that a process of "total denuclearization ... has already started taking place." (VOA)
- US President Donald Trump said Thursday that NK has already destroyed four of its big test sites on the road to "total denuclearization." (*Korea Times*)

- US President Donald Trump said on Thursday NK was blowing up four of its big test sites and that a process of "total denuclearization ... has already started," but officials said there was no such evidence since a landmark summit last week. (NYT)
- President Trump cited an “unusual and extraordinary threat” to U.S. national security as he acted Friday to maintain long-standing economic restrictions on North Korea, including the freezing of any assets in the United States. (Anne Gearan, *Washington Post*)
- The U.S. Indo-Pacific military commander told Japan's defense minister on Thursday that Washington remained committed to the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of North Korea. (NYT)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250720212027/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-kim-wins-in-singapore-north-south-korea-to-hold-reunions-for-families-long-separated-by-war?e=8a9aae5198

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Saturday, June 23, 2018

US Withdraws from UN Human Rights Council Which Played a Critical Role in Pressing the DPRK on Human Rights

Top News:
U.S. Withdraws from UN Human Rights Council Which Played a Critical Role in Pressing the DPRK on Human Rights (KEI, 06/22/2018)

In North Korea:
A new oath and Kim Jong Un’s leadership grooming (*Daily*NK, 06/23/2018)
N. Korea media reports on family reunion agreement with South (*Yonhap*, 06/23/2018)
North Korea Exploits Teenage Labor Force to Earn Foreign Currency (RFA, 06/22/2018)
North Korean propaganda changes its tune (BBC, 06/23/2018)

In South Korea:
As relations improve, South’s banks see profits (*Yonhap*, 06/23/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) Koreas to hold military talks on restoring communication lines (*Yonhap*, 06/23/2018)
North-South Korea reunions confirmed as time runs out for long-lost elderly relatives(*Telegraph*, 06/23/2018)
South, North agree on separated family reunion in August (*Korea Joongang Daily*, 06/23/2018)

The Two Koreas Agree to Hold Reunions of Families Divided by War (NYT, 06/22/2018)

International:

(2nd LD) U.S. sends wooden cases to inter-Korean border for return of soldiers' remains (*Yonhap*, 06/23/2018)
Defectors' views on Kim-Trump summit (*Korea Times*, 06/23/2018)
Donald Trump flips on North Korea, declaring country still an 'extraordinary threat'(*Guardian*, 06/23/2018)
Donald Trump says North Korea still poses 'extraordinary threat' as he extends sanctions for a year (*Telegraph*, 06/23/2018)
Identifying U.S. troops returned from North Korea may be challenging: experts(*Reuters*, 06/23/2018)
Is North Korea a Nuclear Threat or Not? The President Now Says It Is (NYT,06/22/2018)
Moon, Putin vow joint efforts to denuclearize N. Korea, boost economic ties(*Yonhap*, 06/23/2018)
Pentagon indefinitely suspends some training exercises with South Korea (*Reuters*, 06/23/2018)
[ROUNDTABLE] North Korea: Why are we so impatient? (*Korea Times*, 06/23/2018)
Trump claims success, but North hasn't budged (*Korea Joongang Daily*, 06/23/2018)
Trump extends sanctions on N. Korea for 1 year (*Yonhap*, 06/23/2018)
Trump says North Korea still 'extraordinary threat' (*BBC*, 06/23/2018)
U.S. 'indefinitely' suspends select military exercises with S. Korea (*Yonhap*, 06/23/2018)
US moves 100 coffins to inter-Korean border for war remains (*Washington Post*, 06/23/2018)
US preparing in DMZ for return of troop remains from North Korea (CNN, 06/23/2018)
US prepares for North Korea's return of American war remains (*Guardian*, 06/23/2018)
US suspends military exercises with South Korea after Singapore summit (CNN, 06/23/2018

Top News:

- HRNK board member Ambassador Robert R. King, wrote an article published by KEI about the US withdrawal from the UN Human Rights Council. Ambassador King stated, "From the perspective of American efforts to press NK on its human rights abuses, our withdrawal from participation in the UN Human Rights Council reduces our influence in the most important international organization shaping international efforts against human rights abuses in the North." (Robert King, KEI)

In North Korea:

- Recent news from NK reveals that the content and format of an oath of allegiance, which had remained unchanged for over 40 years, has now been revised. There is little mention of Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-il and only a brief description of their will and spirit, while a verse swearing loyalty to the ideology and leadership of KJU was added. (Jo Hyon, *DailyNK*)
- N. Korean state media on Saturday reported on an agreement with SK to hold reunions of families separated by the Korean War but didn't provide dates and other details. (*Yonhap*)

- New trade flows between NK and China are leading to the exploitation of children hired at low wages in NK to work in factories assembling goods for sale across the border, N. Korean sources say. (Hyemin Son, Leejin Jun, Richard Finney, RFA)
- Banners and posters displayed across the capital and other towns have typically featured the US as a brutal imperialist aggressor and SK or Japan as Washington's willing allies. But visitors to the country say they've seen those posters replaced by propaganda pushing economic progress and the inter-Korean rapprochement.

In South Korea:

- The country's financial institutions believe that thawing relations with NK could lead into large-scale infrastructure projects, and are opening dedicated research and investment divisions to prepare for them. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- SK and NK will hold working-level military talks next week on fully reconnecting bilateral communication lines, Seoul's defense ministry said Sat. (*Yonhap*)
- Delegations from NK and SK agreed on Fri. to arrange the first reunions in three years of some of the families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War. (*Telegraph*)
- SK and NK agreed Fri. to hold a reunion of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War from Aug. 20 to 26 on Mount Kumgang, an iconic mountain just north of the inter-Korean border along the east coast. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- NK and SK agreed to hold temporary reunions in Aug. of families separated by the Korean War, officials said on Fri., a sign of improving ties between the countries. (Choe Sang-hun, NYT)

International:

- The US military moved 100 wooden "temporary transit cases" to the inter-Korean border on Sat. in preparation to receive the remains of soldiers killed in the 1950-53 Korean War. (*Yonhap*)
- Casey Lartigue Jr., co-founder of the Teach North Korean Refugees Global Education Center, compiled statements about the Kim-Trump summit from interviews with refugees studying in TNKR. (Case Lartigue Jr., *Korea Times*)
- Trump has declared that NK still poses an "extraordinary threat" to the US, just days after saying that the country's nuclear program no longer constituted a danger. (AP)
- Trump on Fri. cited "an unusual and extraordinary threat" from NK's nuclear arsenal to extend sanctions on KJU's regime. (Agence France-Presse, *Telegraph*)
- The US military will face a difficult task in identifying the remains of soldiers missing from the Korean War as the Pentagon prepares to receive them from NK in coming days, officials and experts said. (Daphne Psaledakis, *Reuters*)

- The gulf between Trump's rhetoric and a thorny geopolitical reality widened a bit further on Fri., when the White House said it would extend a decade-old executive order declaring a national emergency over the nuclear threat from NK. (Katie Rogers, NYT)
- Moon and Russian President Vladimir Putin on Fri. reaffirmed their joint efforts to peacefully denuclearize the Korean Peninsula, also vowing efforts to expand the countries' economic cooperation. (*Yonhap*)
- The US and SK have agreed to indefinitely suspend two exchange program training exercises, the Pentagon said on Fri., in the aftermath of the summit earlier this month between Trump and KJU. (Idrees Ali, *Reuters*)
- We live, it must be said, in an impatient age. And, in our impatient world, S. Koreans are among the worst offenders, famous for their bballi-bballi approach to everything from wallpapering the lounge to becoming experts in shipbuilding and smartphones. But when it comes to North Korea, southerners know the necessity of patience. (Michael Breen, *Korea Times*)
- In cabinet meetings and on the stump, Trump has been playing up his agreement with KJU, bragging that the reclusive country's denuclearization is already starting. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- Trump on Fri. extended sanctions on NK for a year, citing the "unusual and extraordinary" threat posed by its nuclear weapons program. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump has renewed sanctions on NK, citing an "extraordinary threat" from its nuclear weapons - just 10 days after saying there was no risk from Pyongyang. (BBC)
- The US Department of Defense said Fri. it has "indefinitely" suspended select military exercises with SK to support negotiations to dismantle NK's nuclear weapons program. (*Yonhap*)
- The US military said it moved 100 wooden coffins to the inter-Korean border on Sat. to prepare for NK's returning of the remains of American soldiers who have been missing since the 1950-53 Korean War. (AP)
- About 100 wooden transport cases are being sent to the Demilitarized Zone, starting Sat., to prepare for receiving US troop remains from NK, a representative for US Forces Korea said. (Jungeun Kim, CNN)
- The US military said on Sat. it was moving "assets" to an air base near Seoul and to the border with NK, to prepare for the return by Pyongyang of the remains of US soldiers missing since the Korean war ended in an armistice in 1953. (*Guardian*)
- The US will suspend a number of military exercises with SK that were due to take place over coming months, amid ongoing negotiations with NK, the US Department of Defense announced on Fri. (Ben Westcott, Ryan Browne, CNN)

Prepared by Lauren Jackson, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250720212040/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-us-withdraws-from-un-human-rights-council-which-played-a-critical-role-in-pressing-the-dprk-on-human-rights?e=8a9aae5198

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Sunday, June 24, 2018

Malaysia to reopen embassy in Pyongyang; Two Koreas to discuss reconnecting military hotline

In North Korea:
Kim Jong-un 'erases his father and grandfather' from new mandatory national oath(*Telegraph*, 6/23/2018)
N.K. media call for faithful implementation of Trump-Kim summit agreement(*Yonhap*, 6/24/2018)
N. Koreans hail Kim Jong-un after Trump summit (*Korea Times*, 6/24/2018)
North Korea keen about environmental protection (*Korea Times*, 6/24/2018)
North Korea sticks with 'new era' pledge despite Trump's reversal over nuclear threat level (*Washington Post*, 6/23/2018)
North Korea's mass gymnastics performances to resume after five years (*Daily* NK, 6/24/2018)

In South Korea:
Ex-S. Korean Premier Kim Jong-Pil, Spy Agency Founder, Dies (NYT, 6/22/2018)
Home sweet home (*Korea Joongang Daily*, 6/24/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
[JEJU FORUM] Envoys review diplomacy's role in inter-Korean affairs (*Korea Joongang Daily*, 6/24/2018)
[JEJU FORUM] Timing is perfect for forum on peace (*Korea Joongang Daily*, 6/24/2018)
Pyongyang media call for S. Korea to scrap N. Korean human rights act, foundation(*Yonhap*, 6/24/2018)
South Korean President Considering Joint 2030 World Cup Bid With North Korea(*Forbes*, 6/24/2018)
Two Koreas to discuss reconnecting military hotline (*Korea Times*, 6/24/2018)

International:
68 years after the Korean War, hundreds of US families are still searching for closure(CNN, 6/24/2018)
Germany belatedly recognized as participating nation in Korean War (*Korea Times*, 6/22/2018)
Is China loosening noose on North Korea? (*Korea Times*, 6/24/2018)
[JEJU FORUM] Global Advisory Committee evaluates flurry of summits (*Korea Joongang Daily*, 6/24/2018)
[JEJU FORUM] Moon, Zelikow to discuss strategies for peace (*Korea Joongang Daily*, 6/24/2018)
[JEJU FORUM] Ramos-Horta: 'There are no shortcuts to peace' (*Korea Joongang Daily*, 6/24/2018)
[JEJU FORUM] World leaders convene in Jeju to build peace (*Korea Joongang Daily*, 6/24/2018)

Long before the Trump-Kim summit, US-based group sowed seeds of peace in North Korea (CNBC, 6/24/2018)
Malaysia to reopen embassy in Pyongyang (*Korea Times*, 6/24/2018)
Putin, Moon Agree That Trump-Kim Summit to Help Denuclearization (NYT, 6/22/2018)
Return of US Korean War Vets' Remains Draws Nearer (VOA, 6/23/2018)
Singapore says Trump-Kim summit cost just $12 million, after some question expenses (*Reuters*, 6/24/2018)
South, U.S. suspend more exercises (*Korea Joongang Daily*, 6/24/2018)
Trump extends sanctions on Pyongyang for 1 year (*Korea Times*, 6/23/2018)
U.S. prepares to retrieve remains (*Korea Joongang Daily*, 6/24/2018)
U.S. sends coffins to N. Korea border to retrieve war remains (UPI, 6/23/2018)
US to send 215 caskets to Pyongyang for remains of soldiers killed in Korean War(*Korea Times*, 6/23/2018)

In North Korea:

- KJU, the North Korean leader, has introduced a new national oath playing down the achievements of his father and grandfather and instead praising his own ideology and leadership. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- North Korea's media called Sunday for the faithful implementation of this month's summit agreement with the US, as the communist state appears set to repatriate the remains of American troops killed during the 1950-53 Korean War. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean citizens are hailing their leader KJU for successfully holding the June 12 summit with U.S. President Donald Trump in Singapore, according to sources familiar with Pyongyang. (Yi Whan-Woo, *Korea Times*)
- NK is interested in protection of migratory birds and conservation of wetlands and forests, according to an international environmental organization. (Yi Whan-Woo, *Korea Times*)
- NK appeared unwilling Sunday to respond harshly after President Trump reversed course to declare it still a threat, pledging that its leader Kim Jong Un's regime seeks a “new era” with the US but offering no specific plans toward dismantling its nuclear program. (Brian Murphy, Washington Post)
- On September 9, which marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the North Korean regime, North Korea’s mass gymnastics performances are resuming for the first time in five years. Travel packages are being offered for the event, with some costing up to five million KRW. (Moon Dong Hui, *Daily NK*)

In South Korea:

- Kim Jong-pil, the founder of South Korea's spy agency whose political skills helped him also serve twice as prime minister, first under his dictator boss and later under a man his agency kidnapped, has died. He was 92. (NYT)
- Moon’s state visit was the first by a South Korean president to Russia since 1999. In a summit meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Moon sought his support in denuclearizing NK and bolstering economic ties with SK. (*Korea Joongang Daily*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- On the heels of the historic inter-Korean summit and the first US-NK summit earlier this month, a group of diplomats, in the spirit of the momentum of dialogue, will discuss the path toward denuclearization and a permanent peace arrangement during the Ambassadors' Roundtable at this year's Jeju Forum. (*Korea Joongang Daily*)
- There is no better time to talk about peace on the Korean Peninsula, according to Suh Chung-ha, executive chairman of the Jeju Forum for Peace and Prosperity, which begins just two weeks after the historic US-NK summit. (*Korea Joongang Daily*)
- North Korea's state media on Sunday demanded the abolishment of South Korea's human rights act and a foundation dedicated to its enforcement, arguing they only hamper efforts to improve cross-border ties. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon sat with FIFA boss Gianni Infantino to watch South Korea's two-one loss to Mexico, and according to South Korea media, he reconfirmed his intention of SK joint-hosting the World Cup in 2030. President Moon had previously mentioned his intentions when Infantino visited Seoul last year. (Steve Price, *Forbes*)
- Starting next week, the two Koreas plan to hold working-level negotiations to realize the April 27 Panmunjeom Declaration. On Monday, Seoul and Pyongyang will hold colonel-level talks about restoring suspended military communication channels on the eastern and western inter-Korean border area. (Lee Min-Hyung, Korea Times)

International:

- The remains of thousands of US soldiers are still in NK, despite decades of effort by families and the US military to repatriate them. The remains of many more thousands of soldiers in North Korea are as yet unaccounted for and, with even the children of Korean War soldiers aged in their 60s, for some time is quickly running out. (James Griffiths, CNN)
- Germany has been belatedly classified among the participating nations in the Korean War, as South Korea has added the European country to the list of countries that provided medical assistance during the 1950-53 war, government officials said Friday. (*Korea Times*)
- China appears to be easing sanctions on North Korea, while stepping up efforts to resume economic cooperation, according to sources familiar with Pyongyang. The sources said last week Chinese customs are turning a blind eye to the flow of banned goods across the Pyongyang-Beijing border. (Yi Whan-Woo, *Korea Times*)
- The Jeju Forum's Global Advisory Committee, a group of experts and advisers from China, Korea, Japan, India, Indonesia, Singapore, Australia and the United States, will meet for its inaugural session this year. Their session will focus the implications of the series of summits between the leaders of the two Koreas, the US and China. (*Korea Joongang Daily*)
- Moon Chung-in, special adviser for unification, diplomacy and national security affairs for South Korean President Moon Jae-in, and Philip D. Zelikow, a former American diplomat and director of the University of Virginia's Miller Center of Public Affairs, will hold a dialogue on strategies for creating a peace regime on the Korean Peninsula following key summits in April and June with NK. (Korea Joongang Daily)

- Jose Ramos-Horta, the former president of Timor-Leste and recipient of the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize, says there are “no shortcuts to peace” when it comes to the Korean Peninsula, even as NK and the US appear to be heading toward a deal on denuclearization. (*Korea Joongang Daily*)
- Amid rapidly shifting regional dynamics following key breakthroughs paving the way to a permanent peace regime on the Korean Peninsula, some 5,500 people from 70 countries will gather this week for the 13th Jeju Forum for Peace and Prosperity, to discuss this year’s theme, “Reengineering Peace for Asia.” (*Korea Joongang Daily*)
- American Friends Service Committee has operated a program on the ground in NK continuously since 1998 focused on increasing agricultural production. Specifically, the group's goal is greater production of corn and boosting the productivity of rice farming. (Jeff Daniels, CNBC)
- Malaysia is geared toward reopening its embassy in NK, after their relations were strained by the assassination of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's estranged half-brother at Kuala Lumpur International Airport in February 2017. (Yi Whan-Woo, *Korea Times*)
- Russian President Vladimir Putin and South Korean President Moon Jae-in agreed on Friday to support "efforts to establish complete denuclearization on the Korean peninsula" following the US-NK summit last week. (NYT)
- The U.S. military has relocated wooden coffins containing the remains of 100 American soldiers who have been missing from the 1950-53 Korean War to the inter-Korean border in preparation for North Korea's eventual return of the remains to their home country. (VOA)
- Singapore said on Sunday it spent S$16.3 million ($12 million) on hosting the summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader KJU, less than earlier reports that had angered some locals. (*Reuters*)
- The South Korean and U.S. militaries have agreed to suspend two marine exercises that were scheduled to occur in the coming months, the Pentagon said on Friday, in another major concession to NK after the two allies called off the Freedom Guardian exercise last week. (Lee Sung-Eun, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- US President Donald Trump on Friday extended sanctions on NK for a year, citing the "unusual and extraordinary" threat posed by its nuclear weapons program. (*Korea Times*)
- The U.S. military sent 100 wooden caskets to NK over the weekend to retrieve the remains of American soldiers killed during the 1950-53 Korean War, South Korean military officials said on Sunday. (Lee Sung-Eun, Jeong Yong-Soo, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- The U.S. Defense Department has sent 100 coffins to the North Korean border in preparation to receive remains of U.S. soldiers killed during the Korean War from 1950-53, according to the United Nations. (Allen Cone, UPI)
- The U.S. military plans to send 215 empty caskets to NS via the inter-Korean border on Saturday to get back the remains of American soldiers killed during the Korean War, a South Korean military official said. (*Korea Times*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:

https://web.archive.org/web/20250720212701/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-malaysia-to-reopen-embassy-in-pyongyang-two-koreas-to-discuss-reconnecting-military-hotline?e=8a9aae5198

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Monday, June 25, 2018

North Korea Skips Annual Anti-US Rally; US to give North Korea post-summit timeline with 'asks' soon

In North Korea:
In Sign of Detente, North Korea Skips Annual Anti-US Rally (AP, 06/25/2018)
N.K. media stress trust building as U.S. extends sanctions (*Yonhap*, 06/25/2018)
North Korea's 'anti-U.S.-imperialism' rally will not be held this year (*Washington Post*, 06/25/2018)
UNICEF data shows N. Koreans lack access to computers (*Yonhap*, 06/25/2018)

In South Korea:
On board the train to Korea's music festival for peace (*BBC*, 06/25/2018)
Parties give mixed views on North Korea ties on war anniversary (*Yonhap*, 06/25/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) Two Koreas set for talks on bilateral economic projects (*Yonhap*, 06/25/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea picks candidates for reunions with N. Korean families (*Yonhap*, 06/25/2018)
Fax machines dusted off as North and South Korean forces start to restore ties (*The Guardian*, 06/25/2018)
Inter-Korean activities planned (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 06/25/2018)
Koreas to hold 4 basketball games in Pyongyang in July: sports ministry (*Yonhap*, 06/25/2018)
Letting down our guard (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 06/25/2018)
North Korea Limits Family Reunions (VOA, 06/25/2018)
Ruling party, gov't see need to boost state inter-Korean cooperation fund (*Yonhap*, 06/25/2018)
Seoul: North Korea artillery withdrawal being discussed 'internally' (UPI, 06/25/2018)

International:
At a Toast to Trump, the North Korean Anthem Has a Starring Role (NYT, 06/25/2018)
Breaking the North out of its shell (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 06/25/2018)
N.K., China agree to deepen cooperation on int'l stage: sources (*Yonhap*, 06/25/2018)
'NK should reciprocate in deal with US' (*Korea Times*, 06/25/2018)
North Korea says to ignore Japan until it scraps military drills, other measures(*Reuters*, 06/25/2018)
N. Korean restaurants in China move to resume business (*Yonhap*, 06/25/2018)
South Korea plans £26bn rail link with Russia in wake of North Korea summit (*The Telegraph*, 06/25/2018)
U.S. to give North Korea post-summit timeline with 'asks' soon: official (*Reuters*, 06/25/2018)

In North Korea:

- In another sign of detente following the summit between leader KJU and US Pres. Trump, NK has decided to skip one of the most symbolic and politically charged events of its calendar: the annual "anti-US imperialism" rally marking the start of the Korean War. (AP)
- NK's media outlets are successively asking the US for efforts to build mutual trust, despite recent moves by Washington and Seoul to halt annual joint military exercises and ease tensions on the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- For the first time in years, NK will skip its annual "anti-US-imperialism" rally. The elaborate rally is typically held June 27 to mark the beginning of the yearly "Struggle Against US Imperialism Month." In past years, N. Koreans attended a variety of events designed to build nationalism and commemorate the end of the Korean War on July 27, 1953. (Rebecca Tan, *Washington Post*)
- N. Korean households lack access to computers despite the country's nearly 100 percent penetration rate of radios and TVs, UNICEF data showed Mon. (*Yonhap*)

In South Korea:

- Musicians from Newton Faulkner to Sex Pistols' bassist Glen Matlock took part in a festival organised by Glastonbury Festival promoter Martin Elbourne in the DMZ between NK and SK. (BBC)
- Rival parties expressed mixed views about how to achieve peace on the Korean Peninsula Monday as the two Koreas marked the 68th anniversary of the outbreak of the 1950-53 Korean War. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The two Koreas agreed to hold a series of working-level talks on economic cooperation this week, Seoul officials said Mon, as their reconciliatory efforts sparked by an April 27 summit agreement are expanding beyond military and humanitarian arenas. (*Yonhap*)
- SK began a process Mon to select those who will meet their long-separated family members in NK in late Aug. (*Yonhap*)
- The armed forces of NK and SK met on Mon to discuss removing weapons that threaten millions living in Seoul and restoring communication lines, the latest in the ongoing rapprochement between the two neighbours. (Benjamin Haas, *The Guardian*)
- A S. Korean civic group advocating for inter-Korean cooperation that returned from a four-day visit to Pyongyang last week announced Mon that it had agreed to push joint civilian events to be held with NK to mark key shared events in the upcoming months. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The Koreas will hold four basketball matches in Pyongyang over two days next week as part of an earlier agreement, the South's sports ministry said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- The prosperity of SK owes much to the noble sacrifice they made over half a century ago. But our society seems to have forgotten all the horrors and calamities its forefathers

experienced 68 years ago. On Mon, a ceremony to commemorate the tragic war was held in Jamsil Gymnasium in southern Seoul. But the event organized by the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs did not draw much attention from the public, largely thanks to the nascent mood of peace on the peninsula. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)

- Limits placed by NK on the upcoming inter-Korean family reunions could be a sign of the difficult road that lies ahead to implement the recent denuclearization agreements made by KJU. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) and the government on Mon said there is a need to sharply increase the size of the inter-Korean cooperation fund to brace for growing exchanges between the two Koreas. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's PM said Mon Seoul is looking into ways to ask NK to move its long-range artillery away from the front lines, but added the issue has yet to be addressed. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

International:

- The N. Korean national anthem got plenty of fanfare at the VA Women for Trump's birthday party for the president on Sun. (Elizabeth Williamson, NYT)
- It seems like NK-US relations is on a path leading to only one destination. Before a couple months ago, NK symbolized the final challenge to US diplomacy. Just like the Nixon administration pushed for a grand détente with China, the Trump administration is now attempting to bring about a small yet solid détente with NK. And it confirmed once again that the greatest accomplishments of US diplomacy since the 20th century were produced by Republican administrations. What more can we do to make this path an irreversible path for peace? (Park Ihn-hwi, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Ranking officials of NK and China met in Pyongyang days before N. Korean leader KJU's visit to Beijing on June 19 to discuss closer bilateral cooperation at the UN and other international organizations, sources said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- NK should reciprocate in its denuclearization deal with the US, according to one of the US's top authorities on intelligence. The remarks came after the historic summit between leaders of the states in Singapore last week, where the US agreed to provide regime security for NK and to suspend joint military drills with SK, in return for NK's complete denuclearization. (Kim Bo-eum, *Korea Times*)
- NK will continue to ignore Japan unless Tokyo halts hostilities against its neighbor, such as large-scale military drills and efforts to boost military readiness, the isolated nation's state media said on Mon. (*Reuters*)
- N. Korean restaurants in Chinese cities near the border with the North are moving to resume business as relations between the two countries improve rapidly, sources said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- A $35 billion (£26 billion) railtrack that would link NK and SK to Moscow is among a flurry of ambitious economic projects being discussed in the wake of the Singapore summit between KJU and Trump, the US president. (Nicola Smith, *The Telegraph*)

- The US will soon present a timeline to NK with “specific asks” of Pyongyang after a historic summit between US Pres. Trump and N. Korean leader KJU, a senior U.S. defense official said. (Phil Stewart, *Reuters*)

Prepared by Jack Maerz, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250720212632/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-north-korea-skips-annual-anti-us-rallyus-to-give-north-korea-post-summit-timeline-with-asks-soon?e=8a9aae5198

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Tuesday, June 26, 2018

US cracks down on NK's army of overseas workers; Exclusive: Pompeo says no timeline on NK negotiations

Top News:
US cracks down on North Korea's army of overseas workers (CNN, 06/25/2018)

In North Korea:
In Sign of Detente, North Korea Skips Annual Anti-US Rally (VOA, 06/25/2018)
NK's procrastination (*Korea Times*, 06/26/2018)
North Korea scraps 'anti-US imperialism' rally as ties appear to warm (*Guardian*, 06/25/2018)

In South Korea:
Report: South Korean military 'lost' after drills suspended (*UPI*, 06/26/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(4th LD) Koreas agree to conduct joint study on railway cooperation (*Yonhap*, 06/26/2018)
Inter-Korean activities planned (*Korea Joongang Daily*, 06/26/2018)
Inter-Korean projects can’t be rushed: Forum (*Korea Joongang Daily*, 06/26/2018)
Koreas agree to improve North Korea’s railways (*Washington Post*, 06/25/2018)
Koreas to conduct co-study of railway system (*Korea Times*, 06/26/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) S. Korea, U.S. begin new round of talks on sharing defense cost (*Yonhap*, 06/26/2018)
Exclusive: Pompeo says no timeline on North Korea negotiations (CNN, 06/25/2018)
Indonesia wants Koreas’ leaders at Asian Games (*Korea Joongang Daily*, 06/26/2018)
(LEAD) Mattis: U.N. Command to receive remains of troops killed in Korean War(*Yonhap*, 06/26/2018)
NK cancels anti-US rally, White House welcomes (*Korea Times*, 06/26/2018)

Pompeo refuses to put timeline on denuclearization talks with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 06/26/2018)
S. Korean envoy stresses 'strategic communication' with China for N.K. denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 06/26/2018)
The Mystery at the Heart of North Korea Talks (*Atlantic*, 06/26/2018)
Turkey asked N. Korea to return Korean War remains: source (*Yonhap*, 06/26/2018)
U.S. negotiates with North on remains (*Korea Joongang Daily*, 06/26/2018)

Top News:

- CNN quoted HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu in an article about the growing concern that some countries are lax in enforcing sanctions against NK. Scarlatoiu said, "We are already receiving reports that Chinese border controls have been relaxed. I think that China, Russia and others seized the warming of US-DPRK relations as an opportunity to resume or continue economic exchanges with the DPRK with impunity." (Jenna McLaughlin, CNN)

In North Korea:

- In another sign of detente following the summit between leader KJU and Trump, NK has decided to skip one of the most symbolic and politically charged events of its calendar: the annual "anti-US imperialism" rally marking the start of the Korean War. (AP)
- Two weeks have passed since the historic Singapore summit between Trump and KJU in which the two countries agreed on complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. (*Korea Times*)
- NK will cancel its annual “anti-US imperialism” rally, part of a growing detente with its longstanding enemy as the two countries negotiate over the fate of the North’s nuclear weapons program. (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)

In South Korea:

- SK’s military is feeling "disoriented" following a series of postponements for military drills, according to a local press report. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- SK and NK agreed Tues. to conduct a joint study on modernizing the railways that run through their borders "at an early date." (*Yonhap*)
- A S. Korean civic group advocating for inter-Korean cooperation that returned from a four-day visit to Pyongyang last week announced Mon. that it had agreed to push joint civilian events to be held with NK to mark key shared events in the upcoming months. (Sarah Kim, *Korea Joongang Daily*)

- Park Yong-maan, chairman of the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry, proposed on Tues. a new body jointly run by the public and private sectors devoted to inter-Korean economic cooperation. Top priority should be unifying the different economic fundamentals of the two Koreas, he said. (Seo Ji-eun, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- The rival Koreas agreed Tues. to jointly study ways to improve NK's outdated railways and link them with the South, as they continued to take conciliatory steps amid global efforts to resolve the standoff over the North's nuclear weapons. (Kim Tong-Hyung, AP)
- The two Koreas agreed to form a joint team to look into the North's railways and how to connect them with those in the South and modernize the entire system, according to a joint press statement released after an inter-Korean meeting Tues. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)

International:

- SK and the US held another round of negotiations in Seoul on sharing the cost of maintaining American troops here amid their beefed-up cooperation over NK's denuclearization. (*Yonhap*)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told CNN he would not put a timeline on negotiations with NK, but said the Trump administration will regularly assess the regime's seriousness about abandoning its nuclear program as the US moves toward normalizing relations with Pyongyang. (Elise Labbot, CNN)
- President Joko Widodo of Indonesia extended an invitation to Moon and KJU to come to his country for the Asian Games in Aug., a government official exclusively told the JoongAng Ilbo on Tues. (Jeong Yong-soo, Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- The United Nations Command in SK will handle NK's return of the remains of American troops killed in the 1950-53 Korean War, US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has said. (*Yonhap*)
- NK will not hold an anti-US rally it holds annually to mark the outbreak of the Korean War on Jun. 25, as it prepares to return the remains of American soldiers killed in the war this week. (Park Ji-won, *Korea Times*)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has refused to put a timeline on negotiations with NK, saying he will instead monitor progress toward the dismantlement of the regime's nuclear weapons program, CNN reported Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's top envoy to China said Tues. that he will continue to engage in strategic communication with Beijing to promote denuclearization and permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump claimed that KJU agreed in Singapore to the denuclearization of NK, but what he actually agreed to was to "work toward" the denuclearization of *the Korean peninsula*. This isn't some trivial semantic distinction. Reconciling these two goals may well be what everything depends on. And the path to doing so remains utterly mysterious. (Uri Friedman, *Atlantic*)
- Turkey asked NK earlier this month to return the remains of its soldier killed in the 1950-53 Korean War as the North prepares for the return of American war dead as agreed between the leaders of the two countries, a diplomatic source said Tues. (*Yonhap*)

- Six American officials are currently in Pyongyang to discuss the repatriation of US service members' remains from NK and an imminent visit by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, local diplomatic sources exclusively told the JoongAng Ilbo. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea Joongang Daily*)

Prepared by Lauren Jackson, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250720212557/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-us-cracks-down-on-nks-army-of-overseas-workers-exclusive-pompeo-says-no-timeline-on-nk-negotiations?e=8a9aae5198

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Wednesday, June 27, 2018

Don't Let Kim Jong-un Ignore Human Rights; North Korea is improving its nuclear facilities after promising to denuclearise

Top News:
Don't Let Kim Jong-un Ignore Human Rights (*Forbes*, 6/25/2018)

In North Korea:
[Photos] North Korean authorities improve treatment of laborers at Wonsan-Kalma (*Daily* NK, 6/27/2018)
Downtown residents mobilized for final stretch of rice planting (*Daily* NK, 6/27/2018)
Infrastructure Improvements at North Korea's Yongbyon Nuclear Research Facility (38 *North*, 6/26/2018)
N. Korea media report cross-border talks on railroad cooperation (*Yonhap*, 6/27/2018)
N. Korea upgrades nuclear facility, images show (video) (CNN, 6/27/2018)
North Korea braced for a TB superbug 'explosion' as medics warn of a public health 'catastrophe' (*Telegraph*, 6/27/2018)
North Korea eschews anti-U.S. propaganda, mentions U.S. remains (UPI, 6/25/2018)
North Korea executes army lieutenant general (*Daily* NK, 6/27/2018)
North Korea is improving its nuclear facilities after promising to denuclearise (*Telegraph*, 6/27/2018)
North Korea making 'rapid' upgrades to nuclear reactor despite summit pledges (*Guardian*, 6/26/2018)
North Korea warns citizens against anti-state 'erotic dancing' (UPI, 6/27/2018)
North Korean officials abuse power to secure retirement (*Daily* NK, 6/27/2018)
North Koreans Exhume, Keep US Soldiers' Remains in Hopes of Cash Reward (RFA, 6/26/2018)
Pyongsong residence permits sell for 1,500 USD in North Korea (*Daily* NK, 6/26/2018)
Rising expectations could change North Korea forever (*The Hill*, 6/26/2018)
Sanctioned North Korea ship seen accepting fuel in East China Sea (UPI, 6/27/2018)

In South Korea:
As North and South Korea cosy up, human rights groups struggle for cash (*Reuters*, 6/27/2018)
Kaesong Business Owners Anxious for N. Korea Sanctions to End (VOA, 6/27/2018)
Seoul: Railroad cooperation with North Korea does not violate sanctions (UPI, 6/26/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) S. Korean team visits N. Korea to check facilities for family reunions (*Yonhap*, 6/27/2018)
(LEAD) Summit diplomacy breaks vicious cycle on Koreas, U.S.: Cheong Wa Dae official (*Yonhap*, 6/27/2018)
Koreas Agree to Improve North's Railways, but Work Must Wait (NYT, 6/26/2018)
Koreas discuss knitting railroads (*Korea Joongang Daily*, 6/27/2018)
Koreas prep for family reunions (*Korea Times*, 6/27/2018)
Moon, Kim may meet in Indonesia during Asian Games (*Korea Times*, 6/27/2018)
North Korea could account for nearly a quarter of a unified Korean Peninsula's economy one day, UBS says (CNBC, 6/27/2018)
OCA to meet North, South Korea over Asian Games participation (*Reuters*, 6/27/2018)
Prime minster says S. Korea maintains two-track approach toward N. Korea ties (*Yonhap*, 6/27/2018)
S. Korea preparing for environmental cooperation with N. Korea: minister (*Yonhap*, 6/27/2018)
South Korea seeks environmental cooperation with North Korea (*Korea Times*, 6/27/2018)
Top continental sports body to host joint Korea meeting over Asian Games participation (*Yonhap*, 6/27/2018)

International:
A North Korean defector paid smugglers to get her family out. China sent them back. (*Washington Post*, 6/27/2018)
Awkward: the upheld travel ban still applies to North Korea, too (*Vox*, 6/26/2018)
Bill Speakman, VC obituary (*Guardian*, 6/26/2018)
Chinese tourists flock to North Korea amid détente (UPI, 6/27/2018)
Exhibition captures DMZ through eyes of foreign artists (*Korea Times*, 6/27/2018)
Gen. Brooks: Not all drills will end (*Korea Joongang Daily*, 6/27/2018)
If North Korea Disarms, Will US Missile Defense Lose Favor? (NYT, 6/26/2018)
In Jeju, optimism for a new geopolitical normal (*Korea Joongang Daily*, 6/27/2018)
Investors ride wave of optimism in Chinese city bordering North Korea (*Channel NewsAsia*, 6/27/2018)
'Japan cannot compete with united Korea' (*Korea Times*, 6/27/2018)
Japanese government to launch North Korea bureau (*Korea Times*, 6/27/2018)
Lawyers: Case against 2 in murder of N. Korean scion feeble (*Washington Post*, 6/27/2018)
Mattis: U.S. takes N. Korea's missile capability 'very seriously' (*Yonhap*, 6/27/2018)
Mattis Arrives in China; NKorea to Be Key Topic of Meetings (NYT, 6/26/2018)
N. Korea warns Japan not to intervene in denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 6/27/2018)
North Korea-US talks lead China to keep distance from anti-North sanctions (*Korea Times*, 6/27/2018)
North Korea's on Trump's travel ban list, but that's not likely to disrupt diplomacy (CNN, 6/26/2018)

Pyongyang becomes hotspot for Chinese tourists (*Korea Times*, 6/27/2018)
Rogers calls on Kim Jong-un to follow Chinese model (*Korea Times*, 6/27/2018)
Salvation Army is ready to mobilize as much as possible to help N. Korea: leader (*Yonhap*, 6/27/2018)
Senators Seek More Oversight of Trump Diplomacy With NKorea (NYT, 6/26/2018)
Singapore summit success may prompt defense spending issue (*Washington Post*, 6/27/2018)
Supreme Court upholds travel ban (CNN, 6/27/2018)
Trump's North Korea farce is now plain for all to see (*Washington Post*, 6/26/2018)
USFK chief vows to stop drills that may provoke North Korea (*Korea Times*, 6/27/2018)
What it's like in the 7 countries on Trump's travel ban list (CNN, 6/27/2018)
Why the United States needs a cyber accord with North Korea (CNN, 6/27/2018)
Will raising human rights issues really derail nuclear negotiations with North Korea? (*Washington Post*, 6/27/2018)

Top News:

- It can be difficult to grasp the enormity of human rights abuses in the Hermit Kingdom. The Committee for Human Rights in North Korea believes that at least 400,000 individuals have already perished in these camps. These are likely conservative estimates. (Olivia Enos, *Forbes*)

In North Korea:

- The North Korean authorities have reportedly been improving the conditions for storm troops mobilized at the Wonsan-Kalma Shore Tourist Zone construction project by providing rations and accommodation. (Kang Mi Jin, *Daily NK*)
- Every year in May and June in NK, a nationwide "rice planting battle" is carried out. During this period, men and women of all ages put aside their normal work and studies to complete farm labor under the hot sun. In an effort to complete the final stretch of this year's "battle," the North Korean authorities have mobilized residents to the country's cooperative farms. (Kim Yoo Jin, *Daily NK*)
- Commercial satellite imagery from June 21 indicates that improvements to the infrastructure at NK's Yongbyon Nuclear Scientific Research Center are continuing at a rapid pace. Continued work at the Yongbyon facility should not be seen as having any relationship to NK's pledge to denuclearize. (Frank V. Pabian, Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., Jack Liu, *38 North*)
- North Korea's state media on Wednesday reported on this week's cross-border talks on railroad cooperation but did not touch on their detailed agreement. During their working-level talks Tuesday, the two Koreas agreed to conduct a joint study on modernizing the railways running across their border "at an early date." (*Yonhap*)
- Newly released satellite images show NK may be making improvements to one of its nuclear facilities. CNN's Barbara Starr reports. (CNN)
- Leading health experts have warned of an "explosion" in drug resistant tuberculoses (TB) in NK when funding to fight the deadly lung disease is withdrawn later this week. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)

- NK has been toning down the anti-American rhetoric that has been the staple of the regime's propaganda, and the changes are more visible following the June 12 summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and KJU. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Sources have reported that a ranking officer of the Korean People's Army in Pyongyang was recently executed by firing squad on charges of abusing authority and engaging in anti-Party acts. (Ha Yoon Ah, *Daily NK*)
- NK is carrying out rapid improvements to its nuclear research facility, a monitor said on Wednesday, despite declaring a commitment to denuclearisation of the peninsula at the Singapore summit. (*Telegraph*)
- NK has continued to upgrade its only known nuclear reactor used to fuel its weapons program, satellite imagery has shown, despite ongoing negotiations with the US and a pledge to denuclearize. (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)
- NK has not eased tough restrictions on the kind of music citizens listen to or the clothes they wear, following a reduction of tensions with the US and SK. A source in the country's Yanggang Province told Daily NK on Wednesday authorities have been instructing officers to keep an eye out for non-socialist and anti-socialist behavior. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Reports suggest that senior North Korean officials are engaging in a new method to ensure financial security following their retirement. The practice involves grooming specific individuals to whom the retiring officials plan to hand over their positions, with the tacit understanding that bribes will continue to be paid into the future by the promoted individual. (Kim Yoo Jin, *Daily NK*)
- North Koreans for years have dug up the remains of U.S. soldiers killed during the 1950-53 Korean War, hiding them away in the hope they may someday bring a cash reward when relations between the two countries improve, North Korean sources say. (Jieun Kim, Richard Finney, Leejin Jun, RFA)
- According to multiple Daily NK sources in South Pyongan Province, around 10,000 Pyongsong residence permits were sold for an average of 12 million KPW (approximately 1,500 USD) each between 2016 and 2017. Such costs are beyond the means of most North Koreans. (Jo Hyon, *Daily NK*)
- Whether or not Kim intended it, the news of the summit shattered the foundation of the insidious propaganda that the regime used for decades to control their population: that the U.S. is the ultimate evil and is at war with the North, and that their survival required insanely total obedience and extreme poverty. (Art Harman, *The Hill*)
- Japan issued a photo of a ship in the East China Sea transferring fuel to a North Korean vessel, while describing the cargo transfer as illegal on Wednesday. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

In South Korea:

- Human rights and North Korean defector groups in SK say they are struggling to raise money, cutting jobs and programs, and facing pressure to avoid criticism of Pyongyang as Seoul and Washington focus on diplomatic outreach to the isolated country. (Jeongmin Kim, *Reuters*)
- South Korean businesses that operated in the Kaesong industrial complex in NK are anxious to visit the facility, to prepare for restarting operations, as expectations grow that

progress toward denuclearization will soon bring about an end to economic sanctions. (Brian Padden, VOA)

- South Korean officials defended railroad cooperation with NK following an agreement to conduct a joint study on modernizing train transportation. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- A group of South Korean officials and civilian workers visited North Korea on Wednesday to check facilities for the planned reunions of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War, Seoul's unification ministry said. (*Yonhap*)
- A round of recent summit diplomacy on North Korea has created a virtuous cycle of inter-Korean ties and a viable denuclearization process, a senior South Korean presidential official said Wednesday. (Lee Chi-Dong, *Yonhap*)
- The rival Koreas have agreed to jointly study ways to improve North Korea's outdated railways and link them with the South, as they continued to take conciliatory steps amid global efforts to resolve the standoff over the North's nuclear weapons. (NYT)
- SK and NK agreed on Tuesday to begin on-site inspections of North Korean railroads in late July, the latest development in the two Koreas' efforts to reconnect rails on the peninsula and resume cross-border economic exchange. (Choi Hyung-Jo, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- South Korean officials arrived at Mount Geumgang in the North Wednesday, to check facilities there for upcoming reunions of separated family members. A total of 20 officials of the unification ministry, Red Cross as well as Hyundai Asan and its subcontractor will stay there through Friday, to check the conditions of the hall for reunions as well as accommodations at hotels and tourist and power generating facilities. (Kim Bo-Eun, *Korea Times*)
- The leaders of two Koreas may have their third meeting in Indonesia as they have been invited to the country for the Asian Games slated for August. Seoul officials are discussing the possibility, while Pyongyang's response is unknown, according to Cheong Wa Dae, Wednesday. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- NK could account for up to 24 percent of the Korean Peninsula's total gross domestic product in 20 years under reunification with the South, UBS estimated in a report this week. The rogue state currently accounts for 1.1 percent of the regional economy. (Evelyn Cheng, CNBC)
- The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) will meet with representatives from the National Olympic Committees of NK and SK on Thursday to discuss their joint participation at this year's Asian Games in Indonesia. (*Reuters*)
- South Korean Prime Minister Lee Nak-yon told a forum Wednesday that his government will limit infrastructure cooperation with NK until the U.N. sanctions over its nuclear program are relaxed or lifted. (Lee Chi-Dong, *Yonhap*)
- SK and NK are gearing up to expand cross-border cooperation to various environment areas, such as nature, atmosphere and water, Seoul's top environment policymaker said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)

- Environmental cooperation can come first in expanding ties with NK, government officials and experts said Wednesday. (Lee Suh-Yoon, *Korea Times*)
- Asia's top sports body said Wednesday it will host a meeting between South and North Korea over participation in the upcoming Asian Games, with the hope of determining the number of sports in which they will be able to field joint teams. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- It's impossible to put a precise number on North Korean defectors sent back by China. China has resisted international calls to end the repatriations despite international pressure. A 2014 U.N. report said those returned could face being "forcibly 'disappeared' into political prison camps, imprisoned in ordinary prisons or even summarily executed." (Brian Murphy, *Washington Post*)
- Why is NK on the travel ban list at all? Simply put, it happened while the US and NK were threatening to bomb each other for much of last year — but the move doesn't make much sense now, as relations between Washington and Pyongyang have much improved in recent months. (Alex Ward, *Vox*)
- As a rank-and-file professional soldier, Bill Speakman, who has died aged 90, won the Victoria Cross in the Korean war with a sustained display of indomitable personal bravery of a kind no writer of fiction would have dared to invent. (Dan van der Vat, *Guardian*)
- Hundreds of Chinese travelers are visiting major tourist sites in the North, including the capital city of Pyongyang, according to a travel agency based in the Chinese border town of Dangdong, Chosun Ilbo reported Wednesday. (Wooyoung Lee, *UPI*)
- U.S.-based artists have opened an exhibition featuring the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), the border that separates the two Koreas, at DMZ Museum in Goseong, Gangwon Province. Their theme is "Liminal Space" or space between two thresholds, no doubt SK and NK. (Kang Aa-Young, *Korea Times*)
- The chief of the U.S. Forces Korea dismissed concerns on Wednesday that the recent decision by Seoul and Washington to suspend their joint military exercises would lead to the end of all other allied drills and weaken deterrence capabilities. (*Korea Joongang Daily*)
- President Donald Trump says the Singapore summit put NK on a path to eliminating its nuclear weapons. If that proves true, then it also may have poked a hole in the Pentagon's main argument for a multibillion-dollar expansion of missile defense. (NYT)
- World leaders at the 13th Jeju Forum for Peace and Prosperity on this picturesque island off Korea's southern coast on Wednesday reflected on the role of bold and visionary leadership in enabling change on the Korean Peninsula as they analyzed the results of recent summits that have upended the region's geopolitics. (Sarah Kim, Esther Chung, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- The Chinese border town of Dandong has borne the brunt of economic and trade sanctions imposed on NK, which lies just across a narrow river. But following the easing of tensions on the Korean Peninsula, investors have swooped in, hoping to make an early kill - particularly in the city's new district. (Olivia Siong, *Channel NewsAsia*)
- Most countries are welcoming thawing relations between the two Koreas as they want peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula. For many, unification would be considered an

ideal solution to end the NK nuclear crisis. However, not all countries are seemingly espousing the two Koreas' unification because a unified Korea will become much stronger and more competitive. (Kim Jae-Kyoung, *Korea Times*)

- Japan's Foreign Ministry announced Tuesday it will set up a new division to exclusively deal with North Korean affairs. The ministry's Northeast Asia Division currently deals with both NK and SK issues, but it will now be divided, and more staff will be hired to implement the plan. (Park Ji-Won, *Korea Times*)
- Circumstantial evidence against two women accused of poisoning to death the estranged half brother of North Korea's leader is feeble, the women's lawyers told a court on Wednesday, as they urged the judge to acquit their clients. (Eileen Ng, *Washington Post*)
- The US takes the threat of North Korea's ballistic missiles "very seriously," U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Tuesday in the wake of recent diplomatic efforts to denuclearize the regime. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has arrived in Beijing for meetings with senior Chinese leaders, as the world waits for indications NK is taking steps to dismantle its nuclear program following the summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader KJU. (NYT)
- NKhas again warned Japan not to meddle in its denuclearization issue, saying Tokyo has nothing to do with the North's recent summit agreements with SK and the US. (*Yonhap*)
- A pro-North Korean newspaper in Japan said Wednesday that China will be able to keep away from international sanctions on the North following the recent launch of dialogue between Pyongyang and Washington. (*Korea Times*)
- NK may be one of just two non-Muslim majority nations impacted by the Supreme Court's ruling to uphold President Donald Trump's controversial travel ban, but there is little concern that the decision could negatively impact ongoing efforts to engage Pyongyang in talks over its nuclear program. (Zachary Cohen, CNN)
- The number of Chinese tourists to NK has reportedly skyrocketed to 2,000 a day, following warmer relations between China and NK after North Korean leader KJU's recent visits to Beijing. (Ko Dong-Hwan, *Korea Times*)
- Legendary investor Jim Rogers has called on North Korean leader KJU to take a cue from China to open up his country's economy and engage with the international community. (Kim Jae-Kyoung, *Korea Times*)
- The Salvation Army, an international Christian charitable organization, is ready to mobilize as many resources as it can to provide humanitarian assistance to North Korea if the ongoing dialogue opens up the country's borders, the organization's head said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- Bipartisan legislation introduced Tuesday calls for stringent congressional oversight of U.S. nuclear diplomacy with NK and any deal President Donald Trump strikes with KJU. (NYT)
- If the Singapore summit put NK on a path to eliminating its nuclear weapons, as President Donald Trump says it has, then it also may have poked a hole in the Pentagon's main argument for a multibillion-dollar expansion of homeland missile defenses. (Robert Burns, *Washington Post*)

- The Supreme Court has upheld President Donald Trump's travel ban. This is the third version of the travel ban. It was issued in September -- after previous bans had ricocheted through the courts -- and restricts entry from seven countries to varying degrees: Iran, North Korea, Syria, Libya, Yemen, Somalia and Venezuela. (Ariane de Vogue, Veronica Stracqualursi, CNN)
- Talks with NK without a timeline are more of the same diplomatic quicksand we've been through before. The only difference is now Kim knows Trump won't use military force and is unlikely to ramp up economic sanctions because he "trusts" Kim. (Jennifer Rubin, *Washington Post*)
- U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) Commander Gen. Vincent Brooks said Wednesday the U.S. will suspend "unnecessary" joint military exercises with SK that might provoke NK. During a security forum in Seoul, Brooks said the recent decision by Seoul and Washington to suspend their combined military exercises is to help build trust with the North through dialogue. (Park Ji-Won, *Korea Times*)
- Thousands of North Korean refugees have fled harsh conditions, mostly to South Korea, and human rights abuses remain widespread in the authoritarian state, where citizens also struggle with poverty and a lackluster economy weakened by US and other international sanctions. (James Griffiths, Angela Dewan, Emily Smith, CNN)
- US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader KJU pledged to develop a new US-NK relationship during their historic summit in Singapore, but that won't be possible as long as Pyongyang continues to use cyberattacks against the United States and its allies. If the relationship between the United States and NK is to be fundamentally reformed, North Korea's cyber activities must as well. (Troy Stangarone, CNN)
- Trump gave the issue of human rights short shrift during his recent meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un — and explained to reporters that he wanted to "have a good relationship with North Korea." (Andrew Yeo, Danielle Chub, *Washington Post*)

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250921223627/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsdont-let-kim-jong-un-ignore-human-rightsnorth-korea-is-improving-its-nuclear-facilities-after-promising-to-denuclearise?e=8a9aae5198

Thursday, June 28, 2018

Mattis Affirms 'Ironclad' Alliance Despite Halt to Drills; Pompeo: North Korea remains a nuclear threat

In North Korea:
Fear politics spreads with rumors of strengthening electronic surveillance (*Daily* NK, 06/28/2018)
How Pyongyang's buildings reveal a nuanced visual history of the city (CNN, 06/27/2018)
North Korea 'executes officer who jumped gun on peace on peninsula' (*Telegraph*, 06/28/2018)
North Korean deception, or too-rigid doctrine? Too early to know (*The Hill*, 06/28/2018)
North Koreans forcibly mobilized for dangerous state construction projects (*Daily* NK, 06/28/2018)
Satellite images show North Korea upgrading nuclear facility (CNN, 06/27/2018)

In South Korea:
New home for USFK (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 06/28/2018)
Seoul scholars urge resumption of humanitarian aid for N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 06/28/2018)
U.S. troops not leaving soon, says Joseph Yun (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 06/28/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(4th LD) Koreas agree to conduct joint study on cross-border road connection (*Yonhap*, 06/28/2018)
(LEAD) Civic group pushes inter-Korean project to bring home remains of forced workers from Japan (*Yonhap*, 06/28/2018)
(LEAD) Koreas to field joint teams in 3 sports at Asian Games (*Yonhap*, 06/28/2018)
Koreas to conduct joint study on linking motorways (*The Korea Times*, 06/28/2018)
Koreas to cooperate in recovering remains of forced workers from Japan (*Yonhap*, 06/28/2018)
Koreas to field joint teams in three Asian Games sports (*Reuters*, 06/28/2018)
Not quite full steam ahead for cross-border rail (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 06/28/2018)
South to work on North's roads (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 06/28/2018)
Yonhap, unification ministry to hold forum on Korean peace (*Yonhap*, 06/27/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) Pentagon chief reaffirms U.S.' CVID goal, resolve to keep USFK troop level (*Yonhap*, 06/28/2018)
(3rd LD) USFK chief dismisses concerns over possible end of all military exercises with S. Korea (*Yonhap*, 06/27/2018)
(5th LD) S. Korea, U.S. agree to continuously devise confidence-building measures with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 06/28/2018)
(LEAD) Pompeo: N. Korea understands scope of U.S. request for denuclearization(*Yonhap*, 06/27/2018)
(LEAD) Pompeo to visit N. Korea next week for nuclear talks: report (*Yonhap*, 06/28/2018)
(News Focus) Korea peace process tests harmony among regional powers (*Yonhap*, 06/28/2018)
Defense chiefs of S. Korea, U.S. to hold talks likely over suspended drills (*Yonhap*, 06/28/2018)
Envoys discuss post-summit challenges at Jeju Forum (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 06/28/2018)
Joy as North Korea detainees Miller and Bae return home (BBC, 06/27/2018)
Malaysian Lawyer in Kim Murder Case Links Nerve Agent to 'War Declaration' (RFA, 06/27/2018)
Mattis, Chinese leaders reaffirm importance of N.K. denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 06/27/2018)
Mattis, in South Korea, Affirms 'Ironclad' Alliance Despite Halt to Drills (NYT, 06/28/2018)
Mattis says CVID is still goal of Trump (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 06/28/2018)
Mattis says U.S. troop commitment to South Korea is 'ironclad' (*Reuters*, 06/28/2018)

North Korea understands U.S. on 'complete denuclearization': Pompeo (*Reuters*, 06/27/2018)
North wants status of a normal state: Moon adviser (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 06/28/2018)
Pentagon chief Mattis: U.S will maintain current troops in South Korea (*UPI*, 06/28/2018)
Pompeo: North Korea remains a nuclear threat (*CNN*, 06/27/2018)
Pompeo: North Korea yet to return US troop remains (*AP*, 06/27/2018)
Prosecutors say suspects must have been trained to kill Kim Jong Un's half-brother(*Reuters*, 06/28/2018)
Russia, China provided nearly 9,000 tons of fuel assistance to North Korea (*UPI*, 06/28/2018)
Sanctions stay till N.Korea takes 'irreversible' steps: S.Korea, U.S. defence chiefs(*Reuters*, 06/28/2018)
Satellite imagery suggests 'rapid' upgrades at North Korea nuclear site, monitoring group says (*Washington Post*, 06/27/2018)
Senate to vote on Trump's nominee for Seoul envoy (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 06/28/2018)
U.N. human rights expert on N. Korea to visit S. Korea next week (*Yonhap*, 06/28/2018)
US Lawmaker: Global Pressure Needed on N. Korea (VOA, 06/27/2018)
U.S. lawmakers introduce bill to increase oversight of N. Korea negotiations(*Yonhap*, 06/27/2018)
U.S. Secretary of State Pompeo to visit North Korea next week: report (*Reuters*, 06/28/2018)
USFK chief stresses S. Korean army's capabilities to both fight and keep discipline(*Yonhap*, 06/28/2018)

In North Korea:

- The N. Korean authorities have been strengthening control over the population as the country holds summits with SK, the US and China. This recent development appears related to efforts to prevent N. Koreans from using Chinese-made phones, which facilitate contact with the outside world. (Kim Yoo Jin, *Daily NK*)
- Journalist and photographer Oliver Wainwright's new book "Inside North Korea" presents eye-opening architecture in the most secretive country in the world. (CNN)
- A senior N. Korean military officer who told colleagues they no longer needed to "suffer and tighten our belts to make rockets and nuclear weapons" has been executed by firing squad, according to reports in dissident media. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- Autocracies such as the Soviet Union and NK rely on rigid protocols and strict organizational structure. Photo reconnaissance has indicated construction of new buildings, a cooling water pump house, and a radiological-chemical laboratory at Yongbyon. Pres. Trump likely will be asking the US Intelligence Community when these upgrades were planned, and whether they are meant to enhance the safety of the center or develop a new line of operation. (Daniel Hoffman, *The Hill*)
- The N. Korean government's employment system has more or less disappeared, and in its place has risen an informal but active labor market ecosystem. These labor markets have become the basis for the country's economy. (Jo Hyon, *Daily NK*)
- New satellite images show NK has made rapid improvements to the infrastructure at its Yongbyon Nuclear Scientific Research Center -- a facility used to produce weapons-grade fissile material, according to an analysis published by 38 North, a prominent NK monitoring group. (Zachary Cohen, CNN)

In South Korea:

- The headquarters of the USFK has been relocated to Pyeongtaek, Gyeonggi, after 64 years in Yongsan, central Seoul. The USFK holds an opening ceremony today at a new base there attended by Gen. Vincent Brooks, commander of the USFK, Combined Forces Command (CFC) and the United Nations Command (UNC), and S. Korean Minister of Defense Song Young-moo. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- A number of S. Korean scholars have called for the resumption of Seoul's humanitarian aid to NK even before international sanctions on the North are lifted. (*Yonhap*)
- American troops are not likely to be withdrawn from the Korean Peninsula in the near future, said Joseph Yun, former US special representative for NK policy, but could be at some point when all outstanding issues are "resolved." (Sarah Kim, Nam Jeong-ho, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The two Koreas agreed Thurs to conduct a joint study on modernizing and connecting cross-border roads as part of efforts to carry out agreements reached by their leaders in recent summit talks. (*Yonhap*)
- A S. Korean civic group said Thurs that it seeks to work together with N. Koreans to bring home the remains of Korean victims of forced labor under Japan's colonial rule. (*Yonhap*)
- US Secretary of State Pompeo expressed confidence Wed that NK understands the scope of the US request for denuclearization. Speaking at a Senate hearing, the top US diplomat refused to discuss details of ongoing negotiations between the countries to dismantle the regime's nuclear weapons program. (*Yonhap*)
- In working-level talks at Tongilgak, the northern side of Panmunjeom, delegates from the two Koreas agreed to check on the conditions of NK's highway between Gaeseong and Pyongyang on the western side of the Korean Peninsula in early Aug, and the roads between Goseong and Wonsan on the east coast afterward. (Park Ji-won, *The Korea Times*)
- SK and NK have agreed to field joint teams in three sports and six events at this year's Asian Games in Indonesia, the continent's top sports body said Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- A pro-unification S. Korean civic group said Thurs that it will cooperate with NK to jointly excavate the remains of Korean people forced into labor under Japan's colonial rule. (*Yonhap*)
- NK and SK will field joint teams in six events across three sports at this year's Asian Games in Indonesia, the organizers said on Thurs, in a further sign of improving relations between the neighbors. (*Reuters*)
- After the two Koreas agreed on Tues to connect their railroads and work together on modernizing the North's infrastructure, one question looms: Is the project even possible? (Jeong Yong-soo, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- SK will help NK modernize its roads to comply with international standards, the two Koreas said in a joint press release on Thurs, in the first step toward connecting the separated

countries' highways in pursuit of "balanced development and co-prosperity." (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

- Yonhap News Agency and the Ministry of Unification will co-host a forum in Seoul this week to discuss the prospects of peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula amid active diplomacy on NK's denuclearization. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- US Defense Secretary Mattis on Thurs reaffirmed Washington's goal for the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization (CVID) of the peninsula, and its will to keep the current American troop level in SK. (Song Sang-ho, *Yonhap*)
- The chief of USFK on Wed dismissed concerns that the recent decision by Seoul and Washington to suspend their combined military exercises would lead to an end of all other allied drills and weaken deterrence capabilities. (*Yonhap*)
- The defense chiefs of SK and the US agreed Thurs to continuously devise measures to build confidence with NK as long as the communist regime maintains "goodwill dialogue." (Song Sang-ho, *Yonhap*)
- US Secretary of State Pompeo will visit NK next week to try to flesh out a recent agreement to dismantle the regime's nuclear weapons program, a news report said Thurs. (*Yonhap*)
- Participants in the annual Jeju Forum, mostly government officials and pundits, agreed that regional security conditions are at a historic moment. But they presented some divergent views on how to move the new process forward based on summit-level diplomacy with NK. (Lee Chi-dong, *Yonhap*)
- The defense chiefs of SK and the US will hold talks in Seoul on Thurs over an array of issues, likely including the recently suspended combined military exercises and the envisioned transfer of wartime operational control. (*Yonhap*)
- Joint military exercises between SK and the US can resume if NK doesn't keep its promises, said Marc Knapper, acting ambassador of the US to Seoul, in a panel discussion in Jeju on Thurs. (Sarah Kim, Esther Chung, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Two Americans who were released from detention in NK, Matthew Todd Miller and Kenneth Bae, have arrived to a joyful welcome in the US. (BBC)
- N. Korean operatives declared war on Malaysia by importing a deadly nerve agent and using it to assassinate the half-brother of NK's leader, an attorney for a woman accused of the murder said Wed, as the trial resumed after a lengthy pause. (RFA)
- US Defense Secretary Mattis and top Chinese leaders agreed Wed on the importance of a complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of NK's nuclear weapons program, the Pentagon said. (*Yonhap*)
- Secretary of Defense Mattis started Thurs morning ensconced in meetings with high-ranking Chinese military officials in Beijing, navigating a thin line between relationship-building and military posturing. (Thomas Gibbons-Neff, NYT)
- The Trump administration's goal in pursuing dialogue with NK is the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization (CVID) of the Korean Peninsula, US Secretary of Defense Mattis reaffirmed Thurs in Seoul. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

- US Secretary of State Pompeo said on Wed he was confident that NK understood the scope of the US desire for complete denuclearization as the two countries negotiate after Pres. Trump's summit with N. Korean leader KJU. (Patricia Zengerle, *Reuters*)
- US Defense Secretary Mattis on Thurs assured SK of an "ironclad" commitment to its security, including keeping US troop levels unaltered, even as diplomats seek an agreement with NK on denuclearization. (Phil Stewart, Hyonhee Shim, *Reuters*)
- NK wants the US to acknowledge its system of one-man rule, the S. Korean president's special adviser on unification and national security affairs said at the Jeju Forum on Wed. (Shim Kyu-seok, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The current level of US troops in SK will be maintained, US Defense Secretary Mattis said Thurs at a meeting with Seoul Defense Minister Song Young-moo. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- Secretary of State Pompeo told US lawmakers on Wed that NK remains a nuclear threat, but defended Pres.Trump for tweeting earlier this month, "There is no longer a Nuclear Threat from North Korea." (Laura Koran, CNN)
- Secretary of State Pompeo says North Korea has not yet turned over suspected remains of US soldiers killed during the Korean War. (AP)
- Two women accused of murdering the estranged half-brother of NK's leader must have been trained to carry out "an assassination" using deadly VX nerve agent, Malaysian prosecutors said, wrapping up their case on Thurs. (*Reuters*)
- Russia and China continued to provide fuel assistance to NK during the first four months of 2018, according to data from the UN Security Council 1718 Sanctions Committee. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- UN sanctions against NK should remain in place until NK takes concrete, irreversible steps toward denuclearisation, the defence chiefs of SK and the US said on Thurs. (*Reuters*)
- Satellite imagery of a N. Korean nuclear research site suggests improvements have progressed at a "rapid pace" in recent months, a report from a monitoring group said Wed, but the level of current operations at the facility remains unclear. (Brian Murphy, *Washington Post*)
- Retired Adm. Harry Harris, Pres. Trump's nominee for the US ambassador to SK, earned unanimous approval from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in Washington on Tues, putting the administration one step closer to filling a position that has been vacant since Jan 2017 but crucial in high-stakes talks with NK. (Lee Sung-eun, Kim Hyun-ki, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- A UN human rights expert will make an eight-day visit to SK starting Mon to hold talks with senior S. Korean officials and diplomats as part of efforts to engage in NK on human rights, the UN said Wed. (*Yonhap*)
- As Washington pauses its "maximum pressure" campaign while negotiating for the denuclearization of NK, it is essential to push the international community to continue pre-summit sanctions on Pyongyang, said a US congressman. (Joeun Lee, VOA)
- Two US senators have introduced a bill calling for greater congressional oversight of the US government's nuclear negotiations with NK. The bipartisan legislation -- introduced Tues by Sens. Bob Menendez (D-NJ) and Cory Gardner (R-CO) -- comes after Pres. Trump and N. Korean leader KJU held a historic summit in Singapore on June 12. (*Yonhap*)

- US Secretary of State Pompeo plans to travel to NK next week to discuss the country's denuclearization plans, the Financial Times reported on Thurs, citing four people familiar with his plans. (*Reuters*)
- The chief of USFK made an implicit call on Thurs for the S. Korean Army to continue to remain capable of not only fighting and winning, but also keeping "discipline" amid the emergent peace mood. (Song Sang-ho, *Yonhap*)

Prepared by Jack Maerz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250720212745/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsmattis-affirms-ironclad-alliance-despite-halt-to-drills-pompeo-north-korea-remains-a-nuclear-threat?e=8a9aae5198

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Friday, June 29, 2018

Major donor nixes effort to combat tuberculosis crisis in North Korea; Mattis Says US Will Keep Current Troop Levels in South Korea

In North Korea:
(Yonhap Forum) N. Korea experts positively assess Kim's commitment to denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 6/29/2018)
How North Korea Could Go From Hermit Kingdom to Factory Hub (*Foreign Policy*, 6/28/2018)
Major donor nixes effort to combat tuberculosis crisis in North Korea (*Science Magazine*, 6/29/2018)
N. Korea urges Japan to work past wrongdoings (*Korea Times*, 6/29/2018)
North Korea didn't rip off reporters on Punggye-ri nuke test demolition coverage(*Korea Times*, 6/29/2018)
State security agents weary of surveillance duties and lack of prospects (*Daily NK*, 6/29/2018)
Why is North Korea setting up guard houses at orphanages? (*Daily NK*, 6/29/2018)

In South Korea:
Alternatives to service (*Korea Joongang Daily*, 6/29/2018)
South Korea Military for First Time to Allow Alternative Service for Objectors (NYT, 6/28/2018)
South Koreans may no longer face jail if they refuse to serve in the military (CNN, 6/29/2018)
Still searching for the dead decades after the war (*Korea Joongang Daily*, 6/29/2018)
Trans-Korea gas pipeline project reappears, but challenges remain (*Reuters*, 6/29/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(Yonhap Forum) S. Korean businesses hope for systemic support for possible investment in N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 6/29/2018)

Education chiefs in South's border provinces to push for student exchanges with North Korea (*Yonhap*, 6/29/2018)
Koreas to Field Joint Teams in Three Asian Games Sports (NYT, 6/28/2018)
N. Korea's media report inter-Korean talks on road-related cooperation (*Yonhap*, 6/29/2018)
North and South Korea Combining in 3 Sports at Asian Games (NYT, 6/28/2018)
Reunion venue for separated families of Korean War in need of overhaul: S. Korean team (*Yonhap*, 6/29/2018)
SKorea says inter-Korean ties crucial for nuclear diplomacy (*Washington Post*,6/29/2018)

International:
(LEAD) (Yonhap Forum) Sunshine Policy architect lays out Korean peace road map(*Yonhap*, 6/29/2018)
(Yonhap Forum) Minister: Full-scale Korea peace process imminent (*Yonhap*, 6/29/2018)
(Yonhap Forum) S. Korea, U.S. target N. Korea's CVID: ruling party chief (*Yonhap*, 6/29/2018)
(Yonhap Forum) Trump moved by Kim Jong-un's vision for N. Korea: ex-minister(*Yonhap*, 6/29/2018)
(Yonhap Forum) Yonhap CEO vows utmost efforts for peace on the Korean Peninsula (*Yonhap*, 6/29/2018)
China has reasons to worry about nuclear-armed North Korea (*Korea Times*, 6/29/2018)
Congress Sends Bill on North Korea Human Rights to President's Desk (*CNS News*, 6/29/2018)
Explainer: What will it cost to denuclearize North Korea? (*Reuters*, 6/29/2018)
How to invigorate Trump's North Korea initiative (*Korea Times*, 6/29/2018)
Kim Jong-nam murder suspects were trained assassins, court told (*Guardian*, 6/28/2018)
Mattis reassures uneasy Japan over U.S.-North Korea talks (*Reuters*, 6/28/2018)
Mattis Says US Will Keep Current Troop Levels in South Korea (NYT, 6/28/2018)
Moon says South Korea-U.S. alliance key to recent steps to denuclearise peninsula(*Reuters*, 6/28/2018)
North Korea: Liaison Offices—The First Time (*38 North*, 6/29/2018)
North Korea named worst human trafficking nation for 16th year (*Korea Times*, 6/29/2018)
North Korea's nuclear facilities cannot be closed with a handshake (CNN, 6/28/2018)
Pompeo addresses North Korea denuclearization in call to China (UPI, 6/29/2018)
Pompeo discusses enforcement of N.K. sanctions with Chinese counterpart(*Yonhap*, 6/29/2018)
Pompeo seems headed back to North (*Korea Joongang Daily*, 6/29/2018)
Pompeo tells China continued North Korea sanctions enforcement needed (*Reuters*, 6/29/2018)
Pro-North Korea body in Japan slams CVID (UPI, 6/29/2018)
Prosecutors Say Suspects Must Have Been Trained to Kill Kim Jong Un's Half-Brother (NYT, 6/28/2018)
Sanctions Stay Till North Korea Takes 'Irreversible' Steps: South Korea, U.S. Defence Chiefs (NYT, 6/28/2018)
The U.S. can still make progress on North Korea — but time is running out(*Washington Post*, 6/29/2018)
Trump finally has an ambassador to South Korea (CNN, 6/28/2018)
Trump says won't rush negotiations with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 6/29/2018)
U.S. forces chief says South Korea paid for 90 percent of biggest overseas base(*Reuters*, 6/28/2018)
U.S. forces open new home in Pyeongtaek (*Korea Joongang Daily*, 6/29/2018)

U.S. military opens massive South Korea headquarters (UPI, 6/29/2018)
U.S. names N. Korea worst human trafficking nation for 16th year (*Yonhap*, 6/29/2018)
US, Japanese agree to continue joint military exercises (*Washington Post*, 6/29/2018)
US, NK set to move onto next stage for denuclearization (*Korea Times*, 6/29/2018)
US Defense Secretary Meets With Japan Counterpart (VOA, 6/29/2018)
US ends 70 years of military presence in S. Korean capital (*Washington Post*, 6/29/2018)
We're allowing North Korea to tread over us, but it's not too late to stop (*The Hill*, 6/29/2018)

In North Korea:

- A leading North Korea expert in Seoul said Friday that the concept of North Korean denuclearization has been changed, as the latest drive is being "actively" pushed by the Pyongyang regime. (*Yonhap*)
- The summit, and the prospect of an end to international economic sanctions, could lead to a flood of foreign capital that could transform NK from a hermit kingdom into an economic juggernaut, concludes the study by Samsung Securities. (Elias Groll, *Foreign Policy*)
- On 30 June, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria will pull the plug on its grants to NK, which has one of the highest rates of tuberculosis (TB) in the world. The pullout leaves the isolated nation with about 1 year to line up a new source of medicines and diagnostics to combat a deepening TB crisis. (Richard Stone, *Science Magazine*)
- NK's state media called on Japan to settle its past wrongdoings, Friday, as a pre-condition to opening dialogue with Pyongyang. The Rodong Sinmun, the official newspaper of the North's ruling Workers' Party, also urged Tokyo to shift away from its hostile policy toward Pyongyang, or "nothing can be expected" in their relations. (Yi Whan-Woo, *Korea Times*)
- NK didn't rip off reporters from outside the country invited to cover the destruction of its nuclear test site at Punggye-ri last month after all. (Oh Young-Jin, *Korea Times*)
- As the North Korean regime tightens its control over the population, there has reportedly been a gradual rise in discontent among Ministry of State Security (MSS) agents tasked with surveillance in the country. These agents are faced with issues surrounding their own day to day survival and some are reportedly losing confidence in the state. (Ha Yoon Ah, *Daily NK*)
- Checkpoints have been established at orphanages and schools for orphans throughout the country and they thoroughly check the identities of all those entering the facilities. Sources in NK said that the frequent disappearances of orphans at the border (with China) has led to action from the central authorities. (*Daily NK*)

In South Korea:

- The Constitutional Court ruled on Thursday that it was acceptable to criminally punish conscientious objectors to the country's mandatory military service, but it also ordered the government to devise alternatives for conscripts to serve society in ways that respect their religion and faith. (*Korea Joongang Daily*)
- SK will for the first time allow conscientious objectors to do some form of community service instead of the two years of military service that all men have to do. SK, which is still

technically at war with rival NK, is one of the few countries that has mandatory conscription for all men. (NYT)

- All South Korean men aged 18 to 35 must perform military service, but the country's Constitutional Court ruled Thursday that the government must provide alternative civilian roles for those who refuse to take up arms, due to religious or political reasons. (James Griffiths, CNN)
- Nam Sang-ho is a seeker of the dead. His job is to reunite families with the remains of soldiers killed in action, or KIA, during the 1950-53 Korean War. As part of the Ministry of National Defense's Agency for KIA Recovery and Identification, his team has reunited the remains of 128 fallen soldiers with their families. (Park Jung-Ho, Noh Shin-Young, *Korea Joongang Daily*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The South's business circles largely remain cautious about making investments in the communist neighbor amid the U.N.-led sanctions against it and uncertainty about conditions. But they are paying keen attention to the ongoing dialogue phase and an envisioned peace process, according to Jung Bong-ho, head of international cooperation at the Federation of Korean Industries (FKI). (*Yonhap*)
- Education chiefs in SK's border provinces said Friday that they will push for cross-border exchanges between South and North Korean students. Lee Jae-joung said he will push to visit NK within this year to better understand the North's education sector and explore inter-Korean cooperation in the field. (*Yonhap*)
- NK and SK will field joint teams in six events across three sports at this year's Asian Games in Indonesia, the organizers said on Thursday, in a further sign of improving relations between the neighbors. (NYT)
- NK's state media reported Friday on recent talks with SK on cooperation in modernizing and connecting cross-border roads. On Thursday, the two Koreas held working-level talks at the truce village of Panmunjom and agreed to "simultaneously push forward the modernization roads on the eastern and western coasts," the Korean Central News Agency said. (*Yonhap*)
- The Olympic Council of Asia says NK and SK will field combined teams in three sports — canoeing, rowing and women's basketball — at the Asian Games in the latest sign of cooperation between the countries. (NYT)
- The long-planned and much derided Trans-Korea gas pipeline project is back on the agenda, buoyed by hopes NK and SK can make peace. If realized, it would be a pipeline dream-come-true for SK. Lacking its own energy resources or pipelines to regions with gas, SK has been shipping the fuel in on tankers as liquefied natural gas (LNG). (Jane Chung, *Reuters*)
- North Korean facilities to host the planned August reunions of separated families during the 1950-1953 Korean War are in need of major repairs, a South Korean inspection team said upon returning home on Friday after a three-day visit there. (*Yonhap*)

- SK's point man for inter-Korean affairs said Friday Seoul will try to facilitate civilian-level exchanges with NK in coming months to strengthen the conciliation process between the rivals. (*Washington Post*)

International:

- The two Koreas, the United States and China need to sign a legally binding accord, rather than a political declaration, of ending the Korean War as a stopgap in the transition from the current armistice to a peace treaty, Lim Dong-won, a key architect of Seoul's Sunshine Policy of engagement in the early 2000s, said Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon said Friday a full-fledged peace process will soon get under way on the peninsula, with NK and the US set for high-level talks to implement their recent summit deal. (*Yonhap*)
- The chief of the ruling Democratic Party (DP) said Friday that Seoul and Washington are targeting the goal of denuclearizing NK in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump was apparently impressed by North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's new vision for the future of NK in their historic Singapore talks, a prominent expert here said Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- Yonhap News Agency, SK's key news service, will make utmost efforts to bring peace and unification to the Korean Peninsula on the basis of its long-term and consistent news coverage and reporting on inter-Korean relations, its chief said Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- China, which exerted great influence over NK with its economic power and nuclear umbrella, wants to maintain its clout. But a nuclear-armed NKwill not be the same, according to Sandip Kumar Mishra, a professor of international relations at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi. (Jung Min-Ho, *Korea Times*)
- As the Trump administration pursues a deal to shut down NK's nuclear programs, Congress is sending to the president's desk a bipartisan bill to reauthorize 18-year-old human rights legislation that has long angered the regime in Pyongyang. (Patrick Goodenough, *CNS News*)
- The exact form denuclearization takes will depend on negotiations. NK may seek to continue some nuclear activities with possible civilian uses like uranium enrichment, as Iran is able to do under its deal with major powers. For Washington, however, denuclearization means at least eliminating the threat posed by NK's nuclear weapons. (*Reuters*)
- Joseph Yoon, U.S. point man on NK until early this year, has publicly explained why President Donald Trump's effort to denuclearize Pyongyang will likely fail. But the chance is that the career diplomat, or most of the audience, didn't even know he said it. (Oh Young-Jin, *Korea Times*)
- Two women accused of murdering the estranged half-brother of KJU, the North Korean leader, must have been trained to carry out an assassination using a deadly nerve agent, Malaysian prosecutors have said. (*Guardian*)
- U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis sought to reassure Japan on Friday that Washington was mindful of its interests in talks with NK, during a stop in Tokyo that underscored the close U.S. ally's concerns about the negotiations. (Phil Stewart, Tim Kelly, *Reuters*)

- Carrying a clear message of reassurance to SK, U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis stated flatly Thursday that the U.S. will maintain its current number of troops on the Korean Peninsula, even as nuclear negotiations continue with NK. (NYT)
- SK's President Moon Jae-in said on Friday that recent steps toward denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula were only possible due to the deterrent provided by the US-SK alliance, and preparations made in tandem to engage NK diplomatically. (*Reuters*)
- The US, however, said it would not send people to the DPRK without the full diplomatic protection of the Vienna Convention. The head of mission would be called "Head of Liaison Office." (Lynn Turk, *38 North*)
- The US on Thursday designated NK as one of the worst human trafficking nations for the 16th consecutive year, citing its use of forced labor. The State Department's annual "2018 Trafficking in Persons Report" put NK in the lowest Tier 3 of its classification of countries, together with China, Russia and Iran. (*Korea Times*)
- Trump may think that a warm handshake and a few shared laughs will solve the North Korean problem, but Kim is not so naive. Kim is going to take advantage of Trump's pathological desire for praise and promise him the world, while continuing to develop his weapons programs. (Jonathan Cristol, CNN)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo exchanged a phone call with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to discuss NK denuclearization, ahead of a possible trip to Pyongyang next week. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Friday discussed the importance of fully implementing sanctions on NK in a phone call with his Chinese counterpart. (*Yonhap*)
- Following reports that U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will visit Pyongyang next week, the Blue House said Friday that it is "closely observing" the denuclearization negotiations between the US and NK. (Sarah Kim, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has stressed to China the importance of continued enforcement of sanctions on NK to press it to give up its nuclear weapons, after warning of signs of backsliding by Beijing. (David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)
- A Japan-based newspaper slammed calls for the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of NK, and said the US is responsible for making progress in building trust with the KJU regime. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Two women accused of murdering the estranged half-brother of NK's leader must have been trained to carry out "an assassination" using deadly VX nerve agent, Malaysian prosecutors said, wrapping up their case on Thursday. (NYT)
- United Nations sanctions against NK should remain in place until NK takes concrete, irreversible steps toward denuclearisation, the defence chiefs of SK and the US said on Thursday. (NYT)
- It is vital for the West to press forward immediately, so as not to lose any time. If it fails to do this, the alternative is clear: NK will continue to expand its nuclear and ICBM programs. (Andrei Lankov, *Washington Post*)
- President Donald Trump finally has an ambassador to SK, as the Senate confirmed retired Navy Adm. Harry Harris by a voice vote Thursday, filling a key diplomatic post that had remained vacant since the current administration took office. (Zachary Cohen, Elizabeth Landers, CNN)

- U.S. President Donald Trump has said he won't rush negotiations with NK to dismantle its nuclear weapons program, comparing the process to cooking a turkey. (Yonhap)
- The chief of the U.S. military forces commended SK for shouldering nearly all the cost of building the largest U.S. overseas military base, in a speech at the formal opening of the new headquarters in Pyeongtaek. (Christine Kim, Reuters)
- The U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) opened their new headquarters in Pyeongtaek, Gyeonggi, on Friday, in a relocation project likely to broaden its security role long defined by deterrence against NK. (Korea Joongang Daily)
- The U.S. military in SK has permanently relocated its headquarters to a base south of Seoul, a move the U.S. Forces Korea commander described as an investment for the long term. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- The US on Thursday designated NK as one of the worst human trafficking nations for the 16th consecutive year, citing its use of forced labor. The State Department's annual "2018 Trafficking in Persons Report" put NK in the lowest Tier 3 of its classification of countries, together with China, Russia and Iran. (Yonhap)
- For the second time in two days, U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis is trying to assuage an Asian ally's worries about America's commitment to the region amid the ongoing denuclearization negotiations with NK. (Lolita C. Baldor, Ken Moritsugu, Washington Post)
- The US and NK are geared toward resuming dialogue as a follow-up to the summit between their leaders in Singapore, June 12, on Pyongyang's denuclearization. The Financial Times reported Thursday that U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will visit NK next week. (Yi Whan-Woo, Korea Times)
- U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis met with his Japanese counterpart Friday in Tokyo to ease Japan's concerns about America's commitment to the region amid the ongoing denuclearization negotiations with NK. (VOA)
- The US formally ended seven decades of military presence in SK's capital Friday with a ceremony to mark the opening of a new headquarters farther from North Korean artillery range. (Hyung-Jin Kim, Kim Tong-Hyung, Washington Post)
- At this point, it should not come as a surprise that NK is proceeding "business-as-usual" with its nuclear research and development. For one, the joint statement signed in Singapore was so vaguely worded in reference to Pyongyang's denuclearization, it left a gaping hole in the next steps to securing any kind of follow-on action steps on NK's part. (Soo Kim, The Hill)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250720213025/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsmajor-donor-nixes-effort-to-combat-tuberculosis-crisis-in-north-koreamattis-says-us-will-keep-current-troop-levels-in-south-korea?e=8a9aae5198

Saturday, June 30, 2018

US intelligence believes NK making more nuclear bomb fuel despite talks; Pompeo seems headed back to NK

In North Korea:
KJU Inspects KPA Unit #1524 and Sindo County NPY (*NK Leadership Watch*, 06/30/2018)
(LEAD) N.K. leader inspects island areas near China that host special economic zone (*Yonhap*, 06/30/2018)
North Korea: Liaison Offices—The First Time (*38 North*, 06/30/2018)
Why is North Korea setting up guard houses at orphanages? (*DailyNK*, 06/30/2018)

In South Korea:
Reunion venue for separated families of Korean War in need of overhaul: S. Korean team (*Yonhap*, 06/30/2018)
Still searching for the dead decades after the war (*Korea Joongang Daily*, 06/30/2018)

International:
Chinese Investors Call For Surveillance Cameras in Joint Ventures With North Korea(RFA, 06/30/2018)
Japanese fishermen fear confrontation with North Korea boats as season peaks(*Reuters*, 06/30/2018)
Mattis seeks to allay Japanese concerns in North Korea denuclearization effort(*Washington Post*, 06/30/2018)
North Korea still secretly enriching uranium, say US officials (*Guardian*, 06/30/2018)
Pompeo discusses enforcement of N.K. sanctions with Chinese counterpart(*Yonhap*, 06/30/2018)
Pompeo seems headed back to North (*Korea Joongang Daily*, 06/30/2018)
There are signs North Korea is still working on its nuclear program. Here's why 'denuclearization' is so problematic. (*Washington Post*, 06/30/2018)
U.S. intelligence believes North Korea making more nuclear bomb fuel despite talks: NBC (*Reuters*, 06/30/2018)
US stands firm with Japan, says James Mattis, as allies eye North Korea talks with unease (*Telegraph*, 06/29/2018)

In North Korea:

- DPRK state media reported on Jun. 30 (Sat.) that KJU visited Sindo County, North P'yo'ngan Province and conducted a field inspection of Korean People's Army (KPA) Unit #1524. (*NK Leadership Watch*)
- KJU has visited island areas near China, the country's state media said Sat., a move apparently aimed at spurring economic cooperation with Beijing. (*Yonhap*)
- The summit statement signed by Trump and KJU agreed that: "" There is speculation that this commitment means diplomatic relations and that such relations may begin with the establishment of liaison offices in each other's capitals. (Lynn Turk, *38 North*)

- Checkpoints have been established at orphanages and schools for orphans throughout NK, and they thoroughly check the identities of all those entering the facilities. Sources in NK said that the frequent disappearances of orphans at the border (with China) has led to action from the central authorities. (Kang Mi Jin, *DailyNK*)

In South Korea:

- N. Korean facilities to host the planned Aug. reunions of separated families during the 1950-1953 Korean War are in need of major repairs, a S. Korean inspection team said upon returning home on Fri. after a three-day visit there. (*Yonhap*)
- Nam Sang-ho is a seeker of the dead. His job is to reunite families with the remains of soldiers killed in action, or KIA, during the 1950-53 Korean War. As part of the Ministry of National Defense's Agency for KIA Recovery and Identification, his team has reunited the remains of 128 fallen soldiers with their families. (Park Jung-ho, Noh Shin-young, *Korea Joongang Daily*)

International:

- Chinese investors are demanding that closed-circuit surveillance cameras be installed in Chinese-North Korean joint ventures operating inside North Korea to prevent workers from stealing materials and products that cause financial losses, sources said. (Jieun Kim, Roseanne Gerin, *RFA*)
- Trump has declared NK is no longer a threat, but that doesn't make the Japanese fishermen of Sakata feel any easier as they leave port for the peak fishing season. (*Reuters*)
- The US will uphold its commitment to Japan's security while it seeks to implement Trump's nuclear deal with NK, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Fri. (Missy Ryan, *Washington Post*)
- NK has increased its production of enriched uranium for nuclear weapons at secret sites in recent months, contrary to Trump's claims that it was "no longer a nuclear threat", according to a new report. (Julian Borger, *Guardian*)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Fri. discussed the importance of fully implementing sanctions on NK in a phone call with his Chinese counterpart. (*Yonhap*)
- Following reports that US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will visit Pyongyang next week, the Blue House said Fri. that it is "closely observing" the denuclearization negotiations between the US and NK. (Sarah Kim, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- Less than two weeks after his summit in Singapore with KJU, Trump triumphantly declared that "[T]he document we signed, if people actually read it to the public, you'd see: Number one statement, we will immediately begin total denuclearization of NK." (Jane Vaynman, Vipin Narang, *Washington Post*)
- US intelligence agencies believe NK has increased production of fuel for nuclear weapons at multiple secret sites in recent months and may try to hide these while seeking concessions in nuclear talks with the US, NBC News quoted US officials as saying. (*Reuters*)

- The American defence secretary on Fri. sought to reassure Japan that it would not be abandoned by the Trump administration as it sought to reach a denuclearisation agreement with NK. (Rob Crilly, *Telegraph*)

Prepared by Lauren Jackson, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250720213017/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsus-intelligence-believes-nk-making-more-nuclear-bomb-fuel-despite-talks-pompeo-seems-headed-back-to-nk?e=8a9aae5198

7. JULY

Sunday, July 1, 2018

South, North Korea reconnect military hotline at sea; Bolton says there's a one-year plan for North Korea to denuclearize

In North Korea:
Dismissed former North Korean general confirmed reinstated (Korea Times, 7/1/2018)
Kim Jong-un in pictures: Bizarre photoshoots of North Korea's leader (Telegraph, 7/1/2018)
N. Korea leader inspects special economic zone (Korea Times, 7/1/2018)
N. Korean leader visits cosmetics factory in border area with China (Yonhap, 7/1/2018)
Pounding the pavement (Korea Joongang Daily, 7/1/2018)

In South Korea:
Moon recovers stamina after four days of rest (Korea Joongang Daily, 7/1/2018)
S. Korea stops building military facilities near DMZ (Korea Times, 7/1/2018)
S. Korean military puts off reconstruction work for frontline military bases (Yonhap, 7/1/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) Two Koreas normalize maritime communication hot line: Defense Ministry (Yonhap, 7/1/2018)
Seoul to begin repair of liaison office in Kaesong (Yonhap, 7/1/2018)
South, North reconnect military hotline at sea (Korea Joongang Daily, 7/1/2018)

International:
Bolton says there's a one-year plan for North Korea to denuclearize, stays mum on WaPo report (CNN, 7/1/2018)
GOP senator: Report that North Korea will not denuclearize 'very troubling' (The Hill, 7/1/2018)
It's Kim's move (Korea Joongang Daily, 7/1/2018)
John Bolton says North Korea nuclear programme could be dismantled within a year (Telegraph, 7/1/2018)
N. Koreans exhume US soldiers' remains for possible cash reward (Korea Times, 7/1/2018)
North Korea appeals to China for economic help as it reopens radio channel with the South (Telegraph, 7/1/2018)
North Korea Kidnapped Her 13-Year-Old Daughter. She Spent Decades Trying To Get Her Back. (Huffington Post, 7/1/2018)
North Korea seeks sanctions relief using China leverage (Korea Times, 7/1/2018)
North Korea working to conceal key aspects of its nuclear program, U.S. officials say (Washington Post, 6/30/2018)
North Korea's Kim asked China to bring early end to sanctions: Yomiuri (Reuters, 6/30/2018)
Salvation Army 'ready to help N. Korea' (Korea Times, 7/1/2018)

Trump: 'possible' North Korea nuclear deal may not 'work out' (Guardian, 7/1/2018)
US, N. Korea bolster trust-building after Singapore summit (Korea Times, 7/1/2018)
US: North Korea Could Dismantle Nuclear Program within a Year (VOA, 7/1/2018)
US accuses N. Korea of human rights violations (Korea Times, 7/1/2018)
U.S. envoy Kim held talks with North Korea: South Korean media (Reuters, 7/1/2018)
U.S. has plan to dismantle North Korea nuclear program within a year: Bolton (Reuters, 7/1/2018)
Willful suspension of disbelief (Korea Joongang Daily, 7/1/2018)

In North Korea:

- Hwang Pyong-so, a former North Korean general who was dismissed last year, has been reinstated, as evidenced by North Korean state media reports that he accompanied North Korean leader KJU on recent on-site inspections. (*Korea Times*)
- NK's leader KJU came to power after the death of his father Kim Jong-Il in December, 2011. Here, we take a look back at some of the most bizarre photo opportunities that he has taken part in during his time in charge of the highly secretive state. (*Telegraph*)
- North Korean leader KJU visited a border region between NK and China in what was seen as move to bolster economic cooperation with Beijing, according to the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA). (Yi Whan-Woo, *Korea Times*)
- North Korean leader KJU continued his symbolic move to emphasize the importance of the country's economic ties with China by visiting a cosmetics factory in a border town near its biggest trading partner, the NK's state media said Sunday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean leader KJU and his wife Ri Sol-ju, in yellow, tour a cosmetics factory in the city of Sinuiju, a special economic zone bordering China, in this photo released by the North's state-run Korean Central News Agency on Sunday. (*Korea Joongang Daily*)

In South Korea:

- President Moon Jae-in expects to return to work today after taking Thursday, Friday and the weekend off due to illness. The first item on his schedule is a meeting with his prime minister. Another event that is on Moon's mind is U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's scheduled visit to Pyongyang on Friday. (Kang Jin-Kyu, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- According to military sources, Sunday, SK suspended plans to build new military facilities at army bases near the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), in apparent preparation for the case the facilities might never be used following phased disarmament. (Park Ji-Won, *Korea Times*)
- The South Korean military has put on hold reconstruction plans for army bases located in frontline areas within 5-10 kilometers of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), government officials said Sunday. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The South Korean defense ministry said Sunday the two Koreas have resumed using ship-to-ship radio links for smooth communications at sea for the first time in 10 years. The ministry said the connection is to uphold the recent agreements between the two to defuse

military tensions and prevent unexpected confrontations, especially in the Yellow Sea. (Yonhap)

- A group of South Korean officials and workers will visit NK this week to repair an office in Kaesong that is to be used as a liaison office between the two Koreas, Seoul's unification ministry said Sunday. (Yonhap)
- The two Koreas restored a maritime communication channel for the first time in a decade on Sunday in another show of cooperation between the two countries after their leaders signed a landmark declaration in April committing to reconciliation. (Lee Sung-Eun, Korea Joongang Daily)

International:

- White House national security adviser John Bolton offered up new details on Sunday about the path toward the nuclear disarmament of NK and addressed a recent Washington Post report suggesting that the country plans to deceive the US about its nuclear stockpile. (Maegan Vazquez, CNN)
- Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) on Sunday expressed concerns about a Washington Post report that found NK allegedly does not intend to denuclearize. "This is a very troubling report, there's no doubt about it," Collins said on CNN's "State of the Union." (Emily Birnbaum, The Hill)
- Nearly three weeks have passed since the historic summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader KJU. In a meaningful step toward the goal of denuclearization, NK blew up a nuclear test site in Punggye-ri and agreed to repatriate the remains of U.S. soldiers killed during the 1950-53 Korean War. But on denuclearization, Pyongyang is dragging its feet. (Korea Joongang Daily)
- White House national security adviser John Bolton said on Sunday he believed the bulk of NK's nuclear programme could be dismantled within a year, as US media reported that the hermit nation had recently increased production for nuclear weapons. (Telegraph)
- North Koreans have dug up the remains of American soldiers killed during the 1950-53 Korean War that they have hidden for years for possible cash rewards one day when relations with the US improved, according to sources familiar with Pyongyang. (Yi Whan-Woo, Korea Times)
- NK and SK reopened a maritime communication channel on Sunday, with vessels from the two countries making radio contact for the first time in a decade. It was also on Sunday reported that KJU, the North Korean leader, has appealed to China's Xi Jinping to help end sanctions against Pyongyang following his landmark summit with US President Donald Trump. (Telegraph)
- Megumi Yokota was just 13 when she disappeared just after sunset on Nov. 15, 1977. During the 1970s and 80s, NK kidnapped at least 17 Japanese citizens. Only a little information about their fate has trickled out from the secretive North Korean regime. The full explanation of why they were taken remains a mystery. (Nick Robins-Early, Huffington Post)
- NK appears to be seeking a lifting of international sanctions imposed on the country by using its longtime ally, China, as leverage. NK is shifting its focus toward economic

development, and for that goal, sanctions relief and economic cooperation with other countries will be essential. (Kim Bo-Eun, *Korea Times*)

- US intelligence officials, citing newly obtained evidence, have concluded that NK does not intend to fully surrender its nuclear stockpile, and instead is considering ways to conceal the number of weapons it has and secret production facilities, according to US officials. (Ellen Nakashima, Joby Warrick, *Washington Post*)
- North Korean leader KJU asked Chinese President Xi Jinping during a meeting in Beijing in June to work towards bringing an early end to economic sanctions imposed on his country, Japan's Yomiuri newspaper reported on Sunday. (*Reuters*)
- The Salvation Army is ready to help NK if the reconciliatory dialogue between the Koreas leads to opening their border, according to the organization's chief. (Yi Whan-Woo, *Korea Times*)
- Donald Trump said on Sunday it was "possible" that a deal he claimed ended the nuclear threat posed by NK would not "work out". A day after it was reported that Pyongyang has increased its production of enriched uranium at secret sites, Fox Business broadcast an interview with the president. (Tom McCarthy, Martin Pengelly, *Guardian*)
- NK and the US are refraining from blaming each other as part of efforts to build trust and speed up reconciliation in the wake of the summit between their leaders in Singapore on June 12. The scene is different from last year when U.S. Donald Trump and North Korean leader KJU exchanged a war of words and threatened to attack each other's country. (Yi Whan-Woo, *Korea Times*)
- U.S. national security adviser John Bolton said Sunday he believes that most of NK's nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programs can be dismantled within a year. (Ken Bredemeier, VOA)
- The US is accusing NK of human rights violations, despite a reconciliatory mood between the countries after a summit between their leaders in Singapore, June 12. The U.S. Department of State put NK in the lowest Tier 3 for 16th consecutive year in its annual "2018 Trafficking in Persons Report" released on June 28. (Yi Whan-Woo, *Korea Times*)
- U.S. envoy Sung Kim held talks with North Korean officials on Sunday in the border village of Panmunjom within the demilitarized zone between NK and SK, South Korean media reported on Sunday. (*Reuters*)
- White House national security adviser John Bolton said on Sunday he believed the bulk of NK's weapons programs could be dismantled within a year, although some experts say the complete process could take far longer. (Doina Chiacu, David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)
- If we look at the Singapore summit using standard diplomatic metrics, it was a profound embarrassment. Nonetheless, it was a success in one important respect: that it happened at all. The only appropriate stance is what Samuel Coleridge once called "the willing suspension of disbelief," to pretend for the moment that the surreal is in fact plausible. (Stephan Haggard, *Korea Joongang Daily*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250720214121/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-south-north-korea-reconnect-military-hotline-at-sea-bolton-says-theres-a-one-year-plan-for-north-korea-to-denuclearize?e=%5BUNIQID%5D

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Monday, July 2, 2018

UN's role needed on N. Korea's human rights violation; Trump may hold Round 2 with Kim Jong-un in NYC

In North Korea:
Dismissed former N. Korean general confirmed to have been fully reinstated (Yonhap, 07/01/2018)
Documentary on North Koreans mirrors community's hopes, struggles (UPI, 07/02/2018)
Hwang Pyong-so back in Kim's good graces (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/02/2018)
Is North Korea secretly continuing its nuclear programme? (BBC, 07/02/2018)
Kim Jong-un 'blasts workers at factories for not working hard enough' (Telegraph, 07/02/2018)
Kim returns from China with new instructions for local Party leaders (Daily NK, 07/02/2018)
N.K. leader Kim visits textile plants, chastens workers for not working hard (Yonhap, 07/02/2018)
North Korea expands weapons facilities despite US pressure to disarm (Telegraph, 07/02/2018)
Researcher: North Korea's real estate market is booming (UPI, 07/02/2018)
Samjiyon railway finally completed (Daily NK, 07/02/2018)
U.N.'s role needed on N. Korea's human rights violation: envoy (Yonhap, 07/02/2018)
VOA Asia - Is North Korea secretly boosting its nuclear program? (VOA, 07/01/2018)

In South Korea:
S Korea to extend support application period to help settlement of defectors (Yonhap, 07/02/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
'Forex act' may boost inter-Korean projects (Korea Times, 07/02/2018)
Koreas to push in earnest for peace, prosperity in autumn summit: Seoul official (Yonhap, 07/02/2018)
N. Korea's opening will offset global downturn for S. Korea: Jim Rogers (Yonhap, 07/02/2018)
S. Korea sends workers to N. Korea to repair liaison office facilities (Yonhap, 07/02/2018)
S. Korean officials, athletes to leave for N. Korea for inter-Korean basketball matches (Yonhap, 07/02/2018)
Two Koreas to push in earnest for peace, prosperity in autumn summit (Korea Times, 07/02/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) N. Korea's vice economy minister visits China (Yonhap, 07/02/2018)
Alarms are ringing (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/02/2018)
As Bolton Says North Korea Could Disarm in a Year, Reality Lags Promises (NYT, 07/01/2018)
Bolton: N. Korea Could Dismantle Nuclear Program Within a Year (VOA, 07/01/2018)

Bolton unveils plan to denuclearize N. Korea in 1 year (Yonhap, 07/02/2018)
China may slow pace of tourism cooperation with N. Korea after U.S. protest (Yonhap, 07/02/2018)
China welcomes increase in inter-Korean contacts (Yonhap, 07/02/2018)
Choosing your allies carefully (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/02/2018)
Fact-checking President Trump's claims about the success of the North Korea deal (Washington Post, 07/01/2018)
Money laundering watchdog maintains strongest measures against N. Korea (Yonhap, 07/02/2018)
North Korea could make issue of Japan plutonium, analyst says (UPI, 07/02/2018)
North Korea is taking advantage of Trump (Washington Post, 07/02/2018)
North Korean economic official visits Beijing (UPI, 07/02/2018)
Officials react to reports of nuclear program activity in North Korea (Washington Post, 07/01/2018)
President Trump's exaggerated claims about the North Korea deal (Washington Post, 07/02/2018)
Scoop: Trump may hold Round 2 with Kim Jong-un in NYC (Axios, 07/02/2018)
South Korea's Hyundai says U.S. car tariffs would harm security ties over North Korea (Reuters, 07/01/2018)
The Latest: US holds talks on next steps with North Korea (AP, 07/02/2018)
Tightrope diplomacy (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/02/2018)
Trump: N. Korea 'very serious' about denuclearization (Yonhap, 07/01/2018)
Trump said North Korea was 'no longer a nuclear threat.' His spies disagree. (Washington Post, 07/02/2018)
Trump's big North Korea deal is already turning out to be a sham (Washington Post, 07/02/2018)
U.S. envoy meets with North officials (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/02/2018)
US, North Korea begin follow-up talks over denuclearization (Korea Times, 07/02/2018)
US, North Korea bolster trust-building after Singapore summit (Korea Times, 07/02/2018)

In North Korea:

- Hwang Pyong-so, a former N. Korean general who was dismissed last year, has been reinstated, as evidenced by N. Korean state media reports that he accompanied N. Korean leader KJU on recent on-site inspections. (*Yonhap*)
- The growing community of N. Korean refugees in Britain is getting its first documentary, but the star of the film, Choi Joong Wha, has been unable to attend any of the screenings, according to the film's director. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- A high-ranking N. Korean official whom SK's spy agency believed was fired from his post for "impure attitudes" toward leader KJU has been rechristened as a "senior official" in the Workers' Party's Central Committee. (Lee Sung-eun, Chun Su-jin, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The recent reports, based on US intelligence leaks, suggest the country is still upgrading its nuclear enrichment sites, among other activities. So what's actually going on? (Andreas Illmer, BBC)
- KJU, the N. Korean dictator, has lambasted workers at two textile factories for not working hard enough, failing to take care of their buildings and moaning about shortages of money and materials, according to state-run media. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- After returning from his visit to China (June 19-20), N. Korean Chairman KJU summoned all provincial managers in the country to the capital city of Pyongyang. Sources indicate he

used the meeting to explain the current status and future direction of strategic relations with China and handed down new orders on agriculture. (Kang Mi Jin, *Daily NK*)

- N. Korean leader KJU has chastened workers for not working hard enough during his recent trip to textile factories in a northwestern border town, its state media reported Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- NK is completing a major expansion of a key missile-manufacturing plant, according to new satellite pictures that have cast fresh doubt on Pyongyang's commitment to disarm despite US pressure. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- The N. Korean regime forbids its citizens to privately own property. The state owns it, as well as any products created from the land's use as stated in its constitution. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- Major construction efforts on the railroad from Hyesan to Samjiyon, Ryanggang Province, began in 2015. Recent reports suggest that project has now been completed, with trains running on the tracks. (Kang Mi Jin, *Daily NK*)
- A UN expert on NK's human rights on Mon welcomed a thaw in inter-Korean relations and voiced hope for the global agency's role in addressing the communist nation's human rights record, according to SK's foreign ministry. (*Yonhap*)
- Optimism amid reports of North Korea boosting its nuclear program. (VOA)

In South Korea:

- SK will extend the period that N. Korean defectors are eligible to apply for state support as part of efforts to provide more help for their settlement in S. Korean society, the unification ministry said Mon. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Exploiting Korea's Foreign Exchange Transaction Act could pave the way for the two Koreas to bolster economic cooperation, said Tony Michell, a Seoul-based specialist on the Korean Peninsula. (Kim Jae-kyoung, *Korea Times*)
- SK and NK will focus on fostering peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula and preparing a framework for sustainable development in their bilateral ties when their leaders meet in the autumn summit, Seoul's unification minister said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- Legendary investor Jim Rogers said Mon that the world will face serious economic problems over the next few years, but NKs opening will create huge chances for gains by SK. (Oh Seok-min, *Yonhap*)
- A group of S. Korean officials and civilians left for NK's border town of Kaesong Mon to carry out repair work on facilities to be used for an inter-Korean liaison office, the unification ministry said. (*Yonhap*)
- A delegation of S. Korean officials, athletes and media people will leave for NK this week to participate in inter-Korean basketball matches in Pyongyang, a unification ministry official said Mon. (*Yonhap*)

- SK and NK will focus on fostering peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula and preparing a framework for sustainable development in their bilateral ties when their leaders meet in the autumn summit, Seoul's unification minister said Mon. (*Korea Times*)

International:

- A top N. Korean official handling economic policy began a trip to China on Mon amid indications that the neighboring countries are seeking to expand bilateral economic cooperation. (*Yonhap*)
- Alarms bells are ringing over NK's nuclear threats. Quoting the US Defense Intelligence Agency's analysis, foreign media organizations reported that the North now has 65 nuclear warheads and its uranium enrichment devices have also skyrocketed to a whopping 12,000. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Pres. Trump's national security adviser said on Sun that NK could dismantle all of its nuclear weapons, threatening missiles and biological weapons "in a year," a far more aggressive schedule than the one Secretary of State Pompeo outlined for Congress recently, reflecting a strain inside the administration over how to match promises with realism. (David E. Sanger, William J. Broad, NYT)
- US national security adviser Bolton said Sun he believes that most of NK's nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programs can be dismantled within a year. (Ken Bredemeier, VOA)
- US National Security Adviser Bolton said Sun that the Trump administration plans to push for dismantling NK's nuclear weapons program within a year. (*Yonhap*)
- China appears to be slowing the pace of its tourism sector cooperation with NK, apparently in the face of complaints from the US, industry sources said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- China's Foreign Ministry on Mon welcomed the recent strengthening of inter-Korean contacts, urging the international community to encourage them. (*Yonhap*)
- Key officials in the Blue House have been praying for US Pres. Trump. They credit Trump for the dramatic change of course in the Korean Peninsula towards peace, but they dread a possible turnaround should anything happen to Trump. (Lee Ha-kyung, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Pres. Trump and N. Korean leader Kim Jong-un signed an agreement on June 12. But Trump's claims about what has happened since then lack evidence. (*Washington Post*)
- The president has been making assurances about NK in virtually all of his public remarks. On June 15, he went so far as to say he had "solved" the problem. But experts say Trump is getting ahead of himself and is exaggerating or flubbing sensitive details. The agreement with KJU is light on specifics, and much is riding on international negotiations now taking place. The threat, for now, is still looming. (Salvador Rizzo, Meg Kelly, *Washington Post*)
- Hyundai Motor cautioned the US administration that imposing up to 25 percent tariffs on imported vehicles from SK would hurt a security alliance between the two countries over NK's nuclear ambitions. (*Reuters*)
- A former US State Department official said Japan's stockpile of plutonium raises concerns, as Washington prepares to negotiate a nuclear timetable with NK. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

- It was bad enough that Pres. Trump lavished praise on NK's dictator KJU, unilaterally suspended military exercises with SK, and professed to "trust" KJU. Now, it turns out, while stalling about the commencement of talks, NK is expanding its nuclear weapons program. (Jennifer Rubin, *Washington Post*)
- Senators and the national security adviser responded to reports that NK is still working on its nuclear program. (*Washington Post*)
- NK's top economic policy official visited China on Mon, two weeks after N. Korean leader KJU's state visit to its regional partner. (UPI)
- Some administration officials are so optimistic about making progress with NK's KJU that they hope a Round 2 with Pres. Trump can be held in NYC in Sept, when world leaders pour into Trump's hometown for the UN General Assembly. (Mike Allen, Axios)
- An international anti-money laundering body has decided to maintain top-level countermeasures against NK over its illicit financial activities, Seoul's financial regulator said Mon. (*Yonhap*)
- The Latest on the United States and North Korea. (AP)
- "Let's talk over drinks," N. Korean leader KJU told US Sec. of State Pompeo on May 9 on his second trip to Pyongyang, according to a source. The two talked in English without interpreters and got drunk. As they enjoyed drinks, KJU said he had a firm will for denuclearization and was sure that NK had to hold hands with the US to survive. (Kang Chan-ho, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- US Pres. Trump has said he believes NK is "very serious" about dismantling its nuclear weapons program as skepticism persists over whether the regime will follow through on its denuclearization pledge. (*Yonhap*)
- Over the weekend, separate reports citing US officials seemed to confirm what so many experts have long feared — that despite the overtures and sunny proclamations made at the Singapore summit between Pres. Trump and N. Korean leader KJU, Pyongyang probably has little interest in dismantling its nuclear program. (Ishaan Taylor, *Washington Post*)
- Pres. Trump claimed he would use his world-class dealmaking skills to convince NKs dictator, KJU, to surrender his nuclear weapons. Instead, Trump got played. KJU, who pledged in wishy-washy language to "denuclearize," is now accelerating his nuclear program. (Brian Klaas, *Washington Post*)
- A team of US negotiators led by Sung Kim met with N. Korean officials at the border village of Panmunjom on Sun to flesh out details of an agreement signed by the two countries' leaders at their landmark summit last month. (Lee Sung-eun, Yoo Jee-hye, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Washington and Pyongyang have started follow-up talks to discuss the detailed process of NK's denuclearization, after a dialogue hiatus of more than two weeks since the historic summit between their leaders. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- NK and the US are refraining from blaming each other as part of efforts to build trust and speed up reconciliation in the wake of the summit between their leaders in Singapore on June 12. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250720214242/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsuns-role-needed-on-n-koreas-human-rights-violation-trump-may-hold-round-2-with-kim-jong-un-in-nyc?e=%5BUNIQID%5D

Tuesday, July 3, 2018

Pompeo heads to NK to start detailed nuclear negotiations; Koreas exchange lists of candidate families ahead of reunions

In North Korea:
Cadres told to reinforce North Korea's seal to fight 'imperialist ideology' (DailyNK, 07/3/2018)
Is North Korea sitting on a pile of rare-earth minerals? (Korea Joongang Daily, 07/3/2018)
Kim to Xi: No China passing if aid comes (Korea Joongang Daily, 07/3/2018)
(LEAD) Senior N. Korean ruling party official departs for Cuba (Yonhap, 07/3/2018)
North Koreans protest unfair market crackdowns (DailyNK, 07/3/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) S. Korean FM preps trip to Tokyo for talks on N. Korea (Yonhap, 07/3/2018)
South Korea monitoring North Korea after missile launcher report (UPI, 07/3/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Basketball diplomacy resumes (Korea Joongang Daily, 07/3/2018)
Koreas exchange lists of separated family members (Korea Times, 07/3/2018)
Koreas to play goodwill basketball games possibly in front of Kim Jong-un (Korea Times, 07/3/2018)
(LEAD) Exim Bank set to support inter-Korean economic cooperation (Yonhap, 07/3/2018)
(LEAD) Koreas exchange lists of candidate families ahead of reunions (Yonhap, 07/3/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korean officials, athletes visit N. Korea before friendly basketball matches (Yonhap, 07/3/2018)
Moon pushes inter-Korean centennial events (Korea Joongang Daily, 07/3/2018)
Moon: Sharing history of independence movement good for inter-Korean reconciliation (Yonhap, 07/3/2018)
N.K. holds welcoming dinner for S. Korean basketball players, officials (Yonhap, 07/3/2018)
S. Korean guard looking to build harmony with N. Koreans in hoops friendlies (Yonhap, 07/3/2018)
South Korean Basketballers Arrive in North to Mix Sports, Diplomacy (VOA, 07/3/2018)
Trump, Kim Jong-un could meet in New York: report (Korea Times, 07/3/2018)
Two Koreas to jointly celebrate 100th year of independence movement (Korea Times, 07/3/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) Pompeo to travel to N. Korea Thursday for nuclear talks: White House (Yonhap, 07/3/2018)
Bring Koreas together first, says Zelikow (Korea Joongang Daily, 07/3/2018)

Donald Trump seems to think he is the only thing keeping America from nuclear war right now (CNN, 07/3/2018)
Ex-U.S. defense secretary sees hope in N. Korea's behavior (Yonhap, 07/3/2018)
(News Focus) U.S. forces in S. Korea given breathing space to explore future roles (Yonhap, 07/3/2018)
North Korea just first stop on round-world trip for Pompeo (Washington Post, 07/3/2018)
Pompeo heads to North Korea to start detailed nuclear negotiations (Korea Joongang Daily, 07/3/2018)
Pompeo to head to North Korea as doubts mount about its intentions (Reuters, 07/3/2018)
Pompeo's NK visit (Korea Times, 07/3/2018)
The return of the hawk (Korea Joongang Daily, 07/3/2018)
Trump: 'If not for me,' United States would be at war with North Korea (Washington Post, 07/3/2018)
Trump says nuclear talks with North Korea 'going well' (Reuters, 07/3/2018)
Trump Says Talks with North Korea are 'Going Well' (VOA, 07/3/2018)

In North Korea:

- Following special orders given to Party cadres, the N. Korean authorities have been continually emphasizing the importance of rejecting foreign culture and adhering to socialism. (Kim Yoo Jin, *DailyNK*)
- The Korea Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources, a state-run research institute, held a symposium on Jun. 14 where experts in geology and natural resources gathered to talk about how they could further their research on the natural resources in NK. (Choi Hyung-jo, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- During his summit with the Chinese president last month, KJU promised Xi Jinping that he would not bypass Beijing during talks with the US and asked China to provide economic aid in return, multiple sources with knowledge of the meeting exclusively told the JoongAng Ilbo on Mon. (Jeong Yong-soo, Lee Sung-eun, *Korea Joongang Daily)*
- A senior official of NK's ruling Workers' Party departed Tues. for Cuba, Pyongyang's state media reported without elaborating on the purpose of his trip. (*Yonhap*)
- Under the pretext of eradicating anti-socialist elements, NK's authorities are cracking down on market activity. In reaction, some residents have openly protested the country's state security officers. (Kim Yoo Jin, *DailyNK*)

In South Korea:

- S. Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha is expected to visit Japan this weekend for a tripartite meeting with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Japan's top diplomat Taro Kono on NK, her ministry said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- SK's joint chiefs of staff says it is monitoring NK's missile equipment production, after a recent press report suggested NK may be producing equipment for launchers. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- A delegation of S. Korean basketball players, government officials and journalists arrived in Pyongyang Tues. for friendly basketball games with NK in the latest show of sports diplomacy between the two countries. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- The Red Cross of the South and North Tues. exchanged documents requesting a search for surviving separated family members on each side, at the truce village of Panmunjeom. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- SK and NK men's and women's basketball teams will play goodwill matches today and Thurs. in Pyongyang, possibly with the KJU attending. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- The Export-Import Bank of Korea (Exim Bank), one of SK's state-run policy lenders, said Tues. that it will provide full financial support for future inter-Korean economic cooperation projects. (*Yonhap*)
- SK and NK exchanged the lists of people wishing to meet their families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War in a bid to confirm whether their loved ones are alive and able to join reunions next month, a Red Cross official here said Tues. (*Yonhap*)
- A delegation of S. Korean officials, athletes and media people visited NK on Tues. to participate in inter-Korean friendly basketball matches amid a thaw in inter-Korean relations. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon called for joint programs between SK and NK on Tues. to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Korean independence movement. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- Moon said Tues. that SK and NK can promote cross-border reconciliation if they jointly research and celebrate the history of Korea's independence movement against Japan's colonial rule. (*Yonhap*)
- NK held a welcoming dinner Tues. for a delegation of S. Korean athletes and government officials visiting Pyongyang for inter-Korean friendly basketball matches. (*Yonhap*)
- S. Korean guard Park Hye-jin said Tues. she's looking forward to the feeling of being one with N. Koreans during the upcoming inter-Korean exhibition games. (*Yonhap*)
- A group of male and female S. Korean basketball players will play their N. Korean counterparts in a series of games aimed at furthering the growing ties between Seoul and Pyongyang. (VOA)
- Trump is reportedly considering a second summit with KJU in New York in Sept. (Jung Min-ho, *Korea Times*)
- SK will invite NK to jointly commemorate the 100th anniversary of the March 1 Independence Movement and the establishment of Korea's provisional government in Shanghai in 1919 during Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule, Moon said, Tues. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)

International:

- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will travel to NK Thurs. to meet with KJU and continue negotiations on dismantling the regime's nuclear weapons program, the White House said. (Yonhap)
- Focusing on denuclearization won't get us anywhere with NK, says Philip Zelikow, a former US State Department official and professor of history at the University of Virginia. (Esther Chung, Choi Ik-jae, Korea Joongang Daily)
- On Tues. morning, Trump tweeted: "Many good conversations with NK-it is going well! In the meantime, no Rocket Launches or Nuclear Testing in 8 months. All of Asia is thrilled. Only the Opposition Party, which includes the Fake News, is complaining. If not for me, we would now be at War with NK!" (Chris Cillizza, CNN)
- Former US Defense Secretary William Perry said Mon. that he is hopeful about NK's promise to dismantle its nuclear weapons program following its recent efforts to engage. (Yonhap)
- More than six decades ago when its headquarters was ensconced in central Seoul, the US Forces Korea (USFK) faced the grim reality of a war-ravaged SK gripped by fears of communist expansion at the height of the Cold War. (Yonhap)
- NK will be just the first stop on Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's first around-the-world trip as America's top diplomat. (AP)
- Mike Pompeo will make a three-day trip to Pyongyang starting Thurs. to meet with KJU and other officials, announced the White House and State Department Mon., to discuss a more concrete roadmap to denuclearization negotiations following the Jun. 12 Singapore summit. (Sarah Kim, Korea Joongang Daily)
- Mike Pompeo will leave for NK on Thurs. seeking agreement on a plan for the country's denuclearization, despite mounting doubts about Pyongyang's willingness to abandon a weapons program that threatens the US and its allies. (Reuters)
- The White House confirmed US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's third trip to Pyongyang this week. (Korea Times)
- US National Security Adviser John Bolton has returned with confidence. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that there would be no timeline for denuclearization, but Bolton gave Pompeo a guideline for follow-up negotiations to set a one-year time limit. (Jung Hyo-sik, Korea Joongang Daily)
- Trump said Tues. that the US would be at war with NK without his efforts and that conversations with the nation's leaders are "going well" — an assessment at odds with recent reports that NK is working to conceal key aspects of its nuclear weapons program. (John Wagner, Washington Post)
- Trump said on Tues. that talks with NK were "going well" as US officials seek to reach an agreement with Pyongyang over a denuclearization plan following last month's summit between Trump and KJU. (Reuters)
- Trump said Tues. that talks to end NK's nuclear program are "going well" despite concerns Pyongyang may be actually bolstering its nuclear and missile facilities. (VOA)

Prepared by Lauren Jackson, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:

https://web.archive.org/web/20250720214114/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-pompeo-heads-to-nk-to-start-detailed-nuclear-negotiations-koreas-exchange-lists-of-candidate-families-ahead-of-reunions?e=%5BUNIQID%5D

Wednesday, July 4, 2018

Koreas hold friendly basketball match in Pyongyang; Timeline for Pyongyang's denuclearization on hold: US

In North Korea:
38 North Special Report: Recent Changes in Kim Jong Un's High Command (38 North, 7/3/2018)
Former aide of Kim Jong-un's executed uncle reinstated (Korea Times, 7/4/2018)
Kim Jong Un continues to ignore rule of law in public execution of military officer (Daily NK, 7/4/2018)
North Korea Celebrates Fourth of July 2018 With Peace, Last Year It Launched ICBM 'Gift' For 'American Bastards' (Newsweek, 7/4/2018)
North Korea starts selection process for divided family reunions: veterans 'a priority' (Daily NK, 7/4/2018)
North Korean leader Kim Jong-un gets pants dirty (PHOTOS) (Korea Times, 7/4/2018)
North Korean vessel masks identity, involved in sanctions evasion: Japan (NKNews, 7/4/2018)
North Koreans Head to the Hills to Avoid Forced Labor, Contributions to Regime (RFA, 7/3/2018)
Satellite Images: North Korea Is Expanding Its Weapons Program (NPR, 7/3/2018)
Time will soon tell whether Kim Jong Un wants to denuclearize (Daily NK, 7/4/2018)

In South Korea:
Defector with Lou Gehrig's Disease finds tranquility in South Korea (Daily NK, 7/3/2018)
Moon Jae-in calls for compensation of Yeonpyeong naval clash victims (UPI, 7/3/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) Koreas hold friendly basketball match in Pyongyang (Yonhap, 7/4/2018)
(2nd LD) Koreas holding working-level talks on forestry cooperation (Yonhap, 7/4/2018)
(4th LD) Koreas agree to cooperate to protect forestry against blight, insects (Yonhap, 7/4/2018)
Coach recalls old memories ahead of inter-Korean basketball game (Yonhap, 7/4/2018)
Friendly in Pyongyang shows potential joint women's team of Koreas at Asian Games (Yonhap, 7/4/2018)
Inter-Korean basketball event held in 15 years (Korea Times, 7/4/2018)
It's 'Peace' vs. 'Prosperity' in Pyongyang (Korea Joongang Daily, 7/4/2018)
Koreas to cooperate on North's reforestation (Korea Times, 7/4/2018)
N. Korean women's basketball coach 'deeply moved' by inter-Korean match in Pyongyang (Yonhap, 7/4/2018)
North, South Basketball Teams Begin Play in Pyongyang (VOA, 7/4/2018)
North and South Korea Meet in Pyongyang for Goodwill Basketball Game (TIME, 7/4/2018)

S. Korea launches process to confirm whether N. Koreans' families remain alive (Yonhap, 7/4/2018)
S. Korean basketball player happy to take part in memorable match with N. Koreans (Yonhap, 7/4/2018)
S. Korean coach hoping for closer look at N. Korean players in hoops exhibition (Yonhap, 7/3/2018)
South, North discuss joint forestry projects (Korea Joongang Daily, 7/4/2018)
Two Koreas court peace in first basketball friendly in years (Reuters, 7/4/2018)

International:
Cheong Wa Dae: FM to meet with Pompeo in Tokyo after his trip to N. Korea (Yonhap, 7/4/2018)
Did Pyongyang trick Washington? (Korea Joongang Daily, 7/4/2018)
Doubts on North Korean Denuclearization Shadow Pompeo Visit (NYT, 7/2/2018)
Experts See Risks in US Plan to Dismantle NKorea's Nukes (NYT, 7/3/2018)
Hold the champagne on North Korea, President Trump (Washington Post, 7/3/2018)
Is North Korea defying the US in expanding weapons production? (DW, 7/4/2018)
Mike Pompeo to visit North Korea this week for nuclear talks (Guardian, 7/2/2018)
N.K. official discusses energy cooperation with China (Yonhap, 7/3/2018)
North Korea satellite images show missile plant construction, analysts say (CNN, 7/2/2018)
North Korea's Nuclear Reality (NYT, 7/3/2018)
Pompeo returning to North Korea, White House says (CNN, 7/3/2018)
Property boom in China border town as US warms to North Korea (Al Jazeera, 7/4/2018)
Report: North Korea's Kim Yong Chol said Japan abduction issue 'resolved' (UPI, 7/3/2018)
Substance is key (Korea Joongang Daily, 7/4/2018)
Timeline for Pyongyang's denuclearization on hold: US (Korea Times, 7/4/2018)
Top diplomats of S. Korea, Japan, U.S. to meet next week (Yonhap, 7/4/2018)
US and North Korean officials met Sunday to discuss implementing agreement between countries (CNN, 7/1/2018)
US intel agency believes Kim won't fully denuclearize (CNN, 7/2/2018)
U.S. softens North Korea approach as Pompeo prepares for more nuclear talks (Reuters, 7/4/2018)
U.S. stance on timetable for North keeps altering (Korea Joongang Daily, 7/4/2018)

In North Korea:

- The changes in the KPA high command made in the past two months involve the heads of the three institutions which comprise a military and political command and control over the KPA's conventional and special operations forces, as well as the rear service and administrative components which support them. (Michael Madden, *38 North*)
- North Korean leader KJU has reportedly reinstated one of the closest aides to his late uncle, Jang Song-thaek, who was executed for treason in late 2013, media reports from the North indicated Wednesday. (*Korea Times*)
- Daily NK recently reported that North Korean authorities carried out a public trial at a meeting room in the April 25 House of Culture in Moranbong District, followed by the public execution of Hyon Ju Song. The public execution was reportedly carried out on orders from KJU, sidestepping procedures stipulated in NK's own Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Act. (Moon Dong-Hui, *Daily NK*)

- NK launched its first intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) on the Fourth of July 2017, praising it as "a gift for the American bastards." This year, however, the traditional U.S. foe has opted to recognize the holiday more positively, in light of a historical warming of relations between the two nations. (Tom O'Connor, *Newsweek*)
- NK has reportedly begun preparations to select participants for the upcoming inter-Korean family reunions, set to take place at North's Mount Kumgang resort from August 20 to 26. The North Korean authorities have stated that former members of the "volunteer army" have priority, and the state is currently conducting background checks and evaluating the level of their "loyalty" toward the state. (Kang Mi Jin, *Daily NK*)
- A dozen photos released from NK show its leader KJU is working to industrialize his debilitated nation. In the footage, Kim is seen with a big dirt smudge on the seat of his trousers and a red face climbing on the beach during his visit to islanders. (Oh Young-Jin, *Korea Times*)
- The Japanese Government on Wednesday published images of a North Korean vessel likely involved in prohibited ship-to-ship (STS) transfers in the East China Sea on June 29. It is the second occasion that Japan has issued reports of such activities occurring in June. (Hamish Macdonald, *NKNews*)
- An increasing number of poor urban North Koreans are abandoning their homes and moving to remote mountains to avoid forced mass mobilizations and mandatory contributions to the regime of leader KJU, sources inside the country said. (Jieun Kim, Leejin Jun, Roseanne Gerin, *RFA*)
- They show NK is increasing its ability to produce rocket motors for its nuclear armed missiles. Noel King talks to David Schmerler, analyst at Middlebury Institute for International Studies. (*NPR*)
- Time will soon reveal the sincerity behind KJU's overtures to denuclearize. In the meantime, we are left with a halting of US-ROK military exercises and the potential for American troop withdrawal from SK on the horizon. (Jong Kyo Jin, *Daily NK*)

In South Korea:

- Ms. Jo defected from NK in 2002 and entered SK in 2011. "I was already suffering from liver cancer and my body felt strange, so I went to the hospital. That's when I first heard the words 'Lou Gehrig's Disease.' However, Ms. Jo said she has found a great support network in SK, which is helping to ease her anguish. (Moon Dong-Hui, *Daily NK*)
- President Moon Jae-in said the government owes the families of South Korean sailors a belated apology for the deaths of their sons during a 2002 naval clash with North Korean forces at the maritime border. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- South and North Korean basketball players played two friendly matches in Pyongyang on Wednesday amid a thaw in inter-Korean relations. The games were played in the afternoon at Ryugyong Chung Ju-yung Gymnasium between a "peace" team and a "prosperity" team made up of a mixture of North and South Korean players. (*Yonhap*)

- The two Koreas are holding working-level talks Wednesday to discuss cooperation in the forestry sector expected to focus on addressing deforestation-related problems in the North. (Yonhap)
- The two Koreas agreed Wednesday to cooperate on protecting their forests along the inter-Korean border and other areas from damage caused by blight and harmful insects. They also agreed to conduct on-site inspections of those areas together in mid-July while at the same time exchanging the technology and know-how needed to grow and protect their forests. (Yonhap)
- South Korea men's national basketball team head coach Hur Jae said Wednesday he was filled with emotions after visiting a gym in Pyongyang for the first time in 15 years for friendly basketball games with North Koreans. (Yonhap)
- SK and NK provided a glimpse of their potential joint women's basketball team at the upcoming Asian Games when their players competed together in an exhibition game in Pyongyang on Wednesday. (Yonhap)
- SK and NK held goodwill basketball matches in Pyongyang, Wednesday, for the first time in 15 years. Teams comprised of players from both the South and the North competed against each other, under team names "Peace" and "Prosperity" at the Ryugyong Chung Ju-yung Gymnasium, which was filled with around 10,000 North Korean spectators and the sound of cheering. (Kim Bo-Eun, Korea Times)
- South and North Korean basketball players took to the court Wednesday in Pyongyang for their first friendly game in 15 years, surrounded by thousands of North Koreans chanting “peace” and “prosperity.” (Lee Sung-Eun, Korea Joongang Daily)
- The two Koreas agreed Wednesday to cooperate on NK's reforestation and transferring SK's knowledge of cultivating seedlings to the North, the Ministry of Unification said. They plan to conduct joint research on the exact condition of the North's forests. (Park Ji-Win, Korea Times)
- North Korean women's basketball head coach Jang Myong-jin said Wednesday he felt "deeply moved" after watching the players from the two Koreas playing together in a friendly game in Pyongyang. (Yonhap)
- Female basketball players from NK and SK merged, then split into mixed squads Wednesday in the first of two days of friendly games in Pyongyang. The mixed units - one dressed in white jerseys that read "Peace," the other in green that read "Prosperity" - squared off in front of a crowd of 12,000 fans at Ryugyong Jong Ju Yong Gymnasium. (VOA)
- The rival Koreas on Wednesday began two days of friendly basketball games in Pyongyang in their latest goodwill gesture amid a diplomatic push to resolve the nuclear standoff with NK. (Kim Tong-Hyung, TIME)
- SK has launched a process to confirm whether the families that North Korean people are trying to find are alive as the two prepare for temporary reunions of war-separated families, a Red Cross official said Wednesday. (Yonhap)
- South Korean basketball player Heo Ung said Wednesday he feels "honored" to take part in a memorable basketball match with North Koreans in Pyongyang. (Yonhap)
- For the South Korean women's national basketball head coach Lee Moon-kyu, the inter-Korean friendly games in Pyongyang this week won't be just another series of

exhibition matches.They will give Lee an opportunity to scout North Korean players before the two teams join forces for the Asian Games later this year. (Yonhap)

- SK agreed to help NK with disease and pest control and share its technology and science in forestry development. Officials from the two Koreas met at the border village of Panmunjom on Wednesday to discuss collaboration on forestry and environmental matters. (Lee Sung-Eun, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- NK and SK joined forces for their first basketball friendly in 15 years on Wednesday amid a warming of relations since the Winter Olympics in the South and easing tensions over the North's nuclear and missile programs. (Reuters)

International:

- Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-hwa will meet with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in Tokyo after the top American diplomat's upcoming trip to NK, the presidential spokesman said Wednesday. (Yonhap)
- The US was sure from pre-summit negotiations that NK would acknowledge the existence of a secret North Korean uranium enrichment facility called Kangsong in Singapore and thought it would be part of KJU's drastic decision. However, it didn't happen. Did Pyongyang trick Washington? (Kim Hyun-Ki, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- Three weeks after the U.S.-NK summit and ahead of an impending trip to NK by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, a leaked U.S. intelligence report and an analysis of satellite data suggest the North may be continuing its nuclear and missile activities despite a pledge to denuclearize. (NYT)
- As Secretary of State Mike Pompeo prepares to travel this week to NK, experts cautioned that the Trump administration's plan to dismantle the North's nuclear weapons and missiles in a year is both unrealistic and risky. (NYT)
- The key questions about an adversary always come down to capabilities and intentions. KJU's capabilities, if hidden, must be exposed, and his intentions, if devious, must be seen clearly. Mr. Trump ought to wake up to the fact that he is at the beginning of the beginning of this process, not the end. Here's an idea with a nice ring: Distrust, and verify. (*Washington Post*)
- As the US continues to move forward on diplomatic negotiations with NK, assessments from US intelligence agencies and several reports from satellite imagery analysts emerged this week providing evidence that Pyongyang is continuing to expand weapons production capability, which Washington says poses a threat to the US and its allies in Asia. (Wesley Rahn, DW)
- Mike Pompeo will travel to NK on Thursday in an effort to press the Pyongyang regime on commitments the US said it gave at a summit last month in Singapore, the state department has confirmed. (Julian Borger, *Guardian*)
- NK's top external economic policymaker held in-depth discussions with China on expanding cooperation in the energy sector this week, sources said Tuesday. (Yonhap)
- NK appears to be finalizing the expansion of a key ballistic missile manufacturing site, according to an analysis of satellite imagery by researchers in the US. The images come as

leaked reports from US intelligence officials appear to cast doubt on NK's willingness abandon its nuclear weapons program. (Joshua Berlinger, CNN)

- One has to wonder what in fact was achieved at the much-touted Trump-KJU summit last month, and what the US can really do to ensure our security — something this president, for all his bombast, seems demonstrably incapable of achieving. (Peter Sugar, NYT)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will travel to NK this week, the White House says. The top US diplomat will fly to Pyongyang on July 5 to meet North Korean leader KJU and his team, White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said Monday. (Zachary Cohen, Elise Labott, Betsy Klein, CNN)
- In Dandong, on the Yalu River, hopes are soaring for peace and stability on the Korean Penninsula, and so, too, is the local economy. (Rob McBride, *Al Jazeera*)
- Japanese newspaper Asahi Shimbun reported Tuesday Kim Yong Chol, vice chairman of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party, had told U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo during their New York meeting in May the issue of kidnapped Japanese "is already resolved," and the topic was not up for discussion. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- A satellite image shows that NK is expanding production facilities for a new type of solid fuel-based ballistic missile in Hamhung. There are signs that China is easing UN-imposed sanctions on NK to prevent its leverage from being weakened in the process of denuclearization. All the circumstantial evidence makes us doubt KJU's sincerity about denuclearization. Pompeo must draw concrete results from his third trip to Pyongyang. (*Korea Joongang Daily*)
- The U.S. State Department on Tuesday declined to specify a deadline for NK's denuclearization ahead of negotiations to be led by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo later this week. (*Korea Times*)
- The foreign ministers of SK, Japan and the United States will meet in Tokyo next week, Seoul's foreign ministry said Wednesday. The talks, to be held Sunday, will follow U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's trip to Pyongyang, which is scheduled to start Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- A team of US officials led by envoy Sung Kim met with North Korean officials Sunday at Panmunjom, the border village between NK and SK in the demilitarized zone, senior State Department officials told CNN. (Elise Labott, CNN)
- The DIA believes that North Korean leader KJU has no intention of engaging in a full denuclearization program, at least for now, according to an administration official familiar with the agency's finding. A second official tells CNN the Trump administration plans to present the North Koreans with a detailed list of tasks they must undertake to begin a denuclearization process. (Barbara Starr, Zachary Cohen, CNN)
- The US appears to have shelved an “all or nothing” approach to North Korean denuclearization as U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo prepares to head back to NK this week hoping to agree a roadmap for its nuclear disarmament. (David Brunnstrom, John Walcott, Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)
- The U.S. State Department said Tuesday it wouldn’t “provide a timeline” for North KoreaK remarks earlier that the North could finish the process “within a year.” (Kang Jin-Kyu, *Korea Joongang Daily*)

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250720214119/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-koreas-hold-friendly-basketball-match-in-pyongyang-timeline-for-pyongyangs-denuclearization-on-hold-us?e=%5BUNIQID%5D

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Thursday, July 5, 2018

HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu featured on Secure Freedom Radio; Pompeo heads to North Korea for nuclear talks

Top News:
HRNK Executive Director on Secure Freedom Radio with Frank Gaffney (Secure Freedom Radio, 7/2/2018)

In North Korea:
(3rd LD) N.K. leader Kim unlikely to attend inter-Korean basketball event (Yonhap, 7/5/2018)
Kim Jong Un not present at friendly basketball game with South (UPI, 7/5/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korea's media report on inter-Korean basketball matches, forestry talks (Yonhap, 7/5/2018)
[Photo] Experimental solar panel village hints at North Korea's electric future (Daily NK, 7/5/2018)
Rations restart for some military families in North Korea (Daily NK, 7/5/2018)
The key to success for North Korea's EDZs? Regaining trust and addressing human rights abuses (Daily NK, 7/5/2018)
This Is How North Korea Will Develop A Hydrogen Bomb (Forbes, 7/5/2018)

In South Korea:
Cheong Wa Dae says goal remains complete denuclearization of N. Korea (Yonhap, 7/5/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Joint March 1 commemoration to be proposed (Korea Joongang Daily, 7/5/2018)
(LEAD) Hope for peace, reconciliation found through inter-Korean basketball games: Seoul official (Yonhap, 7/5/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korea to compete at table tennis tournament in S. Korea (Yonhap, 7/5/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea, N. Korea split hoops friendlies (Yonhap, 7/5/2018)
S. Korean coach says result secondary in inter-Korean hoops friendly (Yonhap, 7/5/2018)
S. Koreans' favorable sentiment towards N. Korea hits record high: poll (Yonhap, 7/5/2018)
South pummels North in friendly (Korea Joongang Daily, 7/5/2018)
Stadium announcer says it's 'family's honor' to take part in inter-Korean basketball game (Yonhap, 7/5/2018)
The Vietnam model (Korea Joongang Daily, 7/5/2018)

Two Koreas paired together in women's handball at Asian Games (Yonhap, 7/5/2018)
Unified Korean women's hoops team grouped with 4 opponents in Asian Games (Yonhap, 7/5/2018)
(Yonhap Feature) South Koreans welcome inter-Korean reconciliation for reasons besides just peace (Yonhap, 7/5/2018)

International:
Analysis: After summit, Pompeo wants nuke details from Kim (Washington Post, 7/5/2018)
British veterans welcome North Korean return of remains from Korean War (Telegraph, 7/4/2018)
Fate of inter-Korean detente hangs on US-North nuclear talks (Washington Post, 7/5/2018)
For the U.S., a frustrating history of recovering human remains in North Korea (Washington Post, 7/4/2018)
How to denuclearise North Korea (Economist, 7/5/2018)
How Trump Went From 'Fire and Fury' to Dismissing North Korean Nuclear Advances (NYT, 7/4/2018)
Kono tells IAEA Japan is ready to help with inspecting North Korea's nuclear facilities (Japan Times, 7/5/2018)
Koreans and Japanese split on 'comfort women' deal (Korea Joongang Daily, 7/5/2018)
(LEAD) Vatican's top diplomat voices optimism for ongoing peace efforts (Yonhap, 7/5/2018)
Mike Pompeo under pressure to secure nuclear progress in North Korea visit (Guardian, 7/5/2018)
Meet the Man Who Made a Living Selling North Korean Art to the West—Until UN Sanctions Got in the Way (ArtNet, 7/5/2018)
NK criticizes Japan over human rights violations of ethnic Koreans (Korea Times, 7/5/2018)
North Korea's neighbours and investors eye opportunities in Asia's 'pre-frontier market' (South China Morning Post, 7/5/2018)
Poll: Japanese, South Koreans show gap in views on North Korea (UPI, 7/5/2018)
Pompeo, off to North Korea again, is under the gun to produce results (CNN, 7/4/2018)
Pompeo adopts softer tone ahead of talks (Korea Joongang Daily, 7/5/2018)
Pompeo heads to N. Korea for nuclear talks (Yonhap, 7/5/2018)
Pompeo's North Korea meeting will 'turn out well,' official says (UPI, 7/5/2018)
Report: Kim, Xi agreed U.S. troops should leave South Korea (UPI, 7/5/2018)
Trump-Kim Deal Raises Hopes for New MIA Recovery Bid (VOA, 7/5/2018)
Trump's Deal With North Korea Was Anemic, Sen. Menendez Says (NPR, 7/5/2018)
Trump's Focus on War Dead Complicates Pompeo's North Korea Mission (Bloomberg, 7/5/2018)
Trump's summit with Kim could foretell catastrophe with Putin (Washington Post, 7/4/2018)
Vatican envoy visits heavily fortified Joint Security Area (Korea Joongang Daily, 7/5/2018)
What Mike Pompeo wants as he heads to North Korea (CBS, 7/5/2018)

Top News:

- Secure Freedom Radio with Frank Gaffney by the Center for Security Policy quoted HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu in a piece about the lack of human rights discussions in US-North Korea diplomacy and negotiations. Executive Director Scarlatoiu stated, "HRNK would want to see a legitimate Kim regime that abides by it's international obligations because this is the only road to legitimacy. We want this regime to abide its obligations

pursuant to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a UN member state." (Frank Gaffney, *Secure Freedom Radio*)

In North Korea:

- North Korean leader KJU is unlikely to attend inter-Korean friendly basketball matches scheduled for Thursday, a senior Pyongyang official said. "The chairman is currently giving on-site guidance, so it is likely that he might not attend today's matches," United Front Department head Kim Yong-chol said in a brief meeting in Pyongyang with SK's Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean leader KJU, known to be an avid basketball fan, didn't appear at the North-South friendly basketball games on Thursday as North and South Korean players continued their second day of the match. (Wooyoung Lee, *UPI*)
- NK's state media Thursday reported on friendly inter-Korean basketball games held in Pyongyang, an event that the two Koreas organized for the first time in some 15 years. (*Yonhap*)
- The installation of solar panels is becoming so common and widespread in NK that it's even prevalent in the rural regions these days, according to photos and testimony provided by inside informants. Residents are able to heat and cook in their homes without chimneys and charcoal, an indicator of the development that has occurred within the country. (*Daily NK*)
- Following a whirlwind of summits in its efforts to engage the international community, NK has restarted the distribution of rations to some military families – who have not received such supplies for some time. (Kim Yoo Jin, *Daily NK*)
- One of the most interesting characteristics of NK's recent economic changes has been the appearance of various special investment zones. In the 1990s, NKset up some of these zones in the Najin-Sonbong area, in a move that signaled changes to the country's economic policies. (Jo Hyon, *Daily NK*)
- Despite multiple promises to denuclearize over the years, the nuclear threat looms larger than ever. Worst of all, there's now a clear path for NK to develop a hydrogen bomb. (Ethan Siegel, *Forbes*)

In South Korea:

- SK on Thursday dismissed the possibility of any discord with the US over how to rid NK of its nuclear program, saying their common goal of complete denuclearization is unchanged. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Seoul is proposing to Pyongyang that a delegation from each country travel on the same train to China next year for the 100th anniversary of the March 1 Korean independence movement, a local high-level official exclusively told the JoongAng Ilbo Wednesday. (Jeong Yong-Soo, Lee Sung-Eun, *Korea Joongang Daily*)

- SK's unification minister said Thursday that he has found hope for peace and reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula through inter-Korean friendly basketball matches held in Pyongyang this week. (Yonhap)
- NK will compete at an international table tennis competition in SK later this month, the sport's international governing body said Thursday. The International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) announced that NK will cross the border to play at the ITTF World Tour Platinum Korean Open in Daejeon, 160 kilometers south of Seoul, from July 17-22. (Yonhap)
- SK and NK split their basketball friendly matches in Pyongyang on Thursday, with the South Korean women winning 81-74 and the North Korean men prevailing 82-70. (Yonhap)
- South Korean men's basketball head coach Hur Jae said Thursday losing to NK in a friendly game didn't mean much in the grand scheme of things. (Yonhap)
- South Koreans' favorable sentiment towards North Korea has hit an all-time high, following the North's successive summit talks with the South and the US, according to a poll released Thursday. (Yonhap)
- The South Korean women's basketball team beat the North 81-74 in Pyongyang on Thursday, the third day in a four-day trip to the North Korean capital. The two basketball games are part of a slew of cultural and athletic events between the two Koreas after their leaders agreed to boost cooperation in the spirit of "rejuvenating a sense of national reconciliation and unity" during their summit in April. (Lee Sung-Eun, Korea Joongang Daily)
- South Korean stadium announcer Park Jong-min probably had the most difficult time in his career recently: cheering up North Korean spectators. Park served his job on Wednesday in the mixed games of the inter-Korean basketball event at Ryugyong Chung Ju-yung Gymnasium in Pyongyang. (Yonhap)
- At the inter-Korean summit in Panmunjom on April 27, KJU reportedly told President Moon Jae-in that he would like to develop NK in a similar fashion to Vietnam. In that case it is likely that NK would opt for the Vietnamese-style reform and opening, or Doi Moi, maintaining the one-party rule of the Communist party while adopting a capitalist market economy. (Lee Jong-Wha, Korea Joongang Daily)
- SK and NK have been drawn in the same group in women's handball at this year's Asian Games in Indonesia. In a draw held Thursday, SS, the defending champion, ended up in Group A with NK, Kazakhstan, China and India. (Yonhap)
- The unified Korean women's basketball team will face Taiwan, Kazakhstan, Indonesia and India in this year's Asian Games. The draw was held on Thursday in Jakarta, a co-host city of the Aug. 18-Sept. 2 Asian Games along with Palembang. (Yonhap)
- Most South Koreans welcome the ongoing rapprochement between the two Koreas, highlighted by the two historic summits between their leaders, but for many reasons besides just the peace it may bring. (Yonhap)

International:

- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is set to arrive in Pyongyang on Friday for his first visit since last month's summit in Singapore, and one of his biggest tasks will be to dispel growing skepticism over whether North Korean leader KJU really intends to abandon his nuclear arsenal. (Eric Talmadge, Washington Post)

- British veterans have welcomed reports that NK is willing to return the remains of servicemen killed during the Korean War and hope that some of the 336 Britons still listed as missing in the conflict might soon be handed over at the border truce village of Panmunjom. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- Despite no signs of NK abandoning its nuclear weapons any time soon, SK is literally bouncing ahead this week with peace efforts with its rival, which was threatening war just months ago. (Kim Tong-Hyung, *Washington Post*)
- The up-and-down nature of past efforts to recover more American remains from the Korean War suggests the process could be fraught with pitfalls, including a mixed record of cooperation from the North Koreans. (Dan Lamothe, Paul Sonne, *Washington Post*)
- Decades of trying to keep tabs on NK's bombs and missiles have taught us that the Norks lie and cheat and that they throw hissy fits when we call them out. KJU and POTUS got along famously but we must assume that Little Rocket Man is going to try it on again. We need an agreement that stops him doing that. (*Economist*)
- When the North Koreans were shooting off missile tests and detonating new, more powerful atomic bombs last year, President Trump responded with threats of "fire and fury" and ordered the military to come up with new, if highly risky, pre-emptive strike options. (David E. Sanger, NYT)
- During his meeting with IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano, Foreign Minister Taro Kono conveyed that Tokyo is ready to help by shouldering part of the initial costs needed for such inspections and dispatching nuclear experts if Pyongyang agrees to have its facilities inspected after promising to work toward denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. (*Japan Times*)
- More than seven in 10 South Koreans and two in 10 Japanese believe their governments should renegotiate a 2015 agreement on compensating Korean victims of Japan's wartime sexual slavery, according to a survey released Thursday. (*Korea Joongang Daily*)
- The Vatican's top diplomat on Thursday voiced optimism for ongoing diplomacy to foster a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula, saying "many good things" will be achieved despite challenges down the road. (Song Sang-Ho, *Yonhap*)
- Weeks after Donald Trump declared the world a safer place following his historic summit with KJU, Mike Pompeo is due to arrive in Pyongyang on Friday amid growing doubts over the regime's willingness to abandon its nuclear weapons. (Justin McCurry, *Guardian*)
- In 2006, Pier Luigi Cecioni traveled from Florence to the People's Republic of North Korea as a visiting musician. After his hosts showed him some North Korean art, he left with an entirely new mission: He planned to become an art dealer. (Kate Brown, ArtNet)
- North Korean media criticized Japan, Thursday, for confiscating personal belongings of Korean students in Japan after they came back from a trip to NK, saying it was a violation of human rights. (Park Ji-Won, *Korea Times*)
- Anthony Rowley says the possibility of inter-Korean peace isn't all that's exciting observers, as companies in the Asia-Pacific eye mineral extraction and infrastructure building, while investors see a potentially massive upside. However, rampant corruption, lack of rule of law and previous failed ventures in markets like Myanmar loom large. (Anthony Rowley, *South China Morning Post*)

- Japanese are more concerned with NK's nuclear threats than South Koreans, according to a joint survey conducted by South Korean daily Hankook Ilbo and Japanese Yomiuri Shimbun. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo heads to NK on Thursday under pressure to produce tangible signs of progress as US intelligence reports cast doubt on KJU's intention to dismantle his nuclear and missile programs. (Zachary Cohen, Elise Labott, CNN)
- As U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo begins his third trip to Pyongyang for negotiations on NK's nuclear arsenal, he will likely advocate a step-by-step approach to denuclearization, backing down from the more extreme demand of complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization (CVID). (Sarah Kim, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo left for NK Thursday to flesh out a deal on dismantling the regime's nuclear weapons program. (*Yonhap*)
- A top North Korean official suggested an upcoming meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo could yield positive results during a meeting with South Korean Unification Minister Cho Myung-gyun. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- KJU and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed to work toward the eventual withdrawal of U.S. troops from SK during their third summit in China, according to a Japanese press report. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Following last month's Singapore Summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader KJU, however, it appears likely that U.S. teams will once more be permitted to visit the reclusive nation and search for some of the 5,300 servicemen still unaccounted for there. (Natalie Seo, VOA)
- Noel King talks to Sen. Robert Menendez of New Jersey, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, about the Trump administration's approach to NK's denuclearization. (NPR)
- As U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo heads to Pyongyang to discuss NK's disarmament, another issue risks overshadowing his primary mission: the return of thousands of American war dead. (Kanga Kong, *Bloomberg*)
- As the president prepares, if this time he does prepare, for his second summit, note all that went wrong at the first. If he does as badly in his July 16 meeting with Vladimir Putin in Finland as he did with KJU in Singapore, the consequences could be catastrophic. (George F. Will, *Washington Post*)
- The Vatican's top diplomat on Thursday voiced optimism for ongoing diplomacy on the Korean Peninsula, saying "many good things" would be achieved despite challenges down the road. Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher delivered a message of hope for Koreans as he toured the JSA at the heavily fortified inter-Korean border. (*Korea Joongang Daily*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is set to arrive in Pyongyang on Friday for his first visit since last month's summit in Singapore, and one of his biggest tasks will be to dispel growing skepticism over whether North Korean leader KJU really intends to abandon his nuclear arsenal. (CBS)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250720214126/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-hrnk-executive-director-greg-scarlatoiu-featured-on-secure-freedom-radiopompeo-heads-to-north-korea-for-nuclear-talks

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Friday, July 6, 2018

UN aid chief to visit NK, first visit since 2011; NK slams US over human rights report ahead of Pompeo's visit

In North Korea:
10 days of ideological education for family reunion attendees (Daily NK, 07/06/2018)
N. Korea expects Xi's visit on Sept. 9 founding anniversary: officials (Yonhap, 07/06/2018)
N. Korea slams U.S. over human rights report ahead of Pompeo's visit (Yonhap, 07/06/2018)
North Korea official jokes to Pompeo: 'Pay taxes' for visit (UPI, 07/06/2018)
North Korean art dealing proves lucrative for traders (Daily NK, 07/06/2018)

In South Korea:
'No Nukes, No THAAD': South Korean town calls for missile defense withdrawal (Reuters, 07/05/2018)
S. Korea vows stepped up efforts to accelerate Moon's Berlin peace initiative (Yonhap, 07/06/2018)
S. Korean bizmen to again seek gov't approval to visit N. Korea (Yonhap, 07/06/2018)
S. Koreans see Kim Jong-un more likable than Xi Jinping, Abe (Korea Times, 07/06/2018)
South Korea's Case for Optimism About North Korea (The Atlantic, 07/06/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) Basketball games broaden inter-Korean sports exchanges: ministry (Yonhap, 07/06/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korean delegation returns after trip to Pyongyang for basketball games (Yonhap, 07/06/2018)
Basketball diplomacy resumes (Korea Joongang Daily, 07/06/2018)
Koreas open sports talks in Pyongyang (Yonhap, 07/06/2018)
Looking at Kaesong Industrial Complex through artists' perspective (Yonhap, 07/06/2018)
N. Korea to send 16 players to int'l table tennis tournament in S. Korea (Yonhap, 07/06/2018)
Ping-Pong diplomacy with North starts in July (Korea Joongang Daily, 07/06/2018)
Repair of facilities for family reunions to start next week (Yonhap, 07/06/2018)
Roads, trains may be key to bringing peace to Korean Peninsula (UPI, 07/06/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) Pompeo heads to N. Korea for nuclear talks (Yonhap, 07/06/2018)
(5th LD) Pompeo in Pyongyang to flesh out summit deal (Yonhap, 07/06/2018)
Amb. Harris to arrive in S. Korea this weekend: US embassy (Yonhap, 07/06/2018)
Analysis: After Summit, Pompeo Wants Details from Kim (VOA, 07/06/2018)
As Pompeo heads to North Korea, State Department denies softening (Reuters, 07/06/2018)

Did Pyongyang trick Washington? (Korea Joongang Daily, 07/06/2018)
Expert: Press North Korea to Reveal All Secret Nuclear Sites (VOA, 07/06/2018)
Foreign Affairs Dems request North Korea hearing (The Hill, 07/06/2018)
Fox News host: Trump suspending military exercises was a 'big give to the North Koreans' (The Hill, 07/05/2018)
Gen. Wesley Clark: Threat From North Korea Not 'Really Over' (Newsmax, 07/06/2018)
How to Tell if North Korea is Bullshitting America About Its Nukes (Daily Beast, 07/06/2018)
Make or break time for Trump and Kim as Pompeo visits North Korea (CNN, 07/06/2018)
Mike Pompeo to give Kim Jong-un 'Rocket Man CD' during nuclear talks (Guardian, 07/06/2018)
Mike Pompeo to push Kim Jong-un for denuclearisation timeline on Pyongyang visit (Telegraph, 07/05/2018)
New U.S. ambassador to South Korea begins term in Seoul (UPI, 07/06/2018)
North Korea denounces US over human rights criticism (Washington Post, 07/06/2018)
Pompeo Arrives in North Korea to Try to Curb Its Nuclear Program (New York Times, 07/06/2018)
Pompeo Headed to North Korea for Nuclear Talks (VOA, 07/06/2018)
Pompeo hopes to 'fill in' details on denuclearization on North Korea trip (Reuters, 07/06/2018)
Pompeo hopes to fill in details of North Korea agreement (Washington Post, 07/05/2018)
Pompeo in North Korea vows to get details of nuke commitment (Washington Post, 07/06/2018)
Pompeo says Trump believes Kim wants 'brighter future' for North Korea (Reuters, 07/06/2018)
Pompeo seeking progress in North Korea as US struggles to craft strategy (CNN, 07/06/2018)
Pompeo starts talking on nukes (Korea Joongang Daily, 07/06/2018)
Pompeo Talks with North Korean Officials in Pyongyang (VOA, 07/06/2018)
Pompeo tasked with detailed plan for denuclearization (Korea Times, 07/06/2018)
Pompeo visits North Korea to press Kim on Trump nuclear deal (BBC, 07/06/2018)
S. Korean, Canadian foreign ministers discuss regional security (Yonhap, 07/06/2018)
Secretary of State Pompeo arrives in North Korea (Reuters, 07/06/2018)
Trump says Kim 'sees different future' for North Korea (Reuters, 07/05/2018)
Trump sends Kim 'Rocket Man' CD (Korea Times, 07/06/2018)
Trump voices hope in Kim's commitment to denuclearize (Yonhap, 07/06/2018)
U.N. aid chief to visit North Korea, first visit since 2011 (Reuters, 07/06/2018)

In North Korea:

- The North Korean regime has ordered that those with "ideological issues" are to be removed from the list of family reunion applicants and that those remaining on the list must undergo thorough ideological education, report sources in North Korea. (Moon Dong Hui, *Daily NK*)
- North Korea has expectations for Chinese President Xi Jinping to visit Pyongyang this fall on the occasion of its 70th founding anniversary, which falls on Sept. 9, officials said Friday. (Joint Press Corps., *Yonhap*)
- North Korea's media on Friday resumed its criticism of Washington ahead of U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's arrival in Pyongyang, warning against any argument over its human rights conditions. (*Yonhap*)

- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's third known visit to North Korea started with a joke from Kim Yong Chol, vice chairman of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- The sale of works by renowned North Korean artists is emerging as an increasingly popular method of earning foreign currency in North Korea. (Ha Yoon Ah, *Daily NK*)

In South Korea:

- While many South Koreans have welcomed the reduced tensions with North Korea as Washington and Pyongyang talk about ending decades of hostilities, the village of Soseong-ri is anything but peaceful. (Jeongmin Kim, *Reuters*)
- South Korea will continue to push for President Moon Jae-in's peace initiative that seeks to peacefully and completely denuclearize the Korean Peninsula by removing any reasons for North Korea to possess nuclear weapons, the presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean businessmen who operated factories at the now-shuttered joint industrial complex in North Korea will again ask the government to allow them to visit the park to inspect their facilities, their representative said Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Koreans perceive North Korean leader Kim Jong-un as more likeable than Chinese President Xi Jinping or Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, research showed Thursday. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- South Korea's ambassador to the United States acknowledges that Kim Jong Un hasn't yet destroyed a major missile-engine test site, as the North Korean leader supposedly promised Donald Trump in Singapore he would. He concedes that a disclosure of the various elements of the North Korean nuclear program, let alone the nation's nuclear disarmament, is "yet to come." And yet Cho Yoon Je has not succumbed to skepticism. (Uri Friedman, *The Atlantic*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- South Korea said Friday the resumption of basketball diplomacy with the North this week has helped expand the two sides' sports exchanges and that such exchanges are also conducive to carrying out summit commitments (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean officials, athletes and journalists returned home Friday from a trip to North Korea for friendly basketball matches amid a thaw in inter-Korean relations. (Joint Press Corps., *Yonhap*)
- A delegation of South Korean basketball players, government officials and journalists arrived in Pyongyang Tuesday for friendly basketball games with North Korea in the latest show of sports diplomacy between the two countries. (*Korea Joongang Daily*)
- South Korea and North Korea opened sports talks in Pyongyang just before midnight Thursday. (Joint Press Corps., *Yonhap*)
- There is something more significant about the Kaesong Industrial Complex, beyond its economic effects and political implications on the Korean Peninsula. (Woo Jae-yeon, *Yonhap*)

- North Korea will send a delegation of 16 players and nine officials to an international table tennis tournament in South Korea later this month, Seoul's sports ministry said Friday. (Joint Press Corps., *Yonhap*)
- North Korea will participate in an international table tennis competition in South Korea later this month, officials from both countries agreed in Pyongyang Friday morning. (Lee Sung-eun, Joint Press Corps., *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- A group of government officials and repair workers will leave for North Korea early next week to begin repair work on facilities to be used for reunions of war-separated families, the unification ministry said Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un left his historic Singapore summit with U.S. President Donald Trump last month with a massive political victory in hand, but questions remain how this will help his isolated country in pragmatic terms. (Hussein Dia, UPI)

International:

- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo left for North Korea Thursday to flesh out a deal on dismantling the regime's nuclear weapons program. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo began a trip to North Korea on Friday on a mission to map out details of the communist nation's "complete" denuclearization plan agreed to in the Singapore summit last month. (*Yonhap*)
- Harry Harris, the new United States ambassador to South Korea, is scheduled to arrive here this weekend to assume his position, his embassy said Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo arrived in Pyongyang Friday for his first visit since last month's summit in Singapore, and one of his biggest tasks will be to dispel growing skepticism over whether North Korean leader Kim Jong Un really intends to abandon his nuclear arsenal. (*Associated Press*)
- The State Department on Thursday denied that the United States had softened its approach toward North Korea's denuclearization, as U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo heads to Pyongyang hoping to hammer out a roadmap for its nuclear disarmament. (*Reuters*)
- But questions arise from here. The United States was sure from pre-summit negotiations that North Korea would acknowledge the existence of Kangsong in Singapore and thought it would be part of Kim Jong-un's drastic decision. However, it didn't happen. Did Pyongyang trick Washington? (Kim Hyun-ki, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- Washington must press Pyongyang to reveal the existence of secret nuclear sites, including the second uranium enrichment facility known as Kangsong, in any nuclear disarmament deal, said a former United Nations nuclear inspector. (Kim Youngnam, Soyoung Ahn, VOA)
- A trio of Democrats is asking the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee to hold a hearing on reports North Korea is increasing its weapons production even as denuclearization talks with the United State proceed. (Rebecca Kheel, *The Hill*)
- Fox News host Leland Vittert said that President Trump's decision to suspend joint military exercises with South Korea was a "big give to the North Koreans." (Morgan Gstalter, *The Hill*)

- The threat of hostilities with North Korea isn't really over, as all the country's capabilities remain in place and intentions can "change overnight," retired Gen. Wesley Clark, the former Supreme Allied Commander Europe of NATO, said Friday. (Sandy Fitzgerald, *Newsmax*)
- As negotiations between the United States and North Korea continue, how can observers know if the North Koreans are actually interested in compromise? The Daily Beast spoke with former administration officials familiar with the North Korea negotiation process about how to tell when North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is bluffing. (Bethany Allen-Ebrahimian, *Daily Beast*)
- At a time when American intelligence says Kim Jong Un will do just about anything to conceal the real extent of North Korea's nuclear program, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is in Pyongyang to find out exactly what he can prise from the reclusive regime. (Jamie Tarabay, CNN)
- When Mike Pompeo meets Kim Jong-un in Pyongyang, he will reportedly attempt to smooth a path towards denuclearisation with a gift that playfully references a low point in relations between the North Korean leader and Donald Trump: a CD of Elton John's Rocket Man. (Justin McCurry, *Guardian*)
- Mike Pompeo, the US secretary of state, will push North Korea to provide a timeline for denuclearisation on his third trip to Pyongyang. (Nick Allen, *Telegraph*)
- Harry Harris, new U.S. ambassador to South Korea, arrived in Seoul on Friday, two months after he was tapped for the diplomatic post. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- North Korea's state-run media on Friday denounced the United States for raising the issue of the North's dismal human rights record ahead of crucial talks between the countries to resolve the nuclear standoff. (AP)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo landed in North Korea on Friday for a series of talks aimed at persuading the country to give up its nuclear and ballistic missile programs—a mission that in his conversations with at least two outside experts he has said was doomed from the outset. (Gardiner Harris, *New York Times*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is in North Korea for more talks about ending Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program amid reports of American intelligence assessments that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is continuing to develop the infrastructure for his nuclear program. (Ken Bredemier, VOA)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met North Korean officials in Pyongyang on Friday, hoping to "fill in" details on how to dismantle the North's nuclear program and recover the remains of U.S. troops missing from the Korean War. (Hyonhee Shin, John Walcott, *Reuters*)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Friday he expects North Korea to be ready to "fill in some details" of the commitments on denuclearization made by Kim Jong Un at his historic summit with President Donald Trump last month. (Andrew Harnik, AP)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo began his first trip to Pyongyang since President Donald Trump's summit with leader Kim Jong Un last month with a vow to nail down the specifics of Kim's commitments on denuclearization. (Andrew Harnik, AP)
- U.S. President Donald Trump believes North Korean leader Kim Jong Un wants a "different, brighter future" for North Koreans, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a tweet on Thursday. (*Reuters*)

- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is in North Korea looking for concrete steps toward denuclearization and a timeframe for talks, but he may well leave disappointed. (Elise Labott, Barbara Starr, Kevin Liptak, Jenna McLaughlin, CNN)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo landed in Pyongyang Friday for his first trip to the North Korean capital since President Donald Trump's landmark summit with Kim Jong-un last month, vowing to nail down the commitments made by both leaders on the North's denuclearization. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has ended the first of two days of talks Friday in North Korea about ending Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program. The meetings come amid reports of American intelligence assessments that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is continuing to develop the infrastructure for his nuclear program. Discussions resume Saturday. (VOA)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo began talks with North Korean officials on North Korea's denuclearization, Friday, after arriving in Pyongyang earlier in the day. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has arrived in North Korea to press leader Kim Jong-un for details on his plans for denuclearisation. (BBC)
- The top diplomats of South Korea and Canada had phone talks Friday on ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation on regional and global issues.(*Yonhap*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo arrived in Pyongyang on Friday for talks with officials on North Korea's denuclearization, according to a pool report by reporters traveling with him. (*Reuters*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump said on Thursday he believes that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un sees a different future for his country, as America's top diplomat heads to Pyongyang for talks on denuclearization. (*Reuters*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump has sent through his envoy, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, the 1972 Elton John song, "Rocket Man," to North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, reports said Friday. (Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump expressed hope Thursday that North Korea will take the path to denuclearization, saying he believes leader Kim Jong-un wants a different future for his country. (*Yonhap*)
- The top U.N. aid official, Mark Lowcock, will go to North Korea next week in the first such visit since 2011, the United Nations said on Friday. (*Reuters*)

Prepared by Jinny Ahn, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250720215036/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsun-aid-chief-to-visit-nk-first-visit-since-2011-nk-slams-us-over-human-rights-report-ahead-of-pompeos-visit

Saturday, July 7, 2018

NK calls US attitude toward talks 'regrettable,' rejecting Pompeo's claim meetings were 'productive'

In North Korea:
Ethnic Chinese North Koreans Ordered to Take Part in Memorial For Late Founder Kim Il Sung (RFA, 07/7/2018)
North Korea's Yongbyon Nuclear Research Center: Testing of Reactor Cooling Systems; Construction of Two New Non-Industrial Buildings (38 North, 07/6/2018)
Why North Korean defectors learn English (5) (Korea Times, 07/7/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Building Trust on the Korean Peninsula: The Role of CBMs in Nuclear Negotiations (38 North, 07/6/2018)
Officials of South Korean broadcaster JTBC to visit North Korea to discuss 'Pyongyang bureau' (Korea Times, 07/7/2018)
Separated Koreans denounce North-South family reunion plan as 'cruel' (Telegraph, 07/7/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) N. Korea, U.S. launch 'working groups' on denuclearization (Yonhap, 07/7/2018)
(2nd LD) N. Korea voices regret over U.S.' attitude during denuclearization talks (Yonhap, 07/7/2018)
(4th LD) Pompeo, Kim Yong-chol seek 'clarity' in Pyongyang talks (Yonhap, 07/7/2018)
(5th LD) Pompeo leaves Pyongyang for Tokyo after denuclearization talks with N. Korea (Yonhap, 07/7/2018)
(8th LD) Pompeo says 'progress made' on N. Korea's denuclearization (Yonhap, 07/7/2018)
Mike Pompeo arrives in Pyongyang to press for commitment to denuclearisation (Telegraph, 07/7/2018)
North Korea Calls U.S. Attitude During Talks With Pompeo 'Regrettable' (New York Times, 07/7/2018)
North Korea calls U.S. attitude toward talks 'regrettable,' rejecting Pompeo's claim meetings were 'productive' (Washington Post, 07/7/2018)
North Korea Foreign Ministry says talks with Pompeo 'regrettable,' accuses US of unilateral demands for denuclearization (Washington Post, 07/7/2018)
North Korea nuclear deal: US attitude 'regrettable', says Pyongyang (BBC, 07/7/2018)
North Korea says resolve for denuclearisation may falter but Pompeo lauds progress (Reuters, 07/7/2018)
Pompeo signals 'progress' as North Korea pans talks (CNN, 07/7/2018)
Pompeo 'very firm' on complete denuclearization of North Korea: spokeswoman (Reuters, 07/7/2018)
Pompeo visits North Korea to press Kim on Trump nuclear deal (BBC, 07/7/2018)
Washington and Pyongyang get down to 'nitty gritty' in nuclear talks (Reuters, 07/7/2018)

In North Korea:

- North Korea has ordered its ethnic Chinese population to take part in a memorial service for the country's late founder Kim Il Sung on the 24th anniversary of his death and are even forcing those working in China to return home for the event, according to local sources. (Jieun Kim, Leejin Jun, Joshua Lipes, RFA)
- Recent commercial satellite imagery indicates that North Korea has finished work on the secondary cooling system for the 5 MWe reactor. It is unclear whether the detection of water flowing from the pump house indicates that the system is being tested or that the reactor is beginning operations. (*38 North*)
- Casey Lartigue Jr., co-founder of the Teach North Korean Refugees Global Education Center, compiled statements from interviews with refugees learning English. (Casey Lartigue Jr., Eunkoo Lee, *Korea Times*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Matt Korda drew attention to the serious—and understudied—potential for a North Korean nuclear accident and explained why regional cooperation on nuclear safety might provide an opportunity for a diplomatic breakthrough with Pyongyang. Now that such a breakthrough seems to have occurred independently, this follow-up piece offers several concrete suggestions for moving this process forward as part of a package of confidence-building measures. (Matt Korda, *38 North*)
- Eight officials of South Korean TV station JTBC will visit North Korea's capital Pyongyang next week to discuss inter-Korean exchange in the field of media and the opening of the broadcaster's bureau there. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- Separated Korean families have denounced the impending reunifications between relatives in the North and South of the peninsular as a cruel show amid an ongoing diplomatic détente between the nations. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)

International:

- North Korea and the United States have established working groups to talk about details of a denuclearization plan, a U.S. official was quoted as saying Saturday, as Washington's top diplomat is set for a second day of negotiations in Pyongyang. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea expressed regret Saturday over the attitude of U.S. negotiators during their talks this week to work out details on how to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula as agreed to by their leaders in their recent summit meeting. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and a senior North Korean official admitted Saturday that they have things to "clarify," opening a second day of talks in Pyongyang. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo left Pyongyang for Tokyo on Saturday after completing his two-day trip in North Korea for denuclearization talks. (*Yonhap*)

- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Saturday that progress has been made on North Korea's denuclearization after meeting with a high-ranking North Korean official in Pyongyang. (*Yonhap*)
- Mike Pompeo, the US Secretary of State, vowed to get North Korea to make specific commitments towards "total" denuclearisation during the first day of his trip to Pyongyang on Friday. (Rozina Sabur, *Telegraph*)
- North Korea accused the Trump administration on Saturday of pushing a “unilateral and gangster-like demand for denuclearization” and called it “deeply regrettable,” hours after Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said his two days of talks in the North Korean capital were “productive.” (Gardiner Harris, Choe Sang-Hun, *New York Times*)
- Just hours after Secretary of State Mike Pompeo departed North Korea after two days of nuclear negotiations, North Korea sharply criticized the U.S. team's attitude as “regrettable,” and accused the U.S. of making unilateral demands of denuclearization. (John Hudson, *Washington Post*)
- North Korea Foreign Ministry says talks with Pompeo ‘regrettable,’ accuses US of unilateral demands for denuclearization. (AP)
- North Korea has branded the US attitude at the latest talks over its nuclear programme "regrettable". The statement, by an unnamed foreign ministry official, contradicted the version of events given by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo just hours before. (BBC)
- North Korea said on Saturday its resolve to give up its nuclear programs may falter after talks with the United States in Pyongyang, contradicting Secretary of State Mike Pompeo who lauded progress made on nearly all key issues. (Hyonhee Shin, David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo left Pyongyang on Saturday seemingly optimistic after two days of high-level talks, but without announcing any concrete steps North Korea would take or a timeline towards denuclearization. (Veronica Stracqualursi, CNN)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is “very firm” on complete denuclearization of North Korea as he began a second day of talks in Pyongyang on Saturday, according to a pool report from reporters traveling with him. (*Reuters*)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has arrived in North Korea to press leader Kim Jong-un for details on his plans for denuclearisation. It is Mr. Pompeo's first visit to the country since Mr. Kim's historic summit with Donald Trump in Singapore. (BBC)
- U.S. and North Korean officials have set up working groups to deal with “nitty gritty stuff” including verification of efforts to achieve denuclearization, a U.S. State Department spokeswoman said on Saturday, the second day of Secretary of State Mike Pompeo’s visit to Pyongyang. (*Reuters*)

Prepared by Lauren Jackson, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250720215042/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-nk-calls-us-attitude-toward-talks-regrettable-rejecting-pompeos-claim-meetings-were-productive

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Sunday, July 8, 2018

NK may have offered its clearest view yet of denuclearization; Pompeo Sharpens Tone on North Korea: 'The World Is a Gangster'

In North Korea:

N. Korea to Pompeo: You may not have slept well (CNN, 07/07/2018)
N. Korean media report talks with Pompeo in Pyongyang (Yonhap, 07/08/2018)
N. Korea's senior officials visit founder's mausoleum to mark 24th anniversary of his death (Yonhap, 07/08/2018)
North Korea may have offered its clearest view yet of denuclearization (Washington Post, 07/08/2018)

International:

(3rd LD) Pompeo rebuts N. Korea's 'gangster' claim, vows continued sanctions (Yonhap, 07/08/2018)
After talks, North Korea accuses US of 'gangster-like' demands (AP, 07/08/2018)
Army likely to delay plans to launch special command amid improving ties with North (Yonhap, 07/08/2018)
Diplomatic disconnect with North Korea spells trouble for Trump (CNN, 07/08/2018)
'It can be your miracle': Pompeo urges North Korea to follow Vietnam's path (The Guardian, 07/08/2018)
Japan's Abe praises Pompeo after Pyongyang's 'gangster-like' accusation (Reuters, 07/07/2018)
Mike Pompeo dismisses North Korea's 'gangster' comments, says talks are going well (CNN, 07/08/2018)
N. Korean leader Kim sends personal letter to Cuba's Castro (Yonhap, 07/08/2018)
North Korea accuses US of 'gangster-like' behaviour after Pompeo talks (The Guardian, 07/08/2018)
North Korea calls U.S. attitude toward talks 'gangster-like' and 'cancerous,' rejecting Pompeo's assessment (Washington Post, 07/07/2018)
North Korea pans 'gangster-like mindset' of US as Pompeo signals 'progress' in talks (CNN, 07/07/2018)
Pompeo Hopeful About North Korea Talks, but Sanctions Stay (VOA, 07/08/2018)
Pompeo pushes back against North Korea's 'gangster-like' criticism (Washington Post, 07/08/2018)
Pompeo: North Korea Can Replicate Vietnam's Ties with US (VOA, 07/08/2018)
Pompeo: Sanctions to remain until North Korea 'final' denuclearization (AFP, 0708/2018)
Pompeo sees hard road ahead but pursues North Korean denuclearization talks (Reuters, 07/07/2018)
Pompeo Sharpens Tone on North Korea: 'The World Is a Gangster' (NYT, 07/08/2018)
Pyongyang was unhappy with Pompeo (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/08/2018)
S. Korean foreign minister to meet Pompeo in Tokyo (Yonhap, 07/08/2018)

Security Unassured (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/08/2018)
Seoul says U.S.-N. Korea talks mark start of denuclearization process (Yonhap, 07/08/2018)
Seoul, Tokyo, Washington affirm denuclearization goal (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/08/2018)
Trump's diplomacy of personal chemistry is facing a huge test (CNN, 07/08/2018)
US, North Korea continue tug-of-war over denuclearization (Korea Times, 07/08/2018)

In North Korea:

- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo speaks with Kim Yong Chol, the vice chairman of North Korea's Party Central Committee, during his visit to Pyongyang. (CNN)
- North Korea's state-run news agency on Sunday reported U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's visit to Pyongyang and his discussion with North Korean officials there. (*Yonhap*)
- Senior North Korean officials visited the Kumsusan Palace of Sun, the mausoleum of national founder Kim Il-sung, in commemoration of the 24th anniversary of his death, the country's state-run news media said Sunday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's statement itself was notable for far more than just its negative tone. Running more than 1,200 words in an official English-language translation released on the state-run Korea Central News Agency, it may offer the most comprehensive signal yet of how Pyongyang views the possibility of abandoning its nuclear weapons. (Adam Taylor, *Washington Post*)

International:

- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Sunday his country is making fair demands on North Korea in denuclearization talks, refuting its strongly worded criticism following his latest trip to Pyongyang. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has delivered a dose of harsh reality to Donald Trump, bashing hopes for a quick denuclearization deal in a pointed rebuke to the president's top envoy while accusing the U.S. of making "gangster-like" demands. (AP)
- The Army is on course to delay its plans to launch a new military command body, initially designed to cope with North Korea's growing military threats, as inter-Korean relations show signs of an upturn. (*Yonhap*)
- Less than a month after President Donald Trump talked about opening "a new chapter" between the US and North Korea, the relationship between the two nations has taken a tense and hostile, but predictable turn. (Clare Foran, Elise Labott, CNN)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has appealed for North Korea's leadership to follow Vietnam's path in overcoming past hostilities with the United States following Pyongyang's blistering rebuke of his efforts to forge a denuclearization deal. (Julian Borger, *The Guardian*)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo dismissed North Korea's accusation of a "gangster-like mindset" in denuclearization talks, saying the two nations had productive conversations that will continue in the days ahead. (Faith Karimi, Aaron Pellish, Kate Sullivan, CNN)
- Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe praised on Sunday U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's conduct at denuclearization talks with North Korean officials who accused

America's top diplomat of making "gangster-like" demands. (David Brunnstrom, Nobuhiro Kubo, Reuters)

- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has sent a personal letter to Raul Castro, the head of Cuba's ruling communist party, the North's state-run media said Sunday. (Yonhap)
- Disarmament talks between the US and North Korea ended in Pyongyang on Saturday with the North Korean regime accusing Washington of a "gangster-like mindset" and warning of "yet another tragedy" if negotiations collapse. (Julian Borger, The Guardian)
- In a sharp signal that denuclearization negotiations with North Korea will be drawn out and difficult, Pyongyang on Saturday lambasted the U.S. stance as regrettable, gangster-like and cancerous, directly contradicting Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's rosy assessment that his two days of talks had been "productive." (John Hudson, Carol Morello, Washington Post)
- North Korea slammed what it called the United States' "gangster-like mindset" in denuclearization talks just hours after US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo described the high-level negotiations as "productive" and insisted progress was made. (Veronica Stracqualursi, CNN)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo says sanctions will remain in place on North Korea "until final, fully verified denuclearization as agreed to by Chairman Kim (Jong Un) occurs." (VOA)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo shot back against North Korea on Sunday, saying the regime's criticism that U.S. negotiators acted in a "gangster-like" way during his two-day visit to Pyongyang was unfounded. (John Hudson, Adam Taylor, Washington Post)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo urged North Korea on Sunday to replicate Vietnam in forging a new relationship with the United States, much like Hanoi has done five decades after the Vietnam War against the U.S. ended. (VOA)
- Sanctions on North Korea will remain in place until Pyongyang carries out "final" denuclearization, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Sunday. "Sanctions will remain in place until final, fully verified denuclearization as agreed to by Chairman Kim (Jong Un) occurs," Pompeo said, speaking in Tokyo after talks with his Japanese and South Korean counterparts. (AFP)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo brushed off North Korean charges that he used "gangster-like" diplomacy in negotiations in Pyongyang, saying on Sunday after meeting his Japanese and South Korean counterparts that he would continue to pursue denuclearization talks with North Korea. (David Brunnstrom, Tim Kelly, Reuters)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo shot back at North Korean officials for characterizing American diplomatic behavior as gangster-like, saying on Sunday that if that were true, then "the world is a gangster." (Gardiner Harris, NYT)
- Pyongyang called the high-level meetings between its officials and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo "so regretful" Saturday, threatening to renege on its agreement to denuclearize unless Washington refrains from pressuring the regime with "unilateral and gangster-like" demands. (Lee Sung-eun, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha plans to visit Tokyo on Sunday for back-to-back meetings on North Korea with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Japan's top diplomat Taro Kono. (Yonhap)

- Even without reviewing the ironic history of security assurances, Pyongyang has multiple reasons not to place any faith in such declarations by the United States or South Korea. (Michael Green, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korea on Sunday welcomed the outcome of the recent high-level dialogue between the United States and North Korea, saying it marked an important start of efforts to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- Sanctions on Pyongyang won't be lifted until the regime completely gives up its nuclear weapons, the top diplomats of Seoul, Washington and Tokyo reaffirmed Sunday during a trilateral meeting in Japan. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The cornerstone of President Donald Trump's foreign policy so far has largely been Donald Trump. His personal chemistry and flattery got Kim Jong Un to the negotiating table, but now Trump's got so much skin in the game he could feel personally betrayed by Kim if the talks stall, as seemed possible this weekend. (Z. Byron Wolf, CNN)
- North Korea and the United States apparently failed to narrow their differences over the methods for the North's denuclearization, during U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's two-day visit to Pyongyang last week. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)

Prepared by Jack Maerz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250720215047/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsnk-may-have-offered-its-clearest-view-yet-of-denuclearization-pompeo-sharpens-tone-on-north-korea-the-world-is-a-gangster

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Monday, July 9, 2018

After Pyongyang put-down, Pompeo stands by 'difficult' denuclearization talk; NK 'gangster' line is a big problem for Trump

In North Korea:
Kim Jong Un's private plane flew to Russia, flight data show (UPI, 07/9/2018)
N.K. leader's jet in Vladivostok triggers speculation on his planned Russia trip (Yonhap, 07/9/2018)
Senior DPRK Officials Visit Ku'msusan to Mark Anniversary of KIS' Demise (North Korea Leadership Watch, 07/8/2018)
Why are some North Korean families telling their relatives in China not to go to South Korea? (DailyNK, 07/9/2018)

In South Korea:
Inspiration from where a unified Korea worked: Artists examine the Kaesong Industrial Complex's significance (Korea Joongang Daily, 07/9/2018)
Seoul in search of entrepreneurs for NK (Korea Times, 07/9/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Ending war is symbolic measure: Seoul (Korea Times, 07/9/2018)
Koreas start work on facilities (Korea Joongang Daily, 07/9/2018)
(LEAD) Repair workers visit N. Korea to prepare for reunions of separated families (Yonhap, 07/9/2018)

International:
After Pyongyang put-down, Pompeo stands by 'difficult' denuclearization talks (Reuters, 07/9/2018)
Analysis: Harsh words may mean NKorea seeks deal with Trump (Washington Post, 07/9/2018)
Building financial networks for NK's development (Korea Times, 07/9/2018)
Cheong Wa Dae downplays U.S.-N. Korea differences over declaring war's end (Yonhap, 07/9/2018)
DPRK Foreign Ministry Issues Spox Statement on meeting with US officials (North Korea Leadership Watch, 07/8/2018)
(LEAD) New U.S. envoy meets with CIA official on N. Korea (Yonhap, 07/9/2018)
Need to keep a cool head (Korea Joongang Daily, 07/9/2018)
North Korea 'gangster' line is a big problem for Trump (CNN, 07/9/2018)
North Koreans 'bored' with anti-South Korea lectures, report says (UPI, 07/9/2018)
Patience needed in watching denuke talks between US, NK: lawmaker (Korea Times, 07/9/2018)
Pompeo holds out Vietnam model for N. Korea (Yonhap, 07/9/2018)
Pompeo says North Korea could be like Vietnam someday (Korea Joongang Daily, 07/9/2018)
Return of U.S. war dead could build trust with North Korea: Pompeo (Reuters, 07/9/2018)
Ri Su Yong Meets with Raúl Castro (North Korea Leadership Watch, 07/8/2018)
Seoul: 'U.S., North Korea in power struggle of wrestling game' (UPI, 07/9/2018)
Stalled denuke talks overshadow inter-Korean exchanges (Korea Times, 07/9/2018)
Stephan Haggard Q and A on the Singapore Summit and Aftermath (PIIE, 07/9/2018)
Top U.N. relief official visits N. Korea (Yonhap, 07/9/2018)
Trump confident North Korea is committed to de-nuking (CNN, 07/9/2018)
Trump Confident N. Korea Will Honor 'Contract' to Denuclearize (VOA, 07/9/2018)
Trump says he's still confident Kim will denuclearize (Washington Post, 07/9/2018)
US proposes 'Vietnamese model' for North Korea (Korea Times, 07/9/2018)
Washington, Pyongyang expected to seek denuclearization in sustained, condensed manner: Seoul official (Yonhap, 07/9/2018)
Where are the Korean voices? (Korea Times, 07/9/2018)

In North Korea:

- A private North Korean plane belonging to Kim Jong Un was seen flying to Vladivostok, Russia, and back, according to data from Flight Radar 24. (Elizabethe Shim, UPI)
- An airplane presumed to be the private jet of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un was spotted in Vladivostok on Monday, raising speculation that preparations might be underway for him to travel to Russia in the near future. (*Yonhap*)

- Senior DPRK officials visited Ku'msusan Palace of the Sun in Pyongyang at midnight on July 8, the 24th anniversary of the death of DPRK President and founder Kim Il Sung. (*North Korea Leadership Watch*)
- Some North Koreans are reportedly calling family members who have defected to China, asking them to reconsider their plans to enter South Korea, according to a source in the country. The reports may indicate that the Ministry of State Security (MSS) is trying to persuade defectors to return to North Korea, citing the improved inter-Korean relationship. (Kim Yoo Jin, *DailyNK*)

In South Korea:

- A room in the Culture Station Seoul 284, an art space in what was once Seoul Station, has turned into a workroom with rows of sewing tables. It is a life-size re-creation of a workroom in the Kaesong Industrial Complex in North Korea by South Korean artist Lee Boo-rok. (*Korea Joongang Daily*)
- Seoul Mayor Park Won-soon hinted Sunday that he would push toward an inter-Korean startup exchange program. The indication came after he met with a Singapore-based nongovernmental organization (NGO) known for helping North Koreans establish business, Monday. (Kang Seung-woo, *Korea Times*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The government signaled Monday it will step up efforts for an early signing of a treaty among relevant parties to end the 1950-53 Korean War. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- South Korean workers began repairs on Monday of North Korean facilities that will host a reunion of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- A group of government officials and repair workers visited North Korea on Monday to repair facilities in preparation for the upcoming reunions of war-separated families, the unification ministry said Monday. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo brushed off North Korean charges that he used "gangster-like" diplomacy in negotiations in Pyongyang, saying on Sunday after meeting his Japanese and South Korean counterparts that he would keep pursuing denuclearization talks with North Korea. (David Brunnstrom, Tim Kelly, Patricia Zengerle, *Reuters*)
- North Korea's vitriolic criticism of the U.S. following a first round of nuclear negotiations went out of its way to spare one person: President Donald Trump. (Ken Moritsugu, *AP*)
- After the Singapore summit between the U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, the expectation for a good outcome still runs very high. As things begin

to look somewhat positive, the situation and overall environment around North Korea is slowly improving. (Eugene Lee, *Korea Times*)

- The office of President Moon Jae-in on Monday played down differences between the United States and North Korea over the issue of declaring an end to the Korean War, saying it's part of a process to reach an agreement. (*Yonhap*)
- The DPRK Foreign Ministry issued a statement on July 7 about the two day interaction between Workers' Party of Korea Vice Chairman Kim Yong Chol and Vice Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui and a senior US Government delegation. (*North Korea Leadership Watch*)
- New U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Harry Harris has met with a senior CIA official and was briefed about a recent trip to North Korea by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo returned empty-handed from a two-day visit to Pyongyang on a mission to initiate the denuclearization process and other agreed agenda from the June 12 summit between leaders of the two countries in Singapore. (*Korea Joongang Daily*)
- Every week, I offer a glimpse of the kind of intelligence assessments that are likely to come across the desk of the President of the United States. Modeled on the President's Daily Briefing, or PDB, which the director of national intelligence prepares for the President almost daily, my Presidential Weekly Briefing focuses on the topics and issues the President needs to know to make informed decisions. (Samantha Vinograd, CNN)
- North Korean authorities are stepping up anti-South Korea lectures following the inter-Korea basketball tournament in Pyongyang last week, according to a South Korean press report, but ordinary North Koreans are not persuaded by the propaganda. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- South Korea should wait for the results from the ongoing denuclearization talks between the United States and North Korea with patience, according to a ruling party floor leader. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Sunday held out a brighter future for North Korea, urging leader Kim Jong-un to follow the path to prosperity taken by Vietnam. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo offered North Korean leader Kim Jong-un the Vietnamese model of normalization of bilateral relations with Washington and economic prosperity, speaking in Hanoi on Sunday on the heels of a two-day trip to Pyongyang. (Sarah Kim, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- The return of remains of U.S. troops who went missing during the 1950-53 Korean War could help build trust between North Korea and the United States, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Monday. (*Reuters*)
- Workers' Party of Korea Vice Chairman and Director of the WPK International Affairs Department Ri Su Yong met with Communist Party of Cuba 1st Secretary Raúl Castro Ruz in Havana during the afternoon of July 5. (*North Korea Leadership Watch*)Seoul: 'U.S., North Korea in power struggle of wrestling game' (*UPI*, 07/9/2018)
- South Korea's presidential office said the United States and North Korea are in a power struggle in which neither want to give in, regarding the split reactions shown by both sides after the high-level talks on denuclearization in Pyongyang. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- The seemingly large gap in stances between North Korea and the U.S. on the former's denuclearization is expected to slow progress in inter-Korean relations. Also weighing in is

that the declaration ending the 1950-53 Korean War does not appear imminent, and the U.S. stance that economic sanctions on North Korea will not be lifted until it achieves complete denuclearization. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)

- The summit itself produced little, and in fact the joint statement was dominated by North Korean views. President Trump also made a surprising unilateral concession by suspending military exercises with South Korea, and an even larger concession by bad-mouthing the alliance. But in the end, we simply don't know that much until we see what Secretary Mike Pompeo achieves in Pyongyang. (Stephan Haggard, *PIIE*)
- The U.N. humanitarian chief arrived in Pyongyang on Monday, North Korea's state news agency reported. (*Yonhap*)
- President Donald Trump said Monday he remains confident that Kim Jong intends to follow through on his broad pledges of denuclearization, even as Pyongyang erupted at the US following meetings with the US secretary of state. (Jeremy Diamond, CNN)
- U.S. President Donald Trump says he has "confidence" North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will "honor the contract we signed" for Pyongyang to denuclearize and alleged that China may be exerting negative pressure on the deal "because of our posture on Chinese trade. (VOA)
- President Donald Trump voiced confidence Monday that North Korea's leader would "honor" his commitment to denuclearize, despite Pyongyang's accusation that the U.S. is making "gangster-like" demands in negotiations. (Darlene Superville, Matthew Pennington, AP)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Sunday said North Korea could become as prosperous as Vietnam if it partners with the U.S., and that this could become possible even if the countries were formerly enemies. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- The U.S. and North Korea are expected to seek denuclearization in a "sustained" and "condensed" manner as their officials will meet to discuss details to make the North give up its nuclear weapons program, Seoul's unification minister said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- A month after the Singapore summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, the consensus in the U.S. media remains largely negative about the event. In contrast, little attention is given in the U.S. to the continuing examples of engagement between the two Koreas, such as last week's inter-Korean basketball games in Pyongyang, the first joint sporting event in 15 years. (John Burton, *Korea Times*)

Prepared by Lauren Jackson, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250720215258/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsafter-pyongyang-put-down-pompeo-stands-by-difficult-denuclearization-talk-nk-gangster-line-is-a-big-problem-for-trump

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Tuesday, July 10, 2018

U.N. rapporteur statement on North Korea waitresses disputable, analyst says; Kim Jong Un has played Trump like a Stradivarius

Top News:
U.N. rapporteur statement on North Korea waitresses disputable, analyst says (UPI, 7/10/2018)

In North Korea:
(2nd LD) N.K. leader Kim inspects construction sites, farm (Yonhap, 7/10/2018)
After 8-day absence, Kim surfaces (Korea Joongang Daily, 7/10/2018)
Empty high-rise apartments litter central Pyongyang, high prices deter would-be buyers (Daily NK, 7/9/2018)
High security and devotion ordered to mark Kim Il Sung's death (Daily NK, 7/10/2018)
North Korea sees a beautiful future ahead : Kim Jong-un is keen on developing the nation's cosmetics industry (Korea Joongang Daily, 7/10/2018)
North Korea Shutters 'Antisocialist' Entertainment Centers Featuring Foreign Content (RFA, 7/9/2018)
North Korea's Mysterious Magic Industry (The Diplomat, 7/10/2018)
Systemic reforms should take priority over resource development in North Korea (Daily NK, 7/10/2018)
Underground military factories in North Korea expanded to hide nuclear arsenal (Daily NK, 7/10/2018)
What the North Koreans Really Said on July 7 (38 North, 7/9/2018)

In South Korea:
SKorea suspends civilian drills to help talks with NKorea (Washington Post, 7/10/2018)
Seoul cancels this year's Ulchi defense drills (Korea Joongang Daily, 7/10/2018)
South Korea scraps annual government war drill as talks with North go on (Reuters, 7/9/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Denuclearization should come before discussing resumption of Mount Kumgang tour: official (Yonhap, 7/10/2018)
Hackers use Korea's divided family reunion plans to mount 'spear-phishing' attack (Daily NK, 7/9/2018)
Hyundai vows to provide support for two Koreas' family reunions (Yonhap, 7/10/2018)
Inspiration from where a unified Korea worked : Artists examine the Kaesong Industrial Complex's significance (Korea Joongang Daily, 7/10/2018)
Language is a hurdle for North-South basketball (Korea Joongang Daily, 7/10/2018)
N.K. films to be publicly screened in S. Korea for first time (Yonhap, 7/10/2018)
North, South Korean labor unions to hold soccer games in Seoul (UPI, 7/10/2018)
North Korea emphasizes Kim Jong Un's key role in inter-Korean family reunions and signals potential for further reunions in the future (Daily NK, 7/10/2018)

International:

Abduction of NK restaurant workers would be crime: UN official (Korea Times, 7/10/2018)
America's Moment of Truth With North Korea Is Coming (Atlantic, 7/10/2018)
China says its position on North Korean issue is consistent (Reuters, 7/10/2018)
Hope is not a strategy (Korea Joongang Daily, 7/10/2018)
Infrastructure investment to rise if N. Korea opens up: Seoul official (Yonhap, 7/10/2018)
Kim Jong Un has played Trump like a Stradivarius (Washington Post, 7/9/2018)
Kim Jong-un may visit Russia soon (Korea Times, 7/10/2018)
(LEAD) Trump voices confidence Kim will honor denuclearization deal (Yonhap, 7/10/2018)
(LEAD) U.N. rapporteur: N. Korean restaurant workers seen as 'victims' of defection scam (Yonhap, 7/10/2018)
N. Korea castigates Japan for hostility, demands payment for colonial-era crimes (Yonhap, 7/10/2018)
N. Korea's 'gangster' statement should not hamper nuclear talks: Gallucci (Yonhap, 7/10/2018)
N. Korean leader conveys personal message to Cuba's new president (Yonhap, 7/10/2018)
North Korea's choice (Korea Joongang Daily, 7/10/2018)
North Korea's 'Gangster' Gibe After Pompeo Visit (NYT, 7/9/2018)
North's human rights can't be ignored (Korea Joongang Daily, 7/10/2018)
On North Korea: Inspections first, negotiations later (Washington Post, 7/10/2018)
Pentagon: U.S. ready if N. Korea returns American soldiers' remains (Yonhap, 7/10/2018)
Pompeo probes NK in post-Singapore trip (Korea Times, 7/10/2018)
Pompeo says North Korea denuclearization "decades long" challenge (CNN, 7/9/2018)
Pompeo Says Talks on Track Despite 'Gangster' Comments by North Korea (VOA, 7/9/2018)
S. Korea's top nuclear envoy to visit D.C. for talks on N. Korea (Yonhap, 7/10/2018)
The Morning Risk Report: Insurers Hold a Key to North Korea Sanctions (WSJ, 7/10/2018)
Trump blames China for interfering (Korea Joongang Daily, 7/10/2018)
Trump confirms he plans to give Kim Jong Un a copy of 'Rocket Man' CD (CNN, 7/10/2018)
Trump has 'little gift' for N.K. leader (Yonhap, 7/10/2018)
Trump suggests China might be interfering in U.S.-North Korea talks (Reuters, 7/9/2018)
Trump touts confidence in Kim Jong Un (Video) (CNN, 7/9/2018)
UN humanitarian chief: Why I'm visiting North Korea (CNN, 7/9/2018)
U.N. Official Seeks Inquiry Into Defection of North Korean Waitresses (WSJ, 7/10/2018)
Unhappy History of Verification in North Korea (38 North, 7/9/2018)

Top News:

- Greg Scarlatoiu, executive director of Committee for Human Rights in North Korea in Washington, told UPI on Tuesday Quintana's assessment of the defections as a "kind of deceit" is the equivalent of a "senior U.N. official reaching a verdict prior to any investigation." (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

In North Korea:

- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has inspected construction sites in the country's northern county of Samjiyon, the North's state-run media reported Tuesday. Kim gave a "field

guidance" at the sites, including a township construction project under way in Samjiyon County in Ryanggang Province bordering China, according to the Korean Central News Agency. (Yonhap)

- North Korea's state media reported Tuesday that Kim Jong-un visited Samjiyon County in the country's northern Ryanggang Province to inspect a factory, farm and construction sites, the first time in eight days that the regime's media reported on the leader's public activities. (Lee Sung-Eun, Korea Joongang Daily)
- Empty apartments are becoming an increasingly common feature of central Pyongyang, as inside sources report that city residents are losing interest in purchasing apartments in high-rise complexes along Mirae (Future) Scientists Street and Ryomyong Street. (Mun Dong Hui, Daily NK)
- "A mourning period has been designated from July 1st until the 8th, the day of the Suryong [Kim Il Sung]'s death. Orders have been handed down to be pious and conduct memorial events during this time," a source in North Hamgyong Province said on July 6. (Kim Yoo Jin, Daily NK)
- During a visit to a cosmetics factory, Kim Jong-un reportedly compared the quality of North Korean products to foreign brands such as Lancome, Chanel and Shiseido, demanding for better goods in his own country. "Unhasu is popular, but don't stop there and fight so that it can compete with other global brand products," said Kim. (Lee Young-Jong, Lim Hyung-Dong, Yoon So-Yeon, Korea Joongang Daily)
- Authorities in North Korean provinces near the country's border with China are cracking down on so-called "antisocialist activities," forcing the owners of popular entertainment establishments that feature foreign content to operate underground, according to local sources. (Jieun Kim, Joshua Lipes, Leejin Jun, RFA)
- In April's inter-Korean summit, North Korea indulged South Korean people with a somewhat bizarre display: a magic trick. There are many unknowns about North Korea, and its magic industry is undoubtedly one of them. (Tae-Jun Kang, The Diplomat)
- There have been recent claims that the advantageous geopolitical location and abundant natural resources of North Korea offer favorable conditions for economic development. However, the advantage of geopolitical location is not the only factor to consider in a country's economy. (Jo Hyon, Daily NK)
- Reports indicate that a project that was initiated four years ago in Chagang Province to expand important underground military factories has recently been completed. The alleged purpose of the site is to conceal information regarding the movement and launch of intercontinental ballistic missiles. (Ha Yoon Ah, Daily NK)
- The Foreign Ministry pronouncement was apparently not carried by Pyongyang domestic media for the internal audience. The only whiff of problems the domestic audience got was a brief report on the departure of Secretary Pompeo's party noting that issues had been discussed "in depth." (Robert Carlin, 38 North)

In South Korea:

- South Korea has suspended its summertime civil defense drills aimed at preparing against a North Korean attack to keep alive a positive atmosphere for nuclear diplomacy with the North. (Kim Tong-Hyung, *Washington Post*)
- This decision to cancel the Ulchi drills, which usually take place every August, was reached in a Cabinet meeting presided by Prime Minister Lee Nak-yon Tuesday to take into consideration the recent developments in inter-Korean relations and the current security situation. (Sarah Kim, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- South Korea said on Tuesday it has decided to scrap an annual government mobilization drill this year as part of a suspended joint exercise with the United States but will carry out its own drills to maintain readiness. (*Reuters*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- There should be progress in denuclearization and other conditions should be created before talking about resumption of a long-suspended joint tourism project at Mount Kumgang on North Korea's east coast, a Seoul official said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- As the two Koreas move forward with preparations to hold family reunions in August, there has been a spate of email phishing attacks on defector and North Korean human rights organizations thought to be the work of North Korean hackers. (Mun Dong Hui, *Daily NK*)
- Hyundai Asan, the South Korean operator of a long-stalled joint tour program in North Korea, on Tuesday vowed support for the upcoming reunions of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War. (*Yonhap*)
- A room in the Culture Station Seoul 284, an art space in what was once Seoul Station, has turned into a workroom with rows of sewing tables. It is a life-size re-creation of a workroom in the Kaesong Industrial Complex in North Korea by South Korean artist Lee Boo-rok. (Moon So-Young, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- South Korean women's basketball players said Tuesday that smooth communication with their North Korean teammates will be key to their success at the upcoming Asian Games, as they will compete under one flag. (*Korea Joongang Daily*)
- Nine North Korean films will be publicly shown at a South Korean film festival later this week amid the thaw in inter-Korean relations, the event's organizer said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- North and South Korean labor unions will hold joint soccer games in Seoul as part of the effort to promote civilian-level exchanges between two Koreas. (Wooyoung Lee, *UPI*)
- Sources in the country report that the North Korean authorities are domestically portraying the inter-Korean agreement to hold family reunions as solely the achievement of leader Kim Jong Un. (Kim Yoo Jin, *Daily NK*)

International:

- The U.N. special rapporteur on North Korea's human rights situation called for an inquiry into claims that the North Korean restaurant workers who were known to have defected to the South were, instead, abducted by South Korean security agents. (Kim Bo-Eun, *Korea Times*)

- At some point, now that the spectacle of Trump and Kim meeting is over, the American and South Korean leaders will have to judge whether the dismantling of North Korea's nuclear program is really achievable. (Uri Friedman, *Atlantic*)
- China's foreign ministry on Tuesday said that Beijing's position on the North Korean issue is consistent and that it acts in a responsible manner. (*Reuters*)
- "Should we trust him?" We are back at this fundamental question after U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo left his third visit to Pyongyang empty-handed. Can we trust the sincerity of Kim Jong-un's will to denuclearize? (Nam Jeong-Ho, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- A senior South Korean financial regulator said Tuesday infrastructure investment in North Korea will rise if the North ultimately opens up its economy. (*Yonhap*)
- Kim has played Trump like a Stradivarius. He has gotten everything he wanted — sanctions relaxation, international legitimation — without giving up anything in return. (Max Boot, *Washington Post*)
- A private jet for North Korean leader Kim Jong-un flew to Vladivostok, Monday, in what was seen as a test flight ahead of his possible visit to the Russian eastern port city to participate in a forum in September. (Lee Min-Hyung, *Korea Times*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday voiced confidence that North Korean leader Kim Jong-un will dismantle the regime's nuclear weapons program as promised. Trump wrote the message on Twitter after U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo visited Pyongyang over the weekend to flesh out details of the two leaders' denuclearization deal. (*Yonhap*)
- The U.N. special rapporteur on human rights in North Korea called Tuesday for a through and independent investigation into the controversial defection of a dozen North Korean restaurant workers to South Korea in 2016, saying at least some of them appear to be "victims" of a scam. (Lee Chi-Dong, *Yonhap*)
- North Korea's media castigated Japan for inciting "hostility" toward its regime Tuesday, calling on Tokyo to "liquidate" its colonial-era crimes if it really wants peace and stability in the region. (*Yonhap*)
- A former U.S. nuclear negotiator on Monday dismissed concerns that North Korea's latest harsh rhetoric could undermine negotiations with the United States. Robert Gallucci, who negotiated a nuclear agreement with North Korea in 1994, said the regime came out with a "much more gentle and careful" statement than usual after last weekend's talks with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in Pyongyang. (*Yonhap*)
- A senior North Korean official has delivered a personal message from leader Kim Jong-un to the newly-selected president of Cuba, the North's state-run media reported Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- The Singapore summit was a historic moment as it offered a chance for the leader of a reclusive state to debut on the international stage. The meeting offered hope that Pyongyang could take a path toward denuclearization. But optimism is giving way to pessimism. We hope North Korea makes a wise choice for a better future. (*Korea Joongang Daily*)
- The North Korean statement is grossly unfair to gangsters, who generally exhibit some strategic competence in their negotiations. No self-respecting gangster would walk away without some concrete gain, or would enter the discussions with the witless naïveté and lack of preparation displayed by President Trump at last month's Singapore summit meeting. (Gary Mongiovi, Richard Cherwitz, NYT)

- Tomas Ojea Quintana, the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in North Korea, criticized the international community for ignoring the human rights situation in the North in recent summits with the nation. (Park Yu-Mi, Esther Chung, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- Verification of North Korea's nuclear facilities, materials and warheads should not be the end result of a long negotiation; it should be the first priority. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un must agree to an effective verification system and an inspecting organization. (Larry Niksch, *Washington Post*)
- The Pentagon said Monday that the United States remains ready should North Korea decide to return the remains of American soldiers killed in the 1950-53 Korean War. (*Yonhap*)
- Given the significant diplomatic investment that the Trump team has put into North Korea in recent weeks, Pompeo also began the process of fleshing out the Singapore summit agreement that both sides claim establishes a new era in bilateral relations. (Andrew Hammond, *Korea Times*)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said getting North Korea to dismantle its nuclear and missile programs will be a "decades long challenge," as President Donald Trump said Monday he remains confident Kim Jong Un will follow through on his pledges to do so. (Jeremy Diamond, CNN)
- Despite Pyongyang's negative statements about U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's latest visit, the top U.S. diplomat says talks with the isolated Communist country remain on track. (Cindy Saine, VOA)
- South Korea's chief nuclear envoy will travel to Washington D.C. this week for consultations on North Korea, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced Tuesday. Lee Do-hoon, representative for Korean Peninsula peace and security affairs at Seoul's foreign ministry, plans to hold meetings with U.S. officials between Wednesday and Saturday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea relies on vulnerabilities in the insurance sector to evade global sanctions on shipping blacklisted goods, according to a new report. The insurance sector "represents a key potential choke point for North Korea," according to the report, from the U.K.-based Royal United Services Institute for Defense and Security Studies. (Samuel Rubenfeld, WSJ)
- U.S. President Donald Trump suggested that China may be impeding U.S. efforts toward a denuclearization deal with North Korea on Monday because of the burgeoning trade war between the world's two largest economies. (Sarah Kim, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- The President of the United States confirmed on Tuesday morning that he plans to give a copy of the Elton John hit song "Rocket Man" to the dictator of North Korea, who he met with during a summit in Singapore last month to discuss denuclearization. (Caroline Kenny, CNN)
- U.S. President Donald Trump said Tuesday that he has a "little gift" for North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, but wouldn't reveal what it is. Speaking with reporters before departing on a trip to Europe, Trump was asked to confirm a South Korean news report that U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo took with him to Pyongyang a CD of Elton John's song "Rocket Man" to give to Kim last week. (*Yonhap*)
- President Donald Trump suggested on Monday that China might be seeking to derail U.S. efforts aimed at denuclearizing North Korea, but said he was confident that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un would uphold a pact the two agreed last month. (Susan Heavey, David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)

- CNN's Brian Todd reports on the diplomatic disconnect, following US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's meeting with North Koreans in Pyongyang. (CNN)
- The world has largely overlooked the massive humanitarian crisis that has taken hold in the DPRK. The United Nations has assessed that in the DPRK, over 10 million people -- or 40% of the population -- require humanitarian assistance. (Mark Lowcock, CNN)
- A United Nations official called for an investigation into the defection of North Korean restaurant workers to the South in 2016, saying at least some of the group appeared to have been deceived into leaving and hinting that Seoul officials were responsible. (Andrew Jeong, WSJ)
- Verification of North Korea's denuclearization now preoccupies negotiators. An unhappy past holds some important lessons for what may work this time around. (Leon V. Sigal, *38 North*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250720215744/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-un-rapporteur-statement-on-north-korea-waitresses-disputable-analyst-says-kim-jong-un-has-played-trump-like-a-stradivarius

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Wednesday, July 11, 2018

North Korea says human rights is obstacle to peace; North Korean Waitresses' Defection May Have Been Forced, U.N. Official Says

In North Korea:
'Clear evidence of humanitarian need' in North Korea: U.N. aid chief (Reuters, 07/11/2018)
Fuel prices are dropping in North Korea, and that's a little odd (North Korean Economy Watch, 07/10/2018)
Kim Jong-un opts for potato farm visit over Mike Pompeo meeting (Telegraph, 07/11/2018)
Kim Jong Un tells officials not to make the people the enemy, leading to end of anti-socialist crackdown (Daily NK, 07/11/2018)
N. Korea invites foreigners to join 2019 Pyongyang Marathon (Yonhap, 07/11/2018)
North Korea says human rights is obstacle to peace (UPI, 07/11/2018)
Senior N.K. official returns home after Cuba trip (Yonhap, 07/11/2018)
The most popular products in North Korea right now? Cigarettes for men and cosmetic face masks for women (Daily NK, 07/11/2018)
U.N. aid chief: 'clear evidence of humanitarian need' in N. Korea (Yonhap, 07/11/2018)

In South Korea:
North Korean movies to be screened at Bifan (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/11/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) Presidential panel chief to visit North for forum on economic cooperation involving two Koreas, Russia (Yonhap, 07/11/2018)
(LEAD) Hyundai seeks gov't approval to visit N.K. for memorial service (Yonhap, 07/11/2018)
(Yonhap Feature) S. Korea gears up for forestry cooperation with N. Korea (Yonhap, 07/11/2018)
Attorney: North Korean restaurant workers in Seoul against will (UPI, 07/11/2018)
Commentator recalls inter-Korean basketball games (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/11/2018)
Government insists defectors were not lured (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/11/2018)
North Korean Waitresses' Defection May Have Been Forced, U.N. Official Says (NYT, 07/10/2018)
S. Korea reiterates North Korean restaurant workers defected voluntarily (Yonhap, 07/11/2018)

International:
(LEAD) N.K. denuclearization faces key moment in coming months: S. Korean envoy (Yonhap, 07/11/2018)
A dicey declaration (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/11/2018)
China Rebuffs Trump's Blame in North Korea Denuclearization Fallout (VOA, 07/11/2018)
Hunt for U.S. Korean War dead will take months to resume, search chief says (Reuters, 07/11/2018)
North Korea's Ri Su Yong visits Moscow (UPI, 07/11/2018)
North's tactic is delay, delay, delay, says Panda (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/11/2018)
Playing with a bad hand (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/11/2018)
Pompeo: U.S. committed to peaceful solution in Korea (Yonhap, 07/10/2018)
Pompeo's North Korea meeting went 'as badly as it could have gone' (CNN, 07/11/2018)
Rocket Man: Trump autographs Elton John CD for Kim Jong-un (The Guardian, 07/10/2018)
The Singapore Summit in Perspective: Lessons from the Israeli-Arab Conflict (38 North, 07/10/2018)
Three irreversible mistakes (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/11/2018)
Top U.S. senator says Kim took Trump to the cleaners (Yonhap, 07/11/2018)

In North Korea:

- There is "very clear evidence of humanitarian need" in North Korea, the top U.N. aid official has said during the first visit of its kind to the isolated country since 2011. (Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- As in the rest of the country, gas prices continue to fall in Pyongyang, data from NK Pro shows, but remains much higher than the closest available month of 2017. At the same time, recent figures from China state that its exports of refined fuel products to North Korea continues to remain well below the ceiling mandated by UN sanctions. (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, *North Korean Economy Watch*)
- Kim Jong-un, the North Korean leader, appears to have opted to visit a potato farm instead of meeting Mike Pompeo when the US Secretary of State was in Pyongyang over the weekend for the latest round of discussions on the future of the Korean Peninsula. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)

- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has reportedly ordered that the country's legal authorities refrain from "making enemies of the people" and that the anti-Socialist crackdown that has taken place until recently has more or less been halted. (Kang Mi Jin, *Daily NK*)
- North Korea said Wednesday that the Mangyongdae Prize International Marathon annually hosted by its capital Pyongyang has been recognized by the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races (AIMS). Its 30th competition will be held on April 7, 2019, it added. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea is challenging critics of the country's human rights record and taking aim at the United States and South Korea for raising a thorny issue in the past. Workers' Party newspaper Rodong Sinmun issued a statement Wednesday, urging Washington and Seoul to "kick aside" its policy of pressing Pyongyang on its rights record. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- A senior North Korean official has returned home from a trip to Cuba aimed at solidifying their bilateral relations, according to the North's media Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- "As Heard in North Korea" articles contain radio programming content broadcast by Unification Media Group (UMG), an independent multimedia consortium targeting the North Korean people. (*Daily NK*)
- The top U.N. relief official said Wednesday he sees "clear evidence of humanitarian need" in North Korea during his rare trip to the North. U.N. humanitarian chief Mark Lowcock arrived in Pyongyang on Monday and met with Kim Yong-nam, North Korea's nominal head of state and president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, earlier in the day, according to the North's state media. (*Yonhap*)

In South Korea:

- Other than providing the chance to enjoy unique films that are hard to see in theaters, another notable aspect of this year's Bifan is the screening of North Korean movies. Over its 11 days, the film festival will screen nine feature and short movies from North Korea. (Jin Min-ji, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The chief of South Korea's presidential panel on economic cooperation with North Korea and Eurasia will visit the North this week to attend a forum arranged by Russia on three-country cooperation, the unification ministry said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- Hyundai Group on Wednesday asked the government to allow its senior management to visit North Korea next month to mark the anniversary of the death of its former chairman, company officials said. (*Yonhap*)
- Forest For Peace, a Seoul-based civic group, is brimming with hopes for the revival of its suspended project to set up a tree nursery at Mount Kumgang on North Korea's east coast. The Seoul government has picked forestry cooperation as one of its priority projects in implementing the April 27 summit agreement between President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. (*Yonhap*)

- A group of North Korean restaurant workers went to South Korea against their will in a scheme orchestrated by Seoul's intelligence agency, an attorney for the workers said. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- In last week's inter-Korean friendly basketball games, 101 people visited Pyongyang from the South, including players and coaches as well as government officials. Also included was Park Jong-min, a commentator who has 19 years of experience with pro basketball games here. (Kim Rahn, *Pyongyang Joint Press Corps*)
- The South Korean government reaffirmed on Wednesday that the 12 North Korean restaurant workers who defected to the South in 2016 did so on their own free will, and denied claims from a United Nations human rights special rapporteur that some were deceived about their final destination. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- A United Nations official on Tuesday called for an investigation into whether 12 North Korean waitresses were brought to South Korea against their will, saying that some had told him they had not known where they were going when they made the journey in 2016. (Choe Sang-Hun, NYT)
- South Korea reiterated Wednesday that there was no coercion in the process of the defection of North Korean female restaurant workers in 2016. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- A senior South Korean diplomat said Wednesday efforts to denuclearize North Korea will reach a crossroads in the coming months. Lee Do-hoon, representative for Korean Peninsula peace and security affairs at the foreign ministry, also stressed the importance of Seoul-Washington coordination in the process. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon Jae-in has suddenly dealt a new card to help revitalize the stagnant denuclearization talks between the United States and North Korea. In an interview with a Singaporean media outlet shortly before embarking on his first visit to the city-state, the president said a declaration to end the 1950-53 Korean War will serve as "a milestone toward the denuclearization of North Korea and establishment of a permanent peace regime on the Korean Peninsula." (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- China refused to take the blame for a setback in North Korea's path toward denuclearization as bilateral talks between Washington and Pyongyang went sour during US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's visit there over the weekend. (Joyce Huang, VOA)
- North Korea may allow the United States to resume a search for thousands of American war dead from the 1950-53 Korean War, but it will be months before excavations can begin and years until bone fragments are identified, a senior US official said. (Tim Kelly, *Reuters*)
- A top North Korean official visited Moscow on Tuesday, raising the possibility of a future summit between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong Un. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- North Korea never stopped producing ballistic missiles, according to Ankit Panda, a security analyst and senior editor at The Diplomat, who discovered that the North continued its program even as it was negotiating with the United States based on an analysis of data from the U.S. National Air and Space Intelligence Center. He published those findings in an exclusive report on June 30. (Yoo Jee-hye, Shim Kyu-seok, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

- On the back-to-back summits between the two Koreas and the United States and North Korea, I would give the results a B grade. It's a generous one. Given the few details on the key topic of denuclearization, these meetings should not be getting more than a C. (Kim Byung-yeon, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has stressed the United States' commitment to resolving the threat of North Korea's nuclear weapons program in a peaceful manner. (*Yonhap*)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's overnight visit to Pyongyang last week failed to demonstrate any progress on denuclearization talks, leading one source with knowledge of the discussions to say the White House felt it went "as badly as it could have gone." (Jamie Tarabay, CNN)
- Donald Trump has confirmed he has prepared and autographed a CD of Elton John's Honky Chateau album, featuring the song Rocket Man, to be given as a gift to North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. (Benjamin Haas, *The Guardian*)
- The path toward North Korea's denuclearization will be strewn with obstacles and will be difficult to navigate. It will also be time-consuming, given the inherently intractable and complex verification challenges that lie ahead. Likewise, ending the state of war on the peninsula will take time. After 70 years of hostility between North and South Korea, it would be naïve to expect instant results in the process of political reconciliation, establishing a sustainable peace regime and normalizing relations. (Stephen J. Blank, *38 North*)
- North Korea called him "gangster-like." An expected meeting with Kim Jong-un did not happen either. What was Pompeo thinking at that moment of humiliation? There are many factors that led to the current situation. But while denuclearization talks are underway, let's review the three irreversible mistakes in the negotiations singled out by Washington's foreign policy experts. (Kim Hyun-ki, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The top Democrat in the US Senate claimed Tuesday that North Korean leader Kim Jong-un took US President Donald Trump "to the cleaners" at their meeting in Singapore last month. (*Yonhap*)

Prepared by Jack Maerz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250720215750/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsnorth-korea-says-human-rights-is-obstacle-to-peace-north-korean-waitresses-defection-may-have-been-forced-un-official-says

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Thursday, July 12, 2018

Defectors might have lied to protect families;One in five North Korean children malnourished, says UN chief during rare visit

Top News:

Defectors might have lied to protect families (Korea Joongang Daily, 07/13/2018)

In North Korea:
Does North Korea intend to denuclearize? (Korea Times, 07/12/2018)
Hunt for U.S. Korean War dead will take months to resume, search chief says (Reuters, 07/12/2018)
N. Korea's vice premier to attend World Cup closing ceremony in Moscow (Yonhap, 07/12/2018)
North Korean vice premier to attend soccer World Cup closing: Russian embassy (Reuters, 07/12/2018)
One in five North Korean children malnourished, says UN chief during rare visit (Guardian, 07/12/2018)
Senior N. Korean official heads home via Beijing (Yonhap, 07/12/2018)

In South Korea:
(2nd LD) Moon says N. Korea denuclearization talks on right track (Yonhap, 07/12/2018)
Denuclearization talks on right track: Moon (Korea Times, 07/12/2018)
S. Korea approves civic group's plan to visit N. Korea (Yonhap, 07/12/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Defense chief: No arms reduction (Korea Joongang Daily, 07/13/2018)

International:
Full text of N.K. leader's letter to Trump (Yonhap, 07/12/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korea proposes general-level military talks over repatriation of American troop remains: source (Yonhap, 07/12/2018)
(LEAD) Trump tweets letter from N.K. leader (Yonhap, 07/12/2018)
North fails to show up for talks in Panmunjom (Korea Joongang Daily, 07/13/2018)
North Korea a No-Show for Talks With US on Korean War Dead (VOA, 07/12/2018)
North Korea didn't show up at meeting with U.S. (UPI, 07/12/2018)
North Korea snubs US, skips meeting on returning soldier remains (CNN, 07/12/2018)
North Koreans Are No-Shows at Meeting to Discuss U.S. Soldiers' Remains (New York Times, 07/12/2018)
Pence: U.S. won't be sidelined in N. Korea negotiations (Yonhap, 07/12/2018)
South Korea's Moon says North Korea-U.S. talks 'on track', criticism a ploy (Reuters, 07/12/2018)
Trump releases letter from Kim Jong Un, touts "great progress" (CNN, 07/12/2018)
Trump tweets 'very nice note' from North Korea's Kim Jong Un (Washington Post, 07/12/2018)
Trump voices optimism about N. Korea talks (Yonhap, 07/12/2018)
Two Koreas, U.S., China should co-sign Korean Peninsula peace treaty: expert (Yonhap, 07/12/2018)
US accuses North Korea of illegally smuggling oil products (Washington Post, 07/12/2018)
U.S., N. Korea still in talks to set date for meeting over repatriation of American troop remains: source (Yonhap, 07/12/2018)
U.S. urges U.N. to halt all oil transfers to North Korea (Washington Post, 07/12/2018)
What should be Trump's new little gift to Kim Jong-un? (Korea Times, 07/12/2018)

Top News:

- Radio Free Asia interviewed HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu about the 12 North Korean restaurant workers who defected to South Korea in 2016 but told a broadcaster they were deceived about their final destination. Scarlatoiu said that the restaurant workers may have lied to protect their families back home. Scarlatoiu also said that there was no reason for the South Korean government to kidnap North Koreans because there were already some 32,000 North Korean defectors in the country. Instead, the workers could have lied to the UN special rapporteur because if they said they arrived in the South on their own free will, as Seoul has repeatedly said, their families back home might face harsh punishment from North Korean authorities, including the death penalty. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea Joongang Daily*)

In North Korea:

- The South Korean government has consistently emphasized North Korea's clear intent to denuclearize throughout the fast-moving string of summits this year. South Korean government officials have argued that North Korea is making a fundamental shift in its policies from the nuclear and economic "byungjin line" to one focused on economic development, and that it is willing to exchange its nukes for regime survival. (Ahn Jong Sik, *Korea Times*)
- North Korea may allow the United States to resume a search for thousands of American war dead from the 1950-53 Korean War, but it will be months before excavations can begin and years until bone fragments are identified, a senior US official said. (Tim Kelly, *Reuters*)
- North Korea's Vice Premier Ri Ryong-nam on Thursday left Pyongyang for Moscow to attend the closing ceremony of the 2018 World Cup finals slated for July 15, according to the North's embassy in the Russian capital. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean Vice Premier Ri Ryong Nam will visit Moscow to attend the soccer World Cup's closing ceremony at the invitation of FIFA, the Russian embassy in North Korea said on Thursday. (*Reuters*)
- About a fifth of all North Korean children are affected by malnutrition, the most senior United Nations humanitarian aid official has said during a tour of the country, the first such visit since 2011. (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)
- A senior North Korean official in charge of the country's international relations apparently met with Chinese government officials in Beijing on Thursday on his way back home after a Cuba visit. (*Yonhap*)

In South Korea:

- Talks on ending North Korea's nuclear ambitions are on the right track despite possible difficulties down the road, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Thursday, according to his top press secretary. (*Yonhap*)
- The denuclearization negotiations between the U.S. and North Korea have just got onto the right track, President Moon Jae-in said during bilateral talks with Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Thursday. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)

- South Korea's unification ministry on Thursday approved a plan by five members of a local civic group to visit North Korea next week, Seoul officials said. (Yonhap)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Defense Minister Song Young-moo brushed off speculation that the South Korean military was reviewing arms reduction amid warming relations with the North and said on Thursday that the issue would only be discussed after Pyongyang completely denuclearizes and both Koreas build trust. (Lee Keun-pyung, Korea Joongang Daily)

International:

- Yonhap published the full text of Kim Jong-un's letter to President Donald Trump. (Yonhap)
- North Korea has reportedly proposed holding general-level military talks with the United Nations Command (UNC) over the repatriation of remains of American troops killed during the 1950-53 Korean War, sources here said Thursday. (Yonhap)
- U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday revealed a letter from North Korean leader Kim Jong-un that expressed hope for further progress in bilateral ties. (Yonhap)
- The United States and North Korea were supposed to discuss the repatriation of the remains of U.S. soldiers who died during the 1950-53 Korean War on Thursday but couldn't because the North Koreans didn't show up. (Sarah Kim, Korea Joongang Daily)
- North Korea failed to show up Thursday for talks with U.S. officials on returning the remains of American war dead from the Korean War in the early 1950s, a new sign of tension between the two countries. (Ken Bredemeier, VOA)
- The U.S. and North Korea were scheduled to hold a meeting at the South Korean border village of Panmunjom on Thursday for talks on repatriation of remains of U.S. soldiers but North Korea reportedly didn't show up. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- North Korean officials did not show up to a planned meeting with US officials at the demilitarized zone Thursday, where they were expected to continue discussions on repatriating the remains of Americans killed during the Korean War, a senior US official tells CNN. (Zachary Cohen, Elise Labott, CNN)
- North Korean officials did not show up on Thursday for a meeting with Americans at the inter-Korean border to discuss the return of remains of United States soldiers killed in the Korean War, officials said. (Choe Sang-hun, New York Times)
- U.S. Vice President Mike Pence has said the United States will not be "sidelined or sidetracked" in negotiations to dismantle North Korea's nuclear weapons program. (Yonhap)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in said on Thursday that North Korea's criticism of the United States after recent talks on denuclearisation was part of its strategy and negotiations between them are on the "right track". (Hyonhee Shin, Reuters)
- President Donald Trump released a letter he recently received from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and praised the "great progress" being made in talks with Pyongyang. (Zachary Cohen, CNN)

- President Donald Trump has tweeted a letter him from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un heralding "epochal progress" in U.S.-North Korea relations. (Matthew Pennington, *Washington Post*)
- Trump on Thursday expressed optimism about ongoing negotiations to dismantle North Korea's nuclear weapons program, citing a halt in the regime's testing of nukes and ballistic missiles. (*Yonhap*)
- A South Korean expert on national security said Thursday that China, as well as the United States, should be a co-signatory to a peace treaty on the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- The United States says North Korea is illegally smuggling refined petroleum products into the country beyond the quota of 500,000 barrels per year allowed under U.N. sanctions. (AP)
- The United States and North Korea are still in talks to set a date for working-level dialogue over the repatriation of remains of American troops killed during the 1950-53 Korean War, a diplomatic source here said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- The United States said Thursday that North Korea has already exceeded the annual cap allowed for oil imports, and asked the United Nations to order an immediate halt to all transfers of oil to the country. (Carol Morello, *Washington Post*)
- So Donald Trump and Mike Pompeo did try to give a copy of a CD containing Elton John's "Rocket Man" to Kim Jong-un, North Korea's leader. The U.S. President has admitted that his secretary of state had it on his orders during his Pyongyang visit but Pompeo didn't have a chance to give it to Kim because the North Korean refused to meet him. (Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)

Prepared by Lauren Jackson, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250720215757/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-defectors-might-have-lied-to-protect-familiesone-in-five-north-korean-children-malnourished-says-un-chief-during-rare-visit

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Friday, July 13, 2018

South Korea wants formal end to the Korean War this year; US, North Korea to meet on Sunday over war remains

In North Korea:
A photographer visited North Korea 6 times to see what life is really like — here's what he saw (Business Insider, 7/13/2018)
Does North Korea intend to denuclearize? (Daily NK, 7/12/2018)
FAO estimates North Korean rice output in 2018 at last year's level (Yonhap, 7/13/2018)
For Kim Jong Un, following the China and Vietnam model means leading with light industry (Daily NK, 7/12/2018)

North Korea angles for outside investment through economic development push (Daily NK, 7/13/2018)
North Korea may be sitting on a $6 trillion resources stockpile (Business Insider, 7/13/2018)
North Korean lectures describe South Korea as 'disease ridden, backward country' (Daily NK, 7/13/2018)
[Photo] Authorities encourage residents to 'donate' to the construction of a strong and prosperous nation (Daily NK, 7/13/2018)
[Photo]International market opens in Rason selling seafood products to Chinese tourists (Daily NK, 7/13/2018)

In South Korea:
Hyundai Group seeks permission to go North (Korea Joongang Daily, 7/13/2018)
Kim is determined to denuclearize: Moon (Korea Joongang Daily, 7/13/2018)
(LEAD) Moon urges efforts to move N. Korea denuclearization forward (Yonhap, 7/13/2018)
PM calls for patience in peace process with N. Korea (Yonhap, 7/13/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
N. Korea tells South not to hesitate about cross-border cooperation (Yonhap, 7/13/2018)
North Korean table tennis players to arrive in Seoul on Sunday for int'l tournament (Korea Times, 7/13/2018)
Reopening of Kaesong Industrial Complex key to inter-Korean cooperation: official (Yonhap, 7/13/2018)
South Korea wants formal end to the Korean War this year (UPI, 7/12/2018)

International:
A long awaited homecoming (Korea Joongang Daily, 7/13/2018)
China says it's working closely with US on North Korea nukes (AP, 7/13/2018)
China's June trade with North Korea falls by more than half (Washington Post, 7/13/2018)
Confusion flares over talks on return of U.S. troop remains (Yonhap, 7/13/2018)
Donald Trump releases 'very nice' letter he received from Kim Jong-un boasting of 'epochal' progress in talks (Telegraph, 7/12/2018)
Donald Trump tweets 'very nice' letter from Kim Jong-un (BBC, 7/12/2018)
In North Korea, a Western Journalist Appears All but Invisible (NYT, 7/12/2018)
Indonesian Charged in Kim Jong Nam Murder will be Acquitted, Lawyer Says (RFA, 7/11/2018)
(LEAD) U.S., N. Korea to meet Sunday over return of American troops' remains (Yonhap, 7/13/2018)
Moon presses Trump, Kim for breakthrough in nuclear talks (Washington Post, 7/13/2018)
N. Korean defector allowed into U.S. in June: report (Yonhap, 7/13/2018)
NK, US in course of building mutual trust for nuclear bargain (Korea Times, 7/13/2018)
North Korea could propose military restrictions with U.S. over weekend (UPI, 7/13/2018)
North Korea puts off meeting with US on returning soldier remains (CNN, 7/12/2018)
North Korea's Air Koryo flying to Shanghai twice weekly (UPI, 7/12/2018)
North Korean officials a no-show for meeting about U.S. troop remains (Washington Post, 7/12/2018)
Putin, Trump and North Korea: The Road to Washington Leads Through Asia (38 North, 7/12/2018)

South Korea's Moon says world will judge if North Korea-U. S. talks fail (Washington Post, 7/13/2018)
South Korea's Moon urges North, United States to move forward on ending nuclear program (Reuters, 7/12/2018)
The US is trying to nail down terms with Pyongyang, while 'South Koreans aren't wasting time' (CNBC, 7/13/2018)
Trump Cites 'Great Progress' in North Korea Nuclear Talks (NYT, 7/12/2018)
Trump hails progress after receiving note from North Korea's Kim (Reuters, 7/12/2018)
Trump releases highly flattering missive from Kim Jong-un (Korea Joongang Daily, 7/13/2018)
Trump reveals Kim Jong-un's letter in tweet [PHOTOS] (Korea Times, 7/13/2018)
Trump touts 'great progress' after North Korea skips repatriation of war dead talks (Guardian, 7/12/2018)
Trump tweets friendly letter from Kim Jong Un (UPI, 7/13/2018)
UN official says N. Korea needs food, medicine, clean water (Washington Post, 7/12/2018)
U.S., North Korea to meet on Sunday over war remains (Reuters, 7/12/2018)
U.S., North to meet Sunday over return of American troops' remains (Korea Joongang Daily, 7/13/2018)
U.S. accuses North Korea of U.N. sanctions breach, demands end to fuel sales (Reuters, 7/12/2018)
[Video] 'Gangster-like demands': The US should push forward with a strong denuclearization proposal (Daily NK, 7/12/2018)
We spoke to North Korea's lawyer about the assassination of Kim Jong Un's half-brother (VICE, 7/11/2018)

In North Korea:

- Photographer Eric Lafforgue visited North Korea six times to take photos of daily life in the isolated totalitarian country. Much of what he saw in North Korea was the more privileged and affluent areas of North Korea, like Pyongyang, but he always requested to visit far-flung destinations in the country. (Harrison Jacobs, Eric Lafforgue, *Business Insider*)
- The North Koreans have effectively indicated that they will not accept the certified, verifiable, and irreversible disarmament or the reporting or monitoring of its nuclear program. There is no real reason to conduct denuclearization negotiations if the country refuses to report on or submit to monitoring of the terms of the agreement. (Ahn Jong Sik, *Daily NK*)
- North Korea's rice production in the fall of 2018 is estimated to be similar to last year's volume of about 1.6 million tons, an American broadcaster said Friday, citing a report from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. (*Yonhap*)
- As North Korea has historically given economic priority to developing heavy industry, the paper industry, like other light manufacturing sectors, has sat at the bottom of the food chain. The growth strategy of the North Korea's socialist economy had been characterized by disproportionate investment in the heavy industry sector, while developing light industry and agriculture sectors simultaneously. (Jo Hyon, *Daily NK*)
- Following their adoption of a new strategic line focused on the construction of a socialist economy, North Korean authorities have recently designated Kaesung as a special economic

zone “test site” and handed down orders that the area be made into an “economic development city.” (Ha Yoon Ah, *Daily NK*)

- Credit Suisse analyst Trang Thuy Le estimates North Korea could become a $100 billion economy within 10 years if it takes a path towards modernization. (Sam Jacobs, *Business Insider*)
- North Korea has returned to its routine criticisms of South Korea through nationwide lectures targeted at its domestic audience. The regime may be attempting to stifle any fanciful ideas that could surface as a result of increased cooperation between the two countries. (Kim Yoo Jin, *Daily NK*)
- The North Korean authorities are encouraging “voluntary” donations from North Korea’s citizens in the name of patriotism and developing the economy, according to internal documents obtained by Daily NK. (Mun Dong Hui, *Daily NK*)
- Daily NK has caught a glimpse of the opening of an international market near the customs office in Wonjong-ri, Rason City, North Hamgyong Province. A rise in the number of Chinese tourists in North Korea following several major summit meetings held earlier in the year appears to have led to increased efforts by the regime to bring in tourist dollars. (Mun Dong Hui, *Daily NK*)

In South Korea:

- Hyundai Group is seeking government approval to visit North Korea for the memorial service of its late Chairman Chung Mong-hun who spearheaded the now-suspended inter-Korean tour programs in the North. (Kim Jee-Hee, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Friday called for sincere efforts on all sides to move the North Korean denuclearization process forward, insisting that its leader Kim Jong-un is determined to turn his country into a normal state. (*Korea Joongang Daily*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Friday called for sincere efforts on all sides to move the North Korean denuclearization process forward, insisting that its leader Kim Jong-un is determined to turn his country into a normal state. (Byun Duk-Kun, *Yonhap*)
- Prime Minister Lee Nak-yon called Friday for patience in forging ahead with the denuclearization and peace process with North Korea, warning that a series of hurdles could test the process going forward. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- North Korea's media urged South Korea to more actively engage in cross-border cooperation Friday, making a veiled criticism that Seoul is hesitating under the influence from other countries. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean table tennis players will arrive in South Korea on Sunday for an international table tennis tournament, Seoul's sports officials said Friday, with the two sides looking to compete as a unified team in several events. (*Korea Times*)
- A South Korean official in charge of promoting investments in North Korea's Kaesong Industrial Complex said Friday that the reopening of the now-suspended industrial park in

the North's border town will be a first step towards resuming inter-Korean economic cooperation. (Yonhap)

- South Korean President Moon Jae-in said he wants to bring a formal end to the Korean War this year. "The goal of our government is to declare an official end of the Korean War this year, which marks the 65th anniversary of signing the truce agreement," he said in an interview with The Straits Times. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)

International:

- South Korean and U.S. forces hold a repatriation ceremony at Seoul National Cemetery on Friday for the remains of two soldiers, one South Korean and one American, who died during the 1950-53 Korean War. (Korea Joongang Daily)
- A senior Chinese official is striking a reassuring note about Beijing's commitment to progress in North Korea's denuclearization, after President Donald Trump accused China of interfering in talks between Pyongyang and Washington. (AP)
- China's imports from North Korea plunged 92.6 percent in June compared with a year earlier under U.N. sanctions imposed to stop Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programs, the customs agency said Friday. (Joe McDonald, Washington Post)
- Even after the U.S. announcement of plans for a meeting with North Korea this weekend on the return of soldiers' remains, confusion persists over how to characterize it. (Lee Chi-Dong, Song Sang-Ho, Yonhap)
- Donald Trump has released a copy of a letter from Kim Jong-un, the North Korean leader, praising their meeting as the start of a "meaningful journey". (Nick Allen, Telegraph)
- US President Donald Trump has published a letter from Kim Jong-un, in which North Korea's leader voices hopes for a "new future" in bilateral relations. (BBC)
- We all knew that Pyongyang would be odd. But the strangeness of the place hit hard while on a morning jog last week during a visit to the North Korean capital by a State Department delegation and journalists covering it — including me. (Gardiner Harris, NYT)
- Indonesian citizen Siti Aisyah and co-defendant Doan Thi Huong, a Vietnamese national, are standing trial in Malaysia for allegedly killing Kim Jong Nam in a chemical weapon attack at a Kuala Lumpur airport on Feb. 13, 2017. But Siti's attorney, Gooi Soon Seng, claimed the evidence against his client was flimsy. (RFA)
- The United States and North Korea have agreed to hold talks Sunday to discuss the repatriation of American troops' remains from the 1950-53 Korean War, a State Department spokeswoman said. (Yonhap)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Friday urged President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to try harder to achieve a breakthrough in their nuclear negotiations. (Annabelle Liang, Kim Tong-Hyung, Washington Post)
- One North Korean defector was admitted to the United States as a refugee last month, broadcaster Voice of America reported Friday, citing data from the U.S. Department of State. (Yonhap)
- North Korea and the United States are apparently building up mutual trust as they proceed with follow-up dialogue to a denuclearization agreement reached between their leaders in Singapore last month. (Yi Whan-Woo, Korea Times)

- North Korea may raise the issue of military training with the United States during talks planned for Sunday, an analyst said Friday, after the U.S. State Department agreed to a fresh round of military-level talks with North Korea. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- North Korean officials did not show up to a planned meeting with US officials at the demilitarized zone Thursday, where they were expected to continue discussions on repatriating the remains of Americans killed during the Korean War, a senior US official tells CNN. (Zachary Cohen, Elise Labott, CNN)
- North Korea's national carrier has resumed flights between Pyongyang and China's largest city, a sign the two countries are resuming exchange ahead of any significant breakthrough on North Korea denuclearization. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- North Korean officials did not turn up to a Thursday meeting with the U.S. military about repatriating the remains of the war dead, according to a U.S. official with knowledge of the situation. (Adam Taylor, *Washington Post*)
- For Putin, Kim, Moon and Xi, many roads to Washington would now appear to lead through Asia and the complexities of the North Korean nuclear crisis. (Kenneth B. Dekleva M.D., *38 North*)
- If the United States or North Korea fails to "keep the promises made by their leaders in front of the international community, they will have to face the judgment of the international community," the South Korean president added. (Adam Taylor, *Washington Post*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Friday urged North Korea and the United States to move forward on a pact to end Pyongyang's nuclear program, as a lack of firm steps by the North raised questions about its commitment to its pledge. (Jack Kim, *Reuters*)
- One month since the U.S-North Korea summit, skepticism about Kim Jong Un's commitment to denuclearization still hangs over Washington. But in South Korea, the mood is overwhelmingly optimistic as President Moon Jae-in's government pushes for improved ties with its nuclear-armed neighbor. (Nyshka Chandran, CNBC)
- President Trump said Thursday that he was making "great progress" in denuclearization talks with North Korea, citing what he called a "very nice note" he received last week from Kim Jong-un, the North Korean leader, though it made no mention of nuclear weapons. (Julie Hirschfeld Davis, Rick Gladstone, NYT)
- Kim Jong Un told President Donald Trump he believed their efforts could open up a "new future" between North Korea and the United States and expressed hope for "practical actions" in the future. (Matt Spetalnick, Mohammad Zargham, *Reuters*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump said "great progress" was being made in denuclearization talks with Pyongyang Thursday, citing a "very nice note" he received from Kim Jong-un last week in which the North Korean leader praised the "energetic and extraordinary efforts" Trump was making to improve bilateral ties and implement the agreements made in their summit last month. (Lee Sung-Eun, Park Yu-Mi, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday revealed a letter from North Korean leader Kim Jong-un that expressed hope for further progress in bilateral ties. Attached were two images of the letter -- one in Korean and the other an English translation. (*Korea Times*)
- Donald Trump has released a letter he received from North Korean leader Kim Jong-un while touting "great progress" in negotiations between the United States and Pyongyang – despite reports of a breakdown in talks. (Sabrina Siddiqui, *Guardian*)

- U.S. President Donald Trump tweeted a letter that appeared to be signed by North Korea leader Kim Jong Un, as skepticism grows over North Korea's willingness to denuclearize on U.S. terms. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- About 20 percent of North Korean children are stunted because of malnutrition, and half the children in rural areas are drinking unsafe water, a senior U.N. official visiting the country said. (*Washington Post*)
- North Korea has offered to meet an American delegation on Sunday to discuss the repatriation of remains of soldiers killed in the Korean War, a U.S. State Department spokeswoman said on Thursday. (David Brunnstrom, David Alexander, *Reuters*)
- The United States and North Korea have agreed to hold talks Sunday to discuss the repatriation of American troops' remains from the 1950-53 Korean War, a U.S. State Department spokeswoman said. (*Korea Joongang Daily*)
- The United States accused North Korea on Thursday of breaching a U.N. sanctions cap on refined petroleum by making illicit transfers between ships at sea, according to a document seen by Reuters, and demanded an immediate end to all sales of the fuel. (Michelle Nichols, *Reuters*)
- As one of the highest-ranking diplomats to ever defect, Thae Yong Ho has teamed up with Daily NK and its broader media consortium, Unification Media Group, for a weekly series to share his unparalleled insight into the North Korean system, ethos, and strategic thinking, while unpacking his vision for peace on the Korean Peninsula. (Thae Yong Ho, *Daily NK*)
- Not every lawyer would want to have the North Korean government as a client. But Malaysian lawyer Jagjit Singh had no qualms when the North Korean embassy enlisted his help after Kim Jong Un's estranged half-brother was assassinated in early 2017. (Laurel Chor, Hind Hassan, Amel Guettatfi, *VICE*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250720220347/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-south-korea-wants-formal-end-to-the-korean-war-this-year-us-north-korea-to-meet-on-sunday-over-war-remains

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Saturday, July 14, 2018

North Korea fuel shipments exceeded sanctions limit; Trump hints N. Korea negotiations will be long process

In North Korea:
North Korea fuel shipments exceeded sanctions limit, U.S. says (*UPI*, 07/13/2018)
North Korea Sanctions Stymie Work Against TB Epidemic (*AP*, 07/14/2018)
North Korea: Where Everything Is Forbidden Unless It Is Allowed (*NYT*, 07/13/2018)

International:
An empty wooden ship washed up in Japan — and it looks like another mysterious North Korean 'ghost ship' (*Business Insider*, 07/14/2018)
Int'l gymnastics body chief says N. Korea to review participating in competition in S. Korea (*Yonhap*, 07/14/2018)
Trump hints N. Korea negotiations will be long process (*Yonhap*, 07/14/2018)
U.S. intel chief warns of devastating cyber threat to U.S. infrastructure (*Reuters*, 07/13/2018)
U.S., North Korea Will Try Again to Discuss Return of War Dead (*Bloomberg*, 07/14/2018)
U.S. preparing for next round of talks with N. Korea: S. Korean official (*Yonhap*, 07/13/2018)

In North Korea:

- The United States has submitted documents to a United Nations sanctions committee that include evidence of illegal smuggling of refined petroleum products into North Korea. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- Tuberculosis is North Korea's biggest public health problem. With the American-made GeneXpert, his lab would be able to complete a TB test in two hours instead of two months. It took years, but Dr. O got the machines, only to discover GeneXpert needs cartridges he can't replace. It's not clear how they would violate sanctions imposed on North Korea because its nuclear program, but no one, it seems, is willing to help him procure them and risk angering Washington. (*AP*)
- Travis Jeppesen, an American novelist and art critic based in Berlin, went to North Korea on a monthlong university program in 2016 to learn the Korean language. But classroom study did not appear to have been the primary focus. (Sheila Miyoshi Jager, *NYT*)

International:

- An empty, overturned wooden boat has been found drifting off Japan's western coast, and it could mark the start of another flood of "ghost ships" from North Korea to wash up on Japan's shores. (Alexandra Ma, *Business Insider*)
- The chief of the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) who recently visited Pyongyang said Saturday that North Korea will review participating in a gymnastics event in South Korea later this year. (*Yonhap*)
- US President Donald Trump hinted Friday that negotiations to dismantle North Korea's nuclear weapons program could take longer than hoped for. (*Yonhap*)
- Russia, China, Iran and North Korea are launching daily cyber strikes on the computer networks of federal, state and local government agencies, U.S. corporations, and academic institutions, said Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats. (Jonathan Landry, *Reuters*)

- U.S. and North Korean officials are expected to meet Sunday to discuss returning the remains of American soldiers killed almost seven decades ago, a possible chance to ease tensions between the two sides they as argue over disarmament issues. (David Tweed, *Bloomberg*)
- The United States is stepping up preparations for another round of negotiations with North Korea on dismantling the regime's nuclear weapons program, a South Korean official said Friday. (*Yonhap*)

Prepared by Jack Maerz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250720220356/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsnorth-korea-fuel-shipments-exceeded-sanctions-limit-trump-hints-n-korea-negotiations-will-be-long-process

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Sunday, July 15, 2018

North Korean restaurant staff defection was forced, manager says; North Korea, US hold general-level war remains talks

In North Korea:
Ethnic Chinese ordered to mourn for Kim Il-sung (*Korea Times*, 7/15/2018)
N. Korea campaigns against anti-socialism after Singapore summit (*Korea Times*, 7/15/2018)
N. Korean national treasure (*Korea Times*, 7/15/2018)
North Korea leader asks to protect forest in border region (*Korea Times*, 7/15/2018)

In South Korea:
Gov't in dilemma over North Korea restaurant defectors (*Korea Times*, 7/15/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Joint Ping-Pong teams train today (*Korea Joongang Daily*, 7/15/2018)
(LEAD) Koreas agree to form joint doubles teams at table tennis competition in South (*Yonhap*, 7/15/2018)
(LEAD) Presidential panel discusses Rajin-Khasan cooperation during trip to N.K. (*Yonhap*, 7/15/2018)
N.K. restaurant manager claims Seoul's spy agency lured him into defecting (*Yonhap*, 7/15/2018)
NK table tennis players in S. Korea (*Korea Times*, 7/15/2018)
North Korean restaurant staff defection was forced, manager says (BBC, 7/15/2018)
North Korean table tennis players arrive in South Korea (AP, 7/15/2018)
Pyongyang distorts S. Korea's image (*Korea Times*, 7/15/2018)
Restaurant defector says NIS duped, betrayed him (*Korea Joongang Daily*, 7/15/2018)

S. Korean pro-unification group to visit N. Korea this week (*Yonhap*, 7/15/2018)

International:
(4th LD) U.S., N. Korea hold talks about return of American troops' remains (*Yonhap*, 7/15/2018)
Brothers in nuclear arms? Trump defends Vladimir Putin and 'funny' Kim Jong-un (*Guardian*, 7/15/2018)
General-level talks held in DMZ (*Korea Joongang Daily*, 7/15/2018)
In 1999, North Korea Tried to Blackmail Israel. It Didn't Work. (*National Interest*, 7/15/2018)
N. Korea pushes to maintain friendship with Cuba (*Korea Times*, 7/15/2018)
NK, US hold general-level war remains talks (*Korea Times*, 7/15/2018)
North Korea to resume search for remains of US soldiers from Korean War (*Telegraph*, 7/15/2018)
Pompeo calls talks with North Korea on returning service members' remains 'productive' (CNN, 7/15/2018)
The devil is in the details (*Korea Joongang Daily*, 7/15/2018)
The stunt in Singapore (*Korea Joongang Daily*, 7/15/2018)
Trump hints N. Korea negotiations will be long process (*Korea Times*, 7/14/2018)
UN allows sanctions exception for military hotline recovery (*Korea Times*, 7/15/2018)
U.S. military officials meet with North Koreans to discuss repatriation of war remains (*Washington Post*, 7/15/2018)
US, North Korea hold talks on war dead repatriation (*Korea Times*, 7/15/2018)
U.S., North Korea to resume search for remains from Korean War (*Reuters*, 7/15/2018)

In North Korea:

- North Korea has ordered ethnic Chinese citizens of the country to join a memorial service for its founding leader Kim Il-sung to mark the 24th anniversary of his death on July 8, according to sources familiar with Pyongyang. (Yi Whan-Woo, *Korea Times*)
- North Korea is cracking down on "anti-socialist culture," on the border with China, forcing karaoke rooms and other establishments featuring foreign content to shut down, according to sources familiar with Pyongyang. (Yi Whan-Woo, *Korea Times*)
- Potongmun, North Korea's National Treasure No. 2, is in downtown Pyongyang. This western gate of the walled city of Pyongyang was built during the ancient kingdom of Goguryeo (37 B.C.-668 A.D.). (Yi Whan-Woo, *Korea Times*)
- Speculation is growing that North Korean leader Kim Jong-un is making a priority of forestation in rebuilding the economy, after he visited Samjiyon County in the border region. (Yi Whan-Woo, *Korea Times*)

In South Korea:

- The South Korean government has been caught in a dilemma dealing with the former workers of a North Korean restaurant in China who allegedly defected to the South in 2016, following a series of new testimonies from them that the group defection was orchestrated by the South's spy agency. (Park Ji-Won, *Korea Times*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The two Koreas are fielding joint teams at an international table tennis competition in Daejeon that kicks off Tuesday, and the players start practicing together today, the Korea Table Tennis Association said. (Park Kwang-Soo, Kim Ji-Han, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- The two Koreas agreed to form joint doubles teams at a table tennis competition south of the border, Seoul officials said Sunday, following North Koreans' arrival in South Korea. (*Yonhap*)
- A group of representatives from South Korea's presidential panel returned home Sunday after a trip to North Korea, where they discussed possible trilateral economic cooperation involving the two Koreas and Russia, its official said. (*Yonhap*)
- A former North Korean restaurant manager who defected to South Korea in 2016 together with a dozen female workers claimed Sunday that Seoul's spy agency had lured and blackmailed him into defecting. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean table tennis players and delegates arrive at Incheon International Airport, Sunday, to participate in the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) World Tour Platinum Korea Open. The North's 16 athletes and South Korean players will form a unified team for the competition that continues from July 17 to 22, and will return home the next day. (Koh Young-Kwon, *Korea Times*)
- A group of 13 North Korean restaurant staff who moved to the South in 2016 were forced to defect by South Korean intelligence, their manager says. Ho Kang-il told South Korea's Yonhap news agency he had been blackmailed and that his 12 female employees did not know where they were being taken to when they left for Seoul. (BBC)
- North Korean table tennis players arrived in South Korea on Sunday to compete in an international tournament amid an atmosphere of detente between the rivals. (AP)
- North Korea is distorting facts about South Korea in lectures to which people are mobilized to learn about the South amid a thaw between the sides, according to sources familiar with Pyongyang. (Yi Whan-Woo, *Korea Times*)
- A former North Korean restaurant manager who defected to South Korea in 2016 together with a dozen female workers claimed Sunday that Seoul's spy agency had blackmailed him into defecting. (*Korea Joongang Daily*)
- Members of a pro-unification civil organization will visit North Kore this week for talks about reconciliation projects, including joint efforts to bring home the remains of Korean victims of forced labor under Japan's colonial rule, its leader said Sunday. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- The United States and North Korea held general-level talks for the first time in more than nine years on Sunday to discuss the details of an agreement to repatriate the remains of American troops killed during the 1950-53 Korean War. (*Yonhap*)
- Donald Trump has again voiced his admiration for strongmen leaders, saying North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un has a “great personality” and that he could “probably get along very well” with Vladimir Putin. (Graham Russell, *Guardian*)

- American and North Korean generals held a meeting in the border village Sunday to discuss the repatriation of remains of U.S. soldiers killed during the 1950-53 Korean War, following up on an agreement between the leaders of the two countries struck in Singapore last month. (Kang Jin-Kyu, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- In 1999, North Korea tried to blackmail Israel: give us a billion dollars, it said, or we will sell ballistic missiles to your enemies. But the Israelis turned them down. (Michael Peck, *National Interest*)
- North Korea is apparently trying to maintain friendship with Cuba after Miguel Diaz-Canel was selected as the new president of the Caribbean island nation in April. (Yi Whan-Woo, *Korea Times*)
- North Korea and the U.S. held general-level talks on repatriating the remains of U.S. soldiers who fought in the 1950-53 Korean War, at the truce village of Panmunjeom, Sunday. (Kim Bo-Eun, *Korea Times*)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that talks on Sunday between US and North Korean officials to discuss the return of remains of US service members killed in the 1950-53 Korean War "resulted in firm commitments." (*Telegraph*)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Sunday that talks over the weekend between the United States and North Korea on the return of US service members' remains were "productive, cooperative and resulted in firm commitments." (Matt Korade, CNN)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's third visit to Pyongyang on July 6 ended in total failure as it failed to make progress in the implementation of the Singapore summit agreement, and a scheduled meeting between Pompeo and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un failed to take place. (Park Sung-Soo, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- More than a month has passed since the historic summit between the leaders of the United States and North Korea. Despite all the hype and fanfare about Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un paving the way toward a new future through speedy denuclearization, the actions that followed the summit have moved more or less at a snail's pace. (*Korea Joongang Daily*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump hinted Friday that negotiations to dismantle North Korea's nuclear weapons program could take longer than hoped for. (*Korea Times*)
- The United Nations has temporarily allowed South Korea's provision of fuel and vehicles for North Korea as an exception to the U.N. Security Council (UNSC) sanctions, because the materials would be used for recovering military communication lines between the two Koreas, a Japanese media company reported, Saturday. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- U.S. military officials met with their North Korean counterparts Sunday to discuss the repatriation of the remains of soldiers left after the Korean War ended in 1953. (Adam Taylor, *Washington Post*)
- The United States and North Korea held general-level talks for the first time in more than nine years on Sunday to discuss the details of an agreement to repatriate the remains of American troops killed during the 1950-53 Korean War. (*Korea Times*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that talks on Sunday between U.S. and North Korean officials to discuss the return of remains of U.S. service members killed in the 1950-53 Korean War "resulted in firm commitments" and that there would be a follow-up meeting on Monday. (Hyonhee Shin, Daphne Psaledakis, *Reuters*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250720220359/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-north-korean-restaurant-staff-defection-was-forced-manager-says-north-korea-us-hold-general-level-war-remains-talks

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Monday, July 16, 2018

NK to grant pardons to prisoners; Gov't in dilemma over NK restaurant defectors; North, US to start search for soldiers' bodies

In North Korea:
N. Korea announces amnesty to celebrate 70th founding anniversary (Yonhap, 07/16/2018)
N.K. media denies U.S. allegations of secret nuke facilities (Yonhap, 07/16/2018)
NK to grant pardons to prisoners (Korea Times, 07/16/2018)
North Korea wins when denuclearization resolve falters (Korea Times, 07/16/2018)
North Korean authorities continue crackdowns in fishing villages (DailyNK, 07/16/2018)
North Koreans switch Chinese product labels to conceal manufacturing origins (DailyNK, 07/16/2018)

In South Korea:
Gov't in dilemma over North Korea restaurant defectors (Korea Times, 07/16/2018)
North Korean claims he was duped into defecting by South Korean intelligence (Telegraph, 07/16/2018)
North Korean restaurant staff defection was forced, manager says (BBC, 07/16/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Kim Dae-jung's son visits Pyongyang for inter-Korean cooperation (Korea Times, 07/16/2018)
Talks begin on civilian exchanges (Korea Joongang Daily, 07/17/2018)

International:
(4th LD) U.S., N. Korea hold talks about return of American troops' remains (Yonhap, 07/16/2018)
All you wanted to know about nuclear war but were too afraid to ask (Guardian, 07/16/2018)
Bolton suggests Trump's dismissal of N.K. threat should not be taken literally (Yonhap, 07/16/2018)
Don't jinx them (Korea Joongang Daily, 07/17/2018)
(LEAD) U.S., N. Korea to resume search for remains from Korean War (Yonhap, 07/16/2018)
North, U.S. to start search for soldiers' bodies (Korea Joongang Daily, 07/17/2018)
Report: Pompeo asked North Korean regime about nuclear activities (UPI, 07/16/2018)
South Korea, North Korea and Russia discuss railway cooperation (North Korean Economy Watch, 07/15/2018)

Trump touts meeting with Kim, halt in nuclear testing (Yonhap, 07/16/2018)
U.S., N. Korea to hold working-level talks on return of troop remains (Yonhap, 07/16/2018)
U.S.-N. Korea working-level talks on transfer of war remains to begin Monday (Yonhap, 07/16/2018)
U.S., North Korea Discuss War Dead as Nuclear Dispute Simmers (Bloomberg, 07/15/2018)
U.S., North Korea Meet Again to Discuss War Remains (Wall Street Journal, 07/15/2018)
US, North Korea to restart joint searches for soldiers' remains, Pompeo says (CNN, 07/15/2018)
U.S., North Korea to resume search for remains from Korean War (Reuters, 07/16/2018)
[Yongsan Legacy] The hands that re-connected postwar Korea (Korea Times, 07/16/2018)

In North Korea:

- North Korea plans to implement a general amnesty next month before celebrating its 70th founding anniversary on Sept. 9, Pyongyang's media said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's media outlets on Monday dismissed the latest allegations of secret uranium enrichment facility in the North as groundless and asked the U.S. administration not to pay attention to any false rumor started by those opposed to the North-U.S. dialogue. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea plans to grant large-scale pardons to prisoners ahead of the 70th anniversary of the regime's foundation, the North's propaganda media reported Monday. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- It would seem that before the ink on the joint statement signed between Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un in Singapore had figuratively dried, prospects for North Korea's negotiated denuclearization are already beginning to dim. (Liang Tuang Nah, *Korea Times*)
- While there are signs that the 'anti-socialist' crackdown by the North Korean authorities has slowed in recent days, sources have reported that crackdowns are still occurring in the fishing communities of North Hamgyong Province. (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)
- Recently, a North Korean government official stated to South Korean journalists that North Koreans no longer use Chinese-made products. In reality, sources in North Korea say that Chinese products in the country are having their labels changed, a practice referred to as "label switching." (Mun Dong Hui, *DailyNK*)

In South Korea:

- The South Korean government has been caught in a dilemma dealing with the former workers of a North Korean restaurant in China who allegedly defected to the South in 2016, following a series of new testimonies from them that the group defection was orchestrated by the South's spy agency. (Park Ji-won, *Korea Times*)
- The North Korean restaurant manager who defected from China with 12 female staff in 2016 has claimed that he was tricked into fleeing to South Korea and later blackmailed by Seoul's intelligence services. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- Ho Kang-il told South Korea's Yonhap news agency he had been blackmailed and that his 12 female employees did not know where they were being taken to when they left for Seoul. (*BBC*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Five members of an association of civic groups seeking cooperation with North Korea arrived in Pyongyang, Monday, to discuss inter-Korean affairs. The delegation is headed by Kim Hong-gul, chairman of the Korean Council for Reconciliation and Cooperation. He is the third son of the late President Kim Dae-jung, known for his policy of engagement and reconciliation with the North. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- Members of a South Korean nongovernmental organization led by the youngest son of late President Kim Dae-jung began a four-day trip to North Korea on Monday to discuss expanding civilian exchanges between the two countries, including a joint project to repatriate the remains of Koreans forced into labor by the Japanese during colonial rule. (Sarah Kim, *Korea Joongang Daily*)

International:

- The United States and North Korea held general-level talks for the first time in more than nine years on Sunday to discuss the details of an agreement to repatriate the remains of American troops killed during the 1950-53 Korean War. (*Yonhap*)
- The use of a nuclear weapon is now more likely than any time since the cold war, but the probability of humanity being wiped out entirely has diminished. (Julian Borger, Ian Sample, *Guardian*)
- U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton suggested Sunday that President Donald Trump's assertion that the North Korean nuclear threat is over should not be taken literally. (*Yonhap*)
- Last weekend, President Trump said he wanted to see peace on the peninsula, adding that we are coming out of a decades-old war. In these crucial stages, we should not demonize North Korea. (Lee Ha-kyung, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- The United States and North Korea have agreed to resume searching for the remains of thousands of American soldiers killed in the 1950-53 Korean War, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Sunday. (*Yonhap*)
- The United States and North Korea agreed to restart field operations to search for the remains of an estimated 5,300 American soldiers missing from the 1950-53 Korean War, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Sunday after general-level talks between the two countries. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo directly asked Pyongyang at a recent meeting on denuclearization whether North Korea increased production of fuel for nuclear weapons. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- A group of representatives from South Korea's presidential panel returned home Sunday after a trip to North Korea, where they discussed possible trilateral economic cooperation involving the two Koreas and Russia, its official said. (*North Korean Economy Watch*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump on Sunday defended his diplomatic efforts with North Korea, saying his meeting with leader Kim Jong-un was "a good thing" and the regime's halting of nuclear and ballistic missile tests was a "wonderful" fact. (*Yonhap*)

- The United States and North Korea are set to hold working-level talks Monday to thrash out details about their agreement to repatriate the remains of American troops killed during the 1950-53 Korean War, sources here said. (*Yonhap*)
- Working-level talks between the United States and North Korea will begin Monday to coordinate the next steps in repatriating the remains of American soldiers killed in the 1950-53 Korean War, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. and North Korean officials met Sunday to discuss the return of remains of American soldiers killed almost seven decades ago during the Korean War, with the talks offering a chance to ease tensions between the two sides as they argue over disarmament issues. (David Tweed, *Bloomberg*)
- Senior U.S. and North Korean officials met on Sunday to discuss steps to repatriate the remains of American soldiers who died in the Korean War, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a statement. (Jessica Donati, *Wall Street Journal*)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced Sunday that the United States and North Korea agreed to recommence field operations to search for the estimated 5,300 Americans who never returned home from the Korean War. (Matt Korade, Barbara Starr, *CNN*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that talks on Sunday between U.S. and North Korean officials to discuss the return of remains of U.S. service members killed in the 1950-53 Korean War "resulted in firm commitments" and that there would be a follow-up meeting on Monday. (Hyonhee Shin, Daphne Psaledakis, *Reuters*)
- As the U.S. military relocates out of Yongsan Garrison, Yongsan Legacy aims to archive the living memories of those who served, worked and lived there. This article follows Ira Wheeler who came to Korea in 1964 assigned to the Eight U.S. Army 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion at Camp Coiner. (Kyung Lee, *Korea Times*)

Prepared by Lauren Jackson, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250720221224/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsnk-to-grant-pardons-to-prisoners-govt-in-dilemma-over-nk-restaurant-defectors-north-us-to-start-search-for-soldiers-bodies

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Tuesday, July 17, 2018

Kim Jong-Un blasts delays in North Korean economic projects; U.S. expecting war dead remains from North Korea within 2 weeks

In North Korea:
Criteria for elites in North Korea is changing, as even farming communities have electric appliances (DailyNK, 7/17/2018)

Five myths about North Korea (Korea Times, 7/17/2018)
Kim berates officials for slacking (Korea Joongang Daily, 7/17/2018)
Kim slams local North Koreans for unfinished power plant (Washington Post, 7/17/2018)
Kim Jong-un blasts delays in North Korean economic projects (BBC, 7/17/2018)
Kim Jong-un 'enraged' as he berates officials in rare public attack during inspection of overdue projects (Telegraph, 7/17/2018)
Kim Jong Un 'very angry' after inspecting power station (UPI, 7/17/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korean leader tours construction sites, chides officials for incompetence (Yonhap, 7/17/2018)
N.K. leader seems to use carrots-and-sticks approach to boost social unity (Yonhap, 7/17/2018)
Report: North Korean coal exports made stop in South Korea in illicit trade (UPI, 7/17/2018)
North Korean leader rebukes officials' complacency against economic drive (Korea Times, 7/17/2018)
Matchmakers help North Korean elite say "I do" to the rich (DailyNK, 7/17/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) S. Korea to enhance legal support for inter-Korean exchanges (Yonhap, 7/17/2018)
South Korea to change laws on inter-Korea exchange (UPI, 7/17/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
3 N. Korean players named to unified Korean women's hoops team at Asian Games (Yonhap, 7/17/2018)
Calls grow for probe into NK restaurant worker defection (Korea Times, 7/17/2018)
Koreas agree to field joint Asian Games teams in 3 sports (Korea Joongang Daily, 7/17/2018)
KTO sees opportunity up North : New president plans to use big data to improve local tourism (Korea Joongang Daily, 7/17/2018)
(LEAD) Military intelligence agency behind N.K. restaurant workers' defection: source (Yonhap, 7/17/2018)
(LEAD) Seoul probes illegal shipments of N.K. coal into S. Korea (Yonhap, 7/17/2018)
(LEAD) Unified Korean teams move on at int'l ping pong event (Yonhap, 7/17/2018)
North over South in 1st all-Korea showdown at ping pong event (Yonhap, 7/17/2018)
South Korean leftist party to begin exchanges with North Korean party (Korea Times, 7/17/2018)
Two Koreas fully restore western military communication line (Korea Times, 7/17/2018)

International:
After Helsinki, Trump says he's in no hurry for denuclearization of North Korea (Korea Joongang Daily, 7/17/2018)
How the North Korean Economy Should—and Shouldn't—be Used in Negotiations (38 North, 7/16/2018)
Make human rights a priority (Korea Times, 7/17/2018)
N. Korea to return remains of up to 55 Americans killed in Korean War: report (Yonhap, 7/17/2018)
North Korea and Zimbabwe: A friendship explained (CNBC, 7/17/2018)
North Korea May Finally Be Ready To Start Handing Over U.S. War Dead (National Interest, 7/17/2018)
S. Korea, EU vow joint efforts for Korea peace (Yonhap, 7/16/2018)

Since Singapore: Letting North Korea off the hook (Brookings, 7/17/2018)
Trade war may hamper denuclearization (Korea Times, 7/17/2018)
Trump voices confidence Russia will help end N.K. threat (Yonhap, 7/17/2018)
U.S., N. Korea meet over return of war remains (Yonhap, 7/17/2018)
U.S. expecting war dead remains from North Korea within 2 weeks, official says (Washington Post, 7/17/2018)
What it's like inside North Korea's controversial restaurant chain (Business Insider, 7/17/2018)
'Wrecking ball' diplomacy (Korea Joongang Daily, 7/17/2018)

In North Korea:

- As the number of North Korean households using solar panels to generate electricity increases, there is a growing number of electrical household appliances being used in farming communities. Sources in the country report that the changing dynamic marks a significant shift, as the use of such appliances was previously limited to the country's elite. (Kang Mi Jin, *DailyNK*)
- The contrasting viewpoints over the stalemate in follow-up negotiations are attributable at least in part to some deep-rooted biases — or myths — the U.S. diplomatic establishment, including the media, have about North Korea. (Choi Sung-Jin, *Korea Times*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has been making more public visits to factories, farms and construction sites - and scolding officials in charge who are not keeping up to standards - in his push to focus on the country's economic development. (Sarah Kim, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has blasted local officials over a delayed construction project, state media reported Tuesday, his second such rebuke over the economy in recent weeks. (Hyung-Jin Kim, *Washington Post*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has launched an unusual barrage of criticism at officials over delays in completing economic projects. State media said he was "speechless" a power plant was only 70% complete and "appalled" by hot-spring bathtubs "dirtier than fish tanks". (BBC)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un berated officials during inspections of a factory, power station and holiday camp, state media reported Tuesday, with analysts saying the reports show nuclear-armed Pyongyang's desire to focus on economic development. (*Telegraph*)
- Pyongyang's state-controlled news agency KCNA reported Tuesday Kim scolded his subordinates, pointing out the "incompetence" of economic chiefs, including those in his cabinet and the labor and economic ministry. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un harshly criticized officials for their incompetence during a recent inspection of the construction sites in the country's northeastern region, its state media reported Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un appears to take a carrot-and-stick approach to vitalizing the social atmosphere, as he has recently unveiled the North's first general amnesty in three years and at the same time reprimanded party and cabinet officials in charge of economic development, analysts said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea transshipped its coal exports at multiple ports outside the country, including South Korea, to conceal origins of its illicit trade, a report said. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)

- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has chided ranking officials in charge of the economy for being "incompetent" during his on-site inspections, saying he was "speechless" at their idleness and unnecessary red-tape, according to the North's state media, Tuesday. (Kim Rahn, *Korea Times*)
- "More and more residents are paying keen attention towards creating a better future for their children, which has been driving up demand for matchmakers. They're mostly active in wealthier neighborhoods, like those where cadres live," a source in North Hamgyong Province told Daily NK on July 12. (Kim Yoo Jin, *DailyNK*)

In South Korea:

- South Korea plans to revise a law to foster inter-Korean exchanges and support companies doing business with the North, the unification ministry said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea is taking measures to prevent future losses for South Korean entities engaged in inter-Korea exchange, according to local reports. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Three North Korean players have been named to the unified Korean women's basketball team at this year's Asian Games. The Korea Basketball Association (KBA) in Seoul said center Ro Suk-yong, guard Jang Mi-gyong and guard Kim Hye-yon will join nine South Korean players at the Aug. 18-Sept. 2 Asian Games in Jakarta and Palembang, Indonesia. (*Yonhap*)
- Calls are growing for an investigation into the defection of 12 North Korean restaurant workers in China, as revelations continue to show that a government plot was behind the scheme, including a report that stated Tuesday that a military intelligence agency was mainly responsible for the affair. (Kim Bo-Eun, *Korea Times*)
- The Koreas agreed to field joint teams in three sports - basketball, canoeing, and rowing - at this year's Jakarta-Palembang Asian Games, which will be held from Aug. 18 to Sept. 2. (*Korea Joongang Daily*)
- Attracting both local and foreign travelers to lesser-known mountains and rivers across the peninsula is one of the goals of the Korea Tourism Organization under its newly appointed president Ahn Young-bae. In the spirit of easing tensions between North and South Korea, Ahn plans to set up a team that will focus on promoting travel throughout both countries. (Lee Sun-Min, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- South Korea's military intelligence agency masterminded the controversial defection of a dozen North Korean restaurant workers based in China, an informed source said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean authorities have opened an investigation into two illegal shipments of North Korean coal into South Korean ports last year in violation of United Nations sanctions, the foreign ministry said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- Two unified Korean mixed doubles teams both advanced to the next stage at an international table tennis event here on Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)

- A North Korean teenager defeated his South Korean opponent in the first all-Korea match at an international table tennis event here on Tuesday. (Yonhap)
- A small South Korean leftist party will meet with a North Korean "political party" in China this week to discuss political exchanges in accord with the Panmunjeom Declaration signed at the inter-Korean summit. (Park Ji-Won, Korea Times)
- South and North Korea fully restored their military communication line on the western part of the peninsula Tuesday, Seoul's defense ministry said, a step to build confidence and reduce cross-border tensions. (Korea Times)

International:

- U.S. President Donald Trump said he is in “no rush” for denuclearization negotiations with North Korea in an interview Monday following his summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Helsinki. (Sarah Kim, Korea Joongang Daily)
- To date, assistance for North Korea’s economy has not factored into negotiations between the United States, South Korea and North Korea in any real or meaningful way. (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, Patrick M. Cronin, 38 North)
- We need to make human rights and freedom a priority. The Russia's, China's, and North Korea's of the world think democracies are hypocritical and insincere. The real work depends on looking in the mirror and on making this century a time of renewal for human rights — before autocracy and its evils tear down the doors to a better tomorrow. (Bernard Rowan, Korea Times)
- North Korea has agreed to return up to 55 sets of remains believed to be of American soldiers killed during the Korean War, a report said Tuesday. Citing an anonymous United States official, Stars & Stripes, a U.S. military newspaper, also said North Korea has agreed to allow the United States to fly these remains out of the country next week. (Yonhap)
- Zimbabwe and North Korea’s relationship dates back to the Cold War, during which Pyongyang backed several liberation movements in Africa. (Justina Crabtree, CNBC)
- North Korea is reportedly planning to return remains believed to be those of American service members killed during the Korean War in the very near future. (Ryan Pickrell, National Interest)
- The chief diplomats of South Korea and the European Union (EU) agreed Monday to maintain close cooperation between the two sides for denuclearization and peace on the peninsula. (Yonhap)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo found in his first meeting with the North Koreans after the Trump-Kim Jong-un Singapore summit that he has a number of carrots, few sticks, and disturbingly little leverage, despite the disparity of power between the United States and North Korea. (Jeffrey A. Bader, Ryan Hass, Brookings)
- Amid the tit-for-tat trade dispute between the United States and China, there are brewing concerns that the duel could turn into a long-lasting, full-blown war negatively affecting the denuclearization of North Korea. (Kim Jae-Kyoung, Korea Times)
- U.S. President Donald Trump said Monday after talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin that he is confident the two sides will work together to end the North Korean nuclear threat. (Yonhap)

- U.S. and North Korean officials met Monday to discuss the next steps in repatriating the remains of American soldiers killed in the 1950-53 Korean War, the State Department said. (*Yonhap*)
- The U.S. military is expecting to repatriate from North Korea the remains of as many as 55 service members who were killed during the Korean War, a U.S. official said Tuesday. (Adam Taylor, *Washington Post*)
- Over 100 Pyongyang restaurants are spread throughout Asia, all owned and operated by the North Korean government as a way to generate foreign currency. Here's what it's like to dine in one of the restaurants. (Noah Friedman, *Business Insider*)
- No U.S. leader would have thought of sitting down with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. But we do not know what Trump will do if he runs out of patience and is challenged about the scant progress on denuclearization. (Bae Myung-Bok, *Korea Joongang Daily*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250720220912/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-kim-jong-un-blasts-delays-in-north-korean-economic-projects-us-expecting-war-dead-remains-from-north-korea-within-2-weeks

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Wednesday, July 18, 2018

South Korea's restaurant worker defector controversy: what should happen next?

Top News:
South Korea's restaurant worker defector controversy: what should happen next? (NK News, 07/18/2018)

In North Korea:
Kim Jong-un summons his envoys home for meeting (Korea Joongang Daily, 07/19/2018)
Kim Jong-un's northeastern factory tour in July (North Korean Economy Watch, 07/17/2018)
North Korea admonishes Japan over colonial past after IAEA meeting (UPI, 07/18/2018)
North Korea's coal smuggled into South via Russian port (Korea Joongang Daily, 07/19/2018)
[Photo] North Korean political lecture content calls South Korea a 'living human hell (DailyNK, 07/18/2018)
Report: Kim Jong Un calls for unscheduled meeting of ambassadors (UPI, 07/18/2018)
What's on Kim Jong-un's mind? (Korea Times, 07/19/2018)

In South Korea:

S. Korea investigating foreign vessel involved in transport of N. Korean coal (Yonhap, 07/18/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
3 N. Korean players named to unified Korean women's hoops team at Asian Games (Yonhap, 07/18/2018)
A domestic loophole in sanctions (Korea Joongang Daily, 07/19/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea to provide support in covering costs for liaison office, family reunions (Yonhap, 07/18/2018)
Unified Korean women's doubles team cruises at int'l table tennis event (Yonhap, 07/18/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) Trump: No time limit on N. Korea's denuclearization (Yonhap, 07/18/2018)
China emerges as loophole in NK sanctions (Korea Times, 07/19/2018)
Chinese firms involved in illegal transshipping of N. Korean coal: report (Yonhap, 07/18/2018)
Donald Trump says there is 'no time limit' for North Korea to denuclearise (Guardian, 07/18/2018)
Floor leaders to visit Washington for reality check on North Korea; unlikely to see Trump (Korea Times, 07/19/2018)
India taking Russia labor inquiries after North Korea ban (UPI, 07/18/2018)
Int'l charity bodies visit N. Korea over humanitarian aid (Yonhap, 07/18/2018)
Long way to go (Korea Times, 07/19/2018)
Make human rights a priority (Korea Times, 07/17/2018)
North Korea to return U.S. soldiers' remains in weeks: Pompeo (Reuters, 07/18/2018)
North Korea Will Transfer American Remains in Coming Weeks, Official Says (New York Times, 07/18/2018)
Russia urges U.N. to mull easing North Korea sanctions as U.S. seeks action (Reuters, 07/18/2018)
S. Korea's nuke envoy meets British delegation over N. Korea (Yonhap, 07/18/2018)
Summit between Russia and North Korea is on the agenda – RIA (Reuters, 07/18/2018)
Trump content with slow roll on North Korea (Korea Joongang Daily, 07/19/2018)
Trump expects 'big results,' including North Korea, after Putin summit (Reuters, 07/18/2018)
Trump in 'no rush' over N.K. denuclearization (Yonhap, 07/18/2018)
Trump says 'no rush' to abolish North Korea's nuclear weapons in shift from Singapore pledge (Telegraph, 07/18/2018)
Trump says 'no rush' on North Korea nuclear negotiations (CNN, 07/18/2018)
Trump says no 'time limit' on North Korea denuclearization (BBC, 07/18/2018)
Trump says Russia to 'help with North Korea' (Reuters, 07/18/2018)
US expects first group of remains to be returned July 27 from North Korea (CNN, 07/18/2018)

Top News:

- NK News published an article interviewing HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu and other experts on the North Korean restaurant workers who defected to South Korea in 2016. Scarlatoiu said, "There is no controversy. Both the Park and Moon governments have made it clear this was a defection (see the MOU statement a few days ago). There are already 32,000

defectors in the ROK. The ROK doesn't need to kidnap North Koreans." (Chad O'Carroll, NK News)

In North Korea:

- Kim Jong-un urgently called North Korean ambassadors around the world back home for a meeting on policy issues amid a whirlwind of diplomacy on the Korean Peninsula, a local high-level official exclusively told the JoongAng Ilbo Wednesday. (Jeong Yong-soo, Korea Joongang Daily)
- KCNA today (July 17th) carried several reports from Kim Jong-un's on-the-spot-guidance tour in the northeast. My sense from the reports is that the projection is very much focused on the second leg of *Byungjin*, i.e., paying attention not just to economic production, but to quality and progress as well. At the same time, the rhetoric is pretty old-fashioned, in many ways so even by North Korean standards, such as the claims that production quality stems not from economic differences between provinces, but in the ideological consciousness of those in charge. (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, North Korean Economy Watch)
- North Korea warned Japan to "settle the past" after Japan's foreign ministry said Tokyo will lend financial support to the International Atomic Energy Agency. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- South Korean authorities have opened an investigation into a UN panel's finding that North Korea transhipped over 9,000 tons of coal, disguised as Russian exports, to South Korean ports in Incheon and Pohang, North Gyeongsang, last October. (Sarah Kim, Korea Joongang Daily)
- The North Korean authorities have portrayed South Korea as crime-ridden, and emphasized the superiority of the socialist system in lectures for residents living near the Chinese border, sources in the country report. South Korean capitalism was explicitly referred to as a "living human hell" during the lectures, with further allegations that women in the country are giving up their maternal instincts. (Mun Dong Hui, Daily NK)
- Kim Jong Un called for an "emergency" meeting of North Korea's diplomatic mission chiefs, or ambassadors, to Pyongyang, according to a South Korean press report. (UPI, 07/18/2018)
- More than one month has passed since the historic Singapore summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. The two leaders signed a landmark agreement on complete denuclearization of North Korea but so far little progress has been made. (Kim Jae-kyoung, Korea Times)

In South Korea:

- South Korea said Wednesday that it has been holding and investigating a Togo-flagged ship involved in transporting North Korean coal exports banned under a U.N. sanctions resolution. (Yonhap)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Three North Korean players have been named to the unified Korean women's basketball team at this year's Asian Games. (*Yonhap*)
- Sanctions are the sole means of denuclearizing North Korea. But a UN internal report shockingly found that South Korea had violated the UN Security Council resolution by allowing two ships carrying North Korean coal into the country. (*Korea Joongang Daily*)
- South Korea will provide support in covering the costs linked to two major projects with North Korea, including reunions of war-separated families to be held next month, the unification ministry said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- A unified Korean women's doubles team cruised to victory at an international table tennis tournament here on Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- U.S. President Donald Trump said Tuesday that there is "no time limit" on dismantling North Korea's nuclear weapons program, appearing to take a step back from earlier demands for immediate denuclearization. (*Yonhap*)
- The discovery that vessels allegedly shipping North Korean coal to South Korea last year were run by Chinese companies raises concern at a time when China has been attempting to ease UN Security Council (UNSC) sanctions imposed on the North, despite a lack of progress in denuclearization talks. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- An American broadcaster on Wednesday raised suspicions that China may have played a role in the illegal shipment of North Korean coal to South Korea via Russia last year. (*Yonhap*)
- Donald Trump has eased pressure on North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons quickly, conceding there is no deadline for a breakthrough. Amid increasing doubts over the prospects for denuclearisation, North Korea moved a step closer to fulfilling one of the more specific commitments from the Singapore summit: the repatriation of the remains of US military personnel killed in the Korean War. (Daniel Hurst, *Guardian*)
- Floor leaders from the nation's five major parties left Wednesday for Washington, D.C., to discuss the North Korean nuclear issue and the possibility of U.S. tariffs on South Korean cars with U.S. lawmakers and industry officials. (Park Ji-won, *Korea Times*)
- India is open to Russian inquiries regarding Indian overseas laborers, ahead of the eventual repatriation of North Korean workers in the Russian Far East. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- The German Caritas Association and other international charity bodies have recently visited North Korea to expand their humanitarian assistance projects in the North's poverty-stricken rural areas, Radio Free Asia (RFA) said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- Concerns are growing that North Korea's denuclearization may take a long drawn-out process, as the recalcitrant country has yet to present detailed plans on scrapping its nuclear program. These concerns have become more evident since U.S. President Donald Trump said Tuesday there is "no time limit" on dismantling the North's nuclear arsenal. (*Korea Times*)
- Before the historic Kim-Trump summit, human rights figured to be on its agenda. Various mentions in the media and officials' statements highlighted the issue of returning soldiers' remains to the United States and to Japan. But it didn't happen. Human rights pale in

comparison to the hard power of weapons and sanctions. This silence speaks volumes about the talks and their context. (Bernard Rowan, *Korea Times*)

- North Korea will return to the United States in the coming weeks the remains of some of the American service members killed in the 1950-53 Korean War, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Wednesday. (*Reuters*)
- The United States expects to transfer the remains of some American servicemen out of North Korea in the coming weeks, bringing them home 65 years after the end of the Korean War, a United States military official said on Tuesday. (Choe Sang-Hun, *New York Times*)
- Russia's envoy to North Korea said on Wednesday it would be logical to raise the question of easing sanctions on North Korea with the United Nations Security Council, as the United States pushes for a halt to refined petroleum exports to Pyongyang. (*Reuters*)
- South Korea's top nuclear envoy had a meeting here Thursday with Jonathan Nicholas Powell, a former senior British official who just finished a trip to North Korea, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (*Yonhap*)
- A summit between the leaders of Russia and North Korea is "on the agenda", Russia's ambassador to North Korea, Alexander Matsegora, was cited as saying by RIA news agency on Wednesday. (*Reuters*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump said on Tuesday in Washington that there was "no time limit" or need for speed in the process of dismantling North Korea's nuclear weapons program, an assessment he has been pushing recently as talks have slowed with Pyongyang. (Sarah Kim, *Korea Joongang Daily*)
- President Donald Trump said on Wednesday his meeting with Vladimir Putin would lead to "big results," in a continuing bid to calm a storm over his failure to criticize the Russian leader for Moscow's actions to undermine the 2016 U.S. election. (*Reuters*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump said Wednesday there is "no rush" with regard to negotiations to dismantle North Korea's nuclear weapons program. (*Yonhap*)
- President Donald Trump has backtracked on his administration's plans to rid North Korea of its nuclear weapons within a year, announcing on Tuesday that there is now "no time limit" on the denuclearisation of Kim Jong-un's regime. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- President Donald Trump said Wednesday there is "no rush" in its negotiations with North Korea over Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program. (Joshua Belinger, CNN)
- US President Donald Trump says there is "no time limit" for North Korea to denuclearise and that there is no need to rush the process. (BBC)
- President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that Russia would help with North Korea and offered an enthusiastic update on the U.S. process of negotiating with the antagonistic Asian nation over nuclear weapons. (*Reuters*)
- The United States is expecting North Korea to return the first group of possible US service member remains on July 27, according to a US official. (Barbara Starr, Eli Watkins, CNN)

Prepared by Lauren Jackson, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:

https://web.archive.org/web/20250720220912/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-kim-jong-un-blasts-delays-in-north-korean-economic-projects-us-expecting-war-dead-remains-from-north-korea-within-2-weeks

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Thursday, July 19, 2018

North Korea has 2.6 million 'modern slaves,' new report estimates; Kim Jong-un summons his envoys home for meeting

Top News:
North Korea has 2.6 million 'modern slaves,' new report estimates (The Washington Post, 07/19/2018)

In North Korea:
(LEAD) N. Korean leader calls in overseas mission chiefs to Pyongyang (Yonhap, 07/19/2018)
Kim Jong-un summons his envoys home for meeting (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/19/2018)
North Korea has most modern-day slaves in the world, report reveals, as rights abuses laid bare (Telegraph, 07/19/2018)
North Korean Students Work Hard to Support Families During Summer Breaks (RFA, 07/18/2018)
Report: Kim Jong Un unlikely to attend U.N. General Assembly (UPI, 07/19/2018)
Report: North Koreans skeptical of better future, unification (UPI, 07/19/2018)
Security agencies tussle over power (Daily NK, 07/19/2018)
Survey: Inequalities in child nutrition in Pyongyang, rural areas in North Korea (UPI, 07/19/2018)
Tongue-lashings from North Korea's Kim underscore shift in focus to economy (Reuters, 07/18/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) Koreas to conduct joint inspection on railways (Yonhap, 07/19/2018)
(LEAD) Ships involved in N.K. coal exports entered S. Korean ports multiple times: report (Yonhap, 07/19/2018)
Defector group shouldn't be forced to make a cruel choice (Daily NK, 07/19/2018)
Inter-Korean railway could enhance logistics (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/19/2018)
Koreas begin inspections of North's railroads (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/19/2018)
Koreas to hold joint canoe practices in South ahead of Asiad (Yonhap, 07/19/2018)
S. Korea restricts passport issuance for former N.K. restaurant workers: sources (Yonhap, 07/19/2018)
S. Korean players relishing rare opportunity to play with N. Koreans (Yonhap, 07/19/2018)
S. Korean workers staying in Kaesong prepare for opening of liaison office (Yonhap, 07/19/2018)

International:

Back to the Basics: Above and Beyond CVID with North Korea (38 North, 07/18/2018)
Declaring the formal end to the Korean War should be linked with the denuclearization of North Korea (Daily NK, 07/19/2018)
North Korea hasn't met its promise to return US war remains (AP, 07/19/2018)
North Korea's coal smuggled into South via Russian port (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/19/2018)
'North Korea's denuclearization becomes less likely' (Korea Times, 07/19/2018)
Pompeo: N.K. nuclear deal 'may take some time' (Yonhap, 07/18/2018)
Pompeo: Some US Korean War Remains to Come Home Soon (VOA, 07/18/2018)
Pyongyang brags of warm Moscow ties (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/19/2018)
S. Korea's nuke envoy meets British delegation over N. Korea (Yonhap, 07/18/2018)
Secretary Pompeo: Korean War soldiers' remains could be back soon (UPI, 07/18/2018)
Trump content with slow roll on North Korea (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/19/2018)
Two Koreas's civic groups vow cooperation in bringing home remains of forced labor victims from Japan (Yonhap, 07/19/2018)
US Digs in for Long-Term North Korea Nuclear Talks (VOA, 06/19/2018)

Top News:

- HRNK's Amanda Mortwedt Oh was featured in a Washington Post piece about the newest figures on 'modern slavery': "Amanda Mortwedt Oh of the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, an organization not affiliated with the research, said she was curious why the 2018 estimate was more than double a 2016 Global Slavery Index estimate. However, she did not dispute the core findings. "North Korea is essentially a slave state that uses its own citizens for the Kim regime's benefit," Mortwedt Oh said, referring to the government led by Kim Jong Un and his father and grandfather before him." (Adam Taylor, *Washington Post*)

In North Korea:

- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has called in his ambassadors and heads of other overseas missions to Pyongyang, sources said Thursday. The heads of the North's embassies and other missions were brought in for what is presumed to be an ambassadorial meeting, according to the sources. (*Yonhap*)
- Kim Jong-un urgently called North Korean ambassadors around the world back home for a meeting on policy issues amid a whirlwind of diplomacy on the Korean Peninsula, a local high-level official exclusively told the JoongAng Ilbo Wednesday. (Jeong Yong-soo, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- North Korea has the largest number of modern-day slaves in the world, with just over one in 10 of the population subjected to forced labour at the hands of the repressive state. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- North Korean students home from school for the summer are working hard to earn money amid failures by the country's leadership to raise living standards in the sanctions-hit, nuclear-armed state, North Korean sources say. Growing numbers of teens as young as 13

are now taking whatever work they can find, a source in North Hamgyong province told RFA's Korean Service this week. (Jieun Kim, RFA)

- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is unlikely to attend the upcoming U.N. General Assembly in September as his name is not on the list of speakers, according to a Japanese press report. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- The increase in inter-Korea cooperation and exchange has not raised hopes among ordinary North Koreans their lives will improve, even in the event of national unification. (UPI)
- The responsibility for investigating human trafficking cases has recently been transferred from the North Korean Ministry of State Security (MSS, which monitors ideological trends within the population), to the Ministry of People's Security (MPS, North Korea's national police agency). (Kang Mi Jin, *Daily NK*)
- According to a North Korean household survey by the United Nations Children's Fund, 32 percent of children in the rural province of Ryanggang are short for their age, while only 10 percent of children in Pyongyang are affected by the stunted growth. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's strident rebukes of officials during recent trips to industrial sites were aimed at rallying support at home for his economic drive and convincing outsiders about his willingness to denuclearize. (Hyonhee Shin, Jeongmin Kim, *Reuters*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- South and North Korea plan to conduct joint inspections of railways this week as part of efforts to modernize and connect rail links over the inter-Korean border, the unification ministry said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- Two Panama and Sierra Leone-registered ships, which were involved in the transshipment of North Korean coal to South Korea in October 2017, have until recently re-entered South Korean ports multiple times, an American broadcaster reported Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- The UN Special Rapporteur for North Korean Human Rights said that some of the workers were not clear about where they were going when they were taken to South Korea, and the owner of the restaurant they were working at (who also accompanied them to South Korea) said that he had been working with the NIS. There is now debate in South Korea over how to deal with the situation. (Ahn Jong Sik, *Daily NK*)
- A northern transport network connecting the Korean peninsula with China, Russia and Europe will enhance the competitiveness of Korea's logistics industry, according to the Korea International Trade Association, a local business lobbying group, on Thursday. (Kim Jee-hee, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The two Koreas plan to hold a joint inspection of North Korean railroads near the east coast today as part of efforts to connect them with South Korean tracks and boost cross-border economic exchange, a follow-up to agreements made at an inter-Korean meeting last month at the border village of Panmunjom. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The South Korean government has restricted issuance of passports for North Korean female restaurant workers who defected to the South from China in 2016, sources said Thursday, raising concerns over possible violation of their human rights. (*Yonhap*)

- The South Korean government has restricted issuance of passports for North Korean female restaurant workers who defected to the South from China in 2016, sources said Thursday, raising concerns over possible violation of their human rights. (Yonhap)
- South Korean table tennis players are relishing a rare opportunity to team up with North Korean partners at an international event at home this week. (Yoo Jee-ho, Yonhap)
- South Korean workers have been staying in the North's border town of Kaesong since early this week to repair facilities to be used as a joint liaison office, a unification ministry official said Thursday. (Yonhap)

International:

- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's high-profile post-summit visit to North Korea—the first to follow Kim and Trump's initial meeting—ended without much progress, revealing the Trump administration's struggle to craft a strategy that will jumpstart denuclearization efforts. (Gi-Wook Shin, Joyce Lee, 38 North)
- Little time has passed since the inter-Korean and US-North Korean summit took place, but there have been an assortment of theories, both positive and negative, surrounding the denuclearization of North Korea. The disagreements lie on whether the discussions for denuclearization should be pushed back for the sake of 'trust-building' grounded in the inter-Korean and US-North Korean Summits, or whether the issue should in fact, be pushed forward. (Thae Yong Ho, Daily NK)
- More than a month after North Korea pledged to immediately return some American war dead, the promise is unfulfilled. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who traveled to Pyongyang this month to press the North Koreans further, said Wednesday the return could begin "in the next couple of weeks." But it could take months or years to positively identify the bones as those of specific American servicemen. (AP)
- South Korean authorities have opened an investigation into a UN panel's finding that North Korea transhipped over 9,000 tons of coal, disguised as Russian exports, to South Korean ports in Incheon and Pohang, North Gyeongsang, last October. (Sarah Kim, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- The prospects for North Korea denuclearization negotiations have become pessimistic as the United States is turning more lenient toward the reclusive regime. (Kim Jae-kyoung, Korea Times)
- Negotiations to dismantle North Korea's nuclear weapons program "may take some time," US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Wednesday. Pompeo's assessment comes about a month after US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un agreed at their summit in Singapore that Pyongyang would work towards the "complete denuclearization" of the Korean Peninsula in exchange for security guarantees from the US. (Yonhap)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Wednesday the remains of some American servicemen killed in the Korean War would be returned to the U.S. in the coming weeks. The date and the number of sets of remains to be returned were not disclosed. (VOA)

- Pyongyang highlighted “constantly improving ties” with Moscow in a newspaper editorial published Thursday on the anniversary of a major declaration signed by the countries’ leaders 18 years ago, suggesting that the Kim Jong-un regime is relying on its strongest allies - China and Russia - for leverage against the United States in denuclearization talks. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korea's top nuclear envoy had a meeting here Thursday with Jonathan Nicholas Powell, a former senior British official who just finished a trip to North Korea, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (*Yonhap*)
- The U.S. is "making progress" to secure the return of Korean War soldiers' remains, the first of which could be back in the U.S. in the next couple weeks, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said. (Sam Howard, UPI)
- US President Donald Trump said on Tuesday in Washington that there was “no time limit” or need for speed in the process of dismantling North Korea’s nuclear weapons program, an assessment he has been pushing recently as talks have slowed with Pyongyang. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- North Korea has agreed to cooperate with South Korea in bringing home the remains of Koreans forced into labor during Japan's colonial rule, the head of a pro-unification civic organization based in Seoul said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- The North Korea denuclearization progress has stalled as pressure from economic sanctions appears to be easing, and after U.S. President Donald Trump declared that North Korea is no longer a nuclear threat. (Brian Padden, VOA)

Prepared by Jack Maerz, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250720221648/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-south-koreas-restaurant-worker-defector-controversy-what-should-happen-next

Friday, July 20, 2018

North Korea World's Leading Slave State: Report; U.S. spy chief casts doubt on N.K. denuclearization in 1 year

In North Korea:
FM Kang says N.K. leader to stay on dialogue track (Yonhap, 07/20/2018)
Kim Jong Un orders officials to learn from exemplary Sinuiju tree nursery (DailyNK, 07/20/2018)
KJU Visits Ch’o’ngjin and Other Places in N. Hamgyo’ng (The Green, Green Grass of Home) (North Korea Leadership Watch, 07/19/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korea's economy shrinks 3.5 pct in 2017: BOK (Yonhap, 07/20/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korea's media ramp up calls for repatriation of 12 restaurant workers (Yonhap, 07/20/2018)

North Korea may link defector issue with family reunion (Korea Times, 07/20/2018)
North Korea takes swipe at Moon, urges return of restaurant workers (Reuters, 07/20/2018)
North Korea World's Leading Slave State: Report (Radio Free Asia, 07/19/2018)
North Korean economy suffers steepest decline in two decades (Washington Post, 07/20/2018)
North Korea's economy just had its worst year in two decades (CNN, 07/20/2018)
Pyongyang felt the pinch in 2017 (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/20/2018)
Ships moving North Korean coal reappear in the South (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/20/2018)
Workers at nuclear sites at risk of disease and death (DailyNK, 07/20/2018)

In South Korea:
PM: N. Korea finally has a leader caring for people's livelihoods (Yonhap, 07/20/2018)
South Korea says sanctions shrank North Korean economy at sharpest rate in 20 years (Reuters, 07/20/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) Unified Korean men's doubles team loses in semis, takes bronze (Yonhap, 07/20/2018)
Inter-Korean railway could enhance logistics (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/20/2018)
Koreas begin inspections to connect railways (Korea Times, 07/20/2018)
N.K. media slam Moon in veiled displeasure with slow progress in inter-Korean ties (Yonhap, 07/20/2018)
North Korea puts reunion of war-separated families in doubt (Washington Post, 07/20/2018)
S. Korean officials visit N. Korea to jointly inspect railways (Yonhap, 07/20/2018)

International:
Critics of North Korea deal 'simply speculating,' says Pompeo, 'I've been there' (CNN, 07/20/2018)
Pompeo put 3 items on table in meeting with N. Koreans: lawmaker (Yonhap, 07/20/2018)
Report Finds Surprisingly High Rate of Slavery in Developed Countries (New York Times, 07/19/2018)
Sanctions must not stop (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/20/2018)
Singaporean company director charged with sanctions violations on North Korea (Reuters, 07/20/2018)
Trump says looks forward to next meeting with Putin on N. Korea, other issues (Yonhap, 07/20/2018)
UN diplomats: Russia and China block US on North Korea oil (Korea Times, 07/20/2018)
U.S. Rebuffed at U.N. on North Korea Sanctions Enforcement (New York Times, 07/19/2018)
U.S. spy chief casts doubt on N.K. denuclearization in 1 year (Yonhap, 07/20/2018)
Weakening sanctions (Korea Times, 07/20/2018)

In North Korea:

- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un won't likely reverse the course of dialogue, South Korea's top diplomat has said, adding he apparently cares about "domestic management of messages." (*Yonhap*)

- Since coming to power, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has emphasized the need to protect the country's forests and conduct reforestation activities. During a recent visit to a tree nursery that had been built as a test site, Kim called on the government to expand the "battle" to restore the country's forests, report sources in the country. (Mun Dong Hui, *DailyNK*)
- KJU's last observed appearance was attending a commemorative photo-op with Samjiyo'n Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) County Committee Officials. (*North Korea Leadership Watch*)
- North Korea's economy contracted 3.5 percent on-year in 2017 in the aftermath of tougher international sanctions and drought, logging the worst showing in two decades, South Korea's central bank said Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's media on Friday ramped up their calls for South Korea to repatriate its restaurant workers who defected here years ago, saying that any delay in resolving the issue could negatively affect inter-Korean relations. (*Yonhap*)
- The issue of North Korean restaurant workers' 2016 defection to the South is likely to become a major hindrance in inter-Korean relations, after Pyongyang hinted at a possible cancellation of a planned reunion for separated families in August if Seoul does not return them. (Park Ji-won, *Korea Times*)
- North Korea lambasted South Korea's President Moon Jae-in on Friday for "needlessly kibitzing" about relations between Pyongyang and Washington and dismissed Moon's pledge to take the driver's seat on the Korean Peninsula as "sophistry". (Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)
- North Korea is the world's leading slave state with an estimated 2.6 million living in conditions of forced servitude, most of them forced to work for the state, according to report released on Thursday by the Australia-based Walk Free Foundation. (Richard Finney, *Radio Free Asia*)
- North Korea's economy had its biggest decline in two decades amid tightening international sanctions last year, according to a new Bank of Korea estimate released Friday. (Adam Taylor, Min Joo Kim, *Washington Post*)
- Estimates released by South Korea's central bank show that North Korea's economy shrank by 3.5% in 2017. This year is likely to be even more dire. (Daniel Shane, *CNN*)
- The North Korean economy suffered its biggest drop in two decades last year, hit by tougher economic sanctions in response to nuclear and missile tests carried out between 2016 through 2017. (Park Eun-jee, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Two ships suspected of carrying North Korean coal in the guise of Russian exports, in defiance of international sanctions, appeared again off the coast of South Korea on Friday, Marine Traffic data showed. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Following a publicized incident in May where a North Korean journalist refused to drink stream water near the closed Punggye-ri nuclear site in Kilju, North Hamgyong Province, some defectors in South Korea have claimed that local residents have suffered from significant health problems and some have even died. (Mun Dong Hui, *DailyNK*)

In South Korea:

- South Korean Prime Minister Lee Nak-yon said Thursday that a series of changes has happened in North Korea and the most important of them is that the country finally has a leader caring for the livelihoods of his people. (Yonhap)
- North Korea's economy contracted at the sharpest rate in two decades in 2017, South Korea's central bank estimated on Friday, as international sanctions and drought hit growth hard, with signs living conditions were beginning to deteriorate. (Cynthia Kim, Hayoung Choi, Reuters)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- A unified Korean men's doubles ping pong team settled for the bronze medal after losing in the semifinals of an international tournament in South Korea on Friday. (Yonhap)
- A northern transport network connecting the Korean peninsula with China, Russia and Europe will enhance the competitiveness of Korea's logistics industry, according to the Korea International Trade Association, a local business lobbying group, on Thursday. (Kim Jee-hee, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- South and North Korean officials inspected a section of the railway along the North's east coast, Friday, as the first measure following an agreement to modernize the North's railroads and reconnect the lines between the two Koreas. (Kim Bo-eun, Korea Times)
- North Korea's media lashed out at South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Friday in what appears to be a reflection of growing discontent with the slow-paced advance of inter-Korean relations and economic cooperation. (Yonhap)
- North Korea said Friday that an August reunion of Korean families separated by war may not happen if South Korea doesn't immediately return some of its citizens who arrived in the South in recent years. (Hyung-jin Kim, AP)
- A group of South Korean officials left for North Korea on Friday to jointly inspect railways as part of efforts to modernize and connect rail links over the inter-Korean border. (Yonhap)

International:

- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has rebutted accusations that discussions over denculearization with North Korea are not going as expected. (James Griffiths, Josh Berlinger, CNN)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo put three items on the table in his latest nuclear disarmament talks with North Korea, but received no response, a South Korean lawmaker said Thursday. (Yonhap)
- A report identified North Korea as having the highest prevalence of modern slavery. Of its 25 million population, roughly one in 10 are classified as modern slaves. The North Korean state compels many children and adults to work in agriculture, construction and road building without pay in "communal labor," the report said. (Satoshi Sugiyama, New York Times)

- North Korea is taking little action toward denuclearization and is becoming less willing to talk to the United States and South Korea, a dramatic change to its reconciliatory and civil tone. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- A Singaporean company official has been charged for allegedly supplying luxury goods to North Korea in violation of U.N. sanctions, according to court documents on Friday. (*Reuters*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump said Thursday that he looks forward to meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin a second time to continue their work on North Korea and other global issues. (*Yonhap*)
- Russia and China blocked the United States on Thursday from getting the United Nations to publicly accuse North Korea of smuggling in refined petroleum products beyond the annual quota of 500,000 barrels allowed under U.N. sanctions, diplomats said. (AP)
- Signaling new tensions over North Korea at the United Nations, Russia and China on Thursday blocked disciplinary steps sought by the United States to stop what it called rampant cheating on North Korea's petroleum imports. (Rick Gladstone, *New York Times*)
- North Korea could "technically" dismantle its nuclear weapons program in a year, but that is unlikely to happen, the U.S. intelligence chief said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- International sanctions have played an important role in bringing North Korea to denuclearization talks with the U.S. Yet it is still too early to talk about easing them because Pyongyang has made little progress in dismantling its nuclear arsenal. (*Korea Times*)

Prepared by Lauren Jackson, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250720221655/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsnorth-korea-has-26-million-modern-slaves-new-report-estimates-kim-jong-un-summons-his-envoys-home-for-meeting

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Saturday, July 21, 2018

North Korea Signals Reluctance on Reunions, Nuclear Program; Trump signs N.K. human rights act into law

In North Korea:
Ice cream and cold buckwheat noodles keep North Koreans cool in scorching summer heat (DailyNK, 7/20/2018)
North Korea Cracks Down on Soldiers Viewing South Korean Videos (Radio Free Asia, 7/20/2018)
North Korea's negative growth in 2017: things look bad, unsurprisingly, but take the numbers with a grain of salt (North Korean Economy Watch, 7/20/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) S. Korean foreign minister vows to see N.K. denuclearization through (Yonhap, 7/21/2018)
(2nd LD) Unified Korean team wins mixed doubles ping pong title (Yonhap, 7/21/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korean table tennis player savors 'historic' title with N. Korean partner (Yonhap, 7/21/2018)
N. Korean media criticizes S. Korea, warns that family reunions may be scrapped (Washington Post, 7/20/2018)
South Korea not issuing passports to North Korean waitresses, report says (UPI, 7/19/2018)

International:
A New Novel Lays out Nuclear War with North Korea (Daily Beast, 7/20/2018)
Commentary: North Korea has been left off the hook since the Singapore Summit (Channel NewsAsia, 7/21/2018)
North Korea: US calls on Russia and China to tackle breaches of oil sanctions (Guardian, 7/20/2018)
North Korea provides little new info on Japanese abductees: source (Kyodo News, 7/21/2018)
North Korea Signals Reluctance on Reunions, Nuclear Program (Wall Street Journal, 7/20/2018)
Pompeo, at U.N., Says North Korean Leader Must Keep Vow to Denuclearize (New York Times, 7/20/2018)
Pompeo, Haley Call for Strict Enforcement of Sanctions on North Korea (VOA, 7/21/2018)
Pompeo, Haley call out China, Russia for oil transfers to North Korea (UPI, 7/20/2018)
Pompeo calls on North Korea to keep denuclearization promise (CNN, 7/21/2018)
Pompeo Urges Nations to Keep Pressuring N. Korea (VOA, 7/20/2018)
Pompeo urges U.N. to fully enforce sanctions on N. Korea (Yonhap, 7/21/2018)
Trump signs N.K. human rights act into law (Yonhap, 7/21/2018)
U.N. security council united on denuclearization of North Korea: Pompeo (Reuters, 7/20/2018)
US presses China and Russia to enforce sanctions on NKorea (AP, 7/20/2018)
U.S. urges strict U.N. sanctions until North Korea acts on denuclearization (Reuters, 7/20/2018)

In North Korea:

- North Korea, like the rest of the region, is experiencing a serious heat wave. Yesterday in the South Hamgyong Province city of Hamju, temperatures reached 37 degrees, and the entire east coast has been enveloped by the hot weather. (Kang Mi Jin, Unification Media Group, *DailyNK*)
- North Korean authorities alarmed by the spread of foreign cultural influences in the country's military have set up a special unit to discourage the viewing of South Korean TV dramas and movies, sources in the isolated country say. (Myungchul Lee, Leejin Jun, Richard Finney, *Radio Free Asia*)
- Bank of Korea (BOK) has put out their yearly estimate of North Korea's GDP trends. This year, they estimate that the country's GDP decreased by 3.5 percent. (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, *North Korean Economy Watch*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha said Friday she seeks to ensure North Korea delivers on its promise to dismantle its nuclear weapons program. (Yonhap)
- A unified Korean team captured the mixed doubles table tennis title at an international tournament in Daejeon on Saturday. The Koreas are competing as one in an international table tennis event for the second time this year. (Yonhap)
- The magnitude of his table tennis title Saturday wasn't lost on South Korean player Jang Woo-jin, who teamed up with North Korean partner Cha Hyo-sim for a mixed doubles gold medal at an international tournament in Daejeon. (Yonhap)
- North Korea's state-run media released a string of articles Friday that criticized the South Korean government, hinting that planned reunions for families split between the two nations could be canceled. (Adam Taylor, Washington Post)
- South Korea is not issuing passports for the North Korean waitresses who fled a Pyongyang-run restaurant in China, citing safety concerns, according to a local news report. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

International:

- Since the 2016 presidential election season began, many Americans have wondered: Will a Donald Trump presidency result in nuclear war with North Korea? In his new speculative novel to be published later this month, nuclear weapons expert Jeffrey Lewis imagines a world in which the answer to that question is yes. (Bethany Allen-Ebrahimian, Daily Beast)
- US President Donald Trump has squandered many sticks and has only carrots left in any strategy to coax North Korea to give up its nuclear programme, say two observers from the Brookings Institution. (Jeffrey A Bader, Ryan Hass, Channel NewsAsia)
- The US has urged Russia and China to clamp down on repeated breaches of the oil sanctions regime imposed on North Korea, saying America had evidence of at least 89 illegal ship-to-ship oil transfers this year. (Patrick Wintour, Guardian)
- North Korea provided little new information about abducted Japanese nationals when officials from Japan had contact with Pyongyang last month, a Japanese government source said Saturday. (Kyodo News)
- North Korea put planned reunions of families separated by the Korean War into question and denounced South Korea's latest demands that it embrace full denuclearization, adding to concerns that Pyongyang could be backtracking on agreements with Washington and Seoul. (Andrew Jeong, Wall Street Journal)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo visited the United Nations on Friday to deliver the message that there would be no sanctions relief for North Korea until its leader does "what he promised the world he would do" by surrendering the North's nuclear weapons. (Rick Gladstone, Satoshi Sugiyama, New York Times)
- After a meeting at the United Nations with his South Korean counterpart and U.N. Secretary General António Guterres, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is calling on the international community to fully enforce sanctions against North Korea. (Cindy Saine, VOA)

- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley on Friday warned China and Russia against easing sanctions pressure on North Korea by allowing the country to circumvent caps on oil imports. (Danielle Haynes, UPI)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called on members of the United Nations to enforce sanctions against North Korea more strictly and for North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to keep his promise to denuclearize. (Nicole Gaouette, CNN)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo insisted Friday that the international community must continue to keep the pressure on North Korea to denuclearize. (Margaret Besheer, VOA)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo urged the United Nations Friday to fully enforce sanctions on North Korea to keep pressure on the regime to dismantle its nuclear weapons program. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday signed into law a bill designed to promote human rights in North Korea. The legislation, called the North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2017, renews a law that was first adopted in 2004 during the George W. Bush administration. It will be in effect until 2022. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Friday the UN Security Council stands united in seeking a final, verified denuclearization of North Korea and that fully enforcing economic sanctions is key to eliminating nuclear weapons from the country. (*Reuters*)
- The United States on Friday welcomed the U.N. Security Council's united support for the fully verified denuclearization of North Korea and pressed China and Russia to strictly enforce U.N. sanctions to get Pyongyang to give up its nuclear weapons. (Edith M. Lederer, AP)
- The United States called on North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Friday to act on his promise to give up nuclear weapons and said the world, including China and Russia, must continued to enforce sanctions until he does so. (Michelle Nichols, *Reuters*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250720222404/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-north-korea-signals-reluctance-on-reunions-nuclear-program-trump-signs-nk-human-rights-act-into-law

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Sunday, July 22, 2018

N. Korea demands probe into restaurant workers' defection; Kim's Still Got His Nukes, and Hasn't Returned Our Heroes

In North Korea:
[INTERVIEW] 'North Korea needs economic reform to survive' (Korea Times, 7/22/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Int'l table tennis chief speaks of 'long-term plans' for unified Korean teams (Yonhap, 7/22/2018)
(LEAD) N.K. tirades may indicate dismay over sanctions, lack of progress in cross-border exchanges (Yonhap, 7/22/2018)
(LEAD) Seoul to begin process this year for inter-Korean transport links (Yonhap, 7/22/2018)
N. Korea demands probe into restaurant workers' defection (Korea Times, 7/22/2018)
Seoul needs sanctions exemption, official says (Korea JoongAng Daily, 7/22/2018)
Two Koreas form panel to bring home remains of colonial-era forced laborers from Japan (Yonhap, 7/22/2018)

International:
Beware the bait-and-switch (Korea JoongAng Daily, 7/22/2018)
In private, Trump vents frustration over lack of progress on North Korea (Washington Post, 7/22/2018)
Kim's Still Got His Nukes, and Hasn't Returned Our Heroes (Daily Beast, 7/21/2018)
Lindsey Graham warns Trump he's being "played" by North Korea (CBS, 7/22/2018)
North blasts South for sticking with U.S. alliance (Korea JoongAng Daily, 7/22/2018)
Top US commander in Korea: Material needed for North Korea to make nuclear bombs is still intact (CNBC, 7/22/2018)
Trump is growing impatient with the slow pace of North Korea talks (CNN, 7/22/2018)
US military commander: On North Korea, the lack of trust is the enemy (CNN, 7/21/2018)
US Military Sees Change in N. Korea; Others Skeptical (VOA, 7/21/2018)
What ties Trump's two big summits together (CNN, 7/21/2018)

In North Korea:

- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un should pursue economic reforms to rehabilitate the isolated country's moribund economy, according to William Brown, a Washington-based North Korea expert, Sunday. (Kim Jae-Kyoung, *Korea Times*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The global table tennis chief on Sunday spoke of "long-term plans" for unified Korean teams, saying the countries could come together for the 2020 world championships in the South after joining forces for an international event here this month. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's recent series of tirades against South Korea appear to indicate its discomfort over Seoul's adherence to the international sanctions regime and a lack of progress in cross-border exchanges, analysts in Seoul said Sunday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea plans to commence the domestic process within this year for reconnecting rail and road links with the North, the transport ministry said Sunday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's state-run media outlets are insisting on opening an investigation into a claim that 12 North Korean waitresses in China were kidnapped by South Korea in 2016. They are also asking for the punishment of those responsible for plotting the abduction and

producing propaganda that the restaurant workers defected to the South en masse. (Yi Whan-Woo, *Korea Times*)

- A South Korean delegation that traveled to New York over the past weekend said Seoul needed to be exempted from some international sanctions against the North to implement the Panmunjom Declaration. (Jung Hyo-Sik, Yoo Jee-Hye, Lee Sung-Eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Civic groups from South and North Korea have formed a committee to bring home the remains of Koreans forced into hard labor in Japan during the 1910-45 colonial era, a leading organizer of the project here said Sunday. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- North Korea manipulates international talks with a bait-and-switch strategy. The other party is duped and lured to the negotiating table with the vain hope that North Korea will be different this time. (Park Bo-Gyoon, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The lack of immediate progress, though predicted by many analysts, has frustrated the president, who has fumed at his aides in private even as he publicly hails the success of the negotiations. (John Hudson, Josh Dawsey, Carol D. Leonnig, *Washington Post*)
- The Putin-Trump summit diverted attention from Korean issues, but they raise profound questions about what Trump gives away to get what he claims are triumphs of statecraft. (Christopher Dickey, Donald Kirk, *Daily Beast*)
- Sen. Lindsey Graham is warning President Trump amid ongoing negotiations with North Korea that he's being "played" by dictator Kim Jong Un. Graham told "Face the Nation" that he worries "China is pulling North Korea back" and the president should instead push for firm deadlines for the North to meet. (CBS)
- North Korean media excoriated South Korean President Moon Jae-in and local authorities Saturday for what it said was kowtowing to the United States on inter-Korean issues, urging Seoul to distance itself from Washington to “make a great set-out in the new starting line of history.” (Lee Sung-Eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The top U.S. military commander on the Korean peninsula said Saturday that the material needed for North Korea to make nuclear bombs is still intact, even after an historic summit in Singapore aimed at denuclearizing Pyongyang. (Amanda Macias, CNBC)
- Less than six weeks after the summit in Singapore, President Trump is growing impatient with the pace of talks on denuclearization. North Korean officials have canceled follow-up meetings and haven't dismantled a missile testing facility that Trump said would be destroyed. (John King, Ben Geldon, CNN)
- The top US military commander on the Korean peninsula said Friday that even as the United States and North Korea work on easing tensions and working toward denuclearization, diplomacy between the two nations was operating in an environment "void of trust." (Jamie Tarabay, CNN)
- A top U.S. military official called North Korean leader Kim Jong Un “a man of his word” while backing up assertions by other key officials that talks with Pyongyang are making progress. (Jeff Seldin, VOA)

- As Americans and allied nations around the world absorb the shock of President Donald Trump's betrayal of western strategic interests during his press conference with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Helsinki, it's easy to forget Trump's similar betrayal of American interests in his encounter with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore. (Jamie Metzl, CNN)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250720222416/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-n-korea-demands-probe-into-restaurant-workers-defection-kims-still-got-his-nukes-and-hasnt-returned-our-heroes

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Monday, July 23, 2018

NK wants US to make 'bold move' towards peace before denuclearization; NK's media urge people to be ready for belt-tightening

In North Korea:
Food donations from relatives sought for correctional labor camps (DailyNK, 07/23/2018)
N. Korea's media urge people to be ready for belt-tightening (Yonhap, 07/23/2018)
Pyongyang rails at U.S., South's foot-dragging (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/24/2018)
Top North Korean diplomats recalled to Pyongyang (DailyNK, 07/23/2018)
While making nice with US and Seoul, North Korea slams Japan (Washington Post, 07/23/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) Foreign minister rejects concerns about easing of N.K. sanctions (Yonhap, 07/23/2018)
South Korea seeks exemption to sanctions on North (UPI, 07/23/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Concerns over post-unification circumstances increase (DailyNK, 07/23/2018)
'Exceptions to sanctions needed for better inter-Korean ties,' says South Korean FM (Korea Times, 07/23/2018)
Former North Korea spy being sued for defamation (UPI, 07/23/2018)
(LEAD) Korean Air flight bomber sued for libel (Yonhap, 07/23/2018)
(LEAD) N.K. media call for Seoul's active efforts to formally end Korean War (Yonhap, 07/23/2018)
N. Korean table tennis team leaves S. Korea after successful tournament (Yonhap, 07/23/2018)

International:

Despite reports to the contrary, Trump says he's 'very happy' with North Korea (Washington Post, 07/23/2018)
In private, Trump vents frustration over lack of progress on North Korea (Washington Post, 07/23/2018)
North Korea wants US to make 'bold move' towards peace before denuclearization, source says (CNN, 07/23/2018)
Security chief returns after meeting with Bolton (Korea Times, 07/23/2018)
Shoveling sand against the tide (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/24/2018)
Trump says he is 'very happy' with N.K. negotiations (Yonhap, 07/23/2018)
UNICEF urges more aid for N. Korea in consultations with S. Korea (Yonhap, 07/23/2018)
U.S. ambassador to Seoul stresses importance of working in synchronization on nuke issues (Yonhap, 07/23/2018)

In North Korea:

- It has recently been reported that North Korea's network of correctional labor camps run by the Ministry of People's Security (police), also known as re-education camps, are permitting more family visits for those bearing food provisions. (Kim Yoo Jin, *DailyNK*)
- North Korean state media urged the country's people to be ready for "belt-tightening" Monday amid signs of stalled denuclearization talks with the United States. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean media criticized the United States and South Korea Monday for dragging their feet on a formal end to the 1950-53 Korean War, accusing Washington of being only interested in denuclearization. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- North Korea's ambassadors have been recalled to North Korea to discuss the rapidly changing situation on the Korean Peninsula as well as to reshuffle diplomatic positions, report North Korean sources. (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)
- North Korea's state-run media have toned down their rhetorical attacks on the United States and South Korea while leader Kim Jong Un pursues a more diplomatic approach, but the vitriol continues — and Japan is now Pyongyang's favorite foil. (Eric Talmadge, AP)

In South Korea:

- South Korea's Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha on Monday rejected concerns about Seoul's alleged move to ease international sanctions on Pyongyang, saying it is seeking an "exception" to facilitate cross-border exchanges. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea has requested an exception to North Korea sanctions to boost its recent efforts to promote inter-Korean exchanges. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The warming relations between the two Koreas has led to exchanges and cooperation across a number of areas, and sources in North Korea report that high hopes for unification among

residents remain unchanged. Many are, however, concerned about what will happen after unification. (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)

- Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha on Monday denied reports that South Korea is seeking to ease international sanctions on the North, stating it is seeking exemptions in sanctions for inter-Korean exchanges. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- A coalition of South Korean civic groups are suing a pardoned North Korean agent for defamation, after the defendant, Kim Hyon-hui, may have said publicly the families of perished victims were pro-Pyongyang collaborators. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- The bereaved family members of the victims of the mysterious mid-air bombing of a South Korean passenger jet in 1987 on Monday sued the culprit, Kim Hyun-hui, a female North Korean former terrorist, for libel and obstruction of business, while calling for reinvestigation of the case. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's media intensified its demands on Monday for South Korea to implement its summit agreement to work toward declaring an end to the Korean War, calling it a "historic task" that cannot be delayed anymore. (*Yonhap*)
- Members of the North Korean national table tennis team left South Korea on Monday after a successful international tournament last week. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- President Trump on Monday asserted that he's "very happy" with progress toward ridding North Korea of nuclear weapons, despite the stiff resistance that U.S. officials have faced from the regime in the weeks since Trump's summit with Kim Jong Un. (John Wagner, *Washington Post*)
- When he emerged from his summit with Kim Jong Un last month, President Trump triumphantly declared that North Korea no longer posed a nuclear threat and that one of the world's most intractable geopolitical crises had been "largely solved." But in the days and weeks since then, U.S. negotiators have faced stiff resistance from a North Korean team practiced in the art of delay and obfuscation. (John Hudson, Josh Dawsey, Carol D. Leonnig, *Washington Post*)
- Continued negotiations between the United States and North Korea hinge on Washington's willingness to make a "bold move" and agree to a peace treaty with Pyongyang, according to an official with close knowledge of North Korea's position on the matter. (Will Ripley, Kevin Liptak, Joshua Berlinger, *CNN*)
- National Security Office (NSO) chief Chung Eui-yong returned home Sunday after a two-day visit to Washington to seek a breakthrough on the stalled denuclearization talks between the United States and North Korea. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- The first high-level denuclearization negotiations in Pyongyang attended by U.S. State Secretary Mike Pompeo and Kim Yong-chol, a vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of North Korea, ended without progress. U.S. President Donald Trump recently said there is "no rush" in denuclearization talks, placing the hopes from the June 12 North-U.S. Joint Declaration at a crossroads. Will the North head toward a new path of a big

deal or will it repeat the deception tactics from the past? (Kwon Man-hak, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

- U.S. President Donald Trump said Monday he is "very happy" with progress in negotiations with North Korea, refuting media reports that he is frustrated at the slow pace. (*Yonhap*)
- The U.N. children's agency on Monday stressed the need to expand humanitarian assistance for North Korea during an annual policy consultation meeting with South Korea. (*Yonhap*)
- New United States Ambassador to South Korea Harry Harris on Monday emphasized the importance of the two countries working in synchronization in the process of the denuclearization of North Korea. (*Yonhap*)

Prepared by Lauren Jackson, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250720222629/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-nk-wants-us-to-make-bold-move-towards-peace-before-denuclearization-nks-media-urge-people-to-be-ready-for-belt-tightening

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Tuesday, July 24, 2018

Publication of North Korea Supply Chain Advisory; N. Korean People are being Enslaved; North Korea Begins Dismantling Key Facilities

Top News:
Publication of North Korea Supply Chain Advisory (OFAC, 07/24/2018)
North Korean People are being Enslaved [in Korean] (VOA, 07/24/2018)

In North Korea:
Authorities crack down on homemade pesticides (Daily NK, 07/24/2018)
Exclusive: North Korean fuel prices drop, suggesting U.N. sanctions being undermined (Reuters, 07/24/2018)
Kim Jong Un itinerary change hints at emergency plane landing (Daily NK, 07/24/2018)
N. Korea to hold conference of Korean War veterans (Yonhap, 07/24/2018)
N. Korean leader inspects sapling farm to highlight importance of forests (Yonhap, 07/24/2018)
North Korea announces three-year reductions in some prison camp sentences (Daily NK, 07/24/2018)
North Korea Begins Dismantling Key Facilities at the Sohae Satellite Launching Station (38 North, 07/23/2018)
North Korea's 'dismantling of ballistic missile test site facilities' draws wary response from experts (Telegraph, 07/24/2018)
Report: Two killed, one injured in North Korea border city (UPI, 07/24/2018)

Satellite images North Korea Sohae site (CNN, 07/24/2018)

In South Korea:
North Korea art to be shown at Gwangju Biennale in South (UPI, 07/24/2018)
Seoul permits Gwangju Biennale to bring in North Korean artworks for exhibition (Yonhap, 07/24/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) S. Korean team visits N. Korea to inspect railways in western region (Yonhap, 07/24/2018)
Minor party plans to send delegation to Pyongyang (Korea Times, 07/24/2018)
North-South summit offered by Indonesia (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/24/2018)
S. Korea mulls opening permanent representative offices in Seoul, Pyongyang (Yonhap, 07/24/2018)
Seoul welcomes reported dismantlement of N. Korean missile test site (Yonhap, 07/24/2018)
South Korea to test withdrawing troops from DMZ (UPI, 07/24/2018)
South plans to remove guard posts from DMZ (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/24/2018)
Unification minister optimistic about formally ending Korean War within year (Yonhap, 07/24/2018)

International:
(LEAD) U.S. official to visit Seoul for consultations on N. Korea (Yonhap, 07/24/2018)
(LEAD) U.S. says peace regime with N.K. after denuclearization (Yonhap, 07/24/2018)
Former Envoys See US-South Korea Alliance Surviving Denuclearization (VOA, 07/24/2018)
North Korea Nuclear War Scenario Plays Out in New Book (VOA, 07/24/2018)
Recovery of U.S. troops' remains in North Korea hindered by cash, politics (Reuters, 07/24/2018)
Seoul needs sanctions exemptions, official says (North Korean Economy Watch, 07/23/2018)
Several N. Korean ambassadors spotted at Beijing airport (Yonhap, 07/24/2018)
The Untold Story of Otto Warmbier, American Hostage (GQ, 07/23/2018)
The Washington Post's Impatient Reporting (38 North, 07/23/2018)
US and North Korea: What might peace look like? (BBC, 07/24/2018)
U.S. issues advisory on N.K. sanctions evasion tactics (Yonhap, 07/23/2018)
U.S. warns of North's evasion of UN sanctions (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/24/2018)
Vigilance is a must (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/24/2018)
While making nice with US and South, North Korea slams Japan (AP, 07/24/2018)

Top News:

- HRNK quoted in OFAC North Korea supply chain advisory. (OFAC)
- HRNK Executive Director Scarlatoiu: "In order to obtain the resources it needs [to preserve itself], the Kim regime oppresses and exploits North Korean people at home at abroad." (VOA)

In North Korea:

- The North Korean authorities have begun cracking down on the use of homemade pesticides and fertilizers as the harvest season approaches, following an order from the central government to treat such agricultural products as they would "illicit drugs," sources in the country say. (Kim Yoo Jin, *Daily NK*)
- Gasoline prices in North Korea have nearly halved since late March, market data analyzed by Reuters shows, adding weight to suspicions that fuel is finding its way into the isolated economy from China and elsewhere despite U.N. sanctions. (Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's private jet was observed in early July making a sudden stopover at Hyesan City on its way to Ryanggang Province. Conjecturing on the reason for the sudden stopover, sources familiar with the incident have suggested a high probability that the plane was malfunctioning and required an emergency landing. (Mun Dong Hui, *Daily NK*)
- North Korea plans to hold a national conference of war veterans this year to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, its state media said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has visited a sapling farm in the country's eastern region in an apparent bid to highlight the importance of forests, the state media reported Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea has announced that it will conduct a mass amnesty before the 70th anniversary of the country's establishment in September, with sources in the country reporting that residents have been discussing how the amnesty will affect their lives. (Ha Yoon Ah, *Daily NK*)
- In an important first step towards fulfilling a commitment made by Kim Jong Un at the June 12 Singapore Summit, new commercial satellite imagery of the Sohae Satellite Launching Station (North Korea's main satellite launch facility since 2012) indicates that the North has begun dismantling key facilities. (*38 North*)
- Satellite images indicate North Korea has begun dismantling key facilities at a site used to develop engines for ballistic missiles, in a first step toward fulfilling a pledge made to US President Donald Trump at a June summit, a Washington-based think tank said on Monday. (*Telegraph*)
- Two people were murdered in a North Korean border city and another person was stabbed sometime in mid-July, according to a South Korean press report. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Satellite images of the North Korea Sohae site. (CNN)

In South Korea:

- North Korean artworks may soon be available for viewing in South Korea, and North Korean artists could be invited to attend the exhibit of their work in the South. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- The Gwangju Biennale, Asia's biggest art exhibition, has been given government approval for its plans to bring in dozens of North Korean artworks for its upcoming event set for September, its organizers said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- A group of South Korean officials visited North Korea on Tuesday to inspect railway conditions in the western region as part of efforts to modernize and eventually connect railways over the inter-Korean border. (*Yonhap*)
- The minor leftist Minjung Party plans to send a delegation to Pyongyang soon as part of its inter-Korean parliamentary exchange program, the party said Tuesday. (Park Ji-won, *Korea Times*)
- Indonesian President Joko Widodo plans to send special envoys to South and North Korea to ask their leaders to attend the opening ceremony of the Asian Games in his nation next month, which could lead to a third summit between President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. (Jeong Yong-soo, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korea's unification ministry said Tuesday that it could push to establish permanent representative offices in Seoul and Pyongyang if inter-Korean relations improve further. (*Yonhap*)
- A senior official from South Korea's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae welcomed the reported dismantlement of a North Korean missile test site Tuesday, calling it a step toward the North's denuclearization. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea is seeking to pull troops from the Demilitarized Zone on the border with North Korea as agreed at the inter-Korean summit in April. (Wooyoung Lee, *UPI*)
- South Korea's National Defense Ministry relayed plans Tuesday to withdraw guard posts and their equipment from the demilitarized zone separating the two Koreas, in another follow-up measure to the Panmunjom Declaration signed by the countries' leaders in April. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korea's unification minister expressed optimism Tuesday over the possibility of formally ending the Korean War "within this year," saying relevant consultations involving the two Koreas and the United States are currently underway. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- A U.S. State Department official in charge of Korea affairs will travel to South Korea this week for discussions on North Korea and pending alliance issues, a government official here said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- The United States said Monday that any peace regime with North Korea will come only after Pyongyang has dismantled its nuclear weapons program. (*Yonhap*)
- Two former U.S. ambassadors to South Korea say they are confident that the security alliance between Washington and Seoul will remain in place and even grow stronger if North Korea fulfills its promises to end its nuclear programs and reduce tensions with the South. (Christy Lee, VOA)
- A new book speculates about how war could begin again on the Korean peninsula. The central plot of the book talks about how renewed tensions involving North Korea and a deadly border incident could quickly escalate into nuclear war, due to political miscalculation, miscommunication and brinksmanship. (Brian Padden, VOA)

- When North Korean leader Kim Jong Un agreed in June to help return the remains of American troops killed in the 1950-53 Korean War, it was seen as one of the more attainable goals to come out of his summit with U.S. President Donald Trump. (Joyce Lee, *Reuters*)
- If anyone ever doubted that the US and South Korea are not in lockstep on sanctions…The question is how hard Seoul is pushing behind the scenes, and how hard it is prepared to push. (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, *North Korean Economy Watch*)
- North Korea's ambassador to China returned to Beijing on Tuesday amid news reports that leader Kim Jong-un had convened a rare meeting of the country's senior envoys abroad. (*Yonhap*)
- President Trump hailed him as a catalyst of the summit with Kim Jong-Un. But what happened to Warmbier—the American college student who was sent home brain-damaged from North Korea—is even more shocking than anyone knew. (Doug Bock Clark, GQ)
- Talk about getting a story half-right. The Washington Post right-hand lead story on Sunday, July 22, reports that the lack of immediate progress from Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's talks in Pyongyang last week "has frustrated the president, who has fumed at his aides in private even as he publicly hails the success of the negotiations." (Leon V. Sigal, *38 North*)
- The US and North Korea have agreed to work towards denuclearising the Korean Peninsula, and for now the relationship seems a little less volatile. (BBC)
- The United States on Monday issued an advisory alerting businesses to North Korea's sanctions evasion tactics amid reports of the regime's engagement in illegal trade. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. government agencies issued an advisory on Monday calling for the enforcement of North Korean sanctions and warning of evasion tactics used by the regime, signaling that Washington is not letting up on its pressure campaign to get Pyongyang to denuclearize. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The United States has highlighted sanctions on North Korea again. In a joint announcement by the Department of State, the Treasury and the Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. government on Tuesday issued a warning not to loosen sanctions on joint ventures with the North and its sending of workers overseas. It also warned about tactics used by Pyongyang to evade international sanctions. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- North Korea's state-run media have toned down their rhetorical attacks on the United States and South Korea while leader Kim Jong-un pursues a more diplomatic approach, but the vitriol continues and Japan is now Pyongyang's favorite foil. (AP)

Prepared by Jack Maerz, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250720222451/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemspublication-of-north-korea-supply-chain-advisory-n-korean-people-are-being-enslaved-north-korea-begins-dismantling-key-facilities

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Wednesday, July 25, 2018

North Korea assumes increasingly aggressive stance toward South Korea; Why North Korea is in no hurry to do what the US wants

In North Korea:
Choe Ryong Hae Visits Pyongyang University of Architecture (North Korea Leadership Watch, 07/25/2018)
Four in critical condition following train derailment (Daily NK, 7/25/2018)
Kim Jong Un Visits Kangwo'n Provincial Tree Nursery and KPA Factory #525 (North Korea Leadership Watch, 07/25/2018)
Man Bites Dog: North Koreans Eat Dog Meat to Beat the Heat (AP, 07/25/2018)
N.K. leader Kim inspects military food production factory (Yonhap, 7/25/2018)
North Korea assumes increasingly aggressive stance toward South Korea (Daily NK, 7/25/2018)
North Korea's Kim Jong Un says soldiers' diets should be improved (Reuters, 7/24/2018)
North Korean media urges announcing end of Korea War (UPI, 07/25/2018)
Report: North Korea dismantled ICBM assembly structure (UPI, 07/25/2018)

In South Korea:
About 30 ex-Kaesong firms move overseas for cheap labor (Yonhap, 7/25/2018)
South Korea president: Missile site dismantlement is 'good omen' (UPI, 07/25/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) N. Korean athletes to arrive in S. Korea on Saturday for Asiad training (Yonhap, 7/25/2018)
(LEAD) Koreas exchange results of search for separated families ahead of reunions (Yonhap, 7/25/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea eyes early war-ending declaration: minister (Yonhap, 7/25/2018)
Inter-Korean Cooperation Continues As Nuclear Talks Stall (VOA, 07/25/2018)
N. Korean athletes to visit South for training ahead of Asian Games (UPI, 07/25/2018)
North continues push for formal end to war (Korea JoongAng Daily, 7/25/2018)
North, South Korea exchange lists of war-separated families (UPI, 07/25/2018)
Pro-N. Korea newspaper slams S. Korea for being passive in inter-Korean cooperation (Yonhap, 7/25/2018)
S. Korea mindful of sanctions on N. Korea in bilateral ties: ministry (Yonhap, 7/25/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) Trump hails reported dismantling of N.K. missile test site (Yonhap, 7/25/2018)
Give Trump a chance on North Korea (Washington Post, 07/24/2018)
North Korea Talks Have Entered the Realm of Small Victories (The Atlantic, 07/25/2018)
Trump pleased as NKorea seen dismantling launch site parts (AP, 7/24/2018)
Trump praises North's missile test site work (Korea JoongAng Daily, 7/25/2018)
US, Australian officials tout cooperation on North Korea (AP, 07/24/2018)
U.S. official visits S. Korea for consultations on N. Korea (Yonhap, 7/25/2018)
US preparing for transfer of troop remains from North Korea amid uncertainty (CNN, 07/24/2018)

Why North Korea is in no hurry to do what the US wants (BBC, 7/25/2018)

In North Korea:

- DPRK state media reported on July 20 (Friday) that Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) Vice Chairman and State Affairs Commission Vice Chairman Choe Ryong Hae (Ch'oe Ryong-hae) visited Pyongyang University of Architecture. (*North Korea Leadership Watch*)
- A train carrying construction materials in Samjiyon, Ryanggang Province has overturned, causing casualties and damage to property. Four people, who were identified as cargo guards on the train, were injured and are currently unconscious in a hospital, the source reported. (Mun Dong Hui, *Daily NK*)
- Kim Jong Un (Kim Cho'ng-u'n) conducted inspections of the Kangwo'n Provincial Tree Nursery and Korean People's Army [KPA] Factory #525. Also in attendance were Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) senior cadres Hwang Pyong So (Hwang Pyo'ng-so'), Han Kwang Sang (Han Kwang-sang) and Jo Yong Won (Cho Yo'ng-wo'n). (*North Korea Leadership Watch*)
- In North Korea, summer is not a good time to be a dog. With the sizzling heat upon the country, North Korea's biggest brewery is pumping out twice as much beer as usual, Pyongyang residents are queuing up to get their "bingsu" — a syrupy treat made with shaved ice — and restaurants are serving up bowl after bowl of the season's biggest culinary attraction: spicy dog meat soup. (AP)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has visited a military food production plant in what appears to be intended to boost the morale of soldiers, according to the North's state media Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea has continued to demand a speedy implementation of the Panmunjom Declaration while raising its criticism of the South Korean government. (Ha Yoon Ah, *Daily NK*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said the country should feed its soldiers better, according to state media KCNA on Wednesday, after a defected North Korean soldier's health last year highlighted nutrition problems in the isolated state. (*Reuters*)
- North Korean state media has upped the ante in their calls for announcing the formal end of the 1950-53 Korean War. State newspaper Rodong Shinmun said in its editorial on Wednesday the U.S. holds "responsibility and duty" in announcing the formal end to the Korean War, as agreed in the June 12 summit. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- North Korea could be forging ahead with the dismantlement of more weapons sites, following reports the regime had appeared to have taken apart its missile launching station in Sohae. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

In South Korea:

- About 30 South Korean companies that had operations in the now suspended inter-Korean industrial complex have shifted production overseas in search of cheap labor since its shutdown two years ago, a trade body said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)

- South Korean President Moon Jae-in said satellite images of dismantlement at a North Korea missile site are a "good omen" for denuclearization, during his meeting with U.S. Ambassador to Seoul Harry B. Harris on Wednesday, when the two sides also shared jokes about Andong soju, a distilled Korean liquor. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- North Korean athletes set to compete on unified teams with South Koreans at the upcoming Asian Games will cross the border Saturday for joint training, Seoul officials said. (*Yonhap*)
- South and North Korea exchanged the results of their weekslong search for families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War Wednesday ahead of the upcoming reunion event, the unification ministry said. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea's Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha said Wednesday there's a possibility of relevant parties declaring an end to the Korean War when their leaders hold a U.N. meeting in autumn. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea is taking small steps to try to keep the North Korea peace process alive, but significant economic engagement remains out of reach until significant denuclearization progress with the U.S. is reached. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- North Korean athletes will visit Seoul for joint training ahead of the Asian Games in August, the latest inter-Korean exchange in sports. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- North Korea continued to push the South to declare a formal end to the 1950-53 Korean War and expressed “regret” for the delay, comparing the current armistice agreement to a ticking time bomb in an editorial published by the state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) on Tuesday. (Yoo Jee-Hye, Lee Sung-Eun, Park Yu-Mi, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- North and South Korea have met to exchange lists of war-separated families to confirm their survival before finalizing participants in the upcoming family reunion in August. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- A pro-North Korea newspaper in Japan criticized South Korea on Wednesday for being excessively passive about cross-border cooperation, blaming what it called the South's foot-dragging for slower-than-expected progress in relations. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea's foreign ministry vowed Wednesday to stay cautious about the possibility of breaching U.N.-led sanctions on North Korea in promoting inter-Korean exchanges. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday welcomed reports that North Korea has begun to dismantle a key missile testing site in line with a pledge North Korean leader Kim Jong-un made at their historic summit last month. (*Yonhap*)
- After eight years of President Barack Obama’s policy of “strategic patience” (whatever that meant), and 16 years of kicking the can down the road under Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton’s plans, it seems that the government might be finally attempting to resolve and

focus on the issue. Sanctions are having an effect on the North Korean economy. (*Washington Post*)

- Once upon a time, a couple months ago, National-Security Adviser John Bolton predicted how Donald Trump's summit with Kim Jong Un would go down. The U.S. president would swiftly assess how serious the North Korean leader was about giving up his nuclear weapons. And assuming Kim was serious, U.S. authorities would "very quickly" swoop in, take apart North Korea's nukes, and ship them off to Tennessee. (Uri Friedman, *The Atlantic*)
- President Donald Trump expressed appreciation to North Korea on Tuesday following reports that Pyongyang has started to dismantle key parts of a missile test site. But Trump's top diplomat sounded a note of caution, saying inspectors would have to confirm the development. (Matthew Lee, AP)
- U.S. President Donald Trump praised North Korea's dismantling of a missile engine testing site on Tuesday despite reports that he had recently been venting his frustrations about the lack of progress in negotiations with Pyongyang. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Defense Secretary James Mattis and top Australian officials on Tuesday reaffirmed their commitment to ridding North Korea of nuclear weapons and touted the strong relationship between the two countries as they ended two days of meetings. (Sudhin Thanawala, AP)
- A U.S. State Department official in charge of Korean affairs began a trip here Wednesday, saying he will discuss the North Korea issue. Mark Lambert, the department's Korea desk director and acting deputy assistant secretary, arrived at Incheon International Airport, west of Seoul, at around 5:10 p.m. (*Yonhap*)
- A number of US Defense Department personnel are expected to travel to South Korea in coming days to assist with the expected return from North Korea on Friday of the remains of US service members killed during the Korean War. However, there is uncertainty over whether the transfer will actually happen as Pyongyang has still not given the US or South Korea final approval for the operation. (Barbara Starr, CNN)
- Meeting in Singapore last month, US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un captured the world's attention and promised to work towards "new relations". Why have mixed messages followed? (Hervé Lemahieu, BBC)

Prepared by Jack Maerz, Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Interns

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250720223705/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-north-korea-assumes-increasingly-aggressive-stance-toward-south-korea-why-north-korea-is-in-no-hurry-to-do-what-the-us-wants'

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Thursday, July 26, 2018

Pompeo: North is still making nuke materials; North Korea's Ruling Party Informs Officials Kim Regime Will Not Give Up Nukes

In North Korea:
Expansion of North Korea's Solid Fuel Ballistic Missile Program: The Eight Year Old Case of the Chemical Materials Institute (38 North, 7/25/2018)
Kim Jong Un visits food, bag factories with Ri Sol Ju (UPI, 7/25/2018)
Lessons from an elite defector (Korea JoongAng Daily, 7/26/2018)
Lessons in loyalty at North Korea's top school (Channel NewsAsia, 7/26/2018)
Marketization key to North Korea's future prosperity (Daily NK, 7/26/2018)
N. Korean leader inspects food, bag making plants (Yonhap, 7/26/2018)
North Korea: Creating the fantasy of prosperity through design (CNN, 7/26/2018)
North Korea's Influence Operations, Revealed (The Diplomat, 7/25/2018)
North Korea's Ruling Party Informs Officials Kim Regime Will Not Give Up Nukes (Radio Free Asia, 7/25/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Inter-Korean workers' football games to be held in Seoul next month (Yonhap, 7/26/2018)
Labor groups from two Koreas plan to play ball (Korea JoongAng Daily, 7/26/2018)
Minjung Party may face fine for meeting NK party (Korea Times, 7/26/2018)
N. Korea's media intensify demands for declaration to end Korean War (Yonhap, 7/26/2018)
N. Korean athletes' arrival for joint Asiad training pushed to Sunday (Yonhap, 7/26/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) Pompeo: N. Korea continues to produce fissile material (Yonhap, 7/2/2018)
Casino Diplomacy: The Trump game that everyone loses (UPI, 7/26/2018)
Chinese special envoy visits Pyongyang, reports say (UPI, 7/25/2018)
Experts Skeptical of N. Korean Denuclearization Gestures (VOA, 7/26/2018)
G.I. remains handed over today (Korea JoongAng Daily, 7/26/2018)
German foreign minister vows support for peace process on peninsula (Yonhap, 7/26/2018)
Korean War: Searching for the father they barely knew (BBC, 7/26/2018)
(LEAD) U.S. official meets S. Korean businessmen over N. Korea project (Yonhap, 7/26/2018)
'No timeline for denuclearization': What is Trump's plan? (Daily NK, 7/26/2018)
N. Korea likely to return remains of U.S. troops this week: source (Yonhap, 7/26/2018)
North Korea making bomb fuel despite denuclearization pledge: Pompeo (Reuters, 7/25/2018)
North Korea still producing fissile material despite pledge, Pompeo says (Guardian, 7/25/2018)
Pompeo: North is still making nuke materials (Korea JoongAng Daily, 7/26/2018)
Pompeo: North Korea Still Making Fuel for Nuclear Bombs (VOA, 7/25/2018)
Pompeo defiant in clash over Trump-Putin summit (CNN, 7/26/2018)
Pompeo to Markey: 'We have not been taken for a ride' (Washington Post, 7/25/2018)
Pompeo voices hope for N.K. denuclearization (Yonhap, 7/26/2018)
Pompeo vows not to let N.K. talks drag out (Yonhap, 7/26/2018)
Pressed on North Korea, Pompeo dodges timeline specifics (AP, 7/25/2018)

Rev. Jesse Jackson: N. Korea needs food, trade not sanctions, starvation (Yonhap, 7/26/2018)
Sen. Jeff Merkley: North Korea is 'playing its normal game' with Trump (CNN, 7/25/2018)
Senators Grill Pompeo About Trump-Putin Summit Details (VOA, 7/25/2018)
Since Singapore: Letting North Korea off the hook (Brookings, 7/17/2018)
The Latest: Envoy says 'an awful long way to go' in NK talks (AP, 7/25/2018)
Trump administration offers reassurances on Russia as lawmakers grill Pompeo (Washington Post, 7/25/2018)
US warns of North Korea's global outsourcing of forced labor (AP, 7/25/2018)
When to end the war? North Korea, U.S. at odds over path to peace (Reuters, 7/26/2018)

In North Korea:

- While recent press reports have focused on the expansion of North Korea's Chemical Materials Institute (CMI)—a key facility in its production of solid-rocket motors for missiles—in the months leading up to and in the aftermath of the US-DPRK summit, these efforts have actually been ongoing for at least the past eight years. (Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., Dan Dueweke, *38 North*)
- Kim Jong Un visited a food factory and a bag manufacturing plant as state media continues to focus on the North Korean leader's economic policies following the June 12 summit in Singapore. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- There are two North Koreas according to Thae Yong-ho, the prominent North Korean diplomat who defected to the South in 2016. One is North Korea as is, and the other is a North Korea created by the South. (Chang Se-Jeong, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Not many schools have classrooms equipped with tanks, jet fighter simulators, and grenade launchers. But North Korea's Mangyongdae Revolutionary School for boys is no ordinary establishment. (Channel *NewsAsia*)
- It is already well known that some policy makers are deeply concerned about making the transition towards a market economy, since North Korea entered a depression in the 1990s. But in order to develop, what does North Korea need to do? The answer is that the country needs to commit to introducing a market economy. (Jo Hyon, *Daily NK*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has inspected foodstuff and bag making plants in the country's eastern region, the North's state media said Thursday, the third day in a row that his "field guidance" at industrial sites has been reported. (*Yonhap*)
- Architecture critic Oliver Wainwright's new book about Pyongyang's built environment reveals the history of the city's political ideology. (*CNN*)
- North Korea currently operates more than 160 propaganda websites, including news and tourism websites as well as online communities. Regardless of what these sites do, they share one goal: To promote North Korea and its ideology and turn as many people as they can into North Korean sympathizers. (Tae-Jun Kang, *The Diplomat*)
- The Central Committee of the ruling Workers' Party has decreed that North Korea will not relinquish its nuclear arsenal, which it termed a "precious legacy" of the country's late leaders, according to local sources, despite an earlier pledge by party chairman Kim Jong Un to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula. (Jieun Kim, Leejin Jun, Joshua Lipes, *Radio Free Asia*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Laborers from South and North Korea will have football matches in Seoul next month as the first inter-Korean civic exchange following the April 27 Panmunjom Declaration, organizing officials said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- A delegation from North Korea's largest trade union federation will visit Seoul from Aug. 10 to 12 with two football teams to hold friendly games with South Korean labor groups, the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU), one of the South's two major umbrella labor groups, announced Thursday. (Lee Sung-Eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The Ministry of Unification may fine the minor leftist Minjung Party for its unauthorized meeting last week with a North Korean political party in Shenyang, China, according to the party's co-leader, Thursday. (Park Ji-Won, *Korea Times*)
- North Korea's media on Thursday intensified calls for speeding up efforts to declare a formal end to the Korean War to help prevent future conflict and guarantee lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- The arrival of North Korean athletes for joint Asian Games training with South Koreans has been pushed back by a day to Sunday, Seoul officials said. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- North Korea continues to produce fissile material as part of its nuclear weapons program even as it makes progress toward denuclearization, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- As he met with the defectors, Trump said, in his inimitable vernacular, North Korea "is a tough place to live, and people aren't liking it." The defectors told their stories of abuse, famine and torture, horrifying narratives that amounted to Orwellian nightmares. But Trump had little to say. He shrunk into his famous dismissive slump that screamed of boredom. (Robert Huish, UPI)
- North Korea state media is reporting the Chinese special representative on Korean Peninsula affairs arrived in North Korea on Wednesday. Kong Xuanyou, who also serves as vice foreign minister, is in Pyongyang, according to KCNA. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo added to growing skepticism about North Korea's commitment to eliminate its nuclear weapons arsenal, while testifying at a Senate committee hearing on Wednesday. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- A U.S. military transport plane will fly into North Korea to pick up the remains of some 50 American soldiers killed in the 1950-53 Korean War, U.S. and North Korean authorities tentatively agreed earlier this week, multiple diplomatic sources in Seoul exclusively told the JoongAng Ilbo Thursday. (Jeong Yong-Soo, Kang Tae-Hwa, Lee Sung-Eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Germany will provide support for the Korean Peninsula peace process moving forward on the basis of its own reunification experience, its top diplomat said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- Many families of US soldiers who fought - and never returned - from the Korean War are hoping their decades-long search for answers will soon be over. Thousands of American servicemen are still classified as missing in action (MIA). (BBC)

- A visiting U.S. official met Thursday with a group of South Korean businesspeople hoping to resume inter-Korean economic projects. (Yonhap)
- "We have no time limit. We have no speed limit. We're just going through the process," U.S. President Donald Trump recently said in regards to North Korea's denuclearization. This statement makes one wonder if there ever was a time when Trump had said that he wasn't going to fall for North Korea's stalling tactics and promised a swift and comprehensive solution to the issue. (Ahn Jong Sik, Daily NK)
- North Korea seems to have completed preparations for the transfer of the remains of American service members killed in the Korean War, as it has received wooden boxes from the United States, a diplomatic source in Seoul said Thursday. (Yonhap)
- North Korea is continuing to produce fuel for nuclear bombs in spite of its pledge to denuclearize, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Wednesday, even as he argued that the Trump administration was making progress in talks with Pyongyang. (David Brunnstrom, Reuters)
- North Korea is still producing fissile material for nuclear bombs in spite of its pledge to denuclearize, according to US secretary of state Mike Pompeo. Pompeo declined to respond when asked whether North Korea was continuing to pursue submarine-launched ballistic missiles or whether North Korea's nuclear program was advancing generally. (Guardian)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo acknowledged North Korea's continued production of fissile material for nuclear weapons, even as it makes progress toward denuclearization, in a Senate hearing on Wednesday. (Sarah Kim, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- North Korea is still producing fuel for nuclear bombs despite pledges to give up its nuclear program, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Wednesday. Questioned by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Pompeo said North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's regime was continuing to produce fissile material. (VOA News)
- Bipartisan frustration was on display Wednesday as lawmakers from both sides of the aisle grilled a defiant Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on President Donald Trump's summits with Russian leader Vladimir Putin and North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un during a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing. (Zachary Cohen, CNN)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo clashed with Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.) over North Korea at a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on July 25. (Washington Post)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has voiced hope that North Korean leader Kim Jong-un will deliver on his promise to dismantle the regime's nuclear weapons program. (Yonhap)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo vowed Wednesday not to let nuclear negotiations with North Korea drag out but stopped short of offering an alternative. (Yonhap)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Wednesday a great deal of work remains ahead of a North Korea denuclearization deal, but he dodged requests to identify a specific denuclearization timeline in testimony to members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. (Susannah George, AP)
- Renowned American reverend and politician Jesse Jackson on Thursday called for increased efforts to bring North Korea out of its isolation, saying the country needs food and trade, not sanctions and starvation. (Park Boram, Yonhap)

- North Korea is "playing its normal game" in its negotiations about denuclearization with the United States, Sen. Jeff Merkley said Wednesday following a Senate hearing with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. (Marc Rod, CNN)
- In a series of often testy exchanges with Pompeo, lawmakers of both parties expressed continuing concerns about the Helsinki summit, Trump's approach to North Korea as well as NATO, and the administration's overall strategy for America on the world stage. (Michael Bowman, VOA)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo found in his first meeting with the North Koreans after the Trump-Kim Jong-un Singapore summit that he has a number of carrots, few sticks, and disturbingly little leverage, despite the disparity of power between the United States and North Korea. (Jeffrey A. Bader, Ryan Hass, *Brookings*)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is dodging questions from lawmakers asking for specifics on how North Korea defines "complete denuclearization" but acknowledges a great deal of work lies ahead. (AP)
- The hearing provided the first opportunity for lawmakers to ask Pompeo about Trump's meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore last month. Sen. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) expressed concern that there is "no verifiable evidence that North Korea . . . is denuclearizing." (John Hudson, Anne Gearan, Karoun Demirjian, *Washington Post*)
- American companies were put on notice this week by the Trump administration that they could face steep fines, or even criminal charges, if their business involves North Korean workers anywhere in their supply chain. (Martha Mendoza, AP)
- Washington's reluctance to declare an end to the Korean War until after North Korea abandons its nuclear arsenal may put it at odds not only with Pyongyang, but also with allies in South Korea. (Josh Smith, *Reuters*)

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Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250720223557/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-pompeo-north-is-still-making-nuke-materials-north-koreas-ruling-party-informs-officials-kim-regime-will-not-give-up-nukes

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Friday, July 27, 2018

North Korea hands over remains of US soldiers killed in Korean war; North Korea economy shrinks 3 percent after sanction

In North Korea:
How Pyongyang's buildings reveal a nuanced visual history of the city (CNN, 07/27/2018)
Kim Jong-un honors China on anniversary (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/28/2018)
KJU and RSJ Visits Food and Bag Factories in Wo'nsan (North Korea Leadership Watch, 07/27/2018)
Marketization key to North Korea's future prosperity (DailyNK, 07/27/2018)
N. Korea's Ri Yong-gi confirmed as top military officer (Yonhap, 07/27/2018)
North Korea confirms new military chief of staff (Reuters, 07/27/2018)
North Korea economy shrinks 3 percent after sanctions (UPI, 07/27/2018)
North Korean Leaders' Portrait Badges 'Merchandized' in Local Markets (Radio Free Asia, 07/26/2018)
North Korea's economic improvement depends on denuclearization (DailyNK, 07/27/2018)
North Korea's ruling system requires structural change (DailyNK, 07/27/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) Koreas to hold general-grade military talks at Panmunjom next Tuesday: ministry (Yonhap, 07/27/2018)
Two Koreas' foreign ministers to meet in ASEAN forum in Singapore (Yonhap, 07/27/2018)

International:
(5th LD) U.S. troop remains airlifted to S. Korea from N. Korea (Yonhap, 07/27/2018)
Allies agree to keep sanctions until N. Korea takes 'concrete, verifiable' denuclearization steps (Yonhap, 07/27/2018)
Divergent opinions between US and North Korea on declaring end to the Korean War (DailyNK, 07/27/2018)
Donald Trump thanks Kim Jong-un for returning remains of American soldiers killed in Korean War (Telegraph, 07/27/2018)
How DNA and other methods are used in identifying deceased US troops (CNN, 07/27/2018)
How the Media Wove a Narrative of North Korean Nuclear Deception (38 North, 07/26/2018)
IOC awaits U.N. decision to send sports equipment to North Korea (Reuters, 07/27/2018)
Korea remains: Pyongyang returns US troops slain in Korean War (BBC, 07/27/2018)
(LEAD) U.S. official meets S. Korean businessmen over N. Korea project (Yonhap, 07/27/2018)
(LEAD) (Yonhap Interview) New deputy UNC chief vows all efforts to bring 'lasting peace' (Yonhap, 07/27/2018)
North Korea hands over remains of US soldiers killed in Korean war (Guardian, 07/27/2018)
North Korea hands over the possible remains of American war dead (CNN, 07/27/2018)
North surrenders G.I. remains (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/27/2018)
Now North Korea has returned US remains, the next move is on Trump (CNN, 07/27/2018)
Pence calls out N. Korea's religious persecution (Yonhap, 07/27/2018)
Pompeo: North is still making nuke materials (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/27/2018)
Report: Chinese city 'overflowing' with North Korea goods, people (UPI, 07/27/2018)

Remains of 55 U.S. War Dead in North Korea Start Journey Home After 65 Years (New York Times, 07/26/2018)
The Latest: Trump thanks Kim for returning US war remains (Washington Post, 07/27/2018)
The Return of U.S. War Dead from North Korea Is Great for Their Families. But What Does It Mean for the World? (TIME, 07/27/2018)
Trump thanks Kim as North Korea transfers remains of missing U.S. soldiers (Reuters, 07/27/2018)
U.S. military takes possession of remains that North Korea says belong to Americans who died in the Korean War (Washington Post, 07/27/2018)
US Plane Lands in South Korea With War Remains (VOA, 07/27/2018)
White House: N. Korea returns remains of American soldiers (Yonhap, 07/27/2018)

In North Korea:

- Any take on North Korean architecture would be remiss to exclude emblematic structures such as the jagged, pyramidal Ryugyong Hotel, or towering monuments to erstwhile leaders. And, true to form, architecture critic Oliver Wainwright's new book about the country's built environment features an expected dose of the bizarre. (Oscar Holland, CNN)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un marked the 65th anniversary of the armistice with a visit to a cemetery for Chinese soldiers who lost their lives in the 1950-53 Korean War, Pyongyang's state media reported Friday. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Kim Jong Un and Ri Sol Ju conducted on the spot guidance of the Songdowon General Foodstuffs Factory and Wo'nsan Disabled Soldiers' Bag Factory. Also in attendance were Workers' Party of Korea Economic Affairs Department Director Han Kwang Sang and WPK Organization Guidance Department Deputy Director and Personal Secretariat deputy chief Jo Yong Won. (*North Korea Leadership Watch*, 07/27/2018)
- The North Korean economy has a number of unusual characteristics. Estimates on the average income level of an ordinary North Korean are a paltry US $500 per year. Viewed from the perspective of per capita GDP, North Korea is a low income, developing nation. But the picture becomes more complex when other metrics are taken into account. (Jo Hyun, *DailyNK*)
- North Korea's state media on Friday confirmed Army Gen. Ri Yong-gil as the chief of the military's general staff, an appointment viewed as part of yet another major shake-up of the leadership of the Korean People's Army (KPA). (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's state media confirmed on Friday that Ri Yong Gil has become the new chief of the military's general staff, the latest in leader Kim Jong Un's leadership change. (Hyonhee Lee, *Reuters*)
- North Korea registered its lowest annual economic growth rate in 20 years as channels for coal and textile exports were blocked following sanctions, according to South Korea's central bank. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Badges bearing the portraits of founding North Korean leader Kim Il Sung and his son Kim Jong Il, ordinarily distributed as gifts, are now being sold without official permission in markets across the country, North Korean sources say. (Myungchul Lee, Leejin Jun, Richard Finney, *Radio Free Asia*)

- Thae Yong Ho was serving as North Korea's deputy ambassador to the United Kingdom when he chose to defect with his family to South Korea in 2016. Following the recent release of his book, "Cypher of the Third-Floor Secretariat," and his departure from the Institute for National Security Strategy (INSS), he has committed himself to improving the outlook for those still living in the DPRK. His current efforts focus on information sharing and the power of education to effect change. (Thae Yong Ho, *Daily NK*)
- According to North Korean state media, during on-the-spot guidance at the a power plant construction site in Orang County, North Hamgyong Province, leader Kim Jong Un expressed anger at the lack of progress over the past 30 years. (Jo Hyon, *DailyNK*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- South and North Korea have agreed to hold general-level military talks next week to discuss measures to enforce the military part of their April summit agreement, Seoul's defense ministry said Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- The top diplomats of South and North Korea are expected to meet in Singapore next week, when they attend the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), an official here said Friday. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- A U.S. Air Force aircraft transported the remains of dozens of service members killed in the Korean War to South Korea from North Korea on Friday, a move expected to help reinvigorate a peace-building process. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea and the United States agreed Thursday to keep enforcing sanctions against North Korea until it takes "concrete, verifiable" steps toward denuclearization, during their biannual working-level defense talks. (*Yonhap*)
- The declaration of the end of the Korean War has become a central issue in talks between the US and North Korea following US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's third trip to North Korea on July 6-7, 2018. According to a report by Japan's Asahi Shimbun on July 20, North Korean United Front Work Department Head Kim Yong Chol told Secretary Pompeo that the US failure to declare an end to the Korean War would make it difficult for North Korea to make progress on denuclearization. (Yoo Hyun Jung, *DailyNK*)
- Donald Trump offered his thanks to the North Korean leader Kim Jong-un after an American military plane touched down on Friday morning in South Korea carrying what is believed to be the remains of 55 US military personnel killed during the Korean War. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- North Korea has turned over what they say are an initial 55 cases holding remains believed to be of US troops killed during the Korean War. (Madison Park, CNN)
- Since the June 12 Singapore Summit between US President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, the US media has woven a misleading narrative that both past and post-summit North Korean actions indicate an intent to deceive the US about its willingness to denuclearize. The so-called intelligence that formed the basis of these stories was fed to

reporters by individuals within the administration pushing their own agenda. (Gareth Porter, 38 North)

- International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach said on Friday that an exemption from the U.N. Security Council to transfer sports equipment to North Korea would boost its efforts to thaw tensions on the Korean peninsula. (Reuters)
- North Korea has returned remains believed to be of 55 US troops killed during the Korean War, bringing renewed hope to families who have waited decades for closure. (BBC)
- A visiting U.S. official met Thursday with a group of South Korean businesspeople hoping to resume inter-Korean economic projects. (Yonhap)
- The new deputy commander of the United Nations Command (UNC) pledged Friday to do all he can to foster a lasting peace on the peninsula, as the command marked the 65th anniversary of the armistice that ceased the Korean War. (Song Sang-ho, Yonhap)
- The remains of an unknown number of US soldiers killed in the Korean war have been handed over by North Korea, in a move hailed by Donald Trump as a "great moment". (Guardian)
- A US Air Force plane carrying what are believed to be the remains of US troops killed during the Korean War some 65 years ago arrived Friday morning at Osan Air Base in South Korea. (Alexandria Field, Jamie Tarabay, CNN)
- A U.S. military cargo plane flew into North Korea Friday morning to pick up 55 cases with remains of American soldiers killed in the 1950-53 Korean War and returned to South Korea's Osan Air Base in Pyeongtaek, Gyeonggi, south of Seoul, hours later. (Lee Sung-eun, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- On Friday, the anniversary of the signing of another historic document -- the armistice that ended the Korean War -- North Korea handed over 55 sets of remains of what are believed to be American war dead. (Jamie Tarabay, CNN)
- U.S. Vice President Mike Pence called out North Korea Thursday for its persecution of Christians and other human rights abuses. (Yonhap)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo acknowledged North Korea's continued production of fissile material for nuclear weapons, even as it makes progress toward denuclearization, in a Senate hearing on Wednesday. (Sarah Kim, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- Sanctions against North Korea are being rapidly overturned in a Chinese border city, where as many as 10,000 state-approved North Korean workers could be seen coming and going on any given day, according to a South Korean press report. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Remains believed to be those of 55 American servicemen were flown out of North Korea on Friday, the first visible result of President Trump's efforts to bring the American war dead home 65 years after the end of combat in the Korean War. (Choe Sang-hun, New York Times)
- President Donald Trump is thanking North Korean leader Kim Jong Un for "fulfilling a promise" to return remains of missing U.S. soldiers from the Korean War. (AP)
- The wooden boxes arrived wrapped in white and blue U.N. flags. Inside lay what is thought to be the remains of American servicemen from the 1950-53 Korean War, returned from the North Korean coastal city of Wonsan by a U.S. military plane Friday morning and carried solemnly before an a honor guard at South Korea's Osan Air Base. (Charlie Campbell, TIME)

- North Korea transferred 55 small, flag-draped cases carrying the suspected remains of U.S. soldiers killed in the Korean War on Friday, officials said, a first step in implementing an agreement reached in a landmark summit in June. (Joyce Lee, Eric Beech, *Reuters*)
- A U.S. Air Force plane carrying what are thought to be the remains of 55 Americans killed during the Korean War arrived at Osan Air Base in South Korea on Friday morning, the 65th anniversary of the armistice that ended the fighting. (Adam Taylor, Dan Lamothe, *Washington Post*)
- A U.S. military plane brought back 55 cases of remains North Korea says are of U.S. service members killed in the Korean War more than six decades ago, the White House confirmed in a statement late Thursday. (Steve Herman, Carla Babb, VOA)
- North Korea has transferred the remains of U.S. soldiers killed in the 1950-53 Korean War following a pledge by North Korean leader Kim Jong-un at his historic summit with U.S. President Donald Trump, the White House said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)

Prepared by Lauren Jackson, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250720223543/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-north-korea-hands-over-remains-of-us-soldiers-killed-in-korean-war-north-korea-economy-shrinks-3-percent-after-sanction

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Saturday, July 28, 2018

Pentagon may send teams to find more US remains in North Korea; Doubts remain over North Korean denuclearization

In North Korea:
5th Conference of War Veterans Held (*North Korea Leadership Watch*, 7/28/2018)
A splash hit: How North Koreans cool off at Munsu Water Park [PHOTOS] (*Korea Times*, 7/28/2018)
Butt out: North Korea fights hard against smoking (*Korea Times*, 7/28/2018)
KJU Visits Cemeteries and Attends Photo Session with War Veterans (*North Korea Leadership Watch*, 7/28/2018)
Pyongyang's stunning subway stations – in pictures (*Guardian*, 7/27/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) Trump thanks Kim for returning U.S. troop remains (*Yonhap*, 7/28/2018)
A Road Map for Demilitarizing North Korea (*38 North*, 7/27/2018)
Analysis: Return of remains good, but easy move for N. Korea (AP, 7/28/2018)
DNA to X-ray: Military has variety of tools to ID remains (AP, 7/27/2018)
Doubts Remain Over North Korean Denuclearization (NPR, 7/28/2018)

Eager for progress on North Korea, Trump hails apparent handover of remains of U.S. service members (*Washington Post*, 7/27/2018)
Further indications that China's sanctions pressure on North Korea is decreasing (*North Korean Economy Watch*, 7/27/2018)
Korean War Veterans Hail Release of Remains to US by North (*New York Times*, 7/27/2018)
Mattis says searches by U.S. military for human remains in North Korea are possible (*Washington Post*, 7/27/2018)
Mongolia intends to help realize Japan-North Korea summit (*Kyodo News*, 7/28/2018)
North Korea launches team to mend ties with Japan: report (*Korea Times*, 7/28/2018)
North Korea's Plan for a Peace to End All Peace (*Daily Beast*, 7/27/2018)
Pentagon may send teams to find more U.S. remains in North Korea (UPI, 7/27/2018)
Return of possible remains by North Korea boosts diplomacy (AP, 7/28/2018)
Questions loom over progress with North Korea (CNN, 7/27/2018)
South Africa Leader Who Gave Up Nukes Says North Korea Is a Different Story (VOA, 7/27/2018)
Trump proclaims Korean War Veterans Armistice Day (*Yonhap*, 7/28/2018)
Trump Thanks North Korea for Return of US War Remains (VOA, 7/27/2018)
US Bottom Line on North Korea, Iran: Complete Denuclearization (VOA, 7/27/2018)
U.S. weighs sending forces to North Korea to search for more remains (*Reuters*, 7/27/2018)

In North Korea:

- DPRK war veterans arrived in Pyongyang on July 25 (Tuesday) from around the country to attend the 5th National Conference of War Veterans and other events in Pyongyang. (*North Korea Leadership Watch*)
- North Koreans are cooling off this summer at a 100,000-square-meter water park in the east of Pyongyang, North Korean propaganda media Uriminzokkiri and Arirang Meari reported Thursday. (Jung Da-Min, *Korea Times*)
- Anti-smoking campaigns are under way in North Korea and more North Koreans are visiting a non-smoking research agency in Pyongyang, according to Choson Sinbo, a pro-North media outlet based in Tokyo. (Jung Da-Min, *Korea Times*)
- Kim Jong Un (Kim Cho'ng-u'n) conducted three public activities on July 27 (Thursday) to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the end of active hostilities of the Fatherland Liberation War (Korean War). (*North Korea Leadership Watch*)
- With its marble mosaics, crystal chandeliers and gilded statues, the Pyongyang metro system can feel more like a series of palatial ballrooms than a subway. (Oliver Wainwright, *Guardian*)

International:

- U.S. President Donald Trump thanked North Korean leader Kim Jong-un Friday for "keeping his word" and returning the remains of American troops killed in the 1950-53 Korean War. (*Yonhap*)

- Denuclearization is at the top of the negotiating agenda with North Korea, but reducing the size and capabilities of its conventional defense establishment should be a high priority for the US and South Korea as well. (Richard Sokolsky, *38 North*)
- North Korea made good on another promise to President Donald Trump by returning dozens of sets of remains of American GIs killed during the Korean War. But it expects something in return — a peace treaty, or something very much like it. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- The U.S. military remains released by North Korea on Friday will be sent to a military lab in Hawaii, where they'll enter a system that routinely identifies service members from decades-old conflicts. (Malcolm Ritter, AP)
- The return of possible American GI remains is a hopeful sign from North Korea but Pyongyang continues to produce material needed to produce nuclear weapons. (David Welna, NPR)
- President Trump on Friday hailed the apparent handover by North Korea of the remains of 55 U.S. service members, publicly thanking leader Kim Jong Un for "keeping his word" as the White House tries to maintain momentum on denuclearization talks. (David Nakamura, Dan Lamothe, *Washington Post*)
- China's sanctions pressure on North Korea seems to be decreasing, according to a number of signs, after the spring of summits. No official announcement or the like has been made, but the trend is consistent with China's previous patterns in sanctions enforcement against North Korea: keep the pressure up while global attention focuses on North Korea, and scale it back once things calm down. (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, *North Korean Economy Watch*)
- Korean War veterans around the country had something extra to celebrate Friday as they marked the 65th anniversary of the armistice that ended combat. (AP)
- Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Friday that the Pentagon could deploy U.S. military teams to North Korea for the first time in years to search for the remains of U.S. troops who were killed during the Korean War. (Dan Lamothe, *Washington Post*)
- Mongolian Foreign Minister Damdin Tsogtbaatar has expressed his intention to play a role in realizing a summit between Japan and North Korea. (*Kyodo News*)
- North Korea has put together a team to negotiate with Japan, which itself is seeking direct talks to settle various issues, Japan's Kyodo news agency reported on Saturday, citing sources familiar with bilateral relations. (Park Si-Soo, *Korea Times*)
- The North Koreans could not have timed more adroitly the agonizing transfer of 50 to 55 sets of remains of the missing from the Korean War. (Donald Kirk, *Daily Beast*)
- As the United States accepted what is presumed to be the remains of 55 U.S. service members killed during the Korean War, Defense Secretary James Mattis said Friday he would consider sending military teams to North Korea to search for the bodies of thousands of U.S. troops believed to be missing there. (Danielle Haynes, UPI)
- President Donald Trump thanked North Korean leader Kim Jong Un for "fulfilling a promise" to return the remains of U.S. soldiers missing from the Korean War, as a U.S. military plane made a rare trip into North Korea to retrieve 55 cases said to contain remains. (Lolita C. Baldor, Ahn Young-Joon, Kim Tong-Hyung, AP)
- The delay in returning what is believed to be the remains of US troops killed during the Korean War has some worried about the more contentious negotiations with North Korea over denuclearization. (Will Ripley, CNN)

- VOA's Korean Service reporter Kim Young-nam spoke to former South African President F.W. de Klerk on Friday about the denuclearization process for North Korea and how it might compare to that of South Africa. (Kim Young-Nam, VOA)
- U.S. President Donald Trump has proclaimed July 27 as a national day commemorating the American soldiers who fought in the 1950-53 Korean War. In a proclamation dated July 26, Trump said he is honoring the Korean War veterans on the 65th anniversary of the signing of the armistice that ended the fighting. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump extended a word of gratitude to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un Friday for returning to U.S. authorities what are believed to be the remains of 55 U.S. service members who were killed in the Korean War more than six decades ago. (VOA)
- Iran will likely have to agree to complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization in any future deal with the United States, just like North Korea, a top diplomatic official signaled Friday. (Jeff Seldin, VOA)
- The U.S. military is "absolutely" considering the possibility of sending personnel to North Korea for the first time in more than a decade to search for additional remains of U.S. troops from the Korean war, U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said on Friday. (*Reuters*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250726221906/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-pentagon-may-send-teams-to-find-more-us-remains-in-north-korea-doubts-remain-over-north-korean-denuclearization

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Sunday, July 29, 2018

Human rights commission to probe defection; Trump officials urge patience on North Korea

Top News:
Human rights commission to probe defection (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 7/29/2018)

In North Korea:
Coming Soon: North Korea's Nukes Could Go Underwater (*The National Interest*, 7/29/2018)
Hello Kitty appears on North Korean media [PHOTOS] (*Korea Times*, 7/29/2018)
North Korea promotes dog meat dishes (*Korea Times*, 7/29/2018)
Touring North Korean Farms and Factories, Kim Jong Un Signals a Shift (*Wall Street Journal*, 7/29/2018)

In South Korea:
Restoring military might (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 7/29/2018)

State human rights watchdog to investigate N.K. restaurant workers' 2016 defection (*Yonhap*, 7/29/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) N. Korean athletes arrive in S. Korea for joint Asiad training (*Yonhap*, 7/29/2018)

International:
An Audacious Proposal for a US–North Korean Alliance (*The Nation*, 7/27/2018)
At North's embassy, pictures tell story of warm relations (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 7/29/2018)
Can North Korea be the next Vietnam? (*Times of Oman*, 7/29/2018)
Cooler heads must prevail (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 7/29/2018)
Here's how Congress and Trump could work together on North Korea (*Washington Examiner*, 7/29/2018)
Return by NK of possible remains stir relatives' hopes (AP, 7/28/2018)
The cost of inadequate ambition (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 7/29/2018)
The UN, North Korea and the Scourge of Human Trafficking (*International Policy Digest*, 7/29/2018)
Trump officials urge patience on North Korea (*The Hill*, 7/28/2018)

Top News:

- *Korea JoongAng Daily* quoted HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu in an article regarding the defection of the 12 North Korean restaurant workers: "The workers could have lied to protect family members back home who might face harsh punishment, including the death penalty." (Kang Jin-Kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

In North Korea:

- In the summer of 2018 a flurry of reports confirmed that North Korea has continued construction of a second ballistic-missile submarine, designated the Sinpo-C by intelligence analysts after the shipyard in eastern North Korea. (Sebastien Roblin, *The National Interest*)
- North Korea may be hostile to Japan diplomatically, but some North Koreans appear to be fond of Japanese culture. In a video clip recently released by North Korea's state media Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), a middle-aged woman uses a mini electronic fan in the shape of Japanese popular character Hello Kitty. (Jung Da-Min, *Korea Times*)
- North Korea held its annual dog meat cooking contest in Pyongyang from Wednesday to Thursday as part of efforts to promote the meat's health benefits and taste. (Jung Da-Min, *Korea Times*)
- Mr. Kim has made a series of publicized trips to remote factories and farms and other symbols of the daily welfare of his people. The visits appear to reflect his stated new focus on economic development, as sanctions weigh on his country and state control over economic activity erodes, North Korea experts said. (Jonathan Cheng, *Wall Street Journal*)

In South Korea:

- South Korea's military is in a grave crisis. With the growing reconciliatory mood between the two Koreas, its readiness for emergencies has weakened. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korea's human rights watchdog said Sunday it plans to conduct a probe into a group defection by North Korean restaurant workers in 2016 amid allegations that some of them were duped into coming to the South. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- North Korean athletes to compete in the upcoming Asian Games arrived here on Sunday for joint training with South Koreans. The Koreas will assemble unified teams in canoe's dragon boat racing, women's basketball and three events in rowing at the Aug. 18-Sept. 2 Asian Games in Indonesia. They have never previously competed together at any Asian Games, summer or winter. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- Under the proposal, the two warring countries would become "security partners" in which the North "would be neither an enemy nor an ally, but somewhere in-between, albeit on the cooperative end of the spectrum." The situation could be analogous to the US relationship with Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. (Tim Shorrock, *The Nation*)
- Outside the North Korean Embassy in Beijing, a bulletin board boasts of the reclusive country's changing relationship with the United States and South Korea. (Kang Jin-Kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Of course, while some cheer the developments, others remind us of the North's long history of broken promises. But even if Kim's pledge was sincere, his regime will benefit from such guarantees – and from an end to crippling international sanctions – only if it can manage to repair North Korea's broken economy. Could it use Vietnam's experience as a model? (Lee Jong-Wha, *Times of Oman*)
- The repatriation, however, cannot be overestimated. Both Seoul and Washington should stay cool-headed so as not to overly respond to the bona fide gesture and jump into a peace treaty with Pyongyang. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Not only was Congress left out of these meetings and their planning, but they were also left mostly in the dark. Indeed, Pompeo's remarks to Congress this week was the first time that Congress really had a chance to learn the details of the Trump's negotiations with North Korea. (Erin Dunne, *Washington Examiner*)
- News that North Korea is sending home 55 sets of remains is being welcomed by relatives of those missing from the Korean War. But most know they still face long odds at achieving any closure: Thousands of soldiers are still unaccounted for, and identifications could take decades. (Margery A. Beck, AP)
- There is a crucial lesson here for the currently stalled negotiations between the United States and North Korea: slicing them into finer and finer details over technical questions about denuclearization runs the risk of stalling. Just as there are risks of being overly ambitious, there are similar risks of setting our sights too low. (Stephan Haggard, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

- The workers toil long hours for menial wages with approximately 80 percent sent back to the DPRK. North Korea generates about $2.3 billion through this practice. This revenue continues to maintain its economy as well as its nuclear program. (Michael Curtin, *International Policy Digest*)
- The Trump administration is urging patience on North Korea amid a flurry of developments this week that appear to offer conflicting portraits of the United States's diplomatic efforts. (Rebecca Kheel, Morgan Chalfant, *The Hill*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726222008/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-human-rights-commission-to-probe-defection-trump-officials-urge-patience-on-north-korea

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Monday, July 30, 2018

Firms under probe on illegal trade of N. Korean coal; South Korea to investigate North Korean women's 'mass defection'

In North Korea:
N. Korea OKs trip by Hyundai officials for memorial service (Yonhap, 07/30/2018)
North Korean funerals becoming more commercialized (Daily NK, 07/30/2018)
Prisoners protesting cruel treatment exempted from upcoming mass amnesty (Daily NK, 07/30/2018)
Rodong Sinmun Monday edition highlights gender equality [PHOTOS] (Korea Times, 07/30/2018)

In South Korea:
Firms under probe on illegal trade of N. Korean coal (Korea Times, 07/30/2018)
Report: South Korean firms involved in illicit shipment of coal (UPI, 07/30/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) S. Korean foreign minister to pitch for Korea peace at regional forums (Yonhap, 07/30/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korea registers to compete in shooting world championships in S. Korea (Yonhap, 07/30/2018)
Joint teams practicing for Asiad (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/30/2018)
Koreas gear up for Asean forum (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/30/2018)
S. Korean ministry reiterates no coercion in defection of N. Korean restaurant workers (Yonhap, 07/30/2018)
Seoul to investigate defection of North Korean workers (UPI, 07/30/2018)

South Korea to investigate North Korean women's 'mass defection' (Guardian, 07/30/2018)
South Korea to probe whether North Korean waitresses forced or tricked into defecting (Reuters, 07/30/2018)
Unified Korean team athletes to don S. Korean uniform to avoid sanctions violations (Yonhap, 07/30/2018)

International:
U.S. denies paying North for G.I. remains (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/30/2018)
What price will Kim Jong Un demand for his 'concessions'? (CNN, 07/29/2018)

In North Korea:

- North Korea has approved a trip to its mountain resort by the Hyundai Group chairwoman and 14 other Hyundai officials later this week for a memorial service of their late chairman, Hyundai said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's funerals are becoming more commercialized, a sign of the development emerging in the country. Previously in North Korea, most funerals were conducted with the help of neighbors and without professional service providers, sources say. (Kang Mi Jin, *Daily NK*)
- Two military factory laborers held in a correctional labor camp (kyohwaso) in Chagang Province have received severe punishment, including 10 days in solitary confinement, after holding a hunger strike in response to cruel treatment during their imprisonment. The two prisoners were accused of committing acts that "went against and actively opposed the Republic's Constitution" and have been excluded from an amnesty list issued for August. (Ha Yoon Ah, *Daily NK*)
- North Korea's mouthpiece paper Rodong Sinmun devoted one-third of its Monday edition — two pages — to women's role in communist society, marking the 72nd anniversary of the gender equality act established in 1946. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)

In South Korea:

- The nation's tax authorities are investigating four South Korean firms allegedly involved in the illegal trade of North Korean coal last year in violation of the U.N. Security Council (UNSC) sanctions against the North. (Park Ji-won, *Korea Times*)
- Four South Korean companies engaged in the shipment of banned North Korean coal to South Korean ports last year, a report said Monday. (Wooyoung Lee, *UPI*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha will engage in a round of hectic bilateral and multilateral diplomacy in Singapore this week during a series of major forums on regional security and economic and cultural cooperation, her ministry said Monday. (*Yonhap*)

- North Korea has formally registered to compete in this year's shooting world championships in South Korea, the event's organizers said Monday. (Yonhap)
- Athletes from South and North Korea kicked off three weeks of training in the South on Monday to learn how to work on joint teams at next month's Asian Games (Asiad) in Indonesia. (Shim Kyu-seok, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- South Korea's foreign minister is in Singapore this week to take part in the Asean Regional Forum (ARF), one of the rare regional security conferences where North Korea regularly sends its foreign minister to participate. (Sarah Kim, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- South Korea's unification ministry reiterated Monday its position that there was no coercion in the controversial group defection of North Korean restaurant workers from China in 2016. (Yonhap)
- A South Korean state human rights agency announced Monday it will conduct an investigation into a controversial trip of North Koreans to Seoul in 2016. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- South Korea's human rights watchdog is to investigate whether 12 North Korean restaurant workers were brought to the country against their will by their manager, the latest twist in a mass defection dogged by controversy. (Benjamin Haas, Guardian)
- A South Korean human rights commission said on Monday it will investigate whether a dozen North Korean restaurant workers who defected to the South two years ago came of their own free will or were tricked or coerced by an intelligence agent. (Joyce Lee, Reuters)
- Athletes on unified Korean teams at this year's Asian Games will don uniforms made by minor South Korean firms instead of international makers of apparel to avoid possible violations of sanctions on North Korea, officials said Monday. (Yonhap)

International:

- The U.S. State Department on Sunday denied paying North Korea for the repatriation of remains of American soldiers killed in the 1950-53 Korean War. (Sarah Kim, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- About six weeks after your meeting with Kim Jong Un in Singapore, we are sharing a status update on North Korea's moves to fulfill its promises to you. (Samantha Vinograd, CNN)

Prepared by Jack Maerz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726222143/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsfirms-under-probe-on-illegal-trade-of-n-korean-coal-south-korea-to-investigate-north-korean-womens-mass-defection

Tuesday, July 31, 2018

Unification Ministry reiterates no coercion in defection of NK restaurant workers; Kim Jong Un invited to Asian Games in Indonesia

Top News:
Unification Ministry reiterates no coercion in defection of NK restaurant workers (Korea Herald, 07/30/2018)

In North Korea:
Defector: Jang Song Thaek wrecked North Korea's economy (UPI, 07/31/2018)
ICBM work continues in Pyongyang, images show (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/31/2018)
Infant death rate in North Korea 8 times higher than South (Korea Times, 07/31/2018)
N. Korea proposes joint on-site inspection for forestry cooperation (Yonhap, 07/31/2018)
North Korea launches new IPTV service 'Nuri' (Korea Times, 07/31/2018)
North Korean family arrested during defection attempt (DailyNK, 07/31/2018)
Victory Over Whom? (38 North, 07/31/2018)

In South Korea:
Hyundai permitted to visit North (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/31/2018)
S. Korea says it is closely watching developments on N.K. missile program (Yonhap, 07/31/2018)
Senior Seoul official to visit N. Korea to examine preparations for family reunions (Yonhap, 07/31/2018)
South Koreans are mixed on North (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/31/2018)
Survey shows conflicting views of South Koreans toward North (UPI, 07/31/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(5th LD) Koreas 'share understanding' on steps to ease tension in DMZ, joint excavation of war remains (Yonhap, 07/31/2018)
High-level military talks are held (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/31/2018)
(LEAD) Koreas to conduct joint on-site inspection for forestry cooperation (Yonhap, 07/31/2018)
N. Korea urges South to resume Gaeseong, Geumgang projects (Korea Times, 07/31/2018)
Rival Koreas' Generals Discuss Easing Military Confrontation (VOA, 07/31/2018)
Two Koreas discuss reducing military tension amid reports of North Korea missile activity (Reuters, 07/31/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) S. Korea's top diplomat in Singapore for key regional forum (Yonhap, 07/31/2018)
Beijing bigwig came to Seoul secretly in July (Korea JoongAng Daily, 07/31/2018)
Formal end to Korean War may include China: Cheong Wa Dae (Yonhap, 07/31/2018)
Indonesia invites North Korea's Kim Jong Un to Asian Games (Reuters, 07/31/2018)
Kim Jong Un invited to Asian Games in Indonesia (UPI, 07/31/2018)

(LEAD) Pompeo to discuss N. Korea at Singapore forum (Yonhap, 07/31/2018)
North Korea renews work at long-range missile factory, US intelligence officials say (Telegraph, 07/31/2018)
North Korea: US 'detects new activity' at ICBM factory (Guardian, 07/30/2018)
North Korea working on new missiles, US officials say, despite thaw (BBC, 07/31/2018)
North Korean cargo flights fly to Russia in unusual trip (UPI, 07/31/2018)
Pence credits Trump for return of troop remains from N. Korea (Yonhap, 07/31/2018)
U.S. detects new activity at North Korea factory that built ICBMs: source (Reuters, 07/31/2018)
U.S. spy agencies: North Korea is working on new missiles (Washington Post, 07/30/2018)

Top News:

- The Korea Herald cited to a Radio Free Asia interview with HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu about the North Korean restaurant workers who defected to South Korea. Scarlatoiu told Radio Free Asia that the workers could have lied to protect family members back home who could be subject to harsh punishment, even the death penalty. (Jung Min-kyung, *Korea Herald*)

In North Korea:

- North Korea's economy is structured so differently from the South's that its capitalist economy would be "unimaginable" to most North Koreans, according to a defector who once claimed membership in the Korean Workers' Party. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- North Korea appears to be furtively constructing at least one new liquid-fueled intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) based on activity detected at its Sanum-dong research facility in northern Pyongyang, multiple media outlets reported on Monday and Tuesday, citing U.S. intelligence officials. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- North Korea's infant mortality rate is eight times higher than that of the South, according to the Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs (KIHASA), Tuesday. (Kim Jae-heun, *Korea Times*)
- North Korea has proposed conducting a joint inspection next month of the area for inter-Korean forestry cooperation, a unification ministry official said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- A new IPTV service network named Nuri has been launched by scientists recently at Kim Il Sung University, North Korea's party mouthpiece Rodong Sinmun reported Monday. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)
- A North Korean family who were preparing to escape to South Korea were arrested and interrogated by members of the Ministry of State Security (MSS) last month, sources in the country say. (Mun Dong Hui, *DailyNK*)
- Pyongyang media managed to mark the July 27 anniversary of the North's "victory" in the Korean War without a single mention of whom the war was fought against or over whom victory was achieved. The norm over the years has been to tout June 27th as the date of victory over the "US-led imperialist aggressors." This year's coverage went no further than simply referring to "imperialists." (Robert Carlin, *38 North*)

In South Korea:

- Hyundai Group received the green light from North Korean authorities to hold a memorial service for the group's late Chairman Chung Mong-hun in the North. (Kim Jin-Hee, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korea is closely watching developments related to North Korea's missile program, Seoul's foreign ministry said Tuesday, following a report that the communist state appears to be building new intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM). (*Yonhap*)
- Vice Unification Minister Chun Hae-sung will visit North Korea this week to examine preparations for the upcoming reunion event for families separated by the Korean War, a ministry official said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Koreans hold ambivalent views on North Korea, at once considering the country a security threat and eventual compatriot in a poll commissioned by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism released on Tuesday. (Shim Kyu-Seok, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Seven out of 10 South Koreans view North Korea a threat to security and stability while the same percentage considers the North a partner with which the South has to seek cooperation for unification. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The two Koreas shared their "understanding" on disarming the Joint Security Area in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), jointly excavating war remains in the DMZ and withdrawing border guard posts on a trial basis during their general-grade military talks on Tuesday, Seoul officials said. (*Yonhap*)
- High-level military talks led by generals from the two Koreas were held Tuesday at the Peace House on the southern side of the inter-Korean truce village of Panmunjom, and the two sides agreed on disarmament issues in the Joint Security Area (JSA) and to excavate remains of soldiers at the inter-Korean border. It was 47 days since the last such talks in June. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The two Koreas agreed Tuesday to conduct a joint inspection next month of the area for forestry cooperation, the unification ministry said. (*Yonhap*)
- A North Korean newspaper urged South Korea, Tuesday, to take substantive measures to revive the now-dormant Gaeseong Industrial Complex and tours to Mount Geumgang in North Korea. (Park Ji-won, *Korea Times*)
- Rare general-level talks between the two Koreas ended with no agreement Tuesday, but the top delegates said they had a meaningful discussion on easing their countries' decades-long military standoff. (AP)
- North and South Korea discussed reducing tension but didn't announce any detailed agreements after military talks on Tuesday, while the United States detected renewed activity at a North Korean missile factory, casting more suspicion over the North's intentions. (Hyonhee Shin, Joyce Lee, *Reuters*)

International:

- South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha arrived in Singapore on Tuesday for a series of bilateral and multilateral talks on North Korea and other regional issues. (*Yonhap*)
- Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi made a secret visit to Seoul in mid-July and met with President Moon Jae-in's security adviser, Chung Eui-yong, possibly to discuss declaring an end to the 1950-53 Korean War, the Blue House said on Tuesday. (Kang Jin-Kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Declaring a formal end to the Korean War may require China's involvement, a ranking official from Seoul's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said Tuesday, apparently highlighting the importance of China in efforts to rid North Korea of its nuclear ambitions. (*Yonhap*)
- Indonesia has invited North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to attend the opening ceremony of the Asian Games in Jakarta in August following a similar invitation to South Korean President Moon Jae-in, officials said. (Fergus Jensen, *Reuters*)
- If North Korea's Kim Jong Un wants to attend the 2018 Asian Games, he need not worry, according to Indonesian envoys in Pyongyang this week. Puan Maharani, Jakarta's coordinating minister for human development and culture, extended an invitation to Kim on Monday, as Deputy National Police Chief Gen. Syafruddin, who accompanied Maharani to Pyongyang, provided safety assurances, Indonesian news service Tempo reported Tuesday. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will engage his Asian counterparts in talks about dismantling North Korea's nuclear weapons program when he travels to a regional forum in Singapore later this week, the State Department said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- US spy satellites have detected renewed activity at the North Korean factory that produced the country's first intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of reaching the United States, a senior US official said on Monday, in the midst of talks to compel Pyongyang to give up its nuclear arms. (*Telegraph*)
- North Korea has pressed ahead with construction at the factory that produced the country's first intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of reaching the US, despite ongoing negotiations over the fate of its nuclear and missile programmes. (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)
- North Korea appears to be building new ballistic missiles despite recent warming ties with the Trump administration and pledges to denuclearise, reports say. (*BBC*)
- Five North Korean flights flew to Vladivostok on Monday, a trip unusually involving cargo planes, according to NK News. (Wooyoung Lee, *UPI*)
- U.S. Vice President Mike Pence has lauded President Donald Trump for securing the return of American troops' remains from North Korea. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. spy satellites have detected renewed activity at the North Korean factory that produced the country's first intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of reaching the United States, a senior U.S. official said on Monday, in the midst of talks to compel Pyongyang to give up its nuclear arms. (David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)
- U.S. spy agencies are seeing signs that North Korea is constructing new missiles at a factory that produced the country's first intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of reaching the

United States, according to officials familiar with the intelligence. (Ellen Nakashima, Joby Warrick, *Washington Post*)

Prepared by Lauren Jackson, Hangyun Kim, Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Interns

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726222326/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-unification-ministry-reiterates-no-coercion-in-defection-of-nk-restaurant-workers-kim-jong-un-invited-to-asian-games-in-indonesia

8. AUGUST

Wednesday, August 1, 2018

Sanctions Hurt but Are Not the Main Impediment to Humanitarian Operations in North Korea; N.Korea 'Continues Work on Missiles'

Top News
Sanctions Hurt but Are Not the Main Impediment to Humanitarian Operations in North Korea (*Asia Policy*, July 2018)

In North Korea
N. Korea's minister-level official to address U.N. General Assembly on Sept. 29: report (*Yonhap*, 08/01/2018)
N. Korea's media report on inter-Korean military talks (*Yonhap*, 08/01/2018)
Eyes on N. Korean foreign minister at regional forum in Singapore (*Yonhap*, 08/01/2018)
N.Korea 'Continues Work on Missiles' (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 08/01/2018)
N.Korea Pushes South on Cross-Border Business Projects (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 08/01/2018)
Honesty is the best policy (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/01/2018)
Role models to avoid (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/01/2018)
Sweet and sour success: North Korea promotes vinegar drinks (*The Korea Times*, 08/01/2018)
North Korea urges 'frank' talks in meeting with the South, as activity detected at missile factory (*The Korea Times*, 08/01/2018)
[INTERVIEW] 'North Korea will soon open commercial bank, mobile banking' (*The Korea Times*, 08/01/2018)
Food rations distributed in Samjiyon following Kim Jong Un guidance visit (*DailyNK*, 08/01/2018)
Logistical improvements allow faster shipping of seasonal fruits across the country (*DailyNK*, 08/01/2018)
'A matchless political dwarf': North Korea's state media spews venom at Japan amid thaw with U.S. (*The Japan Times*, 08/01/2018)
Work continues at N. Korea weapons facilities (CNN, 08/01/2018)

In South Korea
(2nd LD) S. Korean minister promotes 'New Southern Policy' in Singapore (*Yonhap*, 08/01/2018)
Lindenbaum festival to perform symphonies of peace near DMZ next week (*Yonhap*, 08/01/2018)
WNBA center named to unified Korean Asiad basketball team (*Yonhap*, 08/01/2018)
Seoul's Spy Chief to Arrange Fresh Summit with N.Korea (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 08/01/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship
Koreas set for ministerial diplomacy on nuke, peace regime at ARF (*Yonhap*, 08/01/2018)
(Yonhap Feature) Athletes, coaches seek more substance, less style for unified Korean teams in future (*Yonhap*, 08/01/2018)

Vice unification minister visits N. Korea to examine preparations for family reunions (*Yonhap*, 08/01/2018)
Koreas to jointly examine road conditions (*Yonhap*, 08/01/2018)
Third South-North summit could come soon (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/01/2018)
Koreas taking steps to ease military standoff (*The Korea Times*, 08/01/2018)
Bribe-hungry North Korean authorities await separated family reunion (*DailyNK*, 08/01/2018)
Progress in Sea Feud, Koreas Stir ASEAN Though Rifts Persist (*The New York Times*, 08/01/2018)
North, South Korea agree to test withdrawal from DMZ (*UPI*, 08/01/2018)
Inter-Korean Conventional Military Reductions Tied to Denuclearization (VOA, 08/01/2018)

International
(5th LD) UNC holds repatriation ceremony for 55 sets of war remains (*Yonhap*, 08/01/2018)
U.S. reaffirms support for 2016 closure of industrial park in N. Korea: report (*Yonhap*, 08/01/2018)
U.S. refuses to rule out Pompeo meeting with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 08/01/2018)
U.S. Expert Pinpoints N.Korea's Uranium Facility (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 08/01/2018)
Pompeo to push sanctions at Asean forum (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/01/2018)
A matter of time (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/01/2018)
US sends recovered war remains back home (*The Korea Times*, 08/01/2018)
North Korea provided just 1 dog tag with 55 sets of war remains (*The Korea Times*, 08/01/2018)
Korea remains: US finds one 'dog tag' among war dead returned by North Korea (*BBC*, 08/01/2018)
Questions raised over identity of war dead repatriated from North Korea to US (*The Daily Telegraph*, 08/01/2018)
Trevor Noah: 'Trump blows hot and cold like one of those psycho boyfriends' (*The Guardian*, 08/01/2018)
U.S. says remains provided by N. Korea likely American (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 08/01/2018)
War dead remains returned by North Korea headed to Hawaii (CNN, 08/01/2018)
How the US Military Will Identify Remains From North Korea (*The New York Times*, 08/01/2018)
Report: Asian foreign ministers to reiterate CVID at security forum (*UPI*, 08/01/2018)
Transferred Korean War remains may take years to analyze (*UPI*, 08/01/2018)
U.S. sends home Korean War remains handed over by North Korea (*The Washington Post*, 08/01/2018)
US to assure Asean of engagement and pressure on North Korea (*The Straits Times*, 08/01/2018)
Trump says China may be 'getting in our way' on North Korea (*The Straits Times*, 08/01/2018)

Top News

- Roberta Cohen's essay addresses the impact of sanctions on humanitarian operations in North Korea. The population there continues to suffer from chronic hunger, malnutrition, and disease. Although the UN sanctions do not prohibit humanitarian aid, they have heightened the challenge of delivering food, medicine, medical supplies, workers, and funding for aid. The biggest obstacle, though, remains the Kim government, which creates an extremely difficult environment for assistance, despite the efforts of humanitarian groups to ensure that aid reaches needy and vulnerable populations. Cohen argues that the new round

of diplomacy is an opportunity to press for the protection of the human rights and the fulfilment of the basic needs of North Koreans. (Roberta Cohen, *Asia Policy*)

In North Korea

- A minister-level official of North Korea is scheduled to give a key-note address for the fourth time at the general debate of the U.N. General Assembly in New York on Sept. 29, Radio Free Asia reported Wednesday, dimming the possibility of the North's leader Kim Jong-un delivering a speech there. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's media reported Wednesday on military talks the two Koreas held a day earlier to discuss measures to ease cross-border tension. (*Yonhap*)
- Participating in the ARF session at the Singapore Expo convention center on Saturday, Ri will be in the same room with his South Korean, American, Chinese and Japanese counterparts along with foreign ministers of two dozen other nations. (Lee Chi-dong, *Yonhap*)
- U.S. spy agencies have detected continuing activity at a missile factory in the suburbs of Pyongyang, the Washington Post reported on Monday. Surveillance satellite photos suggest that the large-scale weapons factory in Sanum-dong in the suburbs of Pyongyang is making one or two liquid-fuel ICBMs, the paper said quoting an anonymous intelligence officer. (Cho Yi-jun and Kim Jin-myung, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- North Korea on Tuesday accused South Korea of failing to live up to its end of an agreement signed by their leaders at their summit in April. The official Rodong Sinmun in an editorial complained that inter-Korean business projects "appear nice only on the surface, while no concrete progress has been made." (Kim Myong-song, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- Suspicions about North Korean coal being smuggled into South Korea despite UN sanctions are snowballing. What is more shocking is the suspicion that the practice has been ignored over the last 10 months since the authorities first discovered it last October. We are dumbfounded by a revelation that two vessels involved in the smuggling went on bringing their cargo to harbors in South Korea on more than 20 occasions even after the smuggling was detected by our customs authorities. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- A spread of market-led mechanisms can fuel sustainable growth for the North Korean economy. The Chinese economy has become larger through opening and liberalization. The choice of future paths by North Korea and its elite — including its despot — should be closely watched. (Kim Byung-yeon, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- North Korean propaganda website DPRK Today recently posted a video on the benefits of vinegar drinks made from a wide range of fruits. The video promotes drinking vinegar, saying it helps eliminate waste from the body and helps prevent obesity. It also said the drinks are especially good for summer. (Jung Da-min, *The Korea Times*)
- North and South Korea held military talks on Tuesday (July 31) amid rising tensions after the United States detected renewed activity at a North Korean missile factory. The meeting, their second since June, held in the border village of Panmunjom in the demilitarized zone (DMZ), was designed to follow on from an inter-Korean summit in April at which leaders of the two Koreas agreed to defuse tensions and halt "all hostile acts." (Choi Won-suk, *The Korea Times*)

- North Korea seems to be ready to establish its first commercial bank, Korea Development Bank (KDB) researcher Kim Young-hui told The Korea Times, Tuesday. (Jung Da-min, *The Korea Times*)
- Food rations have been distributed to residents living in certain regions of Ryanggang Province following an on-the-spot guidance visit by Kim Jong Un to the area earlier this month. (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)
- It was only a couple of years ago that North Koreans carrying bags would sit on top of the trucks to get around. A North Korean told me that items can now be shipped back and forth through a single shipper who coordinates every step of the process from the point of production to receipt of delivery at the point of sale, by phone. (*DailyNK*)
- As evidenced by its harsh characterizations of Japan, North Korea's state-run news wire spews vitriol like none other. But the Korean Central News Agency has recently taken a conspicuously muted approach to the United States, and to a lesser extent South Korea, as negotiations over Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programs continue. (Jesse Johnson, *The Japan Times*)
- US intelligence officials say it appears North Korea is falling back on its pledge to work toward complete denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. (Will Ripley, CNN)

In South Korea

- South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha strived on Wednesday to publicize the government's efforts to expand cooperation with Southeast Asian countries, as their annual high-level gathering is underway in Singapore. (*Yonhap*)
- This year's Lindenbaum Music Festival will bring together the Yale Symphony Orchestra and young classical musicians from South Korea and around the world to perform symphonies near the heavily fortified border with North Korea in hopes of inter-Korean peace, its organizer said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- The Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) center Park Ji-su has been named to the unified Korean women's team for the upcoming Asian Games. The Korea Basketball Association (KBA) said Wednesday that Park, a rookie center for the Las Vegas Aces, is one of nine South Koreans joined by three North Koreans for the Aug. 18-Sept. 2 Asian Games in Jakarta and Palembang, Indonesia. (*Yonhap*)
- National Intelligence Service chief Suh Hoon will visit Pyongyang soon to arrange another urgent inter-Korean summit in late August, a source said on Tuesday. The leaders of the two Koreas agreed at their summit on April 27 to hold a follow-up summit in autumn. (Lee Yong-soo, *The Chosun Ilbo*)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- The top diplomats of more than two dozen nations, mostly from the Asia-Pacific region, are descending on Singapore for the annual ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), at which North Korea has been traditionally a key issue. The ARF, slated for Saturday, will be the highest-profile

diplomatic event involving North Korea since its historic summit with the United States here on June 12. (Lee Chi-dong, *Yonhap*)

- Athletes and coaches who have been or will be part of the unified teams say the Koreas must go above and beyond just putting athletes on the same roster just before competitions. They could all benefit from more time for preparations. (Yoo Jee-ho, *Yonhap*)
- Vice Unification Minister Chun Hae-sung visited North Korea on Wednesday to examine preparations for the upcoming reunion event for families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War. (*Yonhap*)
- South and North Korea plan to begin joint work to examine the conditions of their roads next week as part of efforts to modernize and possibly connect them over their border, the unification ministry in Seoul said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- Expectations for a third inter-Korean summit as early as this month are rising, and a senior Blue House official did not rule out the possibility Wednesday as progress between North Korea and the United States on denuclearization appears to have ground to a halt. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Tuesday's high-level military talks between the two Koreas didn't produce any substantial results; participants said they only had "constructive" discussions on how to ease decades of confrontation. But one meaningful accomplishment, according to Seoul officials, Wednesday, is the two Koreas concurred on reducing military tension based on mutual trust through upcoming working-level meetings. (Kim Yoo-chul, *The Korea Times*)
- The rumors spread out in bursts after each reunion meeting. The rumors suggest that the South Korean participants know how the North Korean authorities treat the participants, so they try to hide the money and bring it in. According to one story, a South Korean relative stitched some money into an article of clothing. But it looked suspicious, and a Ministry of State Security officer found it by frisking the resident. Another relative hid dozens of US dollar bills in a product and sent it in, which was of great help to their North Korean family. (Kim Yoo-jin, *DailyNK*)
- Top diplomats of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations will also praise the rapprochement between the Koreas, along with that of President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, when they gather for four days of annual summitry in Singapore starting Wednesday. (AP)
- At the general-level military talks on Tuesday, the North and South agreed to pull out troops at guard stations in the DMZ on a trial basis and conduct a joint excavation of soldiers' remains in the area, according to local media reports. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- Inter-Korean military talks have so far yielded trust building measures, but no significant reductions in troops or artillery at the border. (Brian Padden, VOA)

International

- In a solemn ceremony marking the return of 55 sets of remains of presumed American troops killed during the 1950-53 Korean War, the U.N. Command (UNC) renewed its long-avowed pledge Wednesday: the fallen will never be forgotten nor be left behind. (*Yonhap*)

- The United States has reaffirmed its support for South Korea's decision to shut down an inter-Korean industrial park in 2016 amid growing calls from North Korea to resume its operation as soon as possible, an American broadcaster reported. (Yonhap)
- The United States on Tuesday refused to rule out a meeting between Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and his North Korean counterpart at a regional forum in Singapore later this week. (Yonhap)
- A U.S. expert believes he has pinpointed North Korea's main secret uranium-enrichment facility in a different part of the country than previously reported. (Cho Yi-jun and Kim Myong-song, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- The U.S. State Department on Tuesday did not rule out the possibility of Secretary Mike Pompeo meeting with his North Korean counterpart on the sidelines of the Asean Regional Forum (ARF) this week in Singapore, but it also emphasized that stringent sanctions on Pyongyang would remain in place. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Many say that one of the reasons we have come this far is because Trump is an unconventional leader. But this time, that might be the biggest risk factor. For Kim and South Korea, not much time is left. (Kim Hyun-ki, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The remains of U.S. troops killed in the 1950-53 Korean War that were recovered from North Korea were sent back to the U.S., Wednesday. The United Nations Command (UNC) and the defense ministry held a repatriation ceremony at Osan Air Base in Pyeongtaek, Gyeonggi Province, for 55 sets of remains that North Korea handed over last week. (Kim Bo-eun, *The Korea Times*)
- When North Korea handed over 55 boxes of bones that it said are remains of American war dead, it provided a single military dog tag but no other information that could help U.S. forensics experts determine their individual identities, a U.S. defense official said Tuesday. (AP)
- North Korea has returned 55 boxes believed to contain the remains of US troops killed during the Korean War, but included just one military identification tag, US officials say. (BBC)
- The 55 sets of human remains handed over by North Korea to the United States may include troops from other nations that fought in the Korean War after it was confirmed that only one identification tag was included with the bodies. (Julian Ryall, *The Daily Telegraph*)
- Comics, including Stephen Colbert, Trevor Noah, and Jimmy Kimmel, discussed Trump's evolving position on collusion, Iran, and North Korea (Jake Nevins, *The Guardian*)
- More than 50 boxes handed over by North Korea to the United States last week appear to hold human remains from the 1950-1953 Korean War and are likely American, according to an initial forensic analysis, a U.S. official said on Wednesday. (*Reuters*)
- The 55 boxes, which North Korea returned last week, are scheduled to receive a formal send off at South Korea's Osan Air base before being loaded onto a C-17 transport plane on Wednesday afternoon and sent to a military laboratory in Hawaii for identification. (Paula Hancocks, Yoonjung Seo and Joshua Berlinger, CNN)
- The remains will go to a lab in Hawaii run by the military agency that identifies missing servicemen and women from past conflicts. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency identifies remains from battlefields around the world. The agency also has a lab at Offutt Air

Force Base near Omaha, Nebraska, though the remains arriving this week will be analyzed at Hawaii's Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. (AP)

- Foreign ministers in the Asia-Pacific region will reiterate complete disarmament of North Korea's nuclear weapons at a multilateral security forum this week. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- How long it takes to identify the remains is fraught with uncertainty and depends on a number of factors, Lee Tucker, a spokesperson at the DPAA, told UPI. (Stephen Carlson, UPI)
- More than 60 years after the last shot was fired in the Korean War, the U.S. military prepared Wednesday to fly home what are believed to be the remains of more than 50 service members in the first such handover by North Korea in more than a decade. (Min Joo Kim and Simon Denyer, *The Washington Post*)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will be bringing a message of American engagement in the Indo-Pacific to Asean and East Asia Summit ministers in Singapore this week. This is despite awkwardness over Cambodia's recent uncontested poll, which the United States has sharply criticised. (Nirmal Ghosh, *The Straits Times*)
- US President Donald Trump suggested China is obstructing nuclear talks with North Korea as the world's two biggest economies tussle over trade. (*Bloomberg*)

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Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726222454/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemssanctions-hurt-but-are-not-the-main-impediment-to-humanitarian-operations-in-north-koreankorea-continues-work-on-missiles

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Thursday, August 2, 2018

Trump Receives Letter from North Korea's Kim; North Korea calls for 'powerful struggle' against heat wave

In North Korea:
Excessive heat wave wreaking havoc on residents and crops (*DailyNK*, 08/02/2018)
Kim Jong Un orders MOFA to focus on improving US-DPRK relations (*DailyNK*, 08/02/2018)
N. Korea calls for fight against heat wave, droughts to save crops (*Yonhap*, 08/02/2018)
N. Korea's media demands Seoul's substantive action to improve ties (*Yonhap*, 08/02/2018)
N. Korean officials mum about key issues before ARF meeting (*Yonhap*, 08/02/2018)
North Korea and the Internet: Building for the Future (*38 North*, 08/01/2018)
North Korea calls for 'powerful struggle' against heat wave (*UPI*, 08/02/2018)
North Korea seeks to dissolve UN Command through end-of-war declaration (*DailyNK*, 08/02/2018)
North Koreans Refuse Chinese Medicines Amid Vaccine Safety Scandals (*RFA*, 08/01/2018)
Report: Sanctioned North Korea petroleum tanker seen in Chinese waters (*UPI*, 08/01/2018)

Sanctions-hit North Korea warns of natural disaster brought by heat wave (*Reuters*, 08/02/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) S. Korea to hold foreign ministerial talks with China, Japan, Russia (*Yonhap*, 08/02/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Consultations underway to get waiver on sanctions for inter-Korean liaison office (*Yonhap*, 08/02/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korean, N. Korean basketball players reunited for Asian Games (*Yonhap*, 08/02/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) Chinese foreign minister positive about declaring end to Korean War (*Yonhap*, 08/02/2018)
(2nd LD) S. Korea seeks unity with Russia, Japan on N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 08/02/2018)
China calls for peace mechanism for Korean peninsula (*Reuters*, 08/02/2018)
EU offers Koreas guidance on a pathway to peace (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/02/2018)
How the Defense Department Identifies the Remains of Our War Dead (*The New York Times*, 08/02/2018)
Is this time different? (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/02/2018)
(LEAD) Presumed U.S. troop remains return home from N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 08/02/2018)
New Zealand envoy talks North Korea, gay rights (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/02/2018)
Pence takes Korean War veterans' children to repatriation ceremony in Hawaii (*Yonhap*, 08/02/2018)
Pompeo in Malaysia for Talks on Free Trade, North Korea (VOA, 08/02/2018)
Remains of Korean War dead arrive in Hawaii [PHOTOS] (*The Korea Times*, 08/02/2018)
Report: Top Russian diplomat inquired about North Korea coal imports (UPI, 08/02/2018)
Top U.S. envoy to Seoul: Too early to end 1950-53 Korean War (UPI, 08/02/2018)
Trump, Kim to meet again soon? (*The Korea Times*, 08/02/2018)
Trump received letter from North Korea's Kim on Aug. 1: White House (*Reuters*, 08/02/2018)
Trump Receives Letter from North Korea's Kim (VOA, 08/02/2018)
Trump thanks Kim for handing over remains of war dead (BBC, 08/02/2018)
Trump thanks North Korea's Kim for handing over war remains (*The Washington Post*, 08/02/2018)
Trump thanks North Korea's Kim keeping word on war remains, hopes to see him 'soon' (*Reuters*, 08/02/2018)
Trump to Kim: Thanks and see you soon (CNN, 08/02/2018)
U.S. Congress passes defense bill restricting drawdown of troops in S. Korea (*Yonhap*, 08/02/2018)
U.S. declines to comment on report of N.K. missile activity (*Yonhap*, 08/02/2018)
U.S. welcomes home remains of presumed war dead from North Korea (*Reuters*, 08/02/2018)
Whose Bones Has North Korea Returned? It May Take Years to Know. (*The New York Times*, 08/01/2018)

In North Korea:

- As an unprecedented heat wave has continued to hit the Korean Peninsula, the number of victims of heat stroke and heat exhaustion is on the rise in the North. (Kim Yoo Jin, *DailyNK*)

- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un recently ordered Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) officials to "focus all diplomatic activities on improving relations with the US and establishing a peace system on the Korean Peninsula," a source in the country has reported. (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)
- North Korea on Thursday urged its people to ramp up efforts to reduce damage from an unusually long heat wave that has gripped many parts of the country, taking its toll on crops and boding ill for harvests. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's media on Thursday renewed its demand for South Korea to take substantive action to improve relations, blaming the current procrastination on the Seoul government sticking to the global sanctions regime. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean officials remained tight-lipped Thursday in front of media outlets in Singapore, as they prepared to participate in a regional forum. (Lee Chi-dong, *Yonhap*)
- Construction of the new Internet Communication Bureau headquarters (평양인터네트통신국건설) in Pyongyang appears to be near externally complete, more than two years after it first broke ground. (Martyn Williams, *38 North*)
- An extreme heat wave that is sweeping across the Korean Peninsula is compelling North Korea to take action, according to state media. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- The 27th of July marked the 65th anniversary of the armistice of the Korean War. On that day, North Korea returned the remains of US troops to the United States. A few days before, it was reported that North Korea had begun to dismantle some parts of the Sohae Satellite Launching Station. (Thae Yong Ho, *DailyNK*)
- North Koreans worried by news of vaccine safety scandals in China now distrust Chinese medicines and are refusing to buy them in local markets, North Korean sources say. (*RFA*)
- North Korean oil tankers that are under international sanctions have been seen near China's coastal islands. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- North Korea on Thursday called for an "all-out battle" against record temperatures that threaten crops in a country already grappling with tough international sanctions over its nuclear weapons program. (Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)

In South Korea:

- South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha will engage in a round of bilateral diplomacy in Singapore involving China, Japan and Russia later Thursday amid annual regional forums organized by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), her ministry officials said. (Lee Chi-dong, *Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- South Korea is in close consultation with the United Nations to get sanctions temporarily exempted for the operation of an inter-Korean liaison office in the North, a unification ministry official said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)

- Less than a month after they got together for friendly games, women's basketball players from South and North Korea have been reunited here for the Asian Games. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- China's top diplomat expressed support Thursday for the declaration of a formal end to the Korean War, saying such a declaration is in line with the trend of the time as nobody wants a repeat of the conflict on the peninsula. (Lee Chi-dong, *Yonhap*)
- The top diplomats of South Korea and Russia agreed Thursday to continue joint efforts for regional peace and stability. (*Yonhap*)
- China on Thursday called for a push to establish a peace mechanism for the Korean peninsula as well as denuclearization. (*Reuters*)
- The European Union is ready to offer the Koreas its experience and expertise in peace-building and reconciliation, said the EU's foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- On Wednesday, two military cargo planes carrying 55 aluminum coffin-shaped cases landed at Hickam Air Force Base in Oahu, Hawaii. Inside are presumed to be the remains of American service members who died in North Korea between 1950 and 1953 during the Korean War. (John Ismay, *The New York Times*)
- Is North Korean leader Kim Jong-un serious about building a new future or is he cleverly playing us to achieve his longstanding goal: to be, like Pakistan, accepted as a nuclear state? (Robert A. Manning, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The remains of presumed U.S. soldiers killed in the 1950-53 Korean War returned home on Wednesday to a solemn ceremony in Hawaii, marking the beginning of a long process to identify thousands of missing troops. (*Yonhap*)
- Though his tenure here began with a detente in inter-Korean relations, the ambassador emphasized that the priority when it comes to North Korea is denuclearization before normalization of relations. (Esther Chung, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- U.S. Vice President Mike Pence picked up two family members of American soldiers killed in the 1950-53 Korean War as he traveled to Hawaii to attend a ceremony marking the return of U.S. troops' alleged remains. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is in Malaysia, the first stop of an Asia tour expected to focus on promoting free trade and pressuring North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons. (Cindy Saine, VOA)
- Decades after the end of the Korean War in 1953, the remains of dozens of presumed U.S. war returned Wednesday to Hawaii for analysis and identification. The U.S. military believes the bones are those of U.S. servicemen and potentially servicemen from other United Nations member countries who fought alongside the U.S. on behalf of South Korea during the war. (AP)
- Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov inquired Thursday about recent reports on the shipment of North Korean coal into South Korea, in breach of United Nations Security Council sanctions. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

- New U.S. Ambassador to Seoul Harry Harris said there must be "demonstrable moves" from North Korea toward denuclearization before any declaration of the end of the 1950-53 Korean War is made between the two sides. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- U.S. President Donald Trump thanked North Korean leader Kim Jong-un on Thursday for returning the remains of dozens of presumed U.S. soldiers killed during the 1950-53 Korean War. He also expressed his hope of meeting Kim again soon. (Park Si-soo, *The Korea Times*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump received a letter from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Wednesday that followed up on their recent discussions about denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, the White House said on Thursday. (*Reuters*)
- The White House says President Donald Trump has received a letter from North Korea's Kim Jong Un, following up on the two leaders' June summit in Singapore. (VOA)
- US President Donald Trump has said he looks forward to meeting Kim Jong-un, as he thanked him for handing over possible remains of US Korean War dead. (BBC)
- The U.S. military is beginning the painstaking process of analyzing remains from the Korean War now that they are back on American soil after having been handed over by North Korea last week. (AP, *The Washington Post*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump said on Thursday he looked forward to meeting Kim Jong Un soon and thanked the North Korean leader for sending the suspected remains of U.S. soldiers killed in the 1950-1953 Korean War back to the United States. (Soyoung Kim, *Reuters*)
- US President Donald Trump tweeted his thanks to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un Thursday, after the possible remains of American war dead killed in the Korean War arrived back on US soil. (Jamie Tarabay, CNN)
- The United States Congress on Wednesday passed a defense authorization bill that restricts any drawdown of American troops in South Korea. (*Yonhap*)
- The White House on Wednesday declined to comment on a news report that North Korea continues to build intercontinental ballistic missiles following a disarmament deal with U.S. President Donald Trump. (*Yonhap*)
- In a solemn ceremony, the United States welcomed home on Wednesday human remains it said presumably included Americans killed in the 1950-1953 Korean War, and thanked North Korea for making good on a June summit pledge to hand them over. (Phil Stewart, Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- Two Air Force cargo planes left South Korea for Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii on Wednesday carrying 55 flag-draped crates that are thought to contain the remains of American troops lost during the Korean War. (Dave Philipps, *The New York Times*)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726222459/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemstrump-receives-letter-from-north-koreas-kimnorth-korea-calls-for-powerful-struggle-against-heat-wave

Friday, August 3, 2018

Thousands of North Korean Workers Enter Russia Despite U.N. Ban; US Begins Identifying Remains Believed to be Korean War MIAs

In North Korea:
Fintech success in North Korea first requires trust (*DailyNK*, 8/3/2018)
[INTERVIEW] 'North Korean women have no one to turn to in domestic violence' (*Korea Times*, 8/3/2018)
North Korea mulling re-issuance of identification cards (*DailyNK*, 8/3/2018)
North Korea warns of natural disaster as heatwave sears crops (*Guardian*, 8/3/2018)
Party cadres step up efforts after Kim Jong Un's criticism (*Daily NK*, 8/3/2018)
Report: North Korean soldier under investigation after burying baby (*UPI*, 8/3/2018)
The prospects for commercial, mobile banking in North Korea (*North Korean Economy Watch*, 8/3/2018)

In South Korea:
Seoul says reopening of Kaesong complex should wait until sanctions lifted (*Yonhap*, 8/3/2018)
Seoul Success (*Washington Post*, 8/3/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Hyundai hopes to resume NK business (*Korea Times*, 8/3/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korea's media shed light on ties with Hyundai Group, tour program (*Yonhap*, 8/3/2018)
Mount Kumgang tours could resume later this year: Hyun (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 8/3/2018)
North Korea calls Hyundai Group 'first love' (*UPI*, 8/3/2018)

International:
(3rd LD) N. Korean foreign minister in Singapore for regional forum (*Yonhap*, 8/3/2018)
China says it hopes U.S.-North Korea talks can move toward results, peace (*Reuters*, 8/3/2018)
China urges S. Korea to resolve THAAD issue in ministerial talks (*Yonhap*, 8/3/2018)
Denuke talks may gain impetus with Kim-Trump communication (*Korea Times*, 8/3/2018)
Hopes of North Korea economic reform spur surge in Chinese tourism (*Reuters*, 8/2/2018)
(LEAD) U.S. open to 2nd Trump-Kim summit, but none planned: White House (*Yonhap*, 8/3/2018)
Little Pyongyang: a North Korean's life in London (*Guardian*, 8/3/2018)
North Korea foreign minister flies to Singapore on Air China (*UPI*, 8/3/2018)
Pence voices hope of N.K. denuclearization upon return of war dead remains (*Yonhap*, 8/3/2018)
Pompeo says North Korea weapons work counter to denuclearization pledge (*Reuters*, 8/3/2018)
Remains from North Korea 'consistent with being Americans' (*AP*, 8/2/2018)
Russia denies violating U.N. restriction on North Korean laborers: Ifax (*Reuters*, 8/3/2018)
Thousands of North Korean Workers Enter Russia Despite U.N. Ban (*Wall Street Journal*, 8/2/2018)
Trump ditches denuclearization (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 8/3/2018)

Trump gets the headlines on North Korea. But keep an eye on South Korea. (*Washington Post*, 8/2/2018)
Trump receives third letter from Kim Jong-un (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 8/3/2018)
Trump says he is looking forward to meeting again 'soon' with Kim Jong Un (*Washington Post*, 8/2/2018)
U.S. ambassador calls for N. Korea to make 'demonstrable' moves toward denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 8/3/2018)
US Begins Identifying Remains Believed to be Korean War MIAs (VOA, 8/3/2018)
U.S. hopes to resume joint field operations with North Korea to find war remains (*Washington Post*, 8/2/2018)
US sanctions Russian bank over North Korea-related transactions (*Financial Times*, 8/3/2018)

In North Korea:

- The North Korean regime appears to be exploring the possibility of introducing fintech-style financial services to its population. Although the industry is growing rapidly around the world, there are no appreciable fintech services available in North Korea, which has a poorly developed financial sector. (Jo Hyon, *DailyNK*)
- "The term, 'domestic violence,' does not exist in North Korea," said Lim Soon-hee, a researcher at the Institute of Peace-Sharing, a Catholic think tank that focuses on the reconciliation of the two Koreas. "For them, it is so natural that women 'serve' men." (Jung Da-Min, *Korea Times*)
- Rumors are circulating in North Korea that the authorities will be issuing new identification cards from the middle of next month as a related investigation draws to an end, report sources in the country. (Kang Mi Jin, *DailyNK*)
- The North Korean government has called on its people to wage an "all-out battle" against a record heatwave as the country's already fragile crops face drought and the authorities struggle to respond. (Benjamin Haas, *Guardian*)
- Efforts by cadres to be seen participating at work have increased following a series of visits by Kim Jong Un to provincial cities and criticisms of poor performance, report sources in the country. (Kim Yoo Jin, *DailyNK*)
- A North Korean soldier buried her newborn child alive after hiding her pregnancy for months, according to a South Korean press report. A source in North Hamgyong Province told Daily NK Thursday the woman had conceived a child during an affair with a married senior officer, the news service reported Friday. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- *Korea Times* recently ran an interesting interview with Kim Young-hui of Korea Development Bank (KDB), on the prospects of commercial and mobile banking in North Korea. North Korean Economy Watch offers their thoughts. (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, *North Korean Economy Watch*)

In South Korea:

- South Korea reiterated its stance Friday that resuming the operation of an inter-Korean industrial complex should be considered in light of progress in denuclearization talks and wait until sanctions are lifted. (Yonhap)
- Here are the stories of five young people who made the perilous escape from North Korea and have found their feet in South Korea. Their remarks have been edited for clarity. (Anna Fifield, Jean Chung, Washington Post)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Returning from a visit to North Korea, Friday, Hyundai Group Chairwoman Hyun Jeong-eun said that she and officials she talked to there hope the suspended tour program to Mount Geumgang could resume within this year. (Park Ji-Won, Korea Times)
- A North Korean media outlet reported in detail on a South Korean firm's devotion to inter-Korean cooperation Friday, apparently trying to create a favorable mood for resumption of the company's now suspended tour program. (Yonhap)
- South Korean tours to the North's Mount Kumgang could resume later this year, says Hyundai Group Chairwoman Hyun Jeong-eun. (Kim Jee-Hee, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- Former North Korean leader Kim Jong Il called Hyundai Group the "first love" in the North Korea's relationship with the South, a North Korean propaganda outlet said Friday. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)

International:

- North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho had bilateral talks with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi at the Singapore EXPO convention center, the venue of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) to open on Saturday. (Lee Chi-Dong, Yonhap)
- China's top diplomat, State Councilor Wang Yi, said on Friday that he hopes North Korea-U.S. talks continue to move forward toward results and peace. (Reuters)
- Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi asked South Korea on Friday to resolve the issue of an advanced U.S. missile defense system deployed on the peninsula. (Yonhap)
- Denuclearization talks between North Korea and the U.S. that appeared to have been stalled may gain impetus, with leaders of the countries engaging in communication. (Kim Bo-Eun, Korea Times)
- North Korea's proclaimed shift in national focus to economic development from nuclear arms is prompting cautious optimism across the Chinese border in Dandong. (Philip Wen, Reuters)
- The United States is open to discussions about a second meeting between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, but nothing has been planned yet, the White House said Thursday. (Yonhap)
- The latest Guardian documentary meets former soldier Choi Joong-wha, who lives with his family in New Malden, London, home to Europe's biggest North Korean population. (Charlie Phillips, Guardian)

- North Korea's Ri Yong Ho flew to the ASEAN Regional Forum on Air China, a month after Kim Jong Un received similar Chinese assistance to get to Singapore in June. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- U.S. Vice President Mike Pence has voiced hope that North Korea's return of war dead remains is evidence of the regime's seriousness about dismantling its nuclear weapons program. (Yonhap)
- Less than two months after a landmark U.S.-North Korea summit in Singapore, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo flew back to the city state on Friday and said North Korea's continued work on weapons programs was inconsistent with its leader's commitment to denuclearize. (David Brunnstrom, Reuters)
- The remains handed over by North Korea last week in 55 boxes are "consistent with being Americans," based on an initial examination, although none has been positively identified, a U.S. scientist who has seen the remains said Thursday. (Robert Burns, AP)
- Russia's ambassador to North Korea said on Friday Moscow had not violated U.N. sanctions restricting the employment of North Korean laborers and not brought in any new workers from the country, Interfax news agency reported. (Reuters)
- Russia is letting thousands of new North Korean laborers enter the country and issuing fresh work permits—actions U.S. officials say potentially violate United Nations sanctions aimed at cutting cash flows to Pyongyang and pressing it to give up nuclear weapons. (Ian Talley, Anatoly Kurmanaev, Wall Street Journal)
- At the first National Security Council meeting that Trump called after the June 12 Singapore summit on July 27, North Korean affairs were not mentioned. Not a step has been taken on denuclearization aside from the partial return of remains of U.S. soldiers from the Korean War. (Jeong Hyo-Sik, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- Trump gets the headlines when it comes to North Korea. But the real driver may be inter-Korean contacts. Kim signaled in a speech Jan. 1 that he wanted to leverage his nuclear-weapons capability for economic development, and South Korean President Moon Jae-in responded boldly with his Olympic diplomacy. (David Ignatius, Washington Post)
- U.S. President Donald Trump received another letter from North Korean leader Kim Jong-un on Aug. 1 and responded to it, the White House confirmed Thursday as the two leaders try to get out of the gridlock that followed their summit in Singapore in June. (Kang Jin-Kyu, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- President Trump said early Thursday that he is looking forward to meeting again soon with Kim Jong Un, as the White House disclosed that Trump had received a new letter this week from the North Korean leader. (John Wagner, Washington Post)
- New U.S. Ambassador to Seoul Harry Harris on Thursday called on North Korea to make "demonstrable moves" toward denuclearization before the declaration of a formal end to the 1950-53 Korean War. (Yonhap)
- The United States has begun the painstaking process of identifying what are believed to be the remains of U.S. servicemen killed during the Korean War. (Zlatica Hoke, VOA)
- The Defense Department agency that accounts for missing American service members from past wars hopes to negotiate the resumption of joint operations to recover remains in North Korea, an official said Thursday, calling such efforts a "sacred obligation." (Paul Sonne, Washington Post)

- The US has sanctioned a Russian bank for facilitating financial transactions related to North Korea's weapons programmes, just weeks after Donald Trump said Russian president Vladimir Putin had committed in their Helsinki summit to helping Washington deal with the nuclear threat from Pyongyang. (Demetri Sevastopulo, *Financial Times*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726222506/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-thousands-of-north-korean-workers-enter-russia-despite-un-ban-us-begins-identifying-remains-believed-to-be-korean-war-mias

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Saturday, August 4, 2018

North Korea has not stopped nuclear, missile program: confidential U.N. report; U.S. sanctions Russian bank over N.K. activity

In North Korea:
Lack of fertilizers adds to North Korea agriculture crisis (*Korea Times*, 08/04/2018)
Much Ado About Kangson (*38 North*, 08/04/2018)
North Korea continuing nuclear programme - UN report (*BBC*, 08/04/2018)
North Korea has not stopped nuclear, missile program: confidential U.N. report (*Reuters*, 08/04/2018)
North Korea's nuclear programme has not been halted, says UN (*Guardian*, 08/04/2018)
North Korea warns of 'natural disaster' amid heatwave (*BBC*, 08/03/2018)

In South Korea:
A North Korean Defector's Tale of Lies, Blackmail and Betrayal (*The New York Times*, 08/04/2018)
South Korea longs for a train to Europe — but U.S. sanctions on North Korea block the way (*Washington Post*, 08/04/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) Koreas exchange final lists of separated families ahead of reunions (*Yonhap*, 08/04/2018)
Two Koreas' top diplomats meet in Singapore (*Yonhap*, 08/03/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) N. Korean minister says U.S. is backtracking on Sentosa deal (*Yonhap*, 08/04/2018)
(3rd LD) S. Korea, U.S. top diplomats discuss N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 08/04/2018)
(LEAD) Pompeo warns against violating U.N. resolutions to punish N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 08/04/2018)
N. Korean, U.S. top diplomats meet at regional forum in Singapore (*Yonhap*, 08/04/2018)

North Korea alarmed by U.S. attitudes but committed to nuclear deal (*Reuters*, 08/04/2018)
North Korea calls US actions on nuclear programme 'alarming' (BBC, 08/04/2018)
North Korea criticises US insistence on tough sanctions despite nuclear deal (*Telegraph*, 08/04/2018)
North Korea Stole Their Children (VOA, 08/03/2018)
North Korea, U.S. trade blows over nuclear deal at Singapore reunion (*Reuters*, 08/04/2018)
Pompeo says North Korea will decide denuclearization timeline (CNN, 08/03/2018)
Pompeo Says There's 'a Ways to Go' Before North Korea Fulfills Nuclear Vows (*The New York Times*, 08/03/2018)
Pompeo says US 'confident' North Korea will denuclearize (*Washington Post*, 08/03/2018)
Russia hiring North Korean 'slave' workers despite UN sanctions (*Telegraph*, 08/03/2018)
Sanctions Could Complicate Return of Remains from North Korea (VOA, 08/03/2018)
The Latest: North Korea's foreign minister shoots back at US (*Washington Post*, 08/04/2018)
Trump letter to Kim Jong Un given to North Korea's top diplomat at ASEAN summit (*Washington Post*, 08/04/2018)
Trump letter to Kim Jong Un handed to North Korea foreign minister at ASEAN meeting (CNN, 08/04/2018)
Trump reply to Kim letter delivered to North Korea FM (*Korea Times*, 08/04/2018)
UN report: North Korea still pursuing nuclear, missile programs (CNN, 08/04/2018)
US Calls on Countries to Maintain Sanctions on North Korea (VOA, 08/04/2018)
U.S. envoy hands letter from Trump for Kim to North Korean minister (*Reuters*, 08/04/2018)
U.S. envoy to U.N. accuses Russia of violating North Korea sanctions (*Reuters*, 08/03/2018)
U.S. Isn't Holding Up Its End of Nuclear Deal, North Korean Envoy Charges (*The New York Times*, 08/04/2018)
U.S. sanctions Russian bank for illegal North Korea dealings (UPI, 08/03/2018)
U.S. sanctions Russian bank over N.K. activity (*Yonhap*, 08/04/2018)
US Sanctions Russian, Chinese Firms as Pompeo Meets China's FM (VOA, 08/03/2018)
US seeks sanctions on North Korea banker and 3 entities (*Washington Post*, 08/03/2018)
US targets Russian bank for violating North Korea sanctions (CNN, 08/03/2018)
US warns Russia, others on enforcing North Korea sanctions (*Korea Times*, 08/04/2018)
UPDATE 1-Pompeo "optimistic" about ending N.Korea's nuclear programme (*Reuters*, 08/04/2018)

In North Korea:

- North Korea expects a reduced harvest this year, not just because of a drought but because of fertilizers, which are made from petroleum, which is under international sanctions, an expert says. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)
- Recent commercial satellite imagery analysis by the Center for Nonproliferation Studies at the Middlebury Institute for International Studies, published by The Diplomat, identifies what is suspected to be a uranium enrichment facility in Chollima District, Nampo City. (Michael Madden, *38 North*)
- North Korea has not stopped its nuclear and missile programmes, violating UN sanctions, a report commissioned by the UN Security Council says. (BBC)

- North Korea has not stopped its nuclear and missile programs in violation of United Nations sanctions, according to a confidential U.N. report seen by Reuters on Friday. (Michelle Nichols, *Reuters*)
- Experts' report says Pyongyang is violating UN sanctions and continuing military cooperation with Syria (AP)
- North Korea says a heatwave is threatening a "natural disaster" and has called on its citizens to help protect crops from drought. (BBC)

In South Korea:

- Now, in a series of interviews with The New York Times, Mr. Heo has said more about what led to the defection. His story — little of which could be corroborated, and which the spy agency refused to discuss, citing the prosecutors' investigation — is one of lies, shakedowns and betrayal upon betrayal. (Choe Sang-Hun, *The New York Times*)
- Every week for the past twelve years, a small team has headed past military checkpoints and barbed wire fences to the farthest northeast corner of South Korea, where they clean a railway station that never sees any trains. (Adam Taylor, *Washington Post*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- South and North Korea exchanged the lists of their people who will take part in the upcoming reunion event for families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War, the unification ministry said Saturday. (*Yonhap*)
- The foreign ministers of South and North Korea encountered each other on Friday at a gala dinner for an ASEAN-hosted forum in Singapore. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- A top North Korean official on Saturday accused the United States of dragging its feet in building mutual confidence despite their landmark Sentosa summit accord. (Lee Chi-dong, *Yonhap*)
- The top diplomats of South Korea and the United States held one-on-one talks in Singapore on Saturday on North Korea and alliance issues on the sidelines of ASEAN-hosted annual sessions. (Lee Chi-dong, *Yonhap*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Saturday pressed Russia and some other countries to strictly enforce U.N.-led sanctions on North Korea, warning his country would take "very seriously" any move to undermine efforts to denuclearize the communist nation. (Lee Chi-dong, *Yonhap*)
- North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho encountered his American counterpart Mike Pompeo in Singapore on Friday at the opening of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's foreign minister said on Saturday he was increasingly alarmed by U.S. attitudes toward the isolated state but said it remained firm in its determination to

implement the nuclear deal it reached with Washington in June. (Jack Kim, John Geddie, *Reuters*)

- North Korea's foreign minister has called US actions "alarming" as tensions over the North's nuclear programme again flared. (BBC)
- North Korea on Saturday said the US was acting with "alarming" impatience on the issue of denuclearisation, after Mike Pompeo, US Secretary of State, stressed the need to maintain full sanctions pressure on Pyongyang. (*Telegraph*)
- As the United States and North Korea engage in rare, high-level diplomacy to resolve disputes over the North's nuclear weapons program, there's new attention focused on Pyongyang's abduction of Japanese citizens four decades ago. (Euna Lee, VOA)
- North Korea and the United States traded blows over implementing a disarmament deal adopted at a landmark summit in June, as Washington called for maintaining sanctions pressure against the North which in turn said it was alarmed at U.S. intentions (Jack Kim, David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said North Korea is "of course" closer to denuclearization, but he acknowledged it will take some time before that happens and said the schedule for divesting the country of its missiles and weapons would be set by Kim Jong Un. (Nicole Gaouette, CNN)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo expressed growing exasperation with North Korea on Friday, accusing its government of refusing to respect a promise to President Trump to stop, or even slow, Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program. (Richard C. Paddock, Gardiner Harris, *The New York Times*)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo says that while there's "still a ways to go," the United States remains "confident" in North Korea's commitment to denuclearize. (AP)
- Russia has been giving work permits to North Korean labourers despite a United Nations ban on the practice, which funds Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programme. (Alec Luhn, *Telegraph*)
- Recovering the remains of U.S. soldiers killed during the Korean War could be complicated by restrictions under international sanctions, experts said, even though the White House is hailing the effort as "the momentum for positive change" in relations between the United States and North Korea. (Ahn So-young, Christy Lee, VOA)
- The North Korean foreign minister has shot back at the U.S. over its warning to other countries against violating international sanctions on North Korea, saying recent moves by the U.S. are "alarming." (AP)
- Diplomats from the United States and North Korea alternately shook hands and lobbed critiques at each other Saturday, in what appeared to be another roadblock in the path to negotiations aimed at ending Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programs. (Carol Morello, *Washington Post*)
- A letter from US President Donald Trump to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un was given Saturday to North Korea's foreign minister at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) meeting, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo tweeted. (Mark LeBien, CNN)
- The U.S. State Department says President Donald Trump's reply to North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's latest letter has been hand-delivered to the North's top diplomat. (AP)

- A confidential UN report has accused North Korea of continuing to develop nuclear and missile programs in violation of international sanctions. (Ivan Watson, Richard Roth, and Euan McKirdy, CNN)
- The United States has urged countries to be diligent in maintaining sanctions on North Korea. Pyongyang, meanwhile, says it is alarmed by recent U.S. attitudes, but remains committed to its nuclear deal. (VOA)
- A U.S. diplomat handed over a letter for North Korean leader Kim Jong Un from U.S. President Donald Trump to North Korea's foreign minister at a meeting Singapore on Saturday, a U.S. State Department spokeswoman said. (*Reuters*)
- The United States on Friday accused Russia of violating U.N. sanctions on North Korea, citing "credible reports" that Moscow was granting new work permits to North Korean laborers despite Russia's denial of any such actions. (Michelle Nichols, Lesley Wroughton, *Reuters*)
- North Korea's top diplomat accused the United States of failing to live up to President Trump's agreement with its leader, Kim Jong-un, warning on Saturday that the country would not start denuclearizing unless Washington took reciprocal actions. (Choe Sang-Hun, *The New York Times*)
- The U.S. Treasury's enforcement arm issued new sanctions Friday against Russia's Agrosoyuz bank for facilitating unlawful transactions with North Korea. (Ed Adamczyk, UPI)
- The United States on Friday sanctioned a Russian bank for allegedly helping a North Korean individual linked to the regime's weapons of mass destruction programs. (*Yonhap*)
- The U.S. Treasury Department said it imposed sanctions Friday on a Russian bank for helping North Korea avoid U.N. Security Council actions to restrain Pyongyang's nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs. (Cindy Saine, VOA)
- The United States imposed North Korea-related sanctions Friday on a North Korean bank executive and company, a Russian bank, and a Chinese company and asked the U.N. to add them to its sanctions blacklist. (AP)
- The US government announced Friday a fresh batch of sanctions targeting a Russian bank for helping the North Korean regime develop its nuclear weapons program. (Donna Borak, CNN)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo warned Russia, China and other countries on Saturday against any violation of international sanctions on North Korea that could reduce pressure on the North to abandon its nuclear weapons. (AP)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Saturday the process of ending North Korea's nuclear programme would take time but he was optimistic that it would be achieved within a timeline set by the leaders of the two countries. (Jack Kim, David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250726222750/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsnorth-korea-has-not-stopped-nuclear-missile-program-confidential-un-reportus-sanctions-russian-bank-over-nk-activity

Sunday, August 5, 2018

N. Korea criticizes recent extension of U.S.-Japan nuclear pact; 3 more ships violated sanctions

In North Korea:
N. Korea criticizes recent extension of U.S.-Japan nuclear pact (*Yonhap*, 08/05/2018)
N. Korea leader revs up economic reconstruction push (*Yonhap*, 08/05/2018)

In South Korea:
3 more ships suspected of carrying N.K. coal enter S. Korean ports: lawmaker (*Yonhap*, 08/05/2018)
3 more ships violated sanctions (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/05/2018)
Don't rush to the declaration (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/05/2018)
S. Korea FM regrets not having engaged in formal talks with N. Korea at ARF (*Yonhap*, 08/05/2018)

International:
Asian Diplomats Press N. Korea to Deliver on Anti-Nuke Vows (*The New York Times*, 08/04/2018)
Back to the 'bloody nose'? (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/05/2018)
(News Focus) No breakthrough at ARF for denuclearization, war-ending declaration (*Yonhap*, 08/05/2018)
North Korea, U.S. spar over nuclear deal at Singapore forum (*Reuters*, 08/05/2018)
Pompeo addresses reports of Russia violating N. Korea sanctions (UPI, 08/04/2018)
Pompeo, Ri trade smiles and barbs at Asean forum (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/05/2018)
Pompeo Wraps Up Southeast Asia Tour (VOA, 08/05/2018)
'Reform without openness' (*Korea Times*, 08/05/2018)
UN Experts: NKorea Hasn't Stopped Nuke and Missile Programs (*The New York Times*, 08/04/2018)
U.S., North Korean diplomats trade handshakes and jabs at ASEAN conference (*Washington Post*, 08/04/2018)
US, North Korean Top Diplomats Exchange Pleasantries, Barbs (*The New York Times*, 08/04/2018)

In North Korea:

- A committee of North Korea's ruling Workers' Party denounced the recent extension of a U.S.-Japan nuclear pact Sunday, arguing that Tokyo has a large stockpile of plutonium in pursuit of nuclear armament. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's media on Sunday reported leader Kim Jong-un's aggressive on-site inspections of key sites for economic reconstruction amid lackluster progress in denuclearization talks with the United States. (*Yonhap*)

In South Korea:

- An opposition lawmaker claimed Sunday that three more foreign vessels suspected of carrying North Korean coal, a banned item under international sanctions, entered South Korean ports 52 times since August last year. (Yonhap)
- The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries has data that proves three more foreign vessels involved in the transshipment of North Korean coal entered South Korean ports, an opposition lawmaker said on Sunday. (Sung Ji-won, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- At the Asean Regional Forum in Singapore, South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha reiterated the Moon Jae-in administration's intention to push for an end to the 1950-53 Korean War. (Korea JoongAng Daily)
- South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha said Sunday it's regrettable that she was not able to hold bilateral talks with her North Korean counterpart in Singapore but added she "respects" his decision. (Lee Chi-dong, Yonhap)

International:

- Asia's top diplomats pressed North Korea on Saturday to turn a pledge to completely dismantle its nuclear arsenal into reality amid concerns that it's proceeding with its programs. (AP)
- Amidst the euphoria in Seoul and among President Trump's loyalists over the outbreak of "peace" on the Korean Peninsula, few are remembering that it was the president himself who originally threatened to use military force to end Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programs. (Michael Green, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- The top diplomats of the two Koreas and regional powers engaged in a flurry of diplomatic talks over the past few days in Singapore, although no breakthroughs were made toward Pyongyang's denuclearization and the proclamation to formally end the Korean War. (Lee Chi-dong, Yonhap)
- North Korea and the United States on Saturday sparred over an agreement reached at a landmark summit in June for the Asian country to end its nuclear program, as Washington called for maintaining sanctions pressure against Pyongyang, which in turn said it was alarmed by U.S. intentions. (Jack Kim, David Brunnstrom, Reuters)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called on nations to adhere to U.N. Security Council sanctions against North Korea, in the face of reports indicating Russia may not be following through. (Sommer Brokaw, UPI)
- The top envoys of North Korea and the United States, while exchanging niceties on the surface, sent barbs at each other at a regional forum in Singapore over the weekend amid Washington's additional new sanctions on Pyongyang meant to exert further pressure on the regime to fully denuclearize. (Sarah Kim, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- Saturday, the top U.S. diplomat met with his Indonesian counterpart Retno Marsudi. The secretary and the foreign minister discussed bilateral cooperation and multilateral engagement on regional security challenges, including North Korea and counterterrorism, as well as other foreign policy issues of mutual interest. (Cindy Saine, VOA)
- Andrei Lankov's presentation was titled "Kim Jong-un's Survival Strategy, Why It Might Work," sponsored by two well-known organizations: the Committee for Human Rights in

North Korea (HRNK) and the Korea Economic Institute of America (KEIA). (Chang Se-moon, *Korea Times*)

- North Korea has not stopped its nuclear and missile programs and is violating U.N. sanctions including by "a massive increase in illicit ship-to-ship transfers of petroleum products," U.N. experts said in a new report. (AP)
- Diplomats from the United States and North Korea alternately shook hands and lobbed critiques at one another Saturday, in what appeared to be another roadblock in the path to negotiations aimed at ending Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programs. (Carol Morello, *Washington Post*)
- Roller-coaster nuclear diplomacy between the United States and North Korea hit highs and lows on Saturday as the countries' top diplomats traded polite words and barbs, leaving efforts to rid the North of its atomic weapons at an uncertain juncture. (AP)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250726222754/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsn-korea-criticizes-recent-extension-of-us-japan-nuclear-pact3-more-ships-violated-sanctions

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Monday, August 6, 2018

'Reforem without openness'; KEPCO at Heart of N.Korean Coal Shipment Scandal

Top News
'Reform without openness' (*The Korea Times*, 08/05/2018)

In North Korea
Coal Exports Are a Lucrative Business for N.Korea (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 08/06/2018)
UN Report Says N.Korea Has Not Stopped Nuke Program (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 08/06/2018)
Pompeo, Ri trade smiles and barbs at Asean forum (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/06/2018)
What are possible steps to ease North Korean sanctions (*The Korea Times*, 08/06/2018)
North Korea factories serve as colleges (*The Korea Times*, 08/06/2018)
Trump's letter handed over unsealed to N. Korea (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 08/06/2018)
NK's sanctions violations could further delay denuclearization talks (*The Korea Herald*, 08/05/2018)
Export sanctions lead to hard times for those in coal-producing regions (*DailyNK*, 08/06/2018)
North Korea must move on from its policy of economic self-reliance (*DailyNK*, 08/06/2018)
North Korea frustrates US as 'maximum pressure' eases on sanctions (*The Guardian*, 08/06/2018)
North Korea urges US to drop sanctions as it accuses Washington of 'acting opposite' to Singapore pledges (*The Daily Telegraph*, 08/06/2018)

North Korea declares heatwave 'unprecedented natural disaster' as South resorts to 'ice vests' (*The Daily Telegraph*, 08/06/2018)
Kim Jong-un in pictures: Bizarre photoshoots of North Korea's leader (*The Daily Telegraph*, 08/06/2018)
North Korea state media urges U.S. to drop sanctions (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 08/06/2018)
North Korea crops damaged, International Red Cross says (UPI, 08/06/2018)
Kim Jong Un touts catfish production as 'gold ingots' (UPI, 08/06/2018)
North Korea's Complaint (*The Wall Street Journal*, 08/05/2018)

In South Korea
9 suspected N.K. coal shipments under investigation: official (*Yonhap*, 08/06/2018)
S. Korean, Chinese nuclear envoys discuss war-ending declaration (*Yonhap*, 08/06/2018)
Seoul tells N. Korea to speed up denuclearization, U.S. to faithfully keep promises (*Yonhap*, 08/06/2018)
KEPCO at Heart of N.Korean Coal Shipment Scandal (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 08/06/2018)
Another Ship Carrying N.Korean Coal Spotted in S.Korean Port (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 08/06/2018)
Moon's Approval Rating Nosedives (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 08/06/2018)
Seoul seeks talks with Pyongyang at Asian Games later this month (*The Korea Herald*, 08/05/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship
Seoul pushes to install vice ministerial official in envisioned inter-Korean liaison office (*Yonhap*, 08/06/2018)
2 Koreas Exchange Names for Family Reunions (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 08/06/2018)
Civic group formed to bring back remains of forced labor victims (*The Korea Times*, 08/06/2018)
[Feature] Unified dictionary aims to reduce 70-year language gap between two Koreas (*The Korea Herald*, 08/05/2018)
'North Korean defectors can serve as a bridge for unified Korea' (*The Korea Herald*, 08/06/2018)
Divided Korean families chosen for first family reunions in three years (*The Guardian*, 08/06/2018)

International
(2nd LD) ARF ministers call on N.K. to fulfill commitment to complete denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 08/06/2018)
EU's foreign policy chief stresses importance of patience in dealing with N.K. issues (*Yonhap*, 08/06/2018)
U.S. puts pressure on disgruntled N. Korea (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 08/06/2018)
ARF chairman's statement deviates from CVID language (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/06/2018)
One-year timeline is Kim's idea, Bolton says (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/06/2018)
US holds key to ending Korean War (*The Korea Times*, 08/06/2018)
Nuclear envoys of S. Korea, China discuss N. Korea denuclearization (*The Korea Times*, 08/06/2018)
US not 'starry-eyed' about North Korea nuclear deal: Bolton (*The Korea Herald*, 08/06/2018)
[David Ignatius] Path from Pyongyang to Washington leads through Seoul (*The Korea Herald*, 08/06/2018)
The 2020 Commission Report on the North Korean Nuclear Attacks Against the United States by Jeffrey Lewis – review (*The Guardian*, 08/06/2018)

Asian diplomats press N. Korea to deliver on anti-nuke vows (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 08/05/2018)
U.S. Secretary of State Pompeo plays down North Korea sparring (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 08/06/2018)
Hiroshima Remembers Atomic Bombing on 73rd Anniversary (*The New York Times*, 08/06/2018)'

Top News

- Chang Se-moon's op-ed to The Korea Times provides his take-away from Professor Andrei Lankov's remarks at the Korea Club, co-sponsored by the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea and the Korean Economic Institute. Professor Lankov provided a presentation titled "Kim Jong-un's Survival Strategy, Why It Might Work." (Chang Se-moon, *The Korea Times*)

In North Korea

- North Korea is going all out to export coal by illicit means despite UN Security Council sanctions because it is a major cash cow for the military and other organs. (Kim Myong-song, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- North Korea has not stopped its nuclear and missile programs and continues to smuggle in petroleum products by ship-to-ship transfers, according to a recent UN Security Council report. It adds the North is still earning hard currency by selling arms to conflict regions like Syria and Yemen. (Cho Yi-jun, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- The top envoys of North Korea and the United States, while exchanging niceties on the surface, sent barbs at each other at a regional forum in Singapore over the weekend amid Washington's additional new sanctions on Pyongyang meant to exert further pressure on the regime to fully denuclearize. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Several analysts speculate Washington may take three steps – lifting sanctions that may concern humanitarian issues and later moving on to livelihood and trade as well as investment. (Yi Whan-woo, *The Korea Times*)
- With North Korean leader Kim Jong-un spending more time on "spot guidance" in recent months, North Korean factories are often being highlighted in propaganda media. Overall, the factories provide educational courses for pre-school children before they go to primary school and for high school graduates who have completed 12 years of compulsory education. (Jung Da-min, *The Korea Times*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who had engaged in intense war of nerves for denuclearization roadmap, had a brief encounter with North Korean foreign minister Ri Yong Ho on Saturday. (Na-Ri Shin, *The Dong-A Ilbo*)
- Growing reports of North Korea's sanctions violations are fueling concerns that there may be a further delay in ongoing negotiations on denuclearization between Washington and Pyongyang. (Jung Min-kyung, *The Korea Herald*)
- As coal exports have slowed to a crawl due to international sanctions, North Korea's coal country of Kaechon, South Pyongan Province, and Kujang County, North Pyongan Province, have been suffering under intense economic difficulties. Most residents in these areas were

dependent on the export of coal and are directly feeling the effects of the trade stagnation. (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)

- Instead of criticizing bureaucrats for failing to finish building projects, the government should focus on reforming the country's irrational economic system and cooperating with the outside world. This will propel North Korea toward becoming a respected member of the international community. (Jo Hyon, *DailyNK*)
- Amid the growing list of apparent sanctions violations, North Korea's state-controlled media has begun calling for the US to drop the restrictions, saying its moratorium on missile and nuclear tests, the dismantling of its only known nuclear test site and the return of Korean war dead was enough. (Benjamin Haas, *The Guardian*)
- North Korea's state media called on Monday for the United States to ditch crippling economic sanctions as a reward for Pyongyang's show of good faith in ending its nuclear weapons testing and transferring the remains of American troops killed in the Korean War. (Nicola Smith, *The Daily Telegraph*)
- The Korean Peninsula is suffering alongside Europe in soaring temperatures, with Seoul residents resorting to 'ice vests' to cool down, and the North declaring an "unprecedented natural disaster." (Nicola Smith, *The Daily Telegraph*)
- North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un came to power after the death of his father Kim Jong-il in December 2011. Here, we take a look back at some of the most bizarre photo opportunities that he has taken part in during his time in charge of the highly secretive state. (KCNA)
- North Korean state media called on Monday for the United States to drop sanctions, saying Pyongyang had demonstrated good faith by ending its nuclear weapons testing and handing over the remains of U.S. troops killed in the Korean War. The statements came just days after a confidential United Nations report concluded North Korea has not stopped its nuclear and missile programs, in breach of U.N. resolutions. (*Reuters*)
- A record-setting heat wave in North Korea has inflicted serious damage on crops, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said Monday. At least two regions in North Korea, South Pyongan and South Hamgyong Provinces, have declared a state of emergency, the IFRC said, relaying a statement from the Red Cross office in Pyongyang, according to South Korean service Seoul Pyongyang News. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un revisited a local fish farm to inspect catfish production amid a sluggish economy. Kim and his wife visited the farm in the southwestern city of Samchon, where he praised the surge in catfish production and surpassing its target of 3,000 tons. He also called a pile of frozen catfish "gold ingots," North Korea's state media KCNA reported on Monday. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- The U.S. and North Korea are again publicly disagreeing about progress toward the North's denuclearization, and that's no surprise. This was likely to happen once President Trump agreed to "phased" progress and dropped demands that the North agree up front to reveal and dismantle weapons. (*The Wall Street Journal*)

In South Korea

- Nine suspected North Korean coal shipments are under investigation for allegedly entering South Korean ports in violation of U.N. Security Council sanctions, a foreign ministry official said Monday. (Yonhap)
- The nuclear envoys of South Korea and China on Monday discussed the issue of declaring a formal end to the 1950-53 Korean War as part of a process to foster a lasting peace on the peninsula. (Yonhap)
- South Korea called on North Korea on Monday to further accelerate its denuclearization process while asking the United States to faithfully implement its promises of rewarding the communist nation. (Yonhap)
- Power monopoly KEPCO is at the heart of a scandal concerning illegal shipments of North Korean coal to South Korea. Subsidiary KOEN is being investigated by the Korea Customs Service on charges of buying 9,700 tons of North Korean coal in November of 2017 and March of this year. (Lim Min-hyuk and Choi Hyun-mook, The Chosun Ilbo)
- Another ship suspected of having carried North Korean coal to South Korea was nonetheless permitted to dock at Pyeongtaek port again recently and only left last Saturday. (Lim Min-seok, The Chosun Ilbo)
- Eleven percent disapproved of his friendly approach to North Korea and six percent of his support for the minimum wage hike. Only 12 percent approved of his resumption of dialogue with Pyongyang, 11 percent of his diplomatic performance, and nine percent of his North Korea and national security policy. (The Chosun Ilbo)
- Seoul seeks to hold senior-level talks with Pyongyang on the sidelines of the Asian Games later this month, after failing to have an official meeting with the North Korean foreign minister at the ASEAN Regional Forum in Singapore. (Kim So-hyun, The Korea Herald)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- South Korea is seeking to install a vice ministerial official in the inter-Korean liaison office to be established in North Korea's border city of Kaesong, a source here said Monday, a move to bolster cross-border cooperation. (Yonhap)
- South Korea handed a final list of 93 people and North Korea a list of 88 for family reunions at Mt. Kumgang on Aug. 20-26. Liaison officials solemnly swapped the lists in the truce village of Panmunjom last Saturday. (Kim Myong-song, The Chosun Ilbo)
- A civic group including South and North Koreans as well as Japanese citizens was launched Monday to repatriate the remains of forced laborers under the 1910-45 Japanese occupation. The South's Korean Council for Reconciliation and Cooperation (KCRC) held a press conference in Tokyo marking the launch, with the General Association of (North) Korean Residents in Japan and Yuri Konno, president of Dial Service, who represented Japan. Konno is an entrepreneur but sponsors civic groups. (Kim Bo-eun, The Korea Times)
- While Korean is the official language of the two Koreas, the forms of the language spoken by South and North Koreans have drifted apart as a result of the differing cultures and social systems of the two sides. The reconciliatory atmosphere initiated by the April 27 inter-Korean summit has brought a joint project to publish a unified dictionary back into the spotlight. (Jo He-rim, The Korea Herald)

- The projects are based on their belief that there should be balanced view of reunification, relations between the Koreas and their shared history, so that young South Koreans can be given a chance to decide whether reunification will be beneficial for them. (Ock Hyun-ju, *The Korea Herald*)
- A group of about 180 Koreans has been selected for a series of family reunions this month, the first such meetings to be held in three years as part of a continuing rapprochement between North and South Korea. (Benjamin Haas, *The Guardian*)

International

- The foreign ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and 17 other countries urged North Korea to fulfill its commitment to complete denuclearization during their Singapore talks last week, their chair statement showed Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- The European Union's foreign affairs chief, Federica Mogherini, stressed the importance of patience in resolving difficult issues, like the North Korea nuclear standoff, when she met with Prime Minister Lee Nak-yon on Monday, Lee's office said. (*Yonhap*)
- The tension between the United States and North Korea around the differences in their stance in denuclearization roadmap peaked at the ASEAN Regional Forum. Foreign ministers of the two countries concentrated on diplomacy war to get concession from the other party without facing each other at all except for few seconds when they smiled and shook hands with each other. (*The Dong-A Ilbo*)
- The chairman's statement from the Asean Regional Forum (ARF), a major regional security conference, released on Monday did not include the specific phrase "complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization" (CVID) of the Korean Peninsula, a break from the previous year. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The White House's national security adviser purported on Sunday that it was North Korea's leader who proposed a one-year timeline for denuclearization during his summit with the South Korean president in April, though the South Korean government on Monday could not confirm the validity of the claim. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Unlike the South's hope to improve inter-Korean relations with backup plans, the United Sates still has lots of questions on what denuclearization means and how it would be achieved. (Kim Yoo-chul, *The Korea Times*)
- Former envoys of South Korea and China to the six-party talks on North Korea's denuclearization met in Beijing, Monday, to discuss the current process of Pyongyang's denuclearization and the establishment of peace on the Korean Peninsula. (Kim Bo-eun, *The Korea Times*)
- As North Korea reportedly continues to build missiles and produce plutonium, a top aide to US President Donald Trump said Sunday that "there's nobody in his administration starry-eyed about the prospects of North Korea actually denuclearising." (AFP)
- The Korean fog has cleared, at least momentarily because of a series of confidence-building measures by Kim that, while they don't move toward denuclearization, at least suggest good faith. The North Koreans last month dismantled rocket-testing and satellite-launch facilities, and then delivered the promised servicemen's remains. (David Ignatius, *The Korea Herald*)

- The 2020 Commission Report on the North Korean Nuclear Attacks Against the United States is an attempt to give us hindsight before it's too late. It calls itself a speculative novel, a horrific imagined future based on a quite plausible extrapolation of the present. (Julian Borger, *The Guardian*)
- Asia's top diplomats pressed North Korea on Saturday to turn a pledge to completely dismantle its nuclear arsenal into reality amid concerns that it's proceeding with its programs. (AP)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Sunday played down an exchange of contentious remarks with North Korea on the sidelines of weekend regional meetings in Singapore, saying Pyongyang had made clear its continued commitment to denuclearize. (*Reuters*)
- Hiroshima marked the anniversary of the Aug. 6, 1945, atomic bombing of the city with a somber ceremony Monday to remember those killed and injured and a call to eliminate nuclear weapons amid hopes of denuclearizing North Korea. (AP)

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Tuesday, August 7, 2018

Activist: Glimpses of South Korea life threaten Kim regime; North Korea releases South Korean man detained in July

Top News
Activist: Glimpses of South Korea life threaten Kim regime (UPI, 8/7/2018)

In North Korea
Expanding unofficial labor market demands regulatory agenda (*DailyNK*, 8/7/2018)
What's Behind North Korea's New Internet Opening? (*The Diplomat*, 8/4/2018)

In South Korea

(2nd LD) Gov't denies report of ship carrying N. Korean coal (*Yonhap*, 8/7/2018)
Couldn't care less (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 8/7/2018)
Seoul: Belize-flagged ship carrying Russian, not North Korean coal (*UPI*, 8/7/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship
(3rd LD) N. Korea repatriates S. Korean citizen:ministry (*Yonhap*, 8/7/2018)
In Rare Move, North Korea Releases South Korean It Detained (*New York Times*, 8/7/2018)
North Korea releases South Korean man detained in July (*Reuters*, 8/7/2018)
North Korea returns South Korean citizen at Panmunjom (*UPI*, 8/7/2018)
North Korea returns South Korean hostage via Panmunjom (*Korea Times*, 8/7/2018)
North Korean cold noodle restaurant awaits South Koreans (*Korea Times*, 8/7/2018)
Pyongyang sends South Korean man back to Seoul (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 8/7/2018)
Unified Korean hoops captain says team training in great atmosphere (*Yonhap*, 8/7/2018)

International
(LEAD) U.N. guidelines expected to boost S. Korea's aid plan for N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 8/7/2018)
North Korea calls for lifting of sanctions (*UPI*, 8/7/2018)
North Korea coal shipment tests Seoul-Washington sanctions alliance (*Korea Times*, 8/7/2018)
North Korea hopeful for 2nd Trump-Kim Summit: source (*CNN*, 8/6/2018)
North Korea urges U.S. to drop sanctions as Seoul probes illicit coal shipments (*Reuters*, 8/6/2018)
North Korean Foreign Minister Heads to Iran as Both Countries Face Renewed U.S. Sanctions (*Newsweek*, 8/6/2018)
Pompeo declines to address N.K. foreign minister's complaints (*Yonhap*, 8/6/2018)
Report: Russia Set Up Clandestine Network For N. Korea Oil Shipments (VOA, 8/6/2018)
Shady ship returns to Korea with Russian coal (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 8/7/2018)
South Korea's diehard Trump supporters hail 'guardian of liberty' (*Reuters*, 8/6/2018)
UN adopts guidelines aimed at speeding aid to North Korea (*AP*, 8/6/2018)
U.N. adopts guidelines to ease humanitarian aid to N. Korea: reports (*Yonhap*, 8/7/2018)
U.N. adopts guidelines to facilitate humanitarian assistance for North Korea (*UPI*, 8/7/2018)
UNSC streamlines rules for aid to Pyongyang (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 8/7/2018)
U.S. extends small olive branch to North Korea to streamline humanitarian aid (*CBS News*, 8/6/2018)
White House adviser Bolton urges North Korea to act on denuclearization (*Reuters*, 8/7/2018)

Top News

- UPI quoted Jung Gwang-Il's speech from HRNK's conference on July 31st, 2018, at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies entitled "North Korean Human Rights: Diplomacy, Documentation, and Advocacy." "Jung, who recently spoke at a human rights conference in Seoul hosted by the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, said engagement with Pyongyang without a human rights component is fruitless." (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

In North Korea

- The number of 8.3 Workers (referring to workers officially employed by state-run factories but who pay fees for permission to engage in other business) continues to rise in North Korea, calling into question the reliability of official employment statistics released by the government. (Jo Hyon, *DailyNK*)
- In recent months, North Korea has been actively promoting new mobile devices and services that allow its people to stay connected and online, giving them more open access to the North Korean network. (Tae-Jun Kang, *The Diplomat*)

In South Korea

- The South Korean government on Tuesday dismissed a report that another foreign vessel carrying North Korean coal has entered a southeastern port in the country, potentially in breach of U.N. Security Council sanctions. (*Yonhap*)
- The cargo ship Jin Long, which is strongly suspected of smuggling North Korean coal into South Korea, leaves Pohang Harbor tonight after having been docked at the southern port for four days. Nevertheless, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Tuesday shrugged the whole episode off, saying that the authorities could not confirm the origin of the coal even after looking into it. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The arrival of a Belize-flagged ship in a South Korean port is raising questions but Seoul said the Jin Long is delivering Russian, not North Korean coal. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- North Korea repatriated a South Korean citizen Tuesday through the border village of Panmunjom in a "positive humanitarian" move, Seoul's unification ministry said. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea released a South Korean citizen on Tuesday who was detained in the North last month, a rare humanitarian gesture welcomed by the South Korean government. (Choe Sang-Hun, *New York Times*)
- North Korea released a South Korean citizen detained in July after crossing the border into the North, the South's Unification Ministry said on Tuesday. (Jeongmin Kim, *Reuters*)
- North Korea returned a South Korean national at the truce village of Panmunjom on Tuesday. The South Korean was a man in his 30s who had "illegally entered" the North, according to South Korea's unification ministry. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- North Korea returned a South Korean citizen who had been held there through the inter-Korean border town of Panmunjom on Tuesday in the latest peace overture toward its southern rival. (Park Si-Soo, *Korea Times*)
- Pro-North Korea media outlet Tongil Sinbo's interview with a chief food "technician" at Pyongyang's famous cold noodle restaurant Okryuguan, has recently been in the spotlight in South Korean media. (Jung Da-Min, *Korea Times*)
- North Korea on Tuesday repatriated a 34-year-old South Korean man on Tuesday through the border village of Panmunjom who illegally entered the country on July 22, Seoul's Unification Ministry said. (Lee Sung-Eun, *Korea JooongAng Daily*)
- The unified Korean women's basketball team for the upcoming Asian Games is training in a great atmosphere, its captain relayed on Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)

International

- New U.N. guidelines on humanitarian aid for North Korea are expected to provide a much-needed boost to efforts to help the country's people in need, government officials here said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- A North Korea committee chided the United States for not lifting economic sanctions following the June 12 summit in Singapore between U.S. President Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un.(Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Multiple reports of ships allegedly carrying North Korean coal to South Korea are expected to weigh on the alliance between South Korea and the U.S., despite the two governments stating that this is an excessive concern. (Kim Bo-Eun, *Korea Times*)
- North Korea believes there is a "strong possibility" of a second summit between the country's leader Kim Jong Un and US President Donald Trump, according to an official with close knowledge of Pyongyang's position on the matter. (Will Ripley, Bard Wilkinson, CNN)
- North Korean state media on Monday urged the United States to drop sanctions, as South Korea said it was investigating nine cases of coal shipments that potentially violated U.N. resolutions. (Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)
- North Korea's foreign minister plans to visit Iran on Tuesday as both nations face renewed U.S. sanctions due to their nuclear programs. Pyongyang's Ri Yong Ho will arrive in Tehran just as new sanctions from Washington kick in against Iran. (Jason Lemon, *Newsweek*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has brushed aside North Korea's complaints about the United States' commitment to their nuclear deal, saying Pyongyang's top diplomat was clear about his country's intent to denuclearize. (*Yonhap*)
- Russia engaged in more extensive oil exports to North Korea than had been previously reported, by setting up an illicit trade network that is likely still being used today to evade United Nations sanctions, according a South Korean research organization. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- Another ship suspected of carrying North Korean coal from Russia to South Korea was tracked to Pohang, North Gyeongsang, according to vessel tracking data Tuesday. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- For a colorful handful of Trump supporters who gather regularly on the streets of Seoul to call for aggressive action against North Korea, faith in the U.S. president is unshaken. (Jeongmin Kim, Minwoo Park, *Reuters*)
- The U.N. Security Council adopted new guidelines Monday to try to speed the delivery of humanitarian aid to North Korea, where the U.N. says around 10 million people need food and other assistance and about 20 percent of children are stunted because of malnutrition. (Edith M. Lederer, AP)
- The United Nations Security Council on Monday adopted guidelines to ease the provision of humanitarian aid to North Korea in the face of crippling sanctions against the regime, news reports said. (*Yonhap*)
- The Committee for United Nations sanctions said Monday that states, international and non-governmental organizations can request exemptions from sanctions on North Korea in their humanitarian assistance efforts. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)

- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on Monday adopted new guidelines to streamline the delivery of humanitarian aid to North Korea, which comes amid Washington's continued call for stringent enforcement of sanctions on the regime. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The committee that monitors sanctions on North Korea for the UN Security Council approved new U.S.-backed guidelines Monday to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid to millions of hungry and impoverished civilians.(Pamela Falk, *CBS News*)
- White House national security adviser John Bolton on Tuesday said North Korea has not taken the necessary steps to denuclearize despite an agreement between Pyongyang's leader Kim Jong Un and U.S. President Donald Trump in June. (*Reuters*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726223035/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-activist-glimpses-of-south-korea-life-threaten-kim-regime-north-korea-releases-south-korean-man-detained-in-july

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Wednesday, August 8, 2018

North Korea Exports Coal as 'Russian' in Bid to Beat Sanctions; Trump offered to send Pompeo to North Korea again

In North Korea

Another vessel suspected of carrying N. Korean coal found (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 08/08/2018)
Disheartened North Korean officials label this year's harvest 'dead in the water' (*DailyNK*, 08/08/2018)
Female soldier buries newborn alive to conceal birth (*DailyNK*, 08/08/2018)
More Progress on Dismantling Facilities at the Sohae Satellite Launching Station (*38 North*, 08/07/2018)
N.Korea 'Exports Coal Through Russian Network' (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 08/08/2018)
N. Korea continues to dismantle missile engine test site: 38 North (*Yonhap*, 08/08/2018)
N. Korea criticizes S. Korea for confrontation that could undermine peace mood (*Yonhap*, 08/08/2018)
N. Korea increases direct flights to Chinese border city (*Yonhap*, 08/08/2018)
N.Korean FM in Tehran for Talks (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 08/08/2018)
N. Korean leader Kim inspects fish pickling plant (*Yonhap*, 08/08/2018)
North continues scrapping test site (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/08/2018
North Korea: South's military spoiling 'peace' mood on peninsula (UPI, 08/08/2018)
North Korea Exports Coal as 'Russian' in Bid to Beat Sanctions (*Radio Free Asia*, 08/07/2018)
North Korea leader Kim Jong-un inspects things – in pictures (*The Guardian*, 08/07/2018)

North Korean cosmetics popular in China: report (*The Korea Times*, 08/08/2018)
North Korean state security agent shares thoughts on sanctions, defectors and life in North Korea (*DailyNK*, 08/08/2018)
Regime takes up to two-thirds of salaries from workers for 'loyalty funds' (*DailyNK*, 08/08/2018)
Top NK diplomat's Iran visit sends message to US (*The Korea Herald*, 08/08/2018)

In South Korea

(LEAD) Humanitarian aid for N. Korea may assist denuclearization process: Cheong Wa Dae (*Yonhap*, 08/08/2018)
(LEAD) Minor party chief hopes to visit now-closed Kaesong Industrial Complex (*Yonhap*, 08/08/2018)
[News in focus] Kepco's value slammed by woes (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/08/2018)
Gov't Drags Heels as N.Korean Coal Scandal Escalates (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 08/08/2018)
No consultation underway to arrange inter-Korean summit: official (*Yonhap*, 08/08/2018)
N.Korean Defectors Furious at Probe of Restaurant Workers' Defection (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 08/08/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship

(2nd LEAD) S. Korean officials return home after visiting N. Korea for joint inspection of forests (*Yonhap*, 08/08/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korean officials visit N. Korea for joint inspection of forests (*Yonhap*, 08/08/2018)
Inter-Korean workers' football match to kick off in Seoul on Saturday (*Yonhap*, 08/08/2018)
Koreas inspect disease, pest damage of forests in North (*The Korea Times*, 08/08/2018)
Peace talks raise hopes on special economic zones (*The Korea Herald*, 08/08/2018)
S. Korean officials visit N. Korea for forest inspection (*The Korea Herald*, 08/08/2018)
South Koreans to assist North on pest control (*UPI*, 08/08/2018)

International

(LEAD) Trump offered to send Pompeo to N. Korea again: Bolton (*Yonhap*, 08/08/2018)
Bolton hints at another trip to Pyongyang soon for Pompeo (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/08/2018)
No sanctions relief for inter-Korean effort (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/08/2018)
Seoul's coal imports may be upsetting Washington (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/08/2018)
Trump adviser Bolton urges N. Korea to act on denuclearization (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 08/08/2018)
Trump offered to send Pompeo to North Korea again (*The Korea Times*, 08/08/2018)
U.S. Accuses N.Korea of Not Moving Toward Denuclearization (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 08/08/2018)
U.S. releases Kim Jong Un's promise to denuclearize within a year (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 08/08/2018)
US ban on travel to North Korea may end this month (*The Korea Times*, 08/08/2018)

In North Korea

- The Jin Long was initially scheduled to depart at 11 p.m. Wednesday, but as its entry into Pohang and dropping off of coal were made public through the report of the Voice of America, U.S. government-funded radio broadcast source, the vessel changed its schedule and left for Russia in the afternoon without clear reasons. (*The Dong-A Ilbo*)

- As North Korea continues to reel from an unprecedented heat wave, the authorities are conducting a nationwide assessment of the damage that has been inflicted on crops as well as on-site farm visits, report sources in the country. (Kim Yoo Jin, DailyNK)
- A female North Korean soldier in North Hamgyong Province allegedly became pregnant by her superior officer, who was already married, and then buried the baby alive to hide its existence. The incident has come under investigation by the authorities, according to North Korean sources. (Kim Yoo Jin, DailyNK)
- Commercial satellite imagery from August 3 indicates additional dismantlement activities are ongoing at the Sohae Satellite Launching Station since last observed. At the vertical engine test stand, used for testing and development of engines for ballistic missiles and space launch vehicles, the North Koreans have continued to tear down the steel base structure and appear to be removing fuel and oxidizer tanks from dismantled bunkers. (Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., 38 North)
- A source in North Pyongan Province said North Korean trading firms would first ship their coal to the Russian ports of Nakhodka and Vladivostok and doctor documents. After U.S. and international sanctions were imposed, the North moved its coal storage yards from Nampo and Songnim, which are close to China, to Chongjin and Wonsan, which are nearer to Russia, he said. (Cho Yi-jun, The Chosun Ilbo)
- North Korea has continued to take down a missile engine testing site in line with an agreement reached by its leader Kim Jong-un and U.S. President Donald Trump, a U.S. website monitoring the regime said Tuesday. (Yonhap)
- North Korea accused South Korea on Wednesday of seeking confrontation and undermining the cross-border conciliatory mood, bristling at a recent defense meeting between Seoul and Washington. (Yonhap)
- The number of direct flights between North Korea and Shenyang, a key city in China's northeast, has temporarily increased recently, sources said Wednesday, indicating a spike in human exchanges between the two countries. (Yonhap)
- North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho arrived in Tehran for talks on Tuesday, the same day U.S. President Donald Trump imposed fresh economic sanctions on Iran after backing out of a nuclear deal. Both North Korea and Iran face tough sanctions over their nuclear weapons development, though Iran has gone much further toward verifiable denuclearization. (Lee Yong-soo, The Chosun Ilbo)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has inspected a fish pickling plant in the southwestern area of the country, calling on workers to closely listen to people's demand and provide high-quality goods, its state media reported Wednesday. (Yonhap)
- North Korea continues to dismantle a missile engine testing site that U.S. President Donald Trump said North Korean leader Kim Jong-un promised to destroy, satellite imagery from a North Korea analysis website showed Tuesday. (Lee Sung-eun, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- North Korea lambasted the South's military on Wednesday for policies that could "reverse" the mood of engagement. An article in the Korean Workers' Party newspaper Rodong Sinmun mentioned the recently held 14th Korea-U.S. Integrated Defense Dialogue, or KIDD, and added the meeting and other measures are creating a "confrontational disturbance." (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

- In a move aimed at evading U.N. sanctions, North Korea is exporting coal to foreign buyers by sending shipments first to Russian ports, where the coal is falsely labeled as Russian-origin, North Korean sources say. (Hyemin Son, *Radio Free Asia*)
- Images of the dictator on tour offer insights on the life of one of the world's most secretive rulers and serve to bolster the cult of personality surrounding him. (*Xinhua/REX/Shutterstock*)
- An report on North Korean cosmetics being popular among Chinese online shoppers was posted on a Chinese blog called Zhengzhidao July 15 and has since been shared by multiple Chinese news outlets. (Jung Da-min, *The Korea Times*)
- As changes to the political situation on the Korean Peninsula continue in the wake of the inter-Korean, US-DPRK (abbreviation for North Korea's formal name) and Sino-DPRK summits, Daily NK recently met with an official from North Korea's Ministry of State Security (MSS) in China to talk about international sanctions toward North Korea and the inter-Korean relationship. The MSS officer displayed a clear anti-American bias with his own ideological convictions, but also offered some objective evaluations of the North Korean regime. (Kim Song Il, *DailyNK*)
- As the North Korean authorities shift the financial burden of preparing for the anniversary of North Korea's establishment on September 9 and the development of the Wonsan-Kalma Marine Tourist Zone, residents are increasingly voicing their complaints over the inherent unfairness of the situation. (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)
- North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho's visit to Iran within hours of the US sanctions against the Islamic Republic taking effect raises questions over North Korea's intentions amid a deadlock in negotiations with Washington over its nuclear weapons program. (Ock Hyun-ju, *The Korea Herald*)

In South Korea

- Providing humanitarian aid to North Korea could be helpful in denuclearizing the communist nation, the presidential spokesman said Wednesday, possibly hinting at a resumption of assistance for the impoverished neighbor in the near future. (*Yonhap*)
- The new chief of the minor opposition Party for Democracy and Peace will seek government approval for his plan to visit the now-shuttered joint industrial park in North Korea's Kaesong, an aide said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- Korea South-East Power (Koen), a subsidiary of Kepco, is under fire over suspicion that it imported nearly 10,000 tons of coal from North Korea in violation of international sanctions. (Choi Hyung-jo, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- There are concerns that lack of coordination among government agencies led to the import and use by KOEN of North Korean coal mislabeled as Russian last year. A KOEN staffer said, "We were investigated by the KCS in November last year, but nobody told us about suspicions that the cargo was from North Korea. We wouldn't have used it if we'd known." (Kim Jin-myung, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- South Korea is not in talks with North Korea at this moment about setting up an inter-Korean summit meeting, the unification ministry here said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)

- North Korean defector groups and the National Human Rights Commission are at loggerheads over the commission's decision to investigate the murky defection of a group of North Korean restaurant workers from China. One leader of a defectors' group accused a member of the commission of making inappropriate remarks. (Kim Myong-song, *The Chosun Ilbo*)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- South and North Korea agreed to devise pest control measures during working-level meetings followed by a joint inspection of forests in the North, the unification ministry said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- A group of South Korean officials left for North Korea on Wednesday to conduct a joint inspection of forests and protect trees from harmful insects and diseases, the unification ministry said. (*Yonhap*)
- An inter-Korean workers' football match will kick off at Seoul's Sangam World Cup Stadium on Saturday, with about 30,000 citizens and laborers from both South and North Korea in attendance, organizers said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- South and North Korean officials inspected the extent of disease and pests on Mount Geumgang in the North, Wednesday. This is a follow-up to inter-Korean working-level talks on forestry cooperation which mainly involves reforestation in the North. (Kim Bo-eun, *The Korea Times*)
- Taking cue from a recent thaw in relations between the two Koreas, the municipalities have moved to take the upper hand in spearheading potential exchanges. (Shin Ji-hye, *The Korea Herald*)
- A delegation of 12 officials, including those from the Korean Forest Service and Unification Ministry, as well as analysts from the state-run National Institute of Forest Science, crossed the military demarcation line at 8:40 a.m. and headed to North Korea's eastern slopes of Kumgangsan, ministry spokesperson Baik Tae-hyun said during a regular press briefing. (Jung Min-kyung, *The Korea Herald*)
- A group of South Korean officials visited the Mount Kumgang region to assist the North Koreans with pest control at a once favored tourist destination. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

International

- U.S. President Donald Trump has offered to send Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to North Korea again to meet with Pyongyang's leader and continue negotiations on dismantling its nuclear weapons program, a top Trump aide said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump has offered to send Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to Pyongyang again to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and continue negotiations on dismantling its nuclear weapons program, the White House national security adviser said on Tuesday. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

- The United States will not lift sanctions for an inter-Korean rail project until North Korea fully gives up its nuclear weapons, the Voice of America reported on Wednesday citing an unnamed source in the State Department. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- John Bolton, the U.S. national security adviser, revealed he talked with Chung Eui-yong, his South Korean counterpart, over the issue of dodgy coal imports to South Korea Tuesday. Some observers speculated that Bolton could be warning Seoul not to turn a blind eye on sanctions cheating by the North. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- White House national security adviser John Bolton on Tuesday said North Korea has not taken the necessary steps to denuclearize despite an agreement between Pyongyang's leader Kim Jong Un and U.S. President Donald Trump in June. (*Reuters*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump has offered to send Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to North Korea again to meet with Pyongyang's leader and continue negotiations on dismantling its nuclear weapons program, a top Trump aide said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. national security adviser John Bolton accused North Korea Tuesday of failing to move ahead with denuclearization pledged by Pyongyang leader Kim Jong-un at his Singapore summit in June with U.S. President Donald Trump. (VOA)
- The security advisor may have intended to emphasize that Kim was the first who mentioned the deadline for denuclearization, which he also commented on July 1. (*The Dong-A Ilbo*)
- A U.S. ban on its citizens traveling to North Korea is expected to expire at the end of this month. The U.S. government announced on Aug. 2 last year that U.S. passport holders were banned from traveling to North Korea for a year. The ban took effect on Sept. 1. (Jung Da-min, *The Korea Times*)

Prepared by Hangyun Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726223040/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-north-korea-exports-coal-as-russian-in-bid-to-beat-sanctions-trump-offered-to-send-pompeo-to-north-korea-again

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Thursday, August 9, 2018

North and South Korea to Discuss Plans for a 3rd Summit; The Realist Case for a Korean Peace Treaty

In North Korea

A North Korean defector's harrowing story of escape (*Business Insider*, 8/8/2018)
MSS agents fine Chinese nationals for infractions to earn money (*DailyNK*, 8/9/2018)
N. Korea presses ranking officials over economic development goals (*Yonhap*, 8/9/2018)
North Korea's Economic Policy in 2018 and Beyond: Reforms Inevitable, Delays Possible (*38 North*, 8/8/2018)

North Korea's street children transition into paid workers (*DailyNK*, 8/9/2018)
Report: North Korea preparing military parade (*UPI*, 8/9/2018)

In South Korea
Approval rating for Moon sinks to low of 58% (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 8/9/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship
(LEAD) 2 Koreas hold meeting to discuss railway cooperation (*Yonhap*, 8/9/2018)
(LEAD) Koreas to hold high-level talks next week to discuss holding summit (*Yonhap*, 8/9/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea OKs trip by young athletes to N. Korea for soccer event (*Yonhap*, 8/9/2018)
North and South Korea to Discuss Plans for a 3rd Summit (*New York Times*, 8/9/2018)
Seoul: Rival Koreas to meet to prepare for leaders' summit (*AP*, 8/9/2018)
South Korean teams head North to play ball in Pyongyang (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 8/9/2018)
(Yonhap Feature) Disappointed but ready for economic opportunities amid thaw in inter-Korean ties (*Yonhap*, 8/9/2018)

International
Egypt's Orascom changes name, retains North Korea business (*UPI*, 8/8/2018)
Emotional moment when Korean War veteran's dog tag returned to sons in US (*Telegraph*, 8/9/2018)
Ending the Korean War Is in the National Interest (*National Interest*, 8/7/2018)
From the chaos of a decades-old war, two sons get a link to their father (*Washington Post*, 8/8/2018)
How South Koreans Are Reckoning With a Changing American Military Presence (*New York Times*, 8/9/2018)
IOC disappointed UN won't grant North Korea sports exemption (*AP*, 8/9/2018)
Iran's leader tells North's envoy Trump is untrustable (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 8/9/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korea, China appear to speed up tourism cooperation: sources (*Yonhap*, 8/9/2018)
N. Korea slams U.S. officials for sanctions (*Yonhap*, 8/9/2018)
N. Korea urges U.S. to agree to declare end to Korean War (*Yonhap*, 8/9/2018)
North Korea calls on U.S. to end 1950-53 Korean War (*UPI*, 8/9/2018)
North Korea chides U.S. for pressing sanctions (*Reuters*, 8/9/2018)
North Korea 'rejected US timeline to cut nuclear arsenal by 60-70 per cent' (*Telegraph*, 8/9/2018)
North Korea revives 'axis of evil' ties with Iran as denuclearisation talks falter (*Telegraph*, 8/9/2018)
Patience for North Korea Nuclear Progress is Being Tested (*VOA*, 8/8/2018)
Returned Korean War dog tag belonged to Army medic (*AP*, 8/8/2018)
Sons feel mixed emotions after NKorea returns dad's dog tag (*AP*, 8/9/2018)
The Realist Case for a Korean Peace Treaty (*National Interest*, 8/7/2018)
Two brothers receive father's dog tag returned from N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 8/9/2018)
U.S. can't be trusted, Iran says, as North Korea slams continued U.S. pressure (*Reuters*, 8/9/2018)
U.S. 'not willing to wait too long' for North Korea to act: U.N. envoy (*Reuters*, 8/8/2018)
U.S. voices confidence in S. Korea's implementation of sanctions against N.K. (*Yonhap*, 8/9/2018)
U.S. will not sit for long on nuke issue: Haley (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 8/9/2018)
Washington trusts Seoul to check for dubious coal (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 8/9/2018)
(Yonhap Interview) DNA sampling of U.S. troop remains could take 6 months: anthropologist (*Yonhap*, 8/9/2018)

In North Korea

- Yeon Mi Park escaped North Korea when she was 13 years old. And escape only brought more challenges. North Korean defectors risk being killed, imprisoned, and trafficked after they escape. This is Park's harrowing story. (Nathaniel Lee, Gene Kim, Jennifer Osaki, *Business Insider*)
- North Korean Ministry of State Security (MSS) agents have been ramping up the issuance of monetary fines for Chinese business people and drivers in the country for various infractions. (Mun Dong-Hui, *DailyNK*)
- North Korea's media on Thursday emphasized the role and responsibility of ranking government and party officials in attaining the goals of its five-year strategy for national economic development. (*Yonhap*)
- Kim Jong Un has based his claim to legitimacy as North Korea's leader on economic performance. This makes him more vulnerable to economic crises than his predecessors. If he wants to stay in power and achieve Korean unification under his leadership, he will have to succeed in making North Korea the next East Asian tiger. (Ruediger Frank, *38 North*)
- North Korea's homeless children (*kkotjebi*) are becoming less dependent on begging and more able to provide labor and earn money, Daily NK has learned. (Mun Dong-Hui, *DailyNK*)
- U.S. and South Korean intelligence sources say they have captured images of "troops and equipment near Kim Il Sung Square," and the formation appears to be "preparations for a military parade," News 1 reported Thursday. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)

In South Korea

- Moon's approval has been falling since the second week of June, when it peaked at 75.9 percent on the back of growing expectations for a breakthrough in both inter-Korean and North Korea-U.S. relations from the June 12 Singapore summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and U.S. President Donald Trump. (Kang Jin-Kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- South and North Korean officials held a meeting Thursday to discuss cooperation in modernizing and eventually reconnecting railways across their border, a unification ministry official said. (*Yonhap*)
- South and North Korea will hold a high-level meeting next week to review implementation of their previous summit agreements and discuss preparations for a new meeting between their leaders, the unification ministry said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea has approved a trip by a group of young athletes to North Korea to take part in an international youth soccer event to be held next week, the unification ministry said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- Senior officials from North and South Korea will meet next week to discuss the possibility of a third summit meeting between their countries' leaders, the South said on Thursday. (Choe Sang-Hun, *New York Times*)
- The rival Koreas will meet Monday for high-level talks meant to prepare for a summit

between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in, South Korea said, the third such meetings between the leaders in recent months. (Youkyung Lee, AP)

- Two South Korean teams will compete in a youth football competition hosted by North Korea over the next 10 days, the South Korean Unification Ministry announced on Thursday. (Lee Sung-Eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Recent warming inter-Korean ties have raised prospects for diverse inter-Korean economic cooperation, with many expecting that a resumption of the joint industrial complex in Kaesong might be among first such moves. (Koh Byung-Joon, *Yonhap*)

International

- The Egyptian firm that provides wireless services in North Korea has changed its name, a move that reflects a renewed commitment to investment. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- The sons of a US veteran who was killed in the Korean War have spoken emotionally about receiving his military identification tag that North Korea returned last month. (*Telegraph*)
- It has been decades since bombs fell and bullets flew on the Korean peninsula. Yet the United States, China, North Korea, and South Korea still technically are at war. The Korean War ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty. The time is long overdue for the "combatants" to declare a state of peace. (Doug Bandow, *National Interest*)
- Almost 68 years after Sgt. McDaniel, a World War II veteran and Army medic, vanished in the disastrous fight with Chinese communist forces around Unsan, the Army on Wednesday gave his tattered dog tag to his sons. (Michael E. Ruane, *Washington Post*)
- While the Korean people may not agree on the desirability of the American military presence, "a pro-U.S. security consensus is fairly well embedded in domestic institutions and ideology," according to Andrew Yeo, a professor at Catholic University. (E. Tammy Kim, *New York Times*)
- IOC President Thomas Bach says he is disappointed the United Nations will not allow sports equipment to be sent to North Korea. The International Olympic Committee's request was rejected by the U.N. Security Council Sanctions Committee. (AP)
- Iranian President Hassan Rouhani told North Korea's Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho that the United States cannot be trusted, the Islamic state's presidential office said Wednesday as Washington tries to negotiate a denuclearization deal with Pyongyang. (Lee Sung-Eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- North Korea and China are showing signs of speeding up cooperation in the tourism sector despite ongoing United Nations sanctions on the North, sources here said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea warned Thursday that there could be no progress in its denuclearization as it accused some senior U.S. officials of trying to strengthen international sanctions on Pyongyang. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea reiterated its demand Thursday for the United States to agree to declare an end to the 1950-53 Korean War, saying that it would help bring in peace and create mutual trust. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea said the "military confrontation" between Pyongyang and Washington must

come to an end, in order for trust to develop between the two countries. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

- North Korea accused the United States on Thursday of pushing for international sanctions despite goodwill moves by Pyongyang and said progress on denuclearization promises could not be expected if Washington continues to follow an "outdated acting script." (Reuters)
- North Korea has reportedly rejected a formal timeline to give up its nuclear weapons, proposed by Mike Pompeo, the US secretary of state. (Nicola Smith, Telegraph)
- The arrival of North Korea's foreign minister in Tehran just hours after Donald Trump had reinstated sanctions against Iran was "no coincidence", analysts believe, and is designed to send the message that Pyongyang is reinforcing its alliances as denuclearization talks with the US stall. (Julian Ryall, Telegraph)
- Increasing economic and political pressure could revive tensions with North Korea in the coming months, unless significant denuclearization progress is made. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- The lone military identification tag that North Korea provided with 55 boxes of human remains last month belonged to Master Sgt. Charles H. McDaniel, an Army medic from Indiana who was killed in the opening months of the Korean War. (Robert Burns, AP)
- The Army on Wednesday handed McDaniel's slightly corroded dog tag to his sons, Charles Jr. and Larry, who were so young when their father perished that they have little memory of him. Charles, 71, told reporters he was moved to tears when he got the phone call at home in Indianapolis last week informing him that his father's dog tag had been returned. (Robert Burns, AP)
- Following the disastrous examples of Iraq and Libya, there are few today who directly argue for imposing regime change in Pyongyang—but that remains the ultimate horizon of mainstream thinking. (Ryan Mitchell, National Interest)
- Charles and Larry McDaniel were 3 and 2 when their father was deployed to fight in the Korean War. Sixty-eight years later, they received unexpected news that their father's dog tag has been returned from North Korea among 55 boxes of remains of fallen American service members. (Lee Haye-Ah, Yonhap)
- Iranian President Hassan Rouhani told North Korea's foreign minister that the United States cannot be trusted, Tehran's state media said, as the United States seeks a deal to rein in the North's nuclear and missile programs. (Hyonhee Shin, Babak Dehghanpisheh, Reuters)
- The United States is "not willing to wait for too long" for North Korea to take steps toward denuclearization, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley said on Wednesday. (Julia Symmes Cobb, Reuters)
- The United States on Wednesday voiced confidence in South Korea's implementation of sanctions against North Korea amid reports a shipment of North Korean coal docked at a South Korean port. (Yonhap)
- The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations pressed North Korea to take steps toward denuclearization on Wednesday, telling reporters during her visit to Colombia's border with Venezuela that the United States is "not willing to wait for too long." (Sarah Kim, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- The U.S. State Department said on Wednesday that it had faith in South Korea's implementation of sanctions on North Korea after Seoul faced accusations of allowing ships with suspected North Korean coal to slip through its ports. (Sarah Kim, Korea JoongAng

Daily)

- Jennie Jin, a Korean-born anthropologist who became an American citizen in 2014, is leading a team of experts tasked with identifying the remains of American service members killed in the 1950-53 Korean War. (Lee Haye-Ah, *Yonhap*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726223047/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-north-and-south-korea-to-discuss-plans-for-a-3rd-summit-the-realist-case-for-a-korean-peace-treaty

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Friday, August 10, 2018

(LEAD) N. Korea to hold onto nuclear knowledge against U.S.' hostile policy; top diplomat; North's coal, iron came to South

In North Korea:
(2nd LD) China-based N. Korea tourism agency suspends group tours (*Yonhap*, 08/10/2018)
'Insulting': North Korea hits out at US for call to enforce sanctions (*The Guardian*, 08/10/2018)
Kim Jong Un's demands for economic growth can only be answered by political reforms (*DailyNK*, 08/10/2018)
Kim Jong-un tries to stay cool in North Korean heatwave - in attempt to be 'man of the people' (*Telegraph*, 08/10/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korea to hold onto nuclear knowledge against U.S.' hostile policy: top diplomat (*Yonhap*, 08/10/2018)
Mass deployment of officials to rural areas following leader's criticism (*DailyNK*, 08/10/2018)
'NK will not give up nuclear science' (*Korea Times*, 08/10/2018)
North Korea chides U.S. sanctions pressure on denuclearization process (*Reuters*, 08/10/2018)
North Korea lashes out at US diplomats over sanctions (*BBC*, 08/10/2018)
North Korea's claim that Thae Yong Ho was fired from spy agency think tank is a falsehood (*DailyNK*, 08/09/2018)
North Korea Smuggles South Korean Cookware Seized at Kaesong (RFA, 08/09/2018)
North Korea's Yongbyon Nuclear Scientific Research Center: Work Continues on 5 MWe Reactor's Cooling System (*38 North*, 08/09/2018)
North Korea: US not adhering to its side of the bargain since Trump-Kim summit (CNN, 08/09/2018)
Pyongyang vows to retain 'nuclear technology' (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/10/2018)

In South Korea:
(3rd LD) N. Korean coal, pig iron illegally shipped to S. Korea: customs office (*Yonhap*, 08/10/2018)

(LEAD) Main opposition party calls for parliamentary probe into N.K. coal shipment (*Yonhap*, 08/10/2018)
North's coal, iron came to South (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/10/2018)
Three South Korean firms imported North Korean coal in breach of sanctions: customs service (*Reuters*, 08/10/2018)
Turning a blind eye (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/10/2018)
Two Koreas to discuss 3rd Moon-Kim summit on Monday (*Korea Times*, 08/10/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) N.K. delegation head hails planned inter-Korean football match (*Yonhap*, 08/10/2018)
(LEAD) Koreas to begin joint survey on roads next week (*Yonhap*, 08/10/2018)
(LEAD) Two Koreas attend tourism festival in China (*Yonhap*, 08/10/2018)
Football friendlies for two Koreas (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/10/2018)
Private firm pushes to publish N. Korean novels in S. Korea (*Yonhap*, 08/10/2018)
Say what? Language hurdles plague two Koreas after years of division (*Reuters*, 08/10/2018)
S. Korea approves trip to Pyongyang for operation of tech university (*Yonhap*, 08/10/2018)
S. Korean youth football teams travel to N. Korea for int'l tournament (*Yonhap*, 08/10/2018)
Time, place of third Moon-Kim summit may be subject to change: Seoul (*Yonhap*, 08/10/2018)

International:
China to conduct 'important' military drill in Yellow Sea (*Yonhap*, 08/10/2018)
Korea remains: Sons receive father's dog tag after 70 years (*BBC*, 08/09/2018)
Maryland honors Korean War veterans as N. Korea returns remains (*Yonhap*, 08/10/2018)
Red Cross warns of food crisis in North Korea as crops fail in heat (*Reuters*, 08/10/2018)
Russia, China object to U.S. proposal to blacklist Russian bank at U.N.: diplomats (*Reuters*, 08/09/2018)
Russia turns down U.S. North Korea sanctions at U.N. (UPI, 08/10/2018)
U.S., N. Korea talk virtually every day: State Department (*Yonhap*, 08/10/2018)

In North Korea:

- A China-based tourism agency said Friday it will stop all group travel packages to North Korea starting this week for around a month due to domestic affairs in the North. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea has denounced US calls for international sanctions to be enforced despite Pyongyang's goodwill moves, saying progress on denuclearisation cannot be expected if Washington follows an "outdated acting script". (Benjamin Haas, *The Guardian*)
- In normal circumstances, economic growth is achieved by investing in labor-focused skills and physical infrastructure, the introduction of a marketized economic system, and protection of the lower class and vulnerable populations. (Jo Hyon, *DailyNK*)
- Kim Jong-un, the North Korean leader, has stripped down to his undershirt and worn a wide-brimmed straw hat for recent visits to factories and state farms, in a bid to show himself to be a man of the people. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- North Korea's top diplomat has said that the country will hold onto its nuclear knowledge, saying that it will serve as a means to gird for the U.S.' possibly continued hostile policy

toward Pyongyang, according to Iranian media reports. (Yonhap)

- Officials from the Central Party, Cabinet and provinces are being dispatched en masse to construction sites as well as municipal and county farms to directly support economic development, report sources in the country. (Kim Yoo-jin, DailyNK)
- North Korea will not give up its nuclear science even in the event of denuclearization, the country's Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho said, according to Iranian media reports. (Yi Whan-woo, Korea Times)
- North Korea on Thursday denounced U.S. calls for enforcing international sanctions despite its goodwill moves and said progress on denuclearization promises could not be expected if Washington followed an "outdated acting script." (Haejin Cho, David Brunnstrom, Reuters)
- North Korea's foreign ministry has lashed out at the US for not lifting sanctions against the country. (BBC)
- On July 31, North Korea used its South Korea-directed internet news media 'Uriminzokkiri' to state that Thae Yong Ho had been dismissed from his job as a researcher at the Institute for National Security Strategy (INSS) under the National Intelligence Service (NIS) as a result of North Korea's hard line actions and South Korea's public sentiment. (Thae Yong-ho, DailyNK)
- South Korean electric rice cookers seized illegally by North Korea after the Kaesong joint industrial complex was shut down two years ago are being smuggled for sale to China by a North Korean trading firm run by the sanctions-hit country's powerful military, North Korean sources say. (Hyemin Son, RFA)
- Commercial satellite imagery from July 31 of North Korea's Yongbyon Nuclear Scientific Research Center indicates ongoing work on the secondary cooling system for the 5 MWe reactor. (38 North)
- North Korea issued a forceful statement Thursday against what it said were elements of the US government which are not adhering to the spirit of the dialogue established by US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un at the Singapore summit in June. (James Griffiths, Richard Roth, Will Ripley, CNN)
- North Korea's Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho said his country supports the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula but will not surrender its nuclear technology because the United States may not abandon its enmity towards the regime, Iranian media reported Thursday. (Lee Sung-eun, Korea JoongAng Daily)

In South Korea:

- Three South Korean firms imported North Korean coal from Russia by forging customs documents in apparent violation of a U.N. sanctions resolution, authorities here announced Friday. (Park Sang-soo, Lee Chi-dong, Yonhap)
- The main opposition Liberty Korea Party (LKP) on Friday called for a parliamentary probe into allegations that ships suspected of carrying North Korean coal have entered South Korean ports in possible violation of U.N. sanctions. (Yonhap)
- North Korean coal and iron has been smuggled into South Korean ports, according to the country's customs agency. (Choi Hyung-jo, Korea JoongAng Daily)

- Three South Korean firms imported coal from North Korea disguised as Russian products in violation of U.N. resolutions in a fresh sign of loosening sanctions, South Korea's customs agency said on Friday. (Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)
- South Korean customs confirmed that North Korean coal and iron banned by a United Nations Security Council Resolution had been smuggled into South Korea. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The rival Koreas plan to hold high-level talks on Monday to prepare for a third summit between their leaders, as Pyongyang called on the United States to reciprocate its "goodwill measures" by easing sanctions and stopping demands that the North denuclearize first. (AP)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The head of a North Korean delegation for a planned inter-Korean workers' football match hailed the occasion as a chance to rev up the momentum for peaceful cross-border relations between the two Koreas. (*Yonhap*)
- The two Koreas have agreed to start a joint survey of cross-border roads next week as part of efforts to modernize and reconnect them across their borders, the unification ministry said Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- South and North Korea participated in a recent cultural tourism festival in China amid growing speculation about Beijing's moves to support the North through tourism sector cooperation, sources said Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- South and North Korea each sent a delegation across the border on Friday to separate friendly football competitions held in Pyongyang and Seoul over the next few days. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- A South Korean private enterprise said Friday it will push to publish North Korean novels in South Korea, as part of efforts to stimulate private sector inter-Korean exchanges. (*Yonhap*)
- When South Korean businessman Kim Yong-tae worked with North Koreans at the Kaesong Industrial Complex before it was closed in 2016, one of the biggest challenges was communicating in what is ostensibly a shared language. (Jeongmin Kim, Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- South Korea has approved a request by officials of a private foundation to visit North Korea to discuss the operation of a tech and science university the two Koreas jointly opened about a decade ago, the unification ministry said Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean youth football teams traveled to North Korea by land Friday for an international under-15 tournament in Pyongyang. (*Yonhap*)
- When and where the leaders of South Korea and North Korea will hold their next meeting may be finalized in high-level talks next week, but an earlier agreement to meet in Pyongyang this fall could be changed, the presidential spokesman said Friday. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- The Chinese government said Friday that its military will hold an "important" drill in the sea between China and the Korean Peninsula until Monday. (*Yonhap*)

- Nearly 70 years after he died in combat in the Korean War, a US army medic's dog tag is back home with his two sons. (BBC)
- The U.S. state of Maryland held an official ceremony Thursday to honor veterans of the Korean War amid renewed hope for the recovery of fallen troops' remains. (Lee Haye-ah, Yonhap)
- A heat wave in North Korea has led to rice, maize and other crops withering in the fields, "with potentially catastrophic effects", the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) said on Friday. (Stephanie Nebehay, Reuters)
- Russia and China on Thursday objected to a U.S. proposal to add a Russian bank, Moscow-based North Korean banker and two other entities to a U.N. Security Council blacklist, diplomats said. (Reuters)
- Russia said it has overturned U.S. attempts to expand United Nations Security Council sanctions against North Korea. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- The United States and North Korea continue to have conversations "virtually every day" in the wake of their leaders' nuclear summit in June, the State Department said Thursday. (Yonhap)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726223316/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemslead-n-korea-to-hold-onto-nuclear-knowledge-against-us-hostile-policy-top-diplomatnorths-coal-iron-came-to-south

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Saturday, August 11, 2018

Japanese man detained in North Korea: report; (LEAD) Koreas confirm list of delegates for high-level talks: ministry

In North Korea:
Japanese man detained in North Korea: report (*Reuters*, 08/11/2018)
N. Korea missing 'last 2 pieces' of technology to perfect ICBMs: U.S. general (*Yonhap*, 08/11/2018)
N. Korea unveils Venezuelan president's letter to leader Kim Jong-un (*Yonhap*, 08/11/2018)
North Korea said to detain Japanese tourist, complicating rapprochement efforts (*Washington Post*, 08/11/2018)

In South Korea:
S. Korea under preparation to report N.K. coal shipments to UNSC: official (*Yonhap*, 08/11/2018)
South Korea firms imported nearly $6M of North Korea coal, pig iron (*UPI*, 08/10/2018)
South Korean Companies Accused of Illegally Importing Coal From North (*New York Times*, 08/10/2018)

Unauthorized inter-Korean coal trade confirmed (*Korea Times*, 08/10/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Hopes for Korean summit in Indonesia dashed (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/10/2018)
(LEAD) Koreas confirm list of delegates for high-level talks: ministry (*Yonhap*, 08/11/2018)
Pyongyang unlikely venue for 3rd Moon-Kim summit (*Korea Times*, 08/11/2018)

International:
Japan checking report of Japanese man held in North Korea (*Washington Post*, 08/11/2018)
North Korea rejecting US proposals in diplomatic standoff (CNN, 08/10/2018)
Once 'No Longer a Nuclear Threat,' North Korea Now in Standoff With U.S. (*New York Times*, 08/10/2018)
U.S. backs S. Korea amid illegal imports of N.K. coal (*Yonhap*, 08/11/2018)

In North Korea:

- A Japanese man has been detained in North Korea, and government officials are trying to gather information on his safety, the Asahi Shimbun reported on Saturday. (*Reuters*)
- North Korea appears to be missing the "last two pieces" of technology to perfect its intercontinental ballistic missiles amid the regime's pause in testing, a top U.S. military official was reported as saying Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea unveiled Saturday that the Venezuelan president has sent a letter to the country's leader Kim Jong-un to reaffirm his commitment to cement ties with the North. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea has detained a Japanese tourist visiting the country, possibly on spying charges, Japanese media reported Saturday, complicating efforts to seek rapprochement between the two countries. (Simon Denyer, *Washington Post*)

In South Korea:

- South Korea is preparing to report its investigation results on suspected North Korean coal shipments to its ports to the U.N. Security Council next week at the earliest possible date, a government official said Saturday. (*Yonhap*)
- Three South Korean companies illegally imported North Korean coal and pig iron in 2017, violating international sanctions adopted in August of last year. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- More than 33,000 tons of North Korean coal was illegally imported to South Korea last year in violation of United Nations and other sanctions, the South Korean government said Friday. (Choe Sang-hun, *New York Times*)
- South Korea received 6.6 billion won ($5.86 million) worth of North Korean coal and pig iron, of which the country of origin was fabricated, the nation's customs agency said, Friday. (Yoon Ja-young, *Korea Times*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- There will be no inter-Korean summit this month in Indonesia. Pyongyang recently informed the host of the Asian Games that North Korean leader Kim Jong-un will be unable to travel to Jakarta due to his "political schedule," a high-level South Korean official exclusively told the JoongAng Ilbo Friday. (Jeong Yong-soo, Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South and North Korea have confirmed a list of delegates for high-level talks next week which have been scheduled to discuss preparations for a new meeting between their leaders and review implementation of their previous summit agreements, the unification ministry said Saturday. (*Yonhap*)
- The venue for a third summit between President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un could be changed from Pyongyang, a Cheong Wa Dae spokesman indicated Friday. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)

International:

- Japan's government said Saturday that it is looking into reports that a Japanese citizen was detained this month in North Korea. (Mari Yamaguchi, *Washington Post*)
- The US has made repeated proposals to North Korea on denuclearization, all of which have been rejected, according to senior diplomatic sources. (Michelle Kosinski, CNN)
- North Korea is insisting that the United States declare that the Korean War is over before providing a detailed, written disclosure of all its atomic weapons stockpiles, its nuclear production facilities and its missiles as a first major step toward denuclearization. (David E. Sanger, William J. Broad, *New York Times*)
- The United States voiced its continued support for South Korea Friday after three South Korean businesses were caught importing North Korean coal and iron in possible violation of U.N. sanctions. (*Yonhap*)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726223435/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsjapanese-man-detained-in-north-korea-reportlead-koreas-confirm-list-of-delegates-for-high-level-talks-ministry

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Sunday, August 12, 2018

North Korean ICBM Efforts Hampered by Test Ban; Four Ships Banned for Smuggling North's Coal

In North Korea:
A peep into N. Korean leader's summer retreat (*Korea Times*, 8/12/2018)
N. Korea smuggles cookware from joint industrial park (*Korea Times*, 8/12/2018)
N. Korean officials mobilized to support rural projects (*Korea Times*, 8/12/2018)
North Korean ICBM Efforts Hampered by Test Ban (*Wall Street Journal*, 8/10/2018)
The Unbelievable Story of North Korea's Most-Celebrated Propagandist (*Atlantic*, 8/11/2018)

In South Korea:
Four ships banned for smuggling North's coal (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 8/12/2018)
Gov't had underage football players sign security document ahead of N.K. visit (*Yonhap*, 8/12/2018)
(LEAD) Gov't bans port entry of ships that transported N. Korean coal (*Yonhap*, 8/12/2018)
S. Korea: N. Korean Coal, Iron Illegally Entered Its Ports (VOA, 8/10/2018)
The coal conundrum (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 8/12/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Moon-Kim summit logistics likely to be decided on at high-level talks Monday (*Yonhap*, 8/12/2018)
N. Korean media blames Seoul for lack of progress on Panmunjom Declaration (*Yonhap*, 8/12/2018)
Pyongyang says Seoul is dragging feet on projects (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 8/12/2018)
Seoul hosts football games between two Koreas [VIDEO] (*Korea Times*, 8/12/2018)
South's young football players arrive in Pyongyang to play with NK (*Korea Times*, 8/12/2018)

International:
N. Koreans reject Chinese medicines over safety concerns (*Korea Times*, 8/12/2018)
Red Cross Emergency Teams Tackle North Korea's Heatwave (VOA, 8/10/2018)
Russia rejects new sanctions on North Korea (*North Korean Economy Watch*, 8/10/2018)
The Humanity We Can't Relinquish (*New York Times*, 8/11/2018)
Tighter control raises speculation over Xi's N. Korea trip (*Korea Times*, 8/12/2018)
Trump did not solve the North Korea problem in Singapore — in fact, the threat has only grown (NBC *News*, 8/12/2018)

In North Korea:

- The sites for Kim's latest "field guidance" from late June included Sinuiju in North Pyongan Province, Samjiyon in Ryanggang Province, Chongjin and Orangchon in North Hamgyong Province and Wonsan in Kangwon Province. "All those areas are where Kim's holiday cottages are located," said Kang Myung-do, a defector who was a son-in-law of late North Korean Prime Minister Kang Song-san. (Yi Whan-Woo, *Korea Times*)
- North Korea has been smuggling electric rice cookers made by South Korean firms at the suspended Gaeseong Industrial Complex (GIC) to China, according to a source familiar with the matter. (Yi Whan-Woo, *Korea Times*)
- North Korea's central government and party authorities are being sent to rural areas to support projects that leader Kim Jong-un recently assessed as progressing too slowly, according to sources familiar with Pyongyang. (Yi Whan-Woo, *Korea Times*)

- North Korea's moratorium on missile test flights has precluded it from trying out the technology it would need to strike the U.S. with a nuclear-tipped ICBM, a top U.S. military officer said Friday. (Michael R. Gordon, *Wall Street Journal*)
- In the course of a sweeping counterintelligence operation, the South Korean military had discovered that Young Jae had been conscripted by the invading North Korean army in July of 1950—a secret the family had held close since then. In the South Korean military, those with personal ties to North Korea were barred from service. (Max Kim, *Atlantic*)

In South Korea:

- The South Korean government has banned the entry of four ships to local ports after they were found to have smuggled North Korean coal into the country last year in violation of international sanctions, announced Seoul's Foreign Ministry Sunday. (Lee Sung-Eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The South Korean government has elicited some negative responses for what seemed to be an attempt to shift the responsibility to underage football players for possible security accidents while they are in North Korea for an international tournament. (*Yonhap*)
- The South Korean government banned the port entry of four South Korean ships confirmed to have imported North Korean coal to the country from Saturday, the foreign ministry said Sunday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea said Friday three South Korean companies apparently violated United Nations sanctions by importing nearly 35,000 tons of coal and iron worth nearly $6 million from the North last year. (VOA)
- Even after the bombshell news about North Korean coal being smuggled into South Korea despite UN sanctions, the Moon Jae-in administration has been responding in a questionable way. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The logistical details of the third inter-Korean summit between South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un are likely to be determined during a high-level official meeting on Monday, the presidential spokesman said. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean media on Sunday pointed a finger at Seoul for what it claimed was a lack of progress on the realization of the Panmunjom Declaration reached by the two leaders in April. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea reproached the South on Sunday for siding with the United States' "sanctions scheme" against the regime, saying such "blind obedience" was hampering progress in fulfilling the Panmunjom Declaration signed by the leaders of the two Koreas on April 27. (Lee Sung-Eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Workers from the two Koreas played rare football matches at Sangam World Cup Stadium, Seoul, on Saturday. About 20,000 citizens gathered to cheer them. (Jung Da-Min, *Korea Times*)
- Young South Korean football players arrived in North Korea to take part in an international youth football event starting Wednesday, according to South Korean media going with them,

Sunday. (Park Ji-Won, Korea Times)

International:

- North Koreans have been refusing to buy Chinese medicines in the wake of a vaccine scandal and safety concerns in China, according to sources familiar with the matter. China experienced one of its worst public health crises in July when vaccine maker Changsheng Biotechnology was found to have fabricated production and inspection records of its freeze-dried human rabies vaccines. (Yi Whan-Woo, Korea Times)
- Red Cross emergency response teams, armed with water pumps, are helping irrigate fields hard hit by North Korea's heat wave. In addition, IFRC staff and volunteers have mounted a campaign to raise awareness about the signs, symptoms and treatment of heat-related illnesses. (VOA)
- Russia has blocked the US application to the UN Security Council Sanctions Committee on North Korea (1718) on introducing international sanctions against one individual and several legal entities, including the Russian commercial bank Agrosoyuz that are allegedly involved in illegal activities that are violating the sanctions regime against that country. (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, North Korean Economy Watch)
- I was back in North Korea because nowhere I'd seen raised such searching questions about what being human truly involves. Nowhere so unsettled my easy assumptions about what "reality" really is. (Pico Iyer, New York Times)
- China is beefing up its patrols on its border with North Korea, fueling speculation that Chinese President Xi Jinping may visit Pyongyang for North Korea's founding anniversary on Sept. 9. (Yi Whan-Woo, Korea Times)
- The problem has not been solved and in fact the threat has only grown since Singapore. In the intervening weeks, North Korea reportedly has been upgrading nuclear and missile facilities, increasing production of fuel for nuclear bombs at secret sites, building new long-range missiles, and exploring ways to hide the extent of its nuclear weapons program from the United States. (Ryan Hass, NBC News)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250726223328/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-north-korean-icbm-efforts-hampered-by-test-ban-four-ships-banned-for-smuggling-norths-coal

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Monday, August 13, 2018

Koreas agree to hold summit in Pyongyang in September; Only 2 in 10 young Korean students think unification is a must: poll

In North Korea

[Photo] Taxi driving a dream occupation for middle-aged North Korean men (*DailyNK*, 08/13/2018)
Foreign computer games popular among North Korean youth (*DailyNK*, 08/13/2018)
Hwang Pyong-so's new title revealed in North (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/13/2018)
Interpreter for N. Korean foreign minister ignites curiosity (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 08/13/2018)
N. Korean leader inspects fishing, livestock farms (*Yonhap*, 08/13/2018)
N.Korean Restaurants in China Poised to Reopen (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 08/13/2018)

In South Korea

Cheong Wa Dae seeks joint participation of Moon, Kim at UN General Assembly (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 08/13/2018)
Inter-Korea engagement is a game changer, South Koreans say (*UPI*, 08/13/2018)
Inter-Korean cruise travel looms for foreign tourists (*Yonhap*, 08/13/2018)
Inter-Korean cruise travel under review (*The Korea Times*, 08/13/2018)
Korea South-East Power in hot seat over NK coal imports (*The Korea Times*, 08/13/2018)
Only 2 in 10 young Korean students think unification is a must: poll (*The Korea Herald*, 08/13/2018)
Police review arrest warrant for man over 2nd NK entry attempt (*The Korea Herald*, 08/13/2018)
South Korea bans ships that transported NK coal (*The Korea Herald*, 08/13/2018)
South Korea bans vessels transporting coal from north (*UPI*, 08/13/2018)
Think tank suggests twin city model for inter-Korean border areas (*Yonhap*, 08/13/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship

(5th LD) Koreas agree to hold summit in Pyongyang in September (*Yonhap*, 08/13/2018)
(Asian Games) Joint Korean hoops coach says players united in pursuit of common goal (*Yonhap*, 08/13/2018)
(Asian Games) Unified Korean teams' races in rowing, canoeing not available on TV (*Yonhap*, 08/13/2018)
Inter-Korean economic projects stalled (*The Korea Times*, 08/13/2018)
Inter-Korean Tourism Surge Expected if Peace Prevails (*VOA*, 08/13/2018)
Korean Leaders to Hold Summit Next Month in Pyongyang (*VOA*, 08/13/2018)
Koreas may finally study same pages of history via Manwoldae dig (*The Korea Herald*, 08/13/2018)
Moon, Kim to hold 3rd summit in Pyongyang in September (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/13/2018)
Moon and Kim to meet again in Pyongyang next month (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/13/2018)
Moon to head to Pyongyang for September summit (*The Korea Herald*, 08/13/2018)
Next Moon-Kim summit likely in mid or late September: Cheong Wa Dae (*The Korea Herald*, 08/13/2018)
North and South Korean leaders to meet for third summit in Pyongyang (*UPI*, 08/13/2018)
North and South Korean leaders to meet in Pyongyang in September (*CNN*, 08/13/2018)
Officials from 2 Koreas Meet to Prepare for Summit (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 08/13/2018)
Rival Korea leaders to meet in Pyongyang; date not yet fixed (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 08/13/2018)
South Korean president Moon Jae-in to meet Kim Jong-un in Pyongyang for latest summit (*The Daily Telegraph*, 08/13/2018)
Two Koreas agree on 3rd Moon-Kim summit to be held in September (*The Korea Times*, 08/13/2018)

Two Koreas Plan Third Summit of Kim, Moon Next Month (*The New York Times*, 08/13/2018)
Two Koreas start high-level talks to discuss leaders' summit (*The Korea Herald*, 08/13/2018)
3rd Moon-Kim summit in Pyongyang in Sept. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/13/2018)

International
'Sanctions on North Korea will remain effective' (*The Korea Times*, 08/13/2018)
'Too early for declaring end to the Korean War': US ambassador (*The Korea Times*, 08/13/2018)
Hopes rise for US-S. Korea joint repatriation project in NK (*The Korea Times*, 08/13/2018)
Japanese man detained in North Korea thought to be videographer from Shiga Prefecture (*The Japan Times*, 08/12/2018)
Japanese man held in military port city in North Korea (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 08/12/2018)

In North Korea

- Taxi driving has become a sought-after occupation among North Korean men with the perception that it is a stable, high-paying job. Those hoping to become a driver usually need capital to buy a car and pass a difficult licensing process before they can work. Once eligible, however, there is the potential to earn a lot of money, something that has attracted many men in their 30s and 40s to the profession. (Kang Mi Jin, *DailyNK*)
- Popular computer games are gaining traction among North Korean youth, a recent defector to South Korea has reported. North Korean gamers, however, are unable to interact with the wider international community because internet access is severely restricted in the country. Jung emphasized that this was one major difference between North and South Korea, though he added that North Korean youth were not completely restricted to playing the games alone. (Yeum Sung Chel, *DailyNK*)
- Hwang Pyong-so, a powerful aide to North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and head of the North Korean Army's General Political Bureau before being sacked last year, has been rehabilitated and made first vice department director of the Central Committee within the ruling Workers' Party. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- A previously unknown interpreter accompanying North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho at the recent ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in Singapore sparked speculation that she may be a top-level diplomat in the secretive nation. (Yoshihiro Makino, *The Asahi Shimbun*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has inspected fishing and livestock farms in the country's northwestern region, the North's state media reported Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean restaurants in China that shut down under sanctions against North Korea are preparing to reopen, Radio Free Asia reported Friday. Morangwan restaurant in Shenyang closed down in January, but now the interior is being redecorated, a trade source in Dandong told RFA. (Cho Yi-jun, *The Chosun Ilbo*)

In South Korea

- South Korean presidential office Cheong Wa Dae plans to realize a joint participation of the two Korean leaders in the United Nations General Assembly mid-September, in New York

City, through a third inter-Korean summit since South Korean President Moon Jae-in's inauguration. (Sang-Jun Han, *The Dong-A Ilbo*)

- Expanding civic exchange and lifting North Korea sanctions is desirable, despite significant risks that remain amid North Korea's refusal to denuclearize on U.S. terms, South Koreans attending the first inter-Korea workers' soccer tournament in three years told UPI. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- South Korea will promote a new tourism product that allows foreigners to visit the two Koreas on a single cruise as part of efforts to promote inter-Korean economic exchanges, a public enterprise here said Monday. The Incheon Port Authority (IPA) said that it will push for foreign cruise ships to call at both South and North Korean ports ahead of the opening of the nation's largest cruise ship terminal in Incheon, about 50 km west of Seoul, in April next year. (*Yonhap*)
- The Incheon Port Authority (IPA) said, Monday, it plans to introduce an inter-Korean cruise program in a move to promote the nation's cruise ship tourism. (Kang Seung-woo, *The Korea Times*)
- KOEN has claimed it did not know the origin of the coal, but skeptics say the company must have been aware at the time of the transaction, given the steep price difference between North Korean coal and that of other countries. (Nam Hyun-woo, *The Korea Times*)
- In the survey of 1,392 middle and high school students conducted by the National Youth Policy Institute on July 3-20, 19.8 percent said unification must be achieved on the Korean Peninsula. Compared with a similar poll held a decade ago, the portion of young students advocating unification fell 11.4 percentage points, according to the institute. (*Yonhap*)
- Police are reviewing whether to seek an arrest warrant against a South Korean man caught attempting to cross the inter-Korean border to defect to the North. According to the Gyeonggi Bukbu Provincial Police Agency, they are investigating a 34-year-old man surnamed Suh, who was arrested early on Sunday after he was found attempting to cross the border near the Unification Bridge, located in Paju, Gyeonggi Province. (Jo He-rim, *The Korea Herald*)
- The South Korean government banned the port entry of four South Korean ships confirmed to have imported North Korean coal to the country from Saturday, the Foreign Ministry said Sunday. (*Yonhap*)
- The South Korean government announced it will ban cargo vessels used to carry North Korean coal at any port in the country. The four vessels had been used to transport North Korean coal and iron ore worth $6 million via Russia to South Korean ports seven times from April to October last year, according to an investigation by South Korea's Customs Service. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- The Gyeoggi Research Institute said in a report that the development of the province's northern areas and North Korea's border regions can be modeled after the growth of twin cities along the United States-Mexico border. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- South and North Korea agreed Monday to hold a summit meeting between their leaders in

Pyongyang in September. The agreement was made during high-level talks on the northern side of Panmunjom that separates the two Koreas. They, however, did not unveil the date of the meeting. (Yonhap)

- Though they've only been training together for a dozen days, the players on the joint Korean women's basketball team are firmly united in the pursuit of a common goal at the Asian Games, their head coach said Monday. (Yonhap)
- When South and North Korea compete as one in rowing and canoeing races at the upcoming Asian Games in Indonesia, viewers in South Korea won't be able to follow the action on television. The Korean Broadcasters Association (KBA) said Monday that no feed for canoeing sprint and rowing events will be available during the Aug. 18-Sept. 2 Asian Games in Jakarta and Palembang, Indonesia. (Yonhap)
- Inter-Korean exchanges continue after leaders of the South and North met in April and signed an agreement to promote cooperation and peace. Due to lack of progress in North Korea's denuclearization, however, sanctions imposed on Pyongyang by the U.N. Security Council (UNSC) and individual states remain intact, barring inter-Korean economic projects from kicking off. (Kim Bo-eun, The Korea Times)
- While visitors may flock to the Korean Peninsula if it becomes a peaceful and nuclear free zone, a return to confrontational polices could cause a downturn in tourism. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- North and South Korea say their respective leaders will meet in North's capital of Pyongyang sometime next month. The announcement was made Monday after the two sides held high-level talks in Panmunjom, the truce village in the border zone that separates the autocratic North from the democratic South. (VOA)
- Manwoldae is where the royal palace of Goryeo Kingdom stood until it was obliterated during the Red Turban invasion in the 14th century. The ancient kingdom's capital Gaegyeong is located in North Korean territory --and is now called Kaesong -- but South Korean scholars say the study of Manwoldae is critical in helping them understand how Goryeo royals lived. (Yoon Min-sik, The Korea Herald)
- South and North Korea will hold a third summit between their leaders in Pyongyang "before the end of September," the South's Unification Ministry said on Monday. The two sides however failed to fix the date. (Park Si-soo, The Korea Times)
- The leaders of both Koreas will meet in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang next month for their third summit, a high-level North Korean official said on Monday. (Kang Jin-kyu, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- South and North Korea agreed to hold a third summit between their leaders in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang in September, according to a joint press statement released Monday. (Jung Min-kyung, The Korea Herald)
- The proposed summit between South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un will likely be held in mid or late September, an official from Seoul's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said Monday, hours after high-level officials from the two Koreas agreed to hold the inter-Korean summit next month. (Yonhap)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will meet for a summit in Pyongyang next month. North and South Korean officials agreed Monday to hold the third summit in the North Korean capital in September at a high-level meeting held in

the border village of Panmunjeom. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)

- The leaders of North and South Korea will hold a summit in Pyongyang in September, both countries announced Monday. It will be the third in-person meeting between South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. The two first met in April, pledging to forge closer relations and work to formally end the Korean War in an agreement called the Panmunjom Declaration. (Jake Kwon and Joshua Berlinger, CNN)
- Officials from the two Koreas meet in the border truce village of Panmunjom on Monday to discuss the next summit between President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. Washington has cautioned against undue haste but could be persuaded if North Korea takes concrete steps toward denuclearization. (Lee Min-seok, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- The rival Koreas announced Monday that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in will meet in Pyongyang sometime in September. The push for what would be the leaders' third summit since April comes amid renewed worries surrounding a nuclear standoff between Washington and Pyongyang. (AP)
- North and South Korea have agreed to hold a third summit between leaders Moon Jae-in and Kim Jong-un in September, amid ongoing tensions between Pyongyang and Washington over the North's lack of progress in giving up its nuclear weapons. (Nicola Smith, *The Daily Telegraph*)
- Leaders of the two Koreas will have their third summit in North Korea's capital next month, representatives of the two countries said in a joint press statement Monday. "South Korea and North Korea agreed to hold the summit in September in Pyongyang," the statement said, although the exact date was not mentioned. (Kim Yoo-chul and Kim Bo-eun, *The Korea Times*)
- North and South Korea agreed on Monday to hold a summit in the North in September, another step towards boosting cooperation between the old rivals, even as doubts grow over efforts to end the North's nuclear weapons program. (*Reuters*)
- The main agenda of the meeting is expected to be the hammering out of details, especially the date and venue for what would be a third meeting between South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. The Panmunjom Declaration, reached between Moon and Kim during their first meeting in April, states that Moon agreed to visit Pyongyang in the fall. (Jung Min-kyung, *The Korea Herald*)
- However, the two sides did not agree on an exact date. A summit in September will be tricky to schedule because North Korea celebrates the anniversary of its founding on Sept. 9. Another variable is the United Nations General Assembly, which starts on Sept. 18. There is a chance that North Korean leader Kim Jong-un could push for a summit with South Korean President Moon Jae-in before the assembly. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

International

- Sanctions on North Korea will remain effective until it takes serious denuclearization measures, U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Harry Harris reiterated Monday. The U.S. ambassador's remarks come at a time North Korea has been stepping up calls for sanctions to be eased in its denuclearization process. (Kim Bo-eun, *The Korea Times*)

- US Ambassador to South Korea Harry Harris said Monday that it is still too early to consider declaring an end to the Korean War. The retired admiral stressed that the US and North Korea have only begun "the process" to achieve the goal of the "final, fully verified denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" and it would take diplomacy and negotiations to declare an end to the 1950-53 Korean War. (Ock Hyun-ju, *The Korea Times*)
- Hopes are growing for the possibility that South Korea and the United States will engage in a joint project next year in North Korea to repatriate the remains of U.S. soldiers who died in North Korea during the 1950-53 Korean War. (Lee Min-hyung, *The Korea Times*)
- A Japanese man recently detained in North Korea is thought to be a 39-year-old videographer from Shiga Prefecture, a Japanese government source said Sunday. The man may have been suspected of shooting video footage of a military facility when he visited the western port city of Nampo with a tour group, the source said. (*Kyodo*)
- The mystery Japanese man who has been detained by North Korean authorities earlier this month was held in Nampo, a western city known for its naval port and other military-related facilities, according to government sources. (*The Asahi Shimbun*)

Prepared by Hangyun Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726223704/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-koreas-agree-to-hold-summit-in-pyongyang-in-september-only-2-in-10-young-korean-students-think-unification-is-a-must-poll

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Tuesday, August 14, 2018

N.K. says no progress in denuclearization without end-of-war declaration; Speculation abounds about dates of 3rd Moon-Kim summit

In North Korea

'Hell on earth' North Korea defector reveals HORROR of life in Kim's prisons (*The Daily Express*, 08/14/2018)
N.K. says no progress in denuclearization without end-of-war declaration (*Yonhap*, 08/14/2018)
N. Korea's media report on agreement to hold inter-Korean summit (*Yonhap*, 08/14/2018)
North Korea stops tourist visas as republic's 70th anniversary approaches (*South China Morning Post*, 08/14/2018)
North Korea Suspends Foreign Visits to Pyongyang Ahead of State Anniversary (*Radio Free Asia*, 08/13/2018)
North Korea's Kim Il Sung University completing new high-tech center (*UPI*, 08/14/2018)
North Korea's Nuclear Program Isn't Going Anywhere (*Foreign Affairs*, 08/13/2018)

N. Korean chief delegate indirectly criticizes S. Korean media (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 08/14/2018)
North Korean media highlight summits ahead of Liberation Day (*The Korea Times*, 08/14/2018)
North Koreans struggle on farms and in markets amid unrelenting heat wave (*DailyNK*, 08/14/2018)
Staff at North Korean consulates in China rotated out (*DailyNK*, 08/14/2018)
U.N. Command in South Korea repatriates North Korean body (*UPI*, 08/14/2018)
Violent incident exposes issues with North Korea's collectivist mentality (*DailyNK*, 08/14/2018)

In South Korea
(News Focus) Third inter-Korean summit offers new challenges for Moon: analysts (*Yonhap*, 08/14/2018)
East Asia Peace Forum calls for a swift deal (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/14/2018)
Kang briefs Pompeo on results of inter-Korean talks (*The Korea Herald*, 08/14/2018)
Koreas to have more consultations to determine date for Sept. summit: official (*Yonhap*, 08/14/2018)
Movie about real-life Korean 'double' agent becomes box office hit (*The Korea Times*, 08/14/2018)
S. Korea's advance team to leave for N. Korea to check preparations for family reunions (*Yonhap*, 08/14/2018)
Seoul briefs UN on illegal North Korean coal (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/14/2018)
Seoul wants US, China to declare end to Korean War (*The Korea Times*, 08/14/2018)
South Korea submits letter on banned North Korean coal shipments to UNSC (*The Korea Times*, 08/14/2018)
Two Koreas need to learn from China's 'one country, two systems' (*The Korea Herald*, 08/14/2018)
Vice defense minister calls for Britain's support for peninsula peace efforts (*The Korea Herald*, 08/14/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship
(Asian Games) S. Korea defeats N. Korea in women's handball (*Yonhap*, 08/14/2018)
2 Korean Leaders to Meet in Pyongyang Next Month (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 08/14/2018)
Artists come together for unification : The 2019 One K Global Campaign will feature songs, art and a concert (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/14/2018)
Fifth Inter-Korean Summit Scheduled for September 2018: What to Expect (*The Diplomat*, 08/14/2018)
Korean leaders announce Pyongyang summit with Kim Jong Un and Moon Jae-in (*The Independent*, 08/13/2018)
S. Korea supplies electricity for liaison office in N. Korea's border city (*Yonhap*, 08/14/2018)
S. Korea's advance team to leave for N. Korea to check preparations for family reunions (*The Korea Herald*, 08/14/2018)
S. Korean ICT firms eye the North's W100tr telecommunications market (*The Korea Herald*, 08/14/2018)
Speculation abounds about dates of 3rd Moon-Kim summit (*The Korea Herald*, 08/14/2018)
'When Can We Meet?'-Koreans Divided by War Find Little Peace 65 Years Later (*The New York Times*, 08/13/2018)

International
Act ties Trump's hands on drawdown of troops (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/14/2018)

Chinese state media endorses third inter-Korea summit (UPI, 08/14/2018)
Hyundai Glovis opens train route (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/14/2018)
N. Korea, U.S. hold latest working-level talks at Panmunjom (*Yonhap*, 08/14/2018)
Nuclear Test Ban Group Skeptical of North Korea's Denuclearization Efforts (*The Wall Street Journal*, 08/13/2018)
Rumors of impending visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping to North Korea (*Daily*NK, 08/14/2018)
Trump signs defense bill restricting drawdown of troops in S. Korea (*Yonhap*, 08/14/2018)
U.S. Envoy Pushes for Action Over N.Korean Coal Imports (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 08/14/2018)
Why Is the U.S. Wary of a Declaration to End the Korean War? (*The New York Times*, 08/13/2018)

In North Korea

- A North Korean defector has revealed the horror of life locked up in one of Kim Jong-un's brutal labour camps, where Christian prisoners are kicked and beaten with sticks for believing in Jesus. (Lila Randall, *The Daily Express*)
- North Korea has repeated its call for the declaration of the end of the Korean War through its external propaganda media this week, saying mutual trust is necessary to make progress in its denuclearization, as well as in its relations with the United States. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's state media reported Tuesday on high-level talks held with South Korea a day earlier in which the two Koreas agreed to hold a summit in Pyongyang next month. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea has stopped processing tourist visas for foreigners ahead of a high-profile anniversary next month, according to a China-based tour operator. It was not given a reason for the freeze, the company said, but was told it would apply until the anniversary on September 9. (AFP)
- North Korean authorities have canceled all visits by foreign tourists and businessmen to the capital Pyongyang in advance of the Sept. 9 anniversary of the founding of the country's communist regime, North Korean sources say. The ban, which runs from Aug. 11 through Sept. 5, has inconvenienced representatives of foreign firms, some of whom had already made travel plans, an ethnic Korean businessman based in Shenzhen, China, told RFA's Korean Service. (Richard Finney, *Radio Free Asia*)
- North Korea's top university is building a high-tech development center, according to Pyongyang's state media. Workers' Party newspaper Rodong Sinmun reported Tuesday Kim Il Sung University, named after the founder of the country, is in the midst of constructing a tech development center, and the work began February 2017. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- As it stands, Kim clearly has the upper hand. Exploiting Trump's desire to put Singapore in the win column and move on, North Korea is testing how long and how far it can go before Trump stops living in denial about North Korea's expanding nuclear program. Pyongyang is unlikely to brazenly provoke Trump with a missile or nuclear test, but a test of, say, a satellite launch vehicle could reveal just how much Trump can keep the hawks in his administration quiet. (Ankit Panda and Vipin Narang, *Foreign Affairs*)
- During the opening statement, Ri suddenly requested that the meeting be an open meeting, saying that having a Q&A session and discussion in public will prevent reporters from making wrong assumptions. (In-Chan Hwang, *The Dong-A Ilbo*)
- North Korean media have highlighted the importance of the April 27 inter-Korean summit

ahead of the Aug. 15 Liberation Day. An editorial on the North's propaganda website DPRK Today on Tuesday highlighted North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's commitment to boosting inter-Korean relations. (Jung Da-min, *The Korea Times*)

- "North Korea is in the height of organic fertilizer allocation (green manure) season on collective farms. It's usually slightly cooler than in the South, but this year the heat wave has been severe throughout the peninsula and people in the North are really suffering." (*Unification Media Group*)
- Staff at some of North Korea's consulates in China have been replaced, report sources close to the matter. The source reportedly heard that staff in consulates in other cities outside Shenyang and Dandong have also been replaced, although this has not been independently confirmed. (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)
- The United Nations Command in South Korea made direct working-level contact with North Korea at Panmunjom on Tuesday to return what has been identified as a North Korea body. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- The economic difficulties of the 1990s drove the people of North Korea to start taking the matter of survival into their own hands. This change in collective mindset had repercussions that continue to this day, including for the idea that people should show blind obedience toward authority and the law. However, the KWP still applies its belief in "juche" [North Korea's ruling ideology] to its own guiding mission. (Jo Hyon, *DailyNK*)

In South Korea

- This year's third summit between the rival Koreas will present new challenges to South Korean President Moon Jae-in as he seeks to break an apparent stalemate in nuclear negotiations between North Korea and the United States, analysts here said Monday. Three South Korean firms were recently caught importing North Korean coal via Russia in possible violation of U.N. sanctions. (*Yonhap*)
- Members of East Asia Peace Forum, including former prime ministers and lawmakers, on Tuesday called to expedite a formal declaration of the end of the Korean War in exchange for North Korea declaring its nuclear materials and facilities. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korea's Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha on Tuesday explained to her US counterpart, Mike Pompeo, the results of this week's cross-border talks on arranging an inter-Korean summit, her ministry said. (*Yonhap*)
- South and North Korea will continue to have consultations to determine the exact date for a summit that they had agreed to hold in September during recent talks, a unification ministry official said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- A movie based on the life of a "double" agent with shifting allegiances between the two Koreas has become a box office hit, drawing 2 million viewers in the first five days, surpassing fantasy sequel "Along with the Gods" on Monday. (Jung Da-min, *The Korea Times*)
- South Korea will send an advance team to North Korea this week to inspect preparations for an upcoming reunion event for families separated by the Korea War, a unification ministry official said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea has submitted a letter to the UN Security Council detailing the results of its

recent probe into illegal shipments of North Korean coal, a diplomatic source said on Monday. (Yonhap)

- South Korea wants a formal and official declaration to end the 1950-1953 Korean War with the United States, China and North Korea at the upcoming United Nations General Assembly in New York, next month. Seoul communicated this ambitious plan to Washington via diplomatic channels, a senior government official said Tuesday. (Kim Yoo-chul and Kim Bo-eun, The Korea Times)
- South Korea has submitted to the U.N. Security Council (UNSC) a letter detailing the results of its recent probe into illegal shipments of North Korean coal, a diplomatic source said Monday. The investigation came amid media speculation that Seoul has not been taking due steps to block the entry of the illegal North Korean products as party of efforts to denuclearize the North and foster a lasting peace on the peninsula. (Yonhap)
- Jeong Hyung-gon, an economist studying reunification and North Korea, said the Moon Jae-in administration should approach reunification with caution. Given the two Koreas' widening economic gap, South Korea should refrain from reckless integration and begin with the Chinese one-country, two-system model, he said. (Yeo Jun-suk, The Korea Herald)
- South Korea's Vice Defense Minister Suh Choo-suk called for Britain's support for Seoul's efforts to foster a lasting peace on the peninsula during his talks with a top British military official on Tuesday, Seoul's defense ministry said. (Yonhap)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- South Korea defeated North Korea 39-22 in women's handball on Tuesday in the first inter-Korean showdown at the 18th Asian Games. (Yonhap)
- A third summit between President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un will be held in Pyongyang in September, officials from both sides told reporters after cross-border talks Monday. (Jeong Woo-sang and Kim Myong-song, The Chosun Ilbo)
- To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the March 1st Independence Movement against Japanese colonial rule, the One K Global Committee will host a series of events throughout 2019 including a concert, an art exhibition and the release of a documentary about a city in England where people from North and South Korea live together. (Sung Ji-eun, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- The upcoming inter-Korean summit may be more difficult for Moon than the first two encounters with Kim. The two leaders will take stock of the implementation of the April 27 declaration they jointly made at Panmunjom. While much Western commentary has focused on section 3, subsection 4 of that agreement—the clause focused on the "complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula"—the bulk of the Panmunjom declaration makes reference to inter-Korean activities and rapprochement. (Ankit Panda, The Diplomat)
- The leaders of North and South Korea will meet for the third time this year, the South Korean Unification Ministry has announced. (Toyin Owoseje, The Independent)
- South Korea started to supply power to the North Korean border city of Kaesong on Tuesday to prepare for the trial operation of an inter-Korean liaison office there, Seoul officials said Tuesday. (Yonhap)

- South Korea will send an advance team to North Korea this week to inspect preparations for an upcoming reunion event for families separated by the Korea War, a unification ministry official said Tuesday. (Yonhap)
- As hopes for new business opportunities in North Korea rise under the peace initiative by the South Korean government, Seoul's ICT businesses are paying keen attention to room for their contribution in developing the North's telecommunications infrastructure and mobile networks. According to the telecom industry, the North Korean ICT market is estimated to be about 100 trillion won ($88 billion) in value, if created after UN sanctions against the country are lifted. (Song Su-hyun, The Korea Herald)
- As the two Koreas remain silent on the dates of the summit that is set to take place sometime in September, there is growing speculation that new developments may be unfolding in US-North Korea relations. (Choi He-suk, The Korea Herald)
- With tensions on the Korean peninsula easing, North and South Korea plan to revive the cross-border family reunions that were halted three years ago as concerns over Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programmes mounted. More than 57,000 South Korean survivors are registered with the South Korean government, hoping for a shot at a brief meeting with loved ones. (Reuters)

International

- U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday in New York signed a defense authorization bill that restricts him from unilaterally reducing the number of American troops in South Korea to below 22,000 military personnel. (Sarah Kim, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- Chinese state media welcomed the inter-Korea decision to hold the next leaders' summit in Pyongyang in September. State-owned Xinhua news agency said Monday the agreement will be a "new occasion" to continue the easing of tensions on the Korean Peninsula. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- [Hyundai Glovis CEO] Kim expects its train operations to be a stepping stone to establishing a so-called northern logistics network that connects the Korean peninsula directly with Europe through the Trans-Siberian Railway. That would depend on a trans-Korean railway running across South and North Korea. (Kim Jee-hee, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- North Korea and the United States held their latest working-level talks at the truce village of Panmunjom over the weekend, a diplomatic source said Tuesday, amid news reports that U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will visit the North again. (Yonhap)
- North Korea says it has destroyed its nuclear test site, halted missile launches and returned U.S. war remains. The next move, Pyongyang says, is for Washington to reciprocate by lifting sanctions. But North Korea hasn't persuaded the world that it is sincere about denuclearization, the head of the global organization tasked with overseeing a ban on nuclear testing said in an interview Monday. (Jonathan Cheng, The Wall Street Journal)
- The Chinese authorities have instituted tough measures to crackdown on smuggling in Dandong, Liaoning Province, in what may be signs of preparations for an upcoming visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping to North Korea. (Ha Yoon Ah, DailyNK)
- U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday signed a defense authorization bill that restricts

any drawdown of American troops in South Korea. The legislation notes that about 28,500 American troops are currently stationed in South Korea as a demonstration of the U.S. commitment to the bilateral alliance. (*Yonhap*)

- New U.S. Ambassador Harry Harris on Monday said Washington is watching what action Seoul will take over recent illegal shipments of North Korean coal in breach of UN Security Council sanctions. Harris was giving a lecture at the Korea National Diplomatic Academy in Seoul. (Kim Jin-myung, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- The Trump administration wants North Korea to first halt its nuclear weapons program — a tough line that could create a divergence between the United States and South Korea, its ally. In turn, analysts said, that gives an opening to North Korea — and maybe China and Russia — to exploit the gap between Washington and Seoul. The officials also worry that President Moon Jae-in of South Korea might try to push for a lesser American military presence, or a weakening of the alliance, after an end-of-war declaration. (Edward Wong, *The New York Times*)

Prepared by Hangyun Kim, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250726223805/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-nk-says-no-progress-in-denuclearization-without-end-of-war-declaration-speculation-abounds-about-dates-of-3rd-moon-kim-summit

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Wednesday, August 15, 2018

North Korea Seeks Formal Peace Treaty to Push Out U.S. Forces; Moon calls for East Asian rail community

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North Korea Seeks Formal Peace Treaty to Push Out U.S. Forces (*Foundation for Defense of Democracies*, 08/14/2018)

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North Korea freezes tourist visa applications until September (*The Independent*, 08/15/2018)
North Korea marks war anniversary, preps for big spectacle (*The Korea Herald*, 08/15/2018)
North Korea's special treatment of veterans the talk of the town (*DailyNK*, 08/15/2018)
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(LEAD) Moon says ending division of two Koreas will achieve 'true liberation' (*Yonhap*, 08/15/2018)
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'Partial lifting of sanctions on N. Korea likely' (*The Korea Times*, 08/15/2018)
DMZ goes from war zone to a place of peace : Improving Korean relations have artists and officials imagining possibilities (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/15/2018)
Full text of President Moon Jae-in's address on Korea's 73rd Liberation Day (*The Korea Herald*, 08/15/2018)
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Moon proposes 'rail community' (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/15/2018)
Moon seeks progress on denuclearization at Kim summit (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 08/15/2018)
More South Koreans think favorably of North Korea, survey shows (*UPI*, 08/15/2018)
Railways Are Path to North Korea Peace, South Korean Leader Says (*The Washington Post*, 08/15/2018)
S. Korea seeks to repatriate war remains stored in Hawaii (*The Korea Herald*, 08/15/2018)
S. Korean President Pledges 'Bold Step' with N. Korea's Kim in Ending War (*VOA News*, 08/15/2018)
S. Koreans in 40s find N. Korea most trustworthy: survey (*The Korea Herald*, 08/15/2018)
South Korea's Leader Proposes Broad Economic Cooperation With the North (*The New York Times*, 08/15/2018)
South Korea's Moon Jae-in calls for 'complete denuclearization' with incentives (*UPI*, 08/15/2018)
South Korean leader calls for train route to North Korea by end of year (*The Guardian*, 08/14/2018)
South Koreans doubtful about denuclearization, see relations with US as vital (*The Korea Herald*, 08/15/2018)
Younger Koreans say they contemplated emigration upon NK threat (*The Korea Herald*, 08/15/2018)
Young South Koreans indifferent, skeptical toward North Korea (*The Korea Herald*, 08/15/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship
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Advance team leaves for N. Korea to prepare for family reunions (*Yonhap*, 08/15/2018)
Advance team leaves for North Korea to prepare for family reunions (*The Korea Times*, 08/15/2018)
After the North took his brother, he nearly gave up (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/15/2018)
Inter-Korean military communication line fully restored: defense ministry (*Yonhap*, 08/15/2018)
Inter-Korean women's handball team may be formed at upcoming event (*The Korea Times*, 08/15/2018)
S. Korea gears up for family reunions (*The Korea Herald*, 08/15/2018)
Seoul sends advance team for family reunion in N. Korea (*The Korea Times*, 08/15/2018)

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'Progress can be made on North Korean nuclear dismantlement' (*The Korea Times*, 08/15/2018)
Hopes high for possible Pompeo visit to Pyongyang (*The Korea Herald*, 08/15/2018)

Judge may acquit women or call defense in Kim Jong Nam trial (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 08/15/2018)
Malaysian court set to rule in Kim Jong-nam assassination case (*The Daily Telegraph*, 08/15/2018)
Pentagon reaffirms it will identify remains returned from North Korea despite their 'moderate to poor' condition (CNBC, 08/15/2018)
Pompeo may be returning to Pyongyang soon (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/15/2018)
Pompeo says progress can be made on N. Korea (*The Korea Herald*, 08/15/2018)
Putin asks for urgent summit with Kim Jong-un (*The Times*, 08/15/2018)
Putin hopes for early summit with Kim: N.K. media (*Yonhap*, 08/15/2018)
Putin hopes for early summit with Kim: Pyongyang media (*The Korea Times*, 08/15/2018)
Pyongyang in standoff with Washington over nuclear talks (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 08/15/2018)
Trump did not solve the North Korea problem in Singapore—in fact, the threat has only grown (*Brookings Institution*, 08/13/2018)
U.S. seeks N. Korea's security assurance in joint recovery of war dead remains (*Yonhap*, 08/15/2018)
Vladimir Putin ready to meet Kim Jong-un to discuss 'urgent issues', says North Korean state media (*The Independent*, 08/15/2018)
Women accused of assassinating Kim Jong Nam face key court ruling (*The Korea Herald*, 08/15/2018)

Top News

- While the North wants to sign a peace treaty with the U.S., the two legal belligerents remain North and South Korea. UN Security Council Resolutions 82 and 83 (which remain in force) clearly identified the North as the aggressor and called on member nations to come to the defense of the South. Thus, the U.S. did not declare war on North Korea but fought under UN authorization. Another obstacle to a North-South peace regime is that both must change their constitutions, since each claims sovereignty over the entire peninsula and the Korean people. Therefore, they need to formally recognize the existence of the other and give up claims to the other's territory. (David Maxwell, *Foundation for Defense of Democracies*)

In North Korea

- North Korea has frozen all visa applications until 9 September. Koryo Tours, a travel company that arranges a variety of tours to the Democratic People's Republic Korea (DPRK), announced the news on 13 August. (Helen Coffey, *The Independent*)
- North Korea marked the anniversary of the end of World War II and its liberation from Japanese colonial rule with a series of ceremonies ahead of what is expected to be a much bigger event next month -- the 70th anniversary of its national foundation day. (AP)
- News is spreading of the special treatment afforded to military veterans who attended the Fifth National Conference of War Veterans held in Pyongyang on July 27, sources in the country report. "In North Hamgyong Province, a plane was sent to pick up the veterans and bring them to Pyongyang." (Kim Yoo Jin, *DailyNK*)
- South Korean photographer Jin Chun-kyu started making trips to North Korea last October, when tensions on the Korean Peninsula were palpable. "When I visited Pyongyang for the first time in 17 years last year, I was more than surprised," Jin said. "What shocked me is that

Pyongyang citizens looked just the same as those in Seoul. Most of them speak on smartphones and take pictures with them. Stores are crowded with customers." (Jung Da-min, *The Korea Times*)

In South Korea

- South Korean women's handball head coach Lee Kye-chung said Tuesday his team and North Korea may join forces at a future competition. Lee made the remark after South Korea defeated North Korea 39-22 in the preliminary action at the Asian Games at GOR Popki Cibubur in Jakarta. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon Jae-in on Wednesday used his Liberation Day address to pitch his Korea peace drive, calling for railway, energy and economic cooperation with the North as a cornerstone for Northeast Asian peace and prosperity. Moon also stressed the need to resume and expand economic cooperation between the two Koreas. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon Jae-in on Wednesday used his Libration Day address to pitch his Korea peace drive, calling for railway, energy and economic cooperation with the North as a cornerstone for Northeast Asian peace and prosperity. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea's foreign ministry said Wednesday it was talking with the United States to possibly obtain sanctions relief for North Korea, though the ministry didn't specify when the relief would happen. (Yi Whan-woo, *The Korea Times*)
- Many believe it is about time to educate young Koreans about the significance of realizing peaceful unification, and the chance that Korea can become representative of a peaceful resolution. Officials have selected the demilitarized zone (DMZ), where the tensions between the North and South are most palpable, as a venue to carry out various “Peace Education” and “Peace Tour” programs. (Yim Seung-hye and Yoon So-yeon, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- When military tension is eased and peace established, special unification economic zones will be built in the border areas of Gyeonggi and Gangwon provinces. It will be an opportunity for those regions and small and medium-sized enterprises to make huge progress in addition to the numerous jobs created. (Choi He-suk, *The Korea Herald*)
- Kim Jung-tai, chairman and chief executive of Hana Financial Group, will be heading for North Korea to watch a youth football match for the 4th Ari Sports Cup held in Pyongyang from Aug. 13 to 18, according to the Ministry of Unification and the South and North Korean Sports Exchange Association. (Park Hyong-ki, *The Korea Times*)
- President Moon Jae-in on Wednesday called for the establishment of an East Asian railroad community, saying that it will lay the foundation for an economic and security community in the region. (Choi He-suk, *The Korea Herald*)
- President Moon Jae-in on Wednesday proposed using railroads to bring together the two Koreas, China, Russia, and Mongolia and having the United States as a project partner in an address commemorating the 73rd Liberation Day. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- A third summit of Korean leaders planned for next month will be a further step towards denuclearization of the peninsula and a peace treaty to end the Korean War, South Korea's President Moon Jae-in said on Wednesday. (*Reuters*)
- According to a KBS survey of more than 1,000 respondents in August, fewer South Koreans

expressed hostility toward the North Korean government, and some even said they felt positive toward Pyongyang. About 20 percent of those polled said they had "favorable" views of the regime, 35 percent said they had negative feelings, while about 44 percent said they were indifferent, KBS reported Wednesday. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

- South Korean President Moon Jae-in proposed setting up an “East Asian Railroad Community” that includes the U.S. and North Korea as he seeks to tamp down rising tensions between the two adversaries. (Sohee Kim and Jihye Lee, *The Washington Post*)
- South Korea is in discussion with the US about repatriating the remains of its soldiers killed during the Korean War, a Defense Ministry official said Wednesday, as the US has informed the government that the bodies are stored at a US government agency in Hawaii. (Yeo Jun-suk, *The Korea Herald*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in says he and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will take a "bold step" in their upcoming summit to formally ending the six-decade old war that split the two sides. (*VOA News*)
- Of South Koreans who believe North Korea to be the most trustworthy country among five neighboring countries, those in their 40s showed the most favorable attitude toward the communist neighbor, according to a recent survey. (Jung Min-kyung, *The Korea Herald*)
- President Moon Jae-in of South Korea on Wednesday offered a bold vision for economic cooperation with North Korea, including joint economic zones along the countries’ border and a linked rail network — provided that the North takes real steps toward giving up its nuclear weapons. (Choe Sang-Hun, *The New York Times*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in delivered a message of incentives to Kim Jong Un on Wednesday, pledging economic assistance in return for North Korea's denuclearization. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- Moon Jae-in proposed creating a “Northeast Asian railroad community” between the two Koreas, the United States and four unnamed parties in a speech marking the 73rd anniversary of the end of Japanese colonial rule on the Korean peninsula. The presidential office later said the other partners would include China, Russia, Japan and Mongolia. (Benhamin Haas, *The Guardian*)
- In a survey of 1,000 people nationwide conducted between Aug. 10 and 12 by The Korea Herald in collaboration with the research firm JoWon Communication Innovation, 73 percent of the respondents said that North Korea is unlikely to completely denuclearize. On the subject of US troops in South Korea after a peace deal is reached on the peninsula, nearly 70 percent of respondents said that their continued presence is necessary. (Choi He-suk, *The Korea Herald*)
- In the survey of 1,000 people nationwide by The Korea Herald, 27.9 percent of respondents aged between 19 and 29 said they had considered emigration, while 20.8 percent of respondents in the same age category said they had thought about evacuating. Nearly one-quarter of 30-something respondents also thought about emigration, while 17.4 percent said they considered leaving. (Cho Chung-un, *The Korea Herald*)
- A survey of 1,000 people conducted from Friday to Sunday by The Korea Herald in collaboration with research firm JoWon Communication Innovation showed those aged between 19 and 29 -- the youngest group in the survey – are most skeptical about North Korea. About 79 percent of the respondents aged between 19 and 29 said that North Korea is

unlikely to completely denuclearize. Some 36 percent said that North Korea would renege on its promises -- the greatest among all age groups. (Ock Hyun-ju, *The Korea Herald*)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- The reunion, the first of its kind in about two years, is part of the summit deal reached in April between South Korean leader Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un to address humanitarian issues arising from the decadeslong, war-caused family separations. (*Yonhap*)
- Lee Soo-nam, 77, found it hard to believe it when he was informed his older brother in the North was still alive. He received the notification 68 years after he parted with his brother at the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950. (Kim Bo-eun, *The Korea Times*)
- A South Korean advance team left for North Korea on Wednesday to check preparations for an upcoming reunion event for families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War. The 18-member team, led by Lee Jong-chol, a Red Cross official, departed for Mount Kumgang on the North's east coast, where the first reunion event in nearly three years will be held from Aug. 20-26, according to government officials. (*Yonhap*)
- The planned event will be the first of its kind since October 2015. South and North Korea have held 20 rounds of face-to-face family reunions since the first-ever inter-Korean summit in 2000. (*Yonhap*)
- When he first heard that his long-lost brother was still alive in North Korea, Lee Su-nam could not believe his ears and asked Red Cross officials several times if it was true. One week before both Koreas are set to hold a rare family reunion, the 77-year-old still cannot believe that he will finally reunite with his older brother, Jong-song, after nearly seven decades of frustrating and seemingly endless waiting. (*Yonhap*)
- South and North Korea fully restored their military communication line on the eastern part of the peninsula Wednesday, Seoul's defense ministry said, in a step to build confidence and reduce cross-border tensions. (*Yonhap*)
- The two Koreas are likely to form a joint women's handball team at an upcoming competition, the South Korean team's head coach Lee Kye-chung said Tuesday, after defeating the North during the preliminaries of the Jakarta Palembang Asian Games. (Kang Aa-young, *The Korea Times*)
- A South Korean advance team left for North Korea on Wednesday to check on preparations for next week's reunion event of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War. (Ock Hyun-ju, *The Korea Herald*)
- South Korea sent its advance inspection team to the North, Wednesday, for last-minute preparations for the reunion of separated families slated for Aug. 20 to 26. (Yi Whan-woo, *The Korea Times*)

International

- In regular phone calls from prison, Siti tells her mother they were tricked into believing they

were taking part in a prank TV show. Benah explains: “She told me: ‘Mum this whole thing is a set up, I was tricked’.” Lawyers say the pair had been paid to take part in similar pranks at airports, hotels and shopping malls in the days before Kim’s death. (Kate Lamb, *The Guardian*)

- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Tuesday he believes progress is possible toward the dismantlement of North Korea's nuclear weapons program amid reports he is preparing for another trip to Pyongyang. (*Yonhap*)
- With speculation rising over US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo’s trip to North Korea, expectation has been heightened that the visit would provide a breakthrough for stalled denuclearization talks. (Yeo Jun-suk, *The Korea Herald*)
- Two Southeast Asian women on trial in Malaysia for the brazen assassination of the North Korean leader's half-brother could be acquitted Thursday or called to enter their defense in a case that has gripped the world. (AP)
- A Malaysian court will make its first ruling on Thursday about whether two women implicated in the assassination of Kim Jong-un’s estranged half-brother were scapegoats of the North Korean regime or possibly cold-blooded killers. (Nicola Smith, *The Daily Telegraph*)
- Pentagon officials reaffirmed Tuesday the military's commitment to identify the recently transferred remains believed to be those of U.S. soldiers killed in the Korean War, despite the "moderate to poor" condition in which they were received. (Amanda Macias, CNBC)
- North Korean and U.S. diplomats secretly held discussions in the inter-Korean village of Panmunjom last Sunday, according to diplomatic sources Tuesday, amid speculations that U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo may be making another visit to Pyongyang soon. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Tuesday he believes progress is possible toward the dismantlement of North Korea's nuclear weapons program amid reports he is preparing for another trip to Pyongyang. Pompeo wrote the message on Twitter after speaking by phone with South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha. (*Yonhap*)
- President Putin is seeking a summit meeting with Kim Jong-un, North Korea’s state media said today, in what would be the first face-to-face talks between the two leaders. Dmitry Peskov, spokesman for the Kremlin, confirmed that Mr Putin had sent the invitation to Mr Kim. (Marc Bennetts, *The Times*)
- Russian President Vladimir Putin has expressed hope for a summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un at an early date, Pyongyang's state media said Wednesday. The message was delivered to the North's leader as Putin congratulated North Korea on the 73rd anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule, according to the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA). (*Yonhap*)
- Putin earlier invited Kim to an annual economic forum to be held in Vladivostok in September though the North's leader has yet to reveal his response. The two countries have agreed to hold a summit by the end of 2018. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who is trying to push forward a denuclearization negotiation between North Korea and the United States, which is currently at a standstill, is known to have failed to find a right balance for his visit to North Korea. Pompeo’s period of visit to the North is unclear as North Korea has not revealed whether its leader Kim Jong Un

will meet Pompeo. (Sang-Jun Han, *The Dong-A Ilbo*)

- Rather than boasting of his wonderful relationship with Kim Jong-un and declaring the problem solved, now is the time for President Trump to refocus efforts on the specific steps North Korea urgently must take to show its seriousness to denuclearize, and the incentives the United States and others would be prepared to provide in return. (Ryan Hass, *Brookings Institution*)
- The United States will seek North Korea's commitment to the security of American personnel in future joint operations to recover the remains of U.S. soldiers killed in the 1950-53 Korean War, a senior Pentagon official said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- The Russian president congratulated Mr Kim in a telegram to mark North Korea's national liberation day, which commemorates the end of the Second World War and the north's liberation from Japanese colonial rule, the KCNA news agency reported. (Sameul Osborne, *The Independent*)
- Two women accused of assassinating the half-brother of North Korea's leader in a brazen hit that shocked the world face a key court ruling Thursday, with their families hopeful they will be acquitted and return home. After months hearing the prosecution's case about the Cold War-style killing at Kuala Lumpur airport, a judge will decide whether there is sufficient evidence to support a murder charge against Siti Aisyah from Indonesia and Doan Thi Huong from Vietnam. (AFP)

Prepared by Hangyun Kim, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250726224018/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-north-korea-seeks-formal-peace-treaty-to-push-out-us-forces-moon-calls-for-east-asian-rail-community

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Thursday, August 16, 2018

North Koreans believe nuclear weapons development will continue; Sanctions for trading with North

In North Korea:
Defectors choose suicide over arrest and repatriation (*Daily* NK, 08/16/2018)
(LEAD) Ranking N. Korean officials visit China (*Yonhap*, 08/16/2018)
N. Korea again urges S. Korea not to follow sanctions (*Yonhap*, 08/16/2018)
North Koreans believe nuclear weapons development will continue (*Daily* NK, 08/16/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) Ministry to gradually remove 'unnecessary' coastal, riverside barbed wire fences (*Yonhap*, 08/16/2018)

(LEAD) Seoul approves 3.5 bln won for inter-Korean liaison office (*Yonhap*, 08/16/2018)
Nuke talks make headway: Moon (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/16/2018)
Oceans minister proposes joint fishing zone on western maritime border (*Yonhap*, 08/16/2018)
Some Elderly Koreans Ambivalent About Separated Family Reunion (VOA, 08/16/2018)
S. Korea Plans to Start Railway Project With North This Year (VOA, 08/15/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(Asian Games) For Korean hoops team, practice makes perfect when it comes to communication (*Yonhap*, 08/16/2018)
(Asian Games) N. Korean athletes welcomed at athletes' village (*Yonhap*, 08/16/2018)
(Asian Games) North's chef de mission hopes Koreas can form joint teams in more sports (*Yonhap*, 08/16/2018)
(Asian Games) Top Asian sports body hails Koreas for show of unity (*Yonhap*, 08/16/2018)
KBS news live in Pyongyang (*Korea Times*, 08/15/2018)

International:
How the U.S. and North Korea can break the cycle of disappointment (*The Washington Post*, 08/15/2018)
Kim Jong-nam murder: 'Enough evidence' for women to go on trial (BBC, 08/16/2018)
Kim Jong-nam murder: judge rules there is enough evidence for trial to proceed (*The Guardian*, 08/16/2018)
(LEAD) U.S. sanctions China, Russia firms over N.K. illicit shipments (*Yonhap*, 08/16/2018)
Malaysia: Judge Rules Defense Must Present Case in Kim Murder Trial (RFA, 08/16/2018)
Report: Talks underway at Panmunjom for Pompeo's North Korea trip (UPI, 08/16/2018)
Ruling on Kim Jong-nam assassination case delayed (*Korea Times*, 08/16/2018)
Russia mulls response to U.S. sanctions over North Korea: Ifax (*Reuters*, 08/16/2018)
Sanctions for trading with North (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/16/2018)
US blacklists Russian and Chinese companies trading with North Korea (*Telegraph*, 08/15/2018)
U.S. hits Chinese and Russian firms over North Korea sanctions breach (*Reuters*, 08/16/2018)
US Sanctions Chinese, Russian, Singaporean Firms for North Korea Trading (VOA, 08/15/2018)
U.S. sanctions companies, individual for violating North Korean shipping bans (UPI, 08/15/2018)
Women charged with murder of North Korean to testify in Malaysia trial (*Reuters*, 08/16/2018)

In North Korea:

- There have been several reported cases where North Koreans attempting to defect to China have committed suicide after being arrested by North Korean border guards and Chinese police. (Kim Yoo-jin, *Daily NK*)
- North Korea's Deputy Prime Minister Ri Ryong-nam and Vice Foreign Minister Choe Hui-chol arrived in Beijing on Thursday, apparently for meetings with the Chinese government, sources said. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's official newspaper on Thursday repeated its call on South Korea not to follow foreign forces' sanctions on Pyongyang, saying sanctions pressure and relationship improvement cannot be compatible. (*Yonhap*)

- The North Korean government is outwardly showing moves toward denuclearization with the apparent destruction of a nuclear test site in Punggye-ri. However, many ordinary residents believe the country "will never give up its nuclear weapons." (Mun Dong-hui, *Daily NK*)

In South Korea:

- South Korea's defense ministry plans to gradually remove more than half of all coastal and riverside barbed wire fences across the country to help ease residents' inconveniences, officials said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea will spend about 3.5 billion won (US$3.1 million) from the Inter-Korean Cooperation Fund this year to finance the operation of an inter-Korean liaison office set to open in the North Korean border city of Kaesong later this month, government officials said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon Jae-in said Thursday dialogue between Pyongyang and Washington on denuclearizing North Korea was progressing at "an unprecedented pace" and that people "should not worry too much" about the seemingly stalled talks. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korea's oceans minister on Thursday proposed designating a joint fishing zone on the western sea border between the two Koreas to pave the way for creating the "maritime peace zone" envisioned by President Moon Jae-in. (*Yonhap*)
- Some South Koreans who were separated from their families during the Korean War say they are ambivalent about participating in next week's inter-Korean reunions. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- South Korea President Moon Jae-in says his government plans to begin a joint railway project with North Korea this year, while also linking "full-scale" inter-Korean economic cooperation with denuclearization progress in the North. (Brian Padden, VOA)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- In a blowout victory over Indonesia to open its Asian Games women's basketball tournament Wednesday, the unified Korean team showed no issues when it comes to on-court communication. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean athletes were officially welcomed at the athletes' village in Jakarta for the 18th Asian Games on Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's vice sports minister said Thursday that the Koreas should form joint teams in more sports if they can. (*Yonhap*)
- The top Asian sports body on Thursday hailed cooperation and the show of unity between South Korea and North Korea at the 18th Asian Games, saying it was proud to see the competition contribute to peace in the region. (*Yonhap*)
- Public service television channel KBS' flagship News 9 presented a live broadcast from Pyongyang, Tuesday. KBS sent a dozen staffers on Friday to cover an international youth

football event in Pyongyang. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)

International:

- Two months after the lofty promises of the Singapore summit, the United States and North Korea are back to square one. Both sides are blaming each other for failing to implement the agreements. (Joseph Yun, *The Washington Post*)
- Two women who say they were tricked into killing the half-brother of North Korea's Kim Jong-un will go on trial. (BBC)
- The two women accused of the assassination of Kim Jong-nam, the estranged brother of the North Korean Leader, have been ordered to submit their defence to a court in Malaysia after the judge ruled there was enough evidence against them for the trial to proceed. (Hannah Ellis-Petersen, *The Guardian*)
- The United States on Wednesday sanctioned Chinese and Russian firms for their alleged role in helping illicit trade with North Korea in violation of international sanctions. (*Yonhap*)
- A Malaysian court on Thursday ordered two Southeast Asian women to make their defense on charges of assassinating the half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un using a banned chemical weapon in a case described by prosecutors as "only seen in James Bond movies." (RFA)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is unlikely to return to Washington empty-handed from his next trip to Pyongyang. U.S. and North Korean officials have been secretly conducting working-level talks at Panmunjom, multiple South Korean sources reported Thursday. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Two Southeast Asian women on trial for the brazen assassination of the North Korean leader's half brother were told to begin their defense Thursday, extending the trial for several more months. (AP)
- Russia is working on retaliatory measures against the United States after it imposed sanctions on a Russian company for aiding North Korea, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov was quoted as saying by Interfax news agency on Thursday. (*Reuters*)
- The U.S. Treasury Department announced new sanctions on one individual and three organizations accused of being involved in facilitating illicit shipments on behalf of North Korea, keeping up pressure on the regime as the Donald Trump administration negotiates denuclearization. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The US imposed sanctions Wednesday on three foreign companies it accuses of helping North Korea with the illicit shipments of goods to fund its nuclear program. (Rozina Sabur, *Telegraph*)
- The United States imposed sanctions on a Russian port service agency and Chinese firms for aiding North Korean ships and selling alcohol and tobacco to Pyongyang in breach of U.S. sanctions. (*Reuters*)
- The U.S. on Wednesday sanctioned companies in China, Russia and Singapore it says were violating the trade embargo with North Korea, Washington's latest effort to keep pressure on Pyongyang to end its nuclear weapons development. (VOA)
- The U.S. Treasury implemented sanctions on Chinese, Russian and Singaporean shipping

firms Wednesday for violating U.N. trade restrictions with North Korea. (Danielle Haynes, UPI)

- Two women charged with murdering the estranged half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un must answer for their role in a well-planned conspiracy, a Malaysian judge said on Thursday, but added that the evidence did not prove a political assassination. (*Reuters*)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726224024/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsnorth-koreans-believe-nuclear-weapons-development-will-continuesanctions-for-trading-with-north

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Friday, August 17, 2018

Judge Finds Conspiracy to Kill Kim with VX, women to testify; NK Warns Against 'Non-Socialist' Behaviors as Holiday Approaches

In North Korea:
Blueberry harvest a growing source of foreign currency for the state (*DailyNK*, 8/17/18)
Former N. Korean defense chief dies at 82 (*Yonhap*, 8/17/18)
Kim Jong-un talks sanctions, 'difficult' times (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 8/17/18)
Kim Jong-un wants to boost tourism (*Korea Times*, 8/17/18)
N. Korean leader criticizes int'l sanctions as 'brigandish' (*Yonhap*, 8/17/18)
North Korea Warns Against 'Non-Socialist' Behaviors as Holiday Approaches (*Radio Free Asia*, 8/16/18)
North Korea's Sinpo South Shipyard: Low Level Activity Continues (*38North*, 8/16/18)
North Korean fashion police crack down on banned haircuts (*The Telegraph*, 8/17/18)
[Photos] Heat wave, sanctions bring increased hardship to Sino-North Korea border (*DailyNK*, 8/17/18)
Tickets to North Korea's Mass Games top $900 (UPI, 8/17/18)

In South Korea:
Fewer barbs across Korean border as South scales back fence (*The Guardian*, 8/16/18)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
65 years waiting and hoping to see his sister again (CNN, 8/17/18)
(Asian Games) Unified Korean basketball coach blames OT loss on defensive breakdowns (*Yonhap*, 8/17/18)

Farms predict positive results from economic cooperation with North (*Yonhap*, 8/17/18)
KTV to broadcast cross-border family reunions (*Korea Times*, 8/17/18)
(LEAD) (Asian Games) Unified Korean team suffers 1st loss in women's basketball (*Yonhap*, 8/17/18)
Separated family reunions to focus on participants (*Korea Times*, 8/17/18)
Through hoops: Combined Koreas set tone for Asian Games (*Associated Press*, 8/16/18)

International:
America and North Korea Continue to Make Wildly Unrealistic Demands of Each Other (*The National Interest*, 8/16/18)
China says does not allow firms to violate North Korea resolutions (*Reuters*, 8/16/18)
How the Korean War set the stage for permanent crisis in northeastern Asia (*Washington Post*, 8/16/18)
Japan weighs $10bn in North Korea aid to spur return of citizens (*Nikkei Asian Review*, 8/17/18)
Judge finds conspiracy to kill Kim with VX, women to testify (*Associated Press*, 8/17/18)
Kim Jong Nam trial: Judge rules women's lawyers must mount defense (CNN, 8/16/18)
(LEAD) Speculation mounts on Cuban visit by North Korea's No. 2 man (*Yonhap*, 8/17/18)
Moscow bristles at US sanctions on Russian company (*Associated Press*, 8/16/18)
N. Korea says U.S. responsible for declaring end of war (*Yonhap*, 8/17/18)
North Korea Presses Demand for End of War Amid Talk of Pompeo Visit (*New York Times*, 8/17/18)
North Korea Sticks to Its Own Understanding of the Singapore Agreement (*The National Interest*, 8/16/18)
North Korean laborers abroad under increased scrutiny (*DailyNK*, 8/17/18)
Pompeo hopes for 'big step' in nuclear talks (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 8/17/18)
Pompeo hopes for 'big step' on N. Korea 'before too long' (*Yonhap*, 8/17/18)
Russia Calls Latest US Sanctions on Companies in Russia, China, and Singapore 'Useless' (VOA, 8/16/18)
Russia says U.S. sanctions over North Korea risk undermining peace process (*Reuters*, 8/16/18)
'US-North Korea seeing progress in relations' (*Korea Times*, 8/17/18)

In North Korea:

- The blueberry harvest season has arrived in North Korea and is generating intense competition between ordinary residents and government officials tasked with bringing in foreign currency, sources in the country say. (Kang Mi-jin, *DailyNK*)
- Former North Korean defense chief Kim Yong-chun died Thursday, Pyongyang's state media reported. He was 83. Kim, marshal of the Korean People's Army, died of acute myocardial infarction, the North's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un condemned international sanctions during a recent visit to a planned tourism area, the regime's official media reported Friday, and called recent times "difficult." (Lee Sung-Eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un recently visited major tourist facilities and encouraged officials, the state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported Friday. With his wife Ri Sol-ju, Kim inspected the Wonsan-Kalma coastal tourist district in Gangwon Province under construction and encouraged workers there, saying it would be "a very nice gift" for the

people of North Korea once completed. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)

- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un harshly criticized international sanctions on the North during his visit to a tourist complex under construction on the North's eastern coast, Pyongyang's media said Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean authorities are calling for strengthened vigilance against "non-socialist" behavior in advance of a major national holiday, with ruling party youth groups deployed across the country to warn or detain citizens found wearing condemned fashions or hairstyles, North Korean sources say. (Myungchul Lee, Leejin Jun, Richard Finney, *Radio Free Asia*)
- Recent commercial satellite imagery indicates a low level of activity at North Korea's Sinpo South Shipyard, where North Korea's only experimental ballistic missile submarine (SSBA) is berthed. (*38North*)
- The North Korean authorities have reportedly stepped up a crackdown on "non-socialist" behaviour, including unapproved hairstyles, ahead of the 70th anniversary of the country's founding in September. (Nicola Smith, *The Telegraph*)
- According to a source Daily NK spoke to in the area, the early corn harvest will serve as the primary staple for many North Korean residents this summer but that it's "been really bad compared to last year." (Kim Song-il, *DailyNK*)
- North Korea will hold its Mass Games for the first time in five years and the most expensive tickets sold to foreigners are priced at nearly $1,000, according to a China-based travel agency. (Wooyoung Lee, *UPI*)

In South Korea:

- South Korea appears likely to scale back its barbed wire fencing along the border with North Korea, one of the most militarised frontiers in the world. The military will inspect some 300km (186 miles) of barbed wire along the demilitarised zone. (Benjamin Haas, *The Guardian*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Families from North and South Korea, separated since the Korean War, are being given the chance to reunite. Kim Kyung Jae has been waiting 65 years to see his sister again. (*CNN*)
- The unified Korean women's basketball team suffered some defensive breakdowns in its overtime loss to Chinese Taipei at the Asian Games on Friday, its head coach said. (Yoo Jee-ho, *Yonhap*)
- More than half of South Korean farmers believe their country's agricultural industry will improve if economic cooperation with North Korea becomes active, a recent survey said Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea's state-run broadcaster KTV will provide live broadcasts of inter-Korean family reunions next week. KTV will televise the historic event from Monday to Sunday (Aug. 20-26). (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)

- The unified Korea women's basketball team suffered its first loss at the Asian Games on Friday, falling to Chinese Taipei 87-85 in overtime. (Yoo Jee-ho, *Yonhap*)
- Separated family reunions that will take place in North Korea next week will focus on providing participants personal time with family members and eliminating physical inconveniences, considering they are elderly, according to the unification ministry, Friday. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- One win into the Asian Games and the bigger picture is already clear for the combined Koreas basketball team. The Koreas will also be entering combined teams in rowing, canoeing and dragon boat racing in the Asian Games. (John Pye, *Associated Press*)

International:

- The talks between the United States and North Korea over the North's denuclearization have ground to a halt. Both sides have moved a little in the last few months and are now pushing for exorbitant concessions based on mild, earlier concessions. The result is a stalemate. (Robert E. Kelly, *The National Interest*)
- China's Foreign Ministry said on Thursday that the country does not allow Chinese firms to engage in activities that violate United Nations Security Council resolutions on North Korea. (Ben Blanchard, Cheng Fang, Darren Schuettler, *Reuters*)
- American militarism was born in the blood and rubble of the Korean War. During that famously forgotten conflict in the early 1950s, the United States became a self-righteous bully. It overreacted to trifling threats and bumbled into an endless series of distant conflicts, waging war in the name of peace. (Blaine Harden, *Washington Post*)
- Eager to bring closure to decades-old abductions of its citizens by North Korea, the Japanese government is seeking ways to talk directly with Pyongyang. Tokyo's trump card of economic assistance will follow normalization of relations. (Koya Jibiki, Yosuke Onchi, *Nikkei Asian Review*)
- Two women accused in the brazen assassination of the North Korean leader's half brother were told Thursday to make their defense after a Malaysian judge found evidence they participated in a "well-planned conspiracy" to kill, extending their murder trial until next year. (Eileen Ng, *Associated Press*)
- Two women charged with murdering Kim Jong Nam, the half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, will remain in custody as their lawyers mount a defense against the prosecution's claims. (Joshua Berlinger, Ushar Danielle, *CNN*)
- Choe Ryong-hae, known as North Korea's second most powerful man, is visiting Cuba to discuss ways to improve the countries' bilateral relationship, a wire report said Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- Russia has warned that the latest U.S. sanctions against a Russian company accused by Washington of breaching international restrictions on North Korea could undermine denuclearization talks with Pyongyang. (*Associated Press*)
- North Korea's main newspaper demanded Friday that the United States agree to declare the end of the 1950-53 Korean War to pave the way for lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)

- North Korea pressed its demand on Friday that the United States agree to declare an end to the 1950-53 Korean War, as South Korea's leader indicated that the American secretary of state, Mike Pompeo, was preparing for his fourth visit to the North. (Choe Sang-hun, *New York Times*)
- There's disagreement over the Singapore Agreement. The Trump administration claims that Kim Jong-un committed to the complete, fully verified, and irreversible, complete denuclearization (CVID) of North Korea. Yet Pyongyang insists that Washington must first implement trust-building measures. (Bruce Klingner, *The National Interest*)
- Surveillance over North Korean laborers dispatched abroad has increased in recent weeks. "At a factory [name redacted for safety of source] in Tumen, China, North Korean laborers are completely confined to the facilities. Just a year ago you could see the laborers head out in groups to the markets in the city center to buy goods, but you don't see that anymore," said a source in Tumen City close to North Korean affairs. (Ha Yoon-ah, *DailyNK*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Thursday he was hoping for a "big step" in progress with North Korea on denuclearization, raising hopes for some kind of breakthrough in the seemingly stalled Pyongyang-Washington talks. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Thursday held out hope for a "big step" in negotiations with North Korea to dismantle its nuclear weapons program. (*Yonhap*)
- Russia says the latest U.S. sanctions imposed on Russian, Chinese, and Singaporean companies are "destructive" and "useless." The U.S. penalized the three companies Wednesday, accusing them of helping North Korea avoid international sanctions. (VOA)
- Russian Foreign Ministry said on Thursday that fresh sanctions, imposed by the United States against a Russian firm and an individual over North Korea, may undermine peace process in the Korean peninsula. (Vladimir Soldatkin, Alison Williams, *Reuters*)
- A Cheong Wa Dae official said Friday that South Korea expects the ongoing dialogue between Washington and Pyongyang on the North's denuclearization will bring about improvements in their decades-long hostile relationship. (Kim Yoo-chul, *Korea Times*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726224029/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-judge-finds-conspiracy-to-kill-kim-with-vx-women-to-testify-nk-warns-against-non-socialist-behaviors-as-holiday-approaches

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Saturday, August 18, 2018

Chinese leader Xi to visit North Korea next month: report; (Asian Games) Koreas to have talks in Jakarta to expand sports exchanges

In North Korea:
Signs that North Korea is planning something big for September: Blocked visas, parade practice and haircuts (*The Washington Post*, 08/17/2018)
Some activity seen at N.K. shipyard capable of building ballistic missile subs: 38 North (*Yonhap*, 08/18/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) (Asian Games) S. Korean basketball player, N. Korean footballer carry one Korea flag at opening ceremony (*Yonhap*, 08/18/2018)
(Asian Games) Koreas to have talks in Jakarta to expand sports exchanges (*Yonhap*, 08/18/2018)
(LEAD) (Asian Games) Koreas march together at opening ceremony (*Yonhap*, 08/18/2018)
(LEAD) (Asian Games) S. Korean prime minister meets with senior N. Korean official in Indonesia (*Yonhap*, 08/18/2018)
Unified Koreas athletes center of attention at Asiad opener (*The Washington Post*, 08/18/2018)

International:
Chinese leader Xi to visit North Korea next month: report (*Korea Times*, 08/18/2018)
Chinese President Xi to visit North Korea next month: Straits Times (*Reuters*, 08/18/2018)
Equatorial Guinea repatriates North Korean workers, cuts agricultural ties: NIR (*NK News*, 08/17/2018)
U.S., N. Korea to have frequent talks until denuclearization goal reached: State Department (*Yonhap*, 08/18/2018)

In North Korea:

- North Korea is planning a party. Next month, the reclusive country will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the country, officially known as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. And there are signs that the event, which will take place Sept. 9, will be a celebration to watch. (Adam Taylor, *The Washington Post*)
- A North Korean shipyard capable of building ballistic missile submarines appears to be somewhat active, but it's unclear whether a new submarine is being built, according to a U.S. website monitoring the regime. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- South Korean women's basketball player Lim Yung-hui partnered with North Korean footballer Ju Kyong-chol to carry one flag together at the opening ceremony of the 18th Asian Games in Indonesia on Saturday. (Joo Kyung-don, *Yonhap*)
- Sports ministers from the two Koreas will soon meet in Jakarta to discuss way to expand sports exchanges between the two sides, Seoul's top sports official said Saturday. (*Yonhap*)
- South and North Korea marched together at the opening ceremony of the 18th Asian Games in Jakarta on Saturday, marking the second time in six months that the two were united behind one flag at an international sporting competition. (Yoo Jee-ho, *Yonhap*)

- South Korean Prime Minister Lee Nak-yon met with a senior North Korean official in Jarkarta on Saturday just before the opening ceremony of the Asian Games. (*Yonhap*)
- Thousands of spectators cheered wildly as athletes from the rival Koreas paraded side-by-side behind a "unification" flag in a spectacular opening ceremony for the Asian Games. (AP)

International:

- Chinese President Xi Jinping is set to visit Pyongyang early next month at the invitation of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un to attend the celebrations of the reclusive state's 70th founding anniversary, Singapore's Straits Times reported on Saturday, citing unidentified sources. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- Chinese President Xi Jinping is set to visit Pyongyang next month at the invitation of North Korea leader Kim Jong Un to attend the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of North Korea's founding, Singapore's Straits Times newspaper reported. (*Reuters*)
- Equatorial Guinea repatriated North Korean laborers and has taken steps to cut ties with the DPRK in the agricultural sector, its most recent UN sanctions National Implementation Report (NIR) – uploaded by the 1718 Committee this week – claims. (Hamish Macdonald, *NK News*)
- The United States and North Korea will have frequent discussions until the goal of Pyongyang's denuclearization is reached, the State Department said Friday, declining to provide details on a reported meeting last weekend. (*Yonhap*)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726224322/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemschinese-leader-xi-to-visit-north-korea-next-month-reportasian-games-koreas-to-have-talks-in-jakarta-to-expand-sports-exchanges

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Sunday, August 19, 2018

North Korean leader denounces international sanctions again; For many separated Korean families, reunion event comes too late

In North Korea:

N. Korea smuggles tobacco products (*Korea Times*, 8/19/18)
'Non-socialist' lifestyle under crackdown in N. Korea (*Korea Times*, 8/19/18)
North Korean leader denounces international sanctions again (*Yonhap*, 8/19/18)
Video games catch on in North Korea (*Korea Times*, 8/19/18)

In South Korea:
[Debriefing] North Korea's smuggled coal (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 8/19/18)
Elderly S. Koreans set to visit North for family reunion (*Yonhap*, 8/19/18)
Families gather ahead of South-North reunions (*Yonhap*, 8/19/18)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
An end to the reunions (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 8/19/18)
'Dream or reality?' Koreans to meet after decades apart (*Associated Press*, 8/19/18)
For many separated Korean families, reunion event comes too late (*Yonhap*, 8/19/18)
Hand-in-hand, Koreas grab spotlight at Asian Games opener (*Associated Press*, 8/18/18)
'I cried for a year': Families split by the Korean War get rare chance to reunite (CNN, 8/19/18)
(LEAD) (Asian Games) Unified Korean rowing team finishes last in qualification in Asiad debut (*Yonhap*, 8/19/18)
Reunions of separated families to begin Monday (*Korea Times*, 8/19/18)

International:
After detente with North Korea, Trump increasingly takes aim at a new foe — China (*Washington Post*, 8/18/18)
Kim's right-hand man visits Cuba (*Korea Times*, 8/19/18)
Korean-Americans Push for Reunions with North Korea Family Members (VOA, 8/19/18)
(LEAD) N. Korea accepts on-site inspection of missile launch site: report (*Yonhap*, 8/19/18)
N. Korea demands declaration of end of Korean War (*Korea Times*, 8/19/18)
N. Korea to greet Xi in 'unprecedented manner' (*Korea Times*, 8/19/18)
Xi could make first visit to Pyongyang in Sept. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 8/19/18)
Xi's N. Korea visit could make US uneasy (*Korea Times*, 8/19/18)

In North Korea:

- North Korea is raising cash by smuggling tobacco products, including counterfeit cigarettes, according to sources familiar with Pyongyang. They said the impoverished Kim Jong-un regime even raised the export price for a carton of cigarettes by 10 percent. (Yi Whan-Woo, *Korea Times*)
- North Korea is being vigilant against the influx of any "non-socialist" lifestyle amid the reconciliatory mood on the Korean Peninsula, according to sources familiar with Pyongyang. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un lambasted international sanctions on his country for the second time in a week during his visit to construction sites in a northern town, the North's state media reported Sunday. (*Yonhap*)
- Foreign computer and video games are becoming popular among North Korean youth,

according to defectors in Seoul. They say the games vary from "Grand Theft Auto 5," "FIFA Online" and "Project IGI2" and that "every one of" their friends played them when they (the defectors) were in the reclusive state. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)

In South Korea:

- The South Korean customs agency revealed on Aug. 10 that private companies smuggled North Korean coal and iron into South Korea from April to October 2017 in violation of United Nations sanctions that prohibit member states from purchasing North Korean products and South Korea's own regulations about dealing with the North. (Choi Hyung-jo, James Constant, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- A group of 89 elderly South Koreans gathered at a resort in a northeastern coastal town on Sunday to travel to the North for a temporary reunion with their war-separated families. (*Yonhap*)
- South Koreans separated from family members in North Korea gathered in the coastal city of Sokcho, Gangwon, on Sunday to prepare for a trip to North Korea's Mount Kumgang resort where the first family reunion in nearly three years will be held starting Monday. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Despite their two-night, three-day stay in North Korea, they can only meet their relatives for 11 hours over six gatherings. As has always been the case, the guesthouse suddenly turns into a spot for excitement, euphoria and then wailing as people realize that they can hardly expect to see their North Korean family again. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The elderly relatives gathering at North Korea's scenic Diamond Mountain resort know that, given the fickle nature of ties between the rival Koreas, this could be the last time they see each other before they die. (Kim Tong-hyung, *Associated Press*)
- The 89 people fortunately chosen to join this week's event represent just a small fraction of about 57,000 people waiting to meet their loved ones in the North again. The problem is that many of them are in their 70s or older, meaning the window of opportunity is fast closing down for their dreams to meet their parents, brothers and sisters again before they die. (Koh Byung-joon, *Yonhap*)
- First it was the athletes parading side-by-side in matching uniforms behind the "unification" flag carried by South Korean basketballer Lim Yung-hui and North Korean footballer Ju Kyong Chol. (Niniek Karmini, *Associated Press*)
- On Monday, the first reunion in three years will take place, at North Korea's Mount Kumgang. The reunion is included in the historic accord that was signed by the leaders of the two Koreas in April. Around 57,000 people were eligible to take part. Of those, 0.16%, just 89 people, will make the journey. (Paula Hancocks, Yoonjung Seo, James Griffiths, CNN)
- A unified Korean men's rowing team finished last in its qualification group in its Asian Games debut on Sunday. The Korean rowers only got together on July 31 at a training venue in the South. (*Yonhap*)
- A group of 89 elderly South Koreans gathered in Sokcho, Gangwon Province, Sunday, before

crossing the Demilitarized Zone to reunite with their loved ones in the North, Monday. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)

International:

- Trump's preoccupation with China was on display at a Cabinet meeting at the White House on Thursday. During the hour-long discussion, open to reporters, the president accused China of easing economic pressure on North Korea and of flooding addictive opioids into the United States. (David Nakamura, *Washington Post*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's purported right-hand man Choe Ryong-hae is visiting Cuba, according to Cuba's official news agency Prensa Latina last week. It said Choe, vice chairman of the Central Committee of North Korea's ruling Workers' Party, arrived in Havana on Aug. 16, as the leader of a delegation. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- The greatest deterrent to reuniting Korean-Americans and their North Korean families has been the tense relationship between the U.S. and North Korea, now warming somewhat, and the precedence of the denuclearization issue. (Natalie Seo, VOA)
- According to the report by Japan's Kyodo News, the communist state has agreed to allow a group of inspectors from the U.N. International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to visit the country and verify its pledged suspension of unannounced missile launches. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea has called on the United States to declare an end to the 1950-53 Korean War in line with an agreement between their leaders at their Singapore summit in June. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- North Koreans are expected to welcome Chinese President Xi Jinping in an "unprecedented manner" when he joins Kim Jong-un in Pyongyang to celebrate the 70th founding anniversary of the North' s regime on Sept. 9, according to analysts. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- Chinese President Xi Jinping is set to make his first visit to Pyongyang since assuming power next month to attend celebrations of the 70th anniversary of North Korea's founding, according to a news report Saturday. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Xi's visit could make a breakthrough in the stalled denuclearization talks, but at the same time could make Washington uneasy because it believes Xi is exerting influence on North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726224343/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-north-korean-leader-denounces-international-sanctions-again-for-many-separated-korean-families-reunion-event-comes-too-late

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Monday, August 20, 2018

Korean families reunited despite denuclearisation concerns; Gangwon gov. proposes inter-Korean Asian Games

In North Korea

(LEAD) (Asian Games) Weightlifter delivers N. Korea's 1st gold (*Yonhap*, 08/20/2018)
[Asian Games] North Korea wins 1st medal in wrestling (*The Korea Times*, 08/20/2018)
Forced labor prescribed for North Korea's malnourished street children (*DailyNK*, 08/20/2018)
Foreign tourists go off beaten path on North Korea's sacred volcano [PHOTOS] (*The Korea Times*, 08/20/2018)
Kim Jong-un Focuses on Economy as Nuclear Talks With U.S. Stall (*The New York Times*, 08/20/2018)
Kim Jong-un Steps up Criticism of U.S. Ahead of Pompeo Visit (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 08/20/2018)
Kim Jong Un inspects beach being developed as a resort area (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 08/19/2018)
MAR Kim Yong Chun (1936-2018) (*North Korea Leadership Watch*, 08/20/2018)
N.Korea Agrees to Missile Site Inspection (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 08/20/2018)
N. Korea accepts on-site inspection of missile launch site: report (*The Korea Herald*, 08/19/2018)
N. Korea cracks down on fashions and haircuts (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 08/20/2018)
N. Korea reacts positively to proposal to co-host 2021 Asian Winter Games: governor (*The Korea Herald*, 08/20/2018)
N. Korea's Om Yun-chol defends weightlifting title (*The Korea Herald*, 08/20/2018)
North Korea alludes to confrontation with U.S. over secret nuclear sites during negotiations (*The Japan Times*, 08/19/2018)
North Korea to let U.N. aviation agency officials conduct on-site missile safety inspection (*The Japan Times*, 08/19/2018)
North Korean defector Yeonmi Park on perseverance (CNBC, 08/20/2018)
Report: North Korea agrees to U.N. inspection over aviation safety (UPI, 08/20/2018)
Report: North Koreans died by the dozens during heat wave (UPI, 08/20/2018)

In South Korea

(LEAD) Seoul rejects claim inter-Korean liaison office violates sanctions (*Yonhap*, 08/20/2018)
'Thank you for being alive': South Korean family prepares for what might be a last reunion (*The Guardian*, 08/19/2018)
67% of SMEs willing to replace foreign workers with North Koreans, survey shows (*The Korea Times*, 08/19/2018)
Cheong Wa Dae rejects claim inter-Korean liaison office violates int'l sanctions (*The Korea Times*, 08/20/2018)
Gangwon gov. proposes inter-Korean Asian Games (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/20/2018)
He escaped North Korea in the 'Christmas Miracle.' At 88, all he wants is to go back. (*The Washington Post*, 08/20/2018)
How to keep denuclearization on the table (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/20/2018)
In the driver's seat (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/20/2018)
Kaesong liaison office is legal, Seoul insists (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/20/2018)

Korea considers five sites for inter-Korean excavation of DMZ war remains (*The Korea Herald*, 08/20/2018)
Possible Xi Jinping visit to North Korea raises concerns in Seoul (UPI, 08/20/2018)
President Moon urged to oust top policy adviser (*The Korea Times*, 08/20/2018)
S. Korean visitor says reform and opening progressing in Pyongyang (*Yonhap*, 08/20/2018)
Seoul rejects claim inter-Korean liaison office violates sanctions (*The Korea Herald*, 08/20/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship
(5th LD) War-separated families of Koreas meet for first time in over 6 decades (*Yonhap*, 08/20/2018)
(Asian Games) N. Korean basketball guard says unified team has great harmony (*Yonhap*, 08/20/2018)
(Asian Games) U.S.-born player on unified Korean hoops team all about name on front of jersey (*Yonhap*, 08/20/2018)
(Asian Games) Unified Korean team beats India for 2nd women's hoops win (*Yonhap*, 08/20/2018)
(LEAD) S. Koreans head to North Korea for family reunions (*Yonhap*, 08/20/2018)
[Photo News] War-separated families meet in rare, emotional reunion (*The Korea Herald*, 08/20/2018)
AP Explains: The History of Korean Family Reunions (*The New York Times*, 08/20/2018)
Best photos of the day: Korean reunion and the hajj (*The Guardian*, 08/20/2018)
Brief Korean Reunions Bring Tears for Separated Families (*The New York Times*, 08/20/2018)
Elderly Korean families finally united (*The Times*, 08/20/2018)
Father to meet daughter at upcoming reunion after 68 years (*DailyNK*, 08/20/2018)
Granddad, 101, brings plenty of gifts for family reunion (*The Korea Times*, 08/20/2018)
Joy, Disbelief as Korean Families Separated by War Meet After 65 Years (*The New York Times*, 08/20/2018)
Korea reunion: 'I'm hoping to hug my grown-up son' (BBC, 08/20/2018)
Korean family reunions bring tears for separated families as countries push reconciliation efforts (*The Chicago Tribune*, 08/20/2018)
Korean Families, Separated for 6 Decades, Are Briefly Reunited (*The New York Times*, 08/20/2018)
Korean Families Reunite at Long Last at N. Korean Resort (VOA News, 08/20/2018)
Korean families reunited despite denuclearisation concerns (*Financial Times*, 08/20/2018)
Korean families separated by war meet for first time in more than sixty years (*The Daily Telegraph*, 08/20/2018)
Korean reunions: Families divided by war meet in North (BBC, 08/20/2018)
Korean reunions: Tears as mother and son meet for first time in 68 years (CNN, 08/20/2018)
Koreas in talks for joint exhumation of war remains (*The Korea Times*, 08/20/2018)
Reunions elicit bittersweet tears (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/20/2018)
Reunions of families separated by war kick-off (*The Korea Herald*, 08/20/2018)
South, North Korea families reunite decades after war (UPI, 08/20/2018)
South Koreans cross inter-Korean border for family reunion [PHOTOS] (*The Korea Times*, 08/20/2018)
South Koreans enter North to reunite with kin split by war (*The Korea Herald*, 08/20/2018)
Tears as separated North and South Korean families come together briefly – video (*The Guardian*,

08/20/2018)
Tears flow as separated South and North Korean families reunite (*The Guardian*, 08/20/2018)
Third inter-Korean summit must aim to interlink denuclearization and end-of-war declaration (*DailyNK*, 08/20/2018)
Unified Koreas Athletes Cheered at Asian Games Spectacular (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 08/20/2018)
War-separated families meet for first time in 65 years (*The Korea Times*, 08/20/2018)

International
China Must Not Relax Pressure on N.Korea (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 08/20/2018)
Fears over tear gas cloud in Chinese city near North Korea (*Asia Times*, 08/20/2018)
Pentagon Assesses Chances of China's Military Intervention in Korea (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 08/20/2018)
Pompeo's North Korea visit raises hopes for turnaround (*The Korea Times*, 08/20/2018)
Possible Chinese President Visit to Pyongyang Raises Doubts on Sanctions (VOA *News*, 08/20/2018)
Spy-framed ethnic Koreans seek restoration of visa (*The Korea Times*, 08/20/2018)
U.S. Warns of Sanctions Violations at Cross-Border Liaison Office (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 08/20/2018)
What East Asia can learn from Europe's economic community (*The Korea Herald*, 08/20/2018)
Xi could make first visit to Pyongyang in Sept. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/19/2018)

In North Korea

- North Korean weightlifter Ri Song-gum won her country's first gold at the 18th Asian Games on Monday. Ri became the first North Korean gold medalist at the Jakarta-Palembang Asian Games after topping the women's 48kg weightlifting competition at Jakarta International Expo in Jakarta. It was her first gold in her first Asian Games. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea won its first medal at the 18th Asian Games on Sunday. Freestyle wrestler Kang Kum-song finished second in the men's 57 kilogram division to give North Korea its first medal at the Jakarta-Palembang Asian Games. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's street children, known as kkotjebi, held by the state in designated facilities are being subjected to forced labor and suffering from malnourishment because holding facility staff are stealing from their food rations, according to sources inside the country. (Mun Dong Hui, *DailyNK*)
- Hoping to open up a side of North Korea rarely seen by outsiders, a New Zealander who has extensive experience climbing the mountains of North and South Korea is leading the first group of foreign tourists allowed to trek off road and camp out under the stars on Mount Paektu, a huge volcano that straddles the border that separates China and North Korea. (AP)
- Since late June, Mr. Kim has devoted almost all of his public activities to visiting factories, farms and construction sites, rather than the military units and weapons test sites that he frequented last year. And instead of boasting of his country's military prowess, he is lashing out at poor management at the sites he visits, highlighting his intense focus on fixing his economy. (Choe Sang-Hun, *The New York Times*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un last week complained that U.S. sanctions are making life difficult for his isolated country. On Friday, during an inspection of a tourism zone in Wonsan, Kangwon Province, Kim also said that such projects are a fight against enemies trying to "stifle our people with sanctions." (Kim Myong-song, *The Chosun Ilbo*)

- Buoyant North Korean leader Kim Jong Un talked about wanting major commercial projects as he inspected a beach in southeastern North Korea that is being developed as a major resort area. The beach resort project is believed to be the one that Kim is prioritizing now. The country's state-run Korean Central News Agency said that Kim had also inspected the area on May 26. (Yoshihiro Makino, *The Asahi Shimbun*)
- Marshal Kim Yong Chun (Kim Yo'ng-ch'un), a semi-retired member of the core leadership and a leading member of the Korean People's Army (KPA) high command for over two decades, died at the age of 82 in Pyongyang on August 16 (Thursday) from a massive heart attack. Marshal Kim was a major public figure in DPRK politics and in the country's national security community and had close personal ties to late DPRK leader Kim Jong Il (Kim Cho'ng-il). (*North Korea Leadership Watch*)
- North Korea has agreed to let the International Civil Aviation Organization inspect its missile facilities, Japan's Kyodo News reported Sunday. The ICAO demanded that North Korea allow inspections of its missile-launch facilities after mounting criticism that the North's unannounced missile launches endanger international civil aviation. (Lee Min-seok, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- North Korea has agreed to an on-site inspection of its missile launch site by international officials to ensure the safety of international flights, a report said Sunday. According to the report by Japan's Kyodo News, the communist state has agreed to allow a group of inspectors from the UN International Civil Aviation Organization to access its missile launch sites. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea has reportedly stepped up a crackdown on "non-socialist behavior," including unapproved hairstyles and clothes, ahead of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the country on Sept. 9. (Mi-Kyung Jung, *The Dong-A Ilbo*)
- The governor of South Korea's northeast border province said Monday he proposed during his recent visit to Pyongyang that the two Koreas co-host the 2021 Asian Winter Games. Choi said that the two Koreas have tentatively agreed to hold the fifth Ari Sports Cup U-15 football games in Chuncheon, 85 km east of Seoul, in October, and next year's sixth tournament in the North's Wonsan. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean weightlifter Om Yun-chol successfully defended his Asian Games title on Monday. Om, 26, won the men's 56kg weightlifting competition at the 18th Asian Games after clearing a total of 287kg. Thach Kim Tuan of Vietnam took silver at 280kg, while Surahmat Bin Suwoto Wijoyo of Indonesia earned bronze at 272kg. (*Yonhap*)
- The United States has explicitly confronted North Korea about suspected secret nuclear weapons facilities during ongoing denuclearization negotiations, a commentary published over the weekend by the North's state-run media has appeared to show. (Jesse Johnson, *The Japan Times*)
- North Korea has agreed to allow International Civil Aviation Organization staff to conduct an on-site inspection to ensure the safety of international flights from the country's missile launches, according to officials with the Montreal-based U.N. agency. (*Kyodo*)
- Yeonmi Park writes in her memoir "In Order to Live" that she is most grateful for two things — being born in North Korea, and escaping safely. Park escaped from North Korea with her mother at 13. Today, she's a human rights activist. (CNBC)
- North Korea has agreed to allow U.N. aviation officials to monitor air travel safety measures

it has taken from missile launches, Kyodo News reported, citing officials of the International Civil Aviation Organization. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)

- The unprecedented heat wave that plagued the Korean Peninsula took a heavy toll on ordinary North Koreans, according to a South Korean press report. Sources in North Korea who spoke on the condition of anonymity told South Korean news service Daily NK 39 people died in late July in the city of Pyongsong. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

In South Korea

- The planned establishment of an inter-Korean liaison office in the North Korean border city of Kaesong does not constitute a violation of sanctions on the communist nation, South Korea's presidential spokesman said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea is sending 93 people to Mount Kumgang, a tourist region in North Korea, after more than 132,000 South Koreans applied for the chance to see long lost relatives. The group from South Korea will meet their families between 20 and 22 August and North Koreans will meet their families in the South between 24 and 26 August. (Benjamin Haas, *The Guardian*)
- If North Korea were allowed to send workers to the South, 67 percent of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) here are willing to replace foreigners with North Koreans, a survey showed on Sunday. (Jung Hae-myoung, *The Korea Times*)
- The planned establishment of an inter-Korean liaison office in the North Korean border city of Kaesong does not constitute a violation of sanctions on the communist nation, South Korea's presidential spokesman said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- The governor of Gangwon said Monday that he proposed that the two Koreas co-host the 2021 Asian Winter Games during his recent visit to Pyongyang. Gangwon Gov. Choi Moon-soon, who visited North Korea on Aug. 10-19 to participate in an international under-15 football tournament in Pyongyang, said the North responded positively to his co-hosting proposal for the largest Asian winter sports festival. (*Yonhap*)
- Today, perhaps 10 times that number or more — at least 1 million South Koreans — have some family link to those carried on the Hungnam boatlift, according to South Korean war refugee groups. They include the current president, Moon Jae-in, whose parents were on the ships. Now, the elderly survivors of the Hungnam flotilla hope openings between Moon's government and North Korea could allow them to cross the border for the first time in nearly 68 years. (Brian Murphy, *The Washington Post*)
- Inter-Korean relations can gain traction when the denuclearization of North Korea tops the agenda in upcoming talks between South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, said Hong Seok-hyun, chairman of the Korea Peace Foundation. In an interview with Park Myung-lim, one of the directors of the foundation and a political science professor at Yonsei University, Chairman Hong stressed that the Seoul government should work to put denuclearization on the summit agenda with "determination even if it has to get red-faced" because the issue concerns the South Korean people utmost. (Choi Ik-jae and Chun Su-jin, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The period ahead will be a turning point. It is time to turn on an emergency light amid a thick blanket of fog. Moon underscored that South Korea must take the driver's seat when it

comes to peninsular issues. If so, he must remind himself that South Korea is a party directly affected by North Korea's nuclear threats and that we cannot improve inter-Korean relations without substantial progress in denuclearization. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)

- The Blue House said Monday the opening of an inter-Korean liaison office in the now-shuttered Kaesong Industrial Complex would not violate international sanctions on North Korea, stressing its purpose was to ease military tensions and help peace on the peninsula. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korea has been considering five candidate sites for an inter-Korean project to excavate the remains of fallen troops left in the Demilitarized Zone during the 1950-53 Korean War, a defense official here said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- The possibility the Chinese leader could visit Pyongyang on Sept. 9 complicates the picture as the United States and South Korea coordinate on denuclearization and sanctions, South Korean newspaper Asia Business Daily reported Monday. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- As the two grew seemingly wider apart, Kim and the finance ministry looked powerless, with Jang being in control behind President Moon, who was too focused on carrying out his policy on North Korea without giving any clear directions for the economy at home. (Park Hyong-ki, *The Korea Times*)
- A wave of reform and opening is underway in Pyongyang, as the capital of North Korea has undergone a remarkable transformation over the past decade, a South Korean provincial governor said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- The planned establishment of an inter-Korean liaison office in the North Korean border city of Kaesong does not constitute a violation of sanctions on the communist nation, South Korea's presidential spokesman said Monday. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- Hundreds of South and North Koreans torn apart by the 1950-53 Korean War met for the first time in over six decades in a tearful, long-dreamed-of family reunion on Monday. Eighty-nine South Koreans, mostly in their 70s and older, met about 180 long-separated family members, including brothers, sisters and other relatives living in North Korea, at Mount Kumgang, a scenic resort on the North's east coast. (Koh Byung-joon, *Yonhap*)
- North Korean guard Jang Mi-gyong said Monday her teammates on the unified Korean team are all on the same page in their quest for an Asian Games gold medal in Indonesia. (Yoo Jee-ho, *Yonhap*)
- Kim, born Kimberly Roberson to a Korean mother and an American father in Indiana, is one of eight South Korean players on the joint team competing in Jakarta, joined by three North Koreans. (Yoo Jee-ho, *Yonhap*)
- The unified Korean women's basketball team crushed India 104-54 on Monday for its second victory of the 18th Asian Games. South Korean Prime Minister Lee Nak-yon and North Korean Sports Minister Kim Il-guk watched the victory. Dozens of South Korean and North Korean residents in Indonesia donned white T-shirts bearing the image of the Korean Peninsula in blue to form their own cheering section. (Yoo Jee-ho, *Yonhap*)
- A group of 89 South Koreans left for North Korea Monday to meet their families separated by

the 1950-53 Korean War. The elderly people and more than 300 others left for a Mount Kumgang resort on the North's east coast in nearly 30 buses in the morning from the northeastern coastal city of Sokcho, where they spent the night. (*Yonhap*)

- The long-awaited family reunions started at 3 p.m. Monday, and will continue over a three-day visit to the North. Families from South and North Korea are set to meet on six separate occasions. Over 57,000 South Koreans have registered for the family reunions, according to South Korea's Ministry of Unification. (Catherine Chung, *The Korea Herald*)
- For the first time in three years, elderly North and South Korean relatives separated during the chaos of the 1950-53 Korean War gathered Monday at the North's scenic Diamond Mountain, where they'll embrace their loved ones after decades apart. Here are several things to know about the reunions, which will only last a few days and will likely be the last time these people see each other. (AP)
- South Korean Lee Keum-seom, 92, left, weeps as she meets with her North Korean son Ri Sang Chol, 71, during the Separated Family Reunion Meeting at the Diamond Mountain resort. (AP)
- The 92-year-old South Korean woman wept and stroked the wrinkled cheeks of her 71-year-old North Korean son on Monday, their first meeting since they were driven apart during the turmoil of the 1950-53 Korean War. (AP)
- Dozens of elderly South Koreans travelled to North Korea today to see long-lost relatives as part of the first round of family reunions in more than three years. While the gathering of families separated by the Korean War of 1950-53 reflects the reduction in tensions between the two Koreas, the gesture comes far too late for some. (Daniel Hurst, *The Times*)
- When asked by the interviewers what the first thing he would like to say to his daughter was, he replied, "I would tell her that I am thankful she has lived this long and that we can meet," and that, "I am grateful that she is alive so we can hold this reunion and that despite having a hard life that I am happy she is still alive and can see me." (Mun Dong Hui, *DailyNK*)
- Southerners are bringing plenty of gifts for their northern family members during cross-border reunions. Some packed boxes of "Choco pie," a snack cake that gained popularity among North Korean workers in the Gaeseong Industrial Complex, before it was shut down by the Park Geun-hye administration in February 2016. (Jung Da-min, *The Korea Times*)
- About 90 families from North and South Korea wept and embraced on Monday as the neighbors held their first reunion events in three years for relatives wrenched apart by the Korean War for more than six decades. (*Reuters*)
- In the chaos of the Korean War, Lee Keum-seom was separated from her four-year-old son and the two ended up on opposite sides of the border. Now, after nearly seven decades, she is about to meet her child again. (*The Blue House*)
- Most of the participants in the reunions are in their 70s or older and are eager to see their loved ones once more before they die. Most have had no word on whether their relatives are still alive because they are not allowed to visit each other across the border or even exchange letters, phone calls or email. (Hyung-Jin Kim and Kim Tong-Hyung, *The Chicago Tribune*)
- For two hours on Monday, a 92-year-old woman held her son's hand and looked him in the eyes for the first time in more than 65 years, as family members from North and South Korea

were permitted a rare chance to see one another after war divided their country and separated relatives. (Choe Sang-Hun, *The New York Times*)

- About 90 elderly South Koreans are reunited with the North Korean relatives they have been separated from for more than six decades since the war that split the peninsula in two. (*VOA News*)
- Hundreds of families separated by the Korean war will meet this week in the first reunions for nearly three years, as cultural and economic exchanges between the two Koreas continue despite concerns that progress on denuclearisation has stalled. (Song Jung-a, *Financial Times*)
- The families have been given the rare opportunity to meet again amid a diplomatic thaw between Seoul and Pyongyang that saw the leaders of the two countries meet in April for a historic first summit. (Nicola Smith, *The Daily Telegraph*)
- A group of elderly South Koreans are in North Korea meeting relatives they have not seen since the Korean War of 1950-1953. The war left the Korean peninsula divided and people who lived on the northern side were unable to leave. The two Koreas, which are technically still at war, have organised reunion events before, but this is the first in three years. (BBC)
- They were the 89 lucky families selected from the more than 57,000 who had applied for the reunions, agreed to under the Panmunjom Declaration signed by South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during an historic summit earlier this year. More than 60% of those seeking reunions are over 80 years old, and are being accompanied on the bus trip north by their children and other relatives. (James Griffiths, Paula Hancocks, and Sophie Jeong, CNN)
- Seoul is discussing with Pyongyang to confirm the sites for joint exhumations of the remains of soldiers killed during the 1950-53 Korean War within the heavily fortified Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and places near it, a defense official here said, Monday. (Kim Yoo-chul, *The Korea Times*)
- Nearly 300 people separated from close relatives by the Korean War gathered in North Korea's Mount Kumgang resort for their first reunions in more than six decades, which are also likely to be their last. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- A group of 89 elderly South Koreans met with family members they were separated from by the 1950-53 Korean War in North Korea on Monday, officially kicking off a weeklong reunion event. (Jung Min-kyung, *The Korea Herald*)
- South and North Korean families who were separated during the Korean War have reunited after more than six decades. The reunions began on Monday at North Korea's scenic Mount Kumgang resort between 89 South Koreans and their family members from the North, according to South Korea's unification ministry. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- From Friday to Sunday, 83 North Koreans will also be reunited with the families they have found alive in the South at the resort. The family reunion is the result of an agreement their leaders reached in April to address humanitarian issues arising from nearly seven decades of division caused by the Korean War. (*Yonhap*)
- The weeklong event at North Korea's Diamond Mountain resort comes as the rival Koreas boost reconciliation efforts amid a diplomatic push to resolve a standoff over North Korea's drive for a nuclear weapons program that can reliably target the continental United States. (AP)

- Eighty-nine North and South Korean families were temporarily reunited on Monday in a tearful meeting on Mount Kumgang, a North Korean tourist resort. Many families we separated after the Korean war in 1953. Reunions are permitted only occasionally by North Korea's leader, Kim Jong-un, but now an ageing generation means the numbers at the meetings are set to decline. (*Reuters*)
- Siblings long assumed dead and parents who were separated from their children have come face to face for the first time in more than six decades as 89 families from the two Koreas were reunited in North Korea on Monday. (Benjamin Haas, *The Guardian*)
- Failing to present a clear road map for denuclearization even after three summits between the two Koreas, will only cause the US to have more doubts about the sincerity of the denuclearization of North Korea and may even lead to a distrust against the South Korean government. (Thae Yong Ho, *DailyNK*)
- Thousands of spectators cheered wildly as athletes from the rival Koreas paraded side-by-side behind a "unification" flag in a spectacular opening ceremony for the Asian Games. (*VOA News*)
- Relatives separated by the 1950-53 Korean War tearfully reunited at Mount Geumgang in North Korea, Monday, for the first time in 65 years. Participating from the South were 89 people who registered with the Korean Red Cross to find their relatives in the North, accompanied by family members. (Kim Bo-eun, *The Korea Times*)

International

- If North Korea ends up becoming a nuclear state, South Korea, Japan and even Taiwan will work out their own response in order to survive, and that is surely not what Beijing wants. The U.S. State Department said it hopes China will use its "leverage" to persuade North Korea to scrap its nuclear weapons. China would be well advised to do so if it wants to ensure peace in Northeast Asia. (*The Chosun Ilbo*)
- According to local cadres, large amounts of mace and other irritating gases were blown over the city after a change in the wind direction. The noxious gases may have come from a military drill on the outskirts of the city. Some netizens suspected the drill was conducted to deal with possible border emergencies, as Baishan shares a sinuous border with North Korea's Ryanggang province. (*Asia Times*)
- The Pentagon believes China could intervene militarily in North Korea in a war on the Korean Peninsula, but it is unclear whether it would really come to the aid of the regime, Voice of America reported on Saturday. (Cho Yi-jun, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- The sign of hope comes at a time when no outstanding progress has been made over the issue following the historic June 12 summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. (Lee Min-hyung, *The Korea Times*)
- Reports that Chinese President Xi Jinping will visit North Korea in September raise questions about whether Beijing will ease sanctions against Pyongyang, as relations between China and the U.S. grow increasingly tense over trade. (Brian Padden, *VOA News*)
- So far, 32 ethnic Koreans have been exonerated after wrongful convictions in the 70s and 80s through retrials while eight are still awaiting the results. There are at least 319 confirmed

similar cases according to data from a fact-finding committee of the Ministry of National Defense. (Park Ji-won, *The Korea Times*)

- The U.S. government on Friday warned that a planned inter-Korean liaison office in the shuttered Kaesong Industrial Complex "could violate not only United Nations but U.S. sanctions against North Korea." South Korea aims to supply the office with electricity, construction materials, equipment and other goods, and that could fall foul of the sanctions. (Kang In-sun and Ahn Jun-yong, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- Speaking at a public event on National Liberation Day in Seoul, South Korean President Moon Jae-in surprised many by making a reference to the European Coal and Steel Community, which was created by six European countries in 1951. (Joel Lee, *The Korea Herald*)
- Chinese President Xi Jinping is set to make his first visit to Pyongyang since assuming power next month to attend celebrations of the 70th anniversary of North Korea's founding, according to a news report Saturday. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

Prepared by Hangyun Kim, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250726224333/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-korean-families-reunited-despite-denuclearisation-concerns-gangwon-gov-proposes-inter-korean-asian-games

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Tuesday, August 21, 2018

Iran-North Korea meeting - A message for the US?; Inter-Korean family reunions: why now, and what broader impact?

Top News

Iran-North Korea meeting — A message for the US? (*The Hill*, 8/20/2018)
Inter-Korean family reunions: why now, and what broader impact? (*NK News*, 8/21/2018)
What Bittersweet Family Reunions Mean For A Divided Korea (*Forbes*, 8/20/2018)

In North Korea

14 arrested in remittance sting operation (*DailyNK*, 8/21/2018)
N. Korea reiterates need for declaring end to Korean War (*Yonhap*, 8/21/2018)
N. Korean leader attends funeral for former military chief (*Yonhap*, 8/21/2018)
N. Korean leader Kim chafes at officials for failing public health sector (*Yonhap*, 8/21/2018)
No indication North Korean nuclear activities stopped: IAEA (*Reuters*, 8/21/2018)
North cuts kids from mass games (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 8/21/2018)
North Korea avoids customs duties through state-sponsored smuggling (*DailyNK*, 8/21/2018)
North Korea hosts international trade fair (*Korea Times*, 8/21/2018)

North Korea's Foundation Day Parade: Likely to be Larger than the February Army Day Parade (*38 North*, 8/21/2018)
North Korea's Kim criticizes his country's health sector (*Reuters*, 8/20/2018)
'Okryu' e-commerce site gaining popularity among North Koreans (*Daily*NK, 8/21/2018)
Report: No young children performing at North Korea's Mass Games (UPI, 8/21/2018)
Report: North Korea's Yongbyon nuclear facility in limited operation (UPI, 8/21/2018)

In South Korea
(3rd LD) S. Korea to seek consultations with N. Korea to regularize family reunions (*Yonhap*, 8/21/2018)
S. Korea to strengthen verification of coal imports (*Yonhap*, 8/21/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship
(3rd LD) Separated families meet again on 2nd day in freer, comfy atmosphere (*Yonhap*, 8/21/2018)
(Asian Games) Unified Korean team cruises into women's hoops quarters with win over Kazakhstan (*Yonhap*, 8/21/2018)
At emotional Korean reunions, genuine talk often impossible (Associated Press, 8/21/2018)
CJ Logistics supplying materials for inter-Korean family reunions (*Yonhap*, 8/21/2018)
Korea family reunions: The stories of separated loved ones (BBC, 8/21/2018)
Korea reunion: Mother and son reunite after 67 years (BBC, 8/20/2018)
Korean Families Reunite in Emotional Meetings in N. Korea (VOA, 8/20/2018)
Korean families separated by war meet for first time in more than sixty years, in pictures (*The Telegraph*, 8/20/2018)
Korean reunions: Families divided by war meet in North (BBC, 8/20/2018)
Koreas complete joint survey on N. Korean highway (*Yonhap*, 8/20/2018)
(LEAD) (Asian Games) Arrival of WNBA player offers hope, challenges for unified Korean team (*Yonhap*, 8/21/2018)
North Korean media makes rare comment on South Korean spy movie (*Korea Times*, 8/21/2018)
Red Cross chief seeks to visit N. Korea next month to discuss humanitarian issues (*Yonhap*, 8/21/2018)
Relatives at reunions get more time together (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 8/21/2018)
Separated Korean families have 2nd day of emotional reunions (*Associated Press*, 8/21/2018)
Tears, hugs, arguments as Korean families reunite seven decades after division (*Washington Post*, 8/20/2018)

International
As food crisis threatens, humanitarian aid for North Korea grinds to a halt (*Reuters*, 8/20/2018)
Exclusive: Trump says 'most likely' to meet North Korea's Kim again (*Reuters*, 8/20/2018)
FM Kang says U.S. to continue sanctions on N. Korea until denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 8/21/2018)
How to Break the Impasse on North Korea (*New York Times*, 8/20/2018)
Inter-Korean ties, denuclearization must progress together: State Department (*Yonhap*, 8/21/2018)
(LEAD) Trump says 'most likely' to meet N.K. leader again: report (*Yonhap*, 8/20/2018)
North Korea to hand over 'nuke list' to US: sources (*Korea Times*, 8/21/2018)
Railroading reality (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 8/21/2018)

Ranking Chinese official in N. Korea to discuss Xi's visit: source (*Yonhap*, 8/21/2018)
Senate approves big boost for recovery of U.S. remains in North Korea (*Military Times*, 8/21/2018)
The Latest: US sanctions Russian shippers (*Associated Press*, 8/21/2018)
The U.S. has brought home remains of its Korean War dead. It'll be years before we know whose remains those are. (*Washington Post*, 8/20/2018)
Trump: There'll 'most likely' be another summit with Kim (CNN, 8/21/2018)
Trump hints at 2nd Kim meeting (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 8/21/2018)
U.N. chief looks forward to North, South Korea talks in New York: spokesman (*Reuters*, 8/20/2018)
UN chief to seek progress on NK denuclearization during leaders' gathering next month (*Korea Times*, 8/21/2018)
U.S., N. Korea coordinating schedule for denuclearization negotiations: Seoul foreign ministry (*Yonhap*, 8/20/2018)
U.S. Criticism of 'Suspected' Nuclear Sites May Derail Talks, North Korean Media Warns (*New York Times*, 8/20/2018)
U.S. Treasury Sanctions Russian Firms for Allegedly Helping North Korea (*Wall Street Journal*, 8/21/2018)

Top News

- HRNK Board of Directors member David Maxwell co-authored a piece published by *The Hill* regarding the Iran-North Korea meeting. The following is an excerpt from the article: "Between August 7 and 8, North Korean foreign minister Ri Yong-ho held high-level talks with Iran's foreign minister and President. It is unknown if the meetings were planned for this date or rescheduled to coincide with sanctions. However, three provocative statements did result from the meetings, all of which point to greater coordination and cooperation between Tehran and Pyongyang." (David Maxwell, Behnam Ben Taleblu, *The Hill*)
- *NK News* published an article featuring an interview with HRNK Director of Programs and Editor Rosa Park regarding the inter-Korean family reunions. The following is quote from the interview: "The family reunion meetings are time sensitive and should occur untouched by the political situation on the Korean peninsula. However, North Korea has shown time and time again that they will use family reunions as a pawn in their negotiating tactics." (Oliver Hotham, *NK News*)
- A *Forbes* article regarding the inter-Korean family reunions referenced a 2016 report published by HRNK Project Officer Amanda Mortwedt Oh; "Kim Jong-un's human rights track record is just as bad, maybe even worse than his father's and his grandfather's." (Olivia Enos, *Forbes*)

In North Korea

- A large group of North Korean residents involved in money transfer operations between defectors in South Korea and their relatives is under police investigation in North Hamgyong Province, report sources close to the matter. (Kang Mi-jin, *DailyNK*)
- North Korea on Tuesday reiterated its demand for the declaration of an official end to the 1950-53 Korean War, the country's leading Rodong Sinmun newspaper reported, amid U.S.

President Donald Trump's indication that he will most likely meet North Korean leader Kim Jong-un again. (Yonhap)

- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un attended a state funeral for a former military chief who died last week, the North's state media said Tuesday. Kim praised Kim Yong-chun, chief of the Korean People's Army (KPA), for his "glorious life in which he enjoyed the most worthy life as revolutionary" during the state funeral Monday, according to the Korean Central News Agency in English. (Yonhap)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has strongly criticized his country's public health sector for failing to live up to expectations, calling for stepped-up efforts to modernize itself going forward, the North's state media said Tuesday. (Yonhap)
- The U.N. nuclear watchdog said it did not find any indication that North Korea had stopped its nuclear activities, adding to doubts about the country's willingness to abandon its arsenal. (Reuters)
- North Korea will not use young children in a planned mass gymnastics performance next month in Pyongyang, a local source with knowledge of the preparations told the JoongAng Ilbo on Monday. (Jeong Yong-soo, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- State-sponsored smuggling remains prevalent in the border regions as the authorities look to secure much-needed foreign currency. The country remains under international sanctions imposed in response to the regime's nuclear and missile development programs. (Ha Yoon-ah, DailyNK)
- North Korea is hosting an annual international trade fair in a special economic zone in the port city of Rason, the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported, Monday. A total of 120 enterprises from North Korea and China, Russia, Germany and Canada, among others, are participating in the 8th Rason International Trade Exhibition from Aug. 20-23. (Jung Da-min, Korea Times)
- Recent commercial satellite imagery of the Mirim Parade Training Ground indicates that, given the pace of the build-up and training, North Korea's upcoming Foundation Day Parade (reportedly to be held on September 9) will probably, at least match but likely surpass the size of the parade held this past February to mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of Korean People's Army. (Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., 38 North)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un took aim at his country's health sector, state media reported on Tuesday, the latest salvo of public criticism unleashed as part of his campaign to jumpstart economic development. (Joyce Lee, Reuters)
- The number of North Koreans buying food, clothes and other items via its nationwide intranet is increasing. While online shopping is still limited to the elite living in the major cities, sources in the country have reported that the online trend is growing. (Jo Hyon, DailyNK)
- North Korea's Mass Games are known for outstanding acrobatic choreographies of young performers to display the regime's propaganda messages, but no children will participate this year. The North encountered criticisms from Western audiences for using children as young as 6 or 7 to stage tough gymnastics movements in the past at the event. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- The International Atomic Energy Agency says North Korea has restarted some parts of its nuclear facilities, according to a Japanese press report. The Yomiuri Shimbun reported

Tuesday a 5-megawatt graphite moderated reactor and a reprocessing plant at Yongbyon have been operating in the past year. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

In South Korea

- South Korea will continue its efforts to hold reunions of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War on a regular basis in a bid to better address humanitarian issues arising from decades of division, the unification ministry said Tuesday. (Yonhap)
- The state-run Korea South-East Power Co. (KOEN) said Tuesday it will strengthen country of origin verification on coal imported from China and Russia to prevent the inflow of North Korean products under forged documents. (Yonhap)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- Dozens of South Koreans met their long-separated North Korean families again on the second day of their reunions Tuesday in a relatively freer and comfy atmosphere. (Yonhap)
- The unified Korean basketball team cruised into the quarterfinals of the 18th Asian Games with an 85-57 win over Kazakhstan on Tuesday. North Korean center Ro Suk-yong led the balanced attack with a game-high 19 points at GBK Basketball Hall in Jakarta, as Korea clinched second place in Group X with a 3-1 record. (Yoo Jee-ho, Yonhap)
- Citizens from both nations, especially the elderly who remember the bitterness and bloodshed of the war, often wear their nationalism on their sleeves, and some South Koreans have complained that their relatives take every chance to score propaganda points for their authoritarian nation. (Associated Press)
- CJ Logistics said Tuesday it is transporting necessary material for this week's inter-Korean family reunions in North Korea. The company handled logistics for the first inter-Korean family reunions in August 2000 and the previous ones in October 2015. (Yonhap)
- Dozens of elderly North and South Koreans are meeting for the first time in more than six decades this week. They were some of the millions of people separated from loved ones during the 1950-53 Korean War, which left those on the northern side unable to leave. (BBC)
- Lee Keum-seom and her son became separated during the Korean war in the 1950s. He was only four years old at the time. Now 92, Ms Lee is seeing her son for the first time since the separation. She is one of dozens of South Koreans who made the trip to the North to reconnect with family. (BBC)
- About 90 elderly South Koreans have been reunited with the North Korean relatives they have been separated from for more than six decades, since the war that split the peninsula in two. The relatives shared tearful embraces Monday in North Korea's Mount Kumgang tourist resort, hours after a convoy of buses crossed the border from the South. (VOA)
- There were tears and embraces on Monday as some 90 families from the two Koreas were reunited in the North after being torn apart for more than six decades by the 1950-53 Korean War. (The Telegraph)
- Dozens of families from North and South Korea have held emotional reunions as relatives met for the first time in at least 65 years. A group of mostly elderly South Koreans travelled to a tourist resort in the North for the event, the first such reunion for three years. (BBC)

- South Korea said Monday that it has carried out a joint survey with North Korea of a key highway in the North in a move that could potentially pave the way for a cross-border road. (Yonhap)
- The impending arrival of a big-bodied center for the unified Korean women's basketball squad offers plenty of hope at the 18th Asian Games, but it will also create tactical challenges for the team that has already been forced to build chemistry on the fly. (Yoo Jee-ho, Yonhap)
- North Korea's state-run Korea Central News Agency recently commented on the movie "The Spy Gone North," although not directly mentioning the title. (Jung Da-min, Korea Times)
- The head of South Korea's Red Cross said Tuesday that he seeks to visit North Korea next month to discuss inter-Korean cooperation on humanitarian issues. (Yonhap)
- Reunions of families sundered by the 1950-53 Korean War continued Tuesday in North Korea's Mount Kumgang resort, with relatives allowed more private time than before. (Lee Sung-eun, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- About 200 South Koreans and their family members crossed the border on Monday for three days of meetings with their North Korean relatives. The relatives have been given a total of 12 hours together, including three hours in private. (Kim Tong-hyung, Associated Press)
- Nearly 90 South Korean families crossed the heavily fortified border into North Korea on Monday to be reunited with relatives they had not seen since being separated in the chaos of war nearly seven decades earlier. (Simon Denyer, Min Joo Kim, Washington Post)

International

- Humanitarian aid for North Korea has nearly ground to a halt this year as the United States steps up the enforcement of sanctions, despite warnings of a potential food crisis and improving relations with Pyongyang, aid groups say. (Hyonhee Shin, Reuters)
- U.S. President Donald Trump said on Monday he would "most likely" meet again with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, while defending his efforts to convince Pyongyang to give up its nuclear weapons. (Steve Holland, Jeff Mason, James Oliphant, Reuters)
- South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha said Tuesday that the United States is expected to impose additional sanctions on North Korea unless it takes substantive measures for denuclearization. (Yonhap)
- Two months after President Trump's dramatic summit meeting with the North Korean leader, Kim Jong-un, his predictions of a quick end to North Korea's nuclear threat have been exposed as the boasts of a man with little grasp of the complexity and difficulty of an issue that has long defied resolution. (New York Times)
- The United States said Monday in response to the two Koreas' preparations to open a joint liaison office that inter-Korean ties must advance together with Pyongyang's denuclearization. (Yonhap)
- U.S. President Donald Trump said Monday that it's "most likely" he will meet North Korean leader Kim Jong-un again following their historic summit in June, according to a news report. (Yonhap)
- North Korea has agreed to provide key information to the United States about its nuclear warheads and secret test sites, sources said Tuesday. (Kim Yoo-chul, Korea Times)
- President Moon Jae-in unveiled a bold and ambitious vision for the future of the Korean

Peninsula in his Aug. 15 Liberation Day address. He envisioned a so-called East Asian Railroad Community to build into a regional energy and economic bloc that can eventually lead to a new multinational security regimen. (Nam Jeong-ho, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

- A ranking official at China's foreign ministry recently visited Pyongyang, a source in Beijing said Tuesday, stoking further speculation about Chinese President Xi Jinping's imminent visit to North Korea. (*Yonhap*)
- Senate lawmakers on Monday backed adding $10 million to their defense budget plans for next year to offset what they hope will be more expenses related to returning the remains of fallen U.S. combat troops from North Korea in the near future. (Leo Shane III, *Military Times*)
- The U.S. is sanctioning two Russian shipping companies suspected of transferring petroleum products to North Korean vessels in violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions. Treasury said that earlier this year, one vessel linked to the Russian companies transferred 3,500 tons of oil to ships flying the North Korea flag. (*Associated Press*)
- Despite the fanfare, a great deal of forensic work will be needed to identify the individual sets of remains. Years may pass before fallen service members are returned to surviving relatives. Some may never be identified. (Michael Dolski, Sarah Wagner, *Washington Post*)
- US President Donald Trump said another summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un would "most likely" happen but offered no details on timing or venue in an interview with Reuters Monday. (Jamie Tarabay, CNN)
- U.S. President Donald Trump said Monday he would “most likely” have a second summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, noting that “a lot of good things are happening” in respect to North Korea. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres praised efforts by North and South Korea to build trust and confidence and looked forward to discussing with the parties in September what support he can offer to aid peace and denuclearization, a U.N. spokesman said on a Monday. (*Reuters*)
- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday said he planned to discuss ways to encourage denuclearization of the Korean peninsula during next month's gathering of world leaders at the United Nations. (*AFP*)
- The United States and North Korea are coordinating a schedule for the top American diplomat's visit to Pyongyang and follow-up denuclearization negotiations, Seoul's foreign ministry said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- American negotiators have confronted North Korean officials over “suspected” secret nuclear facilities, according to a North Korean state news media commentary, which called the Trump administration accusations “fiction” and said they had led to “derailing dialogue” between the two nations. (Edward Wong, *New York Times*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726224601/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-iran-north-korea-meeting-a-message-for-the-us-inter-korean-family-reunions-why-now-and-what-broader-impact

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Wednesday, August 22, 2018

U.S. Reinforces Pressure on Russian Companies Working with North Korea; Seoul may drop labeling N. Korea as 'enemy'

Top News
U.S. Reinforces Pressure on Russian Companies Working with North Korea (*Foundation for Defense of Democracies*, 08/22/2018)

In North Korea
Analyst: Kim Jong Un's anger during factory visit a sign of building pressure (*UPI*, 08/22/2018)
Kim Jong Un's Risky Gambit (*38 North*, 08/21/2018)
Kim Yong Chun Funeral Held (*North Korea Leadership Watch*, 08/22/2018)
N.K. likely to hold large military parade for Sept. anniversary: 38 North (*Yonhap*, 08/22/2018)
N.Korea Still Operating Nuclear Facilities (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 08/22/2018)
North Korea hunkers down for Typhoon Soulik (*The Korea Times*, 08/22/2018)
North Korea is still developing nuclear weapons, says IAEA (*The Guardian*, 08/22/2018)
North Korea lavishes praise on 'easily manipulated' Trump and makes most of US political turmoil (*The Independent*, 08/21/2018)
North Korea Offers Free Tickets For Mass Games to Drum up Chinese Investment (*Radio Free Asia*, 08/21/2018)
North Korea rolls out 'elite' medical care for family reunion participants (*DailyNK*, 08/22/2018)
North Korea's Foundation Day Parade: Likely to be Larger than the February Army Day Parade (*38 North*, 08/21/2018)
North Korea's O Kang-chol wins gold in men's 69kg weightlifting (*The Korea Herald*, 08/22/2018)
Study: Vaccination among North Korean defectors correlated to health awareness (UPI, 08/22/2018)
What does North Korea want from the US? (*Financial Times*, 08/22/2018)

In South Korea
(Asian Games) S. Korea proposes joint teams with N. Korea at Tokyo 2020 (*Yonhap*, 08/22/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korean paintings arrive in Gwangju ahead of public display (*Yonhap*, 08/22/2018)
Box-office hit overstates 'North Korea factor' (*The Korea Times*, 08/22/2018)
Cheong Wa Dae rebuts claim that liaison office violates U.N. sanctions (*Yonhap*, 08/22/2018)
North's 'enemy' label may be lifted (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/22/2018)
Oil to Kaesong may violate UN prohibitions (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/22/2018)
Red Cross chief seeks to visit N. Korea next month to discuss humanitarian issues (*The Korea Times*, 08/22/2018)
S. Korea to inspect Russian cargo ship hit by U.S. sanctions (*Yonhap*, 08/22/2018)
S. Korea proposes joint teams with N. Korea at Tokyo 2020 (*The Korea Herald*, 08/22/2018)
Seoul Deploys Secret Weapon to Sell North Korea Engagement (*The Wall Street Journal*, 08/22/2018)

Seoul may drop labeling N. Korea as 'enemy' (*The Korea Times*, 08/22/2018)
Seoul seeks to stop referencing NK as 'main enemy' in defense paper (*The Korea Herald*, 08/22/2018)
South Korea Pushes Ahead With Diplomatic Office in North Korea (*The New York Times*, 08/22/2018)
South Korean businesses pin hope on North Korea denuclearization (UPI, 08/22/2018)
South Korean military may tone down anti-North Korea rhetoric (UPI, 08/22/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship
(Asian Games) Folk song energizes unified Korean canoeing team (*Yonhap*, 08/22/2018)
(LEAD) Separated families bid tearful farewell after 3 days of reunions (*Yonhap*, 08/22/2018)
(News Focus) Moon-Kim summit likely to set speed of denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 08/22/2018)
(Yonhap Feature) After brief reunions, tearful goodbyes with no promise to meet again (*Yonhap*, 08/22/2018)
2 Koreas to Pull Guard Posts from DMZ (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 08/22/2018)
At reunions, parting is pure, permanent agony (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/22/2018)
Hard truths from one Korean family reunion (*The Korea Herald*, 08/22/2018)
Korea family reunions: The stories of separated loved ones (*BBC News*, 08/21/2018)
Korean families separated by war have private lunch (*The Korea Times*, 08/22/2018)
Korean relatives bid emotional farewell after reunions (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 08/22/2018)
Reunions of a lifetime as South Koreans head north – in pictures (*The Guardian*, 08/22/2018)
Separated families hold each other one last time (*The Korea Herald*, 08/22/2018)
Some in S. Korea uncertain about families after long separation, reunion (UPI, 08/22/2018)
South and North Korean families separated by war say tearful goodbyes [VIDEO] (*The Korea Times*, 08/22/2018)
Tearful Goodbyes as Korean Family Reunions End (VOA *News*, 08/22/2018)
Tearful goodbyes as Koreans return home after family reunions (CNN, 08/22/2018)
Various alcoholic beverages, snacks planned for dinner table at family reunions (*Yonhap*, 08/22/2018)

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(2nd LD) U.S. sanctions Russian firms, vessels over N.K. activity (*Yonhap*, 08/22/2018)
(Yonhap Interview) CEO of Gale International hints at investing in N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 08/22/2018)
Bolton Insists Kim Jong-un Pledged to Denuclearize 'in a Year' (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 08/21/2018)
China discloses question, answer about Xi's possible N. Korea visit (*Yonhap*, 08/22/2018)
ICAO has no plans to inspect N. Korea over safety of int'l flights: report (*Yonhap*, 08/22/2018)
No indication North Korean nuclear activities stopped: IAEA (*The Korea Times*, 08/22/2018)
Russia Braces for Impact from US Sanctions (VOA *News*, 08/22/2018)
Russian firms, vessels hit with sanctions over N. Korea oil transfers (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 08/22/2018)
U.S. Commander in South Korea Says He Supports Plan to Reduce DMZ Outposts (*The New York Times*, 08/22/2018)
U.S. commander in S. Korea supports plan to cut DMZ outposts (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 08/22/2018)
U.S. hits Russian firms, ships with sanctions (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/22/2018)
U.S. punishes Russia for oil transfers to North Korean ships (UPI, 08/22/2018)
UN watchdog says North Korea has not halted nuclear program (CNN, 08/21/2018)

USFK chief backs removal of border posts (*The Korea Times*, 08/22/2018)
USFK chief calls on N. Korea to take 'earnest, serious' steps to denuclearize (*The Korea Herald*, 08/22/2018)
USFK Commander Calls Joint Korea Military Exercises a Political Tool (VOA *News*, 08/22/2018)

Top News

- The administration should now target the foreign companies still hiring these exploited North Korean laborers, in Russia and elsewhere, pursuant to the Countering of America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA). Washington must continue enforcing sanctions while pursuing nuclear diplomacy with Kim Jong Un to show that only the verified dismantling of North Korea's weapons will relieve it from American pressure. (Matthew Ha, *Foundation for Defense of Democracies*)

In North Korea

- Kim Jong Un's latest burst of anger at a North Korean factory could mean he is frustrated with the lack of economic progress, according to a South Korean analyst. Yang Moo-jin, of the University of North Korean Studies in Seoul, said Kim could be facing pressure from international embargoes and a stalled economy, Yonhap TV reported Wednesday. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- While the criticism here is aimed at central institutions, in other statements Kim has taken the full range of officials—central, provincial and local—to task. This appears to be more than a simple, transitory campaign of the "pull up your socks" variety, and it would not be a surprise to see a major reshuffle of Cabinet personnel—including the prime minister—later this year. (Robert Carlin, *38 North*)
- A funeral was held for Marshal Kim Yong Chun (Kim Yo'ng-ch'un) on August 20 (Monday). Among the senior DPRK officials who joined Kim Yong Chun's family members at the April 25 House of Culture were Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) Presidium President Kim Yong Nam (Kim Yo'ng-nam), DPRK Premier Pak Pong Ju (Pak Pong-chu) and SPA Presidium Vice President Yang Hyong Sop (Yang Hyo'ng-sop). (*North Korea Leadership Watch*)
- North Korea appears likely to mark its founding anniversary next month with a military parade that is larger in scale than the one held in February, a U.S. website monitoring the regime said Tuesday. Pyongyang is preparing to celebrate the 70th anniversary of its founding on Sept. 9, and commercial satellite imagery from Aug. 12 shows "a high level of activity" at the Mirim Parade Training Ground, according to 38 North, a project of the Stimson Center think tank. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea operated a 5MW reactor at its Yongbyon nuclear facility all the way through a flurry of diplomatic activity earlier this year aimed at persuading it to denuclearize, according to a report by the International Atomic Energy Agency. (Lee Ha-won, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- As Typhoon Soulik makes its way toward the Korean Peninsula, North Korea's state weather agency has warned people to take care. (North) Korean Central Television's 8 p.m. news

broadcast an interview with an official of the state meteorological administration to explain the anticipated path of the typhoon and emphasize safety measures. (Jung Da-min, *The Korea Times*)

- North Korea is continuing to develop its nuclear weapons programme, according to a report by the UN atomic watchdog, raising questions over the country's commitment to denuclearisation. (Benjamin Haas, *The Guardian*)
- An op-ed in North Korea's leading state-run newspaper has lavished praise on US president Donald Trump, while blaming a deadlock in peace talks on what it calls a "political scramble" in Washington. (Adam Withnall, *The Independent*)
- North Korea has invited traders and entrepreneurs from China to attend a massive synchronized gymnastics and dance performance for free as part of celebrations to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the nation, though some say the move is an attempt to attract investment to the isolated, sanctions-hit country. (Joonho Kim, *Radio Free Asia*)
- The North Korean authorities have shown special interest in the health of its participants in the separated family reunions taking place through August 26 at North Korea's Mount Kumgang tourist resort. Medical examinations have been conducted on participants and the country's top medical talent has been kept on standby, a source in Pyongyang told Daily NK on August 20. (Kang Mi Jin, *DailyNK*)
- Recent commercial satellite imagery of the Mirim Parade Training Ground indicates that, given the pace of the build-up and training, North Korea's upcoming Foundation Day Parade (reportedly to be held on September 9) will probably, at least match but likely surpass the size of the parade held this past February to mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of Korean People's Army. (Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., *38 North*)
- North Korea's O Kang-chol won a gold medal in the men's 69-kilogram division weightlifting competition at the 18th Asian Games on Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean defectors who resettle in the South have an immunization rate of less than 30 percent, although they understand Korean and receive public health updates in the country, according to a South Korean study. Park Sang-min of Seoul National University Hospital said he studied 399 defectors from August through December in 2012, Yonhap reported Wednesday. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- The overarching objective of the Kim Jong Un regime is survival. For decades, it ploughed most of the country's scarce resources into bolstering its military and building nuclear weapons in order to stave off the threat from the US and its allies. Now as it engages in diplomacy, it is seeking some form of security guarantee from Washington. (Bryan Harris, *Financial Times*)

In South Korea

- South Korean Sports Minister Do Jong-whan said Wednesday that he has proposed joint teams with North Korea at the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics. Do was visiting Jakabaring Sports City in Palembang, a co-host city of the 18th Asian Games with Jakarta, to watch the

men's unified Korean rowing team along with North Korean Sports Minister Kim Il-guk. (Yonhap)

- Twenty-two North Korean paintings arrived in Gwangju, southwest South Korea, on Wednesday ahead of their public display at the Gwangju Biennale, Asia's oldest contemporary art biennale set to open on Sept. 7, organizers said. (Yonhap)
- Director Yoon Jong-bin's film "The Spy Gone North" defies common knowledge that the North Korea factor no longer exerts influence in real world politics. The box-office hit over-blows the "red scare" impact on elections in the late 1990s. (Kang Hyun-kyung, The Korea Times)
- South Korea's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae on Wednesday dismissed claims that an inter-Korean liaison office may violate U.N. sanctions against North Korea, citing the dozens of diplomatic missions in the North Korean capital. (Yonhap)
- The Defense Ministry is considering removing the description of North Korea's military as an "enemy state" in the 2018 Defense White Paper to be published later this year, reflecting improved ties between South and North Korea and joint efforts to reduce military tensions along the border. (Kang Jin-kyu and Lee Chul-jae, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- South Korea transported more than 80,000 tons of petroleum products into the North's border town of Kaesong from June to July for a planned inter-Korean liaison office, an opposition lawmaker said Tuesday, which could violate United Nations sanctions. (Yoo Jee-hye and Lee Sung-eun, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- The head of South Korea's Red Cross said Tuesday that he seeks to visit North Korea next month to discuss inter-Korean cooperation on humanitarian issues. In a meeting with pool reporters covering the reunions of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War underway at Mount Kumgang, a scenic resort on the North's east coast, Park Kyung-seo, the head of the Korean Red Cross, said that talks are underway for a September trip to Pyongyang. (Yonhap)
- South Korea's authorities plan to inspect a Russian cargo vessel newly blacklisted by the United States, as it is staying at a local port, a government source said Wednesday. It's among six Russian-flagged ships hit by additional U.S. sanctions aimed at curbing North Korea's clandestine trade that violates the U.N. Security Council resolutions. (Yonhap)
- The Koreas competed as one in women's hockey at the 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea's PyeongChang. At the ongoing 18th Asian Games, the Koreas have unified teams in women's basketball, rowing and canoeing. They have never competed as one in any sport at the Summer Olympics. (Yonhap)
- As the U.S. and North Korea track an unsteady course toward a nonnuclear North, Seoul is trying to sustain the engagement by deploying a veteran adviser with the distinction of being respected in both Washington and Pyongyang. Moon Chung-in, special adviser to South Korean President Moon Jae-in, said in an interview that U.S.-North Korea talks are stalled—and that Seoul aims to prod both sides to keep moving in the direction of disarmament and peace. (Andrew Jeong, The Wall Street Journal)
- South Korea is considering removing the phrase "main enemy," referring to North Korea, from a biannual white paper to be released by the defense ministry in December, military sources said Wednesday. Analysts say the labeling change is debatable considering the complexity and difficulty of the issue. (Kim Yoo-chul, The Korea Times)

- With the South Korean government accelerating its efforts to reduce tension and build trust with North Korea, the military is seeking to stop referencing North Korea as its official enemy in a defense paper to be published this year. (Yeo Jun-suk, *The Korea Herald*)
- South Korea said on Wednesday that it would press ahead with its plan to open a diplomatic "liaison office" in North Korea this year, dismissing concerns that it was too quickly making overtures to the North Koreans, who have yet to begin dismantling their nuclear weapons program. (Choe Sang-Hun, *The New York Times*)
- South Korean businesses forced to leave their assets at a jointly operated factory park in North Korea held a meeting on Wednesday, according to a local press report. Members of the Gaeseong Industrial Complex Emergency Response Committee said they are monitoring the rising reconciliatory mood between North and South, as South Korean President Moon Jae-in prepares for his next summit with Kim Jong Un in Pyongyang, News 1 reported. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- Amid détente on the Korean peninsula, South Korea's defense ministry may cross out its definition of North Korea as an enemy in its upcoming white paper, according to a government source, Yonhap reported. (Wooyoung Lee, *UPI*)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- The unified Korean dragon boat racing team members sing a song when they feel exhausted, but when the competition is over, they hope they can listen to it. According to Lee, the Korean canoeists get their energy by singing "Arirang" when they feel tired. (*Yonhap*)
- Hundreds of South and North Koreans bid a tearful farewell following their first temporary reunions after decades of separation due to the 1950-53 Korean War. Eighty-nine elderly South Koreans crossed the heavily fortified border into the North to join the family reunions held for three days until Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in will travel to North Korea sometime next month for another summit with its leader Kim Jong-un, but he may be delaying his trip as it may serve as a valuable chance to rid the communist state of its nuclear weapons should ongoing efforts fail. (*Yonhap*)
- Considering that the separated family issue has frequently been influenced by the ups and downs of political and diplomatic situations, uncertainty lingers over if and when another such event will take place. South Korea has demanded to hold family reunions on a regular basis. North Korea has been reluctant, apparently because those meetings could expose its people to South Koreans living in a wealthier and more liberal society. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea will vacate about a dozen guard posts in the demilitarized zone on a trial basis under a reciprocal agreement with North Korea, Defense Minister Song Young-moo told the National Assembly Defense Committee on Tuesday. The agreement came in cross-border talks between generals in the truce village of Panmunjom on July 31, according to the Defense Ministry. (Jun Hyun-suk, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- Families who met their loved ones for the first time since the 1950-53 Korean War this week promised to meet again when the countries reunify as a three-day reunion program

wrapped up with cataracts of tears and what will almost certainly be another long separation. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

- What South Korean Park Ki-dong wanted most of all to learn from his Northern siblings was: when did his parents die and where were they buried? He finally found out this week after decades of ignorance -- but was disappointed by what he heard when he met his brother and sister for the first time in nearly 70 years at a reunion this week. (AFP)
- Dozens of elderly North and South Koreans are meeting for the first time in more than six decades this week. They were some of the millions of people separated from loved ones during the 1950-53 Korean War, which left those on the northern side unable to leave. These are the first such family reunions in three years. (*BBC News*)
- Families from North and South Korea torn apart by the 1950-53 Korean War had a private lunch together in a North Korean resort on Tuesday (August 21) after seeing each other in more than six decades. (*Reuters*)
- About 200 South Koreans and their family members will return to the South later Wednesday after the end of three days of meetings with North Korean relatives at the North's Diamond Mountain resort. Another 337 South Koreans will participate in a second round of reunions from Friday to Sunday. (AP)
- Almost 90 families have met for the first time since becoming separated by the Korean war nearly 70 years ago. The emotional reunions were held at Mount Kumgang, a tourist resort in North Korea (*The Guardian*)
- A group reunion session began around 10 a.m. Wednesday at the Kumgangsan Resort on the east coast of North Korea, wrapping up the first round of a reunion event for families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War. (Jung Min-kyung, *The Korea Herald*)
- When the Lee brothers saw the man in the photo their niece and nephew brought, they questioned whether he was really their brother. Some at the North-South Korea family reunion have doubted people they met at the event as their true family members, according to Joint Press Corps, Yonhap reported. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- South Korean families said tearful goodbyes to their relatives in North Korea on Wednesday (August 22) after a three-day reunion in which they saw each other for the first time since being separated by the 1950-53 Korean War. (*Reuters*)
- Hundreds of Korean family members reunited after being separated for more than six decades since the Korean War said their goodbyes Wednesday. Nearly 90 elderly South Koreans and their North Korean relatives met for a third and final day at North Korea's Mount Kumgang tourist resort. Tears flowed as the relatives exchanged kisses and hugs for what may be their last moments together as a family. (*VOA News*)
- The tearful celebrations seen on Monday when the mostly-elderly participants in the Red Cross-organized reunions saw each other for the first time in decades, were eclipsed by the heartache of the goodbyes, after just a dozen hours across three days at a resort in North Korea. (James Griffiths, Yoonjung Seo and Paula Hancocks, CNN)
- A variety of South Korean alcoholic beverages and snacks will be served at the second round of inter-Korean family reunions later this week, organizers and corporate suppliers said Wednesday. The products to be served have already been offered at Korea-hosted international events, while others have been tapped because of meaningful product names. (*Yonhap*)

International

- The United States on Tuesday sanctioned two Russian shipping companies and six Russian vessels for allegedly helping North Korea's illicit activities in violation of international sanctions. The Department of the Treasury announced that the sanctions target persons involved in the banned ship-to-ship transfer of refined petroleum products to North Korea-flagged vessels. (*Yonhap*)
- The head of Gale International, a U.S. real estate development and investment company, has suggested that the company may invest in North Korea if sanctions are lifted and other conditions are met. (Kim Kwang-tae, *Yonhap*)
- Talking on ABC's "This Week" on Sunday, Bolton claimed once again that North Korean leader Kim Jong-un promised South Korean President Moon Jae-in in their summit on April 27 that he would denuclearize within a year. (Cho Yi-jun, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- China's foreign ministry on Wednesday took an unusual step of disclosing a question by the media and the answer to it about President Xi Jinping's widely rumored visit to North Korea next month. (*Yonhap*)
- The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has no plans to conduct an on-site inspection to ensure that international flights won't be harmed by North Korea's missile launches, the Voice of America reported Wednesday. According to VOA's Korean service, officials of the Montreal-based ICAO made the confirmation over reports that the U.N. agency will conduct an on-site inspection in the North next year. (*Yonhap*)
- The U.N. nuclear watchdog said it did not find any indication that North Korea had stopped its nuclear activities, adding to doubts about the country's willingness to abandon its arsenal. "The continuation and further development of the DPRK's nuclear program and related statements by the DPRK are a cause for grave concern," the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said in a report published late on Monday. (*Reuters*)
- Separately, the U.S. Treasury Department announced Tuesday sanctions on several Russian firms and individuals it accuses of violating bans on energy trade with North Korea and breaking U.S. laws against cooperation with Russia's intelligence arm, the Federal Security Service. (Jamie Dettmer, *VOA News*)
- The United States on Tuesday announced sanctions on two Russian shipping companies and six vessels it said were involved in the transfer of refined petroleum products to North Korean vessels in violation of United Nations restrictions. (*Reuters*)
- The top commander of U.S. troops in South Korea said on Wednesday he supports moves to withdraw some outposts along the fortified border with North Korea, despite the risks. Brooks did not elaborate on how his command had adjusted to the changes in military exercises. (Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- The top commander of U.S. troops in South Korea said on Wednesday he supports moves to withdraw some outposts along the fortified border with North Korea, despite the risks. (*Reuters*)
- In its third round of sanctions against Russian entities this month due to under-the-table deals with North Korea that violated international sanctions, the U.S. Treasury Department targeted the two firms and six vessels for their involvement "in the ship-to-ship transfer of

refined petroleum products with North Korea-flagged vessels," which the department said was "prohibited by the UN Security Council." (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

- The U.S. Treasury Department hit Russia with sanctions for transferring oil to North Korea, but stressed that sanctions aren't the only tool for diplomacy. The U.S. Treasury Department sanctioned five Russian-flagged vessels for ship-to-ship transfers of oil to North Korean-flagged vessels, in violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions. (Daniel J. Graeber, UPI)
- The United Nations nuclear watchdog agency says it has "grave concern" that North Korea continues to develop its nuclear weapons program. A report Monday from the International Atomic Energy Agency noted that without direct access to North Korean weapons sites its information is limited, though it is monitoring the program through "more frequent collection of satellite imagery." (Barbara Starr, CNN)
- United States Forces Korea (USFK) commander Gen. Vincent Brooks expressed support for the two Koreas' decision to remove some guard posts near their border, Wednesday, calling it a "trust-building" measure. But he also stressed that Seoul and Washington must continue to pressure the North. (Park Ji-won, *The Korea Times*)
- US Forces Korea Commander Gen. Vincent Brooks called on North Korea on Wednesday to take "earnest and serious" steps toward denuclearization, citing distrust and misconception as major hurdles to ongoing peace efforts. (*Yonhap*)
- The commander of United States Forces Korea (USFK) minimized the impact of suspended U.S.-South Korea military exercises on troop readiness on Wednesday, and said the joint drills in recent years were used to pressure North Korea to engage in diplomatic talks. (Brian Padden, *VOA News*)

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Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726224645/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-us-reinforces-pressure-on-russian-companies-working-with-north-korea-seoul-may-drop-labeling-n-korea-as-enemy

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Thursday, August 23, 2018

Ford Executive Named as US Envoy to North Korea; Kim Jong-nam Assassination Showcases North Korea's Special Operations Capabilities

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Stephen E. Biegun Biography (*Ford Media Center*)

Kim Jong Nam Assassination Showcases North Korea's Special Operations Capabilities (*Foundation for Defense of Democracies*, 8/22/2018)

In North Korea

Asian Games: Emotional North Korean dedicates shock gold to his late mother (*Channel NewsAsia*, 8/23/2018)
Images indicate North Korea halted dismantling of launch site: think tank (*Reuters*, 8/22/2018)
N. Korea's population grows by 100,000 to 25.60 mln this year: report (*Yonhap*, 8/23/2018)
No ordinary Choe: North Korean makes epic lift to win gold (*Channel NewsAsia*, 8/23/2018)
No sign of additional dismantling at N.K. missile engine test site: 38 North (*Yonhap*, 8/23/2018)
North Korea aims to expand tobacco production facility and foreign currency earnings (*DailyNK*, 8/23/2018)
North Korea speeds construction spree ahead of anniversary (*Associated Press*, 8/22/2018)
Update on North Korea's Sohae Satellite Launching Station (*38 North*, 8/22/2018)

In South Korea

(LEAD) Ministry says no change in inter-Korean family meeting plan yet despite typhoon (*Yonhap*, 8/23/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship

(Asian Games) N. Korea, S. Korea finish 1-2 in men's weightlifting (*Yonhap*, 8/23/2018)
(LEAD) N.K. media reports on reunions of separated families (*Yonhap*, 8/23/2018)
North Korea reports on inter-Korea family reunions (*UPI*, 8/23/2018)
Reunions could be delayed due to typhoon (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 8/23/2018)

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China set for North Korea invasion (*Washington Times*, 8/22/2018)
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Inter-Korean event canceled in Dandong due to objection of Chinese police (*Yonhap*, 8/23/2018)
Japan: Protect Victims Enticed to North Korea (*Human Rights Watch*, 8/21/2018)
N. Korea pressing harder for end-of-war declaration, lifting of sanctions (*Yonhap*, 8/23/2018)
N. Korea stresses need for Japan's apology and compensation before resuming dialogue (*Yonhap*, 8/23/2018)
North Korea committee: Japan 'drowning in raging waves of history' (UPI, 8/23/2018)
North Korea calls for end of Korean War ahead of possible Pompeo visit (UPI, 8/23/2018)
North Korea nuclear diplomacy and pressure (VOA, 8/22/2018)
Pompeo names special representative, announces fourth trip to North Korea (CNN, 8/23/2018)
Pompeo taps Ford executive to lead North Korea negotiations (*Washington Post*, 8/23/2018)
Pompeo to travel to North Korea with new special representative (*Reuters*, 8/23/2018)
Pompeo Will Return to North Korea Next Week With Reinforcement (*New York Times*, 8/23/2018)
Second Trump-Kim meeting could boost nuclear talks: ex-CIA official (*Yonhap*, 8/23/2018)
South and North Korea want a peace treaty. What happens if the US doesn't? (CNN, 8/22/2018)
Trump says wants to lift N.K. sanctions, but only after denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 8/23/2018)
Trump tells North Korea: 'Get rid of the nukes' (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 8/23/2018)

UN environment chief visits Pyongyang to discuss big issues (*Korea Times*, 8/23/2018)
Why Should North Korea Give Up Its Nuclear Weapons? (*New York Times*, 8/22/2018)

Top News

- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has named Ford Vice President Stephen Biegun as Special Representative to North Korea. The executive and former National Security staffer is joining the administration at a time of intense focus on U.S. efforts to force North Korea to dismantle its nuclear weapons program. (Cindy Saine, VOA)
- Before joining Ford, Biegun served as national security advisor to Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist. In this capacity, he provided analysis and strategic planning for the U.S. Senate's consideration of foreign policy, defense and intelligence matters, and international trade agreements. (*Ford Media Center*)
- HRNK Board Member David Maxwell authored a piece for the *Foundation for Defense of Democracies* regarding the Kim Jong-nam assassination. The following is an excerpt from the article: A Malaysian judge ruled last week that there is sufficient evidence to continue the trial of two female suspects in the assassination of Kim Jong Nam, the elder half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. While it is imperative to hold the assassins accountable, the murder of the elder Kim underscores North Korea's potent intelligence and special operations capabilities. (David Maxwell, *Foundation for Defense of Democracies*)

In North Korea

- North Korea's O Kang Chol broke down in tears as he dedicated his country's third weightlifting gold medal of the Asian Games to his mother, who passed away earlier this year. (*Channel NewsAsia*)
- Satellite photos from last week indicate North Korea halted work to dismantle a missile engine test site in the first part of August, in spite of a promise to U.S. President Donald Trump at a June summit, a Washington think tank reported on Wednesday. (David Brunnstrom, Matt Spetalnick, *Reuters*)
- North Korea's population increased by 100,000 from a year ago to 25.60 million this year, a U.S. government-funded radio station reported Thursday, citing data released by the Population Reference Bureau (PRB), a Washington-based non-profit organization. (*Yonhap*)
- Choe Jon Wi pulled out the greatest lift of his life to edge a titanic battle of the Koreas and secure the fourth weightlifting gold for the North in an epic 77kg final Thursday (Aug 23). (*Channel NewsAsia*)
- North Korea appears to have stopped dismantling a missile engine testing site, a U.S. website monitoring the regime said Wednesday amid a perceived impasse in negotiations to denuclearize the North. (*Yonhap*)
- The April 25 Tobacco Factory (also referred to as Changpyong Farm) in Onsong County, North Hamgyong Province, has tabled plans to increase production by recruiting a large number of ex-soldiers for the factory's labor units, Daily NK has learned from informed North Korean sources. (Kim Yoo-jin, *DailyNK*)

- Thousands of North Korean “soldier-builders” in olive green uniforms and bright red hardhats are doing everything from digging ditches to putting up walls on multi-story apartment blocks and government buildings in this northern city near the Chinese border. (Eric Talmadge, Associated Press)
- Commercial satellite imagery from August 16 of the Sohae Satellite Launching Station, North Korea’s only operational space launch facility, indicates no significant dismantlement activity has taken place at either the engine test stand or the launch pad since August 3. (Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., Frank V. Pabian, Jack Liu, 38 North)

In South Korea

- South Korea's unification ministry said Thursday that it has no plan yet to change the schedule of an inter-Korean family reunion event, even though a powerful typhoon is set to batter the peninsula. (Yonhap)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- North Korea and South Korea took gold and silver medals in the same men's weightlifting event at the 18th Asian Games on Thursday. (Yonhap)
- North Korea's state media reported Thursday on this week's reunions of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War, calling them part of "practical" measures to enforce the April inter-Korean summit agreement to enhance cross-border ties. (Yonhap)
- North Korea state media reported on the inter-Korea family reunions for the first time on Thursday. "The scattered families and relatives of the North and South were united at Mount Kumgang from Aug. 20 to 22 in a first round of reunions," KCNA stated Thursday. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- The second inter-Korean family reunions planned for this week could be rescheduled if Typhoon Soulik affects North Korea’s Mount Kumgang resort area, the South’s Unification Ministry said Thursday. (Lee Sung-eun, Korea JoongAng Daily)

International

- The Pentagon’s latest annual report on China’s military for the first time reveals contingency plans by the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) to intervene in North Korea. Relations between the two communist nations remain strained and last year were at the lowest level in decades. (Bill Gertz, Washington Times)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Thursday announced Ford Vice President Stephen Biegun will be the country’s special representative to North Korea, adding that he will travel with Biegun next week to the reclusive Asian nation. (Reuters)
- An inter-Korean forum scheduled to be held in the city of Dandong, in China's northeastern province Liaoning, on Thursday was canceled due to objection from Chinese police apparently wary of international sanctions on North Korea. (Yonhap)
- Japan should publicly urge the North Korean government to immediately allow ethnic Koreans lured to North Korea from Japan and their relatives to return to Japan, Human Rights Watch said today. (Human Rights Watch)

- North Korea's external propaganda media are escalating pressure on the United States to sign a declaration to end the Korean War amid speculation about an imminent Pyongyang visit by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea on Thursday poured out criticism on Japan for its past wrongdoings, saying improvements in the bilateral relationship won't be possible without Tokyo's apology and compensation for its invasion of the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea warned Japan on Thursday over its colonial past, saying Tokyo must atone for its history before moving to a new future in bilateral relations. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- North Korea is using a propaganda outlet that targets the South to promote the signing of a declaration to end the Korean War. The call for an end-of-war declaration comes ahead of U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's possible fourth trip to Pyongyang, Seoul Pyongyang News reported Thursday. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- The commander of U.S. forces in South Korea, General Vincent Brooks, said Wednesday that, while nuclear diplomacy with North Korea may be successful, Washington must continue applying pressure so that 'there's not a reason or even an ability' for the North to back off. (VOA)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Thursday that he and his newly announced special representative to North Korea, Stephen Biegun, will be traveling to Pyongyang next week. (Michelle Kosinski, Zachary Cohen, CNN)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has tapped a senior executive at the Ford Motor Company to be his special envoy for North Korea as the Trump administration continues its high-stakes negotiations aimed at eliminating the country's nuclear weapons arsenal. (John Hudson, *Washington Post*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo named Ford Motor Co executive Stephen Biegun as U.S. special representative to North Korea on Thursday and said they would both travel there next week to try to persuade it to abandon its nuclear weapons. (Lesley Wroughton, David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced on Thursday that he would travel to North Korea next week and bring with him a newly assigned senior envoy to lead the negotiations with Pyongyang. (Gardiner Harris, *New York Times*)
- A second meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un could give a boost to negotiations to dismantle the North's nuclear weapons program, a former U.S. intelligence official said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in wants more than just peace with North Korea, he envisions an economic and diplomatic push that will transform northeast Asia to the degree the European Union has shaped that continent. There are just two problems: he only has one five-year term in office to do so; and the United States, South Korea's most important ally, may not be on board. (James Griffiths, CNN)
- U.S. President Donald Trump has said that he wants to lift sanctions on North Korea, but only after the regime gets rid of its nuclear weapons. Trump recalled his landmark June meeting with Kim in Singapore, where the two agreed to establish "new relations" and work toward the "complete denuclearization" of the Korean Peninsula in exchange for U.S. security guarantees. (*Yonhap*)

- U.S. President Donald Trump said Tuesday North Korea must "get rid of the nukes" before seeing any relief from international sanctions, making clear that he's waiting for more tangible actions on denuclearization. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- United Nations Environment Program Executive Director Erik Solheim arrived in Pyongyang Wednesday, the (North) Korean Central News Agency reported. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)
- To reach a final deal on the denuclearization of North Korea, the Trump administration must give up something substantial. But Washington isn't budging. (David C. Kang, *New York Times*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726224611/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-ford-executive-named-as-us-envoy-to-north-korea-kim-jong-nam-assassination-showcases-north-koreas-special-operations-capabilities

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Friday, August 24, 2018

(3rd LD) Pompeo to make 4th trip to N. Korea next week; US, South Korea Rift Grows on How to Denuclearize North Korea

In North Korea:
Amid praise for Trump, North Korea doubles down on criticism of Japan (*Reuters*, 08/24/2018)
(Asian Games) N. Korea wins 5th weightlifting gold (*Yonhap*, 08/24/2018)
N. Korean website says additional U.S. sanctions a 'foolish idea' (*Yonhap*, 08/24/2018)
North Korea braces for Typhoon Soulik (*Daily NK*, 08/24/2018)
[Photos] Vehicle increase spurs harsher North Korean traffic laws (*Daily NK*, 08/24/2018)
Portion of barbed-wire fence dismantled in Ryanggang Province (*Daily NK*, 08/24/2018)
Pyongsong's nouveau rich seek fortunes elsewhere (*Daily NK*, 08/24/2018)
Reducing North Korea's perceived threat of separated family reunions will encourage their regularization (*Daily NK*, 08/24/2018)
Swiss dreams (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/24/2018)

In South Korea:
Banks move to roll out N. Korea-centered financial products (*Yonhap*, 08/24/2018)
South Korea sends sanctioned material to North Korea, politician says (*Reuters*, 08/24/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) Second round of inter-Korean family reunions begins at Mount Kumgang (*Yonhap*, 08/24/2018)

Reunions go smoothly as storm skirts Kumgang (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/24/2018)
'Still brothers': seven decades of separation fails to fray South Korean family ties (*The Guardian*, 08/23/2018)
Students of Koreas' top universities exchange letters on cooperation for peace (*Yonhap*, 08/24/2018)

International:
(3rd LD) Ford vice president named U.S. special representative for N.K. (*Yonhap*, 08/24/2018)
(3rd LD) Pompeo to make 4th trip to N. Korea next week (*Yonhap*, 08/24/2018)
Ford executive Stephen Biegun named special envoy to North Korea (UPI, 08/23/2018)
Mike Pompeo faces a moment of truth on North Korea (*Washington Post*, 08/23/2018)
North Korean Defectors Sue in Japan, Alleging Rights Abuses (VOA, 08/24/2018)
Pompeo to head North with new envoy in tow (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/24/2018)
Pompeo to visit North Korea next week with new special envoy (*Korea Times*, 08/24/2018)
Special Envoys Were Once Disdained Under Trump. Now They're Popping Up All Over. (*The New York Times*, 08/23/2018)
U.N. environment chief visits N. Korea to discuss cooperation (*Yonhap*, 08/24/2018)
U.S. ambassador upbeat about new point man on N. Korea, cautious about Pompeo's upcoming trip (*Yonhap*, 08/24/2018)
U.S. diplomats in Seoul tie Trump's Indo-Pacific strategy to immigration (UPI, 08/24/2018)
US, South Korea Rift Grows on How to Denuclearize North Korea (VOA, 08/24/2018)

In North Korea:

- In North Korea, Japan appears to have replaced the United States as the most vilified imperialist enemy, with state media deriding Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government as a "cult" bent on derailing Pyongyang's diplomatic outreach. (Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- North Korea continued to rally in weightlifting at the 18th Asian Games on Friday as Kim Hyo-sim delivered the country's fifth gold medal in the sport. (*Yonhap*)
- Ahead of U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's Pyongyang visit next week, a North Korean propaganda outlet on Friday warned that additional anti-North sanctions by the U.S. would be a "foolish idea." (*Yonhap*)
- The storm is expected to dump 100-250 mm of rain and damaging winds on North Korea, whose government has been scrambling to prepare for the storm and mitigate the fallout. (Kim Yoo-jin, Daily NK)
- North Korea's traffic authorities are reportedly cracking down on traffic violations in an effort to improve road safety as the number of vehicles plying the streets continues to grow. (Kang Mi-jin, *Daily NK*)
- Barbed-wire fencing traversing parts of Hyesan City bordering the Amnok River are being dismantled in a bid to improve its appearance to outside observers, report sources in the region. (Mun Dong-Hui, *Daily NK*)
- The ownership, construction, and sale of housing in North Korea has become largely governed by market forces. The official policy of state ownership of housing is no longer in sync with reality, with most residents now assuming they own the houses they live in. (Jo Hyon, *Daily NK*)

- Separated family reunions took place for the first time in years at Mt. Kumgang with the whole world watching. To be honest, as the day of the reunions approached, I was nervous to see if North Korea would use the issue of the repatriation of North Korean waitresses as an excuse to pull out of the event last minute. (Thae Yong-ho, *Daily NK*)
- Two months have passed since the so-called summit of the century between the North Korean and U.S. leaders in Singapore on June 12. It first seemed that the denuclearization of the North would proceed quickly, but a standstill came instead. (Song Seung-jong, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

In South Korea:

- South Korean banks are planning to roll out North Korea-centered financial products amid optimistic views of inter-Korean reconciliation, sources in the financial sector said Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea has sent 1 billion won ($893,239.96) worth of sanctioned material to North Korea, customs data showed on Friday, raising concern ties with the United States could be damaged as the South pursues cooperation with the North. (Joyce Lee, Jeongmin Kim, *Reuters*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Tears streamed down the wrinkled face of Cho Jeong-gi as the 67-year-old South Korean met the North Korean father he has never seen. (*Yonhap*)
- The second inter-Korean reunions this week kicked off on Friday as planned after Typhoon Soulik left Korea without affecting the Mount Kumgang resort, just north of the border separating the two countries. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The moment Lee Su-nam walked into an ornate hotel ballroom in North Korea and laid eyes on his brother for the first time in almost 70 years, he was filled with bittersweet emotions. It was a joyous reunion, but he struggled to recognise the man across from him, and will likely never see him again. (Benjamin Haas, *The Guardian*)
- Students at prestigious universities of South and North Korea have exchanged letters pledging to join hands to help implement the Panmunjom Declaration, an inter-Korean summit agreement adopted in April to promote peace on the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Thursday named Ford Vice President Stephen Biegun as U.S. special representative for North Korea. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Thursday he will travel to North Korea again next week to continue negotiations on the dismantlement of Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo named Ford Motor Company executive Stephen Biegun

as the State Department's special representative for North Korea Thursday. (Daniel Uria, UPI)

- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is making a bold and risky push to reinvigorate a diplomatic effort with North Korea that is struggling to make progress amid increasingly belligerent rhetoric from Pyongyang. (Josh Rogin, *Washington Post*)
- She was one of the more than 90,000 Koreans and their relatives in Japan who went to North Korea decades ago seeking what the country promised: "paradise on earth." (AP)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced Thursday that he will be making a fourth trip to Pyongyang next week, accompanied by a Ford executive who has been appointed as his new special envoy to North Korea. (Kang Jin-kyu, Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Thursday named a Ford Motor Co. executive as special envoy for North Korea and said they would both travel to the nuclear-armed country next week. (AFP)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced Thursday that he was appointing a special envoy to handle negotiations with North Korea. Just days earlier, he introduced special envoys for Iran and Syria, equally knotty problems. Another for Afghanistan is said to be in the offing. (Gardiner Harris, *The New York Times*)
- Erik Solheim, executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme, has visited North Korea to discuss closer cooperation in the environment field, according to Pyongyang's media. (*Yonhap*)
- The top U.S. envoy in South Korea voiced optimism on Friday about the role of Washington's new point man on Pyongyang, while he was guarded about Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's upcoming trip to the communist nation. (Lee Chi-dong, *Yonhap*)
- Newly arrived U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Adm. Harry B. Harris defended U.S. immigration and trade policies Friday at a forum on Washington's "Indo-Pacific' strategy in Asia. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- As South Korea extends its engagement with North Korea, there appears to be a widening rift between Washington and Seoul over how to achieve North Korea's denuclearization. (Christy Lee, VOA)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726224948/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items3rd-ld-pompeo-to-make-4th-trip-to-n-korea-next-week-us-south-korea-rift-grows-on-how-to-denuclearize-north-korea

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Saturday, August 25, 2018

Trump asks Pompeo to delay visit to North Korea; China rejects US assertion it is holding up North Korea progress

Top News:
HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu Interviewed on i24 News (*i24 News*, 8/24/2018)

In North Korea:
(Asian Games) N. Koreans reveal secret of weightlifting success (*Yonhap*, 8/25/2018)
New North Korea images spark concern (CNN, 8/24/2018)
Update on North Korea's Foundation Day Military Parade Preparations (*38 North*, 8/24/2018)

In South Korea:
South Korea urges continued U.S.-North Korea talks despite cancellation of Pompeo trip (*Washington Post*, 8/25/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(Asian Games) Unified Korean canoeing team delivers historic 1st medal; golden day in ju-jitsu, bowling (*Yonhap*, 8/25/2018)
Elderly Koreans shut out of family reunions use backchannels (*Associated Press*, 8/25/2018)
Koreas begin second round of tearful family reunions (*Associated Press*, 8/24/2018)
(LEAD) (Asian Games) S. Korea beats N. Korea in women's archery team event (*Yonhap*, 8/25/2018)
(LEAD) Separated families from two Koreas hold 2nd day of reunions (*Yonhap*, 8/25/2018)

International:
(3rd LD) Trump cancels Pompeo trip to N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 8/25/2018)
China blasts Trump comment; Seoul regrets Pompeo trip delay (*Associated Press*, 8/25/2018)
China rejects U.S. assertion it is holding up North Korea progress (*Reuters*, 8/25/2018)
Donald Trump orders Pompeo to cancel North Korea talks over 'insufficient' progress on denuclearization (*The Telegraph*, 8/24/2018)
Fiddling With Travel Schedules Won't Make North Korea Denuclearize (*The New Republic*, 8/24/2018)
N. Korea to host int'l blockchain conference in October (*Yonhap*, 8/25/2018)
North Korea visit: Trump calls off Pompeo's trip (BBC, 8/24/2018)
S. Korean, U.S. vow efforts for engagement with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 8/25/2018)
The modern nuclear arsenal: A nuclear weapons expert describes a new kind of Cold War (*Washington Post*, 8/24/2018)
Trump asks Pompeo to cancel 4th North Korea trip (UPI, 8/24/2018)
Trump asks Pompeo to delay visit to North Korea (*Associated Press*, 8/25/2018)
Trump calls off Pompeo's North Korea visit, citing a lack of progress on denuclearization (*Washington Post*, 8/24/2018)
Trump cancels Pompeo's trip to North Korea over stalled nuclear diplomacy (*Reuters*, 8/25/2018)
Trump made a mistake on North Korea (CNN, 8/24/2018)
Trump orders Pompeo to delay nuclear North Korea talks due to lack of progress (*The Guardian*, 8/24/2018)
Trump says Pompeo won't go to North Korea, criticizes denuclearization progress (CNN, 8/25/2018)
US North Korea visit: China says Trump criticism is 'irresponsible' (BBC, 8/25/2018)

Top News:

- HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu was interviewed on i24 News regarding the recent IAEA report that North Korea is continuing its nuclear program. (Greg Scarlatoiu, *i24 News*)

In North Korea:

- North Koreans usually cite the power of their ideology, or great care of the supreme leader as the factors behind their success, but those are not the only reasons. According to North Korean weightlifting coach Ri Chol-nam, "highly-concentrated training" is also one of their secrets. (Joo Kyung-don, *Yonhap*)
- New images of a North Korean satellite launch site indicate that dismantlement activity has stopped. (Barbara Starr, CNN)
- In the lead up to North Korea's Foundation Day Parade, scheduled for September 9, commercial satellite imagery of the Mirim Parade Training Ground from August 22 shows approximately 120 military vehicles in formation practicing on the facility's roads, including what may be six tarp-covered Scud-class transporter-erector-launchers (TELs), as well as unmanned aerial vehicle launchers, tanks, large artillery pieces and other vehicles. (Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., *38 North*)

In South Korea:

- South Korea's Foreign Ministry on Saturday urged Washington and Pyongyang not to walk away from the negotiating table despite the unexpected cancellation of U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's planned trip to North Korea. (Simon Denyer, Amanda Erickson, Min Joo Kim, *Washington Post*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The unified Korean canoeing team delivered a historic first medal in dragon boat racing on Saturday, otherwise a quiet day in the medal race for South Korea. (Yoo Jee-ho, Joo Kyung-don, *Yonhap*)
- Kim Kyung-jae will probably never be chosen in the government lottery that would allow him to reunite one last time with his relatives in North Korea. But that's no problem, he said this week in an interview, even as a small group of the lucky South Koreans who won the lottery met with their loved ones in North Korea. (Hyung-jin Kim, *Associated Press*)
- Elderly North and South Koreans wept and embraced each other on Friday at the beginning of a second round of temporary reunions of family members separated for decades by the Korean War. (Hyung-jin Kim, *Associated Press*)
- South Korea knocked North Korea out of the women's team recurve archery event at the 18th Asian Games on Saturday. Chang Hye-jin, Kang Chae-young and Lee Eun-gyeong of the South Korea defeated Kang Un-ju, Pak Hyang-sun and Ri Ji-hyang by the set score of 6-0 in the quarterfinals at GBK Archery Field in Jakarta. (Yoo Jee-ho, *Yonhap*)
- After a tearful encounter for the first time in nearly 70 years, families from South and North Korea enjoyed more private time on the second day of their reunions Saturday. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- U.S. President Donald Trump said Friday he has canceled Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's upcoming trip to North Korea because of a lack of progress in dismantling the North's nuclear weapons program. (*Yonhap*)
- China on Saturday lashed out at President Donald Trump for accusing Beijing of not being supportive in efforts to denuclearize North Korea, while South Korea called the U.S. decision to call off a trip to the North by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo "unfortunate." (Kim Tong-hyung, Matthew Lee, *Associated Press*)
- China's Foreign Ministry on Saturday expressed "serious concern" about U.S. comments on North Korea, after President Donald Trump canceled his top diplomat's trip to Pyongyang and partly blamed China for a lack of progress in denuclearization talks. (Tony Munroe, *Reuters*)
- Donald Trump has ordered his secretary of state Mike Pompeo to cancel a planned visit to North Korea because the regime is not making "sufficient progress" over denuclearization. (Ben Riley-Smith, *The Telegraph*)
- If North Korea believes that U.S. diplomats do not speak for Trump, then North Korea is likely to continue praising Trump while criticizing his officials and stonewalling at the negotiating table. (Michael H. Fuchs, *The New Republic*)
- North Korea plans to hold an international conference on blockchain technology and cryptocurrencies in Pyongyang in October, a U.S-based radio broadcast said Saturday. (*Yonhap*)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will not be travelling to North Korea in the immediate future after Donald Trump asked him to call off a planned trip. The president tweeted that insufficient progress was being made in dismantling Pyongyang's nuclear programme. (BBC)
- The top diplomats of South Korea and the United States vowed Saturday to make joint efforts to maintain the momentum for dialogue with North Korea after the cancellation of the U.S. envoy's visit to Pyongyang, the foreign ministry here said. (*Yonhap*)
- With the flurry of talks with North Korea and the fallout from the U.S. withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal, nuclear weapons have become a major topic of discussion in recent months. But secrecy abounds: Who has what weapons? How many? How much damage could they do? (Jenny Starrs, *Washington Post*)
- President Donald Trump on Friday said he asked Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to cancel his planned trip to North Korea, saying he doesn't believe efforts to denuclearize the peninsula are going as planned. (Danielle Haynes, UPI)
- President Donald Trump said Friday he has directed Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to delay a planned trip to North Korea, citing insufficient progress on denuclearization. Trump put some blame on Beijing, saying he does not believe China is helping "because of our much tougher Trading stance." (Zeke Miller, Matthew Lee, *Associated Press*)
- President Trump on Friday called off a planned trip to North Korea by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, just days before the top diplomat was to arrive in the country for the next round of high-stakes nuclear talks, the first public sign of the president's festering frustration over the stalled negotiations. (John Hudson, David Nakamura, Josh Dawsey, *Washington Post*)

- U.S. President Donald Trump abruptly canceled his top diplomat's planned trip to North Korea on Friday, publicly acknowledging for the first time that his effort to get Pyongyang to denuclearize had stalled since his summit with the North's leader. (Matt Spetalnick, David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)
- The day after he gave himself an A+ on his presidential performance, President Donald Trump unexpectedly canceled a crucial trip to North Korea by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, all but acknowledging that his strategy to end the North Korean nuclear threat has so far failed. (Frida Ghitis, CNN)
- Donald Trump has directed the secretary of state, Mike Pompeo, to delay a planned trip to North Korea, the president tweeted on Friday, "because I feel we are not making sufficient progress with respect to the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula". (Martin Pengelly, *The Guardian*)
- Citing insufficient progress on the issue of denuclearization, President Donald Trump nixed plans for Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to make what would have been his fourth visit to North Korea Friday, canceling next week's trip just one day after it was announced by Pompeo. (Zachary Cohen, Jeremy Diamond, CNN)
- China has said it is "irresponsible" of President Trump to suggest it was not putting enough pressure on North Korea over its nuclear programme. A Chinese foreign ministry spokesman said this was "contrary to basic facts" and China was "seriously concerned". (BBC)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726224844/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-trump-asks-pompeo-to-delay-visit-to-north-korea-china-rejects-us-assertion-it-is-holding-up-north-korea-progress

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Sunday, August 26, 2018

HRNK News Items: North Korea says it expels detained Japanese tourist; Moon to mediate deal between U.S., N. Korea in summit with Kim: official

In North Korea:
(Asian Games) N. Korean weightlifting sisters proud of their achievements (*Yonhap*, 08/26/2018)
N. Korea to host 2019 Asian youth weightlifting competition (*Yonhap*, 08/26/2018)
North Korea accuses U.S. of plotting invasion while talking with 'smile on its face' (*Washington Post*, 08/26/2018)

North Korea newspaper blasts 'double-dealing' U.S. after Pompeo's trip canceled (*Reuters*, 08/26/2018)
North Korea says it expels detained Japanese tourist (*Reuters*, 08/26/2018)

In South Korea:
Moon to mediate deal between U.S., N. Korea in summit with Kim: official (*Yonhap*, 08/26/2018)
Seoul still hopeful on denuclearization talks (*Korea Times*, 08/26/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Asian Games: Unified Korea boating team win historic gold (BBC, 08/26/2018)
(Asian Games) Unified Korean team reaches women's basketball semis (*Yonhap*, 08/26/2018)
(Asian Games) WNBA center ready to hit the ground running for unified Korean team (*Yonhap*, 08/26/2018)
[PHOTOS] Families from South and North Koreas share dishes at reunions (*Korea Times*, 08/26/2018)
Separated once more (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/26/2018)
S. Korean president celebrates victory of unified Korean team at Asiad (*Yonhap*, 08/26/2018)

International:
China responds to Trump tweet (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/26/2018)
Is China Undermining Efforts to Disarm North Korea? Not Yet, Analysts Say (*The New York Times*, 08/25/2018)
Pompeo hasn't been straight with us on North Korea (*Washington Post*, 08/26/2018)
Trump is right. His trade war with China is causing a huge problem with North Korea (CNN, 08/26/2018)

In North Korea:

- North Korea's weightlifting sisters, Rim Jong-sim and Rim Un-sim, completed their task at the 18th Asian Games as they will return home as gold medalists. (Joo Kyung-don, *Yonhap*)
- North Korea will host the Asian Youth & Junior Weightlifting Championships next year in its capital city. (Joo Kyung-don, *Yonhap*)
- North Korea's main newspaper accused the United States on Sunday of staging military drills to prepare an invasion while at the same time pursuing dialogue with a smile on its face. (Simon Denyer, *Washington Post*)
- North Korea's state-controlled newspaper on Sunday accused the United States of "double-dealing" and "hatching a criminal plot" against Pyongyang, after Washington abruptly canceled a visit by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. (*Reuters*)
- North Korea said on Sunday it had expelled a Japanese tourist detained during a trip to the country. (*Reuters*)

In South Korea:

- South Korean President Moon Jae-in will likely seek to mediate a breakthrough in talks between the United States and North Korea when he visits Pyongyang for a summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, a Seoul official said Sunday. (Yonhap)
- South Korea is hopeful the momentum toward the North's denuclearization will be kept alive, despite U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's trip to North Korean capital of Pyongyang being delayed. (Park Ji-won, Kim Yoo-chul, Korea Times)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The unified Korean 500m women's dragon boating team has won a gold model in the Asian Games - the first time the north and south have combined to win top prize at a multisport competition. (BBC)
- The unified Korean women's basketball team reached the semifinals of the 18th Asian Games on Sunday with an easy victory over Thailand. (Yoo Jee-ho, Yonhap)
- After arriving in Jakarta in time for key knockout games, Park Ji-su, center for the unified Korean women's basketball team, said Sunday she's ready to hit the ground running. (Yoo Jee-ho, Yonhap)
- Despite 70 years of separation, people from the two Koreas seemed to share the same taste in food. (Jung Da-min, Korea Times)
- From a chartered bus, a sobbing North Korean woman waves goodbye to her South Korean relatives at the Kumgangsan Hotel in the Mount Kumgang Resort in North Korea on Sunday, the last day of the second round of the 21st separated families reunion. (Korea JoongAng Daily)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in praised South and North Korean canoers for winning their first gold medal as a unified team Sunday. (Yonhap)

International:

- China on Saturday rebuked U.S. President Donald Trump for a Friday tweet that claimed Beijing wasn't "helping with the process of [North Korean] denuclearization as they once were," calling it "irresponsible" in unusually stern terms. (Kang Jin-kyu, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- When President Trump said on Friday that there had not been "sufficient progress" toward ridding North Korea of its nuclear weapons, he made it clear that he thought China was partly to blame. (Jane Perlez, The New York Times)
- For more than two months since the Singapore summit between President Trump and North Korean tyrant Kim Jong Un, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has assured us that Trump's brilliant strategy was working. (Jennifer Rubin, Washington Post)
- On Friday, President Donald Trump canceled Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's trip to North Korea, citing the lack of progress on denuclearization and blaming China. "Because of our much tougher Trading stance with China, I do not believe they are helping with the process of denuclearization," Trump tweeted. (YJ Fischer, CNN)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726224848/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsnorth-korea-says-it-expels-detained-japanese-touristmoon-to-mediate-deal-between-us-n-korea-in-summit-with-kim-official

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Monday, August 27, 2018

HRNK News Items: North Korea to Release Japanese Tourist; Canceled Pompeo Trip Tests South's Strategy to Win Over North Korea

In North Korea

(Asian Games) N. Korea wins silver in recurve archery mixed team event (*Yonhap*, 08/27/2018)
(Asian Games) N. Korean canoeing coach calls for lifting sanctions on sports (*Yonhap*, 08/27/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korea's media report on weeklong reunions of war-torn families (*Yonhap*, 08/27/2018)
[Photo] North Korean tour package targets Chinese tourists (*DailyNK*, 08/27/2018)
[Photo] Transport logistics services see growing popularity in North Korea (*DailyNK*, 08/27/2018)
KCNA: North Korea deports Japanese tourist (UPI, 08/27/2018)
Kim's charm offensive wins over other nations while Trump's on the sidelines (CNN, 08/26/2018)
Kim's public criticism of the OGD leads to creation of oversight committee (*DailyNK*, 08/27/2018)
N. Korea appears to have tried cryptocurrency mining (*Yonhap*, 08/27/2018)
N. Korea links dive in S. Korean leader's popularity to Panmunjom Declaration (*Yonhap*, 08/27/2018)
N. Korea releases Japanese citizen on 'principle of humanitarianism' (*Yonhap*, 08/27/2018)
N. Korean newspaper comments on intensifying U.S.-China conflict (*Yonhap*, 08/27/2018)
North Korea 'developing bitcoin exchange, mining cryptocurrencies' (*The Korea Times*, 08/27/2018)
North Korea expels detained Japanese tourist as neighbors' hot-and-cold relationship continues (*The Japan Times*, 08/27/2018)
North Korea expels Japanese man who had been detained (*Los Angeles Times*, 08/27/2018)
North Korea to Expel Japanese Tourist Accused of Crime (*The New York Times*, 08/26/2018)
North Korea to host international blockchain conference in October: Report (*The Straits Times*, 08/25/2018)
North Korea to Release Japanese Tourist (VOA *News*, 08/27/2018)
North Korean defectors grab China lifeline to smuggle cash, goods to family back home – despite dangers for those left behind (*South China Morning Post*, 08/27/2018)
North Korean media echoes China's criticism of US (*The Korea Times*, 08/27/2018)
North Korean newspaper condemns 'double-dealing' US after Pompeo trip called off (*The Guardian*, 08/26/2018)
North Koreans prefer dog meat stew to beat the summer heat (*DailyNK*, 08/27/2018)

North releases jailed Japanese tourist: KCNA (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/27/2018)
Officials destroy watermelon patches, label farmers 'anti-socialist' (*DailyNK*, 08/27/2018)
Ostrich skin and Neo-Viagra? A shopping guide to North Korea (*The Washington Post*, 08/26/2018)
Tomoyuki Sugimoto: North Korea 'releases Japanese tourist' (*BBC*, 08/27/2018)

In South Korea
(LEAD) Inter-Korean liaison office plan subject to fresh review: Cheong Wa Dae (*Yonhap*, 08/27/2018)
72% of Koreans see need for ratification of inter-Korean summit declaration (*The Korea Herald*, 08/27/2018)
Canceled Pompeo Trip Tests South's Strategy to Win Over North Korea (*The Wall Street Journal*, 08/27/2018)
Kaesong liaison office may be reconsidered (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/27/2018)
Moon's mediator role again in spotlight (*The Korea Herald*, 08/27/2018)
More family reunions depend on inter-Korean negotiations: ministry (*The Korea Herald*, 08/27/2018)
North Korea defectors urge new perspective of Kim regime (*UPI*, 08/27/2018)
Pres. Moon's role of persuading N. Korea (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 08/27/2018)
South Korea 'reevaluates' opening of inter-Korean liaison office (*The Korea Times*, 08/27/2018)
South Korea Says Pompeo's Cancelled Visit Impacts North Korea Liaison Office Plans (*The New York Times*, 08/27/2018)
South Korean banks eye potential customers in North (*Financial Times*, 08/27/2018)
Summit in Pyongyang may deal with 'nuclear list' (*The Korea Times*, 08/27/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship
[Herald Interview] Poland shares lessons in transition from communism to capitalism (*The Korea Herald*, 08/27/2018)
[INTERVIEW] 'Medical exchanges should come first in inter-Korean exchanges' (*The Korea Times*, 08/27/2018)
2 Koreas to Hold Another Round of Family Reunions (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 08/27/2018)
ASIAN GAMES/ For 1st time since war, this gold belongs to Korea (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 08/27/2018)
Combined Koreas canoe crew claims gold in 500-meter final (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 08/27/2018)
Inter-Korean liaison office opening likely to be delayed (*The Korea Times*, 08/27/2018)
Unified Korean team wins gold in dragon boat race at Asian Games (*UPI*, 08/27/2018)

International
Chinese firm in Shanghai debuts ice cream resembling N. Korean leader (*Yonhap*, 08/27/2018)
Japanese tourist 'caught filming military facilities' in North Korea (*The Independent*, 08/27/2018)
Megan Fox to Star in Korean Movie (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 08/27/2018)
New US 7th Air Force chief vows to keep 'unequaled' military readiness (*The Korea Herald*, 08/27/2018)
Pompeo's Canceled Trip to N.Korea Sends Worrying Signal (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 08/27/2018)
The moment Trump canceled Pompeo's visit to China (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 08/27/2018)
Tokyo mum on report about N. Korea expelling Japanese tourist (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 08/27/2018)

Trump is right. His trade war with China is causing a huge problem with North Korea (CNN, 08/26/2018)
U.S. Experts Warn Seoul Over Liaison Office (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 08/27/2018)

In North Korea

- North Korea grabbed the silver medal in recurve archery's mixed team event at the 18th Asian Games on Monday. This was North Korea's first Asiad archery medal since 2010, and just its seventh medal in the sport overall. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's canoeing head coach, Kim Kwang-chol, said Monday he hopes the sanctions imposed by the United States and the United Nations can be lifted on sports in the North. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's media reported Monday on the weeklong reunions of hundreds of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War. South and North Korea held the event in two rounds from Aug. 20-26 at Mount Kumgang, a scenic resort on the North's east coast. It is part of the promise their leaders made during a summit in April. (*Yonhap*)
- An advertisement promoting a North Korean tourism package for Chinese tourists is being marketed on a popular messaging service in China, a North Korean source told Daily NK on August 21. The advertisement was created by a Chinese tourism company in Yanji, Jilin Province, and is offering eight travel packages from September to October. (Kim Song Il, *DailyNK*)
- The use of vehicle-based courier services in North Korea is increasing, report several sources in North Korea. The emerging industry is drawing parallels to the widespread use of express buses to deliver packages in South Korea. (Mun Dong Hui, *DailyNK*)
- A Japanese tourist who was detained in North Korea has been released, North Korea's state media reported. The Korea Central News Agency said Saturday that a Japanese man, who was held for investigation for "his crime against the law of the DPRK," was released on a humanitarian basis. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- With Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's trip to North Korea on ice, we assess that other countries aren't waiting for Kim Jong Un to denuclearize before moving ahead with their own diplomatic and economic relief initiatives with him. Rather than being treated as a rogue regime bucking international laws, Kim is being treated as an equal by your peers. (Samantha Vinograd, CNN)
- North Korean sources have now reported that a task force has been established under the control of the Korean Workers' Party (WPK) Organizational and Guidance Department (headed by Chae Ryong Hae) to conduct oversight in North Hamgyong Province. The OGD is considered the "power above the power" in North Korea. (Jo Hyon, *DailyNK*)
- North Korea appears to have tried to mine cryptocurrencies on a small scale as transactions of such coins are hard to trace and could be easily used to launder real money, a local report showed Monday. Citing a media report, the KDB unit said North Korea may have tried to mine bitcoin between May and July last year, but the attempt appears to have been unsuccessful. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's media on Monday said the recent fall in the approval rating of South Korea's leadership has been caused by its failure to faithfully carry out the Panmunjom Declaration

signed at April's inter-Korean summit to promote peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula. (Yonhap)

- North Korea has released a Japanese citizen held in custody for allegedly violating its law, saying that the decision was made "on the principle of humanitarianism," its state-run media reported. Japanese media speculate that the man might be a 39-year-old video creator that they reported in mid-August to have been arrested in North Korea. (Yonhap)
- North Korea's main newspaper on Monday carried a commentary that shed light on the escalating trade conflict between Washington and Beijing, denuclearization of the North and other issues. On the same day, Pyongyang's external propaganda website Uriminzokkiri denounced an amendment of the NDAA, which calls for maintaining the number of U.S. troops in South Korea at a minimum of 22,000. (Yonhap)
- North Korea appears to have tried to mine cryptocurrencies on a small scale as transactions of such coins are hard to trace and could be easily used to launder real money, a local report showed Monday. The report, compiled by a research unit of South Korea's state-run Korea Development Bank (KDB), also claimed that a North Korean technology firm, named Chosun Expo, is developing and selling a market-exchange platform for bitcoin. (Yonhap)
- North Korea has expelled a Japanese man detained for allegedly breaking the law during a recent tour of the country, state-run media and a diplomatic source in Japan said as the two neighbors continue their hot-and-cold relationship. (Jesse Johnson and Tomohiro Osaki, The Japan Times)
- North Korea has expelled a Japanese tourist who had been detained by authorities on unspecified charges, the official Korean Central News Agency said late Sunday. A two-sentence report said that Tomoyuki Sugimoto had been "kept under control" for questioning about "his crime." It did not say what he had been accused of. (AP)
- North Korea has decided to expel a Japanese man accused of committing a crime while visiting the isolated country on a tourist visa, the country's state media reported. It did not provide details of the alleged crime. But it said the North Korean authorities had decided to "leniently condone him and expel him" from North Korea "on the principle of humanitarianism." (Choe Sang-Hun, The New York Times)
- North Korea plans to hold an international conference on blockchain technology and cryptocurrencies in Pyongyang in October, US-based Radio Free Asia said on Saturday (Aug 25). The first-ever Korean International Blockchain Conference will be held over two-day starting Oct 1, the report said according to South Korean news agency Yonhap. (The Straits Times)
- North Korea says it will expel a Japanese tourist it had detained earlier this month. The regime's official Korean Central News Agency identified the tourist as Tomoyuki Sugimoto in a short statement Monday. It said authorities "decided to leniently condone him and expel him" from North Korea "on the principle of humanitarianism." (VOA News)
- China is the main way out of North Korea for people fleeing the country but for many of those who make it across the border and into the South, it is also a vital link for defectors sending much-needed money back to their families. (Josephine Ma, South China Morning Post)
- In an editorial titled "Deteriorating China-U.S. relations," the newspaper dealt with the U.S. 2019 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which restricts Chinese investments in the

U.S. and prohibits government organizations from using Chinese mobile communication firms like Huawei and ZTE. (Jung Da-min, *The Korea Times*)

- North Korea's state-controlled newspaper on Sunday accused the US of "double-dealing" and "hatching a criminal plot", after Donald Trump abruptly cancelled a visit by secretary of state Mike Pompeo. (*Reuters*)
- To beat the summer heat, North Koreans have a habit of eating certain foods for rejuvenation. In the South, people don't talk about eating health foods as frequently as in the North, where it's more ingrained in the culture. (Jo Hyon, *DailyNK*)
- North Korea released a Japanese detainee who recently entered the North as a tourist, the country's state-run media reported Sunday night. Sugimoto "was kept under control by a relevant institution to be inquired into his crime against the law of the DPRK," read the KCNA report. (Lee Sung-eun and Jeong Yong-soo, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- North Korean farmers managing agricultural lands high up in the mountains of Ryanggang Province have become the latest victims of crackdowns by the authorities due to their cultivation of watermelons. According to a source on August 20, the North Korean government organized a task force of local town prosecutors in early to mid-August to investigate the small plots of farmland and destroy the vines in all the watermelon patches they found. (Kim Yoo Jin, *DailyNK*)
- The "2018 Korea Commodities" catalog, produced by the North's Committee for the Promotion of International Trade, reflects a side of North Korea often lost in the shadow of its nuclear weapons. Leader Kim Jong Un and many other North Koreans firmly believe their country needs to make more and better consumer goods and sell them to the outside world if it is ever going to have a strong — or even sustainable — economy. (Eric Talmadge, *The Washington Post*)
- A Japanese tourist detained for an unspecified crime in North Korea is reported to have been freed. Tomoyuki Sugimoto, who is thought to be a videographer in his 30s, has now arrived in China, said Japan's Kyodo news agency, citing diplomatic sources. (*BBC*)

In South Korea

- South Korea will re-evaluate the opening of a joint liaison office with North Korea, a presidential official said Monday, indicating a possible delay amid an apparent stumbling block in U.S.-North Korea talks on ending North Korea's nuclear ambitions. (*Yonhap*)
- More than seven out of 10 South Koreans saw the need for parliamentary ratification of the April summit agreement between the leaders of the two Koreas, a poll showed Monday. But Kim Sung-tae, the floor leader of the main opposition Liberty Korea Party, said that tangible progress in North Korea's denuclearization should precede parliamentary approval. (*Yonhap*)
- A deadlock in U.S.-North Korea denuclearization talks is prompting South Korea's leader to re-evaluate the pace of his engagement with the North. On Monday, a spokesman for South Korean President Moon Jae-in acknowledged that further inter-Korean engagement could be delayed, after President Donald Trump scrapped Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's planned visit to North Korea, citing a lack of progress in nuclear negotiations. (Andrew Jeong, *The Wall Street Journal*)

- The liaison office was expected to be opened as early as this month. The proposed office comes under an agreement reached by South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un when they first met in the border village of Panmunjom on April 27. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon Jae-in's role as a mediator between North Korea and the US is once again gaining attention as recent developments cast doubt over the denuclearization process. On Friday, US President Donald Trump canceled Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's trip to North Korea, only a day after Pompeo's travel plans were announced. (Choi He-suk, *The Korea Herald*)
- Regarding the possibility of holding another round of reunions of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War in October, South Korea's Ministry of Unification said it would have to observe negotiations between the two Koreas. (Jung Min-kyung, *The Korea Herald*)
- North Koreans resettled in the South are viewing diplomatic engagement with the Kim Jong Un regime more favorably then they did a few months ago -- before South Korean President Moon Jae-in met with the North Korean leader during a historic summit in Panmunjom. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- Moon needs to persuade and put pressure on Kim Jong Un rather than arbitrate conflicts in the middle to put Kim on the trajectory to denuclearization. He needs to make North Korea realize that the first step to guarantee regime continuity including end of war declaration is submitting the status of nuclear weapons, materials and facilities as well as the roadmap for denuclearization. (*The Dong-A Ilbo*)
- South Korea will re-evaluate the opening of a joint liaison office with North Korea, a presidential official said Monday, indicating a possible delay amid an apparent stumbling block in U.S.-North Korea talks on ending North Korea's nuclear ambitions. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea said on Monday the abrupt cancellation of United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's trip to North Korea is having an "effect" on a controversial inter-Korean liaison office it planned to open by this month. (*Reuters*)
- South Korea's biggest lenders are banking on inter-Korean reconciliation as they roll out financial products aimed at potential customers north of the border. The development, however — while likely to be welcomed by the pro-engagement Seoul administration of President Moon Jae-in — runs the risk of further aggravating Washington, which is attempting to maintain pressure on North Korea with strict international sanctions. (Bryan Harris, *Financial Times*)
- Cheong Wa Dae said it regrets the delay, but spokesman Kim Eui-kyeom said President Moon Jae-in will still meet North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in Pyongyang next month as planned. The upcoming inter-Korean summit will cover specific details on the North's denuclearization, which have been touched on but seen little progress. (Kim Yoo-chul, *The Korea Times*)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- As North Korea strives to reform its economy and lure foreign investments, Poland -- a former communist nation that has successfully transformed into a democracy and market

economy -- can share its experience of transition into a rising economic heavyweight in Europe, said the country's top envoy to Korea in an interview. (Joel Lee, *The Korea Herald*)

- When discussing the economic outlook, many believe AI (artificial intelligence) and inter-Korean joint economic projects will be the driving forces of the Korean Peninsula's future. However, doctors and officials who have been studying North Korea's health system say cross-border medical exchanges should come before joint economic projects. (Jung Da-min, *The Korea Times*)
- A second round of reunions of families separated by the Korean War came to a close at the Mt. Kumgang resort in North Korea on Sunday. South Korea has repeatedly called for regularizing the reunions, but the North has refused because it prefers to use them as a bargaining chip. (Lee Yong-soo, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- There was no dividing them. The folk song Arirang played and the "unification" flag was raised to celebrate the first gold medal by a combined Koreas team at a major multi-sport event. (AP)
- The Korean traditional folk song "Arirang" resonated throughout the rowing/canoe stadium at the Jakabaring Sport Complex in South Sumatra's city of Palembang, Indonesia, when the boat crew climbed the highest spot on the winner's podium - as agreed upon by the two Koreas. (Bae-Jung Kim, *The Dong-A Ilbo*)
- It was initially the government's plan to open the office within this month. Establishing the joint contact office is among the agreements reached between the leaders of the South and North at their summit in April. Views are that opening the joint contact office, which symbolizes inter-Korean cooperation, would not be appropriate under current circumstances. (Kim Bo-eun, *The Korea Times*)
- A unified Korean team has won the first gold medal at Asian Games. The team of North and South Korean women canoe racers won gold on Sunday in a 500-meter dragon boat racing at Asian Games in Indonesia. The victory follows winning bronze in a 200-meter race a day before, according to Chosun Ilbo. (Wooyoung Lee, *UPI*)

International

- A Chinese frozen food manufacturer has unveiled an ice cream that resembles North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, industry sources said Monday. The "Jin San Pang," developed and launched by the Shanghai-based company Iceason, is being sold for 30 yuan (around US$4.40) each in the company's 150 outlets across China. (*Yonhap*)
- Japan's government is trying to ensure the safety of a tourist who was reportedly detained in North Korea after filming a military facility while on a group tour of the isolated state. Authorities in Pyongyang claimed to have expelled the Japanese national after detaining him on unspecified charges. (Mari Yamaguchi, *The Independent*)
- Hollywood actress Megan Fox will star in a Korean movie with the working title "Jangsa-ri 9.15." It will tell the story of the Battle of Jangsa-ri, which initiated the Incheon Landing that turned the tide for South Korea and its allies during the Korean War as hundreds of teenage soldiers tried to cut off military supplies for North Korea. (*The Chosun Ilbo*)

- New US 7th Air Force Commander Lt. Gen. Kenneth S. Wilsbach vowed Monday to keep "unequaled" military readiness to back up ongoing peace efforts with North Korea, as he took the helm of the South Korea-based unit. (*Yonhap*)
- The cancellation suggests that North Korea is refusing to accept any of the denuclearization steps the U.S. is calling for. "Additionally, because of our much tougher trading stance with China, I do not believe they are helping with the process of denuclearization as they once were," Trump added. "Secretary Pompeo looks forward to going to North Korea in the near future, most likely after our trading relationship with China is resolved." (*The Chosun Ilbo*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump held China accountable while he canceled a scheduled visit to North Korea by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. Immediately, China responded with a strong feeling of repulsion by convoking officials of the U.S. Embassy to China to express complaints. (Wan-Jun Yun, *The Dong-A Ilbo*)
- Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga divulged little on North Korean media reports that a Japanese tourist named Tomoyuki Sugimoto will be deported, citing the sensitive nature of the case. At his regular morning news conference on Aug. 27, Suga did not respond directly to reporters' questions about whether the detainee was already deported or when he was expected back in Japan. (Yoshihiro Makino and Tamiyuki Kihara, *The Asahi Shimbun*)
- The cancellation of Pompeo's visit to North Korea shows that Trump may be beginning to grasp just how significant a problem this could be for US national security. Pyongyang has a long history of promising to denuclearize and subsequently failing to follow through. It's not because of China that North Korea is repeating this pattern and failing to give up their weapons. (YJ Fischer, CNN)
- Some U.S. experts say South Korea should have applied to the UN for exemptions from sanctions against North Korea before setting up a liaison office in the North Korean border city of Kaesong. The South sent around 80 tons of petroleum and diesel and around 115 tons of steel, copper and nickel to the North between June and July of this year to set up the office. (*The Chosun Ilbo*)

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250726225650/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-north-korea-to-release-japanese-tourist-canceled-pompeo-trip-tests-souths-strategy-to-win-over-north-korea

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Tuesday, August 28, 2018

(2nd LD) S. Korea to hike budgets for joint projects with N. Korea in 2019; North Korea's opioid epidemic

In North Korea:

39 lives reported lost due to intense heat near Pyongsong (*Daily* NK, 08/28/2018)
Bad blood between North Korea and Japan keeps Abe on the outs (CNN, 08/28/2018)
Lecturers in North Korea's inner provinces instruct attendees to halt criticism of President Moon (*Daily* NK, 08/28/2018)
N. Korean media slams U.S. for dual attitude (*Yonhap*, 08/28/2018)
N. Korea shifts Youth Day slogan from nuclear bombs to economic construction (*Yonhap*, 08/28/2018)
N. Korea to host Pyongyang Int'l Autumn Marathon Sept. 23 (*Yonhap*, 08/28/2018)
North Korea accuses US of 'hatching a criminal plot to unleash a war' (CNN, 08/27/2018)
North Koreans at work and play – in pictures (*The Guardian*, 08/28/2018)
North Korean Youth Resent Forced Cheers and Rallies (RFA, 08/27/2018)
North Korea's detente with America is unravelling over impasse on nukes (*Telegraph*, 08/28/2018)
North Korea's opioid epidemic (*Daily* NK, 08/28/2018)
North Korea warns Pompeo denuclearization talks are 'at stake,' sources say (CNN, 08/28/2018)
Pedestrian assaulted by security personnel slips into a coma (*Daily* NK, 08/28/2018)
PPJ Vists Parts of the Rice Basket (*North Korea Leadership Watch*, 08/27/2018)

In South Korea:
(2nd LD) S. Korea to hike budgets for joint projects with N. Korea in 2019 (*Yonhap*, 08/28/2018)
Need for third Moon-Kim summit growing: Cheong Wa Dae (*Yonhap*, 08/28/2018)
South Korea official: U.S.-North Korea negotiations to 'start soon' (UPI, 08/28/2018)
South raises spending on North (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/28/2018)
Spy agency says it reported N.K. coal import to presidential security office last October (*Yonhap*, 08/28/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(Asian Games) Koreas looking to form joint dragon boat racing team at worlds (*Yonhap*, 08/28/2018)

International:
Japanese expelled from North Korea arrives in China: Kyodo (*Reuters*, 08/27/2018)
Japanese man expelled from North Korea arrives home: media (*Reuters*, 08/28/2018)
Japanese man returns home after release by North Korea (*The Washington Post*, 08/28/2018)
Japan says North Korea still poses dire security threat (*Reuters*, 08/28/2018)
North Korea threat remains despite Trump summit, says Japan (*The Guardian*, 08/28/2018)
There may be a way to negotiate with North Korea. This isn't it. (*The Washington Post*, 08/27/2018)
Trump canceled Pompeo's trip over letter from Pyongyang (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/28/2018)
U.S. lawmaker asks Washington to demand Pyongyang return USS Pueblo: report (*Yonhap*, 08/28/2018)
Why Trump cancelled Pompeo's trip to North Korea (*The Washington Post*, 08/27/2018)

In North Korea:

- In the midst of the worst heat wave to ever hit the Korean Peninsula, sources in North Korea have reported that the Pyongsong region witnessed the deaths of 39 people due to the heat in late July. (Jo Hyon, *Daily NK*)
- North Korea has accused Japan of sabotaging peace efforts on the Korean peninsula "at any cost." (Jamie Tarabay, CNN)
- The North Korean authorities have instructed officials conducting lectures for North Koreans living far from the border regions to “cease any criticism of South Korea,” sources in North Korea have reported. (Mun Dong-hui, *Daily NK*)
- North Korea's external propaganda media on Tuesday opened fire on U.S. military drills around the Korean Peninsula, indirectly delivering Pyongyang's veiled complaint over the recent cancellation of U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's planned trip to the North. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's main newspaper celebrating Youth Day on Tuesday urged the nation's young adults to lead the vanguard of economic construction. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea said Tuesday that the Pyongyang International Autumn Marathon will be held Sept. 23 in the North's capital for the second year in a row. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's state newspaper accused the US of "hatching a criminal plot to unleash a war against the DPRK" while "having a dialogue with a smile on its face" Sunday following a report on South Korean radio that American forces in Japan were running drills aimed at invading Pyongyang. (Zachary Cohen, CNN)
- Even in the face of international negotiations aimed at easing tensions on the Korean peninsula, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea remains one of world’s the most isolated and secretive nations, and North Koreans have little exposure to foreign influences. (Carl Court, *The Guardian*)
- Young North Koreans forced to rehearse displays of crowd loyalty at an upcoming national holiday are losing interest in the slogans they shout, with many showing open signs of resentment at being made to participate, North Korean sources say. (Kim Ji-eun, RFA)
- North Korea has warned the United States in a letter that denuclearisation talks are "again at stake and may fall apart, leading to the resumption of "nuclear and missile activities." (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- To make up for financial shortfalls in the early 1980s, North Korea’s ruling Worker’s Party began mass producing and distributing opium through its infamous Office 39 and Finance and Accounting Department. (Jo Hyon, *Daily NK*)
- Top North Korean officials warned the United States in a letter that denuclearization talks are "again at stake and may fall apart," sources familiar with the process told CNN. (Will Ripley, Euan McKirdy, CNN)
- A North Korean resident passing a statue idolizing the Kim family was subjected to a prolonged assault by security personnel guarding the statue and is now in a coma. (Kim Yoo-jin, *Daily NK*)
- DPRK state media reported on August 25 (Saturday) that State Affairs Commission Vice Chairman and DPRK Premier Pak Pong Ju (Pak Pong-chu) conducted on-site inspections of Kulloja Cooperative Farm in Sinch’o’n County. (*North Korea Leadership Watch*)

In South Korea:

- South Korea said Tuesday it will expand the inter-Korean cooperation fund 14.3 percent on-year to 1.1 trillion won (US$990 million) in 2019, reflecting the recent peace mood highlighted by the April 27 summit deal. (*Yonhap*)
- The need for a meeting between South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has become greater, an official from the presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said Tuesday, adding the inter-Korean summit will likely be held as scheduled. (*Yonhap*)
- A South Korean presidential aide said Tuesday he expects U.S.-North Korea negotiations to resume, following U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to not send Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to Pyongyang. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- The South Korean government has earmarked 1.1 trillion won ($992.7 million) for cooperation projects with North Korea next year, a 14.3 percent increase from this year's budget amid thawing relations between the two countries. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korea's spy chief told a parliamentary panel Tuesday his agency reported the import of North Korean coal to the presidential national security office last October, lawmakers said. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- South and North Korea are looking to send a joint dragon boat racing team to the upcoming world championship, Seoul's canoeing body chief said Tuesday, after the unified Korean team successfully wrapped up its campaign at the 8th Asian Games. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- A Japanese man arrived in China on Monday after North Korea expelled him for allegedly breaking the law during a visit there, Kyodo news agency said, citing a Japanese diplomatic source. (*Reuters*)
- A Japanese tourist who was detained in North Korea arrived home on Tuesday, a day after North Korea expelled him for allegedly breaking the law during a visit there, media reports said. (*Reuters*)
- A Japanese man released by North Korea after being accused of an unspecified crime arrived back in Japan on Tuesday, officials and reports said. (Mari Yamaguchi, *The Washington Post*)
- Japan said on Tuesday North Korea still posed a dire threat to its security despite a halt to ballistic missile tests and a pledge by leader Kim Jong Un to denuclearize the Korean peninsula. (Tim Kelly, *Reuters*)
- Japan is refusing to alter its hardline stance towards North Korea, claiming the regime poses a "serious and imminent threat" to its security, despite a lowering of regional tensions following Donald Trump's summit with Kim Jong-un. (Justin McCurry, *The Guardian*)
- THE STALL in U.S.-North Korea negotiations was seeded in President Trump's hasty and slipshod diplomacy with dictator Kim Jong Un this year. (*The Washington Post*)

- U.S. President Donald Trump called off Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's trip to North Korea due to a belligerent letter from a senior North Korean senior official, according to a news report Monday. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- A U.S. congressman has sent White House security adviser John Bolton a letter asking Washington to demand that Pyongyang return the U.S. intelligence ship Pueblo to the U.S. Navy, the Voice of America reported Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- Last Thursday, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced he was departing on his fourth trip to Pyongyang. On Friday, just hours before Pompeo was supposed to leave, President Trump tweeted that the trip was off. (Josh Rogin, *The Washington Post*)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726225655/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items2nd-ld-s-korea-to-hike-budgets-for-joint-projects-with-n-korea-in-2019north-koreas-opioid-epidemic

Wednesday, August 29, 2018

Seoul Slashes Budget for N.Korean Human Rights; US hints at return to South Korea war games

In North Korea

Flooding in Kangwon Province following Typhoon Soulik (*Daily*NK, 08/29/2018)
Markets Play Growing Role in N.Korean Economy (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 08/28/2018)
NK calls for S. Korea to implement Panmunjom Declaration, lambastes US (*The Korea Herald*, 08/29/2018)
N.K. calls for implementation of inter-Korean summit deals amid stalled nuke talks (*Yonhap*, 08/29/2018)
N. Korea frustrated over what steps to take next (*The Korea Herald*, 08/28/2018)
N. Korea vows to deepen relations with Cuba (*Yonhap*, 08/29/2018)
N. Korea, Japan working on November summit: report (*The Korea Herald*, 08/29/2018)
N. Korean media talks about Moon's falling popularity (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 08/28/2018)
North Korea chides U.S. for lack of respect, outdated thinking (UPI, 08/29/2018)
North Korea seeks bitcoin mining to finance regime (*The Korea Times*, 08/29/2018)
North Korea, Japan met in secret (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/29/2018)
Report: North Korea businesses 'active' in China (UPI, 08/29/2018)
SD cards and USBs completely replace discs for contraband media consumption in North Korea (*Daily*NK, 08/29/2018)

In South Korea

Gov't to increase budgets for joint projects with N. Korea (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 08/29/2018)
Moon Jae-in's credibility is a casualty of fraying US-North Korea ties (*South China Morning Post*, 08/29/2018)
Resumption of joint military drills with U.S. subject to discussion: Seoul (*Yonhap*, 08/29/2018)
Seoul Slashes Budget for N.Korean Human Rights (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 08/29/2018)
South, US didn't discuss resumption of joint drills: Cheong Wa Dae (*The Korea Times*, 08/29/2018)
South Korea, US: allies no longer? (*The Korea Times*, 08/29/2018)
Spy Chief Stirs up Controversy Over N.Korea's Denuclearization (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 08/29/2018)
Violations of the right to life rising again in N. Korea: private group (*Yonhap*, 08/29/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship

[Kim Myong-sik] Better way to relieve old refugees' pain (*The Korea Herald*, 08/29/2018)
'Moon should show leadership during inter-Korean summit' (*The Korea Times*, 08/29/2018)
Koreas in talks over when to open joint liaison office (*Yonhap*, 08/29/2018)
Senior unification official stresses role of DMZ for inter-Korean cooperation (*The Korea Times*, 08/29/2018)
South Korean Leader Pushes Ahead on Plan to Meet Kim Jong-un (*The New York Times*, 08/29/2018)
Summit gained in significance (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/29/2018)

International

(LEAD) Pompeo sends letter to S. Korean foreign minister (*Yonhap*, 08/29/2018)
'Xi's visit to N. Korea could create conflict with U.S.,' sources say (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 08/29/2018)
Defense paper: N. Korea still a threat despite historic summit (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 08/28/2018)
Japan and North Korea held secret meeting as Shinzo Abe 'loses trust' in Donald Trump (*The Daily Telegraph*, 08/29/2018)
Japan holds secret talks with NK: report (*The Korea Times*, 08/29/2018)
Japan Says N.Korea Still Poses Dire Threat to Its Security (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 08/29/2018)
Japan, N. Korea held 'secret' meet in July; Trump told Abe 'I remember Pearl Harbor': report (*The Mainichi*, 08/29/2018)
Japanese man returns home after release by North Korea (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 08/29/2018)
Pentagon opens door to resuming the military exercises with South Korea that Trump halted (*Los Angeles Times*, 08/28/2018)
Pompeo Trip Canceled Over 'Belligerent' Letter from N.Korea (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 08/29/2018)
Pompeo's Nixed N. Korea Trip Exposes Denuclearization Rift (VOA News, 08/29/2018)
Secret letter scuppered Pompeo's Pyongyang trip: report (*The Korea Times*, 08/29/2018)
Suspension of joint drills off, says Mattis (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/29/2018)
Trump's bet on Kim Jong Un is looking increasingly shaky (CNN, 08/29/2018)
United States says 'war games' on Korean peninsula may resume as talks break down (*The Daily Telegraph*, 08/28/2018)
U.S. Considers Future of Military Exercises as North Korea Talks Stall (*The Wall Street Journal*, 08/29/2018)

U.S. military hints could resume major exercises on Korean peninsula (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 08/29/2018)
U.S. ratchets up pressure on Pyongyang with military drill card (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/29/2018)
US ends suspension of military drills amid N. Korea tensions (*The Korea Herald*, 08/29/2018)
US hints at return to South Korea war games (*The Times*, 08/29/2018)
US may resume war games as North Korea negotiations stall (*The Guardian*, 08/29/2018)
US Pivots Again, Renews Pressure on North Korea (VOA *News*, 08/28/2018)
US ramps up pressure on N. Korea (*The Korea Herald*, 08/29/2018)
US Ready for Talks When It's Clear North Korea Will Denuclearize (VOA *News*, 08/28/2018)
US State Dept. on Cancelled Trip to N. Korea: 'Not the Right Time to Travel' (VOA *News*, 08/28/2018)
US-North Korea talks and Beijing (*The Korea Times*, 08/29/2018)

In North Korea

- Despite diminishing in strength prior to making landfall in North Korea, Typhoon Soulik's heavy rain and winds caused significant flooding in North Korea's eastern region, report local sources. (Kim Yoo Jin, *DailyNK*)
- A new class of moneyed people who get rich from officially sanctioned open-air markets is playing an ever growing role in the North Korean economy, according to a report by a U.S. think tank. (Cho Yi-jun, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- North Korea's state media on Wednesday called for South Korea to faithfully implement the Panmunjom Declaration, while lambasting the US' decision to maintain its pressure campaign against the communist nation, amid perceived stalled nuclear talks between Washington and Pyongyang. (Jung Min-kyung, *The Korea Herald*)
- North Korea's media reiterated calls for South Korea to faithfully implement summit agreements between their leaders Wednesday amid concerns nuclear talks between Washington and Pyongyang have been stalemated. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's silence on US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's canceled trip to Pyongyang is a sign of its deepening frustration over what steps to take next, with denuclearization talks likely to drag on, experts say. (Ock Hyun-ju, *The Korea Herald*)
- North Korea said Wednesday that it will strengthen relations with Cuba as the two marked the anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic ties almost six decades ago. North Korea and Cuba have "consolidated their friendly ties in their fight for building socialism for the past 58 years," said the Rodong Sinmun, the official newspaper of the Workers' Party of Korea, calling the ties those of "invincible" and "eternal comrades." (*Yonhap*)
- Japan and North Korea are working on arranging a summit later in the year, a local news outlet reported Wednesday, on the heels of reports of a secret meeting in Vietnam between representatives of the two countries. (Choi He-suk, *The Korea Herald*)
- North Korea said Monday through its external propaganda media "Meari" that the recent fall in the approval rating of South Korea's leadership has been caused by its "failure to faithfully carry out the Panmunjom Declaration." The commentary came on the heels of Washington's abrupt cancellation of its Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's scheduled visit to Pyongyang. (Na-Ri Shin, *The Dong-A Ilbo*)

- North Korea state media said Wednesday the United States' lack of "trust and respect" is creating hostility between the two countries. The statement from the Minju Choson, a North Korean government newspaper, comes a day after U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis said the Pentagon has no plans to suspend future military exercises with South Korea. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- North Korea is highly likely deploying malicious software that enables its army of cyber hackers to "illicitly" mine and gain bitcoins without a trace, analysts claimed. Given Pyongyang does not have the computer firepower, it is most likely targeting bitcoins as a means to finance the Kim Jong-un regime amid U.N. sanctions, they added. (Park Hyong-ki, *The Korea Times*)
- North Korea and Japan met secretly in Vietnam last month without informing the United States, The Washington Post reported on Tuesday. South Korea also appeared to have no advance knowledge of the meeting. A spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Seoul told reporters on Wednesday that the ministry was closely monitoring the situation. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- North Korean businessmen are active at Chinese border cities and seeking Chinese investments, according to a Japanese press report. The Yomiuri Shimbun reported Wednesday North Korean activities have increased since the U.S.-North Korea summit on June 12 in Singapore. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- USBs and SD cards have replaced the use of CDs in becoming the primary data storage devices favored by North Koreans wanting to share media content. USBs began permeating North Korea in the mid-2000s, but were expensive and had limited memory storage. The circumstances changed with the arrival of cheap, high-capacity USBs coming in from China. (Kang Mi Jin, *DailyNK*)

In South Korea

- The government will increase the inter-Korean cooperation fund by 14.4 percent, 62.4 billion won this year to some 1.1 trillion won next year. It has been three years since the cooperation fund exceeded 1 trillion won. On the other hand, the budget for North Korea human rights foundation was drastically cut by 92.6 percent to 800 million won from this year's 10.8 billion won. (In-Chan Hwang, *The Dong-A Ilbo*)
- Such a display of support for Kim would likely stir up criticism at home – where Moon's approval ratings are dropping – that the president is too supportive of Pyongyang. Moon's approval rating now stands at 56 per cent, down from a peak of 83 per cent in June after his April summit meeting with Kim, according to data published last week by the polling firm Gallup Korea. (Lee Jeong-ho and Robert Delaney, *South China Morning Post*)
- Resumption or suspension of joint military drills between South Korea and the United States is subject to discussions between the allies, an official from Seoul's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said Wednesday. The remarks came hours after U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis said his country had no plans to suspend any more military drills with South Korea. (*Yonhap*)

- The government drastically slashed the budget for promoting human rights and denuclearization of North Korea but hiked funding for cross-border economic cooperation next year. the ministry slashed funding for running a foundation for North Korean human rights by 92.6 percent from W10.8 billion to W800 million. (Lee Yong-soo, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- South Korea has not discussed resuming joint military exercises with the United States, and such a decision is subject to bilateral agreement, a Cheong Wa Dae spokesman said Wednesday. The spokesman said the Seoul-Washington alliance remains strong, and the two are cooperating closely over North Korea. (Park Ji-won, *The Korea Times*)
- On the basis of a series of unilateral moves by Washington, it appears to be in so sorry a state that it is an open question whether it can effectively work toward denuclearizing North Korea. Cheong Wa Dae, if it were upset by the lack of courtesy from its partner, didn't show it and tried to contain the damage. (Oh Young-jin, *The Korea Times*)
- The primary goal in denuclearization talks is to persuade North Korea to scrap about 60 percent of its nuclear warheads, South Korea's spy chief said Tuesday. Opposition lawmakers complained that setting the first goal at 60 rather than 100 percent could send the wrong signal to Pyongyang, which wants a formal declaration ending the Korean War first. (Choi Yeon-jin, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- According to the Seoul-based Database Center for North Korean Human Rights (NKDB), the portion of infringement of the right to life, such as executions and violence or deaths in prison, rose to 13.3 percent of the North's total human rights violations in the years after 2010 from 6.2 percent in the 2000s. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- If a few hundred more elderly refugees are given the opportunity of seeing their relatives in another reunion event this year, it would just be a small change in the statistics, again causing great disappointment to so many others. (Kim Myong-sik, *The Korea Herald*)
- Rep. Park Jie-won of the minor liberal Party for Democracy and Peace (PDP) has called on President Moon Jae-in to display strong leadership during the upcoming inter-Korean summit amid concerns over the ongoing diplomatic cracks between Washington and Pyongyang. (Lee Min-hyung, *The Korea Times*)
- South and North Korea are still in discussion over when to open their promised joint liaison office, the unification ministry said Wednesday, amid speculation its launch could be delayed amid stalemated denuclearization talks. (*Yonhap*)
- Vice Unification Minister Chun Hae-sung said Tuesday that the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) could be an important asset in developing inter-Korean peace and economic cooperation. Chun said in a forum in Seoul that the government was cooperating with the North to build a basis for "economic unification" by turning the heavily fortified zone into industrial parks. (Park Ji-won, *The Korea Times*)
- President Moon Jae-in of South Korea sees a more urgent need to travel to North Korea next month and meet with its leader, Kim Jong-un, now that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's planned trip there this week has been canceled, Mr. Moon's office said on Wednesday. (Choe Sang-hun, *The New York Times*)

- The two Koreas were expected to confirm a summit date following Pompeo's fourth visit to Pyongyang this week. After the top U.S. diplomat's trip was canceled, it's not known when a date may be set. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

International

- The top U.S. diplomat has said he did not visit North Korea as there could be no outcome even if he traveled to Pyongyang, South Korean lawmakers said Wednesday. CNN has reported that Kim Yong-chol, North Korea's top negotiator, recently sent a letter to Pompeo and warned that denuclearization talks are "again at stake and may fall apart." (*Yonhap*)
- While eyes are on whether Chinese President Xi Jinping will visit North Korea to attend the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of North Korea's founding on September 9, voices warning of the risk of visiting North Korea have reportedly been raised within China. (Wan-Jun Yun, *The Dong-A Ilbo*)
- North Korea remains a security threat to Japan with its vast missile arsenal despite its promise to denuclearize, according to the Defense Ministry's fiscal 2018 white paper. Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera reported on the white paper at a Cabinet meeting on Aug. 28. (Shinichi Fujiwara, *The Asahi Shimbun*)
- Japan held a "secret" meeting with North Korea in Vietnam in July without informing the United States, according to media reports. Talks were reportedly held between Shigeru Kitamura, head of Japan's Cabinet Intelligence and Research Office, and Kim Song-hye, a senior North Korean official in charge of reunification. (Danielle Demetriou, *The Daily Telegraph*)
- Japan held a secret talk with North Korea without notifications to the United States to discuss the repatriation of Japanese people abducted by the regime, according to reports, Wednesday. The meeting was between Shigeru Kitamura, head of Japan's Cabinet Intelligence and Research Office, and North Korea's Kim Song-hye who is in charge of unification issues, the Washington Post reported. (Lee Min-hyung, *The Korea Times*)
- Japan said on Tuesday North Korea still posed a dire threat to its security despite a halt to ballistic missile tests and a pledge by leader Kim Jong-un to denuclearize the Korean peninsula. "North Korea's military activities pose the most serious and pressing threat our nation has faced," said an annual white paper published on Tuesday by Japan's Ministry of Defense. (*VOA News*)
- Japan and North Korea had a "secret" meeting in Vietnam in July without informing the United States, the Washington Post reported Tuesday. Senior U.S. officials expressed irritation that Japan was not forthright about the meeting, despite Washington's near-constant updates to Tokyo on its dealings with North Korea, it said. (*Kyodo*)
- Tomoyuki Sugimoto, who was arrested in early August, had been in North Korean custody during an investigation into the alleged crime. The North's official Korean Central News Agency said Sunday that the country decided to be lenient and expel him for humanitarian reasons. (Mari Yamaguchi, *AP*)
- The U.S. military may resume the large-scale joint exercises with South Korean forces that President Trump halted two months ago, Defense Secretary James N. Mattis said Tuesday,

the latest sign that prospects are dimming for an agreement with North Korea on eliminating its nuclear weapons. (David S. Cloud, *Los Angeles Times*)

- A "belligerent" letter from North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's right-hand man Kim Yong-chol prompted U.S. President Donald Trump to cancel Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's visit to Pyongyang, the Washington Post reported on Monday. (Cho Yi-jun, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- The abrupt cancellation of Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's trip to Pyongyang reflects growing concern in the Trump administration about North Korea's unwillingness to denuclearize, experts said. (Christy Lee, *VOA News*)
- A belligerent letter from Pyongyang was behind U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to scrap talks between his secretary of state and North Korea, according to the Washington Post. Mike Pompeo was due to make his fourth visit to North Korea this year for nuclear negotiations, but a day after being announced the trip was abruptly cancelled. (*Reuters*)
- Washington has no plans to suspend any more joint military exercises with Seoul, U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis said Tuesday, after negotiations with Pyongyang to dismantle its nuclear and ballistic missile programs hit an impasse. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- President Donald Trump took a huge risk by holding a summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and hailing it as a stunning history-changing success. Now, with diplomacy with Pyongyang at an impasse and tensions rising, the payout for that gamble may be coming due. (Stephen Collinson, CNN)
- In the wake of Donald Trump's summit with Kim Jong-un on June 12 the US had suspended some of this year's major military exercises, planned in conjunction with South Korea, as an act of "good faith". But Jim Mattis, the US defence secretary, said on Tuesday night: "We took the step to suspend several of the largest military exercises as a good faith measure. At this time there is no discussion of further suspensions." (Nick Allen, *The Daily Telegraph*)
- Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said the U.S. doesn't plan to suspend any more military exercises with South Korea, as negotiations continue with the North, but added that no decision had yet been made on conducting another large maneuver next year. (Gordon Lubold and Nancy A. Youssef, *The Wall Street Journal*)
- The U.S. military has no plans yet to suspend any more major military exercises with South Korea, the defense secretary said on Tuesday, in the middle of a breakdown in diplomacy with North Korea over its nuclear weapons. (*Reuters*)
- Washington has no plans to suspend any more joint military exercises with Seoul, U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis said Tuesday, after negotiations with Pyongyang to dismantle its nuclear and ballistic missile programs hit an impasse. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The United States will end its suspension of military drills on the Korean peninsula, a move that had been decided as a "good faith" measure following President Donald Trump's summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, the Pentagon said Tuesday. (AFP)
- The United States does not intend to halt any more military exercises in South Korea, Jim Mattis, the defence secretary, said, in the latest sign that diplomatic efforts to negotiate the denuclearisation of North Korea are grinding to a halt. (Richard Lloyd Parry, *The Times*)

- President Donald Trump announced the suspension of drills, which have long drawn the ire of Pyongyang, in the wake of his summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in Singapore in June. But since that historic meeting, there has been little progress toward the US goal of North Korean denuclearisation. (Benjamin Haas, *The Guardian*)
- The United States on Tuesday said it is considering resuming joint military exercises with South Korea next year, just days after U.S. President Donald Trump canceled nuclear talks with North Korea. (Brian Padden, *VOA News*)
- The US appears to be turning up the heat on North Korea amid stalled denuclearization talks, with US Defense Secretary James Mattis hinting at a resumption of US-South Korea military drills and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's visit to Pyongyang being delayed. (Ock Hyun-ju, *The Korea Herald*)
- The United States is ready for talks with North Korea when it's clear it will follow through on its commitment to denuclearize, the State Department said Tuesday after a planned visit to Pyongyang by top diplomat Mike Pompeo was shelved. (AP)
- CNN and the Washington Post are reporting that North Korea sent a letter to the United States last week warning that talks on denuclearization are "at stake and may fall apart." According to those reports, harsh rhetoric in the letter prompted President Donald Trump to abruptly cancel a planned trip to Pyongyang by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, just hours before he was set to depart last Friday. (Cindy Saine, *VOA News*)
- Although the June 12 Singapore summit is unlikely to lead to North Korea's denuclearization, U.S. President Donald Trump's outreach to Pyongyang may set in motion a seismic shift in Northeast Asia's geopolitical order that could work to Washington's advantage. (Ted Gover, *The Korea Times*)

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250726225701/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-seoul-slashes-budget-for-nkorean-human-rights-us-hints-at-return-to-south-korea-war-games

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Thursday, August 30, 2018

Trump accuses China of stalling progress with North Korea; US Extends Travel Ban to North Korea

In North Korea

Korea detente revives North Korean leader's bullet train dreams (*Reuters*, 8/29/2018)
North Korea Farms Scallops For Export Despite UN Bans (*Radio Free Asia*, 8/29/2018)
North Korea warns denuclearization talks may fall apart (VOA, 8/30/2018)
North Korea weighs benefits of third inter-Korean summit (*DailyNK*, 8/30/2018)

North Korea's Ri Sol Ju no longer 'lady,' but 'comrade' (*UPI*, 8/30/2018)
North Korean players seen in sanctioned Nike shoes (*Korea Times*, 8/30/2018)

In South Korea
LKP blasts awarding of scandal-hit power firm (*Korea Times*, 8/30/2018)
POSCO creates task force to handle N. Korean business (*Yonhap*, 8/30/2018)
ROK lawmakers seek to change abduction laws to avoid "conflict" with North (*NKNews*, 8/29/2018)
Seoul: No sanctions exemption for inter-Korea liaison office (*UPI*, 8/30/2018)
South Korea names new defense chief amid stalled North Korea diplomacy (*Reuters*, 8/30/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship
(2nd LD) (Asian Games) Unified Korean team reaches women's hoops final with big win over Chinese Taipei (*Yonhap*, 8/30/2018)
Denuclearization a key agenda item of inter-Korean summit: official (*Yonhap*, 8/30/2018)
Hello, stranger: South Koreans recount awkward reunions with families in North (*Reuters*, 8/30/2018)
(LEAD) UNC blocks Koreas' joint railway survey, citing procedural problem (*Yonhap*, 8/30/2018)
S. Korea vows increased economic cooperation with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 8/30/2018)
S. Korean churches launch inter-Korean cooperation body (*Yonhap*, 8/30/2018)
South Korean Leader Pushes Ahead on Plan to Meet Kim Jong-un (*New York Times*, 8/29/2018)
Unified Korea assured of medal in women's basketball (*Reuters*, 8/30/2018)
US-controlled UNC puts brakes on inter-Korean railway inspections (*Korea Times*, 8/30/2018)

International
(2nd LD) Pompeo tells S. Korea about canceled trip to N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 8/29/2018)
(4th LD) Trump supports halt to 'war games,' blames China: statement (*Yonhap*, 8/30/2018)
"All Take, No Give" Won't Work with North Korea (*38 North*, 8/29/2018)
China, N. Korea increase economic exchanges in border areas: sources (*Yonhap*, 8/30/2018)
China says U.S. remarks on North Korea issue are "irresponsible" (*Reuters*, 8/30/2018)
Donald Trump blames China for stalled talks with North Korea (*The Telegraph*, 8/30/2018)
Early plan prioritized peace over nukes (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 8/30/2018)
How America Should Handle Iran and North Korea (*National Interest*, 8/29/2018)
Japan to set up coastal surveillance to check North Korea boats (*UPI*, 8/30/2018)
Mattis: No Decision on Fate of Korean Peninsula Exercises (VOA, 8/29/2018)
Moon adviser says end-of-war declaration won't lead to pullout of U.S. troops (*Yonhap*, 8/30/2018)
N. Korea has not responded to U.N. request for info on enforced disappearances: report (*Yonhap*, 8/30/2018)
On joint drills, Trump contradicts Mattis (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 8/30/2018)
Pause in Military Drills, Ordered by Trump, Leaves South Koreans Uneasy (*New York Times*, 8/30/2018)
Rising tension (*Korea Times*, 8/30/2018)
Searching for peace (*Korea Times*, 8/30/2018)
Trump accuses China of stalling progress with North Korea (BBC, 8/30/2018)
Trump Accuses China of Undermining Diplomacy With North Korea (*New York Times*, 8/29/2018)

Trump casts blame on China for North Korea challenges (CNN, 8/30/2018)
Trump hails Kim, sees no need to resume U.S.-South Korea war games (*Reuters*, 8/29/2018)
Trump is blaming China for North Korea impasse, but real fault may lie closer to home (*Washington Post*, 8/30/2018)
Trump remains optimistic on North Korea talks (CNN, 8/30/2018)
Trump revisits wargames with SKorea as NKorea talks stall (*Associated Press*, 8/30/2018)
Trump Says China To Blame For Hurting U.S.-North Korean Relations (NPR, 8/30/2018)
Trump says he thinks U.S. is doing well with North Korea (*Reuters*, 8/29/2018)
Trump says U.S. shouldn't be spending money on 'war games' with South Korea (*Washington Post*, 8/29/2018)
Trump's North Korea push just got dangerous again after secretive deals with Kim Jong Un (*Business Insider*, 8/30/2018)
U.S. blocked Nike from sponsoring joint team (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 8/30/2018)
US Extends Travel Ban to North Korea (VOA, 8/30/2018)
U.S. to extend ban on citizens' travel to North Korea (*Reuters*, 8/30/2018)

In North Korea

- North Korea's ruling family has long dreamed of a state-of-the-art rail system linking its major cities with each other and the wider world. Now, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is looking to capitalize on an easing in international tensions with his isolated regime to advance plans for a high-speed rail network to rival those in Europe and neighboring South Korea. (Ju-min Park, Jane Chung, *Reuters*)
- Defying U.N. sanctions prohibiting seafood exports, North Korea has set up off-shore farms for growing scallops, which it then plans to smuggle to neighboring countries, North Korean sources say. (Hyemin Son, Leejin Jun, Richard Finney, *Radio Free Asia*)
- US media reports say that North Korea sent a letter to the United States last week warning that talks on denuclearization are at stake and may fall apart." (VOA)
- The importance of the upcoming inter-Korean summit has grown as the prospects for denuclearization and warming US-North Korea relations have hit a wall following the announcement that US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo cancelled his planned visit to North Korea. (Ahn Jong Sik, *DailyNK*)
- North Korea's first lady Ri Sol Ju is becoming more visible in public following Pyongyang's turn to diplomatic engagement in 2018. A Yonhap analysis of North Korea media content from Jan. 1 through Thursday indicates Pyongyang's state-controlled news agency KCNA reported 20 appearances by Ri, a significant increase from the previous year. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Although North Korean basketballers are banned from wearing Nike-sponsored uniforms, they have been spotted wearing Nike basketball shoes. According to United Nations Security Council sanctions Resolution 2270, providing recreational sports equipment is in breach as it is one of the items defined as "luxury goods." (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)

In South Korea

- The main opposition Liberty Korea Party (LKP) blasted the giving of a presidential award to the Korea South-East Power (KOEN), a state-run company that has been found to have imported North Korean coal, something banned by U.N. Security Council sanctions. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- South Korea's top steelmaker, POSCO, recently created a new task force to prepare for potential business opportunities in North Korea, the company's chief said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- Lawmakers from South Korea's ruling Democratic Party are seeking amendments to language within two existing ROK laws relating to abductions by the DPRK in order to avoid "conflict" with North Korea, two bills filed by 12 assembly members show. (Dagyum Ji, Hamish McDonald, *NKNews*)
- South Korea's foreign ministry said Thursday it does not plan to apply for exemption from international sanctions for an inter-Korea liaison office in Kaesong, North Korea. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Thursday nominated the head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff as defense minister. Jeong Kyeong-doo, 58, a former fighter pilot, would take over the ministry as the government seeks to reduce tension and build trust with North Korea. (Joyce Lee, *Reuters*)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- The unified Korean women's basketball team reached the final of the 18th Asian Games with an 89-66 win over Chinese Taipei on Thursday. Korea will next face China for the gold medal on Saturday. But whether it's gold or silver, the medal will be in the history books as it will be the first medal won by a unified Korean team in ball sports at an international multisport competition. (Joo Kyung-don, *Yonhap*)
- Efforts to denuclearize North Korea have been and will continue to be at the center of inter-Korean dialogue, including summit talks, an official from the presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- There were no tearful hugs when 81-year-old South Korean Jung Hak-soon met her North Korean nephew and sister-in-law for the first time. The disconnect shows how far apart the neighbors have grown in the decades since they ended hostilities in a truce rather than a peace treaty, leaving them technically in a state of war. (Hyun Young Yi, *Reuters*)
- South and North Korea have failed to carry out a planned joint field survey of a cross-border railway because of the United Nations Command's disapproval, sources said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea's central and local governments vowed joint efforts Thursday to expand their economic cooperation with North Korea. The joint pledge came in a meeting between President Moon Jae-in and the heads of 17 provincial and metropolitan city governments. (*Yonhap*)
- An association of Protestant churches in South Korea launched a joint inter-Korean church cooperation group in a ceremony in Seoul on Thursday. The new organization will serve as the single window for cross-border exchanges and cooperation between Protestant churches in South and North Korea. (*Yonhap*)

- President Moon Jae-in of South Korea sees a more urgent need to travel to North Korea next month and meet with its leader, Kim Jong-un, now that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's planned trip there this week has been canceled, Mr. Moon's office said on Wednesday. (Choe Sang-hun, *New York Times*)
- The unified Korean women's basketball team defeated Taiwan 89-66 on Thursday to reach the final at the Asian Games as players from both sides of the divided peninsula got onto the scoresheet to the cheers of joint supporters. (Ed Davies, Pritha Sarkar, *Reuters*)
- The United Nations Command (UNC) for the first time disapproved plans for an inter-Korean railway inspection, amid a deadlock in denuclearization talks between North Korea and the U.S. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)

International

- The top U.S. diplomat has said he did not visit North Korea as nothing would come of it even if he traveled to Pyongyang, South Korean lawmakers said Wednesday. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo made the comments to South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha. (*Yonhap*)
- The White House said Wednesday the U.S. decision to suspend major combined military exercises with South Korea holds true despite a stalemate in efforts to denuclearize North Korea. (*Yonhap*)
- It's called diplomatic give-and-take for a reason. The United States cannot get some of what it wants without giving North Korea some of what it wants. Yet that is precisely what Washington has been trying to do—and predictably getting nowhere. (Leon V. Sigal, *38 North*)
- China appears to be accelerating its economic cooperation with North Korea despite U.S. moves to strengthen sanctions on the North, as the Chinese authorities recently hosted an international trade and investment fair near the North Korean border. (*Yonhap*)
- China said on Thursday that U.S. remarks on the North Korea issue are "irresponsible" and hard to understand, after U.S. President Donald Trump questioned Beijing's role in resolving the crisis over Pyongyang's development of nuclear weapons. (Philip Wen, Michael Martina, *Reuters*)
- Donald Trump, the US president, has accused China of undermining US talks with North Korea, which have hit an impasse in recent weeks over slow progress on denuclearization. (Nicola Smith, *The Telegraph*)
- Well before the detente between North Korea and the United States, South Korea proposed a four-step process last November that prioritized improving relations among the three countries over the North's denuclearization. (Jung Hyo-sik, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- In a statement on North Korea, Pompeo did not call for the North Korean people to overthrow the regime of Kim Jong-un and wholly omitted any mention of human rights in North Korea, even though the country is a worse human rights abuser than Iran. (Sungku Jung, *National Interest*)
- The Japanese government has decided to establish a network of cameras to monitor North Korean vessels trespassing into territorial waters, according to a Japanese press report. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)

- U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis on Wednesday clarified his previous statements on the fate of additional large-scale exercises on the Korean Peninsula, leaving open the possibility of future cancellations. (Carla Babb, VOA)
- President Moon Jae-in's security adviser said Wednesday that a declaration to end the 1950-53 Korean War would have nothing to do with the South Korea-U.S. alliance or the presence of American troops here. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea has kept mum about a U.N. group's request to provide information on 66 cases of enforced disappearances for one year beginning in May last year, a U.S. government-funded radio station reported Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday said that he stands by his decision to suspend joint military exercises with South Korea, blaming China once again for undermining denuclearization negotiations with North Korea. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- For six decades, joint exercises held by the militaries of South Korea and the United States have been the most visible and celebrated display of the alliance. Such scenes, broadcast on prime-time television, have been a frequent reminder for South Koreans of how much the country depends on the alliance for its security. (Choe Sang-hun, *New York Times*)
- Some negative developments are casting a dark cloud over expectations for a breakthrough in U.S.-North Korea denuclearization talks next month. Washington has hinted it may resume joint military exercises with Seoul after canceling Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's planned visit to Pyongyang. (*Korea Times*)
- The U.S.-Korea alliance is at a crossroads, and the North Koreans think they know what to do to send Washington and Seoul in different directions. How about demanding, repeatedly, a "peace declaration" that President Moon Jae-in also thinks would be great? Everybody wants peace. (Donald Kirk, *Korea Times*)
- US President Donald Trump has lashed out at China for undermining its work with North Korea, as criticism over progress on denuclearisation mounts. In a series of tweets he also said he saw no reason to resume the joint war games with South Korea that have angered North Korea. (BBC)
- President Trump on Wednesday tried to make China the scapegoat for his stalled diplomacy with North Korea, accusing it of undermining the American-led pressure campaign against Pyongyang because of an escalating trade dispute with the United States. (Mark Landler, *New York Times*)
- President Donald Trump issued a White House statement about North Korea on Wednesday evening via Twitter, casting blame on China for difficulties in the US-North Korea relationship and asserting there is "no reason at this time" to spend money on joint military exercises with South Korea. (Betsy Klein, CNN)
- Days after canceling a planned visit to North Korea by his top diplomat citing insufficient progress in denuclearization talks, U.S. President Donald Trump hailed his personal relationship North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Wednesday and said there was no reason to resume war games with South Korea. (David Brunnstrom, Steve Holland, *Reuters*)
- It's all China's fault, at least according to President Trump, who again blamed Beijing late Wednesday for an impasse in negotiations with Pyongyang over its nuclear and missile programs. (Simon Denyer, *Washington Post*)

- Despite criticism that President Donald Trump may have oversold the success of his summit with North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un, the President says he believes negotiations with North Korea are going well, and that his relationship with Kim remains strong. (Brian Todd, CNN)
- President Donald Trump said that there's no reason to spend a lot of money on military wargames with South Korea, but he warned he could "instantly" relaunch the exercises again and they would be "far bigger than ever before." (Lolita C. Baldor, *Associated Press*)
- President Trump appears to be blaming China for derailing a U.S.-North Korea rapprochement, implying that it's placing "tremendous pressure" on Pyongyang as a result of ongoing trade disputes between Washington and Beijing. (Scott Neuman, NPR)
- U.S. President Donald Trump, just days after calling off a planned trip to North Korea by his top diplomat, said on Wednesday he thought the United States was "doing well" in its diplomatic efforts with Pyongyang. (Tim Ahmann, *Reuters*)
- President Trump said the United States shouldn't be spending large amounts of money on joint military exercises with South Korea, more than two months after he agreed to suspend some of the war games during nuclear talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. (Paul Sonne, *Washington Post*)
- President Donald Trump forged a summer of diplomatic progress with North Korea after walking back from the brink of nuclear war in 2017 — but a recent return to threats shows just how dangerous the situation still is. (Alex Lockie, *Business Insider*)
- Nike's effort to sponsor the joint Korean women's basketball team at the Asian Games was blocked by the U.S. government because of concerns that it would violate international sanctions against North Korea, Radio Free Asia reported on Thursday. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The U.S. on Thursday extended the ban on Americans' travel to North Korea for another year, saying it was too dangerous to go there. "The safety and security of U.S. citizens overseas is one of our highest priorities," a State Department official said. (Nike Ching, VOA)
- The U.S. State Department said on Thursday it had decided to extend by a year its ban on U.S. citizens' travel to North Korea, citing continued concerns about the threat of arrest and long-term detention of U.S. nationals there. (Makini Brice, *Reuters*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726230028/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-trump-accuses-china-of-stalling-progress-with-north-korea-us-extends-travel-ban-to-north-korea

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Friday, August 31, 2018

Satellite Imagery Shows Captives Inside Camp No. 25 in North Korea; N. Korea continues to produce, stockpile cluster bombs: report

Top News:
Satellite Imagery Shows Captives Inside Camp No. 25 in North Korea (HRNK *Insider*, 08/30/2018)

In North Korea:
Information Center on North Korea brings scholars from abroad (*Korea Times*, 08/31/2018)
North cranks up its public ideological broadsides (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/31/2018)
N.K. media cover China-U.S. disputes after Trump blames Beijing for hampering nuke talks (*Yonhap*, 08/31/2018)
N. Korea accuses U.S. of hostile steps, calls for faithful implementation of summit deals (*Yonhap*, 08/31/2018)
N. Korea continues to produce, stockpile cluster bombs: report (*Yonhap*, 08/31/2018)
North Korea generating revenue through premium art sales (*Daily NK*, 08/31/2018)
North Korea highlights incentive system in agriculture (*Korea Times*, 08/31/2018)
North Korean military food supplies include more meat and vegetables (*Daily NK*, 08/31/2018)
North Korea tightens control over mobile phone usage (*Daily NK*, 08/31/2018)
North still making theater missiles (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/31/2018)

In South Korea:
(2nd LD) Moon to send special envoy to N. Korea next week for summit preparation (*Yonhap*, 08/31/2018)
Documentary on North Korea's TB to be aired Monday (*Korea Times*, 08/31/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korea wants to continue talks with U.S.: Amb. Cho (*Yonhap*, 08/31/2018)
Moon to send envoys to Pyongyang on Sept. 5 (*Korea Times*, 08/31/2018)
N. Korean films to be shown at S. Korean mountain film festival (*Yonhap*, 08/31/2018)
South and North Koreas Prepare for Summit (VOA, 08/31/2018)
South Korea Proposes Reclassifying North Korean Abductees as Missing (VOA, 08/31/2018)
South Korea says sending special envoys to North Korea to prepare for summit (*Reuters*, 08/31/2018)
Special envoy heading to Pyongyang to plan summit (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 08/31/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
2 Koreas' joint survey on railways not subject to sanctions: official (*Yonhap*, 08/31/2018)
N. Korean shooters visit S. Korea for int'l shooting competition (*Yonhap*, 08/31/2018)
Report: U.N. Command disapproves inter-Korean railway inspection (UPI, 08/31/2018)
Train project linking North and South Korea stopped in its tracks by US (*The Guardian*, 08/31/2018)

International:
Chinese navy conducts multiple drills near Korean Peninsula (UPI, 08/30/2018)
Donald Trump blames China for stalled talks with North Korea (*Telegraph*, 08/30/2018)

Japan defence ministry seeks record budget over North Korea threat (*The Guardian*, 08/31/2018)
Japan military budget grows for seventh year in face of North Korean threat (CNN, 08/31/2018)
Japan's military seeks record spending to reinforce North Korea missile defenses (*Reuters*, 08/31/2018)
N.K. refrigerated cargo ships frequently visit Russian port: report (*Yonhap*, 08/31/2018)
North Korea seafood vessels frequented Russia port (UPI, 08/31/2018)
Russia Holds Up Release of Report on N. Korea Sanctions (VOA, 08/30/2018)
US extends ban on Americans traveling to North Korea (CNN, 08/30/2018)
U.S. extends ban on travel to North Korea for another year (UPI, 08/30/2018)
U.S. extends travel ban on N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 08/31/2018)

Top News:

- The Committee for Human Rights in North Korea (HRNK), a non-governmental organization based in Washington, D.C., in close cooperation with Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., CEO of KPA Associates, LLC, wishes to highlight the release of commercial satellite imagery showing North Korean victims likely engaged in forced labor inside North Korea's Political Prison Camp No. 25 (*Kwan-li-so* No. 25). (Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., Robert Collins, and Amanda Mortwedt Oh, *HRNK Insider*)

In North Korea:

- Russian scholar Fyodor Tertitskiy, who came to South Korea in 2008 to study North Korea, is one of the regular visitors to the Information Center on North Korea run independently by South Korea's Ministry of Unification since the center's foundation in 1989. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)
- North Korea is dialing up its propaganda — just when inter-Korean relations reached their warmest level in years. (Lee Young-jong, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- North Korea's media covered growing trade disputes between the United States and China on Friday, days after U.S. President Donald Trump accused China for hampering his nuclear talks with the North. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's media accused the United States of taking "hostile" measures against Pyongyang on Friday, calling on Washington to faithfully implement the agreement that the two countries reached in their historic June 12 summit. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea continues to produce and stockpile cluster munitions, a weapon outlawed by most of the world, a U.S government-funded radio station reported Friday, citing an international watchdog's annual report. (*Yonhap*)
- Paintings by famous North Korean artists are reportedly for sale at an art zone in Beijing, in what appears to be part of a broader strategy to earn foreign currency. (Ha Yoon-ah, *Daily NK*)
- North Korea is offering incentives to encourage farmers to produce more ahead of the harvest. Workers Party's mouthpiece Rodong Sinmun Thursday ran interviews with

agriculture ministry officials, highlighting a "field responsibility system within sub-work team system" for improved output. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)

- North Korean sources report that some military bases are receiving improvements in their food supplies. Soldiers in North Korea have long been provided poor food supplies, which has generally consisted of corn and rice, salted radish and soybean paste soup with dried radish leaves. (Kang Mi-jin, *Daily NK*)
- North Korea is strengthening surveillance of mobile phone calls made with China and South Korea in the Sino-DPRK border region, following the introduction of harsher penalties to prevent defections. (Kim Yoo-jin, *Daily NK*).
- North Korea continues to develop theater-range ballistic missiles that can target South Korea and Japan, an analysis of satellite imagery by IHS Markit showed on Tuesday. (Kang Jin-kyu, Kwen Yu-jin, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

In South Korea:

- South Korean President Moon Jae-in will send a special envoy to North Korea next week to arrange his scheduled summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and also discuss ways to move forward the stalled denuclearization of the communist state, Seoul's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- A documentary on international volunteers helping North Korea to fight multidrug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) will be aired on MBC at 11:10 p.m. Monday. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)
- North Korea remains determined to maintain the momentum of dialogue with the United States despite a recent hiccup, South Korea's top envoy in Washington said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon Jae-in will send special envoys to Pyongyang on Sept. 5 to discuss plans to hold a summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and nuclear disarmament, Cheong Wa Dae said late Friday. (Kim Bo-eun, Kim Yoo-chul, *Korea Times*)
- Five North Korean films will be shown at the Ulju Mountain Film Festival set to open in Ulju, southeast South Korea, on Sept. 7, organizers said Friday, marking the latest in a recent string of inter-Korean cultural exchanges. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea is sending a special envoy to North Korea next week to discuss the arrangements for a third summit between the two countries' leaders. (VOA)
- A proposed South Korean law to reclassify abductees held in the North as "missing persons," is drawing strong criticism from human rights advocates. (Brian Padden, VOA)
- South Korea said on Friday it will dispatch special envoys to the North Korean capital on September 5 to discuss the timing of a summit between the two countries' leaders expected to take place later in the month. (Soyoung Kim, Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- President Moon Jae-in plans to send a special envoy to Pyongyang on Wednesday to schedule a summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and discuss a wide range of issues, including North Korea's denuclearization and ways to improve inter-Korean ties, the Blue House said on Friday. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Field surveys by South and North Korea on their railways are not subject to international sanctions on the North, a unification ministry official said Friday, a day after it was reported that the United Nations Command has recently turned down Seoul's request to move equipment needed for such a survey across the border. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean shooters and officials arrived in South Korea on Friday to participate in the 52nd ISSF World Championship that opened in Changwon, southeast South Korea, on the same day. (*Yonhap*)
- The United Nations Command didn't approve a joint railway inspection by North and South Korea, South Korean media reported Thursday. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- A rail project meant to connect North and South Korea has been blocked by US military officials, highlighting divisions between Washington and Seoul on how to deal with the nuclear armed North. (Benjamin Haas, *The Guardian*)

International:

- China's People's Liberation Army naval forces have conducted two drills and plan another this week near the Korean Peninsula in a possible show of force, ahead of a planned inter-Korea summit in Pyongyang in September. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Donald Trump, the US president, has accused China of undermining US talks with North Korea, which have hit an impasse in recent weeks over slow progress on denuclearisation. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- Japan's defence ministry has requested a record budget as it seeks to counter North Korea's nuclear and missile threats and respond to growing Chinese air and naval activity in the region. (Justin McCurry, *The Guardian*)
- Japan looks set to beef up its military budget for the seventh year in a row under Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in the face of a rising threat from North Korea and an expanding China. (Yoko Wakatsuki, Ben Westcott, CNN)
- Japan's military wants record spending next year to help pay for major upgrades to defenses designed to shoot down North Korean ballistic missiles that Tokyo sees as a continued threat despite Pyongyang's promise to abandon nuclear weapons. (Tim Kelly, *Reuters*)
- A North Korean refrigerated cargo ship capable of transporting fishery products has visited Russia's port of Vladivostok multiple times in recent months, an American broadcaster reported Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- Russia has been quietly permitting refrigerated cargo ships of North Korean origin to access Russian ports, according to a recent press report. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Russia said Thursday that it was holding up release of a report by U.N. experts who said North Korea is violating U.N. sanctions by not stopping its nuclear and missile programs and by engineering "a massive increase in illicit ship-to-ship transfers of petroleum products." (AP)

- The US State Department is extending the ban on US citizens traveling to North Korea for another year, according to a State Department official. (Jamie Crawford, Nicole Gaouette, CNN)
- The United States extended its ban on Americans traveling to North Korea for another year Thursday, citing danger to citizens. (Danielle Haynes, UPI)
- The U.S. government said Thursday it has decided to keep a ban on its nationals traveling to North Korea amid what officials in Washington describe as a "slow and tough" denuclearization process. (*Yonhap*)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726230033/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemssatellite-imagery-shows-captives-inside-camp-no-25-in-north-korean-korea-continues-to-produce-stockpile-cluster-bombs-report

9. SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 1, 2018

US tells its citizens not to visit North Korea; The Next North Korean Threat: Submarines Armed with Nuclear Weapons

In North Korea:
Cryptocurrency; a new revenue source for North Korea? (*Korea Times*, 8/31/2018)
North Korea boxing coaches kicked out of Asian Games for ring protest (*Channel NewsAsia*, 9/1/2018)
North Korea preparing toned-down military parade: analysts (*Reuters*, 8/31/2018)
North Korean Security Agents Confiscate, Sell Smuggled Mushrooms (*Radio Free Asia*, 8/31/2018)
The Next North Korea Threat: Submarines Armed with Nuclear Weapons (*National Interest*, 8/30/2018)
Travel feature praising 'egalitarian' North Korea under fire as 'unashamed PR' (*The Telegraph*, 8/31/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(3rd LD) Moon to send special envoy to N. Korea next week for summit preparation (*Yonhap*, 8/31/2018)
(Asian Games) Joint Korean team defies expectations in winning hoops silver (*Yonhap*, 9/1/2018)
(Asian Games) N. Korean basketball player hoping for unification of peninsula (*Yonhap*, 9/1/2018)
(LEAD) (Asian Games) Unified Korean team wins silver in women's basketball (*Yonhap*, 9/1/2018)

International:
'A little bit weird': Home United's head coach, captain recount experience in North Korea (*Channel NewsAsia*, 8/31/2018)
Kim Jong-nam murder: Police seek pair to testify at murder trial (BBC, 9/1/2018)
(LEAD) U.S. tells its citizens not to visit N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 9/1/2018)
NK blames US for deadlock in denuke talks (*Korea Times*, 8/31/2018)
Self-inflicted wound (*Korea Times*, 8/31/2018)
Sustained diplomacy needed on NK (*Korea Times*, 8/31/2018)
Trump, Kim bromance sours, what went wrong? (CNN, 8/31/2018)
Trump's summer from hell (CNN, 9/1/2018)
'US urged to offer concessions to NK' (*Korea Times*, 8/31/2018)

In North Korea:

- North Korea isn't a stranger in the world of cryptocurrencies, as the digital tokens are the ideal form of money for the country given their anonymous nature and their use to easily raise capital. (Kim Yoo-chul, *Korea Times*)

- Two North Korean coaches were kicked out of the Asian Games on Saturday (Sep 1) after mounting a protest in the ring after one of their boxers lost the women's flyweight final. (*Channel NewsAsia*)
- Satellite imagery shows North Korea is poised to stage another military parade amid new worries that diplomatic efforts on denuclearization are stalling, though analysts say it is unclear whether it will showcase any of the country's largest ballistic missiles. (Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- Pine mushrooms smuggled from North Korea into China are being seized from private traders by security agents, who sometimes sell the sought-after delicacy to smuggling gangs and pocket the profits, North Korean sources say. Considered a valuable source of foreign currency by North Korea's cash-strapped regime, the mushrooms fetch low prices when sold directly to trading firms controlled by the country's military. (Jieun Kim, Leejin Jun, Richard Finney, *Radio Free Asia*)
- In the summer of 2018 a flurry of reports confirmed that North Korea has continued construction of a second ballistic-missile submarine, designated the Sinpo-C by intelligence analysts after the shipyard in eastern North Korea. (Sebastien Roblin, *National Interest*)
- The author of a controversial travel piece that praises North Korea as a "highly organised, egalitarian and energised society" has come under heavy criticism for glamorising one of the world's most oppressive regimes. (Hugh Morris, *The Telegraph*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- South Korean President Moon Jae-in will send a special envoy to North Korea next week to arrange his scheduled summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and also discuss ways to move forward the stalled denuclearization of the communist state, Seoul's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- It may not have seemed like such a good fit at first. Could nine South Koreans compete in women's basketball alongside three North Koreans at the Asian Games after only a couple of weeks together? South Korea was trying to win its second straight gold in Jakarta, but would these North Korean players get in the way? (Yoo Jee-ho, *Yonhap*)
- Having starred for the joint Korean team at the 18th Asian Games, North Korean basketball player Ro Suk-yong said Saturday she'd like to see the divided Korean Peninsula reunified. (*Yonhap*)
- The unified Korean women's basketball team grabbed a silver medal at the 18th Asian Games on Saturday, concluding a historic run with a valiant effort against the mighty China. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- Surviving on canned food, being served pork biscuits, and being watched constantly. These were some of the experiences the Home United team had in North Korea during their trip to play the second leg of the AFC Cup Inter Zone play-off semi-final against April 25 Sports Club. (Nigel Chin, *Channel NewsAsia*)

- Malaysian police are seeking two Indonesian women they want to testify at the trial of those accused of killing Kim Jong-nam, the half-brother of North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un. Local media named the potential witnesses as Raisa Rinda Salma, 24, and Dessy Meyrisinta, 33. (BBC)
- The U.S. Department of State has issued a new North Korea travel advisory for its nationals, according to its website. "Do not travel to North Korea due to the serious risk of arrest and long-term detention of U.S. nationals," it said Friday (Washington D.C. time) in a message posted by the bureau of consular affairs. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea, which had remained quiet about the cancellation of U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's visit last week, indirectly began blaming the U.S. for the current deadlock in denuclearization talks. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- Such a cancellation is a move that plays into the hands of Kim Jong-un as President Trump comes off as the intransigent party. Negotiations, especially ones of this magnitude and complexity, will always have hiccups and obstacles but such difficulties are to be expected. They should never be used as an excuse to scuttle continued engagement with North Korea. (Alex Gratzek, *Korea Times*)
- On Aug. 24, President Donald Trump announced that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo would not be going to North Korea as planned. The reason given is that the government in Pyongyang has not followed through on promises to dismantle nuclear weapons facilities or curtail development. This is the right move by the White House. (Arthur I. Cyr, *Korea Times*)
- A matter of months after a historic meeting in Singapore, relations between the US and North Korea seem to have soured. (Will Ripley, CNN)
- Trump's declarations that North Korea was no longer a nuclear threat, issued immediately on Twitter upon his return to the US, have proved premature, however, as talks led by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to agree with North Koreans on details of an agreement have stalled. Trump canceled a planned Pompeo trip to North Korea on Aug. 24. (Z. Bryon Wolf, CNN)
- The United States is asked to take a "more aggressive" position on the dialogue progress with North Korea by granting more concessions to the Kim Jong-un regime to keep the momentum of nuclear talks alive, political analysts in Seoul said, Friday. (Kim Yoo-chul, Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726230343/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-us-tells-its-citizens-not-to-visit-north-korea-the-next-north-korean-threat-submarines-armed-with-nuclear-weapons

Sunday, September 2, 2018

Moon names special envoys to North Korea; Inter-Korean liaison office to open this week

In North Korea:
Hope and caution in North Korea as Kim Jong Un shifts gears (*Associated Press*, 9/2/2018)
Locked in a small room called North Korea (*Korea Times*, 9/2/2018)
N. Korea to organize series of international events (*Korea Times*, 9/2/2018)
What the markets tell us (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/2/2018)

In South Korea:
(2nd LD) Moon names chief security adviser as special envoy to N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 9/2/2018)
Martial law plan foresaw North Korean collapse (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/2/2018)
Moon in tough spot (*Korea Times*, 9/2/2018)
Moon names special envoys to North Korea (*Korea Times*, 9/2/2018)
Top adviser named special envoy (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/2/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) Seoul seeks to salvage denuclearization efforts via inter-Korean talks (*Yonhap*, 9/2/2018)
A watershed moment (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/2/2018)
(Asian Games) IOC chief hopes Koreas will march, compete together at Tokyo 2020: reports (*Yonhap*, 9/2/2018)
(Asian Games) Officials laud 'historic event' for Koreas in Indonesia (*Yonhap*, 9/2/2018)
Inter-Korean liaison office to open this week (*Korea Times*, 9/2/2018)
South and North Korea need single currency (*Korea Times*, 9/2/2018)

International:
How an ICBM commander learned to stop worrying and love the bomb (*Washington Post*, 9/1/2018)
Ten years ago, Stephen Biegun tutored Sarah Palin on foreign policy. Now he's leading Trump's push to denuclearize North Korea (CNBC, 9/1/2018)
Why Indonesia loves North Korea (*Asia Times*, 9/2/2018)

In North Korea:

- Lest anyone get the wrong idea, the ruling Workers' Party of Korea has begun churning out paeans to socialism in its daily newspaper along with anti-capitalism, anti-imperialism screeds that underscore North Korea's official opposition to essentially anything that might be considered the American way of life. (Eric Talmadge, *Associated Press*)
- Teach North Korean Refugees (TNKR) held its 8th English Language Speech Contest. Julia, a North Korean refugee who joined TNKR in 2013, won first prize in the contest, which was hosted by TNKR and the Shin and Kim Law Office, and sponsored by The Korea Times. American Cody Smith coached Julia. Below is the text of her speech. (*Korea Times*)

- North Korea plans to hold a variety of international events in Pyongyang this month to extend its festive mood for the 70th anniversary of the regime's founding which falls Sept. 9. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- Using a combination of overhead satellite imagery and micro-level surveys within North Korea, the CSIS scholars have concluded that there are 436 officially sanctioned markets across North Korea generating approximately $56.8 million a year. (Michael Green, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

In South Korea:

- South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Sunday named his top security adviser as a special envoy to North Korea. Chung Eui-yong, head of the presidential National Security Office, will head a five-member delegation to the communist state that is set to leave for Pyongyang on Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- A military unit under fire for drafting martial law plans during last year's impeachment crisis made similar plans in October 2016 in case the North Korean government collapsed, a team investigating the unit exclusively told the JoongAng Ilbo on Sunday. (Park Tae-in, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- During the next summit, Moon should encourage Kim to uphold his commitment to denuclearization and make more concrete steps to end the North's missile and nuclear development. (*Korea Times*)
- President Moon Jae-in named National Security Office (NSO) chief Chung Eui-yong as a special envoy to North Korea, according to Cheong Wa Dae, Sunday. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- Chung Eui-yong, the Blue House's national security adviser, will be President Moon Jae-in's special envoy to North Korea, the Blue House announced on Sunday. As part of the role, Chung will travel to Pyongyang on Wednesday to plan a summit between Moon and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un set to take place later this month. (Sarah Kim, Yoo Jee-hye, Kang Tae-hwa, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- South Korea will seek to again salvage international efforts to rid North Korea of its nuclear weapons with a series of dialogue and joint events planned with the communist state, including a bilateral summit. (*Yonhap*)
- Another watershed moment has arrived for the Korean Peninsula. Seoul will dispatch a presidential envoy team to Pyongyang on Wednesday in hopes of reviving denuclearization momentum amid deadlocked negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach is hoping South and North Korea will march and compete together at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, reports claimed on Sunday. (Yoo Jee-ho, *Yonhap*)

- South Korean athletes were part of a "historic" event at the 18th Asian Games in Indonesia thanks to their joint efforts with North Korean participants, officials said Sunday. (Yoo Jee-ho, *Yonhap*)
- A joint liaison office will open "early this month" in Gaeseong, North Korea, as agreed upon by the two Koreas, according to National Security Office chief Chung Eui-yong. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- "When investment increases in North Korea along with inter-Korean trade of goods and services, the flow of capital will naturally follow. It will lead to problems such as settlements and which currencies should be used," said Lee Yoon-sok, a senior research fellow at the KIF. (Yoon Ja-young, *Korea Times*)

International:

- The 49-year-old officer is assuming command at a tense moment. North Korea is approaching the ability to strike the continental United States with a nuclear warhead. Despite changes at home and abroad, Meister's faith in the nuclear mission stands unshaken. (Paul Sonne, *Washington Post*)
- Biegun is once again serving an unconventional politician who ascended to office lacking experience in foreign policy. This time, he's the Trump administration's special representative for North Korea, and the stakes couldn't be higher. (Tucker Higgins, CNBC)
- Rooted in a legendary friendship between the two countries' founding fathers, Indonesia has bucked the global trend enforced by punitive United Nations and United Nations sanctions and looked to fill the diplomatic vacuum by extending a helping hand. (Erin Cook, *Asia Times*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726230348/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-moon-names-special-envoys-to-north-korea-inter-korean-liaison-office-to-open-this-week

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Monday, September 3, 2018

Satellite Imagery of N.Korea's Prison Camp Disclosed; South Korea slashes North Korea human rights budget, raises regime aid

Top News
Satellite Imagery of N.Korea's Prison Camp Disclosed (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 09/03/2018)

In North Korea

'No signs of ICBM launches ahead of NK founding day' (*The Korea Times*, 09/03/2018)
Hope and caution in N. Korea as Kim Jong Un shifts gears (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 09/02/2018)
Kim struggles to revive North Korean economy battered by sanctions (*Nikkei Asian Review*, 09/02/2018)
N.K. paper appears to back Russia in election meddling conflict with U.S. (*Yonhap*, 09/03/2018)
N. Korea adding soccer stadium in Kim Jong Un's birthplace (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 09/03/2018)
N. Korea preparing toned-down military parade: analysts (*The Korea Herald*, 09/03/2018)
N. Korea reiterates importance of self-reliance before state establishment anniversary (*Yonhap*, 09/03/2018)
Pyongyang prepares big military show for Sunday (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/03/2018)
Reflections on tourism in Vietnam and North Korea (*Daily*NK, 09/03/2018)

In South Korea
Chief of inter-Korean cooperation body stresses private sector exchanges (*Yonhap*, 09/03/2018)
Envoy's goal: Meeting with Kim (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/03/2018)
Financial firms 'studying' to cash in on North Korea (*The Korea Times*, 09/03/2018)
Geopolitical uncertainty drags down equity prices (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/03/2018)
Martial law plan foresaw North Korean collapse (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/03/2018)
Mission for envoy to Pyongyang: NK's list of nuclear weapons (*The Korea Herald*, 09/03/2018)
Moon urges parliament's support for economic recovery, denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 09/03/2018)
Moon wants agreement ratified (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/03/2018)
Moon's chief of staff stresses need to resume U.S.-N. Korea talks (*Yonhap*, 09/03/2018)
Moon's approval rating hits low of 53% (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/03/2018)
Seoul should seek manageable goals in dealing with NK (*The Korea Herald*, 09/03/2018)
South Korea scrambles to salvage diplomacy on peninsula (*Financial Times*, 09/03/2018)
South Korea slashes North Korea human rights budget, raises regime aid (*Deutsche Welle*, 09/03/2018)
Tish Hinojosa known for song 'Donde Voy' visits DMZ (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 09/03/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship
All eyes are on what North Korea can offer (*The Korea Times*, 09/03/2018)
Koreas in consultation to determine date for launch of liaison office (*Yonhap*, 09/03/2018)
Players on unified Korean basketball team go separate ways after Asiad silver (*Yonhap*, 09/03/2018)
Pres. Moon to send special envoy team to N. Korea Wednesday (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 09/03/2018)
S. Korean presidential envoy to visit Pyongyang next week (*Aju Business Daily*, 09/03/2018)
South and North Korea need single currency (*The Korea Times*, 09/03/2018)
Top S.Korean Officials to Visit Pyongyang Ahead of Summit (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 09/03/2018)
Unified Korean Teams Fare Better Than Expected at Asiad (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 09/03/2018)
Unified team delivers historic medals and newfound hope (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/03/2018)
World Shooting Championships Kick off in Changwon (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 09/03/2018)

International
(LEAD) Tight diplomatic schedule reduces possibility of Xi's visit to N. Korea: sources (*Yonhap*, 09/03/2018)

Calm before the storm? (*The Korea Times*, 09/03/2018)
Trump is dangerous again as his Kim Jong-un 'breakthrough' turns sour (*The Guardian*, 09/03/2018)
Trump Sees Mixing Trade, Foreign Policy as Good Politics (*VOA News*, 09/03/2018)
U.S.-North Korea Stalemate Threatens Nuclear Disarmament Deal (*The Wall Street Journal*, 09/03/2018)
U.S. Cites Diesel Supply in Blocking Cross-Border Rail Plans (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 09/03/2018)
Xi to Miss N.Korea's Anniversary Parade (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 09/03/2018)

Top News

- HRNK's latest release of satellite imagery showing North Korean victims likely engaged in forced labor inside North Korea's Political Prison Camp No. 25 (Kwan-li-so No. 25) was covered by the English and Korean edition of The Chosun Ilbo, South Korea's most-circulated newspaper, as well as by TV Chosun, a nationwide television network owned by The Chosun Ilbo-led consortium. HRNK's Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu was quoted that North Korea's violations of human rights continue despite a recent flurry of diplomatic activity. (Jun Hyun-suk, *The Chosun Ilbo*)

In North Korea

- While North Korea appears to be continuing its production of intercontinental-range ballistic missiles (ICBMs) at some manufacturing sites, there is no sign ICBMs capable of targeting the United States will be deployed during a parade for the North's 70th anniversary of its founding. (Kim Yoo-chul, *The Korea Times*)
- North Korea is pushing ahead with a new strategy of economic development and the intensified diplomacy with China, South Korea and the United States that such a move requires. But hopes for a better future are mixed with concern over potential downsides of political or social volatility, and something that's harder to articulate: a fear of the unknown--even if it appears far more promising than the arduous path the country has been on for decades. (AP)
- How the North Korean leader approaches the stalled denuclearization talks will offer a clue as to how serious he is about shoring up the economy, as well as how urgent a task he considers it to be. (Yosuke Onchi and Oki Nagai, *Nikkei Asian Review*)
- The commentary by the Rodong Sinmun, the organ of the North's Workers' Party, dealt with a recent meeting between the U.S. national security adviser, John Bolton, and his Russian counterpart, Nikolai Patrushev, in Geneva, under the title "Cloudy outlook for inconsistent relationship between Russia and the U.S." (*Yonhap*)
- Construction of the stadium, which Kim Jong Un gave the direct order for, has already begun, according to Kim Kyung-sung, head director of the South and North Korea Sports Exchange Association, based in Seoul. (Yoshihiro Makino, *The Asahi Shimbun*)
- Satellite imagery shows North Korea is poised to stage another military parade amid new worries that diplomatic efforts on denuclearization are stalling, though analysts say it is unclear whether it will showcase any of the country's largest ballistic missiles. (Reuters)

- North Korea reiterated the importance of self-reliance in its decision-making process Monday ahead of the forthcoming anniversary of the government's establishment. "There is no cure-all prescription that could be applied to all countries and peoples," the Rodong Sinmun, the official newspaper of the ruling Worker's Party of Korea, said in an editorial. (Yonhap)
- Military officials say North Korea is preparing a massive military parade for Pyongyang this Sunday to mark the 70th anniversary of the country's foundation - even as it negotiates denuclearization and peace with the United States. (Lee Chul-jae and Park Yong-han, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- The two Koreas have announced they will herald an "era of peace" on the Korean peninsula, but it's unclear whether the regime will make meaningful changes to accommodate South Korean tourists. North Korea first needs to properly understand the nature of the market if it wants to become a popular tourist destination. (Na Jung Won, DailyNK)

In South Korea

- Kim Hong-geol, chairman of the Korean Council for Reconciliation and Cooperation (KCRC), said the private sector should more actively pursue exchanges with North Korea to display the South Korean people's commitment to safeguarding peace to the international community. (Yonhap)
- President Moon Jae-in's special envoy to North Korea departs for Pyongyang on Wednesday, but it remains unclear whether the delegation will be able to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong-un as they did on their last visit in March. (Jeong Yong-soo and Sarah Kim, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- Local financial groups are mobilizing their employees and executives to form internal preparedness teams focusing on studying North Korea to find potential business opportunities in the future. KB Financial, Shinhan Financial, Hana Financial and Woori Bank groups have either set up internal taskforces or had their subsidiaries establish them. (Park Hyong-ki, The Korea Times)
- Increased geopolitical uncertainty stemming from North Korean provocations tends to drag down equity prices and industrial output in South Korea, a report released on Monday showed. "A 10 percent increase in geopolitical uncertainty causes equity prices to fall by 2.5 percent and the domestic currency to depreciate by 2 percent," said Lee Seo-hyun, one of the authors of the report published by the Bank of Korea (BOK). (Yonhap)
- A military unit under fire for drafting martial law plans during last year's impeachment crisis made similar plans in October 2016 in case the North Korean government collapsed, a team investigating the unit exclusively told the JoongAng Ilbo on Sunday. (Park Tae-in, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- With much at stake, the delegation's visit and its achievements will not only shape the prospects of Washington-Pyongyang talks, but also impact upcoming political events, including the third inter-Korean summit, according to analysts. (Ock Hyun-ju, The Korea Herald)

- Moon asked the parliament to ratify the agreement reached at his historic summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, held in the border village of Panmunjom on April 27, in which the leaders of the divided Koreas vowed efforts denuclearize the Korean Peninsula and establish permanent peace. (Yonhap)
- President Moon Jae-in on Monday asked the National Assembly to ratify the Panmunjom Declaration signed by himself and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un during their summit in April, stressing that it would provide "great momentum" for settling peace in the region. (Kang Jin-kyu, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in's chief of staff called for efforts to restart denuclearization talks between the United States and North Korea on Monday, two days before Moon's special envoy is set to visit the communist state. "I expect (the special envoy) to return after fixing the date for President Moon Jae-in's Pyongyang trip this fall," Im Jong-seok wrote on his Facebook page. (Yonhap)
- President Moon Jae-in's approval rating fell to a new low of 53 percent last week, continuing a decline that shows little sign of a rebound amid concerns over the country's economy and unemployment and little progress on North Korea's denuclearization. (Kang Jin-kyu and Kwon Ho, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- President Moon Jae-in should seek to keep denuclearization talks alive, rather than seek a major breakthrough in his planned meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, says Oxford University's Lawrence Freedman. (Choi He-suk, The Korea Herald)
- It is not the first time Mr Moon has acted as a mediator. When US president Donald Trump in May cancelled the Singapore meeting with Mr Kim, it took an impromptu summit between the leaders of the two Koreas to salvage the event. (Bryan Harris, Financial Times)
- Rights activists have criticized Seoul's decision to reduce human rights funding for North Korea and to funnel financial support into increased economic assistance. What could be the implications of this move? (Julian Ryall, Deutsche Welle)
- Tish Hinojosa, an American folksinger known for her song "Donde Voy (Where I go)," has been named the world's honorary ambassador to support a peaceful reunification of the Korean Peninsula. (The Dong-A Ilbo)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- Cheong Wa Dae said denuclearization is on the agenda, along with discussions about the summit between Moon and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un this month, means to develop inter-Korean relations and ways to establish peace on the Korean Peninsula. (Kim Bo-eun, The Korea Times)
- South and North Korea are in talks to determine the exact schedule for their agreed-upon opening of a joint liaison office, a government official said Monday amid speculation that a delay in its launch might be associated with the United States being wary of its possible violation of sanctions. (Yonhap)
- Members of the unified Korean women's basketball team went their separate ways on Monday after combining for silver at the Asian Games in a farewell that mixed laughter and tears. (Yonhap)

- South Korean President Moon Jae-in decided to send a special envoy team on a one-day visit to North Korea this Wednesday, led by Chung Eui-yong, head of the presidential National Security Office, including National Intelligence Service chief Seo Hoon and other three officials. (*The Dong-A Ilbo*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in will send a special envoy to Pyongyang next week to make preparations for a fresh summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un amid growing concerns that a stalemate in denuclearization talks could disrupt inter-Korean rapprochement. (Lim Chang-won, *Aju Business Daily*)
- South and North Korea should use a single currency to form an economic union in the mid to long term, the Korea Institute of Finance (KIF)noted in a report Sunday. "When investment increases in North Korea along with inter-Korean trade of goods and services, the flow of capital will naturally follow. It will lead to problems such as settlements and which currencies should be used," said Lee Yoon-sok, a senior research fellow at the KIF. (Yoon Ja-young, *The Korea Times*)
- South Korea plans to send five senior officials to North Korea on Wednesday. National security adviser Chung Eui-yong, National Intelligence Service Chief Suh Hoon and Unification Minister Chun Hae-sung, who also prepared for the cross-border summit in April, will be part of the delegation laying the groundwork for a fresh summit later this month. (Lee Yong-soo, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- The unified Korean team finished 28th in the Asian Games in Indonesia that closed on Sunday with one gold medal, one silver medal and two bronze medals. Players from the two Koreas formed unified teams in canoeing, rowing and women's basketball whose medals were included in neither South nor North Korea's tally. (Joo Hyung-sik, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- Together, they were strong. The unified Korean team at the 18th Asian Games showed that it could do more than just serve as a symbol of peace and friendship - it could also win medals. (*Yonhap*)
- This is the first time in 40 years that the championships are being hosted in Asia, the last being the 1978 event in Seoul. Almost 3,500 athletes from 91 countries, including 225 from South Korea and 12 from North Korea, are competing. (*Arirang News*)

International

- Chinese President Xi Jinping's widely expected visit to North Korea this month may not be realized, sources here said Monday, citing the absence of any relevant moves in Beijing. The sources speculate that a ranking Chinese official may travel to North Korea on behalf of Xi, as U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo postponed his planned visit to Pyongyang last month. (*Yonhap*)
- Trump faces a stark choice. He can either scrap talks with North Korea and reconsider military options, which would also likely put him on a collision course with Seoul, or else decide that a peace agreement could represent his best deal ever. (John Burton, *The Korea Times*)
- Remember all the hoo-ha over Donald Trump's summit in June with North Korea's maverick dictator, Kim Jong-un? Hogwash. North Korea is fast emerging as the definitive example of

how Trump takes a pre-existing international crisis and makes it worse. (Simon Tisdall, *The Guardian*)

- Trump, asked by reporters last week about North Korea living up to its commitments to denuclearize, said "part of the North Korean problem is caused by our trade disputes with China," pointing to the U.S. trade imbalance with China. (AP)
- The standoff threatens to derail a delicate detente with Pyongyang, following weeks of negotiations in which both sides say they have given ground but which so far haven't produced a clear agreement on disarmament steps or moves toward a peace. (Jonathan Cheng and Andrew Jeong, *The Wall Street Journal*)
- The U.S. cited a quantity of diesel fuel that would be carried on a South Korean train running on North Korean railway tracks to block a plan by the two Koreas to survey a cross-border railway. Diesel exports to North Korea are banned under UN Security Council sanctions. (Kim Jin-myung, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- Chinese President Xi Jinping is expected to miss North Korea's celebrations of its 70th founding anniversary after all as denuclearization talks have hit a fresh impasse. With the Sept. 9 celebrations less than a week away, there has been conspicuous silence from Beijing. (Lee Kil-seong and Lee Yong-soo, *The Chosun Ilbo*)

Prepared by Hangyun Kim, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250726230353/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-satellite-imagery-of-nkoreas-prison-camp-disclosed-south-korea-slashes-north-korea-human-rights-budget-raises-regime-aid

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Tuesday, September 4, 2018

Navigating North Korean human rights in Washington; Envoys to discuss inter-Korean summit, denuclearization

Top News
Navigating North Korean human rights in Washington (*NK News*, 08/31/2018)

In North Korea
[Feature] North Korea has little to celebrate come Sept. 9 (*The Korea Herald*, 09/04/2018)
Ju Kyu Chang (1928-2018) (*North Korea Leadership Watch*, 09/04/2018)
Key member of North Korea's nuke, missile programs dies at 89 (*The Korea Times*, 09/04/2018)
Key N. Korean nuclear, missile development official dies (*Yonhap*, 09/04/2018)
Kim Jong-un Is Nowhere to Be Seen (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 09/04/2018)
Mao, Kim Il-sung and the 'Dongbei' region (*The Korea Times*, 09/04/2018)

N. Korea denounces US for hampering progress in inter-Korean relations (*The Korea Herald*, 09/04/2018)
N. Korea increases flights to Pyongyang ahead of founding anniversary (*Yonhap*, 09/04/2018)
N. Korea lambasts US for 'screwing up inter-Korean ties' (*The Korea Times*, 09/04/2018)
N. Korea's media berate U.S. for sticking to sanctions despite peace mood (*Yonhap*, 09/04/2018)
N. Korean leader absent from public view for 15 days (*Yonhap*, 09/04/2018)
North Korean tourism products attract tourists in Europe (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 09/04/2018)
Public-private partnership implements new elite train service (*DailyNK*, 09/04/2018)
Rodong slams US for hindering Koreas' ties ahead of inter-Korean talks (*The Korea Times*, 09/04/2018)
Satellite imagery reveals major flooding along Pyongyang-Kaesong highway (NK *News*, 09/04/2018)
Suspected North Korean hackers attempt to hack Unification Media Group (*DailyNK*, 09/04/2018)

In South Korea
(2nd LD) Moon's special envoy says he will discuss denuclearization with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 09/04/2018)
(LEAD) Moon holds security meeting on eve of trip by special envoy to N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 09/04/2018)
'Complete denuclearization is key agenda' (*The Korea Times*, 09/04/2018)
Moon briefs Trump on delegation to Pyongyang (*The Korea Herald*, 09/04/2018)
Moon, Trump reaffirm joint efforts to establish peace, denuclearize N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 09/04/2018)
Ruling party stands behind Moon (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/04/2018)
S. Korean Envoy to Carry Letter on Denuclearization to North (VOA *News*, 09/04/2018)
South Korea Pushes to Revive Nuclear Talks in Pyongyang Trip (*Bloomberg*, 09/04/2018)
Special envoy to carry Moon's letter during trip to Pyongyang (*Aju Business Daily*, 09/04/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship
Envoys to discuss inter-Korean summit, denuclearization (*The Korea Herald*, 09/04/2018)
Moon's special envoy travels to North today (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/04/2018)
North declined invite to security forum in Seoul (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/04/2018)
Report: S. Korea wants to hold inter-Korean summit in mid-September (UPI, 09/04/2018)
South Korea seeks to hold inter-Korean summit Sept. 18-20: reports (*The Korea Times*, 09/04/2018)
Time for breakthrough (*The Korea Times*, 09/04/2018)
Two Koreas on their own (*The Korea Times*, 09/04/2018)

International
[Photos] North Korean shipwrecks in Ishikawa Prefecture disturb locals (*DailyNK*, 09/03/2018)
China's Parliament Chief to Visit North Korea to Mark Its 70th Birthday (*The New York Times*, 09/04/2018)
China's Xi to send top ally to North Korea anniversary (*The Washington Post*, 09/04/2018)
Finance Ministry seeks record 2019 budget to boost welfare, defense (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 09/04/2018)
In U.S., doubts about Seoul's intervention (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/04/2018)
New US representative for NK to visit next week (*The Korea Times*, 09/04/2018)

Ranking Chinese official to visit N. Korea for foundation anniversary (*Yonhap*, 09/04/2018)
U.S. adds senior officials handling N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 09/04/2018)
U.S. helping Pacific Island nations enforce North Korea maritime sanctions (NK *News*, 09/03/2018)
Washington grows team of North Korea hands (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/04/2018)
Where are the Korea experts? (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/04/2018)
Xi Jinping to send delegation to North Korean anniversary celebrations (NK *News*, 09/04/2018)
Xi Jinping's visit to North Korea seems unlikely (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 09/04/2018)

Top News

- HRNK's Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu was featured in the North Korea News Podcast, a weekly podcast hosted by NK News. Greg discussed the weaponization of human rights and how things have changed under Kim Jong-un. Greg also explained why any economic, political, or developmental engagement with Pyongyang is dependent on first improving the lives of the North Korean people. (Greg Scarlatoiu, *NK News*)

In North Korea

- The fast-approaching day was expected to be an occasion for Kim to highlight the rewards he had extracted from the US in return for his willingness to relinquish the country's nuclear weapons. Kim, however, now finds himself falling behind schedule in negotiations with the US, despite his apparent high hopes amid a whirlwind of diplomacy. (Jung Min-kyung, *The Korea Herald*)
- Ju Kyu Chang (Chu Kyu-chang), one of the top officials involved in the research and development of the DPRK's WMDs and conventional weapons, died at the age of 89 in Pyongyang at 2030 on September 3 (Monday) from pancytopenia. (*North Korea Leadership Watch*)
- Ju Kyu-chang, 89, died Monday night of pancytopenia, according to the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA). It called him a "revolutionary soldier" who had made a "distinguished" contribution to national defense. (*Yonhap*)
- A North Korean official known to have been involved in missile and nuclear weapons development has died, the North's state-run media reported Tuesday. Ju Kyu-chang, 89, died Monday night of pancytopenia, according to the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA). The U.S. blacklisted Ju in 2013 for his suspected involvement in developing ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has disappeared from public view again amid a stalemate in denuclearization talks with the U.S. and just as senior South Korean officials prepare to visit the North. (Lee Yong-soo, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- This is one of the many intrigues in China-North Korea relations. Why did Kim Jong-il (Kim Jong-un's father) claim that China's northeastern region belongs to North Korea? (Lee Seong-hyon, *The Korea Times*)

- North Korea on Tuesday lashed out at the US for standing in the way of the two Koreas' efforts to improve inter-Korean relations, a day before South Korean President Moon Jae-in's special envoy is set to travel to Pyongyang. (Ock Hyun-ju, *The Korea Herald*)
- North Korea's flag carrier, Air Koryo, has temporarily increased its Pyongyang-bound flights from Beijing, ahead of the North's 70th founding anniversary on Sept. 9, sources in the Chinese capital said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- The newspaper said the U.S. is preventing the opening of an inter-Korean liaison office in the North, a project connecting the rail networks of the two Koreas, and the resumption of operations at the Gaeseong Industrial Complex and tours to Mount Geumgang. (Kim Bo-eun, *The Korea Times*)
- North Korea's state-run newspaper lashed out at the United States on Tuesday for hampering progress in inter-Korean relations by sticking to sanctions on its regime despite a peace mood surrounding the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has not been seen in public for half a month following his intensive inspections of economic sites this summer, North Korea watchers in Seoul said Tuesday. The leader's prolonged absence from public view draws particular attention as the North's 70th founding anniversary is on Sunday, said the watchers, raising speculation that he appears to be concentrating on external diplomatic strategies amid a deadlock in denuclearization talks with the United States. (*Yonhap*)
- More and more foreigners are seeking to travel to North Korea as the likelihood of a war on the Korean Peninsula has disappeared after the U.S.-North Korea summit in June. (Jung-Min Dong, *The Dong-A Ilbo*)
- A North Korean "affluent train" is being operated for use by the country's elite, including donju (the nouveau riche) and senior government officials. A similar service was operated occasionally in the past, but the new train is being operated as a joint private-sector/government project, report sources in the country. (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)
- North Korea's party mouthpiece Rodong Sinmun Tuesday slammed the U.S. for interfering in inter-Korean relations, a day before a South Korean delegation led by national security adviser Chung Eui-yong heads to the North to discuss an inter-Korean summit expected later this month. (Jung Da-min, *The Korea Times*)
- The Pyongyang-Kaesong highway and towns just north of Kaesong have suffered major flood damage after recent storms and subsequent swelling of the Ryesong River, satellite images from Planet Labs reveal. (Colin Zwirko, *NK News*)
- Suspected North Korean hackers have launched a phishing operation targeting North Korean human rights organizations and activists. Emails have been fabricated to appear as if they have come from NGO activists and government organizations. (Mun Dong Hui, *DailyNK*)

In South Korea

- The special envoy of South Korean President Moon Jae-in to North Korea plans to discuss ways to completely denuclearize the Korean Peninsula when he visits the communist state this week, the envoy said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)

- President Moon Jae-in held a special meeting with security-related officials Tuesday, one day before his top security adviser was set to embark on a trip to North Korea. The meeting, held at the presidential office Cheong Wa Dae, began at 4 p.m. and also involved Moon's national security adviser, Chung Eui-yong, who will visit Pyongyang on Wednesday as a special envoy of the president. (*Yonhap*)
- The head of the President Moon Jae-in's five-member special delegation said late Tuesday the envoys will discuss plans to establish a permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula, the development of inter-Korean relations and the complete denuclearization of the peninsula when they meet with North Korean representatives today. (Kim Yoo-chul, *The Korea Times*)
- During the 50-minute conversation that started at 9 p.m., Korea time, the two leaders discussed developments surrounding the North, and agreed to maintain close collaboration, Kim said. Kim added that Moon stressed that the Korean Peninsula is at an important juncture on the road to peace, and that improving inter-Korean relations will contribute to achieving denuclearization of North Korea. (Choi He-suk, *The Korea Herald*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in and U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday reaffirmed their joint efforts to establish peace and denuclearize the Korean Peninsula. The pledge for joint efforts came in a telephone conversation. (*Yonhap*)
- Touching on North Korea, Lee said that the party would spearhead efforts to restart operations at the shuttered Kaesong Industrial Complex. In February 2016, the conservative Park Geun-hye government closed the complex, the last vestige of inter-Korean cooperation, in response to North Korea's nuclear and missile tests. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea's presidential envoy said Tuesday he will deliver a letter from President Moon Jae-in to North Korean counterpart Kim Jong Un when he visits Pyongyang on Wednesday to discuss the leaders' third summit later this month, Yonhap reported. (*Reuters*)
- The envoys now face what may be a more difficult task as disagreements mount over the speed and sequence of efforts to eliminate North Korea's nuclear arsenal and finally end the Korean War. (Youkyung Lee, *Bloomberg*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in will send a letter to North Korean leader Kim Jong-un through his envoy who will make a cross-border trip this week to make preparations for a fresh summit amid concerns that a stalemate in denuclearization talks could disrupt inter-Korean rapprochement. (Lim Chang-won, *Aju Business Daily*)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- Whether the envoys will meet with Kim has not been decided, Chung said. Asked whether members of the delegation would visit Washington and Tokyo after their return, Chung said the matter would be decided at a later date. Seoul had dispatched Chung and Suh to Japan, the US and other concerned nations after their first trip to Pyongyang as Moon's special envoys in March. (Choi He-suk, *The Korea Herald*)
- Moon is sending security adviser Chung Eui-yong to Pyongyang today as a special envoy, and he is expected to urge North Korea to first make a verbal promise to come up with specific denuclearization steps, including a timetable, government sources said. (Kang Jin-kyu and Jung Hyo-sik, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

- The Ministry of National Defense will host an international security forum in Seoul next week to discuss a wide range of issues, including denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, defense officials said on Tuesday. North Korea declined to attend the forum despite an invitation from South Korea, one source said. The invitation was extended during talks between generals from both countries last month. (*Yonhap*)
- Seoul's presidential office will suggest that the North and South hold the three-day summit from Sept. 18-20 in Pyongyang and discuss ways to take inter-Korean exchanges further, Hankook Ilbo reported, citing government officials. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- The South Korean presidential office plans to hold the next inter-Korean summit on Sept. 18-20 to confirm the road toward denuclearization, according to Hankook Ilbo. The report said Cheong Wa Dae will propose the date to North Korea. The presidential office also has started clearing part of Dongdaemun Design Plaza (DDP) in Jongno-gu in central Seoul and hotels in the area to set up a main press center for journalists. (Ko Dong-hwan, *The Korea Times*)
- Kim should tell Moon's envoy he will take preliminary steps to abandon his missile and nuclear programs. Only then can the two leaders' next summit be a fruitful one that establishes a positive mood for a declaration to end the war within the year, the 65th anniversary of the signing of the armistice, as stated in the Panmunjeom Declaration. (*The Korea Times*)
- Moon could lead, but he and Kim Jong-un should not have to do this alone. While other powers would support them, only the U.N. can provide the things that the U.S. lacks today. If handled carefully, the month of September could be transformative. (Stephen Costello, *The Korea Times*)

International

- Mr. Kanamori met with Daily NK on May 12 to discuss the three abandoned North Korean fishing boats that had recently washed ashore along the Japanese coast. The three boats were found abandoned off the coast of Saiaki in February and March. This area marks Japan's furthest western point and the Korean peninsula's furthest point east, and where the distance between the two is shortest. (Nate Kerkhoff, *DailyNK*)
- China's parliament chief will visit North Korea this weekend as President Xi Jinping's special representative for celebrations marking 70 years since the founding of the country, state news agency Xinhua said. (*Reuters*)
- Analysts said a decision by Xi not to travel to Pyongyang would indicate that Beijing expected further actions from Kim, including real signs of progress toward denuclearization. (Christopher Bodeen, *The Washington Post*)
- Finance Minister Taro Aso said on Tuesday initial budget requests for fiscal 2019 would likely reach a record high around 102 trillion yen ($918 billion), given an aging population and defense challenges from China and North Korea. (*Reuters*)
- Former U.S. government officials are cautiously optimistic about South Korean President Moon Jae-in's effort to put denuclearization talks between North Korea and the United

States back on track by sending a special envoy to Pyongyang today. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

- Stephen Biegun, the new U.S. Special Representative for North Korea, is set to visit Seoul early next week. He is expected to be briefed by South Korean envoys about their visit to Pyongyang. The envoys will visit Pyongyang Wednesday, to arrange the date of an inter-Korean summit this month, and also discuss denuclearization and ways to establish peace on the Korean Peninsula. (Kim Bo-eun, *The Korea Times*)
- Li Zhanshu, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China, will head the delegation for the 70th anniversary of the foundation of North Korea, the Korean Central News Agency said. (*Yonhap*)
- The United States has expanded its lineup of senior officials handling North Korea affairs, sources said Monday, amid a perceived impasse in negotiations to dismantle the regime's nuclear weapons program. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo last month named Stephen Biegun, vice president of Ford Motors, U.S. special representative for North Korea. (*Yonhap*)
- Washington is helping Pacific Island nation shipping registries with UN sanctions enforcement and North Korea focused due diligence, the U.S. Department of State said on Monday. According to a fact sheet released by the State Department coinciding with the ongoing Pacific Island Forum (PIF), the U.S. is helping countries in the region fulfill their maritime sanctions obligations. (Leo Byrne, *NK News*)
- The U.S. State Department has been expanding its team of senior officials handling North Korea affairs amid an apparent deadlock in negotiations to dismantle the regime's nuclear weapons program. (*Yonhap*)
- At the current pace, North Korea is likely to be recognized as a nuclear state, as Pyongyang wished. The United States has changed its tone from "no declaration to end the war without specific denuclearization measures" to a "willingness to consider a declaration of the end of the war if Pyongyang promises to submit a list of its nuclear weapons and a timetable for denuclearization." (Nam Jeong-ho, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Chinese leader Xi Jinping will seemingly not be attending celebrations for North Korea's 70th founding anniversary and instead will send a special envoy in his place, Xinhua News Agency reported on Tuesday citing a spokesperson from the Communist Party of China (CPC). (Hamish Macdonald, *NK News*)
- Wang Huning, a member of China's Politburo Standing Committee and secretary of the party's Secretariat, is set to travel to Pyongyang as President Xi Jinping's envoy around Sept. 9 to celebrate North Korea's 70th founding anniversary, sources said Monday. (Na-Ri Shin and Wan-Jun Yun, *The Dong-A Ilbo*)

Prepared by Hangyun Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726230605/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-navigating-north-korean-human-rights-in-washington-envoys-to-discuss-inter-korean-summit-denuclearization

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Wednesday, September 5, 2018

(7th LD) N. Korean leader Kim meets S. Korean president's special delegation; Xi Jinping not going to Pyongyang

In North Korea:
Defectors: North Korean women face routine abuse (*UPI*, 09/05/2018)
Electricity supply in Pyongyang keeps getting better as sanctions drag on (*North Korean Economy Watch*, 09/05/2018)
Kim Jong Un Attends Ju Kyu Chang's Wake (*North Korea Leadership Watch*, 09/05/2018)
Kim Jong-un reappears in public after 2 weeks (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/05/2018)
N.K. vows economic development without outside help amid stalled nuke talks (*Yonhap*, 09/05/2018)
N. Korean leader pays tribute to late key missile developer (*Yonhap*, 09/05/2018)
N. Korea reiterates call to declare end to Korean War (*Korea Times*, 09/05/2018)
N. Korea says end-of-war declaration possible simply by political will (*Yonhap*, 09/05/2018)
North Korea newspaper: Sanctions are not hurting economy (*UPI*, 09/05/2018)
North Korea trumpets self-reliant economy before Sept. 9 foundation day (*Korea Times*, 09/05/2018)
[Photo] Samjiyon development leads to remodeling of Wiyon Station and new apartments (*Daily NK*, 09/05/2018)
Public-private partnership implements new elite train service (*Daily NK*, 09/04/2018)
Pyongyang blasts Seoul for defense budget hike ahead of envoy's visit (*Yonhap*, 09/05/2018)
Report: North Korea trade heavily depends on China (*UPI*, 09/05/2018)
Rising number of former soldiers leaving college to go into business (*Daily NK*, 09/05/2018)
Update on North Korea's Foundation Day Military Parade Preparations (*38 North*, 09/04/2018)

In South Korea:
[INTERVIEW] Black Venus - the South Korean spy who met Kim Jong-il (*Korea Times*, 09/05/2018)
KDI report calls for expanding inter-Korean economic cooperation (*Yonhap*, 09/05/2018)
S. Korea expects '2+2 talks' with U.S. next month (*Yonhap*, 09/05/2018)
S. Korea expects 'good news' on liaison office from presidential delegation's trip to North (*Yonhap*, 09/05/2018)
South Korea aide: Nuclear list sufficient for end-of-war declaration (*UPI*, 09/05/2018)
South Koreans arrested for North Korea facial recognition software (*UPI*, 09/05/2018)
Suspected North Korean hackers attempt to hack Unification Media Group (*Daily NK*, 09/04/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(7th LD) N. Korean leader Kim meets S. Korean president's special delegation (*Yonhap*, 09/05/2018)
Delegation led by Chung meets Kim Jong-un (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/05/2018)

Moon's envoys arrive in Pyongyang; talks with N. Korean officials under way (*Korea Times*, 09/05/2018)
North Korean Parade Tricky Prelude to Inter-Korean Summit (VOA, 09/05/2018)
No unified Korean team at dragon boat worlds due to visa issues: report (*Yonhap*, 09/05/2018)
S. Korean Envoys Meet Kim to Advance Nuclear Diplomacy (*The New York Times*, 09/04/2018)
South Korean envoys leave for Pyongyang for summit preparation (UPI, 09/04/2018)
South Korean envoys meet Kim in North to prepare for third summit (*Reuters*, 09/05/2018)
South Korean Envoys Meet With Kim, Deliver Letter (VOA, 09/04/2018)

International:
Aide stole letter from Trump to stop withdrawal from Korea trade deal: report (*Yonhap*, 09/05/2018)
China to send Li Zhanshu to Pyongyang (UPI, 09/05/2018)
(LEAD) Moon, Trump to meet at U.N. this month: White House (*Yonhap*, 09/05/2018)
(LEAD) New U.S. negotiator with untested clout due in Seoul (*Yonhap*, 09/05/2018)
Moon and Trump agree to meet at United Nations (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/05/2018)
Russia resumes coal supplies via North Korea: Ifax citing official (*Reuters*, 09/05/2018)
Russia's top parliamentary official to visit N. Korea for foundation anniversary (*Yonhap*, 09/05/2018)
South Korea's Moon, Trump to discuss North Korea at U.N.: Blue House (*Reuters*, 09/04/2018)
Sydney man accused of North Korea missile dealing faces new charges (*The Guardian*, 09/05/208)
The State of Play in Sino-DPRK Relations (*38 North*, 09/05/2018)
Trump Speaks on Phone with South Korea's President (VOA, 09/04/2018)
Xi Jinping not going to Pyongyang (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/05/2018)
Xi's absence in Pyongyang complicates denuke dialogue (*Korea Times*, 09/05/2018)
Xi's Choice for North Korea Anniversary Sends Message (VOA, 09/04/2018)

In North Korea:

- But while the world's media focuses on the bravado over denuclearization, the dire human rights situation inside the regime is being overlooked. Even during the talks, both Moon and Trump avoided directly raising such issues with Kim, eager as they were to achieve their own key objectives. It was galling to hear so little about the lives of ordinary North Koreans -- and in particular women. (Hyun-Joo Lim, UPI)
- As North Korea's economically crucial minerals exports are massively down (coal exports by over 70% in 2017 as compared with 2013, for example), some in the country see positive side effects. (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, *North Korean Economy Watch*)
- Kim Jong Un (Kim Cho'ng-u'n) paid his respects at a viewing for Ju Kyu Chang (Chu Kyu-chang) on September 4 (Tuesday). (*North Korea Leadership Watch*)
- Kim Jong-un re-emerged in North Korean state media for the first time in over two weeks on Wednesday. His public appearance was timed just hours before a special envoy of South Korean President Moon Jae-in landed in Pyongyang to discuss inter-Korean relations and lay the groundwork for a third summit between the two countries' leaders. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

- North Korea reiterated its resolve to push for economic development on its own Wednesday amid a stalemate in nuclear talks with the United States and sanctions in place blocking its economic cooperation with South Korea. (Yonhap)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has visited the mortuary for a key official who led missile development, the North's state-run media said Wednesday. (Yonhap)
- North Korea has repeated a call for the South and the United States to walk on similiar paths to speed up the declaration of the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, the regime's foreign ministry said Tuesday. (Lee Min-hyung, Korea Times)
- North Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has called for a declaration to end the 1950-53 Korean War to build mutual trust with the United States and establish permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula. (Yonhap)
- North Korea's Workers' Party newspaper said Wednesday sanctions against the country are not working because it practices "self-regeneration." (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- North Korea has pushed its achievements and highlighted the festive mood in the country four days before its Sept. 9 foundation day celebration. (Jung Da-min, Korea Times)
- As North Korea's work on the Hyesan-Samjiyon Line continues as part of broader development efforts in the Samjiyon area, the completion of construction has been announced for a modern version of the line's first station, Wiyon Station. (Kang Mi-jin, Daily NK)
- A North Korean "affluent train" is being operated for use by the country's elite, including donju (the nouveau riche) and senior government officials. A similar service was operated occasionally in the past, but the new train is being operated as a joint private-sector/government project, report sources in the country. (Ha Yoon-Ah, Daily NK)
- North Korea's propaganda media on Wednesday slammed South Korea for its defense budget increase plan and renewal of a military information sharing agreement with Japan, as the South's presidential envoy arrived in Pyongyang in the morning. (Yonhap)
- China is the largest trading partner of North Korea and coal is the primary export, according to a report Wednesday on the North Korean economy. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- Rising numbers of former soldiers who entered college with dreams of becoming government officials are stopping their studies midway and jumping ship to enter the business world, North Korean sources say. (Mun Dong Hui, Daily NK)
- n the lead up to North Korea's Foundation Day Military Parade, scheduled for this coming Sunday (September 9), commercial satellite imagery of the Mirim Parade Training Ground from August 31 shows no change in the numbers of shelters erected in the heavy equipment storage area, used to house and prepare the military vehicles for the parade. (Joseph S. Bermudez Jr, 38 North)

In South Korea:

- Before meeting North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, Southern spy "Black Venus" was told to stay up late, shower, and dress neatly. He also hid a micro recorder in his penis. (AFP)

- A South Korean government think tank on Wednesday urged Seoul to pursue economic cooperation with North Korea, saying the North's exports are excessively focused on coal and the Chinese market. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea has proposed holding its first two-plus-two talks with the United States in the Donald Trump era as early as possible with a view to hold comprehensive consultations on North Korea and other political-military issues, including the Indo-Pacific strategy, a diplomatic source said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea's unification ministry said Wednesday it expects "good news" from a presidential delegation's trip to North Korea with regard to the delayed launch of a joint liaison office. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon Chung-in, the outspoken presidential aide and academic who has previously criticized the state of U.S.-South Korea relations, said an end-of-war declaration could be signed before complete North Korea denuclearization. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- South Korean businessmen who allegedly imported North Korea facial recognition software in return for sharing South Korea military secrets have been detained and are to undergo trial, according to South Korean press reports. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- Suspected North Korean hackers have launched a phishing operation targeting North Korean human rights organizations and activists. Emails have been fabricated to appear as if they have come from NGO activists and government organizations. (Mun Dong-hui, *Daily NK*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un met with a special delegation of South Korean President Moon Jae-in Wednesday, possibly reaffirming his commitment to establishing peace on the Korean Peninsula and denuclearizing his country. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon Jae-in's special envoy to North Korea met with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un Wednesday on a day-long visit to Pyongyang and delivered a letter from the South Korean president, according to the Blue House. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- High-stakes talks between South Korean President Moon Jae-in's special envoys and their North Korean counterparts started in Pyongyang on Wednesday. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- As North Korea prepares for a massive parade Sunday featuring thousands of goose-stepping soldiers and lots of scary-looking missiles, worry is rising in South Korea that a tentative, hard-won detente is starting to slip away. (AP)
- Dragon boat paddlers from the two Koreas will not be able to form a joint team at the upcoming world championships in the United States because North Korean athletes haven't been granted visas, a report said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- A South Korean delegation met with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Wednesday during a visit to arrange an inter-Korean summit planned for this month and help rescue faltering nuclear diplomacy between Washington and Pyongyang. (AP)
- South Korean envoys headed to Pyongyang on Wednesday morning to discuss details for the third summit between South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un this month. (Wooyoung Lee, *UPI*)

- South Korea said its envoys met with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Pyongyang on Wednesday to prepare for a third inter-Korean summit later this month, with hopes of putting momentum back into stalled talks between the North and the United States on denuclearization. (Hyonhee Shin, Joyce Lee, *Reuters*)
- A South Korean presidential delegation has met with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Pyongyang and has conveyed a personal letter from South Korean President Moon Jae-in. (AP)

International:

- A former senior adviser to U.S. President Donald Trump removed a document from the president's desk to stop him from signing off on withdrawing the United States from a trade deal with South Korea, a news report citing an unpublished book said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- One of China's most powerful officials will visit North Korea on Saturday to attend the 70th anniversary of Pyongyang's founding day. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in and U.S. President Donald Trump agreed Tuesday to meet during the United Nations General Assembly in New York this month, the White House said. (*Yonhap*)
- Stephen Biegun, the new U.S. point man on North Korea, is considered to hold an undersecretary-level post, but it's still unclear whether he will serve as the de facto "control tower" of the Donald Trump administration's approach toward Pyongyang, a diplomatic source said Wednesday. (Lee Chi-dong, *Yonhap*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in and U.S. President Donald Trump will hold a summit later this month on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, the White House announced on Tuesday. (Sarah Kim, Korea *JoongAng Daily*)
- Russia has resumed coal supplies through the North Korean port of Rajin, Interfax news agency reported on Wednesday, citing a Russian official in the Far East. (*Reuters*)
- The head of Russia's upper house of parliament will visit North Korea for the upcoming anniversary of the foundation of the communist state, the North's state-run media said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea's President Moon Jae-in and U.S. President Donald Trump plan to discuss North Korea during the U.N. General Assembly in New York this month, Moon's office and the White House said on Tuesday, amid lackluster progress on the North's nuclear issues. (Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)
- A Sydney man accused of brokering missile and coal deals for North Korea has been charged with trying to help export iron from the country. (AP)
- Sino-DPRK relations have undergone major changes since the beginning of 2018. Not only did North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visit China in March for the first time since taking power, he visited two more times in a short period of three months. (Yun Sun, *38 North*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump spoke on the phone Tuesday with his South Korean counterpart, Moon Jae-in, regarding the latest developments on the Korean peninsula. (Steve Herman, VOA)

- Chinese President Xi Jinping will not travel to North Korea this weekend to join celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the country's founding and instead dispatch a top aide, China's state media reported Tuesday. (Lee Sung-Eun, Yeh Young-June, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- With Chinese President Xi Jinping's reported Pyongyang visit this month canceled, expectations for smooth progress of North Korea's denuclearization has been brought back to square one. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- Chinese President Xi Jinping will not attend celebrations of the 70th anniversary of North Korea's founding this weekend but will send a top ally to represent him instead, the ruling Communist Party announced Tuesday. (AP)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250726230610/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items7th-ld-n-korean-leader-kim-meets-s-korean-presidents-special-delegationxi-jinping-not-going-to-pyongyang

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Thursday, September 6, 2018

(3rd LD) N.K. leader renews commitment to denuclearization; Moon-Kim summit set for Sept. 18-20

In North Korea:
(3rd LD) N.K. leader renews commitment to denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 09/06/2018)
As talks with US stall, North Korea preps military parade (*The Washington Post*, 09/05/2018)
Dollar exchange rate on North Korean markets at high-point (*North Korean Economy Watch*, 09/05/2018)
Flooding kills dozens in North Korea, thousands left homeless: Red Cross (*Reuters*, 09/06/2018)
Inside the spectacle and symbolism of North Korea's Mass Games (*Reuters*, 09/06/2018)
KJU Receives ROK Delegation (*North Korea Leadership Watch*, 09/06/2018)
KCNA: Kim Jong Un committed to denuclearization 'over time' (UPI, 09/05/2018)
Livestock reform needed for ordinary North Koreans to eat beef (*Daily* NK, 09/06/2018)
Musical instruments stolen from high school ahead of North Korea anniversary (*Daily* NK, 09/06/2018)
(News Focus) N. Korea's Kim asks Trump to restart denuclearization talks (*Yonhap*, 09/06/2018)
N. Korea says it's ready for friendly relations with any country (*Yonhap*, 09/06/2018)
N. Korea wins 1st medal at shooting world championship in S. Korea (*Yonhap*, 09/06/2018)
North Korea emphasizes 'new era of unification' as September 9 approaches (*Daily* NK, 09/06/2018)
North Korea Orders Internet Access Blocked For Its Workers in Russia (RFA, 09/05/2018)
North Korea's Kim has faith in Trump, frustrated at skeptics (*The Washington Post*, 09/06/2018)
North Korea's Kim has 'unwavering trust' in Trump, South Korea says (CNN, 09/06/2018)

North Korea's Kim Jong-un says faith in Trump 'unchanged' (BBC, 09/06/2018)
North Korea's Kim Jong Un says two Koreas should further efforts for denuclearization: KCNA (*Reuters*, 09/05/2018)
North Korea's Kim says he hopes for denuclearization during Trump's presidency (*The Washington Post*, 09/06/2018)
North Korea's Kim sets denuclearization time line, prompting thanks from Trump (*Reuters*, 09/06/2018)

In South Korea:
Against the budget reduction of the North Korean Human Rights Foundation (*Daily NK*, 09/06/2018)
Chung sends Kim Jong-un's peace message to Bolton (*Korea Times*, 09/06/2018)
Experts attach meaning to N.K. leader's denuclearization schedule (*Yonhap*, 09/06/2018)
Moon hails outcome of special envoy's visit to N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 09/06/2018)
Moon's top security adviser to hold talks with U.S. counterpart on N. Korea trip (*Yonhap*, 09/06/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(3rd LD) Third Moon-Kim summit to be held Sept. 18-20: envoy (*Yonhap*, 09/06/2018)
Careless whispers? (*Korea Times*, 09/06/2018)
Kim Jong-un to Host South Korea's Leader Starting Sept. 18 (*The New York Times*, 09/05/2018)
Koreas' Kim and Moon to meet again as Trump nuclear agenda sidelined (*The Guardian*, 09/05/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea to soon announce outcome of Moon envoy's trip to N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 09/06/2018)
Moon-Kim summit set for Sept. 18-20 (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/06/2018)
Moon, Kim to meet Sept. 18-20 (*Korea Times*, 09/06/2018)
Moon may get red-carpet welcome in Pyongyang (*Korea Times*, 09/06/2018)
North and South Korean leaders to meet for third summit despite stalemate with US (*Telegraph*, 09/06/2018)
Third North-South Korea Summit Set for Mid-September (VOA, 09/05/2018)

International:
Beijing airport bustling with Pyongyang-bound foreign tourists (*Yonhap*, 09/06/2018)
Ex-U.S. envoy calls for humanitarian aid to N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 09/06/2018)
Inter-Korean ties, denuclearization must progress together: State Department (*Yonhap*, 09/06/2018)
Japan's Antonio Inoki headed to North Korea for anniversary (UPI, 09/06/2018)
New envoy for North Korea to visit South Korea, China, Japan (*The Washington Post*, 09/06/2018)
North Korean Spy to Be Charged in Sony Pictures Hacking (*The New York Times*, 09/06/2018)
Report: USS Ronald Reagan to dock at South Korea port (UPI, 09/05/2018)
Russia says visit by North Korean leader being discussed (*Reuters*, 09/05/2018)
Top Chinese official makes surprise visit to N. Korea's embassy (*Yonhap*, 09/06/2018)
Trump thanks N.K. leader for having 'unwavering faith' in him (*Yonhap*, 09/06/2018)
Trump thanks North Korea's Kim, says 'we will get it done together' (*Reuters*, 09/06/2018)
USS Ronald Reagan to join fleet review (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/06/2018)

'We will get it done together,' says Trump on North Korea denuclearization (*The Guardian*, 09/06/2018)
When Moon travels North, will he return with a gift for Trump? (CNN, 09/06/2018)

In North Korea:

- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has renewed his commitment to making the Korean Peninsula free of nuclear weapons and threats in his meeting Wednesday with a South Korean delegation that visited Pyongyang to arrange a third inter-Korean summit for this year, according to the North's state-run media. (*Yonhap*)
- As nuclear talks with United States stall, North Korea is preparing to hold a big military parade on the 70th anniversary of the country's founding. (Eric Talmadge, *The Washington Post*)
- One of the more puzzling issues through the "maximum pressure"-period and harsh Chinese implementation of international sanctions on North Korea has been the lack fo significant changes in the market exchange rate between the won and the dollar. (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, *North Korean Economy Watch*)
- Severe flooding in North Korea has killed at least 76 people with nearly the same number missing and thousands left homeless by the destruction, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said on Thursday. (Stephanie Nebehay, *Reuters*)
- For the first time in five years, North Korea is expected to put on a massive performance on Sunday known as the "Mass Games". (Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- Kim Jong Un (Kim Cho'ng-u'n) met with a delegation representing ROK President Moon Jae In at the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee HQ in central Pyongyang on September 5 (Wednesday). (*North Korea Leadership Watch*)
- North Korea's Kim Jong Un told a visiting South Korea delegation a "site of peace, free of nuclear threats" should be created, according to Pyongyang's state media on Thursday. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- Kim Jong Un's ongoing review of North Korea's economic sector is drawing attention from the international community. After discussions in April with the United States, the regime is shifting its focus to the national economy. (Jo Hyon, *Daily NK*)
- Local police are investigating a theft that occurred at a high school in Kimjongsuk County, Ryanggang Province, during the school's summer vacation. (Kang Mi-jin, *Daily NK*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has apparently asked U.S. President Donald Trump to resume their countries' denuclearization talks, according to a South Korean envoy who met the reclusive North Korean leader during his one-day trip to Pyongyang. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea said Thursday that it is ready to have friendly ties with countries that respect its sovereignty in what appears to be a conciliatory gesture to the outside world ahead of the upcoming anniversary of its state establishment. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea captured its first medal at the ongoing shooting world championship in South Korea on Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- A series of public lectures in Pyongyang are emphasizing a "new era of unification" as the 70th anniversary of the North Korean government's establishment approaches on September 9. (Ha Yoon Ah, *Daily NK*)

- North Korea has ordered internet access blocked for laborers sent to work in Russia, alarmed by reports that many of those sent to work there had viewed regional athletic games in which Pyongyang performed poorly, North Korean sources said. (Kim Ji-eun, RFA)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un still has faith in U.S. President Donald Trump's commitment to ending their nations' hostile relations, but he's frustrated by questions about his willingness to denuclearize and wants his "goodwill measures" to be met in kind, South Korean officials said Thursday. (AP)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has "unwavering trust for President Trump" and wants to achieve the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula before the US leader finishes his term, South Korean officials said Thursday. (Yoonjung Seo, James Griffiths, CNN)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's faith in Donald Trump remains "unchanged" and he wants to denuclearise the Korean peninsula during the US president's first term, officials in the South say. (BBC)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said the two Koreas should further their efforts to realize the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, as he met with South Korean special envoys on Wednesday, state media KCNA said on Thursday. (Joyce Lee, *Reuters*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un told a team of South Korean envoys that he continues to trust President Trump and said he hoped to achieve the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula while Trump is in office, the chief envoy said Thursday. (Simon Denyer, Min Joo Kim, *The Washington Post*)
- North Korea's Kim Jong Un has given his first time line for denuclearization, aiming for the end of U.S. President Donald Trump's first term, Seoul officials said on Thursday, prompting thanks from Trump who said they would "get it done together". (Hyonhee Shin, Susan Heavey, *Reuters*)

In South Korea:

- There is a strong interest in the improvement of the human rights of North Koreans in the international community. In fact, it is only in South Korea that the issue of improving human rights in North Korea seems to be going backwards. (Thae Yong-ho, *Daily NK*)
- National Security Office chief Chung Eui-yong had a telephone conversation with his U.S. counterpart John Bolton, Thursda, delivering a message from North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- North Korea experts in Seoul said Thursday that the meeting between South Korea's presidential envoy and the North's leader Kim Jong-un may serve as a positive factor in narrowing the differences between Pyongyang and Washington over denuclearization and a peace regime. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon Jae-in on Thursday hailed the outcome of his special envoy's visit to North Korea, saying he expects an upcoming summit with the North's leader will facilitate denuclearization talks between Washington and Pyongyang. (*Yonhap*)

- Chung Eui-yong, the top security adviser to South Korean President Moon Jae-in, will hold a telephone conversation Thursday with his U.S. counterpart John Bolton on the outcome of his trip to North Korea this week, Moon's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- South Korean President Moon Jae-in will travel to North Korea from Sept. 18-20 for a summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, Moon's special envoy said Thursday, one day after his trip to the communist state. (*Yonhap*)
- If one photo is worth a thousand words, this should easily qualify. Presidential envoy Chung Eui-yong is captured whispering to North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, who is leaning toward him. Kim has a big smile on his face. This marks the closest the two Koreans could get so far. (Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)
- North Korea's leader, Kim Jong-un, said he wanted to rid the Korean Peninsula of nuclear weapons when he met with a special envoy from South Korea, the North's official media reported on Thursday, and the two sides set Sept. 18-20 as the dates for a summit meeting between leaders of the two countries. (Choe Sang-hun, *The New York Times*)
- South Korea's president, Moon Jae-in, will travel to North Korea for a third meeting with the country's leader, Kim Jong-un, as denuclearisation talks with the US stall. (Benjamin Haas, *The Guardian*)
- South Korea on Thursday will announce the outcome of a North Korea trip by a special envoy of President Moon Jae-in that is widely expected to include the date for Moon's third summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon Jae-in will make a three-day trip to Pyongyang from Sept. 18 to 20 for his third summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, said Moon's special envoy Chung Eui-yong on Thursday. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South and North Korea have agreed to hold their next inter-Korean summit on Sept. 18-20 in Pyongyang. (Ko Dong-hwan, *Korea Times*)
- President Moon Jae-in is expected to receive a red-carpet welcome after arriving in Pyongyang for the third summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un on Sept. 18. (Park Ji-won, *Korea Times*)
- Moon Jae-in, the South Korean president, will travel to Pyongyang on September 18 for a three-day summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, his top aides confirmed on Thursday. (Nichola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- The leaders of North and South Korea will hold their third summit in Pyongyang from September 18-20. (VOA)

International:

- The check-in counter of Air Koryo at Beijing Capital International Airport bustled with foreign tourists and journalists heading for Pyongyang on Thursday, three days ahead of North Korea's 70th founding anniversary (*Yonhap*)

- A former U.S. envoy for North Korean human rights issues said Wednesday that humanitarian aid to the impoverished country should continue despite the threat of its nuclear weapons program. (*Yonhap*)
- An improvement in inter-Korean ties must be accompanied by progress toward dismantling North Korea's nuclear weapons program, the United States said Wednesday in response to a South Korean special envoy's meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. (*Yonhap*)
- Retired Japanese wrestler Antonio Inoki is headed to North Korea, according to multiple Japanese press reports. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- The newly appointed U.S. special envoy for North Korea will make his first diplomatic trip abroad next week in the latest effort to press for progress in uncertain denuclearization talks. (Matthew Lee, *The Washington Post*)
- The Justice Department plans to charge a North Korean spy in the hacking of Sony Pictures Entertainment in 2014, according to three government officials familiar with the indictment. (David E. Sanger, Katie Benner, Adam Goldman, *The New York Times*)
- The USS Ronald Reagan is to dock at the South Korean island of Jeju in October, according to a South Korean press report. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- Moscow and Pyongyang are discussing the possibility of a visit by the North Korean leader, Kim Jong Un, to Russia, Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov said on Wednesday. (Denis Pinchuk, *Reuters*)
- A top Chinese official made a surprise visit to North Korea's embassy in Beijing on Thursday to attend a reception commemorating the upcoming 70th anniversary of the founding of the North's government. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump thanked North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and pledged to work together with him on Thursday after Kim said via a South Korean envoy that his faith in Trump remains unchanged. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday welcomed Kim Jong Un's remarks saying his faith in Trump was unchanged as the North Korean leader and that Pyongyang aimed to achieve denuclearization within Trump's first term in office. (Susan Heavey, *Reuters*)
- The United States Navy plans to send the USS Ronald Reagan, a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, to a naval ceremony on Jeju Island next month, South Korea's Ministry of National Defense said on Thursday, raising speculation about a possible military exercise amid stalled talks between North Korea and the United States on denuclearization. (Lee Chul-jae, Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Donald Trump has claimed he and Kim Jong-un will "get it done together" amid continued controversy over the US's stalled goal of North Korean denuclearisation. (*The Guardian*)
- For the first time since he chose to engage with the world, North Korea's Kim Jong Un has proposed a possible timeline for ridding the Korean peninsula of nuclear weapons: by the end of President US Donald Trump's first term in office. (Jamie Tarabay, CNN)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:

https://web.archive.org/web/20250726230616/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items3rd-ld-nk-leader-renews-commitment-to-denuclearizationmoon-kim-summit-set-for-sept-18-20

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Friday, September 7, 2018

U.S. charges North Korean over cyber attacks; Moon says is seeking to establish 'irreversible' peace on Korean Peninsula

Top News:
(2nd LD) U.S. charges N. Korean over cyber attacks (*Yonhap*, 9/7/2018)

In North Korea:
AP Explains: What to expect at N.Korea 70th anniversary gala (*Associated Press*, 9/7/2018)
Choe Ryong Hae Visits Poultry Farms (*North Korea Leadership Watch*, 9/7/2018)
Factory officials in North Pyongan Province purged following criticism by Kim Jong Un (*DailyNK*, 9/7/2018)
Is North Korea's timeline to denuclearise for real? (*Al Jazeera*, 9/6/2018)
North Korea anniversary drawing foreign visitors, state media says (UPI, 9/7/2018)
North Korea to hold 'Mass Games' after 5-year hiatus (ABC, 9/7/2018)
North Korea turns 70: all eyes on missile displays at upcoming military parade (*The Guardian*, 9/6/2018)
North Korea turns 70: What to look for as Pyongyang celebrates (CNN, 9/7/2018)
North Korea will continue cyberattacks despite Sony hack charges, expert says (CBS, 9/7/2018)
North Korea's Air Force: A Threat or a Total Joke? (*National Interest*, 9/6/2018)
North Korea's founding anniversary a chance for Kim to raise cash, project new image (*Reuters*, 9/7/2018)
North Korea's Kim Sets Timeline to Denuclearize (*Bloomberg*, 9/6/2018)
Ordinary North Koreans indifferent to founding anniversary fanfare (*DailyNK*, 9/7/2018)
Past goose-steppers proud of place in North Korean parades (*Associated Press*, 9/7/2018)
Pyongyang bustling with foreign guests on eve of North's 70th birthday (*Yonhap*, 9/7/2018)
Pyongyang issues guidelines to reporters (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/7/2018)
Workers' Orgs Present Light Aircraft to KPA (*North Korea Leadership Watch*, 9/7/2018)

In South Korea:
(2nd LD) Seoul to seek parliamentary ratification of inter-Korean summit agreement (*Yonhap*, 9/7/2018)
Seoul expresses hope for resumption of talks between U.S., N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 9/7/2018)
South Korea calls for international support for Moon-Kim summit (*Korea Times*, 9/7/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Exhibit shows rare North Korean art: Sweeping landscapes, forced smiles (UPI, 9/7/2018)

Inter-Korean liaison office may open next week: Seoul official (*Yonhap*, 9/7/2018)
Inter-Korean Summit Set; Plans for North's Denuclearization Elusive (VOA, 9/7/2018)
'Irreversible' ties with North is Moon's goal (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/7/2018)
Moon says is seeking to establish 'irreversible' peace on Korean Peninsula (*Yonhap*, 9/7/2018)
Seoul to set up int'l press center for inter-Korean summit (*Yonhap*, 9/7/2018)
SKorea's Moon wants 'irrevocable progress' in nuke diplomacy (*Associated Press*, 9/7/2018)
Still No Concrete Steps for North Korea's Denuclearization (VOA, 9/7/2018)
Two Koreas seek accelerated denuclearization, Seoul says (UPI, 9/7/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) Moon sends envoys to China, Japan to explain outcome of N. Korea visit (*Yonhap*, 9/7/2018)
Australia, New Zealand deploy aircraft to Japan to help enforce North Korea sanctions (*Reuters*, 9/7/2018)
Book on Trump raises worries in South Korea about alliance (*Associated Press*, 9/7/2018)
China's top official stresses friendship with North Korea (*Yonhap*, 9/7/2018)
Chinese President to Skip North Korean Anniversary Event (VOA, 9/7/2018)
Cuba's delegation to attend N.K. founding anniversary events in Pyongyang (*Yonhap*, 9/7/2018)
DOJ Charges North Korean Hacker for Sony, Wannacry, and More (*Wired*, 9/6/2018)
Iran, North Korea and Venezuela turning to cryptocurrency to bypass US sanctions, experts warn (*Fox News*, 9/7/2018)
Justice Dept. announces charges against North Korean programmer for Sony hack (CNN, 9/6/2018)
Key details from hacking complaint against North Korean (*Associated Press*, 9/6/2018)
(LEAD) Allies' top security advisers discuss N. Korea trip (*Yonhap*, 9/7/2018)
N. Korea leader rules out US troop pullout (*Korea Times*, 9/7/2018)
No trusting Trump (*Korea Times*, 9/6/2018)
North Korea and U.S. return to negotiating table over Korean War remains (*Washington Post*, 9/7/2018)
North Korean charged in crippling Sony hack, WannaCry virus (*Associated Press*, 9/7/2018)
North Korean 'hacker' charged over cyber-attacks against NHS (*The Guardian*, 9/6/2018)
North Korean 'spy' charged over NHS cyber attack (BBC, 9/6/2018)
Pompeo says 'enormous' work left on N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 9/6/2018)
Ramifications of the North Korean hacking indictment (*Politico*, 9/7/2018)
Seoul is new US nuclear negotiator's first stop (*Korea Times*, 9/7/2018)
Spelling disaster: Yonhap miscalls Trump's security adviser John Bolton's name 'Michael Bolton' (*Korea Times*, 9/7/2018)
The Cybersecurity 202: Trump's praise for Kim Jong Un on same day as Sony hacking charges undercuts deterrence strategy (*Washington Post*, 9/7/2018)
UNC and NK discuss excavating and repatriating war remains (*Yonhap*, 9/7/2018)
U.S. charges, sanctions North Korean hacker (UPI, 9/6/2018)
US Charges N. Korean Man in Sony Hack, Other Attacks (VOA, 9/7/2018)
US charges North Korean spy over NHS cyber attack (*The Telegraph*, 9/6/2018)
U.S. envoy on N. Korea to visit S. Korea next week (*Yonhap*, 9/6/2018)
US Sanctions North Korean Hacker For Sony, WannaCry Cyberattacks (*Radio Free Asia*, 9/6/2018)
U.S. to charge N. Korean over WannaCry, Sony cyber attacks –official (*Reuters*, 9/6/2018)

Where are the Korea experts? (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/7/2018)

Top News:

- HRNK board member David Maxwell was quoted in an article published by *Yonhap*regarding the recent charges brought against a North Korean over his alleged cyber attacks on Sony Pictures and other entities since 2014: "Nuclear weapons are so 20th Century. Cyber is the 21st Century," he said. "This supports continued maximum pressure on North Korea, as cyber activities help the regime generate revenue through other means that have been stopped because of sanctions." (*Yonhap*)

In North Korea:

- North Korea will be staging a major military parade, huge rallies and revived iconic mass games on Sunday to mark its 70th anniversary as a nation. Here's a look at what's in store and why it matters. (Eric Talmadge, *Associated Press*)
- DPRK state media reported on September 5 (Wednesday) that Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] Vice Chairman and State Affairs Commission Vice Chairman Choe Ryong Hae (Ch'oe Ryong-hae) visited Mangyo'ngdae Chicken Farm and the 927 Chicken Farm. (*North Korea Leadership Watch*)
- In North Hamgyong Province, which has uniformly received withering criticism from Kim, there is now an intense backlash occuring in the province's Party and administrative organs. (Kim Yoo Jin, *DailyNK*)
- Kim is meeting South Korean President Moon Jae-in later this month for the third time this year to discuss measures towards denuclearisation. What's been blocking progress in nuclear diplomacy? Is the North Korean leader's offer of peace for real? (*Al Jazeera*)
- Pyongyang's Workers' Party newspaper Rodong Sinmun published photographs of foreign groups and civic organizations visiting the regime on Friday, ahead of a planned military parade on Sunday. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- After a five-year hiatus, North Korea is expected to bring back the iconic Mass Games during the country's National Day celebrations, which will mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of the country. (Karson Yiu, ABC)
- North Korea is set to hold a massive military parade on Sunday to mark the 70th anniversary of the country's founding, a powerful display of martial might as talks with the US over the country's nuclear weapons program stall. (Benjamin Haas, *The Guardian*)
- International journalists have been invited to watch a military parade as it weaves through the capital Pyongyang on Sunday, a torch-lit rally and the Mass Games, a highly choreographed event expected to involved hundreds of thousands of people. (Joshua Berlinger, CNN)
- Federal prosecutors have identified the man they say is behind some of the world's most destructive cyberattacks. The Justice Department claims a North Korean programmer, backed by Kim Jong Un's regime, conducted attacks that include the devastating hack of Sony Pictures Entertainment in 2014.(CBS)

- While admittedly primitive, North Korean air forces cannot necessarily be written off. If led by a clever commander, they might still be able to do some damage in a conflict they have been training for decades to fight. (Dave Majumdar, *National Interest*)
- North Korea's celebrations marking its 70th anniversary on Sunday are expected to showcase a country that has secured a nuclear arsenal and is now focusing on developing its economy and cultivating international relations. (Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un signaled he wanted to "achieve denuclearization" during U.S. President Donald Trump's first term during meetings with South Korean officials. Kim also wanted a declaration with the U.S. to formally end the Korean War, the officials said. (Jodi Schneider, *Bloomberg*)
- For their part, many North Koreans have decidedly less jubilant feelings about the national holiday and its corresponding events, according to a separate source in Pyongyang. "Events around political holidays and anniversaries tend to bring more complaints than anticipation. In this case, the parents of the mobilized students find it particularly distressing." (Mun Dong Hui, *DailyNK*)
- Even two decades after he fled North Korea, even with an abiding hatred of the ruling dictatorship, Sim Ju-il sometimes still relives the days when he goose-stepped past the nation's revered founder, Kim Il Sung, as a young man. (Kim Hyung-jin,*Associated Press*)
- The Rodong Sinmun, the organ of the ruling Workers' Party, carried photos and a list of major foreign visitors arriving in Pyongyang, apparently seeking to further boost the festive mood ahead of the main birthday event slated for Sunday. (*Yonhap*)
- Foreign journalists who went to Pyongyang this week to cover the 70th anniversary of North Korea's founding received media guidelines from North Korean officials on Thursday that described the dos and don'ts while covering the celebration, NK News reported. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- A presentation meeting of light aircraft to the Korean People's Army [KPA] by workers' and social organizations was held at an airstrip on September 4 (Tuesday) to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the DPRK. (*North Korea Leadership Watch*)

In South Korea:

- The South Korean government will seek to secure the National Assembly's support for the inter-Korean agreement on rapprochement and cooperation reached at the countries' leaders' summit in April, an official from the presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea hopes to see an early resumption of denuclearization talks between the United States and North Korea, a senior official from Seoul's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said Friday, one day after its envoy delivered a direct message from North Korean leader Kim Jong-un to Washington. (*Yonhap*)
- Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha called for international society to deliver strong support for lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula in a meeting with foreign diplomats here Friday. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- A group of rare North Korean paintings is on exhibit at South Korea's Gwangju Biennale, one of the longest-running biennial art events in Asia, offering a glimpse of the North Korea's unique state-driven art form. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- South and North Korea are expected to open their liaison office at the North's Kaesong Industrial Complex next week, a government official said Friday. Baik Tae-hyun, spokesman of the Ministry of Unification, said that discussions are under way to fix the opening date for the inter-Korean liaison office around the later part of next week. (Yonhap)
- South Korean officials say high-level talks are scheduled for early next week between representatives from the two Koreas ahead of a summit set for Sept. 18 through Sept. 20. (Steve Miller, VOA)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in said his goal is to make "irreversible progress by the end of the year" toward denuclearization and a permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula in an interview on Friday. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korea is seeking to formally end its hostile relations with North Korea before the year's end to establish permanent peace that would be irreversible, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said in an interview published Friday. (Yonhap)
- South Korea will set up an international press center in Seoul during the upcoming summit between its President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in Pyongyang, the presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said Friday. (Yonhap)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Friday that he is pushing for "irrevocable progress" in efforts to rid North Korea of its nuclear weapons by the end of this year as he prepares for his third summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. (Kim Hyung-jin, *Associated Press*)
- Although concrete denuclearization measures from Pyongyang have yet to materialize, South Korea is saying the purpose of the summit is to discuss a plan for permanent peace on the peninsula. (Steve Miller, VOA)
- South Korea's presidential office said Friday the two Koreas agreed to "speed up" the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the establishent of a peace regime, a day after South Korean envoys said Kim Jong Un desired denuclearization during U.S. President Donald Trump's first term. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

International:

- South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Friday ordered his top security officials to visit China and Japan to explain the outcome of their visit to North Korea this week, the presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said. (Yonhap)
- Australia and New Zealand said on Friday their governments were deploying three maritime patrol aircraft to Japan to assist with efforts to enforce United Nations sanctions against North Korea. (Charlotte Greenfield, Paulina Duran, *Reuters*)
- Supposed moves by Trump, detailed in journalist Bob Woodward's new book, will cause bafflement and worry among government officials in Seoul. But, for many South Koreans, they just add more pieces of evidence to an established picture of an erratic U.S. leader who thinks little of an alliance forged in the turmoil of the Korean War and often described here as a "bond of blood." (Kim Tong-hyung, Kim Hyung-jin, *Associated Press*)

- China's No. 4-ranked official emphasized the country's friendly relationship with North Korea during his surprise visit to the North's embassy in Beijing on Thursday, sources said. (*Yonhap*)
- Chinese President Xi Jinping's decision to turn down a reported invitation to attend a military parade in North Korea and celebrations marking 70 years since the founding of the isolated state may have helped him dodge problems on several fronts. (Bill Ide, VOA)
- A delegation from Cuba will soon visit Pyongyang to attend events marking the upcoming 70th anniversary of the founding of North Korea, the North's state media said Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- Thursday, the Justice Department made it official, issuing a sweeping complaint against a single Hermit Kingdom hacker for not just the Sony breach, but for 2017's devastating WannaCry ransomware strain, a brazen heist of $81 million from Bangladesh in 2016, and more.(Brian Barrett, *Wired*)
- America's rivals are increasingly turning to bitcoin-style cryptocurrencies after their economies were brought to their knees thanks to crippling U.S. sanctions, experts have warned. Iran, North Korea, Russia and Venezuela are all investing in the technology in an attempt to counter American economic might. (Sam Webb, *Fox News*)
- The Justice Department announced cyber hacking charges against a North Korean national linked to the computer hacking of Sony in 2014, the WannaCry ransomware attack, and other significant cyber intrusions in a criminal complaint unsealed Thursday. (Laura Jarrett, Evan Perez, CNN)
- U.S. officials have charged a North Korean computer programmer in connection with high-profile cyberattacks, including the Sony Pictures Entertainment hack and the WannaCry ransomware virus that affected hundreds of thousands of computers worldwide. (*Associated Press*)
- U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton said Thursday he spoke with his South Korean counterpart to discuss the latter's recent trip to North Korea. Chung Eui-yong, director of South Korea's presidential National Security Office, briefed Bolton by phone following his one-day visit to Pyongyang on Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- "Chairman Kim said the withdrawal of the American military and the weakening of the Seoul-Washington alliance will have nothing to do with a declaration ending the Korean War," National Security Office (NSO) chief Chung Eu-yong said during a press briefing at Cheong Wa Dae, Thursday. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- Here in the swamp of the American capital, you appreciate how easy it is to forget about Korea when North Korea isn't firing missiles and testing warheads or, conversely, when no one's talking about another summit between President Trump and Kim Jong-un. (Donald Kirk, *Korea Times*)
- The United States and North Korea returned to the negotiating table Friday, with generals from both countries meeting to discuss the recovery of the remains of service members killed in the Korean War, an official said. (Simon Denyer, *Washington Post*)
- A computer programmer working for the North Korean government was charged with devastating cyberattacks that hacked Sony Pictures Entertainment and unleashed the WannaCry ransomware virus that infected computers in 150 countries and crippled parts of

the British health care system, federal prosecutors said Thursday. (Brian Melley, Michael Balsamo, *Associated Press*)

- The US justice department has charged an alleged North Korean spy for helping to perpetrate cyber-attacks against the National Health Service that saw operations cancelled, ambulances diverted and patient records made unavailable following a worldwide hack in 2017 which affected computers in more than 150 countries. (Mattha Busby, *The Guardian*)
- US prosecutors have charged a North Korean man alleged to have been involved in creating the malicious software used to cripple the UK's National Health Service. (Dave Lee, BBC)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Thursday that an "enormous" amount of work remains to be done to dismantle North Korea's nuclear weapons program following a historic summit between the two countries' leaders in June. (*Yonhap*)
- When U.S. prosecutors announced charges Thursday against a North Korean national for a conspiracy with the Pyongyang government on some of the most significant cyberattacks ever — Bangladesh Bank, Sony, the WannaCry outbreak — it represented a number of firsts.(Tim Starks, Eric Geller, Martin Matishak, Zachary Warmbrodt, Politico)
- Stephen Biegun, a former Ford executive and Washington's newly-appointed chief negotiator for Pyongyang's denuclearization, will visit South Korea from Monday to Wednesday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Friday. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- South Korea's news agency Yonhap has become an online laughing stock after it misspelled White House national security adviser John Bolton's name as American rock balladeer "Michael Bolton" in an English article published Thursday. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- Hours before the Justice Department announced the charges, Trump praised North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Twitter, thanking him for "unwavering faith in President Trump" and negotiations to curb Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program. (Derek Hawkins, *Washington Post)*
- The United Nations Command and North Korea on Friday discussed jointly excavating the remains of American soldiers killed in the 1950-53 Korean War and repatriating them to their families, a government source said. (*Yonhap*)
- The U.S. Department of the Treasury on Thursday sanctioned a North Korean hacker accused of carrying out several high-profile digital attacks between 2014 and 2017. (Daniel Uria, UPI)
- U.S. prosecutors on Thursday announced criminal charges against a North Korean hacker they said was involved in a string of brazen cyberattacks in recent years, including the 2014 invasion on Sony Pictures and a 2016 heist at the central bank of Bangladesh. (Masood Farivar, VOA)
- The US government has charged a North Korean spy over last year's devastating WannaCry cyber attack and the hack that crippled Sony in 2014. (James Titcomb, *The Telegraph*)
- The U.S. special envoy on North Korea will make his first trip to South Korea next week to meet with officials and discuss efforts to dismantle the North's nuclear weapons program, the State Department said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- The United States on Thursday sanctioned and lodged criminal charges in absentia against a North Korean hacker it said was involved in the 2017 global WannaCry ransomware cyberattack, the theft of $81 million from Bangladesh's central bank, and the 2014 cyber assault on Sony Corp. (Kyung Ha Rhee, Paul Eckert, *Radio Free Asia*)

- The U.S. Justice Department is poised to charge a North Korean hacker over the 2017 global WannaCry ransomware attack and the 2014 cyber attack on Sony Corp , a U.S. official told Reuters on Thursday. (Christopher Bing, *Reuters*)
- Earlier this year, North Korea expert and Georgetown Professor Victor Cha was considered for the job of U.S. Ambassador to Korea, but the former commander of the U.S. Pacific Command Harry Harris took the position. It feels like people who don't know much about peninsular affairs are coming. (Nam Jeong-ho, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726230857/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsus-charges-north-korean-over-cyber-attacksmoon-says-is-seeking-to-establish-irreversible-peace-on-korean-peninsula

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Saturday, September 8, 2018

North and South Korea ask UN to circulate peace declaration; State Department confirms Pompeo received letter from Kim to Trump

In North Korea:
N. Korean military parades: Propaganda, intimidation, unity (*The Washington Post*, 09/08/2018)
North Korea group suggests U.S. withdraw forces (*UPI*, 09/07/2018)
North Korea: Six months' training for 10 minutes on parade (*BBC*, 09/07/2018)
Update on Yongbyon: More Dredging Around the Reactor Cooling System; Flooding Tests the Reservoir Dam's Integrity (*38 North*, 09/07/2018)

In South Korea:
Moon's envoy visits China to brief on N.K. visit outcome (*Yonhap*, 09/08/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
North and South Korea ask UN to circulate peace declaration (*The Washington Post*, 09/07/2018)

International:
Designing A New Peace and Security System in Korea (*38 North*, 09/07/2018)
Japan Focuses on North Korea's Chemical Weapons (*The Diplomat*, 09/08/2018)
(LEAD) Trump says he expects to receive Kim's letter soon (*Yonhap*, 09/08/2018)
Russian lawmaker: North Korea's leader confirmed readiness to visit Russia – RIA (*Reuters*, 09/08/2018)
S. Korean, U.S. nuke envoys discuss N. Korea via phone (*Yonhap*, 09/08/2018)

State Department confirms Pompeo received letter from Kim to Trump (CNN, 09/08/2018)
Trump expecting 'positive' letter from North Korea's Kim Jong Un soon (*Reuters*, 09/07/2018)
Trump expecting to receive letter from North Korea's Kim (*The Washington Post*, 09/07/2018)
Trump welcomes Kim's denuclearization timeline (*Yonhap*, 09/08/2018)
US, China Look to October Talks to Patch Up Rocky Relations (VOA, 09/08/2018)
U.S. Presses Criminal Charges and Sanctions against North Korean Cyber Operative (*Foundation for Defense of Democracies*, 09/07/2018)
US Warns North Korea: No Concessions Without Denuclearization (VOA, 09/07/2018)

In North Korea:

- During the 70 years that the Kim family has ruled, North Korea's 30-plus massive military parades have been used as much for propaganda, intimidation and internal unity as for commemorating important anniversaries. (Hyung-jin Kim, AP)
- A North Korea "civic group" has disclosed a statement urging the withdrawal of U.S. forces from the peninsula. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Sunday sees a huge birthday celebration in North Korea. Dazzling displays of discipline and devotion are expected for the 70th anniversary of the founding of the state. (Laura Bicker, BBC)
- Commercial satellite imagery of North Korea's Yongbyon Nuclear Scientific Research Center from August 27 shows that dredging work continues around the probable new secondary cooling system for the 5 MWe reactor. (Frank V. Pabian, Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., Jack Liu, 38 North)

In South Korea:

- The top security adviser to South Korean President Moon Jae-in arrived in China on Saturday to explain the outcome of his recent visit to North Korea, officials said. (Yonhap)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- North Korea and South Korea asked the United Nations on Friday to circulate a peace declaration their leaders agreed to in April that vows to remove nuclear weapons from the Korean peninsula and work toward a formal end to the Korean War. (Edith M. Lederer, AP)

International:

- Given the current difficulties in US-DPRK talks, imagining what a sustainable security system on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia more broadly looks like seems a bit premature, if not an outright pipe dream. (Georgy Toloraya, 38 North)

- Amid growing pessimism about the state of international negotiations with North Korea over denuclearization, Japan is seeking to shine a light on the regime's other weapons of mass destruction. (Daniel Hurst, *The Diplomat*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump said Friday that he expects to receive a "positive letter" from North Korean leader Kim Jong-un soon as the two sides negotiate the dismantlement of the regime's nuclear weapons program. (*Yonhap*)
- Kim Jong Un has confirmed his readiness to visit Russia, the RIA news agency quoted speaker of the upper house of the Russian parliament, Valentina Matvienko, as saying after she met the North Korean leader in Pyongyang on Saturday. (Polina Devitt, *Reuters*)
- The top nuclear envoys of South Korea and the United States held a telephone conversation Friday and discussed the outcome of a South Korean delegation's recent trip to North Korea. (*Yonhap*)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has received a letter from Kim Jong Un to US President Donald Trump, according to a State Department official. (Euan McKirdy, Elise Labott, CNN)
- U.S. President Donald Trump said on Friday a letter from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, which he believes will be positive, is on its way to him, a day after expressing fresh optimism about a denuclearization deal. (Steve Holland, *Reuters*)
- President Donald Trump says he's expecting get a letter in the coming days that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is sending him through Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. (Ken Thomas, AP)
- U.S. President Donald Trump welcomed North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's reported desire to achieve denuclearization before the end of Trump's first term, saying it was "very nice." (*Yonhap*)
- The United States and China are planning to resume high-level diplomatic talks in October, returning to the negotiating table to discuss diplomatic issues while the countries remain locked in an escalating trade dispute. (Nike Ching, VOA)
- Yesterday, the U.S. Treasury Department sanctioned North Korean computer programmer Park Jin Hyok for malicious state-sponsored cyber activity while the Justice Department unsealed criminal charges against Park for the same actions. (Mathew Ha, *Foundation for Defense of Democracies*)
- A top State Department official insisted Friday that North Korea would have to blink first if it wanted to make a deal on denuclearization with the United States. (Jeff Seldin, VOA)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726230903/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsnorth-and-south-korea-ask-un-to-circulate-peace-declarationstate-department-confirms-pompeo-received-letter-from-kim-to-trump

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Sunday, September 9, 2018

NK holds military parade without ICBMs; 'A cage without walls': Once in SK, N.Koreans have little chance of getting asylum elsewhere

In North Korea:

(6th LD) N. Korea tones down anniversary military parade: reports (*Yonhap*, 9/9/2018)
Can Pyongyang become the next Berlin? (*Korea Times*, 9/9/2018)
Central Message Meeting Held (*North Korea Leadership Watch*, 9/9/2018)
French actor Gerard Depardieu spotted in North Korea ahead of regime's 70th anniversary (*The Telegraph*, 9/8/2018)
From New Rich to dating culture, seismic social changes underway in North Korea (*Korea Times*, 9/9/2018)
Kim Jong Un Visits Ku'msusan on the DPRK's Birthday (*North Korea Leadership Watch*, 9/9/2018)
Mass gymnastics event marks North Korea's Sept. 9 foundation day [PHOTOS] (*Korea Times*, 9/9/2018)
N. Korea completes military parade on founding anniversary: source (*Yonhap*, 9/9/2018)
N. Korea set to stage military parade on founding anniversary amid stalled nuke talks (*Yonhap*, 9/9/2018)
No long-range missiles, North Korea military parade features floats and flowers (*Reuters*, 9/9/2018)
North holds parade sans ICBMs (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/9/2018)
North Korea celebrates 70th birthday with military parade — but doesn't show off ICBMs (*Washington Post*, 9/9/2018)
North Korea holds military parade without ICBMs (CNN, 9/9/2018)
North Korea holds parade without ballistic missiles, reports say (BBC, 9/9/2018)
North Korea is celebrating its birthday with 'mass games' — 100,000 people doing synchronized gymnastics (*Washington Post*, 9/8/2018)
North Korea Mounts Military Parade (VOA, 9/9/2018)
North Korea stages huge military parade to mark 70th anniversary (*The Guardian*, 9/9/2018)
North Korea stages huge parade but holds back on top missiles to focus on the economy (*The Telegraph*, 9/9/2018)
North Korea stages huge parade, without showing ICBMs [PHOTOS] (*Korea Times*, 9/9/2018)
North Korea to fete 70th birthday with tanks, dancing masses (*Associated Press*, 9/8/2018)
North Korea to stage military parade and mass games (*BBC*, 9/8/2018)
Positive steps, but small ones (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/9/2018)
PPJ Visits Hwanghae Iron and Steel, Taean Friendship Glass Factory (*North Korea Leadership Watch*, 9/8/2018)
Typhoon Soulik leaves 76 dead, 75 missing in North Korea (*Korea Times*, 9/9/2018)
What life looks like for North Korea's elite (*Washington Post*, 9/8/2018)
Will Ripley visits North Korea after US summit (CNN, 9/8/2018)

In South Korea:

'A cage without walls': Once in South Korea, North Koreans have little chance of getting asylum elsewhere (*CBC*, 9/9/2018)
'I have arrived in South Korea. Now what?' (3) (*Korea Times*, 9/8/2018)
Moonshine and US-North Korean contest (*Korea Times*, 9/9/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
DMZ marathon offers rare peek inside heavily fortified border (*Korea Times*, 9/9/2018)
Third summit to test Moon again as negotiator (*Korea Times*, 9/9/2018)
Two Koreas' civil organizations to hold joint event in N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 9/9/2018)

International:
China's Xi expresses 'unshakable' commitment to cement relations with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 9/9/2018)
Jumpstart of nuclear talks (*Korea Times*, 9/9/2018)
KJU Meets with the Russian Federation Council Chairwoman (*North Korea Leadership Watch*, 9/9/2018)
(LEAD) Chinese official in Pyongyang conveys Xi's letter to N. Korean leader: report (*Yonhap*, 9/9/2018)
London firm 'helped North Korea evade UN sanctions' on coal sales (*The Telegraph*, 9/8/2018)
NK resumes talks with US on war remains (*Korea Times*, 9/9/2018)
Pompeo has received North Korean letter Trump was expecting (*Associated Press*, 9/8/2018)
Spy chief visits Tokyo to report on NK visit (*Korea Times*, 9/9/2018)
Why shouldn't America's allies build nukes? (*Korea Times*, 9/9/2018)

In North Korea:

- North Korea staged a large-scale military parade on Sunday but did not showcase intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) capable of striking the United States in what appeared to be a low-key event to celebrate the 70th anniversary of its founding, media reports showed. (*Yonhap*)
- All across Berlin, the scars of division were palpable in the remnants of the wall and public art memorials. After the wall fell in 1989, Presidents Kim Dae-jung and Moon Jae-in unveiled in Berlin their blueprints for Korean unification. More than 300 Koreans have also devoted their dissertations to the parallels between German reunification and Korea. (Lee Jun-youb, *Korea Times*)
- A meeting held to authorize a message to Kim Jong Un to mark the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the DPRK was held at the People's Palace of Culture on Friday. The congratulatory message was jointly issued by the Workers' Party of Korea Central Committee, the WPK Central Military Commission, the State Affairs Commission, the Supreme People's Assembly Presidium and the DPRK Cabinet. (*North Korea Leadership Watch*)
- Gérard Depardieu, the enfant terrible of French cinema, has been spotted in the North Korean capital Pyongyang hours before the 70th anniversary of the country's birth. (Henry Samuel, *The Telegraph*)

- In Pyongyang, Hatsuzawa said, scenes of young men and women sitting closely next to each other and whispering love are easily spotted in public spaces such as restaurants. Some men and women take selfies, putting their arms over each other's shoulder. "I have never seen anything like that when I visited the North when Kim Jong-il was in power," he said. (Kang Hyun-kyung, *Korea Times*)
- Kim Jong Un (Kim Cho'ng-u'n) and senior DPRK officials visited Ku'msusan Palace of the Sun [KPS] on September 9 (Sunday), the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the country. (*North Korea Leadership Watch*)
- North Korea is staging a mass gymnastics and artistic performance in Pyongyang, Sunday, to mark Sept. 9 foundation day. On Friday, DPR Korea Tour, a website run by North Korea's National Tourism Administration, released rehearsal photos of, "The Glorious Country," being held at the May Day Stadium in Pyongyang. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)
- North Korea held a military parade early Sunday to mark the 70th anniversary of its founding, an intelligence source said. "The North held the military parade in the morning, and it has been completed," the source said on condition of anonymity. The event was said to start at around 10 a.m. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea is set to stage a military parade Sunday to celebrate the 70th anniversary of its founding, in which experts say Pyongyang will display its military might while trying not to jeopardize the denuclearization talks with the United States. (*Yonhap*)
- With no long-range missiles on display, North Korea staged a military parade on Sunday focused on conventional arms, peace and economic development, to mark the 70th anniversary of the country's founding. (Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- North Korea on Sunday staged a major military parade featuring over 10,000 soldiers and rows of tanks rolling through Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang, but it held back from showing off intercontinental and medium range missiles to avoid upsetting the United States. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- North Korea celebrated the 70th anniversary of its foundation Sunday with a parade featuring tens of thousands of goose-stepping soldiers, along with columns of tanks and heavy artillery, but notably did not show off the intercontinental ballistic missiles that are believed to be capable of reaching the United States. (Simon Denyer, *Washington Post*)
- North Korea staged a military parade Sunday to mark the 70th anniversary of the country's founding, but held back on showcasing its intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), believed to be capable of targeting the United States. (Ellana Lee, Tim Schwarz, Will Ripley, Joshua Berliner, CNN)
- North Korea did not display any intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) at a military parade to mark its 70th anniversary, reports say. The parade is being scrutinised for clues about North Korea's weapons arsenal and professed commitment to denuclearization. (BBC)
- It has been five years since North Korea last held the last Mass Games, but this year's version is set to begin Sunday. It will be part of North Korea's 70th anniversary celebrations, and the theme is "The Glorious Country." (Siobhán O'Grady, *Washington Post*)
- North Korea's leader presided Sunday over a huge military parade, marking the North's 70th anniversary. Kim Jong Un did not, however, address the crowd assembled in Pyongyang's Kim Il Sung Square. (VOA)

- North Korea staged a huge military parade on Sunday to mark 70 years since the country's founding, but avoided jeopardising ongoing talks with the United States by not displaying its most powerful weapons and making no mention of its nuclear program. (Benjamin Haas, *The Guardian*)
- North Korea on Sunday marked the 70th anniversary of the country's founding with a parade of goose-stepping soldiers, tanks and military hardware, but it held back on displaying its intercontinental ballistic missiles, believed to be capable of hitting the United States. (Nicola Smith, *The Telegraph*)
- North Korea did not showcase intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM) in its military parade held in Pyongyang, Sunday, marking the 70th anniversary of the communist regime's founding. Pyongyang also did not provide live coverage of the event, which began around 10 a.m., ended before noon. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- Workers with paint brushes and brooms put the final touches on Pyongyang's iconic Kim Il Sung Square on Saturday as North Korea prepared for what promises to be its biggest celebration in years — the 70th anniversary of the country's official birth as a nation. (Eric Talmadge, *Associated Press*)
- North Korea is preparing to stage a military parade this weekend along with its first mass games in five years to mark its 70th anniversary. The parade will be closely watched for clues about North Korea's weapons arsenal and professed commitment to denuclearization. (BBC)
- No intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) showed up at the 70th anniversary of the founding of the North Korean government on Sunday, a decision that we welcome. North Korea also changed the way it broadcasts its major political events: from live coverage to a recorded one this time. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- DPRK state media reported on September 7 (Friday) that Premier and State Affairs Commission Vice Chairman Pak Pong Ju (Pak Pong-chu) visited and inspected Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex the Taean Friendship Glass Factory. (*North Korea Leadership Watch*)
- At least 76 people were killed and 75 missing in a typhoon that struck North Korea two weeks ago, according to international aid agencies. According to the International Federation of Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) DPRK Country Office, Typhoon Soulik displaced nearly 60,000 people whose homes were destroyed. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)
- From mass dances to going to the zoo, a glimpse inside the Hermit Kingdom. (*Washington Post*)
- CNN's Will Ripley reports from Pyongyang three months after the historic meeting between President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. (Will Ripley, CNN)

In South Korea:

- As soon as North Koreans enter South Korea, they are granted citizenship, but that makes them ineligible to apply for asylum in Canada since South Korea is considered a safe country. Which is why they end up applying for refugee status as North Koreans without declaring their South Korean citizenship. (Jennifer Yoon, CBC)
- The escape was difficult, but I made it to South Korea. At first it was very difficult here; so many things were unfamiliar even though Korea has been divided for only 70 years. I became

depressed for a while, but finally I got a nice job. (Casey Lartigue Jr., Eunkoo Lee, Korea Times)

- South Korean President Moon Jae-in has shown for the third time that his engagement policy is able to bring back "renewed commitment" from North Korea for denuclearization. (Sandip Kumar Mishra, Korea Times)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Over 4,800 runners including 340 foreigners had a rare chance to run through the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) as the Hankook Ilbo, the sister paper of The Korea Times, and Cheorwon County co-hosted the 15th Cheorwon DMZ International Peace Marathon, Sunday. (Yi Whan-woo, Korea Times)
- The third summit between President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, slated for Sept. 18 to 20 in Pyongyang, is posing a challenge for Moon in finding a breakthrough and speeding up the North's denuclearization progress. (Yi Whan-woo, Korea Times)
- A pro-unification civil organization in South Korea will hold a joint event with its North Korean counterpart next month to call for sincere implementation of April's inter-Korean summit agreement for permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula, officials said Sunday. (Yonhap)

International:

- Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory message to North Korean leader Kim Jong-un on Sunday to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the North's founding, saying it's China's "unshakable policy" to further cement relations with Pyongyang, according to the North's state media. (Yonhap)
- Some of the statements that North Korean leader Kim Jong-un made to the South Korean delegation of envoys, headed by National Security Office chief Chung Eui-yong, on Sept. 5 are significant enough to provide new momentum to restart the stalled denuclearization talks between Pyongyang and Washington. (Tong Kim, Korea Times)
- Kim Jong Un met with Valentina Ivanova Matvienko, chairwoman of the Russian Federation Council, at the Workers' Party of Korea Central Committee Office Building (#1) in central Pyongyang on September 8 (Saturday). The meeting "proceeded in a friendly and amicable atmosphere throughout." (North Korea Leadership Watch)
- A high-ranking Chinese official who is currently in Pyongyang, North Korea, to attend a national ceremony conveyed Chinese President Xi Jinping's personal letter to North Korean leader Kim Jong-un on Sunday, a Chinese news report said. (Yonhap)
- A London-based firm is being investigated by the British authorities on suspicion of indirectly aiding North Korea's nuclear weapons programme, after it allegedly evaded UN sanctions on the dictatorship. (Nicola Smith, Harriet Alexander, James Rothwell, The Telegraph)

- Talks between the United States and North Korea over a possible joint effort for the recovery of more remains of U.S. soldiers killed during the 1950-53 Korean War have resumed last week, a government official said, Sunday. (Kim Yoo-chul, *Korea Times*)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has received the letter that President Donald Trump has said he was expecting from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. A State Department official is confirming that Pompeo has the letter. It's not immediately clear whether it's been delivered to Trump. (Matthew Lee, *Associated Press*)
- South Korea's spy chief Suh Hoon has arrived in Tokyo to brief Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on key updates of last week's meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, Cheong Wa Dae said Sunday. (Kim Yoo-chul, *Korea Times*)
- A couple weeks ago the Welt am Sonntag ran an article by political scientist Christian Hacke, which argued Germany was no longer under America's nuclear umbrella and "National defense on the basis of a nuclear deterrent must be given priority in light of new transatlantic uncertainties and potential confrontations." (Doug Bandow, *Korea Times*)

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Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726230907/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-nk-holds-military-parade-without-icbms-a-cage-without-walls-once-in-sk-nkoreans-have-little-chance-of-getting-asylum-elsewhere

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Monday, September 10, 2018

Kim Jong-un holds fire on displaying his biggest guns; Opposition party leaders refuse to accompany Moon on summit trip to Pyongyang

In North Korea

(2nd LD) N. Korea's media report on military parade, mass games (*Yonhap*, 09/10/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korea, China push for Xi's Pyongyang visit, economic cooperation: sources (*Yonhap*, 09/10/2018)
Another N. Korean restaurant reopens in China (*Yonhap*, 09/10/2018)
Drones and Gymnasts: North Korean 'Mass Games' Return With Messages of Reconciliation (*The New York Times*, 09/10/2018)
Increasing autonomy for North Korean enterprises (*DailyNK*, 09/10/2018)
In pictures: North Korea's mass games propaganda show (*BBC*, 09/10/2018)
Kim complains that U.S. not being reciprocal toward N. Korea (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 09/10/2018)
Kim is playing a dangerous game (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/10/2018)

Kim Jong-un gets his kicks but rockets absent at North Korea's 70th birthday bash (*The Daily Telegraph*, 09/09/2018)
Kim Jong-un holds fire on displaying his biggest guns (*The Times*, 09/10/2018)
Kim Jong-un hopes to consolidate ties with China (*The Korea Times*, 09/10/2018)
Kim Jong-un's Sister Resumes Public Appearances (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 09/10/2018)
Kim Jong Un's 4th letter to Donald Trump (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 09/10/2018)
NK calls for powerful economy on founding anniversary (*The Korea Herald*, 09/10/2018)
North Korea is trying to play off Beijing and Washington — and come out the winner (*The Washington Post*, 09/10/2018)
North Korea Leader Says Ball Is Now in U.S. Court: Russian Official Who Met Him (*The New York Times*, 09/10/2018)
North Korea leaves weapons of mass destruction out of enormous military parade celebrating nation's 70th anniversary (*The Independent*, 09/09/2018)
North Korea skips nukes on anniversary stamps [PHOTOS] (*The Korea Times*, 09/10/2018)
North Korea swaps ballistic missiles for parade floats (*The Korea Times*, 09/10/2018)
North Korea takes strong turn for market economy under Kim (*The Korea Times*, 09/10/2018)
North Korea tones down military parade (*Los Angeles Times*, 09/09/2018)
North Korea Wraps Up 70th Anniversary With Mass Rally (*The New York Times*, 09/10/2018)
North Korean media reports military parade, without missiles (*UPI*, 09/10/2018)
North Korean restaurants back in business in China (*The Korea Times*, 09/10/2018)
North Korean restaurants reopen in China (*UPI*, 09/10/2018)
N.Korea Keeps Long-Range Missiles off Anniversary Parade (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 09/10/2018)
N.Korea's Missile Assembly Facility Dismantled (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 09/10/2018)
N. Korea celebrates 70th anniversary with no display of ICBMs (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 09/10/2018)
N. Korea pledges to build powerful economy at national meeting (*Yonhap*, 09/10/2018)
N. Korea rids missiles from military parade (CNN, 09/09/2018)
N. Korea sends less provocative message with military parade (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 09/10/2018)
N. Korean leader hopes to consolidate ties with China (*Yonhap*, 09/10/2018)
Private bathhouse industry booming in Pyongsong (*DailyNK*, 09/10/2018)
Spate of arrests and repatriations follows tightened border control (*DailyNK*, 09/10/2018)
Wreath Laying Ceremonies Held (*North Korea Leadership Watch*, 09/10/2018)

In South Korea

(2nd LD) S. Korean spy agency chief briefs Abe on N. Korea trip (*Yonhap*, 09/10/2018)
(2nd LD) Rival parties agree to discuss summit deal ratification after next week's Moon-Kim talks (*Yonhap*, 09/10/2018)
(LEAD) Rival parties wrangle over proposal to ratify summit accord with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 09/10/2018)
'Cheong Wa Dae poorly handled N. Korea coal case' (*The Korea Times*, 09/10/2018)
Agriculture minister expresses hope for joint projects with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 09/10/2018)
Agriculture minister hopes for joint projects (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/10/2018)
BIFF to open with story of North Korean woman defector [VIDEO] (*The Korea Times*, 09/10/2018)
Floor leaders agree to look at summit pact (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/10/2018)
Gov't to submit ratification motion for April summit (*The Korea Times*, 09/10/2018)

Moon invites party leaders to Pyongyang summit (*The Korea Times*, 09/10/2018)
Moon requests report on military's capacity against North (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/10/2018)
Moon's Approval Rating Plunges Below 50% (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 09/10/2018)
Opposition party leaders refuse to accompany Moon on summit trip to Pyongyang (*Yonhap*, 09/10/2018)
Parties call truce on Panmunjom Declaration (*The Korea Herald*, 09/10/2018)
Persuade the public first (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/10/2018)
S.Korean Envoys Brief Allies on Latest Contact with N.Korea (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 09/10/2018)
S. Korea's Moon Asks Indonesia's Help for Inter-Korea Peace (*The New York Times*, 09/10/2018)
S. Korea, France to hold talks on N. Korean nukes (*Yonhap*, 09/10/2018)
South assesses N. Korea military strength (*The Korea Times*, 09/10/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship
(2nd LD) Seoul invites 9 parliamentary leaders to Pyongyang summit (*Yonhap*, 09/10/2018)
Opinion: No peace for Korea (*Deutsche Welle*, 09/09/2018)
Party leaders invited up North (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/10/2018)
Political leaders invited to accompany Moon for cross-border trip (*Aju Business Daily*, 09/10/2018)
Pro-unification groups from both sides to meet (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/10/2018)
Remains in Baekma Goji to be unearthed (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 09/10/2018)
S. Korea plans to send 200-member delegation to summit in Pyongyang (*The Mainichi*, 09/10/2018)

International
[Herald Interview] Leaders of Singaporean women's group visit Pyongyang (*The Korea Herald*, 09/10/2018)
'France, Korea can achieve long-term growth with strategic cooperation' (*The Korea Herald*, 09/10/2018)
Australian filmmaker's new source of inspiration: North Korean propaganda (*The Korea Times*, 09/10/2018)
Biegun in S. Korea for talks on N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 09/10/2018)
Michael Palin: 'National treasure? I'm as grumpy as the next man' (*The Daily Telegraph*, 09/10/2018)
New US representative for North Korea visits Seoul (*The Korea Times*, 09/10/2018)
Persuasive charm of dictators (*The Korea Times*, 09/10/2018)
Pompeo Has Received N.Korean Letter Trump Was Expecting (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 09/10/2018)
Russian lawmaker: N.Korea's leader confirmed readiness to visit Russia—RIA (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 09/09/2018)
Shinzo Abe hopes to meet with Kim Jong-un (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/10/2018)
Trump administration is right about North Korea (*The Korea Times*, 09/10/2018)
Trump Praises North Korea Parade Without Nuclear-Capable Missiles (*VOA News*, 09/09/2018)
Trump 'almost sent tweet that North Korea would have seen as warning of attack' (*The Guardian*, 09/09/2018)
Trump's glowing tweets signal revival of talks (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/10/2018)
US envoy for N. Korea visits S. Korea (*The Korea Herald*, 09/10/2018)
US Policy Drives Russia, China Together Ahead of Summit (*VOA News*, 09/10/2018)

Vladimir Putin's meeting with Asian leaders to focus on North Korea (*South China Morning Post*, 09/10/2018)

In North Korea

- North Korea's media reported Monday on a military parade staged in Pyongyang, a day after the event took place to celebrate the country's 70th founding anniversary. According to the foreign media reports, the North did not put intercontinental ballistic missiles on display during the parade. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea and China are expected to push for Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Pyongyang this year, as the two countries reaffirmed their strong alliance through the North's 70th founding anniversary event over the weekend, sources here said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- A large North Korean restaurant in the Chinese city of Shenyang, Liaoning Province, which borders the North, reopened over the weekend after being closed on the order of the Chinese authorities eight months ago. (*Yonhap*)
- With a formation of glowing drones, lasers and stadium-sized gymnastics shows, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un relaunched the "Mass Games" on Sunday in a pageant that declared that "waves" of international sanctions would break against the strength of North Korea's self-reliance. (*Reuters*)
- North Korea has been pursuing systemic improvements that are improving the autonomy of its enterprises, say North Korean experts. Hong Jae-Hwan, a research fellow at the Korea Institute for National Unification (KINU), argues that North Korean enterprises have enjoyed increasing autonomy since Kim Jong Un came to power. (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)
- North Korea on Sunday kicked off a huge propaganda festival, featuring enormous co-ordinated displays unlike anything else in the world. The spectacle is called the Arirang Mass Games and will run throughout September to mark the country's 70th anniversary. (*BBC*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un blamed the United States for the "stagnation" in his nation's efforts toward denuclearization in a meeting on Sept. 9 with a top Chinese official. Kim met with Li Zhanshu, an executive of the National People's Congress and China's ruling Communist Party third-ranking official, who is visiting North Korea for the 70th anniversary of its founding, China Central Television (CCTV) reported. (Mitsusada Enyo, *The Asahi Shimbun*)
- Kim is making a suicidal choice if he thinks he could buy time again, through China's help, to become a nuclear state like India or Pakistan. Once North Korea becomes recognized as a nuclear weapons state, it will almost certainly trigger a nuclear arms race with Japan and China as well as Taiwan, Vietnam and South Korea. (Lee Ha-kyung, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- North Korea on Sunday marked the 70th anniversary of the country's founding with a parade of goose-stepping soldiers, tanks and military hardware, but it held back on displaying its intercontinental ballistic missiles, believed to be capable of hitting the United States. (Nicola Smith, *The Daily Telegraph*)
- Kim Jong-un celebrated the 70th anniversary of North Korea's founding yesterday with an enormous parade of military strength that pointedly did not include the long-range nuclear

missiles that provoked threats of war from President Trump last year. (Richard Lloyd Parry, *The Times*)

- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has expressed hope to consolidate the country's "special" relations with China in a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping's special envoy, the North's state media said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's sister Yo-jong appeared in public for the first time in three months. The last time she was seen out and about was three months ago during the U.S.-North Korea summit in Singapore in June. (Kim Myong-song, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has reportedly conveyed to the U.S. President Donald Trump through a letter his willingness to discuss additional denuclearization measures if Washington takes part in a negotiation table for declaring an end to the war. (*The Dong-A Ilbo*)
- In line with the 70th anniversary of its founding, Sunday, the North Korean regime highlighted the need to achieve economic prosperity in the spirit of "self-reliance," the country's state media reported Monday. (Jung Min-kyung, *The Korea Herald*)
- North Korea's national spectacle over the weekend featured a performance of the popular Chinese folk song "Love My China" and pleased President Trump by not parading nuclear missiles, showing that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is no diplomatic dunce. (Anna Fifield, *The Washington Post*)
- A senior Russian official who met Kim Jong Un this weekend cited the North Korean leader as saying he did not plan any unilateral steps to denuclearize and was instead awaiting a U.S. response to steps he already took, Russia's RIA news agency reported. (*Reuters*)
- Thousands of soldiers goose-stepped alongside tanks and various weaponry carried on trucks through Kim Il-sung Square in the centre of Pyongyang during the annual spectacle on Sunday. But, in a break from recent years, almost half the event was devoted to civilian efforts to build the country's economy, now a key focus for leader Kim Jong-un. (Tom Barnes, *The Independent*)
- North Korea issued a set of stamps promoting its self-reliant socialist economy and the excellence of its science technologies on the 70th anniversary of the regime's founding, North Korea's party mouthpiece Rodong Sinmun reported Sunday. Issued by the Korean Stamp Corporation, the five stamps in a row do not feature or mention nuclear weapons or missiles. (Jung Da-min, *The Korea Times*)
- North Korea celebrated the 70th anniversary of its founding on Sunday without long-range missiles or nuclear tests - underlining Kim Jong-un's stated aim to denuclearize the Korean peninsula. (*Reuters*)
- Despite North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's much-publicized on-site inspections of a Pyongyang bag factory or a Sinuiju cosmetics factory and other manufacturing facilities, service industries such as trade, retail and lodging are the main forces behind its economy, experts say. (Jung Da-min, *The Korea Times*)
- Kim marked the 70th anniversary of his grandfather's regime without showing off hardware such as long-range ballistic missiles that would likely have angered President Donald Trump, who said in June that North Korea is "no longer a nuclear threat." (Youkyung Lee, *Los Angeles Times*)

- The rally featured a sea of university and high school students carrying torches that spelled out giant slogans and words when seen from above the square. Leader Kim Jong Un did not attend. (AP)
- North Korea's state media reported on Monday on the regime's 70th-anniversary military parade, a day after it was held. The Korean Central News Agency issued an extensive report on the military parade, with a detailed coverage of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's appearance and major foreign attendees. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- A large North Korean restaurant in the Chinese city of Shenyang, Liaoning Province, which borders the North, reopened over the weekend after being closed on the order of the Chinese authorities eight months ago. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean restaurants, closed for months under sanctions, are reopening in China, South Korean media reported. A North Korean restaurant reopened in the Chinese city of Shenyang, Liaoning Province, an hour by train from the North Korean border, according to Yonhap. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- The regime did not display any intercontinental ballistic missiles or medium- and long-range ballistic missiles at the parade, which lasted an hour and a half, mobilizing some 12,000 troops. Instead, it displayed chiefly conventional weapons such as new KN-09 300-mm multiple rocket launchers and 152-mm self-propelled guns. (Lee Yong-soo, Lee Kil-seong and Ahn Jun-yong, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- North Korea's intercontinental ballistic missile assembly facility in Pyongsong, South Pyongan Province seems to have been dismantled completely, Voice of America reported last week. (Kim Myong-song, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- North Korea held a military parade in Pyongyang Sunday to celebrate the 70th anniversary, but there was neither display of intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM) nor provoking words. This is a stark contrast to previous years when the regime conducted the fifth and sixth nuclear tests around the event held every Sept. 9. (*The Dong-A Ilbo*)
- North Korea's regime called for self-reliance and independent efforts for economic construction at a national meeting held in Pyongyang on Sunday as part of its celebratory events for the country's 70th founding anniversary, the North's media said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- For months, North Korea has been preparing a massive display of national unity and military might to mark the 70th anniversary of the country's founding. (Will Ripley, CNN)
- In not showcasing its long-range missiles at a military parade on Sept. 9, North Korea likely sent a message to the United States that it was conscious of continuing talks toward denuclearization. The other message it delivered from the pomp and pageantry at Kim Il Sung Square was its emphasis on economic development. (*The Asahi Shimbun*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has expressed hope to consolidate the country's "special" relations with China in a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping's special envoy, the North's state media said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- Privately-run public bathhouses are springing up across North Korea, with regular visits by locals becoming the norm. Officials from the local administrative committee and People's Committee are known to regularly inspect bathhouses under the pretext of auditing electricity usage or building management. (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)
- North Korea's tightened control of the border and coordination with Chinese intelligence organizations ahead of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the country has resulted in a

spate of arrests and repatriations of defectors and would-be defectors. (Kim Yoo Jin, DailyNK)

- Wreath laying ceremonies were held at the Revolutionary Martyrs' Cemetery, the Patriotic Martyrs' Cemetery and Fatherland Liberation [Korean] War Martyrs' Cemetery on Pyongyang on September 8 (Saturday) to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the DPRK. (North Korea Leadership Watch)

In South Korea

- The head of South Korea's state intelligence agency on Monday briefed Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on the results of a South Korean presidential delegation's trip to Pyongyang last week. Suh Hoon, director of the National Intelligence Agency (NIS) and a member of the delegation, arrived in Tokyo on Sunday. (Yonhap)
- The ruling and opposition parties agreed Monday to put aside the contentious proposal to ratify April's summit agreement between President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un until after their the third summit next week. The LKP and the Bareunmirae Party rejected the proposal, saying ratification can wait until further progress is made in the North's denuclearization process. (Yonhap)
- LKP leader Kim Byong-joon accused the ruling DP of labeling opposition parties as anti-peace groups for rejecting ratification when no progress has been made in denuclearization. Bareunmirae Party leader Sohn Hak-kyu also said the summit agreement is too vague to ratify. (Yonhap)
- A senior lawmaker from the major opposition Liberty Korea Party (LKP) raised an allegation that Cheong Wa Dae intentionally delayed taking countermeasures against imports of North Korean coal to the South, insisting it "had no willingness to ban the shipments from the North." (Park Ji-won, The Korea Times)
- South Korea's agriculture minister on Monday expressed hope for joint projects with North Korea once an inter-Korean summit paves way for cross-border economic cooperation. (Kim Eun-jung, Yonhap)
- Lee Gae-ho, who took charge of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs last month, said his office will explore ways of cooperating with Pyongyang once the leaders of the two Koreas reach an agreement on peace initiatives during their meeting in Pyongyang next week. (Yonhap)
- The Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) will open on Oct. 4 with "Beautiful Days," a movie about a woman defector who meets her son after 14 years, the festival's BIFF board of directors has announced. (Jung Da-min, The Korea Times)
- Floor leaders of the three largest parties in the National Assembly agreed on Monday to discuss ratifying an inter-Korean cooperation agreement signed by South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un after their third summit concludes next week, putting a pause to political wrangling over the legislative fate of the so-called Panmunjom Declaration. (Lee Sung-eun, Yoo Sung-won and Han Young-ik, Korea JoongAng Daily)

- The government plans to submit a motion to the National Assembly, today, to ratify the Panmunjeom Declaration signed by President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un after their first summit April, 27. (Kim Yoo-chul, *The Korea Times*)
- The presidential office Cheong Wa Dae on Monday asked the parliamentary speaker and heads of all five political parties in South Korea to accompany President Moon Jae-in on his upcoming trip to the North. (*Yonhap*)
- The Blue House asked the Joint Chiefs of Staff to submit a report comparing the military strength of both Koreas before the two countries' leaders meet for their third summit next week, multiple sources told the JoongAng Ilbo on Sunday. (Kang Tae-hwa and Lee Keun-pyung, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- "There's a chance of Moon's approval rating rising temporarily after the third inter-Korean summit, but he needs to create an environment for economic recovery while stimulating the job market," one said. (Hong Young-lim and Jeong Woo-sang, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- The leader of the main opposition Liberty Korea Party on Monday rejected a proposal to accompany President Moon Jae-in on his trip to Pyongyang next week for a third summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. (*Yonhap*)
- The escalating political tit-for-tat over the need for parliamentary approval of the April inter-Korean summit agreement has come to a halt, with the rival parties agreeing Monday to shelve the discussion until after the inter-Korean summit in Pyongyang next week. (Yeo Jun-suk, *The Korea Herald*)
- A legislative endorsement on economic projects for North Korea amid little progress in denuclearization cannot win support from the public. As it has happened to previous liberal presidents, Moon will come under attack for being overly generous to Pyongyang and stoke division in South Korea over inter-Korean dialogue. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- National security adviser Chung Eui-yong flew to China on Saturday to brief officials there about his latest meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. Meanwhile, National Intelligence Service chief Suh Hoon, who was among the delegation, flew to Japan on Sunday, where he met Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Monday morning. (Lee Min-seok, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in asked his Indonesian counterpart on Monday to support efforts to achieve denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. (*AP*)
- South Korea and France will hold high-level talks this week on ways to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue, Seoul's foreign ministry said Monday. Lee Do-hoon, the country's top nuclear envoy, plans to visit France for the session to be joined by Nicolas de Riviere, director general for political affairs and security at the French foreign ministry. (*Yonhap*)
- The Ministry of National Defense will provide a comparative analysis on the military strengths of the two Koreas to President Moon Jae-in for his planned summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un next week, officials said Monday. (Lee Min-hyung, *The Korea Times*)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- The presidential office Cheong Wa Dae on Monday asked the parliamentary speaker and heads of all five political parties in South Korea to accompany President Moon Jae-in on his upcoming trip to the North. In response to the invitation, the parliamentary leadership, including speaker Moon and two vice speakers, decided not to travel to the North in a bid to focus on work in the ongoing regular session, according to its secretariat. (Yonhap)
- South Korea is trying to transform improved relations on the Korean Peninsula into practical policies. But the same old basic problems remain, writes Peter Sturm of the newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. (Peter Sturm, Deutsche Welle)
- Moon's Chief of Staff Im Jong-seok, who also serves as head of the summit preparation committee, unveiled a list of nine major political figures that the Blue House invited to accompany Moon to Pyongyang. "I respectfully request them to join the entourage for the Pyongyang summit. I look forward to receiving a positive response," he said. (Kang Jin-kyu, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- South Korea's presidential office offered to form a special nine-member political delegation including opposition and ruling party leaders who will accompany Presidential Moon Jae-in to North Korea for a new inter-Korean summit this month. (Lim Chang-won, Aju Business Daily)
- A pro-unification group in South Korea will hold a joint event with its North Korean counterpart next month to call for sincere implementation of the agreement signed during the inter-Korean summit in April, officials said on Sunday. (Yonhap)
- The two Koreas agreed to jointly recover remains of soldiers at the battlefields of Baekma Goji in Demilitarized Zone and confirm the agreement at the general-level talks this week. (The Dong-A Ilbo)
- The South Korean government plans to send a 200-member delegation to Pyongyang for the third summit meeting this year between the two Koreas, a government official said Monday. (Kyodo)

International

- Hundreds of foreign guests were in Pyongyang over the weekend to attend celebrations commemorating the 70th anniversary of North Korea's founding on Sept. 9. Among them were leaders of the Singapore Council of Women's Organisations. (Kim So-hyun, The Korea Herald)
- France and Korea can increase cooperation in developing markets in Africa, Southeast Asia and potentially North Korea, said David-Pierre Jalicon, the chairman of the French Korean Chamber of Commerce and Industry, adding that the two middle powers should collaborate strategically for their long-term economic benefit. (Joel Lee, The Korea Herald)
- Anna Broinowski, an Australian film director, who traveled to North Korea in 2012 to learn Pyongyang-style propaganda filmmaking which resulted in her 2013 comic documentary "Aim High in Creation," visited Seoul prior to her film's release in the country. (Park Jin-hai, The Korea Times)
- Stephen Biegun, the new U.S. point man on North Korea, arrived in South Korea on Monday for discussions on ways to revitalize the denuclearization process. In his first trip here in the

State Department job, he plans to hold talks with Seoul's top nuclear envoy Lee Do-hoon on Tuesday. (Yonhap)

- Michael Palin's 75th birthday celebrations might not have suited your average pensioner. No party - complete with champagne and conga line - for the ever-youthful, globetrotter. Instead, he packed a case and headed for North Korea. (Daphne Lockyer, The Daily Telegraph)
- The new U.S. Special Representative for North Korea Stephen Biegun arrived in Seoul, Monday, for discussions on Pyongyang's denuclearization. Biegun met with his counterpart Lee Do-hoon, the representative for Korean Peninsula peace and security affairs, upon his arrival after the two held their first phone call last Friday. (Kim Bo-eun, The Korea Times)
- His persona — unlike his hermit-like father — is "Mr. Nice Guy." In public, he connects with star-struck citizens during appearances at factories, farms and bases. A friend of mine who has spent several days in Kim's company insists that he is a tremendous guy. (Andrew Salmon, The Korea Times)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has received the letter that President Donald Trump has said he was expecting from North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. A State Department official is confirming that Pompeo has the letter. It's not immediately clear whether it's been delivered to Trump. (VOA News)
- Kim Jong Un has confirmed his readiness to visit Russia, the RIA news agency quoted speaker of the upper house of the Russian parliament Valentina Matvienko as saying after she met the North Korean leader in Pyongyang on Saturday. (Reuters)
- Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said he would like to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in person as he was briefed on Monday by Suh Hoon, South Korea's spy chief, on a South Korean delegation's recent trip to Pyongyang. (Sarah Kim, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- By pressuring the North to respect the rights of its people, the United States won't lose sight of its long-term objectives of spreading human rights. Those objectives place the U.S. on the right side of the moral struggle of our time, and they have the ability to defang and ultimately consign to the ash-heap of history rogue regimes that threaten peace in the world. (Dallas Morning News)
- U.S. President Donald Trump said it was "a big and very positive statement" that North Korea staged its latest military parade without its usual display of missiles capable of striking the U.S. "Thank you To Chairman Kim," Trump tweeted after Sunday's 70th anniversary parade celebrating the country's founding. (VOA News)
- US President Donald Trump spooked the Pentagon leadership with a tweet that – had it been sent – would have been read by North Korea as a sign of an imminent US attack, journalist Bob Woodward has said in an interview. (Agence France-Presse)
- U.S. President Donald Trump praised the absence of missiles in a major North Korean military parade on Sunday and thanked North Korean leader Kim Jong-un for the gesture in a Twitter post, an indication that deadlocked talks between Washington and Pyongyang on denuclearization could be revived soon. (Sarah Kim, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- The US special envoy on North Korea began his three-day trip to Seoul on Monday to meet his counterparts here amid growing momentum for a breakthrough in stalled denuclearization talks. (Ock Hyun-ju, The Korea Herald)

- Sanctions enforcement is a complex issue for both countries since both have employed cheap North Korean labor in the past. In Russia, that even included construction workers toiling on the World Cup soccer stadium in St. Petersburg, where one worker was reported to have died. (AP)
- The forum in the far eastern Russian city is symbolic of Moscow's push for closer diplomatic and economic ties with Asia as its relations with the West are in crisis. (*Agence France-Presse*)

Prepared by Hangyun Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726231117/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-kim-jong-un-holds-fire-on-displaying-his-biggest-guns-opposition-party-leaders-refuse-to-accompany-moon-on-summit-trip-to-pyongyang

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Tuesday, September 11, 2018

The Dark Side of Korean Family Reunions; North Korea - Perils and Unhappy Options; Kim Jong Un's New Formulation

Top News:
The Dark Side of Korean Family Reunions (*HRNK Insider*, 9/11/2018)
North Korea—Perils and Unhappy Options (*Maine Public*, 9/11/2018)

In North Korea
'I marched in a North Korea parade' (*BBC*, 9/10/2018)
Kim Jong Un's New Formulation (*38 North*, 9/10/2018)
N. Korean youth vow to pursue economic growth in massive torchlight march (*Yonhap*, 9/11/2018)
North Korea propaganda outlet slams ex-leader Park for 'dashing hope of youth' (*Korea Times*, 9/11/2018)
North Korean authorities call for vigilance against government imposters (*DailyNK*, 9/11/2018)
[Photos] Privacy screens go up at Dandong Station again: More high-level exchanges in the works? (*DailyNK*, 9/11/2018)
The View From North Korea As The Country Celebrates 70 Years (NPR, 9/10/2018)
VOA says no recent progress in dismantling of N. Korean missile launch site (*Yonhap*, 9/11/2018)

In South Korea
Geumgang firms suffer W200 bil. in accumulated losses (*Korea Times*, 9/11/2018)
Moon calls for 'bold' denuclearization ideas (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/11/2018)

Parties at loggerheads over opposition parties' rejection of NK trip invitation (*Yonhap*, 9/11/2018)
Presidential aide to ask party leaders to accompany Moon on N.K. trip (*Yonhap*, 9/11/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship

Inter-Korea military talks to be held at Panmunjom (UPI, 9/10/2018)
Koreas hash out military agenda before summit (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/11/2018)
Koreas prepare to open joint liaison office Friday (*Yonhap*, 9/11/2018)
Koreas to excavate palace together: South and North agree to resume researching Manwoldae in Kaesong (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/11/2018)
Koreas to hold working-level military talks Thursday (*Yonhap*, 9/11/2018)
New Cultural Heritage Administration head seeks more exchanges with N. Korea (*Korea Times*, 9/11/2018)
North and South Korea to joint excavate ancient palace site (*UPI*, 9/11/2018)

International

(2nd LD) Trump received letter from Kim calling for 2nd summit: White House (*Yonhap*, 9/11/2018)
(6th LD) Biegun: Let's seize chance to achieve denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 9/11/2018)
Bolton Expands on His Boss's Views, Except on North Korea (*New York Times*, 9/10/2018)
Concrete actions needed (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/11/2018)
First two U.S. troops from North Korean remains identified (*Reuters*, 9/10/2018)
KCNA: Kim Jong Un holds concert in honor of top Chinese envoy (UPI, 9/11/2018)
KJU Meets with High Level PRC Delegation (*North Korea Leadership Watch*, 9/11/2018)
(LEAD) Moon stresses need for 2nd U.S.-N. Korea summit (*Yonhap*, 9/11/2018)
Moon asks Trump, Kim to take bold action (*Korea Times*, 9/11/2018)
N.K. leader offered denuclearization in 2 years: Bolton (*Yonhap*, 9/11/2018)
N. Korea's Kim Asks Trump for Another Meeting in New Letter (VOA, 9/10/2018)
N. Korean leader hosts exclusive performance, banquet for Chinese official (*Yonhap*, 9/11/2018)
North Korea's Kim asks Trump for another meeting in 'very warm' letter (*Reuters*, 9/11/2018)
Partisan Divides in Views of Many Countries – but Not North Korea (*Pew Research Center*, 9/10/2018)
Praise amid a hard stance toward North Korea (VOA, 9/10/2018)
Putin says normalizing ties between U.S. and North Korea is vital for peace (*Reuters*, 9/11/2018)
Russia's Gazprom revives Korean gas pipeline idea amid easing tensions (*Reuters*, 9/11/2018)
S. Korea's Moon Calls for 'Bold Decisions' by US and N. Korea (VOA, 9/11/2018)
S. Korea's nuclear envoy puts off trip to France (*Yonhap*, 9/11/2018)
South Korean president calls for 'bold decision' by U.S., North Korea (UPI, 9/11/2018)
Top S. Korean, U.S. officials discuss N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 9/11/2018)
Trump, Kim may hold second summit (*Korea Times*, 9/11/2018)
Trump open to meeting North Korea's Kim again despite lack of denuclearization progress (CNN, 9/10/2018)
Trump planning second North Korea summit after Kim's 'very warm' letter (*Guardian*, 9/10/2018)
Trump receives 'warm' letter from Kim about new summit (*BBC*, 9/11/2018)
What an End to the 68-Year Korean War Would Mean (*Washington Post*, 9/11/2018)
White House is working on second summit (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/11/2018)

White House says it's working to plan 2nd Trump-Kim meeting (*Associated Press*, 9/10/2018)
White House 'working on second Trump meeting with Kim Jong-un' (*The Telegraph*, 9/10/2018)

Top News:

- As we watch the first of three reunions of 89 families take place at Kumgang Mountain Resort in August, we could hot help but feel sympathetic to each member of the families split apart fro nearly seven decades by antithetical politics and a war that cost over two million Korea lives. (Robert Collins, *HRNK Insider*)
- HRNK Trustee Jack David participated in a podcast titled "North Korea - Perils and Unhappy Options" by the Mid-Coast Forum on Foreign Relations for a discussion on North Korea. (Jack David, Melanie Kirkpatrick, *Maine Public*)

In North Korea

- Kim Ji-young, who defected in 2013, talks about what it's like to take part in a North Korean military parade. In the lead-up, she says, North Korea's capital Pyongyang "almost stops working". (BBC)
- Kim's public remarks on the nuclear issue, however, are never so simple. They are carefully considered. The introduction of a new formulation is more than simple word choice. It is meant to signal something important. (Robert Carlin, *38 North*)
- Young North Koreans staged a torchlight procession in Pyongyang on Monday night to celebrate the North's 70th birthday, displaying words like "economic construction," the North's media reported Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's propaganda website DPRK Today has slammed former President Park Geun-hye, saying her administration created the so-called "N-Po (or N-Give up) generation," because of policy failures. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)
- Recently, there have been reports of criminals disguising themselves as government officials to help them gain entry to private houses and steal personal items. (Kim Yoo Jin, *DailyNK*)
- Privacy screens have again been installed at Dandong Station in Liaoning Province, China, in what some Daily NK sources are calling an attempt to prevent prying eyes from witnessing the transport of senior officials across the border with North Korea. (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)
- NPR is in North Korea as the country celebrates 70 years of existence. From a giant celebration to the number of American journalists on hand to observe, there's a lot going on in Pyongyang. (Mary Louise Kelly, NPR)
- Dismantling of North Korea's missile launch site on its northwestern coast appears to have been halted since the middle of August, an American broadcaster reported Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)

In South Korea

- South Korean firms and provincial governments suffered over 2 trillion won ($1.78 billion) in accumulated losses over the last 10 years due to the suspension of tour programs to Mount Geumgang in North Korea, a ruling party lawmaker claimed Tuesday. (Park Ji-won, *Korea Times*)

- President Moon Jae-in on Tuesday called on the leaders of North Korea and the United States to make “bold decisions” to move denuclearization talks to a higher level, saying the North should rid itself of its nuclear arsenal while the United States rewards it in return. (Kang Jin-kyu, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- Rival parties on Tuesday bickered over President Moon Jae-in's proposal that party leaders join in his upcoming trip to North Korea. Parliamentary leaders, the main opposition Liberty Korea Party (LKP) and the minor opposition Bareunmirae Party (BP) rejected the invitation. The ruling Democratic Party (DP) and two minor parties expressed their willingness to join. (Yonhap)
- President Moon Jae-in's senior political affairs secretary will pay visits to the chiefs of the ruling and opposition parties Tuesday to ask them to accompany Moon on his upcoming trip to North Korea later this month. (Yonhap)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- Seoul and Pyongyang are to hold military-level talks on Thursday to discuss projects ranging from excavation of war remains at the demilitarized zone to trial withdrawal of guard posts from the border. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Defense officials from both Koreas will meet at the border village of Panmunjom on Thursday to determine the military agenda for the upcoming summit between South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, the Ministry of National Defense in Seoul said on Tuesday. (Lee Sung-eun, Lee Keun-pyung, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- South and North Korea are working to open a joint liaison office on Friday, a unification ministry official said Tuesday. "Preparations are under way without a hitch with a plan to open it later this week," the official said on condition of anonymity. (Yonhap)
- Amid eased tensions between the two Koreas, organizations from South and North Korea decided to resume the joint excavation of Manwoldae, a 10th-century royal palace complex that stood near the border city of Kaesong during the Goryeo Dynasty (918-1392), the Cultural Heritage Administration announced on Tuesday. (Yim Seung-hye, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- The two Koreas will hold working-level military talks this week to discuss measures to reduce tensions on the border, Seoul's defense ministry said Tuesday. (Yonhap)
- Chung Jae-suk, the new head of the Cultural Heritage Administration (CHA), said cultural heritage can contribute to improving inter-Korean relations as the two Koreas join hands in excavating and preserving cultural assets together. (Kwon Mee-yoo, Korea Times)
- North and South Korea will conduct a joint archaeological excavation on an ancient royal palace site in the North Korean city of Kaeseong. A joint excavation team will be formed to discover remains at the palace site of the ancient kingdom of Goryeo (918-1392) and restore damaged parts from October to December in the ancient capital city of Kaesong. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)

International

- U.S. President Donald Trump has received a letter from North Korean leader Kim Jong-un calling for a second meeting between the two, and planning is already under way, the White House said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- The new U.S. special envoy on North Korea said Tuesday it's important to maintain the momentum of dialogue with North Korea despite some difficulties. "We have some hard work to do," Stephen Biegun said at the outset of talks with South Korea's top nuclear envoy Lee Do-hoon in Seoul. (Lee Chi-dong, *Yonhap*)
- On the same day that the White House welcomed a letter to Mr. Trump from Kim Jong-un, proposing another meeting of the two leaders, Mr. Bolton struck a markedly less optimistic tone, expressing frustration that Mr. Kim had not yet begun to fulfill his promise to rid North Korea of its nuclear weapons. (Mark Landler, *New York Times*)
- A second summit between the United States and North Korea seems to be in the cards after U.S. President Donald Trump replied to a letter from North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. The new developments raise hopes for breaking the current deadlock on the denuclearization front since the cancellation of U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's trip to Pyongyang. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The U.S. military has identified the first two American troops from 55 boxes of human remains from the 1950-53 Korean War that North Korea handed over in July, the agency leading the analysis said on Monday. (Phil Stewart, *Reuters*)
- Pyongyang's state-controlled KCNA reported Tuesday Li Zhanshu, chairman of the National People's Congress, was the guest of honor at an exclusive concert, where the North Korean leader was in attendance. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- Kim Jong Un met with Li Zhanshu, a member of the standing committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China [CPC] and chairman of the National People's Congress of the PRC. (*North Korea Leadership Watch*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in stressed the need for a second U.S.-North Korea summit Tuesday, hours after the White House said North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has proposed such a meeting in a letter to U.S. President Donald Trump. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon Jae-in urged U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un to "act boldly" to follow through on Kim's denuclearization commitment made to Trump at their June 12 summit. (Kim Yoo-chul, *Korea Times*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un offered to dismantle his nuclear weapons program within two years when he met with South Korean President Moon Jae-in last spring, a top U.S. administration official said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un sent a letter requesting a second meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump, the White House said Monday. (VOA)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un hosted an art performance and banquet exclusively for Chinese President Xi Jinping's special envoy in Pyongyang, the North's media said Tuesday, in an extraordinary move that signals the two countries' friendly relationship. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump received a "very warm, very positive" letter from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un asking for a second meeting and the White House is looking at scheduling one, White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said on Monday. (Hyonhee Shin, Steve Holland, *Reuters*)

- Republicans and Democrats express overwhelmingly negative views of North Korea, but they diverge in opinions of several other countries – including Mexico, Iran, Russia and several U.S. allies. (*Pew Research Center*)
- A broadcast report said while that steady stream of praise for Kim Jong Un from Mr. Trump continues, his administration is taking a much more aggressive stance toward Pyongyang. (VOA)
- Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday that it was vital for peace on the Korean Peninsula that the United States and North Korea normalized their troubled relationship. (Andrew Osborn, *Reuters*)
- Russian natural gas producer Gazprom is revisiting plans to build a pipeline to South Korea across North Korea after noting signs of easing tensions on the Korean peninsula, a Gazprom executive said on Tuesday. (Vladimir Soldatkin, *Reuters*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in is calling for the United States and North Korea to "make bold decisions" to achieve the goal of "complete denuclearization" of the Korean peninsula. (VOA)
- South Korea said Tuesday it has decided to postpone high-level talks with France this week on the North Korean nuclear issue. The announcement came just a day after the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a press release on a plan by Lee Do-hoon, the country's top nuclear envoy, to visit France for the session. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in said on Tuesday that the U.S. and North Korea need to make a "bold decision" to take the currently stalled denuclearization talks forward. (Wooyoung Lee, *UPI*)
- South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha met Tuesday with the new U.S. special envoy on North Korea amid signs of Pyongyang and Washington moving to resume dialogue. (*Yonhap*)
- Stalled dialogue between North Korea and the U.S. over the former's denuclearization may reach a breakthrough, with the White House hinting at a second summit between their two leaders. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said Monday that President Donald Trump is open to another meeting with North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un despite national security adviser John Bolton's assertion that the US is still waiting for Pyongyang to take steps toward denuclearization. (Zachary Cohen, Jamie Crawford, CNN)
- The White House is planning a second meeting between Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un after the North Korean leader sent a “very warm” letter to the US president requesting one. (Lauren Gambino, *Guardian*)
- North Korea's Kim Jong-un has written to US President Donald Trump asking for a follow-up to their historic summit, the White House says. The US says it is already looking at scheduling a new meeting. (BBC)
- As disputes go, this one really has dragged on. Some 65 years since open hostilities ended in the Korean War, North Korea and the U.S. are still technically at war. (David Tweed, *Washington Post*)
- A second summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and U.S. President Donald Trump is being coordinated following a request by Kim, said the White House Monday. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

- President Donald Trump has received a request from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un for a follow-up to their historic June summit, and planning is in motion to make it happen. White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Monday that no details had been finalized. (Darlene Superville, *Associated Press*)
- Kim Jong-un, the leader of nuclear-armed North Korea, has written to President Donald Trump requesting a second meeting, according to the White House. (Rob Crilly, *The Telegraph*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726231120/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-the-dark-side-of-korean-family-reunions-north-korea-perils-and-unhappy-options-kim-jong-uns-new-formulation

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Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Cross-Border Liaison Office to Open Friday; Opposition squawks at declaration cost estimates

In North Korea

11 million North Koreans suffer from malnutrition: UN report (*The Korea Times*, 09/12/2018)
Inoki says North Korea plans to compete in Tokyo Olympics (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 09/12/2018)
Kim Jong-un Asks Trump for Another Meeting in New Letter (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 09/11/2018)
KJU Arranges Banquet and Performance for PRC Delegation (*North Korea Leadership Watch*, 09/12/2018)
KPA Promotions Issued for Foundation Day (*North Korea Leadership Watch*, 09/12/2018)
Letter diplomacy between NK, US leaders brings breakthrough (*The Korea Times*, 09/12/2018)
N. Korea military parade shows efforts to strike balance between neighbors, US (*The Mainichi*, 09/11/2018)
N. Korea's main newspaper repeats call for economic growth (*Yonhap*, 09/12/2018)
N. Korean Gen. Ri Myong Soo called first in 70th anniversary (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 09/12/2018)
N. Korean website says S. Korea's military drill intolerable (*Yonhap*, 09/12/2018)
North's hospitality aimed to solidify relations with China (*The Korea Times*, 09/12/2018)
North Korea's 'New Arirang Festival' Pulls in Chinese Cash (*Radio Free Asia*, 09/11/2018)
North Korean refugee's memoir inspires hope (*The Korea Times*, 09/12/2018)
Science Book Fair Opens (*North Korea Leadership Watch*, 09/12/2018)
Symphony Orchestra Gives Foundation Day Concert (*North Korea Leadership Watch*, 09/12/2018)
Torchlight Parade Held (*North Korea Leadership Watch*, 09/12/2018)

In South Korea

[Editorial] Don't rush ratification (*The Korea Herald*, 09/12/2018)
Businesses Nervous About Accompanying Moon to Pyongyang (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 09/12/2018)
Firms pay keen attention on joining Moon's NK visit (*The Korea Times*, 09/12/2018)
Former N.K. restaurant employees granted passports after human rights controversy (*Yonhap*, 09/12/2018)
Gov't dismisses criticism over cost of inter-Korean summit implementation (*Yonhap*, 09/12/2018)
Hong: North's pursuit of nukes is 'animal' instinct (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/12/2018)
Man accused of spreading North Korean spyware to South Korean companies (*The Korea Times*, 09/12/2018)
Opposition squawks at declaration cost estimates (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/12/2018)
PM calls for international support for Seoul's peace efforts (*The Korea Herald*, 09/12/2018)
PM expresses disappointment party leaders reject proposal to travel with Moon to N.K. (*Yonhap*, 09/12/2018)
Rush to ratification (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/12/2018)
South Korean man caught selling personal data to North Korea (UPI, 09/12/2018)
Summit preparations get down to the wire (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/12/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship
(2nd LD) Koreas to open liaison office in Kaesong on Friday (*Yonhap*, 09/12/2018)
[Newsmaker] Controversy escalates over budget plan for inter-Korean project (*The Korea Herald*, 09/12/2018)
Cross-Border Liaison Office to Open Friday (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 09/12/2018)
German director to stage Wagner operas in Seoul (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/12/2018)
Inter-Korean liaison office opens in Gaeseong (*The Korea Times*, 09/12/2018)
Koreas push ahead with opening of liaison office this week (*Aju Business Daily*, 09/12/2018)
Koreas to Open Joint Liaison Office on Friday (VOA *News*, 09/12/2018)
N. Korean shooters leave S. Korea after completing world championship (*Yonhap*, 09/12/2018)
Olympics: South Korea to Float Idea of Co-Hosting 2032 Games With North (*The New York Times*, 09/12/2018)
PM Lee voices optimism for economic cooperation involving two Koreas, Russia (*The Korea Herald*, 09/11/2018)
S. Korea to propose co-hosting 2032 Olympics with N. Korea: sports minister (*Yonhap*, 09/12/2018)
South-North 24/7 liaison office opens in Kaesong Friday (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/12/2018)
Two Koreas to officially launch joint liaison office Friday (*The Korea Herald*, 09/12/2018)

International
(LEAD) Obama mulled preemptive attack on N. Korea: book (*Yonhap*, 09/12/2018)
'N. Korea could produce new nuclear weapons,' says U.S. officials (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 09/12/2018)
2nd Trump-Kim summit should not be a repetition of Singapore summit (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 09/12/2018)
Abe, Xi agree on further talks for visit to Beijing in October (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 09/12/2018)
American Chancellor of North Korean university sees hope of detente with US (CNBC, 09/12/2018)
Australian Filmmaker Makes N.Korean Style Documentary (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 09/11/2018)
Book says Obama mulled preemptive attack on N. Korea: Yonhap (*Aju Business Daily*, 09/12/2018)

Donald Trump's Instincts Are Mostly Right on North Korea, His Advisors Are the Problem (*38 North*, 09/11/2018)
First 2 U.S. troops from Korean War remains will be identified soon (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 09/11/2018)
Lindsey Graham urged Donald Trump to support assassinating Kim Jong Un, Woodward book says (*The Independent*, 09/11/2018)
N. Korea-US summit likely by October in a third country: experts (*The Korea Herald*, 09/12/2018)
Partisan Divides in Views of Many Countries – but Not North Korea (*Pew Research Center*, 09/10/2018)
Pentagon identifies two sets of North Korea remains: Mattis (*The Korea Herald*, 09/12/2018)
Putin Says North Korea Doing a Lot to Disarm but Washington Not Responding (*The New York Times*, 09/12/2018)
Residents in Japanese coastal city recall encounter with abandoned North Korean fishing vessel (*DailyNK*, 09/12/2018)
Second Kim-Trump summit could lay groundwork for arms control talks — and de facto nuclear state recognition (*The Japan Times*, 09/11/2018)
Singapore representative at North Korean event Tan Wu Meng has 'deep impression' of the people's diligence, discipline (*The Straits Times*, 09/11/2018)
Trump plans second summit with Kim Jong Un in October (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 09/12/2018)
U.S. identifies some Korean War remains returned by North Korea (*UPI*, 09/11/2018)
U.S.' New N.Korea Point Man Meets with S.Korean Officials (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 09/12/2018)
Xi's special envoy returns home after visiting N. Korea for anniversary (*Yonhap*, 09/12/2018)

In North Korea

- Nearly 43 percent of North Korean people (11 million) are suffering a chronic food shortage and ensuing malnutrition, a report by five U.N. agencies showed on Tuesday. It was a 2.6 million increase from 10 years ago, the report said, reflecting the North's continuing food insecurity. (Jung Da-min and Park Si-soo, *The Korea Times*)
- North Korea plans to participate in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and "cooperate with" South Korea, Upper House member Antonio Inoki said here on Sept. 11 on his way back from Pyongyang. (Mitsusada Enyo, *The Asahi Shimbun*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un sent a letter requesting a second meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump, the White House said Monday. (*VOA News*)
- Kim Jong Un (Kim Cho'ng-u'n) and his wife Ri Sol Ju (Ri So'l-chu) attended a concert at Mansudae Art Theater and arranged a banquet at the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee Office Complex in central Pyongyang on September 10 (Monday) for National People's Congress Chairman and Communist Party of China [CPC] Political Bureau Standing Committee Member Li Zhanshu. (*North Korea Leadership Watch*)
- On September 8 (Saturday), Kim Jong Un (Kim Cho'ng-u'n) issued Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] Central Military Commission [CMC] Order #005 "raising the military titles of commanding members of the People's Army" on the "occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea [DPRK]." (*North Korea Leadership Watch*)

- Letter diplomacy between the leaders of North Korea and the U.S. continues to unfold, and is proving to serve as a breakthrough in the deadlocked denuclearization talks. The White House said Monday preparations for a second summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un were underway after Trump received another letter from Kim. (Kim Bo-eun, *The Korea Times*)
- North Korea organized a recent military parade and other ceremonies commemorating the 70th anniversary of its founding to strike a balance between its consideration toward the United States over their June agreement to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula, and its appearance of friendship toward China and South Korea. (Chiharu Shibue, *The Mainichi*)
- North Korea's official newspaper on Wednesday reiterated calls for economic growth, urging both officials and people to concentrate their resources on building a rich socialist country. (*Yonhap*)
- The former chief of the Korean People's Army's Gen. Ri Myong Soo, 84, who was rumored to have been replaced in April after being caught dozing off while Kim Jong Un was giving a speech, was referred to as "the highest rank in the military" in reports about the 70th anniversary of North Korea's founding. (In-Chan Hwang, *The Dong-A Ilbo*)
- North Korea's propaganda media on Wednesday slammed South Korea's military for a recent drill and its plan to establish a new mobile combat unit. Uriminzokkiri, the North's external propaganda website, said in a commentary that seeking a military confrontation behind a conversation should never be tolerated. (*Yonhap*)
- The arrangements of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's exclusive banquet and performance for Chinese President Xi Jinping's special envoy to North Korea was likely part of the North's intention to solidify independent relations with China amid a fast-changing diplomatic landscape on the Korean Peninsula, critics say. (Park Ji-won, *The Korea Times*)
- A newly revived display of gymnastics and artistic performances staged this month in the North Korean capital Pyongyang is pulling in large amounts of badly needed foreign cash for the sanctions-hit regime as travel agencies promote the show to Chinese tourists, who are flocking to the performances in large numbers, sources say. (Jieun Kim, *Radio Free Asia*)
- Sungju Lee's "Every Falling Star: The True Story of How I Survived and Escaped North Korea" (2016, Amulet Books) is a unique addition to the growing genre of English language memoirs written by North Korean refugees. (Dr. Tony Docan-Morgan, *The Korea Times*)
- The 11th annual Pyongyang International Science and Technology Book Fair opened at the Sci-Tech Complex on September 10 (Monday). The book fair displays various texts published or disseminated by 70 different publishing houses from, among others, the DPRK, China, Russia, Germany, Canada and the United Nations (WHO, UNESCO, etc.). (*North Korea Leadership Watch*)
- The National Symphony Orchestra gave a concert Socialist Symphony at Moranbong Theater on September 10 (Monday) to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the DPRK. (*North Korea Leadership Watch*)
- A torchlight parade and fireworks display by elite members of the Youth League was held during the evening of September 10 (Monday) to mark the 70th birthday of the DPRK. (*North Korea Leadership Watch*)

In South Korea

- It was pushy and impetuous of Moon to submit the ratification motion to parliament, despite an agreement to the contrary a day earlier by floor leaders of the ruling party and two opposition parties. The three sides had decided first to await the results of the third inter-Korean summit in Pyongyang next week, and only then to discuss whether to ratify the declaration. (*The Korea Herald*)
- Top executives of conglomerates are in a dilemma since presidential chief of staff Im Jong-seok asked them on Monday to accompany President Moon Jae-in to Pyongyang for his third summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un on Sept. 18-20. They worry that they could be put on a U.S. watchlist if they go along or fall foul of the Moon administration if they do not. (Lee Sung-hoon and Shin Eun-jin, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- With Cheong Wa Dae expressing its intent to include businessmen in the delegation accompanying the inter-Korean summit scheduled for next week, companies and business organizations are paying keen attention on who will join President Moon Jae-in's visit to North Korea. (Nam Hyun-woo, *The Korea Times*)
- The Former North Korean restaurant workers who defected to South Korea from China about two years ago have all been issued passports here, a local lawyers' group said Wednesday. Twelve female workers of the Ryukyung Restaurant, a North Korean establishment in Ningbo, China, and their male manager, Heo Kang-il, arrived in South Korea in April 2016. (*Yonhap*)
- The South Korean government on Wednesday dismissed opposition parties' criticism that it underreported the actual cost of implementing inter-Korean summit agreements, saying that it just focused on projects that could be carried out in the short term. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's nuclear development program was based on Kim Il Sung's "animal spirit" to find a way for the regime to survive at a tumultuous time, said Hong Seok-hyun, chairman of the Korea Peace Foundation and JoongAng Holdings, during a lecture on Wednesday at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFS). (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- A South Korean businessman will stand trial on charges he sold spyware-embedded North Korean security software to public organizations, hospitals, telecom and power companies in the South. The man, surnamed Kim, 46, was also charged with handing over the personal information of 6,000 South Koreans to the software's developers in the North. (Jung Da-min and Park Si-soo, *The Korea Times*)
- Conservative opposition parties on Wednesday bristled at a motion to ratify the Panmunjom Declaration from the inter-Korean summit on April 27, claiming the government low-balled its cost estimates to carry out the agreement by trillions of won. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Prime Minister Lee Nak-yon called Wednesday for international support for South Korea's efforts to reconcile with North Korea, saying peace on the Korean Peninsula will contribute to prosperity in Northeast Asia and beyond. (*Yonhap*)
- Prime Minister Lee Nak-yon expressed disappointment Wednesday that some opposition party leaders rejected a proposal to accompany President Moon Jae-in on a trip to Pyongyang next week for his third summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. (*Yonhap*)

- As the money should come from our people's taxes, the government must explain and seek the legislature's understanding before doing anything. North Korea has not budged an inch on the denuclearization front. Under such circumstances, the government's push for ratification raises alarms. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- A South Korean businessman was caught selling personal information to North Korea and trading North Korean computer security software to South Korean firms. (Wooyoung Lee, *UPI*)
- Although the leaders of both Koreas have agreed to meet next week in Pyongyang, low-level officials from both countries have yet to discuss preparations for the summit. A senior Blue House official told reporters on Wednesday that the presidential office had not received word from North Korea about holding a working-level meeting to plan for the summit. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- The liaison office will be launched in the North's border town of Kaesong on Friday, with around 50-60 people each from the two Koreas expected to attend the opening ceremony, according to the ministry. (*Yonhap*)
- Controversy continues to mount over the government's proposed budget for the implementation of April's inter-Korean summit agreement, with opposition lawmakers accusing the government of scaling down figures to avoid public criticism. (Yeo Jun-suk, *The Korea Herald*)
- The opening of the liaison office, set up in the shuttered Kaesong Industrial Complex, has been delayed under pressure from the U.S., which warned it could violate international sanctions since it requires shipments of materials and electricity supply from South Korea. (Kim Myong-song, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- Esther Lee, who is part of the cast and also the head of World Art Opera in charge of the organizing the show, said that the organizers are currently in discussion with the North Korean side to cast North Korea singers in the performance, possibly beginning with the first opera. (*Yonhap*)
- The much-awaited inter-Korean liaison office will open Friday in the North Korean city of Gaeseong, the Ministry of Unification said Wednesday. The office will house resident representatives at the now-closed joint industrial complex ahead of the upcoming summit between the leaders of the two Koreas in the North's capital of Pyongyang, from September 18 to 20. (Kim Bo-eun, *The Korea Times*)
- The two Koreas will push ahead with the opening of their liaison office this week that would control and support cross-border exchanges and cooperation, despite a stalemate in denuclearization talks between North Korea and the United States. (Lim Chang-won, *Aju Business Daily*)
- North and South Korea will open a joint liaison office on Friday aimed at fostering cross-border communications and relations. South Korea's Unification Ministry announced Wednesday the new office will be opened in the North Korean city of Kaesong, located near the border that splits the rivals. (*VOA News*)

- North Korea grabbed two silver and two bronze medals at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Championship at Changwon International Shooting Centre in Changwon, 400 kilometers southeast of Seoul. It doesn't have any events left in the two remaining days of the competition. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea will sound out the North over a possible joint bid for the 2032 Summer Olympics and is also keen to advance the idea of a Northeast Asia bid to host the 2030 World Cup, Seoul's Sports minister Do Jong-hwan said on Wednesday. (*Reuters*)
- South Korea's Prime Minister Lee Nak-yon on Tuesday voiced optimism for three-way economic cooperation involving the two Koreas and Russia amid Seoul's stepped-up diplomacy to facilitate Pyongyang's denuclearization. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea is considering making a proposal to North Korea for co-hosting the 2032 Summer Olympics Games, Seoul's sports minister said Wednesday. Do Jong-hwan said South Korea is thinking of co-hosting the Olympics with North Korea for regional peace. Do made the remarks during a press meeting in Tokyo ahead of a sports ministers meeting with his Japanese and Chinese counterparts. (*Yonhap*)
- The two Koreas will open a joint liaison office for round-the-clock communication between the South and North in the border city of Kaesong tomorrow, the South's Ministry of Unification announced Wednesday. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- A joint liaison office with North Korea will be launched Friday, with the South's vice unification minister as co-chief of the office, the South's Ministry of Unification confirmed Wednesday. (Jung Min-kyung, *The Korea Herald*)

International

- Obama was deeply disturbed to learn that North Korea had conducted its biggest-yet nuclear detonation on Sept. 9, 2016, with the North claiming the new nuclear bomb could be mounted on a ballistic missile, journalist Bob Woodward wrote in "Fear: Trump in the White House." (*Yonhap*)
- While North Korea and the United States are seemingly in close consultation to discuss another summit between their leaders, reports have suggested that North Korea is still making nuclear weapons. (Jeong-Hun Park, *The Dong-A Ilbo*)
- The South Korean government should not consider itself as only a mediator. President Moon Jae-in praised North Korea Tuesday for suspending its nuclear and missile tests and shutting down nuclear and missile test sites by saying, "(North Korea) showed its sincerity by taking practical measures." (*The Dong-A Ilbo*)
- Abe said Xi agreed with him that realization of North Korea's denuclearization was a common objective that required close cooperation. The Chinese president also expressed his support for Japan's position of seeking a quick resolution of the abduction issue. (Kazuki Kimura, *The Asahi Shimbun*)
- An American chancellor of a major North Korean university has been unable to do his job for a year after U.S. citizens were banned from travelling to the reclusive state. Chan-Mo Park of the Pyongyang University of Science and Technology said that he hoped improving relations between North Korea and the U.S. would eventually loosen rules. (Nyshka Chandran, CNBC)

- Australian film director Anna Broinowski has deliberately subjected herself to stringent restrictions for a documentary in an experiment that must be unique in Western film. (*The Chosun Ilbo*)
- Obama was deeply disturbed to learn that North Korea had conducted its biggest-yet nuclear detonation on September 9, 2016, with the North claiming the new nuclear bomb could be mounted on a ballistic missile, journalist Bob Woodward wrote in "Fear: Trump in the White House." (Lim Chang-won, *Aju Business Daily*)
- To break through the current impasse, Trump should continue ignoring the prevailing skepticism in Washington and reaffirm, perhaps at another summit, his reported unconditional offer of a political declaration ending the Korean War while maintaining a freeze on large military exercises—if North Korea continues to suspend nuclear and missile tests. (Morton H. Halperin, *38 North*)
- The U.S. military is close to identifying the first two American troops from the 55 boxes of human remains from the 1950-53 Korean War that were handed over by North Korea in July, U.S. officials leading the forensic analysis said on Monday. (*Reuters*)
- According to journalist Bob Woodward's new book Fear: Trump in the White House, Lindsey Graham offered a bizarre solution to the chaos during a national security meeting the president had assembled in 2017: urge the Chinese government to assassinate the North Korean leader, and instead install a military general who "they control". (Chris Riotta, *The Independent*)
- With prospects of a second summit between North Korea and the US cautiously growing, the leaders of the two countries would likely sit down for talks in a third country by October, if the meeting takes place, analysts say. (Ock Hyun-ju, *The Korea Herald*)
- Republicans and Democrats express overwhelmingly negative views of North Korea, but they diverge in opinions of several other countries – including Mexico, Iran, Russia and several U.S. allies. (*Pew Research Center*)
- Scientists have identified two of the sets of remains of US troops killed in the Korean War that were recently returned by North Korea, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Tuesday. (*AFP*)
- Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday that North Korea was taking a lot of steps toward denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula but Washington was not responding and was making endless demands for full disarmament instead. (*Reuters*)
- Residents of Tsuruoka, Japan, clearly recall the day last December when an abandoned wooden vessel that seemed to have drifted down from North Korea was discovered. In June, Daily NK's special investigative team spoke to residents in the area about the discovery. (*DailyNK*)
- Such a summit, some experts say, could help break the current impasse in denuclearization talks and lay the groundwork for what ultimately may be the only way forward: arms control measures and the recognition of Pyongyang as a de facto nuclear power. (Jesse Johnson, *The Japan Times*)
- North Koreans' diligence and discipline have "left a deep impression" on Dr Tan Wu Meng, Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Trade and Industry, who represented Singapore to attend events related to the 70th anniversary of the founding of North Korea. (*The Straits Times*)

- The leaders of the United States and North Korea have agreed to meet again and engage in a top-down negotiation to close the gap found in working-level denuclearization talks that followed the first summit in Singapore in June. (In-Chan Hwang and Jeong-Hun Park, *The Dong-A Ilbo*)
- Mattis confirmed two sets of remains out of the 55 boxes sent to the United States following President Donald Trump's summit with North Korean leader Kin Jong Un had been identified and the Department of Defense is working to identify the rest. (Daniel Uria, UPI)
- Stephen Biegun, the new U.S. special representative for North Korea, on Tuesday met with President Moon Jae-in and Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha in Seoul. Moon expressed hopes to Biegun that Washington will make progress in denuclearization talks with North Korea amid an upbeat atmosphere boosted by last week's trip to Pyongyang by five South Korean officials. (Ahn Jun-yong, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- Chinese President Xi Jinping's special envoy has returned home after visiting North Korea to attend events marking its 70th founding anniversary, the North's state media reported Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)

Prepared by Hangyun Kim, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250726231124/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-cross-border-liaison-office-to-open-friday-opposition-squawks-at-declaration-cost-estimates

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Thursday, September 13, 2018

U.S. imposes North Korea-related sanctions on Russian, Chinese tech firms; (4th LD) Two Koreas hold working-level military talks

In North Korea:
Explaining North Korea's exchange rate stability: it's all about the companies (*North Korean Economy Watch*, 09/13/2018)
Just another day for ordinary North Koreans as September 9 celebrations ignited in Pyongyang (*Daily NK*, 09/13/2018)
'Loyalty Funds' Required From North Koreans Taking Part in Family Reunions (RFA, 09/12/2018)
N. Korean leader thanks participants in birthday events (*Yonhap*, 09/13/2018)
North Korean authorities increased 'loyalty' contributions ahead of national anniversary (*Daily NK*, 09/13/2018)
North Korea orders supplies to be sent to flood-stricken province (*Daily NK*, 09/13/2018)
North Korea's 'Mass Games' provide tourist spectacle, and sobering reminder (*Reuters*, 09/13/2018)
North Korea tightens control over construction material distribution (*Daily NK*, 09/13/2018)
Shelter Recently Dismantled at March 16 Factory (*38 North*, 09/12/2018)

In South Korea:
Moon advises North to give up its nukes (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/13/2018)
Moon vows efforts to restart denuclearization process at summit with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 09/13/2018)
North Korean Coal Slipped Into South Despite Warning From U.S. (*Wall Street Journal*, 09/13/2018)
Seoul invites Kaesong businesses to opening of inter-Korean liaison office (*Yonhap*, 09/13/2018)
Seoul to provide 122.8 bln won to compensate firms for losses from N.K. trade ban (*Yonhap*, 09/13/2018)
South Korean business leaders to attend inter-Korean summit (UPI, 09/13/2018)
What Pyongyangites think of their economy and inter-Korean ties (NK *News*, 09/13/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(4th LD) Two Koreas hold working-level military talks (*Yonhap*, 09/13/2018)
Inter-Korean summit on steady course despite delayed preparation meeting (*Yonhap*, 09/13/2018)
Koreas to discuss denuclearization, peace regime in next week's summit: vice minister (*Yonhap*, 09/13/2018)
Koreas to hold working-level talks on Friday to prepare for summit (*Yonhap*, 09/13/2018)
Talks over summit military agenda turn tough (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/13/2018)

International:
Donald Trump signs order allowing sanctions for US election meddling in bid to protect midterms (*Telegraph*, 09/12/2018)
'Fear' shows how close Korea came to war (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/13/2018)
Italian agency sells travel package to two Koreas (*Yonhap*, 09/13/2018)
(LEAD) U.S. announces fresh sanctions over N.K. nuclear program (*Yonhap*, 09/13/2018)
(LEAD) U.S. looking at N. Korea among other nations for possible election meddling (*Yonhap*, 09/13/2018)
Trump order threatens sanctions for interference in U.S. elections (UPI, 09/12/2018)
Trump signs order to enable sanctions for U.S. election meddling (*Reuters*, 09/12/2018)
US, allies readying effort to expose North Korean sanctions violations (CNN, 09/12/2018)
US blacklists NKorean-controlled IT firms in China, Russia (*The Washington Post*, 09/13/2018)
U.S. imposes North Korea-related sanctions on Russian, Chinese tech firms (*Reuters*, 09/13/2018)
U.S. raises the pressure on North (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/13/2018)
US Seeks to Impose Cost for Election Meddling (VOA, 09/13/2018)

In North Korea:

- The stability of the market exchange rate for won-to-US dollars has been one of the most puzzling features of the economy over the past few years, and particularly so during the so-called period of "maximum pressure" and heavy sanctions by the international community. (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, Peter Ward, *North Korean Economy Watch*)

- Thousands gathered in Pyongyang's Kim Il Sung Square to commemorate the country's founding on September 9. Outside of Pyongyang, however, most ordinary North Koreans reportedly had a rather uneventful day. (Kang Mi-jin, *Daily NK*)
- North Korean families who met last month with South Korean relatives from whom they had been separated for years were made by authorities in the North to hand over money they had received in the meetings as gifts, North Korean sources say. (*RFA*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has expressed gratitude to all participants in the North's 70th founding anniversary events in Pyongyang earlier this week, according to the nation's official media on Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- The North Korean authorities reportedly forced traders living abroad to contribute to the government's "loyalty fund" to support the events held on September 9, the 70th anniversary of the country's founding. (Ha Yoon-ah, *Daily NK*)
- The North Korean authorities are now making moves to support those affected by the flood damage in the provinces of North and South Hwanghae. (Kim Yoo-jin, *Daily NK*)
- Packed into Pyongyang's giant stadium this week with thousands of other tourists, Australian Mitchell Hamilton marvelled at the return of North Korea's "Mass Games," a huge pageant that has produced some of the most iconic images of the isolated country. (Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- North Korea has launched a series of large construction projects across the country including new buildings on the streets of Pyongyang, as well as the modernization of Samjiyon and the Wonsan-Kalma Coastal Tourist Zone. (Kim Yoo-jin, *Daily NK*)
- Commercial satellite imagery of North Korea's March 16 [Truck] Factory indicates that over the past eight months, a shelter has been torn down, rebuilt and then dismantled again. The exact nature of this activity is unknown, however, it is probable that it is related to the North's ballistic missile program for several reasons. (Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., *38 North*)

In South Korea:

- South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Thursday North Korea should relinquish its nuclear materials and weapons so that denuclearization talks can go forward. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Thursday restarting North Korea's denuclearization process will be a key objective of his upcoming summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, adding that he remains optimistic. (*Yonhap*)
- Shortly after midnight one Friday last fall, thousands of tons of coal labeled as Russian arrived at the South Korean port of Donghae. (Andrew Jeong, *Wall Street Journal*)
- South Korean businessmen who had run companies in a now-shuttered industrial park in the North's Kaesong were among those invited to the opening ceremony for an inter-Korean liaison office there, the unification ministry said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea has approved a plan to provide about 122.8 billion won (US$109.5 million) in compensation to companies suffering losses due to government restrictions on trade with North Korea, the unification ministry said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)

- Heads of major South Korean conglomerates will be part of the South Korean delegation for the third North-South Korea summit in Pyongyang next week, South Korean media reported Thursday. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- Speaking to North Koreans in Pyongyang these past few days, it's as though last year's "fire and fury" back-and-forth between President Donald Trump and DPRK leader Kim Jong Un never took place. (Oliver Hotham, *NK News*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The two Koreas held working-level military talks Thursday to discuss details of a comprehensive agreement to flesh out the military part of their April summit accord aimed at reducing border tensions and building mutual trust. (*Yonhap*)
- Preparations are being made for the upcoming inter-Korean summit despite a delay in a proposed working-level meeting between the two sides, officials in Seoul said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- Vice Unification Minister Chun Hae-sung said Thursday that the two Koreas' leaders will discuss how to accomplish complete denuclearization and build a peace regime on the Korean Peninsula when they meet in Pyongyang next week. (*Yonhap*)
- South and North Korea will hold working-level talks on Friday to prepare for next week's summit in Pyongyang, Seoul's presidential office said. (*Yonhap*)
- Defense officials from the two Koreas wrangled over a number of issues Thursday during a meeting in the border village of Panmunjom to flesh out a military agenda for the upcoming summit between South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. (Lee Sung-eun, Lee Chul-jae, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

International:

- Donald Trump has signed an executive order allowing for sanctions over election meddling amid fears Russia, China, Iran and North Korea could target the November midterms. (Ben Riley-Smith, *Telegraph*)
- In a chilling account of how close the Korean Peninsula came to war last year, Pulitzer-winning American journalist Bob Woodward recounts in his new book that H.R. McMaster, the former U.S. national security adviser, argued that if the United States was going to attack North Korea, it was better to do it earlier. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- An Italian travel agency has launched a new tour program that allows customers to visit both South and North Korea in a single trip, according to a broadcast report on Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- The United States on Thursday sanctioned two companies in China and Russia for allegedly facilitating North Korea's nuclear weapons program. (*Yonhap*)
- The United States is monitoring North Korea, among other nations, for possible interference in the U.S. midterm elections in November, senior administration officials said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)

- President Donald Trump signed an executive order Wednesday to give federal agencies power to sanction countries, foreign individuals and companies that interfere or spread misinformation in U.S. elections. (Nicholas Sakelaris, UPI)
- Under fire over his handling of Russian election meddling, U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order on Wednesday meant to strengthen election security by slapping sanctions on foreign countries or people who try to interfere in the U.S. political process. (Jeff Mason, Steve Holland, *Reuters*)
- The US and allies are days away from launching a new effort to more publicly expose North Korean violations of sanctions aimed at curbing its nuclear and missile programs, two defense officials tell CNN. (Ryan Browne, CNN)
- The United States is imposing sanctions on two North Korean-controlled information technology companies based in China and Russia. (Matthew Pennington, AP)
- The United States on Thursday imposed sanctions on a China-based tech firm, its North Korean CEO and a Russian subsidiary, accusing them of moving illicit funding to North Korea in violation of U.S. sanctions. (Tim Ahmann, Lesley Wroughton, *Reuters*)
- The United States and its allies are preparing to "name and shame" North Korea for sanctions violations even as a second summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un is in the works, CNN reported on Wednesday, citing two defense officials. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The United States is threatening automatic sanctions to deter Russia and any other current or future adversary from interfering in the country's elections. (Jeff Seldin, VOA)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726231411/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsus-imposes-north-korea-related-sanctions-on-russian-chinese-tech-firms4th-ld-two-koreas-hold-working-level-military-talks

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Friday, September 14, 2018

North-South Korean liaison office opens in border city; North Korea says U.S. accusation of hacking a 'smear campaign'

In North Korea:
Chairs placed in glass, diagrams of footsteps: Kim Jong Un's visits memorialized in North Korea (*Reuters*, 9/13/2018)
Industrial accidents rise as construction boom envelops Hyesan (*Daily*NK, 9/14/2018)
New North Korean posters show Kim Jong-un's priorities [PHOTOS] (*Korea Times*, 9/14/2018)
North Korea at 70: How it survived and will endure (*Daily*NK, 9/14/2018)
North Korea claims NHS and Sony hack suspect 'doesn't exist' (BBC, 9/14/2018

North Korea's new UN envoy to take office next week (*Korea Times*, 9/14/2018)

In South Korea:
A Moon resistance? (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/14/2018)
Before ratification (*Korea Times*, 9/14/2018)
Seoul think tank proposes 3 economic strongholds in N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 9/14/2018)
South Korea launches its first missile-capable submarine despite improved relations with the North (*The Telegraph*, 9/14/2018)
South Korea president attends submarine launch ceremony (UPI, 9/14/2018)
South unveils attack submarine (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/14/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(4th LD) Koreas open joint liaison office in Kaesong (*Yonhap*, 9/14/2018)
24/7 inter-Korean contact enabled (*Korea Times*, 9/14/2018)
Accident or incident? English version of Panmunjeom Declaration submitted to UN different from original (*Korea Times*, 9/14/2018)
Hopes rise as two Koreas open liaison office on North's side of border (*Reuters*, 9/13/2018)
Koreas open first 24-hour liaison office (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/14/2018)
(LEAD) Moon to fly directly to Pyongyang for 3rd summit with N. Korean leader (*Yonhap*, 9/14/2018)
"Leaders will discuss specific denuke measures in Pyongyang," security chief (*Korea Times*, 9/14/2018)
Moon-Kim 3rd Summit to Top Trio of Inter-Korean Events (VOA, 9/14/2018)
Moon will fly to Pyongyang for 3rd summit (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/14/2018)
N. Korea's media renew calls for Seoul's implementation of summit deals (*Yonhap*, 9/14/2018)
North-South Korean liaison office opens in border city (UPI, 9/13/2018)
North and South Korea Open Full-Time Liaison Office at Border (*New York Times*, 9/14/2018)
North and South Korea set up liaison office to 'talk 24/7' (BBC, 9/14/2018)
The South clings to hope that North Korea is scrapping its nukes (*The Economist*, 9/13/2018)
Two Koreas agree to demilitarize JSA ahead of summit (*Korea Times*, 9/14/2018)
Two Koreas to hold working-level talks to prepare summit (*Yonhap*, 9/14/2018)

International:
(3rd LD) U.S. announces fresh sanctions over N.K. nuclear program (*Yonhap*, 9/14/2018)
Are Sanctions Part of the Problem? (*38 North*, 9/13/2018)
At summit, South Korea's Moon seeks to play 'chief negotiator' between Kim, Trump (*Reuters*, 9/14/2018)
China says it opposes U.S. unilateral sanctions over funds for North Korea (*Reuters*, 9/14/2018)
Could Trump meet Kim in New York this month? AP takes a look (*Associated Press*, 9/14/2018)
Korea skeptics (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/14/2018)
North Korea says U.S. accusation of hacking a 'smear campaign' (*Reuters*, 9/13/2018)
N. Korea says U.S. 'smear campaign' over hacking undercuts Trump-Kim accord (*Washington Post*, 9/14/2018)
Report: South Korea, WHO to launch North Korea census (*UPI*, 9/13/2018)
UN experts 'caved in' to Russia on North Korea sanctions report – US (*The Guardian*, 9/13/2018)

UNC OKs S. Koreans' border crossing for infra connection (*Korea Times*, 9/14/2018)
U.S. accuses Russia of covering up breaches of North Korea sanctions (*Reuters*, 9/13/2018)
US Imposes New Sanctions Targeting North Korea (VOA, 9/14/2018)
US Imposes Sanctions on N. Korean IT Firms (VOA, 9/13/2018)
U.S. needs to tackle N.K. human rights, denuclearization together: Victor Cha (*Yonhap*, 9/14/2018)
US sanctions North Korea tech firms based in China, Russia (CNN, 9/14/2018)

In North Korea:

- At model factories, schools and other facilities shown off to foreign visitors in Pyongyang, a common feature is several rooms devoted exclusively to memorializing previous visits by members of the North's ruling Kim dynasty. (Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- As North Korea mobilizes massive resources to "spruce up Samjiyon County," nearby Hyesan City is also seeing active development. Although the city is being rapidly modernized thanks to "speed battles," there are frequent accidents occurring at construction sites. (Kim Yoo Jin, *DailyNK*)
- North Korea's state media KCNA on Thursday released a new collection of propaganda posters, one of which shows a factory worker celebrating the reaching of a production target, with a range of manufactured products from North Korea's so-called exemplary factories. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)
- What is indeed noteworthy is the DPRK's unusual ability to survive in a non-traditional manner. This unorthodox state is likely to survive in the future due to its ability to obtain outside aid, continued Chinese support, and ability to work towards its diplomatic aims. (Tom Eck, *DailyNK*)
- North Korea has said that a man charged with hacking Sony Pictures in 2014 is a "non-existent" individual and warned the US that its accusation could have a negative effect on relations between the two countries. (Alistair Coleman, BBC)
- North Korea's new ambassador to the United Nations in New York will take office next week, the North's state media reported on Thursday. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)

In South Korea:

- Without clear assurances from North Korea for its nuclear disarmament, South Korea's presidential office is speeding up its campaign to restore inter-Korean relations on its own. Blue House officials believe in their policies as if they're members of a cult. (Chun Young-gi, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The National Assembly is sharply divided over the government's push for it to ratify the Panmunjeom Declaration signed by President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un during their first summit on April 27 at the truce village of Panmunjeom. (*Korea Times*)
- A South Korean government think tank on Friday called for "customized" development of North Korea's economy in the process of inter-Korean economic cooperation, saying information and communications technology (ICT) is suitable for Pyongyang, the North's capital. (*Yonhap*)

- South Korea launched its first ever missile-capable attack submarine on Friday, despite a recent diplomatic thaw with the nuclear-armed North. (*The Telegraph*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in attended the launch ceremony for a medium-sized submarine ahead of his third summit with Kim Jong Un in Pyongyang. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- South Korea unveiled a 3,000-ton attack submarine built with indigenous technology and capable of carrying a nuclear-powered engine at a ceremony on Friday, the first step in the country's plans to develop a blue-water navy that can operate globally in the next few decades. (Shim Kyu-seok, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- South and North Korea launched their joint liaison office on Friday, securing a platform for round-the-clock communication that is expected to help foster cross-border exchange and ease tensions. (*Yonhap*)
- The Koreas opened a joint liaison office in the North's city of Gaeseong, Friday, the first organization at which South and North Koreans will work together. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- The English version of the Panmunjeom Declaration circulated to United Nations member countries is causing a controversy because its critical phrase is different from the original text. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- North and South Korea opened a liaison office on the North's side of their heavily militarized border on Friday, setting up a permanent channel of communication as part of a flurry of efforts to end their decades old rivalry. (Joyce Lee, *Reuters*)
- The Koreas opened a liaison office in the North Korean border city of Kaesong on Friday, following through one of the agreements made between both countries' leaders during their summit in April. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in will fly directly to North Korea next week for his third bilateral summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, an official from the presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea's chief presidential security adviser said Thursday that the two Koreas will discuss specific measures to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula during the third inter-Korean summit which is planned to be held next week. (Park Ji-won, *Korea Times*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will host South Korean President Moon Jae-in as the pair meet for their third inter-Korean summit September 18-20 in Pyongyang. (Steve Miller, VOA)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in will fly to Pyongyang for his third summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un on Tuesday, the Blue House said Friday. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- North Korea's state media reiterated calls for South Korea to faithfully implement summit agreements Friday, emphasizing the importance of cooperation between the two Koreas without outside interference. (*Yonhap*)
- North and South Korea opened a liaison office on Friday in the border city of Kaesong to facilitate cross-border communications. North and South Korean officials will be based at the office to assist communications between the North and South for ongoing inter-Korean projects and future exchanges. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)

- North and South Korea on Friday opened their first joint liaison office, a facility that will be staffed by personnel from both countries, marking another advance in the rival states' rapidly improving relationship. (Choe Sang-hun, *New York Times*)
- The two Koreas have opened a "liaison office" that will allow them to communicate on a regular basis for the first time since the Korean War. The office, on the North's side of the militarised border, will be staffed by up to 20 people from each side. (*BBC*)
- Mr Moon and officials in Washington hope the summit will revive nuclear diplomacy on the peninsula, which has largely stalled since Donald Trump, America's president, met Mr Kim in Singapore in June. (*The Economist*)
- The two Koreas agreed some military de-escalation measures Friday including a plan to demilitarize the Joint Security Area and continue joint recovery operations of war dead in the DMZ in a step to relax military tensions ahead of the upcoming Pyongyang summit from Sept. 18 to 20. (Kim Yoo-chul, Park Ji-won, *Korea Times*)
- Officials from South and North Korea were set to meet in the border village of Panmunjom on Friday to discuss details of an upcoming meeting between their leaders. The working-level dialogue comes four days before South Korean President Moon Jae-in will embark on a trip to Pyongyang for his third bilateral summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- The United States on Thursday sanctioned two companies in China and Russia for allegedly facilitating North Korea's nuclear weapons program. The Department of the Treasury also sanctioned a North Korean individual in the latest set of sanctions aimed at denuclearizing the regime. (*Yonhap*)
- Unlike much of US policy towards North Korea, its sanctions strategy has remained constant. Particularly since 2016, its primary objective has been to create regime-threatening economic pressure on the DPRK. (Joseph DeThomas, *38 North*)
- Next week's inter-Korean summit will test whether South Korean President Moon Jae-in can pull off his role of mediator and salvage stalled nuclear talks between Pyongyang and Washington. (Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)
- China's Foreign Ministry said on Friday that it resolutely opposes unilateral sanctions and long-armed jurisdiction, after the United States imposed sanctions on a China-based tech firm, accusing it of moving illicit funding to North Korea. (*Reuters*)
- In recent weeks it's become clear that Donald Trump wants to meet with Kim Jong Un again, and the North Korean leader has told the White House he'd like more face-to-face talks with the American president. Could that meeting happen, as some in Seoul have pushed for, on the sidelines of a U.N. gathering of world leaders in New York later this month? (Foster Klug, *Associated Press*)
- "Fantasy." That was how Mark Francois, a conservative member of Parliament, described North Korea's denuclearization during a dinner at the House of Commons in London. He argued that U.S. President Donald Trump was claiming denuclearization and condoning North Korea's hiding of nuclear weapons because he would never admit that his agenda has failed. (Kim Sung-tak, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

- North Korea said on Friday U.S. accusations that it was responsible for cyber attacks in 2014 and 2017 were a “smear campaign” and the man sanctioned by Washington does not exist, the official KCNA news agency said. (Hyonhee Shin, Joyce Lee, *Reuters*)
- North Korea accused the United States on Friday of circulating “preposterous falsehoods” and conducting a vicious smear campaign, after Washington charged an alleged hacker for the North Korean government in connection with major cyberattacks. (Simon Denyer, *Washington Post*)
- Seoul's state statistics agency plans to sign a memorandum of understanding with the WHO this month to launch the first North Korean population census conducted by the South Korean government, according to Hankook Ilbo, citing parliament sources. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- The United States has accused Russia of pressuring an independent panel of UN experts to alter a report that implied “Russian actors” were involved in breaking sanctions against North Korea. (*The Guardian*)
- The U.S.-led United Nations Command (UNC) authorized South Korea vehicles and personnel to cross the Military Demarcation Line (MDL) to support construction of communication infrastructure that will be used in inter-Korean business projects. (Park Ji-won, *Korea Times*)
- U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley accused Moscow on Thursday of seeking to cover up breaches of U.N. sanctions on North Korea by Russians after it pushed for changes to an independent report on sanctions violations. (Michelle Nichols, *Reuters*)
- The U.S. sanctioned a China-based firm Thursday and its Russian subsidiary connected to North Korea, the latest in the Trump administration's attempts to end Pyongyang's nuclear program. Lawmakers applauded the move as they received an update from administration officials on U.S. sanctions countering Russian aggression and Chinese human rights violations. (Katherine Gypson, VOA)
- The United States has imposed sanctions on two North Korean-controlled information technology companies based in China and Russia, accusing them of moving illicit funds to North Korea. (VOA)
- A former U.S. nuclear negotiator called on the Donald Trump administration Thursday to include the issue of North Korea's human rights in negotiations over the regime's nuclear weapons program. (*Yonhap*)
- The US announced new sanctions against North Korea Thursday, taking aim at a Chinese company, its North Korean CEO and its Russia-based sister company. (Nicole Gaouette, CNN)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726231415/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-north-south-korean-liaison-office-opens-in-border-city-north-korea-says-us-accusation-of-hacking-a-smear-campaign

Saturday, September 15, 2018

North Korea: Denuclearization Talks and Human Rights; Pompeo: U.S. as committed as ever to U.N. sanctions on N. Korea

Top News:
North Korea: Denuclearization Talks and Human Rights (*Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission*, 09/13/2018)

In North Korea:
North Korea equates 'comfort women' issue with genocide (*UPI*, 09/15/2018)
N. Korea resumes flights to China's Dalian amid improving bilateral ties (*Yonhap*, 09/15/2018)
N. Korea's media report on opening of liaison office (*Yonhap*, 09/15/2018)

In South Korea:
Defense minister nominee hopes denuclearization timeline materializes through subsequent nuke talks (*Yonhap*, 09/15/2018)
Moon faces toughest challenge yet in 3rd summit with Kim (*The Washington Post*, 09/15/2018)
S. Korea checks preparations for next week's inter-Korean summit (*Yonhap*, 09/15/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) S. Korea, U.S. nuclear envoys meet ahead of inter-Korean summit (*Yonhap*, 09/15/2018)
North Korean cargo ship returns to Chinese coal port (*NK News*, 09/14/2018)
Pompeo accuses Russia of actively working to undermine North Korea sanctions (*Reuters*, 09/14/2018)
Pompeo: Sanctions Enforcement Key to N. Korean Denuclearization (VOA, 09/15/2018)
Pompeo: U.S. as committed as ever to U.N. sanctions on N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 09/15/2018)
US calls UN meeting on undermining North Korea sanctions (*Korea Times*, 09/15/2018)

Top News:

- HRNK Co-chair Emeritus Roberta Cohen and Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu testified, together with Prof. Victor Cha (CSIS Korea Chair/Georgetown University) before the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission on Thursday, September 13, 2018. (*Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission*)

In North Korea:

- North Korea is condemning Japan again for the colonial past, only weeks after stating Tokyo is "drowning in raging waves of history," and that Japanese atonement must come before moving to a new future in bilateral relations. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

- North Korea has resumed flights between Pyongyang and the Chinese city of Dalian after a yearslong hiatus amid signs of improving ties between the allies. (Yonhap)
- North Korea's state media briefly reported Saturday on the opening of a joint inter-Korean liaison office, a day after a ceremony was held to mark its official launch in the North's border town of Kaesong. (Yonhap)

In South Korea:

- Defense Minister nominee Jeong Kyeong-doo said Saturday that it is not proper to predict a timeline for North Korea's denuclearization process at this point, hoping that details will materialize as nuclear talks proceed. (Yonhap)
- The first inter-Korean summit of 2018, a sunny spectacle in late April, reduced war fears on the peninsula. The second, an emergency one in May, helped ensure a historic meeting between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump came off. (Kim Tong-hyung, AP)
- The presidential office Cheong Wa Dae held a meeting Saturday to assess the preparations for next week's inter-Korean summit, with an advance team expected to head to Pyongyang the following day. (Yonhap)

International:

- A U.S. top nuclear envoy met with his South Korean counterpart Saturday to discuss a war-ending declaration and North Korea's denuclearization ahead of next week's inter-Korean summit. (Yonhap)
- Another North Korean vessel arrived at a Chinese bulk port Thursday, its third such visit in recent months to the same area which is equipped to handle sanctioned commodities like coal, the NK Pro ship tracker shows. (Leo Byrne, NK News)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo accused Russia on Friday of actively working to undermine international sanctions on North Korea and said the enforcement of the steps was essential to convince Pyongyang to give up its nuclear weapons. (David Brunnstrom, Reuters)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Friday that the enforcement of U.N. sanctions on North Korea was critical to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. (Nike Ching, VOA)
- The United States remains committed to enforcing United Nations sanctions on North Korea to achieve the full dismantlement of Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Friday. (Yonhap)
- The United States has called an urgent meeting of the U.N. Security Council for Monday in response to what it says are efforts by some countries "to undermine and obstruct" sanctions against North Korea. (AP)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726231419/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsnorth-korea-denuclearization-talks-and-human-rightspompeo-us-as-committed-as-ever-to-un-sanctions-on-n-korea

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Sunday, September 16, 2018

Moon urged to play hardball for denuclearization; U.N. Cites New Evidence That North Korea is Violating Sanctions

In North Korea:
I Endured North Korea's 'Emotional Dictatorship' for 13 Years Before Escaping. Here's the Best Way to End It (*TIME*, 9/12/2018)
Kim Jong-un steals the thunder (*Korea Times*, 9/15/2018)
Nietzschean North Korea (*Korea Times*, 9/15/2018)
NK elevates festive mood for Pyongyang summit (*Korea Times*, 9/16/2018)
PPJ Inspects Different Locales in PY (*North Korea Leadership Watch*, 9/16/2018)
Sending aid to North Korea often means inadvertently helping Kim Jong Un. But there are still ways to help. (*NBC*, 9/14/2018)

In South Korea:
(3rd LD) Samsung, Hyundai, SK, LG leaders to join President Moon's Pyongyang visit (*Yonhap*, 9/16/2018)
52 make special entourage list (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/16/2018)
Historic Kim Jong Un Summit May Make or Break Moon's Presidency (*Bloomberg*, 9/15/2018)
Moon's relentless push (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/16/2018)
Samsung's Lee Jae-yong among entourage to Pyongyang (*Korea Times*, 9/16/2018)
Skepticism rising in S. Korea ahead of 3rd summit with North (*Associated Press*, 9/15/2018)
The importance of North Korean refugees learning English (*Korea Times*, 9/16/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Are all Koreans created equal? (*Korea Times*, 9/16/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korean officials visit N. Korea for summit preparations (*Yonhap*, 9/16/2018)
Moon urged to play hardball for denuclearization (*Korea Times*, 9/16/2018)
S. Korean table tennis legend hoping for unified teams with N. Korea at worlds, Olympics (*Yonhap*, 9/16/2018)
South Korea forges ahead with charm offensive to Kim regime even as U.S. outreach cools (*Washington Post*, 9/15/2018)
Time for a creative proposal (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/16/2018)

International:
Chinese tour groups are enjoying North Korea (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/16/2018)

Letter diplomacy between NK, US leaders in works (*Korea Times*, 9/16/2018)
N. Korea raps Japan for remarks on end-of-war declaration (*Yonhap*, 9/16/2018)
(News Focus) Experts eye inter-Korean summit in terms of U.S.-N.K. talks (*Yonhap*, 9/16/2018)
No meeting set between N. Korea, U.S. at U.N. session: report (*Yonhap*, 9/16/2018)
Seven Countries Join to Hunt Ships Smuggling Fuel to North Korea (*Wall Street Journal*, 9/14/2018)
Tech's New Problem: North Korea (*Wall Street Journal*, 9/14/2018)
U.N. Cites New Evidence That North Korea Is Violating Sanctions (*Wall Street Journal*, 9/15/2018)
U.S. raises alarm at UN about sanctions evasion (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/16/2018)

In North Korea:

- We have to help the people of North Korea win the information war by giving them access to the outside world. Since 2016, the Human Rights Foundation's Flash Drives for Freedom campaign has worked to disrupt Kim Jong Un's propaganda machine by collecting USB drives, loading them up with pop culture, news, and video content, and getting them into the hands of the North Korean people. (Yeonmi Park, *TIME*)
- At least by appearances, Kim Jong-un, the North Korean leader in his mid-30s, is having his way in dealing with the United States, China and South Korea over denuclearization. (Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)
- North Korea has made a massive transformation over the past 18 months. Its leader Kim Jong-un has rather adeptly gone from being a parricidal chain-smoking dictator to an all-smiling man of charisma, charm and cuddles — a man willing to engage in diplomacy with other world leaders. (David Tizzard, *Korea Times*)
- North Korea has expressed a welcoming gesture for the upcoming Pyongyang summit, saying the world is paying "unprecedented attention" to next week's historic meeting between President Moon Jae-in and the regime's young leader Kim Jong-un. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- DPRK state media reported on September 15 (Saturday) that State Affairs Commission Vice Chairman and Premier Pak Pong Ju (Pak Pong-chu) visited and inspected several locales under construction or renovation in and around Pyongyang. (*North Korea Leadership Watch*)
- As aid workers and foreign governments have both found, providing aid may inadvertently help the very regime that keeps its people hungry, and sanctions are often ineffective at curbing the excesses of the elites while further harming the vulnerable we are trying to assist. (Dr. Megan Reiss, Kathryn Waldron, NBC)

In South Korea:

- South Korean President Moon Jae-in will visit Pyongyang this week, along with several conglomerate leaders, his office announced Sunday. Cheong Wa Dae said Moon's entourage will be composed of 52 government officials, politicians, business leaders and selected representatives from various other fields. (*Yonhap*)
- CEOs of major conglomerates including Samsung Group Vice Chairman Lee Jae-yong and SK Chairman Chey Tae-won will join President Moon Jae-in on his trip to Pyongyang Tuesday

for a summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, the Blue House announced on Sunday. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

- Moon Jae-in has more than world peace riding on a successful summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un this week: His domestic agenda is also at stake. (Youkyoung Lee, *Bloomberg*)
- President Moon Jae-in wanted to achieve two things during his meeting with floor leaders of five political parties at the Blue House on Aug. 16. First, he desperately wanted to bring them to his upcoming summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in Pyongyang and second, he urged them to ratify the April 27 Panmunjom Declaration with Kim. (Kang Chan-ho, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Top executives from the country's top four conglomerates, including Samsung Electronics Vice Chairman Lee Jae-yong, will accompany President Moon Jae-in to Pyongyang for possible talks on inter-Korean business cooperation. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- South Koreans are divided over whether this week's summit in Pyongyang will help break a stalemate over nuclear diplomacy between the U.S. and North Korea, according to another survey released in early September. (Kim Hyung-jin, *Associated Press*)
- Thae Yong-ho, former deputy ambassador of North Korea to the United Kingdom before defecting with his family to South Korea in 2016, was the featured speaker at a Teach North Korean Refugees forum on July 22. (Casey Lartigue Jr., *Korea Times*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- If there is such a thing as a "rule" in responding to North Korean refugees, it is to treat them as if they are Korean, but not quite as Korean as they should be. (Amanda Price, *Korea Times*)
- A group of more than 90 South Koreans began a trip Sunday to North Korea to make preparations, largely logistical, for the upcoming inter-Korean summit. (*Yonhap*)
- Opposition parties have called on President Moon Jae-in to receive "specific and definite" answers from North Korean leader Kim Jong-un over the latter's timeline for denuclearization during their meeting in Pyongyang this week. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- South Korean table tennis legend Hyun Jung-hwa said Sunday she'd like to see the Koreas field joint teams at both the world championships and the Summer Olympics in 2020. (*Yonhap*)
- This much is clear: Moon's administration is leading the cheerleading about the dramatic diplomatic advances even as U.S. exchanges with the North appear to stumble. (Simon Denyer, *Washington Post*)
- We hope Moon presents a creative denuclearization proposal to Kim so that he can be persuaded to faithfully implement it in exchange for Uncle Sam joining a declaration to officially end the war. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)

International:

- One source in China's tour industry said one of the most popular tour packages is a single-day course that takes Chinese tourists from a Chinese border town to a North Korean

border town, namely Dandong, in southeastern Liaoning Province, to Sinuiju, in North Pyongan Province. (Yeh Young-June, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

- The letter diplomacy between the leaders of North Korea and the U.S. continues to unfold, proving to serve as a breakthrough in the deadlocked denuclearization talks. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- North Korea's state-controlled media criticized Japan's top diplomat Sunday for his negative view on declaring an end to the Korean War anytime soon. The criticism is seen to reflect Pyongyang's yearning for security assurances associated with such a declaration. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. experts said they are viewing next week's third inter-Korean summit in the context of the current impasse in denuclearization talks between the United States and North Korea. (*Yonhap*)
- The United States has no plan yet for any talks with North Korea in New York on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly session late this month, a State Department official was quoted as saying Sunday. (*Yonhap*)
- The U.S. is convening a multinational coalition to significantly expand surveillance of ships smuggling fuel to North Korea in violation of United Nations sanctions, American military officials said. (Gordon Lubold, Ian Talley, *Wall Street Journal*)
- North Korea operatives have sought to use U.S. technology and social media networks to evade U.S.-led sanctions and generate income, taking advantage of many of the same shortcomings that allowed Russians to interfere in the 2016 election. (Wenxin Fan, Tom Wright, Alastair Gale, *Wall Street Journal*)
- North Korea is poking significant holes in global economic sanctions, according to a new United Nations report that cites fresh evidence of illicit arms sales, disguised fuel shipments and outlawed financial dealings. (Ian Talley, *Wall Street Journal*)
- The United States has called an urgent meeting of the United Nations Security Council for Monday to talk about recent efforts by some member states "to undermine and obstruct" North Korea sanctions implementation. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726231621/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-moon-urged-to-play-hardball-for-denuclearization-un-cites-new-evidence-that-north-korea-is-violating-sanctions

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Monday, September 17, 2018

Moon, Kim Prepare for 3rd Inter-Korean Summit; The New Nuclear Normal in North Korea?

In North Korea:

At Pyongyang trade fair, North Korea is ready to make a deal (*Associated Press*, 9/17/2018)
Central Report Meeting Marks DPRK 70th Birthday (*North Korea Leadership Watch*, 9/17/2018)
'Cuddled in Kim Jong Un's arms': North Koreans envisage unification ahead of summit (*Reuters*, 9/17/2018)
KCNA: North Korea premier inspects Pyongyang venues ahead of summit (UPI, 9/17/2018)
North Korea's Trump-Era Strategy: Keep Making A-Bombs, but Quietly (*New York Times*, 9/16/2018)
[Photo] Lecture summary reveals continued emphasis on nuclear weapons development (*DailyNK* 9/17/2018)
Record-breaking heat and rain lead to inflation concerns (*DailyNK*, 9/17/2018)
The New Nuclear Normal in North Korea? (*The Diplomat*, 9/17/2018)

In South Korea:
North Korean Defector Protests Seoul's Apparent Lack of Focus on Human-Rights Abuses (*Wall Street Journal*, 9/17/2018)
Persuade the opposition (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/17/2018)
Samsung heir among business leaders joining South Korea's visit to Pyongyang (*The Telegraph*, 9/16/2018)
South Korea's tycoons to go to Pyongyang (*Korea Times*, 9/16/2018)
Why Samsung's billionaire chief is headed to North Korea (CNN, 9/17/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) Denuclearization a key item at upcoming inter-Korean summit: Seoul (*Yonhap*, 9/17/2018)
Denuclearization is top priority (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/17/2018)
First ladies may meet on sidelines of summit (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/17/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korean media highlight April summit agreement ahead of Moon's visit (*Yonhap*, 9/17/2018)
Moon, Kim may again display closeness for 3 days in Pyongyang (*Yonhap*, 9/17/2018)
Moon, Kim Prepare for 3rd Inter-Korean Summit (VOA, 9/17/2018)
Moon, Kim to meet for third summit in North Korean capital (UPI, 9/17/2018)
Moon flies to Pyongyang for third summit Tuesday (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/17/2018)
Moon Jae-in prepares for make or break inter-Korean summit with Kim Jong-un (*The Guardian*, 9/16/2018)
Moon says he and Kim will discuss ways to move denuclearization forward (*Yonhap*, 9/17/2018)
Moon to arrive in Pyongyang at 10 am Tuesday (*Korea Times*, 9/17/2018)
Moon vows to persuade Pyongyang amid standoff (*Korea Times*, 9/17/2018)
North and South Korea Push to End Korean War, but U.S. Remains Wary (*New York Times*, 9/17/2018)
Pine mushrooms shipped en masse to Pyongyang: inter-Korean summit gifts? (*DailyNK*, 9/17/2018)
Rapper Zico, R&B singer Ailee to visit Pyongyang (*Korea Times*, 9/17/2018)
S. Korea's Moon set for historic summit with N. Korean leader Kim (*Yonhap*, 9/17/2018)
S. Korea's Moon wants 'heart-to-heart' summit talks with Kim (*Associated Press*, 9/17/2018)
S. Korean table tennis legend hoping for unified teams with N. Korea at worlds, Olympics (*Yonhap*, 9/16/2018)
Seoul indicates summit could make progress on separated families (*Yonhap*, 9/17/2018)
Tycoons scout for business in North that probably is taboo (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/17/2018)

When Moon meets Kim: Can roads pave way to denuclearization? (*Associated Press*, 9/17/2018)

International:
Abrams named to head USFK (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/17/2018)
At U.N., U.S. accuses Russia of 'cheating' on North Korea sanctions (*Reuters*, 9/17/2018)
Beijing: Inter-Korea liaison office a sign of progress (UPI, 9/17/2018)
Can the US and South Korea proceed on North Korea's 'desire' for denuclearization alone? (*DailyNK* 9/17/2018)
Graham: Trump will consider moving troops out of South Korea if North Korea is 'playing' him (*The Hill*, 9/16/2018)
Kim Jong-un expresses willingness to maintain close relations with Beijing: report (*Yonhap*, 9/16/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korean foreign minister, Pompeo hold phone talks on N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 9/17/2018)
Swords to ploughshares (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/17/2018)
US accuses Russia of cheating on enforcing NKorea sanctions (*Associated Press*, 9/17/2018)
US sanctions are China's big concern right now (CNN, 9/16/2018)
U.S. warns Seoul about need to keep up sanctions (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/17/2018)

In North Korea:

- Though North Korea continues to be one of the most heavily sanctioned countries in the world, this year's trade fair, which opened in the North Korean capital on Monday, includes more than 320 companies and is making something of a comeback, with many Chinese entrepreneurs taking part. (Eric Talmadge, *Associated Press*)
- A central report meeting marking the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the DPRK took place at May Day Stadium in Pyongyang on Sunday (September 9). Report meetings were also held in provincial capitals, cities and county seats throughout the country. (*North Korea Leadership Watch*)
- Sixteen-year-old Ri Jin Ryong, a member of North Korea's paramilitary Worker-Peasant Red Guards militia, says he has one message for South Koreans if the two countries ever reunite. (Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- North Korea Premier Pak Pong Ju is directly inspecting major institutions around Pyongyang ahead of the third summit between Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in, according to KCNA. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- For seven years, Kim Jong-un has pursued an in-your-face strategy for building his nuclear arsenal: detonating blasts underground and firing missiles into the sky, all to send the message that his country's nuclear buildup is irreversible. (David E. Sanger, *New York Times*)
- As North Korea celebrated the 70th anniversary of its founding on September 9, the authorities handed down an order for lectures that place emphasis on the country's "successful attainment of nuclear weapons" and [North Korea] as a "nuclear superpower." (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)
- It's predicted that prices will increase after the recent unusual heatwave combined with torrential rain. Especially with Chuseok fast approaching, many North Koreans are worried

about the aftermath of the tough farming season caused by the record-breaking temperatures this year. (Unification Media Group, DailyNK)

- North Korean military parades are a grand affair and, in recent years, were of great interest to analysts who studied the short, medium, and intercontinental ballistic missiles on show to gauge its advances in nuclear capability. (Ankit Panda, *The Diplomat*)

In South Korea:

- Although Mr. Moon last year acknowledged North Korean human rights as a problem, his government has been quiet on the issue since tensions on the Korean Peninsula died down this year, largely the result of Mr. Moon's engagement with North Korea. (Andrew Jeong, *Wall Street Journal*)
- Moon wants to hammer the nail more clearly. He wants to make progress through action, not just a promise. But to use government money, he needs to persuade both opposition parties and the United States. (Kim Jin-kook, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The heir to the Samsung empire and the leaders of several other South Korean conglomerates will go to Pyongyang this week for an inter-Korean summit, Seoul announced Sunday. (*The Telegraph*)
- Top executives from the country's top four conglomerates, including Samsung Electronics Vice Chairman Lee Jae-yong, will accompany President Moon Jae-in to Pyongyang for possible talks on inter-Korean business cooperation. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- Jay Y. Lee, Samsung's billionaire chief, is one of nearly a dozen business leaders traveling to Pyongyang with South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Tuesday, according to a statement from the president's office. (Sherisse Pham, CNN)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- South Korean President Moon Jae-in will discuss ways to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula when he meets North Korean leader Kim Jong-un this week, Moon's chief of staff said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- It all boils down to a call for Pyongyang to carry out denuclearization irrespective of all the inter-Korean cooperation such as reunions of separated families, opening of a liaison office in Kaesong and discussions about renovating old railways and roads in the North. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The wives of the two Korean leaders may meet in Pyongyang this week on the sidelines of the third inter-Korean summit, according to a South Korean government official with knowledge of President Moon Jae-in's three-day visit to the North. (Hyun Il-hoon, Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- North Korea's state media emphasized peace and prosperity between the two Koreas Monday, calling for efforts to build on the achievements they have made since the historic summit meeting in April. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in's historic three-day visit to North Korea will begin with an official welcome ceremony at Pyongyang Sunan International Airport on Tuesday

morning, which will likely be attended by North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, officials said Monday. (Yonhap)

- South Korean President Moon Jae-in travels to Pyongyang Tuesday with a delegation numbering nearly 200, including leaders from some of the country's largest companies, for his third summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. (Steve Miller, VOA)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will meet for their third summit on Tuesday in Pyongyang. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- President Moon Jae-in will fly to Pyongyang at 8:40 a.m. Tuesday from Seoul Air Base in Seongnam, Gyeonggi, for his third summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. (Kang Jin-kyu, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- The South Korean president, Moon Jae-in, will seek to salvage stalled nuclear negotiations between North Korea and the US during a summit with Kim Jong-un in Pyongyang on Tuesday that could make or break his legacy. (Benjamin Haas, The Guardian)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Monday that his trip to North Korea this week will focus on brokering a denuclearization deal between the U.S. and the North. (Yonhap)
- Leaders of the two Koreas may reach an agreement on easing military tension at their summit that begins Tuesday, presidential chief of staff Im Jong-seok said Monday. (Kim Bo-eun, Korea Times)
- President Moon Jae-in said Monday he will try to persuade Pyongyang to advance peace and denuclearization processes during his third summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. (Kim Yoo-chul, Korea Times)
- When President Moon Jae-in of South Korea sits down Tuesday with Kim Jong-un, North Korea's leader, for their third summit meeting, they will share a common goal: fashioning a political statement this year declaring the end of the Korean War. (Choe Sang-hun, New York Times)
- Premium pine mushrooms have traditionally been a major export item for North Korea. Sources report that a large shipment was recently sent to the country's capital, Pyongyang. Given past precedent, the mushrooms could be presented as gifts during the upcoming inter-Korean summit planned for September 18-20 in Pyongyang. (Mun Dong Hui, DailyNK)
- But hip-hop and R&B? How North Korean audiences will respond to these genres was the question that popped into the publics mind when the government announced Sunday the members of the presidential entourage for the third inter-Korean summit which included rapper Zico and R&B singer Ailee. (Kang Aa-young, Korea Times)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in is set to embark on a trip to North Korea this week for his third and possibly most crucial meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. (Yonhap)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Monday that he will push for "irreversible, permanent peace," and for better dialogue between Pyongyang and Washington, during "heart-to-heart" talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un this week. (Kim Hyung-jin, Associated Press)
- South Korean table tennis legend Hyun Jung-hwa said Sunday she'd like to see the Koreas field joint teams at both the world championships and the Summer Olympics in 2020. (Yonhap)

- South Korea's presidential office on Monday expressed optimism that this week's inter-Korean summit will result in substantial progress in addressing the issue of families separated by the Korean War. (*Yonhap*)
- Leaders of Korea's top four conglomerates are flying to Pyongyang with President Moon Jae-in today, prompting many to wonder if any inter-Korean economic cooperation is possible considering all the sanctions on North Korea. (Seo Ji-eun, Jin Eun-soo, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- When South Korean President Moon Jae-in travels to Pyongyang this week for his third summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, he will have two major tasks: He needs to keep Pyongyang's talks with Washington on denuclearization from breaking down so that his own efforts at rapprochement can continue, and he needs to speed up a series of inter-Korean cooperation and engagement projects. (Eric Talmadge, *Associated Press*)

International:

- Gen. Robert B. Abrams, commander of the U.S. Army Forces Command, was nominated as the new head of the U.S. Forces Korea (USFK), according to military sources. (Sarah Kim, Lee Chul-jae, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley accused Russia on Monday of "cheating" on U.N. sanctions on North Korea and demanded it stop. (Michelle Nichols, *Reuters*)
- China endorsed the opening of an inter-Korea liaison office in North Korea on Monday ahead of the third summit between Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- According to Chung, Kim Jong Un is frustrated by the international community's doubts that the North Korean leader is not willing to denuclearize. Jung also added that Kim Jong Un wishes to achieve denuclearization and normalize relations with the United States by the end of US President Donald Trump's first term, which ends in 2021. (Ahn Jong Sik, *DailyNK*)
- Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) on Sunday said President Trump previously came close to pulling U.S. troops out of South Korea and added that Trump will reconsider doing so if North Korea is "playing" him. (Michael Burke, *The Hill*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un thanked Chinese President Xi Jinping for sending an envoy to an event earlier this month marking the regime's 70th founding anniversary, the North's state media said Sunday. (*Yonhap*)
- The top diplomats of South Korea and the United States had phone talks on North Korea on Monday in a show of close collaboration on the eve of a planned inter-Korean summit. (*Yonhap*)
- The peaceful conversion of North Korea's nuclear facility could help North Korea and the United States find a middle ground to roll back the North's military program and ensure co-existence. (Chun Young-gi, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley told Monday's urgent meeting of the Security Council that the violations are "systematic." She said that includes ship-to-ship transfers of banned items, mainly oil but increasingly coal and other goods. (*Associated Press*)
- As South Korean President Moon Jae-in prepares to travel to North Korea this week for his fourth meeting with Kim Jong Un, we assess that he is pursuing an agenda that increasingly

differs from yours by excluding denuclearization requirements and keeping maximum financial or diplomatic pressure on Kim. (Samantha Vinograd, CNN)

- The U.S. State Department is urging South Korea to abide by UN sanctions as President Moon Jae-in flies to Pyongyang for his third summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, accompanied by an entourage including top executives of the country's four major conglomerates. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726231626/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-moon-kim-prepare-for-3rd-inter-korean-summit-the-new-nuclear-normal-in-north-korea

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Tuesday, September 18, 2018

North Korea's human rights: What's not being talked about; What Can Moon Jae-in Get Done in Pyongyang?

Top News:
North Korean Defector Protests Seoul's Apparent Lack of Focus on Human-Rights Abuses (*Wall Street Journal*, 9/17/2018)
More Libel Suits to Silence Critics: Cartoonist Yoon Seo-in, Journalist Kim Se-ui (*East Asia Research Center*, 9/16/2018)
North and South Korea Push to End Korean War, but U.S. Remains Wary (*New York Times*, 9/17/2018)
North Korea's human rights: What's not being talked about (BBC, 9/18/2018)
Nuclear disarmament is just the start – we must stop North Korea's slide into a China-meets-Orwell dystopia (*The Telegraph*, 9/18/2018)
The pitfalls of economic cooperation without denuclearization (*DailyNK*, 9/18/2018)
What Can Moon Jae-in Get Done in Pyongyang? (*38 North*, 9/17/2018)

In North Korea:
Grand Theater: Has N. Korea's Kim won a propaganda coup? (*Associated Press*, 9/18/2018)
Kim Jong-un's cuisine diplomacy back in spotlight (*Korea Times*, 9/18/2018)
More DPRK Signals on Denuclearization (*38 North*, 9/17/2018)
N.K. leader demonstrates humility with frank talk about economy (*Yonhap*, 9/18/2018)
N. Korea discloses cosmetics factory to foreign media (*Yonhap*, 9/18/2018)
(News Focus) Will N. Korea make additional denuclearization moves beyond rhetoric? (*Yonhap*, 9/18/2018)
North Korea compares cosmetics factory to Chanel, Shiseido (*UPI*, 9/18/2018)

Will magician turn North Korean currency into US dollar? (*Korea Times*, 9/18/2018)
Workers mobilized into shock troop units face difficult choices (*DailyNK*, 9/18/2018)

In South Korea:
A leadership litmus test (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/18/2018)
Busan unveils cooperation projects with North Korea (*Yonhap*, 9/18/2018)
Chaebol leaders travel light to Pyongyang (*Korea Times*, 9/18/2018)
Cheers heard in Seoul as Moon steps off plane (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/18/2018)
Chilly South Korean send-off for Moon: 'Pyongyang summit? I didn't even know' (*Reuters*, 9/18/2018)
KT provides telecom services for inter-Korean summit (*Yonhap*, 9/18/2018)
'North Korea took everything from us' (*BBC*, 9/18/2018)
Opposition parties call for concrete plan for N.K. denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 9/18/2018)
S. Korean business leaders express cautious hope for reopening of Kaesong complex (*Yonhap*, 9/18/2018)
Summit in Pyongyang buoys markets in Seoul (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/18/2018)
'We don't welcome the summit' (*Korea Times*, 9/18/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
5 powerful images from Kim Jong Un's historic meeting with South Korea's president (VOX, 9/18/2018)
(2nd LD) Moon, Kim hold first round of summit talks in Pyongyang (*Yonhap*, 9/18/2018)
(2nd LD) Moon to stay in Paekhwawon guest house known for hosting VIPs (*Yonhap*, 9/18/2018)
(2nd LD) N. Korea calls Moon-Kim summit 'good opportunity' to improve ties (*Yonhap*, 9/18/2018)
(3rd LD) N. Korean leader welcomes Moon at airport with cheek-to-cheek embrace (*Yonhap*, 9/18/2018)
(8th LD) Moon voices optimism before start of historic summit with Kim (*Yonhap*, 9/18/2018)
AP looks at the Koreas' push for formal end to Korean War (*Associated Press*, 9/18/2018)
Beyond the pomp and pageantry, Moon is keeping delicate denuclearisation talks with North Korea on track (*The Telegraph*, 9/18/2018)
Business tycoons meet North's top economic official (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/18/2018)
Economists imagine a connected peninsula (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/18/2018)
First couples' fashion statements (*Korea Times*, 9/18/2018)
First ladies visit children's hospital, college (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/18/2018)
Group pushes for match between two Koreas' football league champs (*Yonhap*, 9/18/2018)
Historic handshakes between leaders of two Koreas (*Korea Times*, 9/18/2018)
In North Korea, Shouts for Reunification and Peace Greet South's Leader (*New York Times*, 9/18/2018)
In pictures: Korean leaders meet in Pyongyang (CNN, 9/18/2018)
Journalists cover inter-Korean summit with measured excitement (*Yonhap*, 9/18/2018)
Key developments leading to 3rd Moon-Kim summit (*Yonhap*, 9/18/2018)
Kim Jong Un calls North Korea situation "stabilized" as high-stakes summit begins (CBS, 9/18/2018)
Kim Jong Un greets Moon at airport in Pyongyang (UPI, 9/18/2018)
Kim Jong-un greets Moon Jae-in as inter-Korean summit starts (*The Guardian*, 9/17/2018)
Kim Jong Un hugs Moon Jae-in as inter-Korean summit starts (CNN, 9/18/2018)

Kim Jong-un welcomes South Korea's Moon Jae-in as pair meet to tackle deadlock over disarmament (*The Telegraph*, 9/18/2018)
Kim lays on warm welcome for Moon (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/18/2018)
Kim Yo Jong a 'power player' at third inter-Korea summit (UPI, 9/18/2018)
Korea nuclear talks: Moon goes North to push stalled negotiations (BBC, 9/18/2018)
Korean leaders meet in Pyongyang for potentially tough talks (*Associated Press*, 9/18/2018)
Leaders Kim Jong Un, Moon Jae-in meet in Pyongyang (UPI, 9/18/2018)
Moon, Kim embrace in Pyongyang at start of inter-Korean summit (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/18/2018)
Moon, Kim may get together seven or eight times in 3 days (*Yonhap*, 9/18/2018)
Moon, Kim start talks (*Korea Times*, 9/18/2018)
Moon, Kim watch art performance together in Pyongyang (*Yonhap*, 9/18/2018)
Moon-Kim summit raises hope for joint projects, boosting of bourse: experts (*Yonhap*, 9/18/2018)
Moon is first president to visit Workers' Party HQ (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/18/2018)
(News Focus) Trust building, a key task for progress in North Korea denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 9/18/2018)
North, South Korean Leaders Hold Third Summit (VOA, 9/18/2018)
North Korea directs artists to glorify the state. The paintings are now on view in the South. (*Washington Post*, 9/18/2018)
North Korea's Ri Sol Ju attends concert with South Korea first lady (UPI, 9/18/2018)
S. Korean business leaders meet N. Korean deputy PM (*Yonhap*, 9/18/2018)
S. Korean president set for historic trip to N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 9/18/2018)
S. Korean taekwondo demonstration team to perform in Pyongyang (*Yonhap*, 9/18/2018)
South Korea's Moon embraced by Kim in Pyongyang in bid to revive nuclear talks (*Washington Post*, 9/18/2018)
South Korean president jets to Pyongyang for 'heart-to-heart' nuclear talks with Kim Jong-un (*The Telegraph*, 9/17/2018)
Striking images captured on 1st day of Korean summit talks (*Associated Press*, 9/18/2018)
Two former singers to hit right note in Pyongyang (*Korea Times*, 9/18/2018)
Two Koreas hold high-stakes summit with nuclear talks in jeopardy (*Reuters*, 9/17/2018)
What secrets did Moon and Kim share? (*Korea Times*, 9/18/2018)
With North Korea at a crossroads, Kim hosts another summit (*The Hill*, 9/18/2018)

International:
(4th LD) Kim says he expects progress in U.S.-N. Korea talks (*Yonhap*, 9/18/2018)
A nuclear gamble on North Korea's Chairman Kim (*Financial Times*, 9/17/2018)
Cart before the horse (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/18/2018)
Haley accuses Russia of 'cheating' to help North Korea evade sanctions (CNN, 9/17/2018)
Haley calls out Russia, China for skirting UN sanctions against North Korea (CBS, 9/17/2018)
Haley claims Russia 'cheated' sanctions (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/18/2018)
Haley Says Russia 'Actively Working' to Subvert North Korea Sanctions (*New York Times*, 9/17/2018)
Korea at a Crossroads: Time for a US-ROK-DPRK Strategic Realignment (*38 North*, 9/17/2018)
Leaders take big gambles in visiting 'enemy' territory (*Associated Press*, 9/18/2018)

North Korea's Kim says summit with Trump stabilized region, sees more progress (*Reuters*, 9/18/2018)
Rodong slams US on first day of Pyongyang summit (*Korea Times*, 9/18/2018)
Signs that North Korea is 'maintaining nuclear weapons programme' – UN political affairs chief (*UN News*, 9/17/2018)
South Korea's Moon Jae-in: Caught between Trump and Kim (BBC, 9/18/2018)
The Latest: UK urges N. Korea to take steps to denuclearize (*Associated Press*, 9/17/2018)
US: Russia 'Cheating' on North Korea Sanctions Implementation (VOA, 9/17/2018)
U.S. accuses Russia of cheating and undermining sanctions on North Korea (*Washington Post*, 9/17/2018)
US and Russia clash over enforcing UN sanctions on NKorea (*Associated Press*, 9/17/2018)

Top News:

- Although Mr. Moon last year acknowledged North Korean human rights as a problem, his government has been quiet on the issue since tensions on the Korean Peninsula died down this year, largely the result of Mr. Moon's engagement with North Korea. (Andrew Jeong, *Wall Street Journal*)
- On September 11, 2018, the prosecutor proposed a 1-year sentence each for Mr. Yoon Seo-in, a cartoonist, and Mr. Kim Se-ui, a journalist, for libel at the final hearing at the Seoul Central District Court presided by judge Choi Mi-bok (최미복). (Tara O, *East Asia Research Center*)
- When President Moon Jae-in of South Korea sits down Tuesday with Kim Jong-un, North Korea's leader, for their third summit meeting, they will share a common goal: fashioning a political statement this year declaring the end of the Korean War. (Choe Sang-hun, *New York Times*)
- Yet the country's woeful human rights record is one topic that has yet to come up in any meeting - and it's likely to remain that way. The UN says North Koreans live under "systematic, widespread and gross human rights violations". Here are just some of the issues the country faces. (BBC)
- A long-term solution to North Korea hinges on human rights. The scene of South Korean leader Moon Jae-in and his wife being greeted by Kim Jong-un and his wife on the red carpet at Pyongyang International Airport earlier this morning was yet another reassuring sign that despite the seeming deadlock in US-North Korean negotiations, diplomacy is carrying on nevertheless. (John Hemmings, *The Telegraph*)
- This summit should be used as an opportunity to tell Kim Jong Un honestly that it is not possible to kill two birds with one stone, like keeping nuclear weapons while making economic prosperity. (Thae Yong-ho, *DailyNK*)
- In a few hours, South Korean President Moon Jae-in flies to Pyongyang for his third meeting with North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un since April. After only two North-South summits during the past 17 years, three heads of state meetings in five months sets a brisk pace indeed. (Aidan Foster-Carter, *38 North*)

In North Korea:

- If North Korean leader Kim Jong Un was searching for the perfect propaganda set piece, something designed to show his people that he's a strong leader pushing inexorably for the long-delayed, long-promised prosperity they deserve, then visiting South Korean President Moon Jae-in might be providing him with a unique opportunity during their summit this week. (Foster Klug, Associated Press)
- All eyes are on Pyongyang-style cold noodles again as President Moon Jae-in and his North Korean counterpart Kim Jong-un will have lunch at Okryugwan in Pyongyang on Wednesday, the second day of their third summit. (Kang Aa-young, Korea Times)
- In what appears to be an authoritative-level article in *Rodong Sinmun* on September 15, Pyongyang has strongly reasserted its commitment to a new relationship with the US and to the process of denuclearization. (Robert Carlin, 38 North)
- North Korea's propaganda scribes claim the communist nation is a great nuclear weapons power that can crush the United States at any moment. But its leader Kim Jong-un humbly acknowledged that, despite nuclear bombs, the North has a backward economy. (Yonhap)
- North Korea has recently opened its cosmetics factory to China's media ahead of this week's inter-Korean summit in Pyongyang, apparently displaying its willingness to promote economic growth. (Yonhap)
- With South Korea keen on salvaging stalled denuclearization talks between the United States and North Korea, all eyes are focused on whether this week's inter-Korean summit will lead to Pyongyang's more concrete commitment to disarmament. (Song Sang-ho, Yonhap)
- North Korea reportedly invited foreign media to a state-run cosmetics factory in Pyongyang -- but only Chinese state media had issued a report on Tuesday. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- He was not sure whether he would do a similar trick to one performed by a North Korean magician — turning North Korean currency into a U.S. dollar. (Jung Da-min, Korea Times)
- The shock troop units are generally made up of young and middle-aged people in their 20s to 40s. Complaints have recently been rising among workers because the authorities appear to only be mobilizing those working at factories that have halted production activities. (Kang Mi Jin, DailyNK)

In South Korea:

- Moon and his entourage must not forget why he is visiting Pyongyang. North Korea has been dragging its feet on denuclearization. Moon's biggest goal is drawing sincere denuclearization measures from North Korea. (Korea JoongAng Daily)
- South Korea's Busan Metropolitan Government on Tuesday announced a list of its long-term cooperation projects with North Korea, including the connection of rail and marine transportation routes. (Yonhap)
- Top business leaders accompanying President Moon Jae-in on his three-day summit trip to North Korea Tuesday, were traveling light. They boarded the presidential flight at Seoul Airport in eastern Seoul. (Oh Young-jin, Korea Times)
- The public response to the start of the third Moon-Kim summit was generally upbeat on Tuesday, although the atmosphere was far more subdued in the National Assembly as conservative lawmakers remained pessimistic that the meeting would bring about any tangible results. (Shim Kyu-seok, Lee Tae-yun, Korea JoongAng Daily)

- When South Korean President Moon Jae-in arrived on Tuesday to begin his summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, the wildly enthusiastic welcome in the streets of Pyongyang was in stark contrast to his lackluster send-off from Seoul. (Jeongmin Kim, Joori Roh, *Reuters*)
- KT Corp., South Korea's leading wireless and fixed-line services provider, said Tuesday it has been named the official provider of telecom services for media during the inter-Korean summit this week. (*Yonhap*)
- In 2010 an explosion on a South Korean navy ship, the ROKS Cheonan, caused it to sink, killing 46 sailors. North Korea was blamed for the incident, which it denied. (*BBC*)
- Conservative opposition parties on Tuesday called for South and North Korea to come up with a detailed plan for the North's denuclearization during their third summit so as to fulfill the commitment toward peace as agreed by the two leaders of the states. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean businesspeople who had operated factories at the now-shuttered Kaesong complex said Tuesday they will prepare for a possible resumption of operations at the joint factory park as South Korean President Moon Jae-in holds talks with Kim Jong-un. (*Yonhap*)
- Korean stocks closed higher Tuesday, buoyed by positive investor sentiment stemming from the inter-Korean summit despite fresh U.S. tariffs on Chinese goods. The Korean won appreciated against the U.S. dollar. (Kim Eun-jin, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- While South Korean President Moon Jae-in is in Pyongyang for his third summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un on Tuesday, people opposed to the summit are staging a sit-in in front of the Main Press Center set up at Dongdaemun Design Plaza in Jung-gu, Seoul, for the three-day event. (Choi Won-suk, *Korea Times*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The leaders of North and South Korea, Kim Jong Un and Moon Jae-in, are meeting for a historic summit in Pyongyang — and it began as a deeply emotional event. Hugs, flowers, and standing ovations marked the first day of the Pyongyang summit. (Alex Ward, VOX)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un held their first round of talks Tuesday in a historic summit largely aimed at restarting U.S-North Korea talks on denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. (Byun Duk-kun, *Yonhap*)
- The Paekhwawon State Guest House where South Korean President Moon Jae-in will stay during his trip to Pyongyang is known as North Korea's facility to host heads of state and foreign dignitaries. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's state media reported Tuesday on this week's inter-Korean summit, calling it a "good opportunity" to improve ties between the two Koreas. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un welcomed South Korean President Moon Jae-in to Pyongyang on Tuesday in an elaborate airport ceremony featuring a cheek-to-cheek embrace, goose-stepping honor guards and hundreds of people waving flowers and shouting "Hurrah." (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in voiced hope for progress in his upcoming dialogue with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un aimed at restarting the U.S.-North Korea denuclearization talks, noting what he called an unprecedented welcome from Kim and his people in Pyongyang. (Byun Duk-kun, *Yonhap*)

- At the heart of the nuclear impasse with North Korea is a seemingly straightforward demand by both North and South for a formal end to the Korean War. (Foster Klug, *Associated Press*)
- This week's summit of South and North Korean leaders already promises to be big on pomp and pageantry and short on tangible results, but its role in keeping nuclear diplomacy talks on track should not be underestimated. (Nicola Smith, *The Telegraph*)
- Eighteen South Korean business leaders, including top executives from Korea's four biggest conglomerates, met with Ri Ryong-nam, North Korea's deputy prime minister for economic affairs, as well as five other government officials in Pyongyang on Tuesday afternoon. (Seo Ji-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The Korea International Trade Association (KITA), a local lobbying group, and the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a U.S. think tank, jointly hosted a conference on Tuesday dubbed "Reconnect Asia" in Gwanghwamun, central Seoul, to discuss the possible impact of inter-Korean business on Asia. (Kim Jee-hee, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Fashion styles of the leaders and first ladies during the summit often deliver crucial statements. The Pyongyang summit on Sept.18-20 is no exception. (Dong Sun-hwa, *Korea Times*)
- The wives of the two Korean leaders met Tuesday on the sidelines of the third inter-Korean summit in Pyongyang and visited a children's hospital and a music college together. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The chief of a Seoul-based inter-Korean sports exchange promotion group said Tuesday he is trying to stage a match between football league champions from South and North Korea. (*Yonhap*)
- Simple handshakes tell a tale of hope and disappointment. (Oh Young-jin, Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)
- President Moon Jae-in of South Korea was greeted by throngs of North Koreans shouting "Reunification of the fatherland!" as he arrived in the North on Tuesday on a high-stakes mission to persuade its leader, Kim Jong-un, to commit to start dismantling his nuclear weapons program. (Choe Sang-hun, *New York Times*)
- For the third time this year, the leaders of North and South Korea are meeting face to face. This week's summit is in Pyongyang, North Korea's capital. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is hosting Moon Jae-in, the first South Korean President to travel to Pyongyang in more than a decade. (CNN)
- Thousands of journalists who gathered at a press center in Seoul held their breath and stopped work for a moment when South Korean President Moon Jae-in shook hands with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un after disembarking from a plane at an airport in Pyongyang. (*Yonhap*)
- The following is a chronology of major developments in 2018 leading up to the third summit between South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean Chairman Kim Jong-un in Pyongyang from Tuesday to Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in arrived in North Korea on Tuesday and began his third and possibly most challenging summit yet with leader Kim Jong Un. (CBS)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un greeted South Korean president Moon Jae-in at Pyongyang International Airport as Moon arrived in the North Korean capital for a three-day summit. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)

- Kim Jong-un has greeted the South Korean president to cheers from crowds assembled at North Korea's Pyongyang airport as the pair begin their third summit. (Benjamin Haas, *The Guardian*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un greeted South Korean President Moon Jae-in on his arrival in Pyongyang Tuesday for their third summit this year, as the two countries look to establish peace on the Korean Peninsula. (Joshua Berlinger, Sophie Jeong, Yoonjung Seo, CNN)
- A three-day summit between North and South Korea began on Tuesday morning with a warm embrace, a military band and a rapturous welcome from a cheering crowd as Moon Jae-in, the South Korean president, stepped off his plane at Pyongyang airport to greet a smiling Kim Jong-un. (Nicola Smith, Marnie Gill, *The Telegraph*)
- President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un had a first round of summit talks in Pyongyang on Tuesday, the initial day of a three-day summit, the first to be held in the North Korean capital in 11 years. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Kim Jong Un's sister Kim Yo Jong is emerging as a power player at the inter-Korea summits, according to South Korean press reports. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- The leaders of North and South Korea are meeting in the North Korean capital for talks centred on the stalled denuclearization negotiations. North Korea has embarked on an unprecedented series of meetings this year with both the South and the US. (BBC)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in began his third summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Tuesday with possibly his hardest mission to date — brokering some kind of compromise to keep North Korea's talks with Washington from imploding. (Eric Talmadge, Kim Hyung-jin, *Associated Press*)
- North Korea blocked roads from Pyongyang International Airport to the city center for a car parade Tuesday to welcome South Korean President Moon Jae-in. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un met for the third time at Pyongyang Sunan International Airport today at 10:10 a.m., kicking off a three-day summit in the North Korean capital. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in began his historic three-day visit to North Korea on Tuesday with a welcome ceremony at Pyongyang Sunan International Airport attended by North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and his top officials. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in started formal talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in Pyongyang at 3:45 p.m. Tuesday, as the two seek to establish a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula. (Jung Min-ho, *Korea Times*)
- The leaders of the two Koreas on Tuesday watched an art performance in Pyongyang together with their wives following the first day of their summit. (*Yonhap*)
- With peace efforts involving North Korea gaining momentum, all eyes are focused on whether the third inter-Korean summit will lead to a breakthrough in the nuclear stalemate and help spur joint economic projects. (*Yonhap*)
- The third summit between Moon Jae-in and Kim Jong-un was held Tuesday at the headquarters of the ruling Workers' Party's Central Committee in Pyongyang, marking the first time that a North Korean leader has hosted a South Korean president at the reclusive regime's center of power. (Lee Sung-eun, Jeong Yoo-soo, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- If history is any guide, distrust among nations is a major obstacle for cooperation, either bilateral or multilateral, with their ill-defined policy intentions stoking fears, escalating

security competition and raising the potential for unintended clashes. (Song Sang-ho, Yonhap)

- South Korean President Moon Jae-in and his almost 200 member delegation have completed their first day of summit talks in Pyongyang, North Korea. (Steve Miller, VOA)
- A rare look at North Korea's state-directed art world — beyond the murals and propaganda posters — has come to Asia's largest arts festival. (Min Joo Kim, *Washington Post*)
- The first ladies of the two Koreas have been holding their own meetings on the sidelines of the third inter-Korea summit in Pyongyang -- attending a concert while sharing a mutual interest in music. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Samsung Electronics Vice Chairman Lee Jae-yong and other South Korean business leaders met with North Korea's deputy prime minister in Pyongyang on Tuesday, underscoring the commitment by the divided Koreas to boosting their economic cooperation. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in was set to visit Pyongyang on Tuesday on a historic trip for his third summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea's taekwondo demonstration team will perform in Pyongyang later this year following an invitation from North Korea, a Seoul-based international taekwondo governing body said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in was embraced by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and greeted by cheering crowds in Pyongyang on Tuesday in a carefully choreographed display of friendship, as the two leaders began their third summit this year. (Simon Denyer, Min Joo Kim, *Washington Post*)
- Moon Jae-in, South Korea's president, will seek to revive stalled talks on nuclear disarmament between the US and North Korea when he jets into Pyongyang on Tuesday morning for a three-day summit with Kim Jong-un. (Nicola Smith, *The Telegraph*)
- The broadly smiling North and South Korean leaders embrace each other as cheering Pyongyang residents wave fake flowers. The two inspect goose-stepping soldiers and ride together in a convertible Mercedes limousine for a parade. The leaders praise one another for taking the initiative to open a new era of inter-Korean detente. (Kim Hyung-jin, *Associated Press*)
- The first ladies of the two Koreas met again in Pyongyang, Tuesday, on the first day of the three-day summit from Tuesday to Thursday. The two shared greetings when President Moon and his entourage arrived in the North Korean capital and were welcomed by the first couple of the North. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)
- South Korea's President Moon Jae-in is set to cross the heavily militarized border on Tuesday for his third summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, seeking to cement a breakthrough in faltering nuclear talks between Pyongyang and Washington. (Hyonhee Shin, Joyce Lee, *Reuters*)
- President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un left in separate vehicles after the welcoming ceremony at the North's Sunan International Airport in Pyongyang on Tuesday morning. (Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un are to meet today in Pyongyang for their third summit. Since January, Kim has conducted no nuclear or intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) tests, but has failed to take any concrete steps towards denuclearization. (Daniel Hoffman, *The Hill*)

International:

- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un on Tuesday expressed his expectation for progress in denuclearization talks with the United States, which he said have stabilized the region. (Byun Duk-kun, *Yonhap*)
- Kim Jong Un normally inspires either fear or ridicule in the outside world. But could there be much more to the corpulent North Korean dictator than a predilection for murdering relatives and testing nuclear weapons? Might he be a secret reformer who is actually intent on disarmament and peace? (Gideon Rachman, *Financial Times*)
- Men are self-centered by nature and see the world from their own perspectives. This is true about the North Korean nuclear issue. Because Korea's fate depends on it, we believe the issue should be just as important to others. (Nam Jeong-ho, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley slammed Russia Monday, accusing Moscow of "cheating" and acting like a "virus" by helping North Korea evade international sanctions aimed at curbing Pyongyang's nuclear and ballistic missile programs. (Ryan Browne, Richard Roth, CNN)
- At an urgent Security Council meeting called by the U.S., Ambassador Nikki Haley called out Russia and China for consistently skirting U.N. sanctions against North Korea, sparking an acrimonious dispute between the world powers ahead of a crucial summit over the North's nuclear program. (Pamela Falk, CBS)
- The United States accused Russia of "cheating" UN sanctions on North Korea during a United Nations Security Council meeting on the eve of the inter-Korean summit in Pyongyang. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The United States ambassador to the United Nations accused Russia on Monday of "actively working to undermine the enforcement" of sanctions aimed at curtailing North Korea's nuclear weapons program. (Michael Schwirtz, *New York Times*)
- Today's rapidly changing strategic and diplomatic dynamics on the Korean Peninsula portend potential security arrangements going forward, far different than any expected several years ago. (William R. McKinney, *38 North*)
- This week's trip by South Korean President Moon Jae-in to the capital of North Korea may appear to have less impact to some outside the region after a series of meetings by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un since April. But the denuclearization stakes are high, with the Trump administration watching closely. (Tamer Fakahany, *Associated Press*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said on Tuesday his "historic" summit with U.S. President Donald Trump in Singapore stabilized regional security, and that he expected further progress at an inter-Korean summit aimed at reviving stalled nuclear diplomacy. (Hyonhee Shin, Joyce Lee, *Reuters*)
- On the first day of three-day inter-Korean summit in Pyongyang, North Korea's party mouthpiece Rodong Sinmun slammed the U.S. for not implementing promises made in the June 13 North Korea-U.S. joint statement. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)
- There are signs that North Korea (formally known as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, or DPRK), is "still maintaining and developing its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes", Rosemary di Carlo, United Nations political affairs chief, told the Security Council on Monday. (*UN News*)

- The South Korean president has become the mediator between Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un and is leading the diplomatic efforts to try to get North Korea to disarm. (Laura Bicker, BBC)
- Britain's top diplomat says it's time for North Korea to take concrete actions toward eliminating its nuclear weapons. Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said Tuesday in Tokyo that dialogue has helped improve the atmosphere "but we need to see actions now." (*Associated Press*)
- U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley accused Russia of "cheating" on international sanctions against North Korea, saying Moscow is undermining U.S. efforts to denuclearize the Korean peninsula. (Margaret Besheer, VOA)
- Nikki Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, on Monday accused Russia of systematically "cheating" on international sanctions against North Korea by illicitly helping the country acquire oil and coal. (Carol Morello, *Washington Post*)
- The United States and Russia clashed Monday over enforcing U.N. sanctions against North Korea, with the U.S. ambassador accusing Moscow of "cheating" and Russia's envoy accusing Washington of "political ill-intent." (Edith M. Lederer, *Associated Press*)

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250726231704/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-north-koreas-human-rights-whats-not-being-talked-about-what-can-moon-jae-in-get-done-in-pyongyang

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Wednesday, September 19, 2018

Kim Jong-un will let foreign experts verify dismantling of test site; North and South Korea commit to 'era of no war'

Top News:
[FULL TEXT] Pyongyang Declaration (Korea Times, 9/19/2018)

In North Korea:
A look into North Korea's Yongbyon nuclear complex (*Yonhap*, 9/19/2018)
Grand Olympic gestures are no substitute for progress on North Korean nukes (*The Telegraph*, 9/19/2018)
Kim Jong-un agrees to allow international inspectors and close missile test sites in Pyongyang talks (*The Telegraph*, 9/19/2018)
Kim Jong-un projects leadership through humble speech (*Korea Times*, 9/19/2018)
Kim Jong-un will let foreign experts verify dismantling of test site (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/19/2018)

(LEAD) (News Focus) Kim Jong-un presents 'substantive' yet limited denuclearization steps (*Yonhap*, 9/19/2018)
Mother and triplets kicked out of maternity hospital in Pyongyang (*DailyNK*, 9/19/2018)
NK could have purpose for hospitality shown to Moon (*Korea Times*, 9/19/2018)
N. Korea Kim Agrees to International Inspections, Visit to Seoul (VOA, 9/19/2018)
N. Korea to close long-range rocket test facilities (*Yonhap*, 9/19/2018)
North Korea: Summit & Reality (CNN, 9/19/2018)
North Korea agrees at summit to shutter test site, major nuclear facility (UPI, 9/19/2018)
North Korea agrees to shut down missile test sites as leaders hail 'leap forward' (*The Guardian*, 9/18/2018)
North Korea Blocks Citizens' Access to Pyongyang as Korean Summit Begins (*Radio Free Asia*, 9/18/2018)
North Korea still taking baby steps with Kim's missile site offer (*The Guardian*, 9/19/2018)
North Korea's Kim agrees to inspections in bid to salvage nuclear talks (*Reuters*, 9/19/2018)
North Korea's Kim Jong-un agrees to shut missile site (*BBC*, 9/19/2018)
North Korea's missile and nuclear programme (*BBC*, 9/19/2018)
North Korea's New Promises on Weapons Stop Short of Denuclearization (*New York Times*, 9/19/2018)
North Korea's Olympic Dream Faces Plenty of Hurdles (*Wall Street Journal*, 9/19/2018)
North Korea's Rodong Sinmun devotes five out of six pages to Moon's visit (*Korea Times*, 9/19/2018)
Sanctions on coal exports lead to improvements in electricity supply (*DailyNK*, 9/19/2018)
What President Moon Will See at the Mass Games (*38 North*, 9/18/2018)

In South Korea:
Analysis: Summit could be domestic win for S. Korean leader (*Associated Press*, 9/19/2018)
'Ashamed': South Koreans chilled by Kim Jong-un's cuddles (*The Guardian*, 9/18/2018)
Conservatives call for practical results from Moon-Kim summit (*Korea Times*, 9/19/2018)
Over 50,000 people petition for punishing 'no-show' southern politicians in NK (*Korea Times*, 9/19/2018)
S. Korean political parties divided over summit agreement (*Yonhap*, 9/19/2018)
S. Koreans show excitement, wariness at summit result (*Yonhap*, 9/19/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) Moon, Kim attend N. Korea's propaganda mass games (*Yonhap*, 9/19/2018)
(3rd LD) Koreas to start work to connect railways, roads within year (*Yonhap*, 9/19/2018)
(4th LD) Leaders of two Koreas hold second meeting over nukes, ties (*Yonhap*, 9/19/2018)
(7th LD) Kim agrees to additional denuclearization steps in summit with Moon (*Yonhap*, 9/19/2018)
(7th LD) Two Koreas reach key agreement to reduce military tensions (*Yonhap*, 9/19/2018)
AP Analysis: In North and South Korea, 2 views of summit (*Associated Press*, 9/19/2018)
Business hopes buoyed by summit (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/19/2018)
Handshakes and high hopes: the inter-Korean summit – in pictures (*The Guardian*, 9/19/2018)
Interaction between first ladies is itself historic (*Korea Times*, 9/19/2018)
Inter-Korean economic projects to gather pace if conditions are ripe (*Yonhap*, 9/19/2018)
Key developments leading to 3rd Moon-Kim summit (*Yonhap*, 9/19/2018)

Kim: 'I will visit Seoul soon' (*Korea Times*, 9/19/2018)
Kim Jong-un promises to visit Seoul by this year (*Korea Times*, 9/19/2018)
Kim pledges to visit Seoul, a first for a North Korean leader, but he and Moon give few details on denuclearization (*Washington Post*, 9/19/2018)
Kim Yo-jong busy assisting two leaders (*Korea Times*, 9/19/2018)
Korea summit economic pledge raises sanctions-busting fears (*Reuters*, 9/19/2018)
Korean Deal Offers New Life to Nuclear Talks—But Old Doubts Persist (*Wall Street Journal*, 9/19/2018)
Koreas' leaders agree on military, nuclear steps (*Associated Press*, 9/19/2018)
(LEAD) Koreas looking to form joint teams in table tennis, swimming at Asian Para Games (*Yonhap*, 9/19/2018)
(LEAD) Koreas poised for more history as they agree to push to co-host 2032 Olympics (*Yonhap*, 9/19/2018)
(LEAD) Moon, Kim to take joint trip to Mount Paekdu on Thursday (*Yonhap*, 9/19/2018)
(LEAD) Moon, Kim watch art performance together in Pyongyang (*Yonhap*, 9/18/2018)
(LEAD) Regulator sees possibility of inter-Korean economic cooperation (*Yonhap*, 9/19/2018)
(LEAD) Ruling party chief proposes inter-Korean parliamentary meeting (*Yonhap*, 9/19/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korean business leaders meet N. Korean deputy PM (*Yonhap*, 9/18/2018)
Leaders of North and South Korea to visit Mt. Baektu, official says (*Reuters*, 9/19/2018)
Moon, Kim to go to Mt. Paektu together today (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/19/2018)
Moon, Kim to jointly announce outcome of summit in Pyongyang: Seoul (*Yonhap*, 9/19/2018)
Moon, Kim vow efforts for peace, prosperity at official dinner (*Yonhap*, 9/18/2018)
Moon, Kim vow to end confrontation (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/19/2018)
Moon: The era of no war has started (CNN, 9/19/2018)
Moon and Kim vow to end military confrontation on peninsula (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/19/2018)
Moon to attend N. Korea's propaganda mass games (*Yonhap*, 9/19/2018)
Moon to mix with Pyongyang citizens at farewell dinner (*Yonhap*, 9/19/2018)
Mount Paekdu revered in both Koreas for different reasons (*Yonhap*, 9/19/2018)
N. Korea says leaders 'highly appreciate' current state of inter-Korean relations (*Yonhap*, 9/19/2018)
(News Focus) Koreas unveil blueprint for ambitious economic cooperation projects (*Yonhap*, 9/19/2018)
(News Focus) N.K. leader surprises with promise to visit Seoul soon (*Yonhap*, 9/19/2018)
North, South Korea agree to pursue joint 2032 Olympic Games bid (*Reuters*, 9/19/2018)
North, South Korea to halt military drills in border area (*UPI*, 9/19/2018)
North, South Korea to make joint bid for 2032 Summer Olympics (UPI, 9/19/2018)
North and South Korea commit to 'era of no war' (CNN, 9/19/2018)
North and South Korea Plan to Jointly Bid on 2032 Summer Olympics (*New York Times*, 9/19/2018)
North and South Korea seek to jointly host the 2032 Summer Olympics (*Washington Post*, 9/19/2018)
Parallel lives: matching portraits from South and North Korea – in pictures (*The Guardian*, 9/19/2018)
Party chiefs meet with N.K. parliamentary leader (*Yonhap*, 9/19/2018)
Progress at the summit (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/19/2018)
Pyongyang holds mass games spectacle with South Korean leader as special guest (*Washington Post*, 9/19/2018)

S. Korea's first lady visits after-school education facility (*Yonhap*, 9/19/2018)
Three party bosses get to meet Kim Yong-nam (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/19/2018)
Two Korean leaders to visit Mount Paektu (*Korea Times*, 9/19/2018)
Two Koreas aim for agreement to unlock nuclear talks (*Reuters*, 9/18/2018)
Two Koreas to sign joint statement after summit: Seoul (*Reuters*, 9/18/2018)
Watch: Key moments from North and South Korea summit (CNN, 9/18/2018)

International:
China hails Pyongyang declaration on denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 9/19/2018)
Chinese experts hail Koreas' summit deal as end-of-war declaration (*Yonhap*, 9/19/2018)
Dissecting the US relationship with N. Korea (CNN, 9/19/2018)
Kim Jong-un has Trump in mind (*Korea Times*, 9/19/2018)
Kremlin praises steps by Korean leaders to resolve nuclear crisis (*Reuters*, 9/19/2018)
(LEAD) IOC welcomes Koreas' intention to co-host 2032 Olympics (*Yonhap*, 9/19/2018)
(LEAD) Trump says N. Korean leader agrees to nuclear inspections (*Yonhap*, 9/19/2018)
North Korea leader offers to dismantle nuclear test site — but only after U.S. acts (*Washington Post*, 9/19/2018)
North Korea to allow international inspections for nuclear dismantlement, if U.S. takes reciprocal measures (*Reuters*, 9/19/2018)
Proposed Inter-Korean Projects Could Violate UN, US Sanctions (VOA, 9/19/2018)
Russia rejects U.S. accusation it helped North Korea illegally obtain fuel (*Reuters*, 9/19/2018)
The US war that never officially ended (*BBC*, 9/18/2018)
Trump hails 'exciting' agreements by North Korea's Kim (*Reuters*, 9/19/2018)
Trump praises Korean summit, cites progress on North Korea (*Reuters*, 9/19/2018)
Trump welcomes decision on nuclear inspections (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/19/2018)
U.S.'s Pompeo to host U.N. Security Council meeting on North Korea (*Reuters*, 9/18/2018)
Top News:

- Moon Jae-in, President of the Republic of Korea and Kim Jong-un, Chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea held the Inter-Korean Summit Meeting in Pyongyang on September 18-20, 2018. (*Korea Times*)

In North Korea:

- North Korea's Yongbyon Nuclear Complex has again come under media spotlight, as the North's leader Kim Jong-un promised Wednesday to conditionally shut down its facilities during his summit talks with South Korean President Moon Jae-in in Pyongyang. (*Yonhap*)
- North and South Korea's deal on Wednesday to plan a joint bid to host the 2032 Summer Olympics creates feel-good headlines, but it masks the lack of real progress being made over attempts to get Kim Jong-un to give up his nuclear weapons. (Nicola Smith, *The Telegraph*)
- North Korea has agreed to permanently dismantle engine testing facilities and missile launch pads in the presence of international inspectors and to move towards the decommissioning of a major nuclear enrichment site. (Nicola Smith, *The Telegraph*)

- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un once again projected a candid and humble image by publicly acknowledging his country's shortcomings unlike his father Kim Jong-il, who spent his lifetime promoting the image of a "socialist paradise." (Kwak Yeon-soo, *Korea Times*)
- North Korea will invite foreign experts to verify the permanent dismantling of its long-range missile engine test site, leaders of the two Koreas agreed in a joint statement Wednesday. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un talked publicly about a nuclear-free Korea Wednesday in an unprecedented move and agreed to dismantle a key missile-testing site under the monitoring of international experts. (Lee Chi-dong, *Yonhap*)
- A woman who gave birth to triplets, an occurrence that typically leads to interest from the state and special benefits, was forcibly removed from a Pyongyang-based maternity hospital after four months, along with her children. (Kim Yoo Jin, *DailyNK*)
- President Moon Jae-in is in Pyongyang, the capital city of North Korea, for a three-day summit with Kim Jong-un. The North Korean people just can't seem to get enough of Moon. (Kim Yoo-chul, *Korea Times*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un announced Wednesday he has agreed to allow international inspectors to observe the dismantlement of facilities key to Pyongyang's missile program. (Steve Miller, VOA)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un agreed Wednesday to permanently dismantle major missile engine test facilities and a launch pad near its border with China. (*Yonhap*)
- Kim Jong Un hosts a summit with South Korea's leader, embracing hopes of peace. But is he taking steps to denuclearize? (Brian Todd, CNN)
- North Korea will permanently close its missile test site and dismantle its main nuclear facility if the United States takes corresponding measures under a deal struck at the inter-Korean summit Wednesday. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- North Korea will shut down key missile test facilities in the presence of "international experts" and is willing to close its only known nuclear complex if the United States makes reciprocal measures, South Korean president Moon Jae-in has announced in a joint press conference with Kim Jong-un. (Benjamin Haas, *The Guardian*)
- North Korean authorities are blocking entry by outsiders to Pyongyang and tightening political controls in the city as talks begin between national leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in, North Korean sources say. (Myung Chul Lee, Leejin Jun, Richard Finney, *Radio Free Asia*)
- Kim Jong-un's offer to dismantle key missile test sites represents only a "very small step forward", analysts said, with many disappointed at the lack of progress on denuclearization. (Benjamin Haas, *The Guardian*)
- North Korea said on Wednesday it would permanently abolish its key missile facilities in the presence of foreign experts, the latest gesture by leader Kim Jong Un to revive faltering talks with Washington over his country's nuclear program. (Hyonhee Shin, Soyoung Kim, *Reuters*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has agreed to shut one of the country's main missile testing and launch sites. He signed a pledge to permanently close the Tongchang-ri facility, after talks in Pyongyang with his South Korean counterpart Moon Jae-in. (BBC)

- A series of successful missile and nuclear tests throughout 2017 demonstrated North Korea's growing power and military expertise. It is now widely believed to have missiles potentially capable of striking long range targets, including possibly the US mainland. (BBC)
- Kim Jong-un finally committed on Wednesday to some concrete steps toward denuclearization — most notably an offer to "permanently dismantle" facilities that are central to the production of fuel for nuclear warheads — but they fell far short of what American officials have demanded. (Choe Sang-hun, *New York Times*)
- A moribund economy, limited infrastructure and inadequate facilities are some of the factors that make Pyongyang an unlikely host. A surprise aspect of the Korean leaders' agreement in Pyongyang was a pledge to bid jointly for the Summer Games in 2032. (Andrew Jeong, *Wall Street Journal*)
- The Workers' Party mouthpiece devoted five out of six pages of its Wednesday edition to covering the first inter-Korean summit in Pyongyang in 11 years, presenting 37 photos of the event's moments. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)
- All exports of minerals from North Korea, including coal, have been banned under UN sanctions. This has consequently led to more coal within the country flowing towards its power stations, resulting in improvements in Pyongyang's electricity supply, report North Korean sources. (Mun Dong Hui, *DailyNK*)
- The new edition of the North Korean Mass Games, *Glorious Country*, might be the most spectacular artistic performance in human history. Kim will likely view it again this week, hosting President Moon Jae-in and his 200-strong South Korean delegation. (Andray Abrahamian, *38 North*)

In South Korea:

- For Moon, whose aides have been hinting at his eagerness to secure protection from the North's conventional weapons, this looks like a domestic win, provided the two sides can follow through. (Foster Klug, *Associated Press*)
- When President Moon Jae-in of South Korea embraced Kim Jong-un with a broad smile on an airport tarmac in Pyongyang, a crowd of North Koreans released a deafening cheer. But in Seoul, Choi Hyo-joo winced at the display of affection, troubled that the ruler of a brutal regime was treated so warmly. (Benjamin Haas, *The Guardian*)
- South Korea's main conservative Liberty Korea Party (LKP) says President Moon Jae-in should settle for nothing less than actual results on the North Korean nuclear issue. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)
- Over 50,000 people had signed a petition on the Cheong Wa Dae website as of Wednesday night criticizing the "no show" of three party chiefs for a meeting with North Korean officials on the sidelines of the Pyongyang inter-Korean summit. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)
- South Korea's liberal parties on Wednesday welcomed the latest inter-Korean summit agreement, saying that the deal marked a step forward in bringing peace to the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- South Koreans embraced the outcome of Wednesday's inter-Korean summit with both excitement and wariness. Many citizens watched the live coverage of the press briefing by

President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un after the talks on the second day of Moon's visit to Pyongyang. (Yonhap)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- South Korean President Moon Jae-in watched a controversial mass gymnastics performance in Pyongyang late Wednesday on the second day of his trip, alongside North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. (Yonhap)
- South and North Korea agreed Wednesday to intensify cross-border exchanges and work together for balanced economic development on the Korean Peninsula. (Yonhap)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un met Wednesday for a second and possibly final round of talks in their historic summit aimed at breaking an impasse in denuclearization talks between the North and the United States. (Byun Duk-kun, Yonhap)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un agreed to take additional steps for denuclearization Wednesday, in an apparent gesture to restart its stalled talks with the United States. (Byun Duk-kun, Yonhap)
- The two Koreas agreed Wednesday to set maritime, air and ground buffer zones in front-line areas as part of efforts to reduce military tensions, prevent accidental clashes and build trust. (Yonhap)
- AP bureau chiefs Eric Talmadge in Pyongyang and Foster Klug in Seoul report on the two countries' views of this week's summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in. (Eric Talmadge, Foster Klug, Associated Press)
- Hopes that tourism to North Korea's Mount Kumgang and the operation of the Kaesong Industrial Complex will soon resume have been raised as the leaders of both Koreas agreed to normalize the businesses in the Pyongyang Declaration signed Wednesday. (Seo Ji-eun, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- The leaders of North and South Korea, Kim Jong-un and Moon Jae-in, have met at a historic summit in Pyongyang. (The Guardian)
- The two Koreas' first ladies, who have been somewhat overshadowed by their husbands, took to the main stage of diplomacy on the sidelines of the third inter-Korean summit, seemingly building a special rapport. (Park Ji-won, Korea Times)
- South Korea's chief economic policymaker said Wednesday that the government will accelerate inter-Korean economic cooperation if conditions become favorable. (Yonhap)
- The following is a chronology of major developments in 2018 leading up to the third summit between South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean Chairman Kim Jong-un in Pyongyang from Tuesday to Thursday. (Yonhap)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un made a surprise announcement Wednesday that he will visit Seoul soon. (Ko Dong-hwan, Korea Times)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un promised to make a return visit to Seoul this year following a summit with President Moon Jae-in in Pyongyang, Wednesday. (Park Ji-won, Korea Times)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un pledged Wednesday to visit Seoul for the first time but made no concrete promises on the dismantling of his nuclear program at the end of a

summit with South Korean President Moon Jae-in in Pyongyang. (Simon Denyer, Min Joo Kim, *Washington Post*)

- Kim Yo-jong, the younger sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, has been seen alongside her brother and South Korean President Moon Jae-in at almost all of the two leaders' meetings. (Kim Hyun-bin, *Korea Times*)
- A pledge by the leaders of North and South Korea to foster economic ties has heightened worries among skeptics that Seoul's push to revive nuclear talks could undermine the sanction regime credited with bringing Pyongyang to the negotiating table. (Jeongmin Kim, Joyce Lee, *Reuters*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's offer to decommission a plant that makes fissile material for nuclear weapons—if the U.S. agrees to unspecified concessions—puts the focus on how Washington responds. (Jonathan Cheng, Dasl Yoon, *Washington Post*)
- After holding consecutive summits with soaring but empty rhetoric, the two Korean leaders on their third try finally produced some substance. (Kim Tong-hyung, Kim Hyung-jin, *Associated Press*)
- South and North Korea are looking to form joint teams in table tennis and swimming at the Asian Para Games next month, Seoul's para sports chief said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- In the midst of an already monumental year for their sports cooperation, South Korea and North Korea on Wednesday agreed to work together for another potentially historic project -- co-hosting the 2032 Summer Olympics. (Yoo Jee-ho, *Yonhap*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un will take a joint excursion early Thursday to North Korea's Mount Paekdu, according to Moon's spokesman. (*Yonhap*)
- The leaders of the two Koreas on Tuesday watched an art performance in Pyongyang together with their wives following the first day of their summit. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea's financial regulator said Wednesday there is a possibility of South Korea taking part in economic projects with North Korea, as President Moon Jae-in is in Pyongyang for a three-day summit meeting. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea's ruling party chief on Wednesday proposed holding an inter-Korean parliamentary meeting this year during a meeting in Pyongyang with the North's legislative leader. (*Yonhap*)
- Samsung Electronics Vice Chairman Lee Jae-yong and other South Korean business leaders met with North Korea's deputy prime minister in Pyongyang on Tuesday, underscoring the commitment by the divided Koreas to boosting their economic cooperation. (Kim Kwang-tae, *Yonhap*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will visit Mount Baektu in North Korea on Thursday, a spokesman for South Korea's presidential office said on Wednesday. (Joyce Lee, *Reuters*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in will visit Mount Paektu with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un early this morning before wrapping up his three-day summit in Pyongyang, a Blue House official announced Wednesday. (Lee Sung-eun, Yoo Jee-hye, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un are scheduled to jointly announce the outcome of their summit in Pyongyang, a Seoul official said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)

- The leaders of South and North Korea said Tuesday they will continue joint efforts for peace and co-prosperity despite challenges and potential troubles down the road. (Yonhap)
- President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un agreed to halt all military acts that could spark conflict along the border, promising to end confrontational relations and the threat of war on the Korean Peninsula. (Kang Jin-kyu, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- North Korean President Kim Jong-Un will shut down some nuclear and missile testing facilities as part of a wide-ranging agreement between North and South Korea. South Korean President Moon Jae-in says they have "decided to remove all threats from the entire Korean Peninsula." (CNN)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un agreed to halt all military acts that could spark conflict along the border, promising to end confrontational relations and the threat of war on the Korean Peninsula. (Kang Jin-kyu, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in will attend a controversial mass gymnastics performance in Pyongyang late Wednesday on the second day of his trip, a presidential official said. (Yonhap)
- Yoon Young-chan, Moon's secretary for public communication, said in a media briefing that President Moon and first lady Kim Jung-sook, together with their official entourage, plan to attend a farewell dinner at Taedonggang Seafood Restaurant. (Yonhap)
- North Korea's Mount Paekdu, which South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un will travel to together Thursday, is the Korean Peninsula's highest peak and is revered in both sides of the border, but for different reasons. (Yonhap)
- North Korea's state media reported Wednesday on the third inter-Korean summit under way in Pyongyang, saying that the leaders of the two Koreas "highly appreciated" the current state of cross-border relations during their talks. (Yonhap)
- South and North Korea on Wednesday unveiled a potential blueprint for forging joint special economic zones on the divided Korean Peninsula as their leaders move to clear the biggest hurdle to expanding economic cooperation. (Kim Kwang-tae, Yonhap)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's promise to visit Seoul in coming months is the latest in a series of surprises and departures from the past that appear to show he's different from his late father, the previous leader. (Yonhap)
- The two Koreas have agreed to pursue a bid to co-host the 2032 Olympic Games, they said in a joint statement on Wednesday following a summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in. (Peter Rutherford, Reuters)
- Seoul and Pyongyang will stop field training exercises and artillery drills in the border area as part of an agreement to ease military tension on the Korean Peninsula. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- North and South Korea will submit a joint bid to host the 2032 Summer Olympics, the nations' two leaders agreed at a summit Wednesday. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- North Korea said it would close a key missile test facility in the presence of "international experts" and potentially destroy its primary nuclear complex if the United States agrees to corresponding measures, South Korean President Moon Jae-in announced in a joint press conference with Kim Jong Un Wednesday. (Joshua Berlinger, Yoonjung Seo, CNN)

- North and South Korea agreed Wednesday to pursue a joint bid to host the Summer Olympics in 2032. “We agreed to cooperate on a bid to jointly host the 2032 Summer Olympics,” was all Mr. Moon said in his statement. (Victor Mather, *New York Times*)
- North and South Korea will jointly pursue a bid to host the 2032 Summer Olympics, representatives announced in a news conference Wednesday in Pyongyang, North Korea. (Cindy Boren, *Washington Post*)
- As South Korea’s president, Moon Jae-in, visits Pyongyang for the third summit with North Korea’s leader, Kim Jong-un, take a look at the photographer Ed Jones’s comparative portraits from the two countries. (Ed Jones, *The Guardian*)
- The chiefs of South Korea's three liberal political parties met with North Korea's parliamentary leader, Kim Yong-nam, in Pyongyang on Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un hammered out a declaration for peace on the Korean Peninsula after their third summit, which was held in Pyongyang. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un watched the mass games held in Pyongyang, North Korea, Sept.19, after a day of peace talks. (*Washington Post*)
- South Korea's first lady, Kim Jung-sook, on Wednesday visited a public facility aimed at supporting students' extra-curricular activities in Pyongyang. (*Yonhap*)
- After a no-show the previous day, the three heads of South Korean political parties who accompanied President Moon Jae-in to Pyongyang visited the Supreme People’s Assembly Wednesday morning and met with the North’s nominal head, Kim Yong-nam. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un agreed Wednesday to visit Mount Paektu the following day. (Ko Dong-hwan, *Korea Times*)
- Leaders of South and North Korea plan to announce steps aimed at rekindling stalled nuclear talks and deepening bilateral ties after they meet for a second day of summit talks on Wednesday in the North’s capital Pyongyang. (Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)
- Leaders of North and South Korea plan to sign a joint statement on inter-Korean relations after their summit on Wednesday in the North’s capital Pyongyang, Seoul officials said. (Hyonhee Shin, Joyce Lee, Soyoung Kim, *Reuters*)
- President Moon Jae-in was greeted with hugs and cheers in Pyongyang as he met with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in a historic summit. (CNN)

International:

- The Chinese government expressed support Wednesday for the latest set of inter-Korean summit agreements, saying the agreements constitute an "important" shared perception on denuclearization and other pending issues. (*Yonhap*)
- The two Koreas' summit agreement to reduce cross-border military tensions and prevent armed clashes is tantamount to a declaration ending the Korean War, some Chinese experts said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- Jeffrey Feltman, a US diplomat who visited North Korea in 2017, tells CNN's Jim Acosta where he believes the US stands with North Korea. (CNN)

- Is U.S. President Donald Trump watching the news from Pyongyang? You bet. Would North Korea be giving President Moon Jae-in the red carpet treatment with Trump in mind? Kim Jong-un has every reason to do so. (*Korea Times*)
- The Kremlin said on Wednesday that it approved of agreements reached by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korea's President Moon Jae-in at a summit in Pyongyang, describing them as effective steps toward a political settlement. (Maria Kiselyova, Andrew Osborn, Tom Balmforth, *Reuters*)
- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Wednesday welcomed the Koreas' plan to co-host the 2032 Summer Games, saying it hoped to see concrete progress following their political talks. (Yoo Jee-ho, *Yonhap*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump said Wednesday that North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has agreed to allow nuclear inspectors in and permanently shut down nuclear and missile testing sites. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un offered Wednesday to permanently dismantle his country's main nuclear site, but only if the United States makes concessions first. (Simon Denyer, Anne Gearan, *Washington Post*)
- North Korea agreed to allow international inspectors to observe a "permanent dismantlement" of its key missile facilities, and will take additional steps such as closing its main Yongbyon nuclear complex if the United States takes reciprocal measures. (Hyonhee Shin, Joyce Lee, Soyoung Kim, *Reuters*)
- As South Korean President Moon Jae-in meets with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un for their third summit, there is increasing concern that the inter-Korean economic projects Seoul envisions could violate sanctions and fracture the U.S.-South Korean alliance. (Christy Lee, VOA)
- Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Wednesday that U.S. accusations that Russia helped North Korea illegally obtain fuel through transfers at sea were not backed up by evidence. (Denis Pinchuk, Tom Balmforth, *Reuters*)
- As the leaders of North and South Korea meet, one issue on the table is the never-ending war with the US. (BBC)
- U.S. President Donald Trump welcomed developments on Wednesday at an inter-Korean summit in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang as "very exciting". (Joyce Lee, *Reuters*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump hailed Wednesday's summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in, and said there had been "tremendous progress" with North Korea on several fronts including Pyongyang's denuclearization. (Roberta Rampton, Susan Heavey, *Reuters*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump immediately welcomed that North Korean leader Kim Jong-un agreed to allow inspections of his nuclear sites through the Pyongyang Declaration signed Wednesday. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will host a meeting of the U.N. Security Council on North Korea on Sept. 27, State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said on Tuesday. (Eric Beech, *Reuters*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726231944/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-kim-jong-un-will-let-foreign-experts-verify-dismantling-of-test-site-north-and-south-korea-commit-to-era-of-no-war

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Thursday, September 20, 2018

Inter-Korea Progress Has US Ready to Resume North Korea Talks; U.N. Report Details How North Korea Evades Sanctions

In North Korea:
(LEAD) N. Korea's media extensively report on summit agreements (*Yonhap*, 9/20/2018)
N. Korea expert Duyeon Kim says "whether N. Korea is sincere about disarmament remains to be seen" (CNN, 9/20/2018)
North Korean arrogance (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/20/2018)
Places Moon visited are glimpses into North Korea itself (*Associated Press*, 9/20/2018)

In South Korea:
(2nd LD) Moon returns home after historic summit, mountain trip with N. Korean leader (*Yonhap*, 9/20/2018)
6 in 10 S. Koreans support cooperation with N. Korea before denuclearization: poll (*Yonhap*, 9/20/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea seeks to boost tourism near border with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 9/20/2018)
Moon to address nation on outcome of historic Pyongyang summit (*Yonhap*, 9/20/2018)
Ruling party calls for bipartisan cooperation in ratifying April summit deal with N.K. (*Yonhap*, 9/20/2018)
South Koreans impressed with summit, but some skeptical (*Korea Times*, 9/20/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(3rd LD) At mass games, Moon delivers Seoul leader's first address to North Koreans (*Yonhap*, 9/20/2018)
(3rd LD) Moon, Kim take historic trip to summit of Mount Paekdu (*Yonhap*, 9/20/2018)
Analysts Skeptical as Moon, Kim Move to Improve Inter-Korean Ties (VOA, 9/19/2018)
AP PHOTOS: 3 days of Moon-Kim summit in North Korea (*Associated Press*, 9/20/2018)
'Dream come true' for Moon as Korean leaders make mountain pilgrimage (*The Guardian*, 9/20/2018)
Dream comes true for S.Korea's Moon: Trekking Mt Paektu with Kim Jong Un (*Reuters*, 9/19/2018)
High point of summit came atop Mt. Paektu (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/20/2018)
Kim is genuine, insists Moon (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/20/2018)
Korean Summit: The pomp, the substance and what it means (*Associated Press*, 9/20/2018)

(LEAD) Moon puts symbolic ending to N.K. visit with joint mountain trip with Kim (*Yonhap*, 9/20/2018)
Moon and Kim visit summit of Mt. Paektu with wives (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/20/2018)
Moon calls for reunification in emotional speech (*Korea Times*, 9/20/2018)
Moon Jae-in, Kim Jong Un visit sacred North Korea mountain (UPI, 9/20/2018)
Moon says summit to intensify inter-Korean cooperation (*Yonhap*, 9/20/2018)
Mount Paektu: Moon and Kim visit mythical mountain (CNN, 9/20/2018)
North-South Korean Summit Deal Appears to Revive Nuclear Diplomacy (*Radio Free Asia*, 9/19/2018)
North and South Korea Take Important Steps to Demilitarize the Korean Peninsula (*38 North*, 9/19/2018)
North Korea sends wild pine mushrooms as gift to South (UPI, 9/20/2018)
North Korea's Kim wants fast denuclearization, South's leader says (BBC, 9/20/2018)
North Korea's offer of concessions comes with a catch for US (*Associated Press*, 9/20/2018)
Politics, pride in leaders trip to 'sacred' N. Korea volcano (*Associated Press*, 9/20/2018)
Pyeongyang has one letter too many (*Korea Times*, 9/20/2018)
PM: Moon, Kim rewrite history of national division (*Yonhap*, 9/20/2018)
S. Korea soon to begin work to open permanent family meeting facility in North (*Yonhap*, 9/20/2018)
S. Korean leader gives first speech to NK citizens (*Korea Times*, 9/20/2018)
South Korea's Moon Jae-in makes unprecedented mass games speech (BBC, 9/20/2018)
Summit lowers tensions, but permanent peace unlikely in near future: Moody's (*Yonhap*, 9/20/2018)
Tour of Mount Paekdu emerges as inter-Korean cooperation project (*Yonhap*, 9/20/2018)
What's going on with North and South Korea? (CNN, 9/20/2018)
Why Mount Paektu? (*Korea Times*, 9/20/2018)
Will peace follow South Korean President's Pyongyang trip? (BBC, 9/19/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) Trump says N. Korean leader agrees to nuclear inspections (*Yonhap*, 9/20/2018)
(4th LD) N. Korea ready to denuclearize, hopes for 2nd summit with U.S.: Moon (*Yonhap*, 9/20/2018)
A turning point (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/20/2018)
After summit, ball is in Washington's court (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/20/2018)
Declare End to Korean War, South's Leader Urges U.S. (*New York Times*, 9/20/2018)
Foreign reporters unhappy with 'zero' invitations to Pyongyang (*Korea Times*, 9/20/2018)
Inter-Korea Progress Has US Ready to Resume North Korea Talks (VOA, 9/20/2018)
Kim Jong-un and Moon Jae-in visit Korea's spiritual birthplace as US sets deadline for denuclearization (*The Telegraph*, 9/20/2018)
Korean leaders' Mount Paektu visit raises anti-Japan concerns (UPI, 9/20/2018)
Moon Jae-in is gambling with North Korea – and it could upset the US (*The Guardian*, 9/19/2018)
Moon to carry private message from Kim Jong Un to Trump (*Associated Press*, 9/20/2018)
North Korea is now under minimum pressure (*Washington Post*, 9/20/2018)
North Korea's Kim wants another Trump summit to speed denuclearization: South's Moon (*Reuters*, 9/20/2018)
North Korea's Kim wants new summit with Trump soon to continue denuclearization (*Washington Post*, 9/20/2018)
Pompeo proposes discussing nukes in Vienna (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/20/2018)

Pompeo says North Korean nuclear talks to end by 2021 (*Reuters*, 9/19/2018)
Pompeo sets goal for complete denuclearization in North Korea by 2021 (UPI, 9/19/2018)
Pompeo: US Ready to Restart Talks With North Korea (UPI, 9/19/2018)
Senior Chinese diplomat says warmly welcomes inter-Korean summit (*Reuters*, 9/19/2018)
South Korea's Moon: Further progress with North Korea will depend on the US (CNN, 9/20/2018)
South Korea's Moon wants U.S. to resume talks with North Korea (UPI, 9/20/2018)
Trump doesn't care if North Korea has nukes, as long as they're not pointed at the US (*Business Insider*, 9/20/2018)
Trump touts North Korea gesture. Lawmakers warn of perils. (CNN, 9/20/2018)
U.N. chief Guterres welcomes outcome of Koreas summit: spokesman (*Reuters*, 9/19/2018)
U.N. official says Moon's visit to N.K. art studio not a violation of sanctions resolution: report (*Yonhap*, 9/20/2018)
U.N. Report Details How North Korea Evades Sanctions (*Foreign Policy*, 9/20/2018)
US: Possible October talks with North Korea on war remains (*Associated Press*, 9/20/2018)
US 'ready to restart negotiations' with North Korea (BBC, 9/20/2018)
U.S. ready to resume North Korea talks, seeks denuclearization by 2021 (*Reuters*, 9/20/2018)
US wants to restart nuclear talks with Pyongyang after North-South summit (*The Guardian*, 9/19/2018)

In North Korea:

- North Korea's media extensively reported Thursday on a joint declaration signed by the leaders of the Koreas following their third summit talks in Pyongyang. (*Yonhap*)
- North and South Korea say they have moved into an era without war on the Korean Peninsula, after leaders from the two countries signed agreements on a "way to achieve denuclearization." But according to N. Korea expert Duyeon Kim, the ball hasn't moved forward at all. (Duyeon Kim, CNN)
- It was a carnival in Pyongyang. The colors of the inter-Korean summit were vivid. But Kim Jong-un added a new, unexpected element. It was the first time that the leaders of both Koreas paraded in an open car. (Park Bo-gyoon, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The places South Korean President Moon Jae-in visited during his three-day trip to North Korea are glimpses into the country and how it sees itself. (Kim Hyung-jin, *Associated Press*)

In South Korea:

- South Korean President Moon Jae-in returned home Thursday after a three-day trip to North Korea for his third summit with leader Kim Jong-un. (*Yonhap*)
- Six in 10 South Korean adults consent to expanding inter-Korean exchanges and cooperation prior to the denuclearization of North Korea, a poll showed Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea on Thursday launched a council to boost tourism near the heavily fortified border with North Korea amid a growing detente on the divided peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon Jae-in was set to brief the nation Thursday on the outcome of his historic summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. The president was set to visit the

international press center in downtown Seoul that was set up earlier this week to help cover his three-day trip to Pyongyang. (Yonhap)

- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) called Thursday for bipartisan cooperation for parliamentary ratification of the April summit accord between the two Koreas, following this week's inter-Korean summit. (Yonhap)
- During his Sept. 18 to 20 visit to Pyongyang, President Moon Jae-in achieved some memorable moments including his seven-minute speech in front of 150,000 in the May Day Stadium there and a visit to Mount Paektu. South Koreans all had differing views on which were the most distinctive, though. (Jung Da-min, Korea Times)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- President Moon Jae-in called for inter-Korean efforts to end 70 years of hostility and chart a new path for peace late Wednesday, as he delivered the first address to North Korean citizens by Seoul's head of state at the close of an iconic mass games performance in Pyongyang. (Yonhap)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un embarked on a rare trip Thursday to the summit of Mount Paekdu in an event designed to enhance their personal ties and also highlight the success of their bilateral summit in Pyongyang. (Yonhap)
- The leaders of North and South Korea Wednesday hailed a series of agreements they said were aimed at turning the Koreas into a "land of peace without nuclear weapons and nuclear threats." North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korea's Moon Jae-in Wednesday issued the pledge at a summit in the North's capital, Pyongyang. (Steve Miller, VOA)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in has wrapped up a three-day visit to North Korea for a third summit with leader Kim Jong Un that included wide-ranging agreements they trumpeted as a major step toward peace. (Associated Press)
- Moon Jae-in, the South Korean president, stepped into the shallow waters of Heaven Lake, regarded as the spiritual home of the Korean people, bent down and scooped up a glassful of water. (Benjamin Haas, The Guardian)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in will clear a top item off his bucket list on Thursday: Climbing Mount Paektu in North Korea with its leader Kim Jong Un. (Joyce Lee, Reuters)
- Leaders of the two Koreas vowed to open a new chapter in bilateral relations Thursday atop the highest mountain on the peninsula, Mount Paektu, before South Korean President Moon Jae-in and his delegation returned home from a three-day summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. (Lee Sung-eun, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- President Moon Jae-in said Thursday he had reaffirmed North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's commitment to denuclearization in the time spent with him in Pyongyang, noting that Kim had told him he hoped to focus on economic growth now. (Kang Jin-kyu, Lee Sung-eun, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in has wrapped up a three-day visit to North Korea's capital, the first by a South Korean leader in 11 years. His meetings with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un appear to have put wobbly U.S.-North Korea talks on the North's nuclear weapons back on track. A look at what happened and what it means. (Associated Press)

- President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un raised each other's hand atop Mount Paekdu, the Korean Peninsula's highest peak considered the birthplace of the Korean people, in a highly symbolic gesture underlining their commitment to reconciliation and eventual unification. (*Yonhap*)
- The leaders of the two Koreas and their wives ascended Mount Paektu on Thursday morning before South Korean President Moon Jae-in and his delegation return home after a three-day summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in called on "all Koreans" to take a big step toward reunification of the Korean Peninsula late Wednesday in the first-ever speech by a South head of state in Pyongyang. (Jung Min-ho, *Korea Times*)
- The inter-Korean summit headed to the peak of sacred Mount Paektu Thursday, a dream trip for South Korean President Moon Jae-in on the final day of his meetings with Kim Jong Un. (Wooyoung Lee, *UPI*)
- President Moon Jae-in said Thursday that there will be stepped-up cross-border exchanges on various fronts in line with his agreement with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un during this week's summit talks. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un took South Korean President Moon Jae-in Thursday to Mount Paektu, one of Korea's most important cultural and geological sites. Moon's visit to the mountain was the realization of a dream for the South Korean leader. (Joshua Berlinger, Yoonjung Seo, *CNN*)
- The leaders of North and South Korea reached a broad agreement Wednesday on denuclearization and missiles, winning plaudits from U.S. President Donald Trump but leaving difficult diplomacy and the question of Pyongyang's demands on Washington for future rounds of talks. (Hee Jung Yang, Paul Eckert, *Radio Free Asia*)
- At yesterday's summit meeting in Pyongyang between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in, the defense ministers of the two countries signed an important agreement to reduce military tensions along the two sides' heavily militarized border. (Richard Sokolsky, *38 North*)
- South Koreans separated from their family members in the North will receive a gift ahead of the Korean traditional Thanksgiving holiday next week. North Korea sent two tons of pine mushrooms as a gift to commemorate the third inter-Korean summit. (Wooyoung Lee, *UPI*)
- North Korea's leader wants to complete denuclearisation quickly and hold a second summit with Donald Trump soon, South Korea's president says. (*BBC*)
- A better-than-expected outcome of the summit between the two Koreas immediately kick-started stalled negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang, boosting President Donald Trump's high-stakes push to get the North to give up its nuclear weapons by the end of his first term in office. (Matthew Pennington, *Associated Press*)
- There is no more sacred place in North Korea than Mount Paektu — and getting South Korean President Moon Jae-in to such a spot is a propaganda coup unlike any other. (Eric Talmadge, *Associated Press*)
- Where has the third inter-Korean summit between Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un been taking place? Is it Pyongyang or Pyeongyang? (Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)

- President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un are rewriting history of Korea's national division with their landmark summit meetings this week, Prime Minister Lee Nak-yon said Thursday. (Yonhap)
- South Korea will soon begin work necessary to open a permanent meeting facility in the North for regular reunions of separated families, a government official said Thursday. (Yonhap)
- President Moon Jae-in gave a speech to North Korean citizens - the first ever by a South Korean leader - calling for the people's efforts to end 70 years of hostility and seek a new path toward peace and prosperity, at the close of a choreographed mass-performance in Pyongyang late Wednesday. (Park Ji-won, Korea Times)
- President Moon Jae-in became the first South Korean leader to give a speech to the North Korean public when he spoke at the Mass Games in Pyongyang on Wednesday evening. (BBC)
- The third inter-Korean summit "significantly" reduced tensions on the Korean Peninsula, but uncertainties in Washington-Pyongyang ties are likely to put off permanent peace settlement, Moody's Investors Service, a global ratings agency, said Thursday. (Yonhap)
- The highly symbolic visit to North Korea's Mount Paekdu by the leaders of the two Koreas on Thursday is likely to add momentum to future inter-Korean economic cooperation involving the highest mountain on the Korean Peninsula. (Yonhap)
- The relationship between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in has shifted after the two signed a peace agreement. (Will Ripley, CNN)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jung-un climbed Mount Paektu, a "sacred mountain," as a mean to strengthen their ties on Thursday during the Pyongyang Summit. (Dong Sun-hwa, Korea Times)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has agreed to shut one of the country's main missile testing and launch sites, says the South's President Moon Jae-in. What might happen next? (Laura Bicker, BBC)

International:

- U.S. President Donald Trump said Wednesday that North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has agreed to allow nuclear inspectors in and permanently shut down nuclear and missile testing sites. (Yonhap)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un is ready to accelerate denuclearization of his country in exchange for security guarantees from the United States and wants to hold a second summit with U.S. President Donald Trump at an early date. (Byun Duk-kun, Koh Byung-joon, Song Sang-ho, Yonhap)
- The United States will resume nuclear talks with North Korea. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said he will immediately start negotiations to transform U.S.-North relations in a fundamental way after congratulating the participants in a successful inter-Korean summit in Pyongyang. (Korea JoongAng Daily)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in returned to Seoul on Thursday with a handful of outcomes from his third summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in Pyongyang, raising expectations of progress in stalled talks between North Korea and the United States on denuclearization. (Kang Jin-kyu, Korea JoongAng Daily)

- President Moon Jae-in of South Korea urged the United States on Thursday to declare an end to the Korean War as an incentive for North Korea to denuclearize, a call that analysts say could put the Trump administration in a bind as it tries to revive stalled talks with Kim Jong-un. (Choe Sang-hun, *New York Times*)
- Foreign reporters based in Seoul are upset that they were not invited to Pyongyang to cover the three-day inter-Korean summit from Tuesday to Thursday. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)
- The leaders of North and South Korea Wednesday hailed a series of agreements they said were aimed at turning the Koreas into a "land of peace without nuclear weapons and nuclear threats." (Steve Miller, VOA)
- Kim Jong-un and Moon Jae-in visited the spiritual birthplace of the Korean nation Thursday for a show of unity after their North-South summit gave new momentum to Pyongyang's negotiations with Washington. (*The Telegraph*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in and Kim Jong Un's visit to sacred Mount Paektu in North Korea is raising concerns in Japan that the two sides are engaging anti-Japanese sentiment to realize common goals. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Many South Koreans want an improved North-South relationship. But if Moon improves that relationship without denuclearization progress, it could cause a rift with Washington. (Michael H Fuchs, *The Guardian*)
- A beaming South Korean President Moon Jae-in, freshly returned home Thursday from a whirlwind three-day summit with Kim Jong Un, said the North Korean leader wants the U.S. secretary of state to visit Pyongyang soon for nuclear talks, and also hopes for a quick follow-up to his June summit with President Donald Trump. (Foster Klug, Eric Talmadge, *Associated Press*)
- Trump has repeatedly insisted that the "maximum pressure" campaign compelled Kim to come to the table and paved the way for a potentially historic peace. But skeptics point to the dizzying, confused trajectory of White House strategy — which alternated threats and flattery, and insists on a "complete denuclearization" few have faith will ever come to pass — as a sign of an administration without a real plan. (Ishaan Tharoor, *Washington Post*)
- North Korea's Kim Jong Un wants a second summit with U.S. President Donald Trump soon to hasten denuclearization, but a key goal is declaring an end this year to the 1950-53 Korean War, the South's President Moon Jae-in said on Thursday. (Hyonhee Shin, Joyce Lee, *Reuters*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un wants to hold a second summit with President Trump soon to speed up the denuclearization process, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Thursday. (Simon Denyer, Min Joo Kim, *Washington Post*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo invited North Korean representatives to meet in New York and Vienna to discuss dismantling the North's nuclear program. (Esther Chung, Shin Kyung-jin, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- U.S. talks with North Korea over efforts to end Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program will be completed by January 2021, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Wednesday. (Lesley Wroughton, Lisa Lambert, Susan Heavey, *Reuters*)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Wednesday announced he would restart negotiations with North Korea to completely denuclearize the country by January 2021. (Ray Downs, UPI)

- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has welcomed the "important commitments" made by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un at a summit with his South Korean counterpart this week. (VOA)
- China strongly supports and warmly welcomes the agreement reached by the two Koreas at their summit in Pyongyang, and believes that the opportunity for peace should not be lost again, the Chinese government's top diplomat said on Thursday. (Ben Blanchard, Zhang Min, *Reuters*)
- The North Korea ball is thoroughly back in Washington's court. That was the message from South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Thursday during a news conference in Seoul to cap a historic trip to Pyongyang. (James Griffiths, CNN)
- South Korea President Moon Jae-in said he wants the United States and North Korea resume nuclear talks soon and discuss steps for denuclearization. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- President Donald Trump has routinely praised, and even cheer-leaded, diplomatic efforts towards North Korea. But his enthusiasm comes despite making essentially zero progress towards his own stated goal — denuclearization. (Alex Lockie, *Business Insider*)
- President Donald Trump sought to project momentum into his dealings with North Korea on Wednesday, saying a summit between leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in boded well for peace despite little indication that the two leaders had made any real progress toward denuclearization. (Zachary Cohen, CNN)
- United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Wednesday welcomed the outcome of the summit between leaders of North and South Korea and said "now is the time for concrete action," U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in a statement. (Michelle Nichols, Mohammad Zargham, *Reuters*)
- An official at the U.N. Security Council Sanctions Committee on North Korea said that South Korean President Moon Jae-in's visit to North Korea's Mansudae Art Studio was not in violation of the U.N. sanctions resolution, according to a report Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- A report written by a United Nations panel of experts has determined that North Korea is evading international sanctions with "seeming impunity," but a bitter behind-the-scenes battle between Russia and the United States has prevented the report from being made public. (Colum Lynch, *Foreign Policy*)
- The U.S. hopes to begin face-to-face negotiations with North Korea next month on terms for resuming on-the-ground searches in North Korea for remains of American servicemen, a senior Pentagon official said Thursday. (Robert Burns, *Associated Press*)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo says he is ready to restart negotiations with Pyongyang, with the aim of denuclearising North Korea "by 2021". Discussions between the two sides had stalled following a broad-strokes agreement made earlier this year. (BBC)
- The United States said it was ready to resume talks with North Korea after Pyongyang pledged on Wednesday to dismantle its key missile facilities and suggested it would close its main Yongbyon nuclear complex if Washington took unspecified actions. (Lesley Wroughton, Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)
- The US has said it is ready to "immediately" restart stalled negotiations with North Korea about nuclear disarmament in light of agreements reached at a summit of the two Koreas in Pyongyang. (Julian Borger, *The Guardian*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250726231948/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-inter-korea-progress-has-us-ready-to-resume-north-korea-talks-un-report-details-how-north-korea-evades-sanctions

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Friday, September 21, 2018

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK; Remains of 2 Soldiers Returned from North Korea Identified

Top News:
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (*UN Human Rights Office of the High Commission*, 9/20/2018)
AU students launch Alexander Hamilton Society chapter to promote non-partisan policy discussion (*The Eagle*, 9/19/2018)
Improve human rights education for defectors, unification ministry urged (*NK News*, 9/21/2018)
Watchdog recommends more human rights education for N.K. defectors (*Yonhap*, 9/21/2018)

In North Korea:
How Kim Jong Un May Have Kickstarted Nuclear Talks (*Bloomberg*, 9/21/2018)
Kim Jong-un all fingers and thumbs in bid for Instagram diplomacy (*The Guardian*, 9/21/2018)
Listening to North Korea's words, watching North Korea's actions (VOA, 9/20/2018)
Michael Palin in North Korea hits our screens. But what is the pariah state's own television like? (*The Telegraph*, 9/20/2018)
Michael Palin in North Korea, review: what a treat to have Palin back in travel mode again (*The Telegraph*, 9/20/2018)
N. Korea needs to develop northeastern ports to revive economy: study (*Yonhap*, 9/21/2018)
N. Korea's deputy PM admits economy in trouble: S. Korean official (*Yonhap*, 9/21/2018)
North Korea establishes global fund to fight TB, malaria (*Korea Times*, 9/21/2018)
North Korea Shuts Down Illegal Cell Phone Access to Chinese Networks Amid Kim-Moon Summit (*Radio Free Asia*, 9/20/2018)
Olympics bid offers clue to Kim's future vision for N. Korea: experts (*Yonhap*, 9/21/2018)
Regional differences highlight mixed views on inter-Korean summit (*DailyNK*, 9/21/2018)
Report: North Korea running massive fish market at China border (UPI, 9/21/2018)

In South Korea:
72 pct of S. Koreans supportive of inter-Korean summit outcome: poll (*Yonhap*, 9/21/2018)
A critical week (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/21/2018)
Fresh off summit, Moon prepares for visit to N.Y. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/21/2018)

[INTERVIEW] One man's journey back to North Korea as a filmmaker (*Korea Times*, 9/21/2018)
LKP accuses Moon of abandoning the NLL (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/21/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
5th Inter Korea Summit Held (*North Korea Leadership Watch*, 9/20/2018)
A Kim Jong Un visit to Seoul? It would be surreal challenge (*Associated Press*, 9/21/2018)
Caution is needed (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/21/2018)
Despite Optics of Inter-Korea Summit, Denuclearization Still Distant (VOA, 9/20/2018)
Inter-Korean summit to create new opportunities for steel industry: POSCO CEO (*Yonhap*, 9/21/2018)
Magician says tricks go well with Korean leaders (*Korea Times*, 9/21/2018)
Minister: Koreas to end war status, family separation (*Yonhap*, 9/21/2018)
Moon, Kim vow to end confrontation (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/21/2018)
N.K. leader makes 'finger heart' gesture in photo at Mount Paekdu: official (*Yonhap*, 9/21/2018)
N. Korea had proposed Moon extend stay for another day: official (*Yonhap*, 9/21/2018)
N. Korea media hail leaders' visit to Mount Paekdu (*Yonhap*, 9/21/2018)
Seoul expresses hope for tackling deforestation in N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 9/21/2018)
Seoul mayor vows efforts to co-host Olympics with Pyongyang (*Yonhap*, 9/21/2018)
Seoul's mayor wants to co-host 2032 Summer Olympics with Pyongyang (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/21/2018)
South Korean titans dream of business in North (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/21/2018)
The economic side of the Moon-Kim summit (*North Korean Economy Watch*, 9/21/2018)

International:
A 'massive' spike in oil smuggling has eased the economic pressure on North Korea (*Washington Post*, 9/20/2018)
After warm words, US tells Kim Jong-un that concessions will only come after denuclearization (*The Telegraph*, 9/21/2018)
At the U.N., the Rift With Allies Trump Might Have to Mend Is With South Korea (*New York Times*, 9/20/2018)
At U.N. podium, Trump to tout protecting U.S. sovereignty (*Reuters*, 9/21/2018)
(LEAD) Trump announces names of identified Korean War remains (*Yonhap*, 9/21/2018)
New North Korea ambassador to 'work with U.N.' following inter-Korea summit (UPI, 9/20/2018)
N. Korea's ambassador to U.N. begins official work (*Yonhap*, 9/21/2018)
North Korea's new envoy 'ready to cooperate with UN' (*Korea Times*, 9/21/2018)
Pompeo Hints North Korea Talks Are Making Progress — Secretly (*Bloomberg*, 9/20/2018)
Remains of 2 Soldiers Returned From N. Korea Identified (VOA, 9/20/2018)
S. Korean foreign minister likely to meet Pompeo in New York (*Yonhap*, 9/21/2018)
Soldiers from Indiana, N.C. ID'd in remains returned from Korean War (UPI, 9/20/2018)
The fragile diplomatic dance between US and North Korea (*Al Jazeera*, 9/21/2018)
The Guardian view on the US and North Korea: warm words, not deeds (*The Guardian*, 9/20/2018)
Tourists, sanctions, 'Viagra' from Pyongyang: Russia's Far East bond with the Koreas (*Washington Post*, 9/21/2018)
Trump lauds 'progress' at summit in Pyongyang (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/21/2018)

Trump releases first two names of U.S. war dead handed over by North Korea (*Reuters*, 9/20/2018)
U.S. dismisses N. Korea's conditional offer to dismantle nuclear site (*Yonhap*, 9/21/2018)
US identifies remains of 2 soldiers recovered from North Korea (CNN, 9/20/2018)
U.S. military ready to recover war remains in N. Korea but calls requests unreasonable (*Washington Post*, 9/20/2018)
We doubted the showy Korea summits. But now we're seeing the seeds of a deal. (*Washington Post*, 9/20/2018)

Top News:

- The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was established by the UN Commission on Human Rights in 2004 (resolution 2004/13), and has been renewed on an annual basis by the Human Rights Council. (Tomás Ojea Quintana, *UN Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner*)
- Students marked the launch of a university chapter of the Alexander Hamilton Society (AHS) with a debate on U.S. relations with North Korea on Wednesday, Sept. 12 in the Don Myers Innovation and Technology Building. (Sophie Austin, *The Eagle*)
- A South Korean state-funded watchdog in a statement on Friday urged the Ministry of Unification (MOU) to improve human rights education for North Korean defectors. The National Human Rights Commission of Korea today announced that the organization has recommended the unification ministry upgrade its curriculum and develop new teaching materials to help escapees from the DPRK enhance their understanding of human rights. (Dagyum Ji, *NK News*)
- The National Human Rights Commission of Korea said Friday it has asked the Ministry of Unification to strengthen human rights-related education for North Korean defectors. In addition, the ministry has been asked to establish a human rights education program at the Hana Center, a state-run resettlement support center for former North Koreans. (*Yonhap*)

In North Korea:

- At a landmark summit with South Korean President Moon Jae-in in Pyongyang in September, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un offered to shutter his Yongbyon nuclear site -- if the U.S. takes unspecified "corresponding measures." (David Tweed, *Bloomberg*)
- Doing something "for the 'gram" is not typically associated with international diplomacy, but this did not stop Kim Jong-un making a heartfelt attempt at a South Korean Instagram trend during a summit this week. (Elle Hunt, *The Guardian*)
- The United States cautious following latest Korea summit. Opinions vary on U.S. trade tactics. Investigations ramp up on Myanmar. Japan asserts strength above and below the water. (VOA)
- Michael Palin is putting the world's most secretive state on our screens this evening on Channel 5. This prompted me to wonder: what's on North Korean TV tonight? (Rob Crossan, *The Telegraph*)

- The oddest moment of Michael Palin in North Korea (Channel 5) occurred at daybreak on his first day in the capital, Pyongyang. No deafening traffic here, nor the calls to prayer that epitomise other great cities' dawns. (Gerard O'Donovan, *The Telegraph*)
- North Korea needs to develop key ports and logistics facilities to boost trade and revive its economy, especially in northern border areas, a study showed Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's deputy prime minister has admitted economic difficulties and called for South Korea's assistance, a South Korean presidential official said Friday, in a rare appeal by the North to try to boost its economy. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea has set up an international fund to fight tuberculosis and malaria. According to the KCNA, the fund aims to provide technical and financial help to public health organizations in TB and malaria control by relying on donations from home and abroad. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)
- Authorities in North Korea instituted a near-total block on the use of illegal cell phones which access Chinese telecom networks during South Korean President Moon Jae-in's visit to the capital Pyongyang this week through increased surveillance and jamming technology, according to sources. (Joonho Kim, Leejin Jun, Joshua Lipes, *Radio Free Asia*)
- Following the latest inter-Korean summit in Pyongyang, speculation is mounting about North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's long-term vision for his isolated communist state, after he made various open-minded gestures towards his South Korean guests. (*Yonhap*)
- With the third inter-Korean summit taking place, regional attitudes are revealing differences in opinions among North Koreans regarding what will be discussed by the leaders of the two countries. (Kim Yoo Jin, *DailyNK*)
- North Korea is running a seafood marketplace near its border with China and business is thriving, according to a South Korean press report. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

In South Korea:

- Seven out of 10 South Koreans expressed support for the outcome of President Moon Jae-in's latest summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, a poll showed Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- Still flushed and fatigued from the excitement of his three-day visit to North Korea, South Korean President Moon Jae-in is wasting no time on the diplomatic front. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Just days after his Pyongyang trip, South Korean President Moon Jae-in will hold a summit with U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York to share undisclosed details of his talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Aspects of Joon Bai's life may resonate with many ethnic Koreans living overseas, in the United States in particular. Born in Hoeryong, North Hamgyong Province in North Korea, he fled to South Korea during the 1950-1953 Korean War, immigrated to the United States and became a businessman. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)
- South Korea's main opposition Liberty Korea Party (LKP) bashed President Moon Jae-in Friday for caving in to Pyongyang on an agreement to create a buffer zone in the disputed Yellow Sea, accusing him of surrendering the Northern Limit Line (NLL). (Kang Jin-kyu, Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- During the afternoon of September 18, the fifth North-South high level summit took place at Jong Un's headquarters, the WPK Central Committee Office Building #1. (North Korea Leadership Watch)
- Imagine North Korean leader Kim Jong Un rolling through South Korea's ultra-modern capital in an armored limousine flanked by crew-cut bodyguards running in crisp, military formation — the same streets where millions protested two years ago to bring down a corrupt government. (Kim Tong-hyung, Associated Press)
- Moreover, the military agreement can trigger anxieties among the people of the South and shake the security alliance between Seoul and Washington. Officials must coordinate closely with their U.S. counterparts and get endorsements from the people and legislature. (Korea JoongAng Daily)
- Despite the sound bites and photos that emerged from the third summit between the leaders of South Korea and North Korea, peace and denuclearization remain distant, experts said. (Kim Young-nam, Patrick Park, VOA)
- Choi Jeong-woo, new CEO of South Korea's leading steelmaker POSCO Co., said Friday that the inter-Korean summit can create new opportunities for the steel industry. (Yonhap)
- Magician Choi Hyun-woo, who went to Pyongyang as part of the South Korean delegation for the three-day inter-Korean summit, presented a magic show to the leaders of the two Koreas Tuesday night at Mokran (Magnolia) House. (Jung Da-min, Korea Times)
- South Korean Unification Ministry Cho Myoung-gyon said Friday the government will redouble its efforts to end the "longest war and parting on Earth," as he spoke about the recent peace mood in Korea. (Yonhap)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un agreed to halt all military acts that could spark conflict along the border, promising to end confrontational relations and the threat of war on the Korean Peninsula. (Korea JoongAng Daily)
- During a joint visit with South Korean President Moon Jae-in to the top of Mount Paekdu, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un posed for cameras with the hottest photo gesture in South Korea: a finger heart. (Yonhap)
- North Korea had suggested President Moon Jae-in extend his stay in the country for another day, but the South had to turn down the proposal due to its own circumstances, the presidential spokesman said Friday. (Yonhap)
- North Korea's state media on Friday hailed the visit to Mount Paekdu by the leaders of the two Koreas as a "historic" event in an era of enhanced cross-border cooperation. (Yonhap)
- South Korea's forest service chief said Friday that his agency will examine ways to restore destroyed forests in North Korea by creating small nurseries in heavily ravaged regions. (Yonhap)
- Seoul Mayor Park Won-soon on Friday pledged efforts to host the 2032 Olympic Games jointly with Pyongyang. (Yonhap)
- Seoul mayor Park Won-soon wants his city to co-host the 2032 Summer Olympics with the North Korean capital of Pyongyang. At a press conference at City Hall Friday, just hours after his return from the third inter-Korean summit in Pyongyang, Park vowed to dedicate his efforts to making that dream come true. (Shim Kyu-seok, Korea JoongAng Daily)

- Given heavy international sanctions on Pyongyang, it might be too early to lay out any concrete business proposals in North Korea, but the business leaders who accompanied South Korean President Moon Jae-in to the North Korean capital remain optimistic about the market opportunities. (Yun Jung-min, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The economic aspect has been continuously front-and-center throughout the Moon-Kim summit in Pyongyang (September 19–20). From a diplomatic standpoint, this is not all that surprising. Moon and Kim are pursuing what appears to be a rather classical Sunshine 2.0 pattern, with roughly the same contents as the predecessor. (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, *North Korean Economy Watch*)

International:

- Last spring, as the Trump administration was preparing for the historic U.S.-North Korea summit, a flotilla of strange-looking tanker ships steamed out of North Korea's Nampo harbor on a series of clandestine missions off the Chinese coast. (Joby Warrick, Simon Denyer, *Washington Post*)
- Hopes of rapid progress towards the denuclearisation of North Korea cooled on Thursday after the US pushed back against Kim Jong-un's promise to dismantle a nuclear test site if Washington first made concessions. (Julian Ryall, *The Telegraph*)
- When President Trump travels to New York on Sunday for his second visit to the United Nations, he will face tensions with allies in Europe and Asia — but not necessarily of a predictable sort. (Mark Landler, Gardiner Harris, *New York Times*)
- Since U.S. President Donald Trump made his debut at the United Nations a year ago pushing an "America First" policy, he has quit the Iran nuclear deal, the U.N. Human Rights Council and lashed out at some of the closest allies of the United States. (Michelle Nichols, *Reuters*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday announced the names of two American soldiers whose remains were identified following their return from North Korea in July. (*Yonhap*)
- The new North Korea ambassador to the United Nations presented his credentials to U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Thursday, ahead of a possible higher-level U.S.-North Korea meeting at the United Nations next week. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- North Korea's new top envoy in the United Nations began his official service Thursday at a time when Pyongyang and Washington are gearing up to resume denuclearization talks. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's new Ambassador to the United Nations Kim Song started working Thursday after the three-day inter-Korean summit in Pyongyang ended. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)
- The Trump administration insists it's making headway in negotiations with North Korea, even as Kim Jong Un seems to be offering little more than vague pledges like those Pyongyang has broken over the years. (Nick Wadhams, *Bloomberg*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump tweeted Thursday that the remains of two U.S. soldiers had been identified from among the 55 boxes repatriated after his meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. (VOA)
- South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha is expected to hold bilateral talks with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and other foreign counterparts in New York next week on the sidelines of a U.N. session, a ministry official said Friday. (*Yonhap*)

- The Defense Department has identified the first two soldiers from among the 55 boxes of remains returned to the United States from North Korea in July. (Jessie Higgins, UPI)
- But analysts told Al Jazeera while South Korean President Moon Jae-in's three-day trip to North Korea yielded dividends, stark divisions remain between the main players, and the peace process could yet unravel, as happened in previous efforts. (James Reinl, *Al Jazeera*)
- Washington has said it will restart talks with Pyongyang. Kim Jong-un knows how to make Donald Trump feel good; that doesn't mean he plans to denuclearize. (*The Guardian*)
- Seven time zones and 4,000 miles from Moscow — or a 100-minute flight from North Korea's capital, Pyongyang — the fate of Russia's Far East is bound up in the diplomacy playing out on the Korean Peninsula and Washington. (Anton Troianovski, *Washington Post*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump said that "a lot of progress" is being made on the denuclearization of North Korea in a rally in Las Vegas Thursday evening, after the conclusion of the three-day inter-Korean summit in Pyongyang. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump released the names on Thursday of two Army soldiers killed in the 1950-1953 Korean War whose remains were handed over by North Korea this year in a goodwill gesture. (Idrees Ali, David Alexander, *Reuters*)
- The United States on Thursday dismissed North Korea's conditional offer to dismantle a key nuclear site, saying denuclearization must come before concessions. (*Yonhap*)
- President Donald Trump announced Thursday on Twitter that the US has identified the remains of two American soldiers from the 55 cases of remains of US service members killed during the Korean War that were recovered from North Korea in late July. (Ryan Browne, CNN)
- The Pentagon is poised to begin recovering the remains of more American troops killed in North Korea as soon as next spring, but U.S. officials are still negotiating the terms after Pyongyang made several unreasonable requests, a senior U.S. defense official said. (Dan Lamothe, *Washington Post*)
- After the big bang of the Singapore summit in June, with its showy but vague North Korean commitment to denuclearization, many analysts doubted that the deal had any real substance. But we're beginning to see the first signs of what a serious accord would look like. (David Ignatius, *Washington Post*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726231952/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-special-rapporteur-on-the-situation-of-human-rights-in-the-dprk-remains-of-2-soldiers-returned-from-north-korea-identified

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Saturday, September 22, 2018

Kim Jong-un to visit Seoul in December: CJ chairman; N. Korea again designated as a food-deficit country

In North Korea

5th Inter Korea Summit Held (*North Korea Leadership Watch*, 09/21/2018)
Kim Jong Un's personal train seen in South Hamgyong Province before the summit (*DailyNK*, 09/22/2018)
N. Korea again designated as a food-deficit country (*Yonhap*, 09/22/2018)
New North Korea commemorative stamps depict mass games (UPI, 09/21/2018)
Rumors that Moon would visit Samjiyon flew as local residents were mobilized to fix up roads (*DailyNK*, 09/22/2018)
What Is N.Korea's Yongbyon Nuke Facility? (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 09/21/2018)

In South Korea

(LEAD) S. Korean minister optimistic about N. Korea-U.S. talks on nuclear program (*Yonhap*, 09/22/2018)
Pres. Moon to discuss war-ending declaration with Trump on Monday (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 09/22/2018)
The remains of 64 fallen heroes to return to their homeland (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 09/22/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship

Kim Jong-un all fingers and thumbs in bid for Instagram diplomacy (*The Guardian*, 09/21/2018)
Kim Jong-un to visit Seoul in December: CJ chairman (*Yonhap*, 09/22/2018)
Report: North Korea's Ri Sol Ju jokes to magician about 'disappearing' (UPI, 09/21/2018)
Success of inter-Korean summit to be determined at S. Korea-U.S. summit (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 09/22/2018)

International

(LEAD) Pompeo hopes for 2nd U.S.-N.K. summit 'before too long' (*Yonhap*, 09/22/2018)
(LEAD) Trump says he received 'beautiful letter' from N.K. leader (*Yonhap*, 09/22/2018)
[INTERVIEW] Pyongyang Declaration: Vietnam feels 'Misery Loves Company' (*The Korea Times*, 09/22/2018)
Michael Palin irks North Korean officials for having hands in pockets next to leaders' statues (*The Daily Telegraph*, 09/22/2018)
North Korea, Iran Likely to Dominate Trump's UNGA Address (VOA *News*, 09/21/2018)
Pompeo bullish on North Korea denuclearization (*BBC News*, 09/21/2018)
Some see signs of hope on North Korea as Trump heads to UN (*The Washington Post*, 09/22/2018)
Still work to do before second Trump-Kim summit – Pompeo (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 09/22/2018)
Sweden, Switzerland express willingness to send nuke inspection team to N.K. (*Yonhap*, 09/22/2018)
Trump says he won't rush into any deal with North Korea (*The Korea Times*, 09/22/2018)
U.S. prioritizes denuclearization over corresponding measures (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 09/22/2018)

In North Korea

- After the DPRK and ROK leader concluded their remarks “thunderous cheers of ‘hurrah!’ broke out again and fireworks were set off to beautifully decorate the nocturnal sky of September.” (*North Korea Leadership Watch*)
- Kim Jong Un’s personal train was seen heading to Pyongyang in South Hamgyong Province on September 16, two days before the inter-Korean summit in Pyongyang, sources reported. (*DailyNK*)
- In its latest report, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) put the communist country on a list of 39 countries that need external food assistance, calling for 641,000 tons of crops to be imported to sustain the people, according to the Radio Free Asia (RFA). (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea has issued a series of commemorative stamps that include images of the mass games held to mark the country's 70th anniversary. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- Some suggested that the development was aimed at speeding up the modernization of Samjiyon given Kim Jong Un’s recent criticism of the construction of the railroad linking Hyesan and Samjiyon during his visit to the area. However, that the major mobilization of people occurred right before President Moon Jae In’s visit to Pyongyang suggested that it was linked with the summit. (*DailyNK*)
- North Korea's Yongbyon nuclear complex in North Pyongan Province has been gradually expanded since the 1960s and is now a cluster of about 390 buildings. Every part of the nuclear weapons development process has been done here, from making nuclear fuel from natural uranium to producing plutonium and highly enriched uranium that are needed for nuclear weapons. (Kim Jin-myung, *The Chosun Ilbo*)

In South Korea

- South Korea's unification minister on Saturday expressed hope that North Korea and the United States could make progress in their stalled talks on the North's nuclear weapons program, after this week's inter-Korean summit produced pledges by North Korean leader Kim Jong-un to dismantle Pyongyang's key missile test site. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in will make a five-day visit to New York staring from Sunday, when the Chuseok holidays start, on the occasion of the United Nations General Assembly and the South Korea-U.S. summit. (*The Dong-A Ilbo*)
- The remains of 64 South Korean soldiers killed during the Korean War will return to their homeland, marking the 70th Armed Forces Day on October 1. (Sang-Ho Yun, *The Dong-A Ilbo*)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- Doing something “for the ‘gram” is not typically associated with international diplomacy, but this did not stop Kim Jong-un making a heartfelt attempt at a South Korean Instagram trend during a summit this week. (Elle Hunt, *The Guardian*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un plans to visit Seoul in December, the chief of South Korean conglomerate CJ Group has said. Sohn Kyung-shik was a member of the South Korean delegation that accompanied President Moon Jae-in this week for his three-day trip

to North Korea. He joined the delegation as the head of the Korea Employers Federation, a major business lobby. (Yonhap)

- North Korea first lady Ri Sol Ju reportedly asked a South Korean magician visiting Pyongyang if he could "make her disappear" during the landmark inter-Korea summit this week, according to a South Korean press report. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- The remarks by the U.S. can be part of its power struggle before resuming talks with North Korea. But it appears the U.S. has a firm policy of not making any moves unless the North takes concrete steps toward a complete denuclearization. (The Dong-A Ilbo)

International

- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo voiced hope Friday for a second summit between the U.S. and North Korea "before too long," but added there was still work to do. (Yonhap)
- United States President Donald Trump said he received "a beautiful letter" from North Korean leader Kim Jong-un this week, stressing "very good" relations between the two sides. (Yonhap)
- Vietnam, one of the major countries of ASEAN, is meaningful to Korea in several aspects. In economic terms, it is a significant investment region for Korea, and furthermore, as Moon's regime came up with the 'New Southern Policy', it now is important in diplomatic terms as well. (Hwang Jae-ho, The Korea Times)
- The Monty Python star irked officials during the first day of filming Michael Palin in North Korea when his hands became obscured as he spoke to camera in front of two statues of the country's former leaders. (Yohannes Lowe, The Daily Telegraph)
- U.S. President Donald Trump returns to the United Nations on Monday for the annual gathering of world leaders. After an international debut last year in which he threatened to “totally destroy” North Korea, many are anxious about what message he may bring this year to the U.N. General Assembly. (Margaret Besheer, VOA News)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo tells the BBC there is a hopeful sign that North Korea is serious about getting rid of its nuclear weapons. (Barbara Plett Usher, BBC News)
- North Korea’s Kim Jong Un is “little rocket man” no more. President Donald Trump isn’t a “mentally deranged U.S. dotard.” In the year since Trump’s searing, debut U.N. speech fueled fears of nuclear conflict with North Korea, the two leaders have turned from threats to flattery. (Matthew Pennington, The Washington Post)
- The United States is working to set up a second summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, but there is still work to do "to make sure conditions are right," U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Friday. (Reuters)
- Sweden and Switzerland have expressed their willingness to, upon request, send a team to inspect North Korea's possible dismantlement of nuclear and missile programs, a U.S. broadcaster reported Saturday. (Yonhap)
- United States President Donald Trump has said he will not be hasty in making any deals with North Korea, stressing "very good" relations with the communist country's leader. (Yonhap)

- The U.S. State Department has been repetitively emphasizing that denuclearization has to come first as North Korea requested that "corresponding measures" be taken in return for the permanent dismantling of its nuclear facilities in the Yongbyon area. (*The Dong-A Ilbo*)

Prepared by Hangyun Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726232509/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-kim-jong-un-to-visit-seoul-in-december-cj-chairman-n-korea-again-designated-as-a-food-deficit-country

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Sunday, September 23, 2018

Trump faces pivotal moment on North Korea at UN; Haley: Far from the end on NK agreement

In North Korea
Explainer: Why nuclear disclosure is key first step in North Korea's denuclearization (*Reuters*, 09/23/2018)
North Korea's Kim flashes K-pop 'finger hearts' gesture in bid to soften image, photos show (*The Japan Times*, 09/23/2018)
Unseen part of North Korea [VIDEO] (*The Korea Times*, 09/23/2018)
UPDATE 1-Orascom's Koryolink JV granted right to operate in North Korea (*Reuters*, 09/23/2018)

In South Korea
(2nd LD) S. Korean president embarks on U.S. trip for summit with Trump on N. Korea (Yonhap, 09/23/2018)
Moon to embark on US trip for summit with Trump (*The Korea Times*, 09/23/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship
Inter-Korean Peace Agreement is a Political Statement, Not a Legal One – Scholar (*Sputnik News*, 09/23/2018)
Korea 2032: Back to the future (*The Korea Times*, 09/23/2018)
Summit of two Koreas did not discuss Japan, N. Korea talks (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 09/23/2018)

International
[INTERVIEW] Trump has good reason to make peace declaration with Kim in Seoul (*Aju Business Daily*, 09/23/2018)
China January-August total trade with North Korea falls 57.8 percent: customs (*Reuters*, 09/23/2018)
Haley: Far from the end on NK agreement (CNN, 09/23/2018)

Japan's Abe finds himself on sidelines amid outreach with North Korea (*The Washington Post*, 09/23/2018)
Pompeo: No End to NKorea Sanctions Until 'Denuclearization' (*The New York Times*, 09/23/2018)
Trump faces pivotal moment on North Korea at UN (*The Hill*, 09/23/2018)
Trump sees 'tremendous progress' on the Koreas where none exists (*The Washington Post*, 09/23/2018)
US ambassador to South Korea Harry Harris takes hard line on North's nuclear programme (*South China Morning Post*, 09/22/2018)
US 'won't hesitate' to impose sanctions if North Korea fuel embargo breached (*The Guardian*, 09/22/2018)
World leaders at UN look for progress on N.Korea, brace for Trump (*The Korea Herald*, 09/23/2018)

In North Korea

- New pledges made last week by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to curb his nuclear weapons program may have opened the door to further talks with Washington, but just how much impact would they have on the North's nuclear arsenal? (Hyonhee Shin and David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)
- In scene that would have been unthinkable just nine months ago, photos released Sunday showed North Korean leader Kim Jong Un making the popular "finger hearts" gesture atop Mount Paektu — one of the Koreas most sacred sites — with top South Korean officials. (Jesse Johnson, *The Japan Times*)
- On August 25, Teach North Korean Refugees (TNKR) held its 8th English Language Speech Contest. Eunhee Park, a North Korean refugee who joined TNKR in 2015 speaking English at a basic level, won second prize in the contest, which was hosted by TNKR and the Shin and Kim Law Office, and sponsored by The Korea Times. (Eunhee Park, *The Korea Times*)
- Egypt's Orascom Investment Holdings said it has been granted an exemption from the United Nations to operate its Koryolink venture in North Korea, sending shares up to the daily trading limit. (Nadine Awadalla, *Reuters*)

In South Korea

- Moon will explain the outcome of the latest inter-Korean summit before the entire world when he addresses the United Nations General Assembly. However, his U.S. trip may be more aimed at explaining the summit outcome directly to the U.S. president. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in was set to embark on a trip to the United States on Sunday for a summit with his U.S. counterpart, Donald Trump, where he will likely seek to broker a second U.S.-North Korea summit. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un proclaimed an end to the state of war earlier this week during their third summit this year in Pyongyang.

Sputnik discussed the statement with Howard Stoffer, associate professor of national security at the Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences. (Howard Stoffer, *Sputnik News*)

- So in 2032, what will this land look like? I don't truly know. Hopefully there won't be pumas roaming the streets and the capital up north looks like it will have an 'e' in its name going forward. (David Tizzard, *The Korea Times*)
- The South Korean government has informed the Japanese government that South Korea and North Korea did not mention the possibility of Japan-North Korea talks at their summit in Pyongyang on Sept. 18 and 19. (Tamiyuki Kihara, *The Asahi Shimbun*)

International

- President Donald Trump should visit Seoul for a trilateral summit with South and North Korean leaders and make a declaration to end the status of war on the Korean peninsula if he wants to see substantial progress in denuclearization, a U.S. foreign policy and security expert said. (Lim Chang-won, *Aju Business Daily*)
- The value of China's trade with North Korea in the January-to-August period tumbled 57.8 percent from a year earlier to $1.51 billion, Chinese customs data showed on Sunday. (Adam Jourdan, *Reuters*)
- In an interview with Jake Tapper, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley says there is still a long way to go to denuclearization in North Korea. (Jake Tapper, CNN)
- Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has repeatedly expressed his determination to meet Kim and "break the shell of mutual distrust." So far there is nothing on the horizon. Just the opposite, in fact. (Simon Denyer, *The Washington Post*)
- Top U.S. diplomat Mike Pompeo says economic sanctions on North Korea won't be reduced until it completes "denuclearization" after leader Kim Jong Un offered to close the North's main nuclear site in exchange for U.S. concessions. (AP)
- President Trump will face mounting pressure from South Korea's president to sign a peace declaration with North Korea following an inter-Korea summit that saw Pyongyang make new pledges on denuclearization. (Rebecca Kheel, *The Hill*)
- In the more likely case that there is no such breakthrough, it will fall to Mr. Trump to resist being stampeded into unilateral and unjustified concessions in order to satisfy Mr. Moon — and his own ego. (*The Washington Post*)
- The US will not lift sanctions on North Korea until Pyongyang completely dismantles its nuclear weapons programme, said Washington's ambassador to Seoul Harry Harris, delivering a hard-line message after a week of diplomacy that led to optimism about prospects for peace on the Korean peninsula. (Robert Delaney, *South China Morning Post*)
- The US State Department says Washington would not wait to impose sanctions on any shippers helping to get fuel to North Korea, in an apparent warning to Russia days after the US ambassador to the United Nations accused Moscow of cheating on the measures. (*Reuters*)

- North Korea and Iran will dominate this week's gathering of world leaders at the United Nations, where President Donald Trump will be firmly in the spotlight as he continues to upend global diplomacy. (AFP)

Prepared by Hangyun Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726232328/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-trump-faces-pivotal-moment-on-north-korea-at-un-haley-far-from-the-end-on-nk-agreement

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Monday, September 24, 2018

Activists Call for Need to Address N. Korean Human Rights Abuses; Don't mention the gulags: The normalisation of despotic Kim Jong Un

Top News:
Reaching Underground Believers & Guiding Others in Flight: Silent Partners Assist North Koreans under Caesar's Sword (*HRNK Insider*, 09/24/2018)
Activists Call for Need to Address N. Korean Human Rights Abuses (VOA, 09/24/2018)
Don't mention the gulags: The normalisation of despotic Kim Jong Un (*Asian Correspondent*, 09/24/2018)
Moon over Pyongyang, peddles peace (*The Hill*, 09/23/2018)
Seeing through Kim Jong-un's K-pop sign (*BBC*, 09/24/2018)

In North Korea:
Minor earthquake hits eastern North Korea (*Yonhap*, 09/24/2018)
North Korea citizen lectures emphasize 'protection of the motherland' (*Daily* NK, 09/24/2018)
North Korea successfully using cryptos to evade US sanctions (*Asia Times*, 09/24/2018)
Pyongsong resident sheds light on persistent regional power supply issues (*Daily* NK, 09/24/2018)
Security increased for leaders' visit to Mt. Paektu (*Daily* NK, 09/24/2018)
The North Korean people believe in Kim Jong Un when it comes to denuclearization, South Pyongan resident says in interview (*Daily* NK, 09/24/2018)

In South Korea:
Koreas to discuss removing arms from Panmunjom with U.N. Command: new defense chief (*Yonhap*, 09/24/2018)
Moon's approval rating jumps following inter-Korean summit (*Yonhap*, 09/24/2018)
Unification minister vows support for separated families (*Yonhap*, 09/24/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
N.Korean leader Kim Jong-un with finger-heart pose [PHOTOS] (*Korea Times*, 09/24/2018)
North Korea Seeks Investments, Business Chief From South Says (*Bloomberg*, 09/24/2018)
South Korea's Leader Opens a Door to the North (*The New York Times*, 09/23/2018)

International:
(3rd LD) S. Korea's Moon arrives in New York for Trump summit, UN meeting (*Yonhap*, 09/24/2018)
At UN, Trump will make one change to his list of bad boys (CNN, 09/23/2018)
Japan's PM says talks with Trump on trade were constructive ahead of meetings this week (*Reuters*, 09/24/2018)
Moon, Abe to hold bilateral summit this week (*Yonhap*, 09/24/2018)
Moon, Trump to hold bilateral summit on N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 09/24/2018)
The Latest: Pompeo backs Trump decision to seek 2nd meeting (*The Washington Post*, 09/24/2018)
Trump at the U.N.: Undiplomatic? This Time, Aides Fear the Opposite (*The New York Times*, 09/23/2018)
Trump at UN: 2nd summit with North Korea likely 'quite soon' (*The Washington Post*, 09/24/2018)
Trump, at UN, to Again Confront North Korean Nuclear Threat (VOA, 09/24/2018)
Trump expected to tout North Korea progress, but concrete moves lacking (*Reuters*, 09/23/2018)
Trump Promises Second Summit with Kim Soon (VOA, 09/24/2018)
Trump says second meeting with North Korea's Kim could be 'quite soon' (CNN, 09/24/2018)
UN grants exemption for Orascom to operate Koryolink J/V cell network: Sawiris (*NK News*, 09/24/2018)

Top News:

- The government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK or North Korea) has the dubious distinction of being classified in the Open Doors World Watch List as the worst state sponsor of Christian persecution for 16 consecutive years through 2018. (Tim A. Peters, *HRNK Insider*)
- Voice of America published an article interviewing HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu on the third inter-Korean summit and North Korean human rights abuses. Scarlatoiu said human rights policies aren't involved in Seoul's approach to reconciliation with the North. Scarlatoiu also said, "The ultimate measure of reconciliation, peace, and unification of the Korean Peninsula is going to be the impact it has on the Korean people living in the South and in the North." (Steve Miller, VOA)
- Asian Correspondent mentioned the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea in an article about North Korean human rights abuses, including Gulags. Reports from the United Nations and the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, along with first hand accounts from former guards, have uncovered the horror that goes on in these secretive institutions. (Emma Richards, *Asian Correspondent*)
- This past week's dramatic Pyongyang summit meeting between South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un triggers memories of mawkish Pyongyang pageants past. (Sung-yoon Lee, *The Hill*)

- This photo of Kim Jong-un trying to form a South Korean gesture of friendship has melted hearts in Seoul. But focusing on this one image means losing sight of the bigger picture. (Laura Bicker, BBC)

In North Korea:

- A 2.8-magnitude earthquake struck eastern North Korea, South Korea's meteorological agency said Monday. The Korea Meteorological Administration said the quake, detected around 5:38 p.m. in an area 30 kilometers northeast of Sinhung County, is believed to have occurred naturally. (*Yonhap*)
- A lecture delivered by the North Korean authorities to Korean Workers' Party (WPK) members and workers placed emphasis on the duty of North Korean citizens and the protection of the motherland. (Mun Dong-hui, *Daily NK*)
- North Korea is increasingly using crypto-currencies to successfully circumvent US sanctions, according to two Washington-based experts. (Peter J. Brown, *Asia Times*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has shown interest in improving the country's electricity supplies, and recently visited the Orangchon Power Plant construction site. Kim has recently been expressing great interest in tourism as well as electricity development for inter-Korean economic cooperation. (Mun Dong-hui, *Daily NK*)
- President Moon Jae In and Chairman Kim Jong Un visited Mt. Paektu on the final day of their three-day summit, and there are reports that security and military forces, including Kim's own personal guard, were deployed in numbers in Samjiyon County, Ryanggang Province. (Ha Yoon-ah, *Daily NK*)
- Daily NK conducted an interview with a resident of North Korea's South Pyongan Province on the topic of the third inter-Korean summit, which was held in Pyongyang on September 18. The interviewee was visiting family in China at the time of the interview. (Ha Yoon-ah, *Daily NK*)

In South Korea:

- South Korea's new defense chief said Monday South Korea will discuss with North Korea and the U.N. Command the removal of arms from the truce village of Panmunjom, which is inside the heavily-fortified Demilitarized Zone that separates the two Koreas. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon Jae-in's approval rating ended a six-week losing streak to rebound to over 60 percent thanks to positive evaluations of his summit talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un last week, a survey showed Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea's unification minister said Monday the government will beef up efforts to reconnect families separated for decades since Korean War in various ways in the follow-up negotiations with North Korea. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Photos of North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un making a "finger-heart" while visiting Mount Paektu with President Moon Jae-in on the third day of the Pyongyang summit have been released by Cheong Wa Dae, Sunday. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)
- North Korea signaled it wants to bring in investments from South Korean companies to help modernize the secluded country, according to one of the business chiefs that went to Pyongyang last week. (Sohee Kim, *Bloomberg*)
- After months of stalemate, diplomatic efforts to resolve the North Korean nuclear crisis are quickening, thanks largely to the South Korean president, Moon Jae-in. (*The New York Times*)

International:

- South Korean President Moon Jae-in arrived in New York on Sunday for a bilateral summit with U.S. President Donald Trump that is partly aimed at brokering a second U.S.-North Korea summit. (*Yonhap*)
- Last year, you spoke about rogue regimes with the "most destructive weapons known to humanity" -- a clear reference to North Korea -- but there are now low expectations you'll even acknowledge North Korea's illegal stockpile of weapons of mass destruction because you're focused on praising Kim instead. (Samantha Vinograd, CNN)
- Abe said the U.S. and Japan would remain in close touch on North Korea and that he had relayed to Trump a message from families of Japanese abducted decades ago by North Korea. (Ayai Tomisawa, *Reuters*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in will hold a bilateral summit with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe this week, Moon's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said Sunday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in and U.S. President Donald Trump were set to hold a bilateral summit Monday to discuss ways to break the impasse in their denuclearization negotiations with North Korea, possibly including a second U.S.-North Korea summit. (*Yonhap*)
- The top U.S. diplomat is defending President Donald Trump's decision to seek out a second summit with North Korea's Kim Jong Un even though Kim's government has not followed through on commitments to halt its nuclear program. (AP)
- When President Trump made his first visit to the United Nations last year, he ridiculed North Korea's leader, Kim Jong-un, as a suicidal "rocket man" and threatened to "totally destroy" his country. He also vowed to rip up the Iran nuclear deal, which he called an "embarrassment to the United States." (Mark Landler, David E. Sanger, *The New York Times*)
- Confronting the dangers of North Korea's nuclear threat, President Donald Trump arrived at the United Nations on Monday striking a far less ominous tone than a year ago, announcing he likely will hold a second summit with Kim Jong Un "quite soon." (Jonathan Lemire, Zeke Miller, AP)
- As he begins the sequel to his stormy U.N. debut, President Donald Trump will again confront the dangers posed by North Korea's nuclear threat, though its shadow may appear somewhat less ominous than a year ago. (AP)

- A year after Donald Trump threatened to “totally destroy” North Korea in his first speech at the United Nations, the U.S. president will return to the podium in New York this week to tout diplomatic efforts that have reduced the risk of war. (David Brunnstrom, Matt Spetalnick, *Reuters*)
- After U.S. President Donald Trump said he will hold a second summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un "quite soon," his secretary of state told reporters such a meeting would have “enormous value” and is confident it will happen. (Steve Herman, VOA)
- President Donald Trump, arriving at the United Nations on Monday morning, said he and Kim Jong Un will meet for a second time "quite soon." (Jeremy Diamond, Allie Malloy and Abby Phillip, CNN)
- The Cairo-based Orascom Investment Holding (OIH) has received an exemption from international sanctions prohibiting joint ventures in North Korea, the company’s chairman Naguib Sawiris said in a tweet on Friday, allowing them to continue ownership of the DPRK’s Koryolink mobile network. (Colin Zwirko, *NK News*)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250726232709/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-activists-call-for-need-to-address-n-korean-human-rights-abusesdont-mention-the-gulags-the-normalisation-of-despotic-kim-jong-un

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Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Trump expects second Kim summit soon; Suspending Korea Exercises Caused Slight Dip in Readiness: U.S. General

In North Korea
Opinions on human rights ‘significantly different’ among South Koreans and NK defectors: study (*The Korea Herald*, 09/25/2018)
Portraits of a dynasty: North Korea's ever-present Kims (*The Korea Times*, 09/25/2018)
Security tightens in the run-up to Moon and Kim’s visit to Mt. Paektu (*DailyNK*, 09/25/2018)

In South Korea
(5th LD) Moon, Trump discuss 'corresponding measures' for N. Korean denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 09/25/2018)
(LEAD) Leaders of S. Korea, Japan hold summit on bilateral ties, N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 09/25/2018)
Moon set for series of bilateral talks, special lecture (*Yonhap*, 09/25/2018)
Moon, Trump discuss denuclearization in New York (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/25/2018)

Suspending Korea Exercises Caused Slight Dip in Readiness: U.S. General (*The New York Times*, 09/25/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship

(LEAD) Moon seeks int'l support for inter-Korean ties in meeting with UN chief (*Yonhap*, 09/25/2018)
Leaders express hope that more South Koreans will visit Mt. Paektu (*DailyNK*, 09/25/2018)
Seoul proposes removing all weapons from border 'truce village' (*The Daily Telegraph*, 09/25/2018)
The Pyongyang Declaration: Implications for U.S.-ROK Coordination on North Korea (*Council on Foreign Relations*, 09/25/2018)

International

'Rocket Man' to 'Terrific': Trump lauds Kim in U.N. return (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 09/25/2018)
After North Korea, Trump targets Iran with 'maximum pressure' (*The Korea Herald*, 09/25/2018)
China says it supports two Korea's discussions on end-of-war declaration (*Yonhap*, 09/25/2018)
Gina Haspel Is Skeptical of North Korea's Willingness to Give Up Nuclear Arms (*The New York Times*, 09/24/2018)
Major Tactical Risk if U.S. Troops Removed From Korean Peninsula: U.S. General (*The New York Times*, 09/25/2018)
Moon, Trump to coordinate 2nd U.S.-N.K. summit: White House (*Yonhap*, 09/25/2018)
Pompeo: 'Now is not the time to ease pressure' on North Korea (*The Washington Post*, 09/25/2018)
Pompeo's New North Korea Envoy Wades Into Diplomatic Minefield (*Foreign Policy*, 09/25/2018)
Trump champions North Korea policy in U.N. speech (*UPI*, 09/25/2018)
Trump expects second Kim summit soon (*BBC*, 09/25/2018)
Trump plans new Kim summit a year after threat to destroy North Korea (*The Guardian*, 09/24/2018)
Trump praises Kim Jong-un as 'terrific' and pledges to hold second summit (*The Daily Telegraph*, 09/25/2018)
Trump Promises 2nd Summit with Kim Jong-un Soon (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 09/25/2018)
US, NK head toward discussions on nuclear inspections (*The Korea Herald*, 09/25/2018)

In North Korea

- Almost 75 percent of North Korean defectors currently living in South Korea were unaware of the existence of the term "human rights" while living in the communist state, and they have significantly different views from South Koreans when it comes to a number of social issues such as conscientious objection, a study showed. (Claire Lee, *The Korea Herald*)
- Millions of portraits, mosaics and paintings of Kim Il Sung, founder of North Korea, and his son Kim Jong Il, the father of current leader Kim Jong Un, offer daily reminders to the public of the central role of the Kim dynasty in their nation's story. (*Reuters*)
- In the run-up to the second inter-Korean summit, North Korea designated the entire week a "special security week" and handed down orders to the military and security agencies to tighten surveillance. The North Korean military has delayed issuing discharges of soldiers

and has focused on strengthening patrols on the border with China to prevent any incidents. (Kim Yoo Jin, *DailyNK*)

In South Korea

- South Korean President Moon Jae-in and U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday discussed possible ways to reward North Korea for its denuclearization measures that will apparently include a second U.S.-North Korea summit. (Byun Duk-kun, *Yonhap*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe met Tuesday in New York for talks on ways to improve their countries' ties and enhance their joint efforts to rid North Korea of its nuclear weapons. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in was set for a series of bilateral talks Tuesday with global leaders waiting to hear the outcome of his recent summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, while he will also offer a special lecture for members of top U.S. think tanks. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in and U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday discussed possible ways to reward North Korea for its denuclearization measures that will apparently include a second U.S.-North Korea summit. (*Yonhap*)
- The Pentagon's nominee to be the next commander of U.S. forces in South Korea said on Tuesday that a decision to suspend some joint exercises between South Korea and the United States was a "prudent risk" but had caused a "slight degradation" in military readiness. (Idrees Ali and Patricia Zengerle, *The New York Times*)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- South Korean President Moon Jae-in sought to rally international support for his efforts to denuclearize North Korea and improve his country's ties with the communist state Monday in a meeting with U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. (*Yonhap*)
- During his visit to Mt. Paektu with South Korean President Moon Jae In on the final day of the recent summit, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un expressed hope that more South Koreans will visit Mt Paektu. (Mun Dong Hui, *DailyNK*)
- South Korea has proposed that all weapons be removed from the Joint Security Area, the sector around the truce village of Panmunjom in the centre of the Demilitarised Zone that has divided North and South Korea since 1953 and was less than a year ago the scene of a daring defection by a North Korean soldier. (Julian Ryall, *The Daily Telegraph*)
- But that will only be the case if the United States and South Korea are able to stick together and maintain a united front, while ensuring that Kim Jong-un understands that the benefits of economic integration and co-prosperity are truly attainable if, and only if, he moves toward denuclearization. (Scott A. Snyder, *Council on Foreign Relations*)

International

- President Donald Trump raised hopes at the United Nations on Monday that a second meeting with North Korea's Kim Jong Un could occur "quite soon," striking a conciliatory tone one year after he used his debut at the U.N. to deride the autocrat as "Little Rocket Man" and threaten to "totally destroy North Korea." (AP)
- But if North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un has seen his standing with the US president transformed in the 12 months since Trump's United Nations debut, the prospects of Hassan Rouhani undergoing a similar transformation appear far from clear. (AFP)
- China's foreign ministry said Tuesday it supports the ongoing discussions on formally ending the 1950-53 Korean War, claiming Beijing will actively take part in signing the agreement. (Yonhap)
- The C.I.A. director said on Monday that the North Korean leader, Kim Jong-un, will not give up his nuclear weapons easily, seeing them as crucial leverage to preserve his government. Ms. Haspel's remarks echo the skepticism of former C.I.A. officers, who are said to believe that North Korea will be reluctant to give up weapons as a part of negotiations with the United States. (Julian E. Barnes, *The New York Times*)
- The Pentagon's nominee to be the next commander of U.S. forces in South Korea said on Tuesday there was a significant amount of tactical risk if U.S. troops were removed from the Korean peninsula. (Idrees Ali and Patricia Zengerle, *The New York Times*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in and U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday discussed plans for a second meeting between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, agreeing they would work on it together, the White House said. (Yonhap)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo spoke to reporters at the outset of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Sept. 24. (*The Washington Post*)
- At the same time, he'll have to navigate contradictory messages and shifting goalposts as Trump figures out how he wants to tackle the North Korea problem. But most experts widely agree Kim hasn't given up anything meaningful yet. (Robbie Gramer, *Foreign Policy*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump said Tuesday in his speech before the United Nations General Assembly his administration has taken major steps on North Korea denuclearization -- and the breakthroughs were possible with support from partner countries. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- US President Donald Trump has said he expects to have a second summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in the "not too distant future". Some critics have raised concerns that the human rights situation in North Korea has been ignored to ensure better relations. (BBC)
- Trump was speaking at an appearance in New York on Monday with the South Korean president, Moon Jae-in, who claimed that North Korea's decision to dismantle its nuclear weapons programme was irreversible. (Julian Borger, *The Guardian*)
- Donald Trump, the US president, has praised Kim Jong-un for being "very open and terrific" and said he expects to hold a second summit with the North Korean leader "in the not too distant future." (Nicola Smith, *The Daily Telegraph*)
- South Korea's president personally relayed a message on Monday to U.S. President Donald Trump, telling him that North Korea's leader wants to meet him again soon to make progress on denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. (VOA News)
- Trump, however, has not mentioned the "corresponding measures" of the US, which the North has demanded in return for permanently shutting down its nuclear facilities in Yongbyon. (Kim So-hyun, *The Korea Herald*)

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250726232716/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-trump-expects-second-kim-summit-soon-suspending-korea-exercises-caused-slight-dip-in-readiness-us-general

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Wednesday, September 26, 2018

North Korean 'embassies' a worry if peace breaks out; South Korea's Moon Becomes Kim Jong Un's Top Spokesman at UN

Top News
North Korean 'embassies' a worry if peace breaks out (*The Washington Times*, 09/24/2018)

In North Korea
(LEAD) N.K. foreign minister arrives in New York for U.N. meeting (*Yonhap*, 09/26/2018)
[Editorial] Denuke NK in order (*The Korea Herald*, 09/26/2018)
[Kim Hoo-ran] Staying clear-eyed on N. Korea more important than ever (*The Korea Herald*, 09/26/2018)
Fantastical architecture reflects North's ideals: In his photography book, Guardian critic Oliver Wainwright captures Pyongyang's whimsy and ambition (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/26/2018)
N. Korean media call for Japan's apology, compensation for past wrongdoings (*Yonhap*, 09/26/2018)
North Korea again calls for Japan's apology for 'past sin' (UPI, 09/26/2018)
North Korea wants to join IMF and World Bank, pursue economic reform: Moon (*NK News*, 09/26/2018)
Power supply in North Korea in the age of markets (*North Korean Economy Watch*, 09/26/2018)
Soldiers' discharge dates postponed for inter-Korean summit (*DailyNK*, 09/26/2018)
Will Kim visit ancestor's grave? (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/26/2018)

In South Korea
(2nd LD) Leaders of S. Korea, Japan hold summit on bilateral ties, N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 09/26/2018)
[Kim Myong-sik] To receive Kim Jong-un in Seoul peacefully (*The Korea Herald*, 09/26/2018)
'Kim Jong-un is serious about giving up his bombs' (*The Korea Times*, 09/26/2018)
Moon and Trump at the UN (*The Korea Times*, 09/26/2018)
Moon meets Jesse Jackson in New York (*The Korea Times*, 09/26/2018)
Moon says N. Korean leader will keep denuclearization promise (*Yonhap*, 09/26/2018)
Moon says U.S. has 'nothing to lose' from talks (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/26/2018)
Moon tells Fox U.S. has 'nothing to lose' from talks (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/26/2018)
Seoul the venue for second Kim-Trump summit? (*The Korea Times*, 09/26/2018)
Seoul says Kim Jong Un in no rush for summit talks with Japan (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 09/26/2018)

South Korea's Moon Becomes Kim Jong Un's Top Spokesman at UN (*Bloomberg*, 09/25/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship

(LEAD) Moon stresses need for formal end to war, economic cooperation with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 09/26/2018)
[Trudy Rubin] 4 reasons why declaring peace on the Korean Peninsula is a bad idea (*The Korea Herald*, 09/26/2018)
Consensus is needed (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/26/2018)
Heritage project with North Korea (*The Korea Times*, 09/26/2018)
Korean War may be declared over this year (*The Korea Times*, 09/26/2018)
Military committee details emerge (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/26/2018)
September inter-Korean Summit: A quick recap (*DailyNK*, 09/26/2018)

International

(2nd LD) Trump touts 'bold, new push for peace' with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 09/26/2018)
'Break the shell of mistrust': Shinzo Abe willing to meet Kim Jong-un at summit (*The Guardian*, 09/26/2018)
Abe's speech omits 'pressure' in referring to North Korea (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 09/26/2018)
Discussions of 2nd Trump-Kim summit are premature (*The Korea Times*, 09/26/2018)
From 'Rocket Man' to a man of 'courage' (*The Washington Post*, 09/26/2018)
Hope for new summit (*The Korea Times*, 09/26/2018)
In Strong Support of Ambassador Biegun (*38 North*, 09/26/2018)
Troop pullout will pose tactical risk: USFK commander nominee (*The Korea Times*, 09/26/2018)
Trump praises Kim in UN address (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/26/2018)
Trump Speech at U.N.: Scorn for Iran, Praise for Kim (*The New York Times*, 09/25/2018)
Trump touts 'bold, new push for peace' with North Korea in UN speech (*The Korea Times*, 09/26/2018)
US, NK gear up for second summit (*The Korea Herald*, 09/26/2018)
U.S. General: Suspended Drill on Korean Peninsula Caused Military 'Degradation' (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 09/26/2018)

Top News

- HRNK's Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu's congressional testimony in 2015 was quoted in The Washington Times. He told Congress that more than 50,000 North Korean laborers were working in 16 nations, "earning the Kim regime between $150 million and $230 million per year." (Guy Taylor, *The Washington Times*)

In North Korea

- North Korea's foreign minister arrived in New York Tuesday to attend the United Nations General Assembly and possibly lay the groundwork for a second summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. (*Yonhap*)

- Before seeking its second summit with North Korea, the US must make efforts at the working level to guarantee that the summit will produce substantial progress on denuclearization. (*The Korea Herald*)
- Instagram moments in Pyongyang and the talks of inter-Korean cooperation notwithstanding, it must be remembered that without North Korea's complete denuclearization, it will all come to naught. (Kim Hoo-ran, *The Korea Herald*)
- Bonner was invited to the Korea Pavilion to display paintings by North Korean architects he commissioned. He asked them to imagine the future of North Korea and what the future of tourism would look like. These paintings showed "fancy architecture," according to Wainwright, like mirror glass pyramid structures on the side of cliffs. (Jin Min-ji, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- North Korean media on Wednesday renewed calls for Japan's apology and compensation for the island country's colonial-era misdeeds. The Rodong Sinmun, the newspaper of the North's ruling Workers' Party, made the calls amid growing talk of a possible summit between Pyongyang and Tokyo aimed at improving bilateral relations. (*Yonhap*)
- Pyongyang's media have maintained that Tokyo should first take steps to fully atone for its past wrongdoings and make compensation. Japan colonized the peninsula from 1910-45. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Tuesday said North Korea wants to join international financial institutions like the IMF and the World Bank, telling an audience in New York that DPRK leader Kim Jong Un hopes to trade his nuclear weapons for economic development. (Dagyum Ji, *NK News*)
- The 80–90% figure may not be numerically accurate, but the vast increase of solar panel use in North Korea over the past few years is well documented, not least by foreign travelers. (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, *North Korean Economy Watch*)
- Daily NK sources has reported that in preparation for the third South-North Korean summit, a special security directive was passed down that postponed the pending discharge of some soldiers who were approaching their discharge dates. (Kim Yoo Jin, *DailyNK*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un plans to visit the South within the year, and public interest is growing over whether he will visit the tomb of his clan's founder, which sits on a picturesque mountain in Korea's southwest. (Kim Jun-hee and Shim Kyu-seok, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

In South Korea

- South Korean President Moon Jae-in and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe met Tuesday in New York for talks on ways to improve their countries' ties and enhance their joint efforts to rid North Korea of its nuclear weapons. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon has a task that is of paramount importance with regard to our internal situation. Before he plays host to Kim Jong-un, the president needs to establish peace in domestic politics. (Kim Myong-sik, *The Korea Herald*)
- Moon, fresh off a dramatic summit in Pyongyang last week with Kim that saw more promises from the North Korean leader to dismantle his weapons programs, is at the U.N. General

Assembly this week, meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump and other world leaders to explain and, to some extent, defend his efforts to bring peace to the famously hostile Korean Peninsula. (AP)

- Among many policy professionals in Seoul, the concern about President Moon is both that he will go too fast, and cause a break in the alliance with the U.S.; and that he will go too slow, be too timid, and allow the U.S. to once again prevent North-South rapprochement. Sometimes one individual feels both at once. (Stephen Costello, *The Korea Times*)
- President Moon Jae-in met with U.S. civil-rights icon Jesse Jackson after making a speech in New York Tuesday and exchanged opinions on the Korean Peninsula saying the North's actions and the U.S.'s corresponding countermeasures would lead to the North's denuclearization. (Park Ji-won, *The Korea Times*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un is a young but trustworthy leader who will honor his promise to completely denuclearize his country, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon Jae-in said Tuesday that the United States has nothing to lose from its denuclearization talks with North Korea, as it could resume sanctions or reverse a declaration ending the Korean War if Pyongyang reneges on its pledge to denuclearize. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Moon stressed that U.S. concessions to North Korea could be reversed if Pyongyang was caught cheating on its denuclearization pledge during an interview with Fox News during his five-day visit to New York for the UN General Assembly. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Will U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un get together again? If yes, where? With positive signals for a second summit coming from all angles, a guessing game on a venue has begun. (Park Si-soo, *The Korea Times*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un appears to be in no hurry to hold direct talks with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. That was the gist of the message South Korean President Moon Jae-in received during talks with Kim earlier this month. (Kotaro Ono and Yoshihiro Makino, *The Asahi Shimbun*)
- While Kim Jong Un isn't attending the United Nations General Assembly in New York this week, he had what amounted to a de facto spokesman singing his praises: South Korean President Moon Jae-in. (Youkyung Lee, *Bloomberg*)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- Declaring a formal end to the Korean War will encourage North Korea to move further down the path toward complete denuclearization, while economic cooperation with the North will keep the communist state from turning back, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- Neither the United States nor North Korea is likely to start a pre-emptive war, but the room for dangerous mistakes would be vast, especially if Trump feels humiliated. So let's hope the president's advisers persuade him to press Kim to provide detailed data on Pyongyang's arsenal and permit international inspections -- before engaging in further peace fantasies. (Trudy Rubin, *The Korea Herald*)

- Despite Moon's flowery rhetoric about Kim's proposals, a considerable number of South Koreans cannot dispel their concerns because they have been incessantly cheated by North Korea when it comes to denuclearization. As long as suspicion persists, you can hardly expect a smooth denuclearization. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- At the recent pre-summit working level meeting held in Gaeseong, they agreed to carry out an eighth joint survey and historical preservation effort at Manwoldae between today and Dec. 27 this year. (Kim Ji-myung, *The Korea Times*)
- Moon and Trump met on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly in New York, Monday (local time). Moon said the denuclearization process would be accelerated if the Korean War was declared over. (Kim Bo-eun, *The Korea Times*)
- The committee, which leaders of the two Koreas agreed to establish at their summit on Sept. 19, is expected to discuss military issues between the two countries, namely the formation of a so-called peace zone in the disputed border in the Yellow Sea, the sources said last Friday on the condition of anonymity. (Lee Keun-pyung and Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Some analysts counted the summit as yet another brick in the house of failure in getting North Korea to commit unequivocally to denuclearization. Others hailed it as an important step in the long road to building peaceful relations. As is often the case, the real outcome is much more gray than black or white. (Nate Kerkhoff, *DailyNK*)

International

- U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday touted his administration's efforts to achieve peace through negotiations to dismantle North Korea's nuclear weapons program. Speaking to the United Nations General Assembly in New York, Trump said his Singapore summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in June was "highly productive." (*Yonhap*)
- Speaking at the UN general assembly in New York on Tuesday, Abe said he was prepared to make a "new start" in Japan's relations with the North, months after Donald Trump's historic meeting with Kim in Singapore. (Justin McCurry, *The Guardian*)
- Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shifted his stance of applying pressure on North Korea to holding dialogue with Pyongyang in his speech at the United Nations General Assembly here on Sept. 25. (Yuki Nikaido, *The Asahi Shimbun*)
- While Trump and Kim deserve credit for lowering the temperature between their two countries in recent months, Kim's progress on dismantling his nuclear weapons program has been insufficient, making a second summit between the two leaders premature. (Ted Gover, *The Korea Times*)
- Despite the warm welcome, there was undoubtedly plenty of skepticism among those in the room. Many experts in Washington, and not just Korea hawks, say North Korea will never give up its nuclear weapons. Using the end of the war as a first step, they say, will only weaken the U.S.-South Korea alliance instead of warming relations with Pyongyang. (Adam Taylor, *The Washington Post*)
- It can be said that President Moon has played his role as a mediator to the best of his ability as he helped broker another summit between Trump and Kim. But, Trump has yet to accept the North's condition for "corresponding action." This means that he is not confident about

Kim's sincerity on his commitment to give up the North's nuclear and long-range missile development programs. (*The Korea Times*)

- One that appears over and over again is that the North Koreans have fooled the US in every negotiation over the past 25 years. It is true the record is mixed and it is also true that the end result, where we are today, is certainly not a sign of success. (Joel S. Wit, *38 North*)
- Gen. Robert Abrams, who has been nominated as the next commander of the U.S. Forces Korea (USFK), said there would be a considerable risk if the USFK were to pull out of South Korea if the 1950-53 Korean War is declared over and a peace treaty signed. (Kim Bo-eun, *The Korea Times*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump lauded North Korean leader Kim Jong-un on Tuesday for "his courage and for the steps he has taken" in easing tensions and improving relations with his administration over the past few months, marking a dramatic shift from his address a year ago in which he called Kim a "rocket man" on a "suicide mission." (Kang Jin-kyu and Shim Jae-woo, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Yet Mr. Trump's warm words for Mr. Kim were a 180-degree shift from 2017, when he said the North Korean leader was on a suicidal collision course with the United States. That showed he is open to radical shifts in approach, based on his idiosyncratic view of personal diplomacy and his self-avowed skill as a dealmaker in spotting opportunities. (Mark Landler, *The New York Times*)
- Speaking to the United Nations General Assembly in New York, Trump said his Singapore summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in June was "highly productive." The two leaders agreed that it was in both countries' interest to pursue denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, he said. (*Yonhap*)
- With US President Donald Trump officially announcing his plans to hold a second meeting with North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un, the question now is whether the news will revive the momentum for the stalled denuclearization talks. (Yeo Jun-suk, *The Korea Herald*)
- The U.S. general nominated to be the next commander of American forces in South Korea said the suspension of a major joint military exercise between the United States and South Korea has caused "degradation" to military readiness on the peninsula. (*VOA News*)

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250726232743/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-north-korean-embassies-a-worry-if-peace-breaks-out-south-koreas-moon-becomes-kim-jong-uns-top-spokesman-at-un

Thursday, September 27, 2018

Trump sees no time frame for North Korea deal, second summit coming; Moon calls for end to war in speech to UN

In North Korea:
Increase in North Korea-manufactured products driving domestic growth (*Daily* NK, 09/27/2018)
N. Korea promotes east coast tourist area, ski resort (*Yonhap*, 09/27/2018)
North Korea goes all out to boost tourism (*Korea Times*, 09/27/2018)
North Korean envoy in high demand at UN (*Korea Times*, 09/27/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) Minor party calls for accurate costing of April summit deal implementation (*Yonhap*, 09/27/2018)
(LEAD) President Moon returns from US trip for crucial summit with Trump (*Yonhap*, 09/27/2018)
Moon calls for end to war in speech to UN (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/27/2018)
Moon Jae-in calls for reciprocal measures on North Korea denuclearization (UPI, 09/26/2018)
Populism's sad tango (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/27/2018)
S. Korean president discusses peace, joint Olympics with IOC chief (*Yonhap*, 09/27/2018)
S. Korean president urges U.N. not to leave N. Korea behind (*Yonhap*, 09/27/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Cautious Optimism Ahead of Inter-Korean Joint Military Agreement Implementation (VOA, 09/26/2018)
Koreas in talks over joint event to mark 2007 summit (*Yonhap*, 09/27/2018)
Koreas to discuss joint gymnastics team for 2020 Tokyo Olympics (*Yonhap*, 09/27/2018)
Koreas to hold weekly meeting at liaison office Friday (*Yonhap*, 09/27/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korea asks for delay in joint excavation of historic palace site (*Yonhap*, 09/27/2018)
Manwoldae excavation delayed due to lack of prep (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/27/2018)
Overseas Korean merchants to visit N. Korea to discuss cooperation (*Yonhap*, 09/27/2018)
Seoul proposes joint fishing zone, N. Korean port modernization (*Yonhap*, 09/27/2018)
Unification minister, DPK leader to visit Pyongyang (*Korea Times*, 09/27/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) In FM talks, China backs declaration of formal end to Korean War (*Yonhap*, 09/27/2018)
(3rd LD) Pompeo to visit N. Korea in Oct., set up 2nd summit (*Yonhap*, 09/27/2018)
'All the time in the world': Trump says no rush for North Korea to denuclearize (*The Guardian*, 09/26/2018)
China may send top official to N. Korea for Oct. 10 party anniversary (*Yonhap*, 09/27/2018)
Commentary: U.S. efforts in Korea bear little fruit (*Reuters*, 09/27/2018)
Fate of Yongbyon is a 'big deal': Hecker (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/27/2018)

Finding passion in Pyongyang: Australian filmmaker shows a different side of life in North Korea (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/27/2018)
North Korea Nuclear Deal Could Take 'Years,' Trump Suggests (*The New York Times*, 09/26/2018)
Pompeo says 'dawn of new day' with North Korea (*The Washington Post*, 09/27/2018)
Pompeo tells U.N. only path for North Korea is diplomacy, denuclearization (*Reuters*, 09/27/2018)
Pompeo to travel to North Korea to arrange second Trump-Kim summit (CNN, 09/26/2018)
`Trump can be breakthrough in denuke talks' (*Korea Times*, 09/27/2018)
Trump claims (without evidence) Obama nearly launched war with North Korea (CNN, 09/26/2018)
Trump: New Sanctions Will Force Iran Back to Nuclear Talks (VOA, 09/27/2018)
Trump: Obama was ready for war with North Korea (*Korea Times*, 09/27/2018)
Trump praises 'beautiful' letter from Kim as he relaxes nuclear weapons demands (*Telegraph*, 09/27/2018)
Trump praises North Korea's Kim but says sanctions must stay for now (*Reuters*, 09/26/2018)
Trump rejects North 'time game' (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/27/2018)
Trump says no need to 'rush' nuclear agreement with North Korea (*The Washington Post*, 09/26/2018)
Trump Says Will Meet North Korea's Kim 'In Very Near Future' (VOA, 09/26/2018)
Trump sees no time frame for North Korea deal, second summit coming (*Reuters*, 09/26/2018)
Trump shows 'extraordinary' letter from N.K. leader (*Yonhap*, 09/27/2018)
Trump to U.N. Security Council: 'Secret meetings' underway with North Korea (UPI, 09/26/2018)
U.S. nuclear expert hails N.K. offer to close Yongbyon nuke complex as 'remarkable' (*Yonhap*, 09/27/2018)
U.S.'s Pompeo to visit North Korea next month: U.S. statement (*Reuters*, 09/26/2018)
'We're not playing the time game': Trump (*Korea Times*, 09/27/2018)

In North Korea:

- North Korea can now produce a considerable amount of food and light industrial products. This is the result of the country's move toward practical policies like giving farms and enterprises some degree of autonomy, a Seoul-based North Korea analyst argues. (Ha Yoon-ah, *Daily NK*)
- North Korea's official media on Thursday promoted its east coast tourist area and nearby ski resort to the outside world on the occasion of the Day of World Tourism. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea is stepping up its tourism push. The Workers' Party mouthpiece Rodong Sinmun on Thursday highlighted the country's tourism to mark World Tourism Day on Sept. 27. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)
- While the second summit between North Korea and the U.S. is expected to be held within a few months, the status of Kim Jong-un's top envoy Ri Yong-ho has been elevated to its highest level. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)

In South Korea:

- The minor opposition Bareunmirae Party (BP) urged the government Thursday to accurately estimate the cost of implementing the April inter-Korean summit agreement if it wants to obtain parliamentary ratification. (Yonhap)
- President Moon Jae-in returned home on Thursday from his five-day trip to New York, during which he held talks with U.S. President Donald Trump and attended the United Nations General Assembly. (Yonhap)
- President Moon Jae-in on Wednesday called for a formal end to the 1950-53 Korean War, saying it is a process that related countries "must go through in order to move towards a peace regime" in his address to the United Nations General Assembly. (Kang Jin-kyu, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in endorsed the corresponding-measures approach to North Korea denuclearization on Wednesday in his speech to the United Nations General Assembly. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- The leaders of South and North Korea held hands at Mount Paektu. As U.S.-North relations improve and expectations grow about easing economic sanctions on North Korea, Seoul's funding for inter-Korean economic cooperation will be considerable. (Lee Jong-wha, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in discussed a joint Korean bid for the 2032 Summer Games with the world's top Olympic official Wednesday, emphasizing the need for an early dialogue on the issue. (Yonhap)
- North Korea is sincerely moving down the path of complete denuclearization and its acceptance and inclusion by the international community will help further accelerate the process, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Wednesday. (Yonhap)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- But a comprehensive military agreement signed the same day by Kim and South Korean President Moon Jae-in, hasn't received as much attention. If implemented, it stands to formulate how future military interactions are to take place between both Koreas. (Steve Miller, VOA)
- The two Koreas are in talks over holding a joint celebration of the 11th anniversary of the 2007 summit next week in Pyongyang, a unification ministry official said Thursday. (Yonhap)
- South and North Korea's artistic gymnastics officials plan to meet at the upcoming world championships to discuss fielding a joint team at the 2020 Summer Olympic Games, Seoul's gymnastics body said Thursday. (Yonhap)
- South and North Korean co-heads of the recently opened joint liaison office will hold their second talks this week, the unification ministry said Thursday. (Yonhap)
- North Korea on Thursday requested a delay in the joint excavation of an ancient palace site scheduled to begin later in the day, citing lack of preparations and workforce, the unification ministry said. (Yonhap)
- South and North Korea's joint excavation of Manwoldae, a 10th-century royal palace complex that stood near the border city of Kaesong during the Goryeo Dynasty (918-1392), which was

to resume Sept. 27, has been postponed, the Cultural Heritage Administration (CHA) said Thursday. (Yim Seung-hye, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

- An association of overseas Korean business people and associations said Thursday that it will push to hold a meeting of its members in North Korea next month to expedite inter-Korean economic exchanges. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea's oceans minister said Thursday the two Koreas will look into ways of creating a joint fishing zone near the western sea border and overhaul old North Korean ports as the first step in cooperation in the fisheries and maritime sector. (*Yonhap*)
- Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon and ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) leader Rep. Lee Hae-chan will head to North Korea next month with a 150-member delegation to participate in an inter-Korean event to commemorate the Oct. 4 Declaration in Pyongyang, sources said Thursday. (Park Ji-won, *Korea Times*)

International:

- China's top diplomat made it clear that his country supports the two Koreas' drive for the declaration of a formal end to the Korean War, according to his ministry Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will travel to North Korea next month to set up a second summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, the State Department said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- Donald Trump has said he is in no rush for North Korea to dismantle its nuclear arsenal, noting that missile testing had stopped while sanctions on Pyongyang had not been relaxed. (Julian Borger, *The Guardian*)
- China may again send a top official to North Korea in October to celebrate the founding anniversary of the North's ruling Workers' Party of Korea (WPK), sources here said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- This year I've concluded that, while North Korea has reaped a bumper crop of political gains since last fall, the United States has come up empty. (Katharine H.S. Moon, *Reuters*)
- American nuclear scientist Siegfried S. Hecker said "demilitarization" of North Korea might be wiser than a complete denuclearization and the process could be sped up by converting its nuclear and missiles program into joint civilian-use projects. (Bae Myung-bok, Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Visitors to North Korea usually head to the reclusive country to satisfy their curiosities about what life is like in the nation the world knows so little about. (Jin Min-ji, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- President Trump said Wednesday that he has years to reach an agreement with North Korea to rid the country of nuclear weapons, reversing the position he took a year ago that Pyongyang had to disarm rapidly. (David E. Sanger, *The New York Times*)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo says the world stands at the "dawn of a new day" in relations with North Korea. (Matthew Lee, *AP*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told the United Nations Security Council on Thursday that if North Korea strays from the path of diplomacy and denuclearization if will "inevitably lead to ever increasing isolation and pressure." (Michelle Nichols, *Reuters*)

- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will travel again to North Korea to meet with senior leaders there in preparation for a second summit between President Donald Trump and North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un. (Nicole Gaouette, Elise Labott, Jennifer Hansler, CNN)
- The mood is picking up again as a second summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un is expected soon, but despite what Trump sees as "tremendous progress," denuclearization may not be so realistic, says a prominent North Korean expert. (Jane Han, *Korea Times*)
- During a free-wheeling solo press conference that lasted more than an hour Wednesday, President Donald Trump again claimed that former President Barack Obama was close to starting a catastrophic conflict with North Korea. (Zachary Cohen, CNN)
- Trump told the Security Council that "many things are happening behind the scenes" between the United States and North Korea as they pursue denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. (Steve Herman, VOA)
- U.S. President Donald Trump said Wednesday that his predecessor Barack Obama was ready to start a war with North Korea, telling reporters that, if it weren't for him, millions of people would have been killed. (Jung Min-ho, *Korea Times*)
- Donald Trump, the US president, has described a personal letter from Kim Jong-un as a "beautiful work of art" and loosened the timeframe on Washington's demands that the North Korean leader give up his nuclear weapons. (Nicola Smith, *Telegraph*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump praised North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un on Tuesday for his courage in taking steps to disarm, but said much work still had to be done and sanctions must remain in place on North Korea until it denuclearizes. (David Brunnstrom, Jeff Mason, *Reuters*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump said Wednesday in New York that he did not have a time frame for the denuclearization of North Korea as U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo prepares for a visit to Pyongyang next month. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- President Trump said Wednesday he does not need to "rush" an agreement with North Korea to dismantle its nuclear program, and the process could take as many as three years — a longer time table than his national security adviser John Bolton has previously laid out. (John Hudson, *The Washington Post*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump said Wednesday his administration is planning a second summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and will announce details soon. (Margaret Besheer, VOA)
- U.S. President Donald Trump said on Wednesday he did not have a time frame for North Korea to denuclearize just as his secretary of state, Mike Pompeo, plans to visit Pyongyang again next month to set up a second summit for Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. (Steve Holland, David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday showed a letter from North Korean leader Kim Jong-un ahead of a second summit that he said would happen "fairly quickly." (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump suggested Wednesday at the United Nations Security Council "positive" developments on North Korea are underway, and that his administration has been holding secret meetings that will bring "good news" in the "coming months and years." (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)

- Siegfried S. Hecker, a renowned U.S. nuclear scientist, hailed North Korea's recent conditional offer to shut down its main Yongbyon nuclear complex as "remarkable," despite skepticism that the closure may do little to contribute to its eventual disarmament. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will visit Pyongyang next month to discuss North Korean denuclearization efforts ahead of a planned second summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and U.S. President Donald Trump, the U.S. Department of State said on Wednesday. (Susan Heavey, *Reuters*)
- President Donald Trump on Wednesday defended his work to settle a nuclear deal with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, saying he has given up nothing but his time during a June summit yet stands on the cusp of denuclearizing the North. (AP)

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Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726232954/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemstrump-sees-no-time-frame-for-north-korea-deal-second-summit-comingmoon-calls-for-end-to-war-in-speech-to-un

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Friday, September 28, 2018

The Xinjiang Initiative; At U.N., U.S. at odds with China, Russia over North Korea sanctions

Top News:
The Xinjiang Initiative (*The Xinjiang Initiative*, September 2018)

In North Korea:
IKEA section operating at Pyongyang's Kwangbok supermarket (*NK News*, 09/28/2018)
Moving further and further away from a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula (*Daily NK*, 09/28/2018)
N. Korea's foreign minister engages in brisk diplomacy at U.N. (*Yonhap*, 09/28/2018)
North Korea claims Japan wants to become 'military giant' and is planning 're-invasion' (*South China Morning Post*, 09/28/2018)
North Korea 'Concerned' Over Public Response to South Korean President's Speech (RFA, 09/28/2018)
North Korean snacks diversify with improved electricity supply (UPI, 09/28/2018)

In South Korea:
FM Kang requests int'l support for denuclearization of N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 09/28/2018)
Foreign Minister vows continued enforcement of NK sanctions (*Korea Times*, 09/28/2018)
Playing patsy to North Korea again? (*Korea Times*, 09/28/2018)

ROK lawmakers seek to penalize unauthorized sending of leaflets to North Korea (*NK News*, 09/28/2018)
Seoul firm to launch N. Korea tour packages for foreigners in S. Korea (*Yonhap*, 09/28/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Koreas discuss commemorative event in Pyongyang next week (*Korea Times*, 09/28/2018)
Koreas to hold joint celebration next week to mark anniversary of 2007 summit (*Yonhap*, 09/28/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea seeks to launch joint railway inspections with N. Korea next month (*Yonhap*, 09/28/2018)
Olympics: Koreas to discuss unified gymnastics team for Tokyo (*Reuters*, 09/28/2018)
Resumption of Kaesong complex can promote inter-Korean economic community: companies (*Yonhap*, 09/28/2018)
The view of North Korea from bus No. 14 (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/28/2018)
Two Koreas to embark on inter-Korean railway inspection next month (*Korea Times*, 09/28/2018)

International:
Asean consensus on South China Sea, sanctions on North Korea holding, says US Deputy Secretary of State (*The Straits Times*, 09/28/2018)
At U.N., U.S. at odds with China, Russia over North Korea sanctions (*Reuters*, 09/27/2018)
Challenges Seen for Trump's Two-Part Approach to N. Korea (VOA, 09/27/2018)
China and Russia call on UN to ease North Korea sanctions (*The Guardian*, 09/28/2018)
China's diplomat affirms strong ties with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 09/28/2018)
Declaration is 1st step: IAEA alum (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/28/2018)
Japan sees 'change in Pyongyang' in Kono-Ri talks (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 09/28/2018)
'New day' has come on North Korea: Pompeo (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 09/28/2018)
Pompeo hails 'dawn of new day' with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 09/27/2018)
Pompeo Hails Talks With North Korea but Says Sanctions Must Continue (*The New York Times*, 09/27/2018)
Pompeo's meat obsession (*Korea Times*, 09/28/2018)
Pompeo tells U.N. only path for North Korea is diplomacy, denuclearization (*Reuters*, 09/27/2018)
Russia and China's calls to lift North Korea sanctions rejected by Mike Pompeo (*Telegraph*, 09/28/2018)
Russia, China disagree with U.S. over North Korea sanctions (UPI, 09/27/2018)
Russia, China Urge Easing of North Korea Sanctions (VOA, 09/27/2018)
US runs into opposition from Russia, China on North Korea sanctions (CNN, 09/27/2018)
U.S., Russia Clash at U.N. as Lavrov Calls for Easing of North Korea Sanctions (*Wall Street Journal*, 09/27/2018)
U.S. says no exceptions can be made to U.N. sanctions on North Korea (*Reuters*, 09/27/2018)
US seeks to keep North Korea sanctions; Russia, China object (*The Washington Post*, 09/27/2018)

Top News:

- Hundreds of thousands of people of Uyghur and Kazakh descent are being held indefinitely in extra-judicial internment camps in Xinjiang today. Prisoners are detained due to their ethnicity or Muslim faith, tearing apart families, destroying lives, and threatening culture. In order to encourage greater awareness and discussion of the ongoing abuses in Xinjiang, we propose a Xinjiang Initiative open to scholars, authors, artists, and other public speakers concerned about the situation in Xinjiang today. (*The Xinjiang Initiative*)

In North Korea:

- A showroom exists in Pyongyang's Kwangbok Department Store that is dedicated to selling furniture and homeware manufactured by Swedish furniture giant IKEA, NK News understands. (Chad O'Carroll, *NK News*)
- Kim Jong Un stated that the North Korea would permanently dismantle the missile engine test site and launch platform in Tongchang-ri under the observation of experts from relevant countries in the recently announced Pyongyang Joint Declaration. (Thae Yong-ho, *Daily NK*)
- North Korea's top diplomat has actively engaged with counterparts from the four major powers surrounding the Korean Peninsula this week, illustrating the North's expanded diplomatic profile following leader Kim Jong-un's summits with the United States and South Korea. (*Yonhap*)
- Pyongyang says Tokyo's cooperation with foreign militaries will bring 'incredible disaster' to the whole world, as Japan prepares for the first drills involving British troops on its soil. (Julian Ryall, *South China Morning Post*)
- The positive response shown by North Korean citizens to a speech given this month in Pyongyang by South Korean president Moon Jae-in has alarmed security officials in the North, who now fear a loss of prestige by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, sources in the country say. (Hyemin Son, *RFA*)
- North Koreans now have wider range of snacks to choose from thanks to improved electricity supply, according to a refugee from Pyongyang, South Korean media reported. (Wooyoung Lee, *UPI*)

In South Korea:

- While attending a United Nations session, South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha appealed for the international community's support to speed up the nascent process of denuclearizing North Korea, her ministry said Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha pledged South Korea will cooperate with the international community on implementing U.N. Security Council (UNSC) sanctions on North Korea as a means to achieve denuclearization, at a UNSC ministerial meeting in New York, Thursday (local time). (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- Often, we inadvertently mix our wishful thinking with reality. If a forecast is made on that mixture, it would likely be mistaken and proven wrong. (Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)

- South Korean lawmakers from the ruling Democratic Party on Friday proposed an amendment that would prohibit sending anti-regime leaflets to the North without prior approval from the unification minister. (Dagyum Ji, NK News)
- A Seoul-based tour company is planning to sell North Korea travel packages to foreigners staying in South Korea. (Yonhap)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- South and North Korea discussed holding an event to commemorate the 11th anniversary of the Oct. 4 Declaration reached at the second inter-Korean summit in 2007. (Kim Bo-eun, Korea Times)
- South and North Korea tentatively agreed Friday to hold joint events to mark the anniversary of the 2007 leaders' summit in Pyongyang next week, the unification ministry said. (Yonhap)
- South Korea will seek to launch joint on-site inspections of cross-border railways with North Korea next month as part of efforts to reconnect the railways, as called for in last week's inter-Korean summit agreement, the presidential spokesman said Friday. (Yonhap)
- The two Koreas will pursue a plan to form a joint artistic gymnastics team for the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo, Seoul's gymnastics association has said, with discussions set to be held during the upcoming world championships. (Sudipto Ganguly, Reuters)
- South Korean companies that were forced to suspend operations in North Korea called on Friday for the resumption of the Kaesong Industrial complex, which they said can promote the creation of an inter-Korean economic community. (Yonhap)
- It was a dreamlike three days. Visiting Pyongyang as part of the special entourage for the third inter-Korean summit between South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un was an enormous honor. Members of the entourage had no special tasks. (Yoo Hong-jun, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- The two Koreas will embark on joint inspections next month to connect the two countries by rail, in a move to fulfill the Pyongyang Declaration signed by leaders from both sides, Cheong Wa Dae said Friday. (Lee Min-hyung, Korea Times)

International:

- The United States is fully committed to the US-Asean strategic partnership, US Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan said after co-chairing a US-Asean ministerial meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. (Nirmal Ghosh, The Straits Times)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo warned members of the United Nations Security Council on Thursday that they must "set the example" by enforcing sanctions on North Korea as China and Russia suggested the council consider easing the tough measures. (Lesley Wroughton, David Brunnstrom, Reuters)
- President Donald Trump's dual policy of exerting pressure while engaging in dialogues to denuclearize North Korea faces challenges, as momentum builds toward a second summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. (Christy Lee, VOA)

- China and Russia have broken with the US over the maintenance of sanctions on North Korea, arguing they should be relaxed in view of the "positive development of the past few months". (Julian Borger, *The Guardian*)
- China's top diplomat in North Korea has emphasized strong relations between the two countries at a reception to celebrate his country's 69th founding anniversary, the North's state media said Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- The first step in the denuclearization of North Korea, according to Olli Heinonen, former deputy director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), is to get a full declaration from Pyongyang of its nuclear arsenal and capabilities. (Jung Hyo-sik, Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Foreign Minister Taro Kono met with his North Korean counterpart here in an apparent attempt to push forward a summit between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. (Ryo Kiyomiya, *The Asahi Shimbun*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Thursday in New York that the world is reaching "the dawn of a new day" on North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programs, but stressed that sanctions must remain in place until the regime's denuclearization is complete and verified. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Thursday hailed the "dawn of a new day" with North Korea as the U.S. pushes diplomacy to denuclearize the regime. (*Yonhap*)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Thursday that the world is at "the dawn of a new day" in confronting the threat posed by North Korea's weapons programs but that sanctions against the country must continue for now. (Gardiner Harris, *The New York Times*)
- Is U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo a steak man or a pork man? It is unclear whether he is for either, but there is no doubt he is a "meat man." Also unclear is the effectiveness of his meaty metaphor regarding North Korea. (Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told the United Nations Security Council on Thursday that if North Korea strays from the path of diplomacy and denuclearization if will "inevitably lead to ever increasing isolation and pressure." (Michelle Nichols, *Reuters*)
- Progress in talks with North Korea means that the world stands at the "dawn of a new day", the US has said, as it demanded that sanctions be kept in place and rejected Russian and Chinese calls to show mercy on Pyongyang. (Harriet Alexander, *Telegraph*)
- Top diplomats of the United States, Russia and China clashed over sanctions against North Korea even as they agreed engagement with Pyongyang and improved U.S.-North Korea relations have been beneficial for the international community. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Russia and China called Thursday for international sanctions to be eased on North Korea as an incentive for it to denuclearize. The call is seen by the West as jeopardizing the international consensus on pressuring Pyongyang. (Margaret Besheer, VOA)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's effort to marshal unified international pressure on North Korea, already under strain, showed cracks Thursday as Russia and China registered their opposition to further punishing Pyongyang. (Nichole Gaouette, CNN)
- The Trump administration worked to move ahead on its top diplomatic priority—the denuclearization of North Korea—but ran head-on into opposition to its plans from Russia, which called for the easing of United Nations sanctions against Pyongyang. (Jessica Donati, *Wall Street Journal*)

- U.N. Security Council resolutions do not allow for any exceptions to North Korea sanctions, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan said on Thursday, after China said there are provisions for the council to modify measures if Pyongyang complies. (Lesley Wroughton, David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Thursday that the world stands at the "dawn of a new day" in relations with North Korea but that international sanctions must remain in place and vigorously enforced if diplomatic efforts to get the country to denuclearize are to succeed — a position that faced resistance from China and Russia. (Matthew Lee, AP)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726232959/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsthe-xinjiang-initiativeat-un-us-at-odds-with-china-russia-over-north-korea-sanctions

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Saturday, September 29, 2018

North Korea says continued sanctions deepen its mistrust in U.S.; Chinese FM calls on U.S. to reciprocate N.K. denuclearization steps

In North Korea:
Defectors respond to Kim Jong-un 'finger-heart' pose (*Korea Times*, 09/29/2018)
(2nd LD) N. Korea says 'no way' it will denuclearize without trust in U.S. (*Yonhap*, 09/29/2018)
N. Korea accuses Japan of trying to build up military, destroy peace (*Yonhap*, 09/29/2018)
North Korea Allows Sale of US-Made Computers in State-Run Store (RFA, 09/28/2018)
North Korea learns to embrace its inner consumer (*The Washington Post*, 09/29/2018)
North Korea says continued sanctions deepen its mistrust in U.S. (*Reuters*, 09/29/2018)
North Korea will not abandon nuclear weapons if it cannot trust US – minister (*The Guardian*, 09/29/2018)
Ri Yong Ho calls for end to mistrust, repeal of North Korea sanctions (UPI, 09/29/2018)

In South Korea:
S. Korean FM meets with Vatican, Latvian diplomats to seek support for N.K. denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 09/29/2018)
S. Korea, U.S. nuclear envoys meet 3 times in New York to discuss N.K. issues (*Yonhap*, 09/29/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
N. Korea still mum on S. Korean foreign minister's offer to meet (*Yonhap*, 09/29/2018)

International:

China says 'no cause for panic' over U.S. ties, but won't be blackmailed (*Reuters*, 09/29/2018)
Chinese FM calls on U.S. to reciprocate N.K. denuclearization steps (*Yonhap*, 09/29/2018)
Syria, North Korea to have their say at UN gathering (*The Washington Post*, 09/29/2018)

In North Korea:

- South Korea's Cheong Wa Dae, or "Blue House," released photos showing North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un making a "finger-heart" while visiting Mount Paektu with President Moon Jae-in on the third day of the Pyongyang summit. North Korean refugees responded to the photo. (Casey Lartigue Jr., *Korea Times*)
- North Korea's foreign minister said Saturday that his country won't dismantle its nuclear weapons program first without seeing corresponding measures from the United States. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea on Saturday blasted Japan for trying to create tension on the Korean Peninsula, while also accusing the country of trying to rebuild its military. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean authorities have recently allowed a state-run store in a northern province to carry U.S.-made laptop computers in a reversal of long-standing orders forbidding their sale, according to North Korean sources. (Hyemin Son, RFA)
- In an instructional television program about table tennis on the state-run sports channel, every ball, paddle and shirt bear the logo of “Naegohyang,” one of North Korea’s most recognizable brands. (Eric Talmadge, AP)
- North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong ho told the United Nations on Saturday that continued sanctions on Pyongyang were deepening its mistrust in the United States. (David Brunnstrom, Michelle Nichols, *Reuters*)
- The North Korean foreign minister, Ri Yong-ho, said on Saturday his nation would never abandon its nuclear weapons if it could not trust the US. (AP)
- The North Korean foreign minister said the Korean Peninsula will become the "cradle of peace and prosperity," but warned opponents against "pipe dreams" of the impact of sanctions. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

In South Korea:

- South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha met with the top diplomats of the Vatican and Latvia in New York to seek their support for the denuclearization of North Korea, Seoul's foreign ministry said Saturday. (*Yonhap*)
- The top nuclear envoys from South Korea and the United States have convened three meetings during the 73rd United Nations General Assembly in New York to discuss issues on North Korea, South Korean representatives to the United Nations said Friday. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- North Korea has yet to respond to South Korea's offer to hold foreign ministerial talks on the sidelines of this week's United Nations General Assembly in New York, a senior South Korean official said Friday. (Yonhap)

International:

- The Chinese government's top diplomat, Wang Yi, said on Friday there was "no cause for panic" over friction between Beijing and Washington, but warned that China would not be blackmailed or yield to pressure over trade. (David Brunnstrom, Rodrigo Campos, Reuters)
- Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi called on the United States Friday to respond to North Korea's efforts to dismantle its nuclear weapons program with "timely" and "positive" steps. (Yonhap)
- North Korea and Syria, places of international concern that spill trouble beyond national borders, are to appear before the U.N. General Assembly at a time when both countries could be on the cusp of significant developments. (Foster Klug, Maria Sanminiatelli, AP)

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Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726230154/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-north-korea-says-continued-sanctions-deepen-its-mistrust-in-uschinese-fm-calls-on-us-to-reciprocate-nk-denuclearization-steps

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Sunday, September 30, 2018

South Korea wants to brainwash students to whitewash North Korea's bloody history; North Korea refuses to denuclearize

Top News:
South Korea wants to brainwash students to whitewash North Korea's bloody history (*Washington Examiner*, 9/28/2018)
DPRK Foreign Minister Ri Young Ho speech at UNGA73 (*UN General Assembly*, 9/29/2018)
Readout of the Secretary-General's meeting with H.E. Mr. Ri Yong Ho, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (*UN Secretary General*, 9/29/2018)

In North Korea:
Easygoing minders now tell it like it is in North Korea – and that's a first (*The Times*, 9/29/2018)
North Korea refuses to denuclearize (*The Telegraph*, 9/29/2018)
North Korea 'won't disarm if sanctions continue', minister says (BBC, 9/30/2018)

In South Korea:
Number of N. Korean defectors to S. Korea falls under Kim Jong-un: data (*Yonhap*, 9/30/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
S. Korean FM leaves U.N. meeting without talks with N. Korean counterpart (*Yonhap*, 9/30/2018)

International:
(3rd LD) N. Korea says 'no way' it will denuclearize without trust in U.S. (*Yonhap*, 9/30/2018)
Donald Trump's relationship with Kim Jong-un: 'We fell in love' after 'beautiful letters' (*The Telegraph*, 9/30/2018)
DPRK Says Will Not Denuclearize Before More Trust in US (VOA, 9/29/2018)
End-of-war declaration, peace treaty must precede denuclearization: NK scholar (*Yonhap*, 9/30/2018)
N. Korea FM: Peace possible, but only if US ends hostility (*Associated Press*, 9/29/2018)
'No Way' North Korea Will Denuclearize Without U.S. Concessions (*New York Times*, 9/29/2018)
North Korea says 'no way' will disarm unilaterally without trust (*Reuters*, 9/29/2018)
Trump says he 'fell in love' with Kim Jong-un (*Korea Times*, 9/30/2018)
'We fell in love:' Trump swoons over letters from North Korea's Kim (*Reuters*, 9/30/2018)

Top News:

- For those whose world is based in moral equivalence, there is no difference between liberal democracy and totalitarian dictatorship. Supposed micro-aggressions or past human rights sins are disqualifying factors to condemn an enemy's contemporary embrace of slave labor and concentration camps. (Michael Rubin, *Washington Examiner*)
- Full transcript of DPRK Foreign Minister Ri Young Ho's speech at the UN General Assembly Debate. (Ri Young Ho, *UN General Assembly*)
- The Secretary-General welcomed the efforts towards building trust and reducing military tensions on the Korean Peninsula. He expressed hope that the recent positive developments, in particular the important summits between the leaders of the DPRK and the Republic of Korea and between the DPRK and the United States, will contribute to an atmosphere conducive to advancing sustainable peace and complete and verifiable denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula in accordance with relevant Security Council resolutions. (*UN Secretary General*)

In North Korea:

- They can be friends or foes, angels or devils. They can open up a window on one of the most obscure countries on earth or obstruct the most modest attempts to understand it. They work in teams, and one of them is usually called Mr Kim and the other Mr Ri. They are North Korean government guides, known as "minders", an unavoidable part of any trip to the People's Republic. (Richard Lloyd Parry, *The Times*)

- North Korea's foreign minister has warned of increasing "mistrust" between Pyongyang and Washington DC, announcing that his country would not take the first steps towards denuclearization without further guarantees from the Trump administration.(Harriet Alexander, *The Telegraph*)
- North Korea's foreign minister has warned that there is "no way" his country will disarm while the US continues to enforce sanctions. Ri Yong-ho told the UN General Assembly the sanctions were deepening North Korean mistrust of the US. (BBC)

In South Korea:

- Rep. Park Byeong-seug of the ruling Democratic Party, citing figures he received from the unification ministry, said the figure has been on a steady decline since 2012. Kim took power in late 2011 following the death of his father, Kim Jong-il. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha left New York on Saturday following the 73rd United Nations General Assembly without crossing paths with her North Korean counterpart. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- North Korea's foreign minister said Saturday that his country won't dismantle its nuclear weapons program first without seeing corresponding measures from the United States. (*Yonhap*)
- US President Donald Trump took his enthusiasm for his detente with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un to new heights on Saturday, declaring at a rally with supporters that "we fell in love" after exchanging letters. (*The Telegraph*)
- North Korea's foreign minister said Saturday that his government would not denuclearize before it has sufficient trust in the United States. (Margaret Besheer, VOA)
- The formal declaration of an end to the Korean War and a peace treaty will be the prerequisites for concrete progress on denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula, a senior North Korean scholar argued on Saturday. (*Yonhap*)
- Calling for more trust, North Korea's foreign minister urged the United States on Saturday to keep moving past what he called seven decades of entrenched hostility if Washington wants to restart stalled negotiations meant to rid Pyongyang of its nuclear bombs. (Foster Klug, *Associated Press*)
- North Korea's foreign minister said on Saturday that there was "no way we will denuclearize" without getting so-called trust-building concessions from the United States, an assertion that reflected a continuing divide over efforts to ease nuclear tensions on the Korean Peninsula. (Megan Specia, *New York Times*)
- North Korea's foreign minister told the United Nations on Saturday continued sanctions were deepening its mistrust in the United States and there was no way the country would give up its nuclear weapons unilaterally under such circumstances. (David Brunnstrom, Michelle Nichols, *Reuters*)

- U.S. President Donald Trump says he "fell in love" with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, yet another positive signal to revive the stalled denuclearization talks between the two nations. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump took his enthusiasm for his detente with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to new heights on Saturday, declaring at a rally with supporters that “we fell in love” after exchanging letters. (Roberta Rampton, *Reuters*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250726230139/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-south-korea-wants-to-brainwash-students-to-whitewash-north-koreas-bloody-history-north-korea-refuses-to-denuclearize

10. OCTOBER

Monday, October 1, 2018

Korea Begin Removing Landmines Along Their Border; They were promised a 'paradise' in North Korea. They are now suing over the lies

In North Korea:
A changing North Korea: Through foreign eyes (*Straits Times*, 10/1/2018)
Chuseok marked by remittances over personal visits among ordinary North Koreans (*DailyNK*, 10/1/2018)
Lights shining on portrait of North Korea's leaders turn off, causing major disturbance (*DailyNK*, 10/1/2018)
N.K. paper draws attention for extensive coverage of China's development initiative (*Yonhap*, 10/1/2018)
North Korea committed to luring foreign capital (*Korea Times*, 10/1/2018)
North Korea defector numbers 'drop' under Kim (BBC, 9/30/2018)
North Korea pushes forest restoration (*Korea Times*, 10/1/2018)
PHOTOS: Inside A North Korea That Is Changing — But At Its Own Pace (NPR, 10/1/2018)
Report: North Korea collecting 'dog fur' from citizens (UPI, 10/1/2018)
Why North Koreans are now more willing to stay than defect to the South (*The Telegraph*, 10/1/2018)

In South Korea:
69% approve of Pyongyang summit accord (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/1/2018)
A spiritless Armed Forces Day (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/1/2018)
Gov't shrugs off report on immense costs for building inter-Korean transport links (*Yonhap*, 10/1/2018)
Moon receives remains of Korean War soldiers (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/1/2018)
Minor party chief proposes N.K. leader's parliamentary speech during Seoul visit (*Yonhap*, 10/1/2018)
Think tank proposes removal of military threats against N. Korea for denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 10/1/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
A gift from Kim Jong-un: Pungsan dogs (*Korea Times*, 10/1/2018)
Flurry of inter-Korean exchanges to take place this month (*Korea Times*, 10/1/2018)
Inter-Korean agreements would be nullified in case of N.K. provocations: PM (*Yonhap*, 10/1/2018)
Inter-Korean cooperation budgets grow (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/1/2018)
Kim is playing Trump -- and it could come at great cost (CNN, 9/30/2018)
Kim Jong Un gifts North Korean native dogs to South (UPI, 10/1/2018)
Koreas begin clearing landmines from heavily fortified border (BBC, 10/1/2018)
Koreas Begin Removing Landmines Along Their Border (VOA, 10/1/2018)

Koreas Start Clearing Land Mines at DMZ in Effort to Ease Tensions (*New York Times*, 10/1/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korean FM leaves U.N. meeting without talks with N. Korean counterpart (*Yonhap*, 9/30/2018)
Moon talks up peace on Armed Forces Day (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/1/2018)
N. Korea gifts pair of Pungsan dogs to mark inter-Korean summit in Pyongyang (*Yonhap*, 9/30/2018)
North, South begin clearing away landmines along Korean border (UPI, 9/30/2018)
North, South Korea begin removing landmines along fortified border (*Reuters*, 9/30/2018)
North Korea provocations would cancel agreements, Seoul says (UPI, 10/1/2018)
Paws for peace: North Korea's Kim sends two dogs across DMZ (*Reuters*, 9/30/2018)
Peace pups: North Korea gives two dogs to South Korea (CNN, 10/1/2018)
Removal of land mines in the DMZ to begin today (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/30/2018)
Speaker mulling holding inter-Korean parliamentary meeting in Nov. (*Yonhap*, 10/1/2018)
Two Koreas begin clearing mines along DMZ (*Korea Times*, 10/1/2018)
Two Koreas begin DMZ landmine removal work (*Yonhap*, 10/1/2018)

International:
Five hard decisions (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 9/30/2018)
Kim Jong-un is cozying up to China's Xi Jinping (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/1/2018)
Moon backs presence of US troops (*Korea Times*, 10/1/2018)
N.K. leader reaffirms commitment to deepen relations with China (*Yonhap*, 10/1/2018)
Peace, not a peace prize (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/1/2018)
Pyongyang pushes back at U.S. at UN (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/1/2018)
Russia calls on South Korea to release vessel held at Busan port (*Reuters*, 10/1/2018)
S. Korea seizes Russian ship suspected of violating US sanctions on NK (*Korea Times*, 9/30/2018)
Tag team (*Korea Times*, 10/1/2018)
They were promised a 'paradise' in North Korea. They are now suing over the lies. (*Washington Post*, 9/30/2018)

In North Korea:

- How has North Korea changed after it started to open up following its pledge to denuclearise? In the second of a three-part special report, a year after a team from The Straits Times reported on life in North Korea during the height of tensions, correspondents Lim Yan Liang and Walter Sim find out more about the country's transformation, as seen through the eyes of foreigners. (Lim Yan Liang, *Straits Times*)
- The third inter-Korean summit was held immediately before this year's Korean harvest festival, known as Chuseok. The timing made it difficult for North Koreans in the country to receive travel permits for the holiday, causing a fall in the number of family visits made by those from other regions, and driving up the number of monetary gifts sent instead. (Kim Yoo Jin, *DailyNK*)
- In early September, a major incident occurred in Kimhyongjik County, Ryanggang Province, when lights shining on portraits of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il suddenly switched off. The local Party apparatus immediately held an emergency meeting and handed down an order to strengthen security in the area. (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)

- North Korea's official newspaper on Monday carried an unusual field report on scenes from China's Belt and Road Initiative, launched by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2014 to build a network of railroads and shipping lanes across more than 70 countries across Asia, Africa and Europe. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea is committed to inviting foreign capital to sustain the country as its leader Kim Jong-un is apparently departing from its decades-long "military first" approach and instead engineering a highly articulated policy to advance the economy. (Kim Yoo-chul, *Korea Times*)
- The number of North Korean defectors to South Korea has fallen since Kim Jong-un came to power seven years ago, a South Korean lawmaker has said. (BBC)
- North Korea is going all out to restore its forests. The Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) publication Rodong Sinmun Sunday pointed out some "under-performing" areas, calling for officials to achieve substantial results. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)
- After just seven years under the rule of Kim Jong Un, North Korea is in a moment of change. Most visibly to the outside world, Kim — the third generation of North Korea's founding family to lead the nation — has made 2018 a year of unprecedented diplomatic engagement, with South Korea and the U.S. (Becky Sullivan, David Guttenfelder, NPR)
- North Korea is requiring citizens to collect "dog skin" or dog fur as part of donations to the regime, according to a South Korean press report. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- The number of North Koreans fleeing to South Korea has declined significantly since Kim Jong-un came to power in Pyongyang, with human rights groups saying security crackdowns on the border with China and the rising prices being demanded by brokers for safe passage are putting many would-be defectors off. (Julian Ryall, *The Telegraph*)

In South Korea:

- Nearly seven out of 10 South Koreans are happy with an agreement reached between South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un during their third summit in Pyongyang two weeks ago, according to a poll conducted by the JoongAng Ilbo last week. (Kang Jin-kyu, Kwon Ho, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The South Korean soldiers who risked their lives to defend the country from North Korea's aggression on June 25, 1950, made today's Republic of Korea possible. Oct. 1 is Armed Forces Day, marking the completion of Korea's Army, Navy and Air Force in 1949 — and the day that South Korean forces broke through the 38th parallel and struck back in 1950. (Kim Su-jeong, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korea brushed off a news report Monday that reconnecting inter-Korean roads and railways would cost at least 43 trillion won (US$38.7 billion), amid a growing dispute over Seoul's economic burden stemming from its future cooperation with North Korea. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon Jae-in on Monday presided over a solemn ceremony to receive the remains of 64 South Korean soldiers killed in the 1950-53 Korean War. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The chief of the minor opposition Justice Party proposed Monday that the National Assembly push for a parliamentary address by North Korean leader Kim Jong-un if he travels to Seoul later this year. (*Yonhap*)

- A South Korean state-run think tank on Monday called for removing military threats against North Korea, as well as guaranteeing its regime security, in order to bring about the North's denuclearization. (Yonhap)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un presented South Korean President Moon Jae-in with two well-bred Pungsan dogs to mark the leaders' latest meeting in Pyongyang last month, the presidential office said Sunday. (Park Si-soo, Korea Times)
- A host of inter-Korean events and meetings will be held this month, following the third summit between President Moon Jae-in and North Korea leader Kim Jong-un in September. (Kim Bo-eun, Korea Times)
- Inter-Korean agreements would automatically be nullified if North Korea undertakes provocations in violation of such agreements, Prime Minister Lee Nak-yon said Monday. (Yonhap)
- Local government offices are increasing their budgets for inter-Korean projects after South Korean President Moon Jae-in announced plans to boost regional cooperation following his third summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. (Kim Yoon-ho, Lim Myoung-soo, Choi Eun-kyung, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- Kim probably thinks Trump is less likely to take a hard line against his failure to take any actual steps toward denuclearization because he doesn't want to admit that his love affair is rife with problems. (Samantha Vinograd, CNN)
- "The Pungsan dogs are a gift from Chairman Kim Jong Un and the first lady to South Korean President Moon Jae-in and the first lady," said the presidential office. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- Troops from North and South Korea have started removing some of the more than 800,000 landmines buried along their border, officials say. In the South, clearing has started at the heavily fortified Joint Security Area (JSA) in the village of Panmunjom. (BBC)
- Troops and teams of experts from North and South Korea began to remove mines along their heavily fortified border Monday under tension-reducing agreements the two countries reached last month, the South defense ministry said in a statement. (VOA)
- Army engineers from North and South Korea began clearing land mines on Monday in the Demilitarized Zone between their nations as they prepared to search there for the remains of soldiers killed during the Korean War. (Choe Sang-hun, New York Times)
- South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha left New York on Saturday following the 73rd United Nations General Assembly without crossing paths with her North Korean counterpart. (Yonhap)
- President Moon Jae-in said Monday he and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un vowed to work for peace in their latest summit and to wipe nuclear weapons off of the peninsula during a speech celebrating Armed Forces Day in central Seoul. (Lee Sung-eun, Lee Chul-jae, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un offered the male and female dogs to President Moon Jae-in during the historic meeting that took place on Sept. 18-20, Cheong Wa Dae said in a press release, adding that both animals have undergone animal quarantine inspections and were picked up at the truce village of Panmunjom on Thursday. (Yonhap)

- North and South Korean authorities began removing landmines along the border on Monday as part of the process to ease military tensions, agreed in the third inter-Korean summit. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- Troops from North and South Korea began removing some landmines along their heavily fortified border on Monday, the South's defense ministry said, in a pact to reduce tension and build trust on the divided peninsula. (Joori Roh, Josh Smith, Reuters)
- South Korean Prime Minister Lee Nak-yeon said Monday any North Korea provocation would lead to the nullification of previous inter-Korea agreements. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has sent South Korean President Moon Jae-in a pair of white North Korean Pungsan dogs as a gift, the latest sign of a dramatic thaw in relations between the Korean rivals. (Jane Chung, Reuters)
- Last week Pyongyang sent two rare Pungsans, Korean hunting dogs, to South Korean President Moon Jae-in, as a token of the growing friendship between the two countries. (James Griffiths, CNN)
- The two Koreas will begin removing landmines and explosives from both the Joint Security Area (JSA) north of Seoul and a part of the demilitarized zone (DMZ) in Cheorwon County, Gangwon, starting today, in keeping with a military pact signed during the inter-Korean summit earlier this month. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korea's parliamentary chief said Monday he is considering holding an inter-Korean parliamentary meeting in November with the participation of 30 delegates from each side. (*Yonhap*)
- The two Koreas began removing landmines buried along the Military Demarcation Line (MDL) in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), Monday, to fulfill a joint military agreement signed during the latest inter-Korean summit last month, the Ministry of National Defense said Monday. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- The two Koreas on Monday began their work to remove landmines in parts of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) separating them, in line with a recent agreement to reduce tensions and prevent accidental clashes, Seoul's defense ministry said. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- Moon has pushed forward so ambitiously and Trump has been so excited by the pageantry and symbolism of the Moon-Kim summit, that the U.S. administration is now confronted with five hard decisions if it is going to keep the diplomatic momentum alive. (Michael Green, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- As North Korean leader Kim Jong-un courts U.S. President Donald Trump through flowery letters, he is also reaching out to Chinese President Xi Jinping in an attempt to open a "new era" of Pyongyang-Beijing relations. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- President Moon Jae-in said Monday the U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) will continue doing their job as a "peacekeeper" on the Korean Peninsula and perform as a balancer to maintain stability in the Northeast Asian region. (Kim Yoo-chul, *Korea Times*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un reaffirmed his "steadfast stand" Monday to deepen relations with China in his message to Chinese leader Xi Jinping on the occasion of China's 69th founding anniversary, the North's state media said. (*Yonhap*)

- Following news reports that the Norwegian Nobel Committee will announce this year's Nobel Peace Prize laureate on Oct. 5, various debates are taking place in Korean society. (Chang Se-jeong, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Pyongyang will not unilaterally denuclearize without corresponding trust-building measures from Washington, North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho told the United Nations in New York on Saturday. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs summoned South Korea's ambassador in Moscow on Monday and demanded that Seoul allow a Russian vessel to leave South Korea's port of Busan, the ministry said. (Maria Tsvetkova, Tom Balmforth, *Reuters*)
- South Korean authorities have seized a Russian-flagged ship and its crew in Busan on suspicion they are violating U.S. sanctions on North Korea, according to Russia's TASS news agency. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- But like many predictions made by Korea experts in the U.S. over the past 18 months, this has turned out to be wrong. The two leaders have become a tag team in trying to coax North Korea's Kim Jong-un to end his nuclear and missile programs. (John Burton, *Korea Times*)
- Now, four women and one man who spent decades in North Korea before finally escaping to Japan are pursuing legal action against the North Korea government in a Japanese court, seeking damages for the lies they were told and mistreatment they suffered. (Simon Denyer, *Washington Post*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250730184455/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-korea-begin-removing-landmines-along-their-border-they-were-promised-a-paradise-in-north-korea-they-are-now-suing-over-the-lies

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Tuesday, October 2, 2018

How Seoul Tacitly Endorses Pyongyang's Brutality; Trump on Kim Jong Un: We fell in love

Top News
How Seoul Tacitly Endorses Pyongyang's Brutality (*Wall Street Journal*, 10/01/2018)
Trump on Kim Jong Un: We fell in love (CNN, 10/01/2018)
Translations of President Moon Jae-in's Speeches in Pyongyang: Mokrangwan Address in Reply, May Day Stadium Speech, and Mt. Baekdu (*HRNK Insider*, 10/02/2018)

In North Korea

(LEAD) N. Korea will not hope for an end-of-war declaration if U.S. does not want it: KCNA (*Yonhap*, 10/02/2018)
Angry residents deliver fatal beating after attempted theft (*DailyNK*, 10/02/2018)
As private education industry expands, interest grows across demographics (*DailyNK*, 10/02/2018)
End-of-war declaration can't be bargaining chip for denuclearization: KCNA (*The Korea Herald*, 10/02/2018)
Investors in North Korea carry cash in suitcases to buy firms (*The Times*, 10/01/2018)
KCNA: End of Korean War 'not a bargaining chip' for denuclearization (UPI, 10/02/2018)
Kim Il Sung Univ. to establish exchange with Berlin Free Univ. (*The Korea Times*, 10/02/2018)
Kim Jong-un Congratulates Xi on China's National Day (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/02/2018)
Kim Jong-un Sends Moon a Pair of Dogs (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/02/2018)
Mt. Paektu handgun gifted by former Supreme Leader vanishes (*DailyNK*, 10/02/2018)
N.K. foreign minister leaves New York after U.N. meeting (*Yonhap*, 10/02/2018)
N.K. media don't mention foreign minister's contacts with U.S., Japan in New York (*Yonhap*, 10/02/2018)
N.Korean FM Attends Pro-Pyongyang Party in U.S. (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/02/2018)
N. Korea Rejects Idea of Peace Treaty in Exchange for Denuclearization (VOA *News*, 10/02/2018)
N. Korean, German universities sign exchange agreement (*Yonhap*, 10/02/2018)
North accuses U.S. of using declaration for leverage (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/02/2018)
North Korea Escalates Pressure on U.S. Ahead of Pompeo Visit (*The New York Times*, 10/02/2018)
North Korea has 20-60 nuclear weapons: minister (*The Korea Times*, 10/02/2018)
North Korea says 'self-reliant' iron facility will begin production (UPI, 10/01/2018)
North Korea tells US it will not denuclearise in return for peace treaty (*The Daily Telegraph*, 10/02/2018)
North Korea, US to hold 'big deal' talks in Vienna (*The Korea Times*, 10/02/2018)
Pyongyang's real threat (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/02/2018)
Reduced grain production estimates spark government countermeasures (*DailyNK*, 10/02/2018)
Three North Korea aircraft to fly to Vladivostok (UPI, 10/02/2018)

In South Korea
Farewell wishful thinking (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/02/2018)
Gov't, ruling party to meet next week on inter-Korean summit, economy (*Yonhap*, 10/02/2018)
Low-key anniversary (*The Korea Times*, 10/02/2018)
Moon 'tames' chaebol for inter-Korean projects (*The Korea Times*, 10/02/2018)
S.Korean FM Urges Supports N.Korea's Call for Trust (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/02/2018)
S. Korea lifts ban on Russian ship's departure after probe (*The Korea Herald*, 10/02/2018)
Seoul's former foreign minister urges U.S. to invite N.K. economic mission (*Yonhap*, 10/02/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship
Behind the scenes at 3rd Moon-Kim summit [PHOTOS] (*The Korea Times*, 10/02/2018)
Delegation to head North later this week (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/02/2018)
Koreas to jointly mark 2007 summit anniversary for first time (*Yonhap*, 10/02/2018)
Lawmakers Suggest Letting Kim Jong-un Speak in Nat'l Assembly (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/02/2018)
Seoul Mayor Gives Glowing Report of Pyongyang Trip (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/02/2018)

Two Koreas launch demining operations in DMZ (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 10/02/2018)

International

77% of US citizens support diplomatic ties with North Korea after denuclearization: poll (*The Korea Times*, 10/02/2018)
Most Americans Back U.S. Troop Presence in Korea (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/02/2018)
Pyongyang or Singapore? ST correspondents struck by how North Korean capital reminds them of home (*The Straits Times*, 10/02/2018)
Trump: Kim Jong Un and I fell in love (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 10/01/2018)
War with North Korea Would Attack American Workers (*38 North*, 10/02/2018)
Why China needs to make concessions for end-of-war declaration? (*The Korea Times*, 10/02/2018)

Top News

- HRNK's Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu published an op-ed in Wall Street Journal regarding the recent Moon-Kim summit in Pyongyang. Scarlatoiu believes that while Moon Jae-in's English statements sound nice, his Korean speeches are akin to surrender. Mr. Moon's speeches may read like peace-building. But to those familiar with North Korean ideology, a speech tacitly endorsing juche only validates Mr. Kim's brand of totalitarianism. (Greg Scarlatoiu, *Wall Street Journal*)
- HRNK's Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu was interviewed by CNN regarding North Korean regime's continued oppressing of people. Scarlatoiu highlighted that 30 percent of North Korea's children remain malnourished, 120,000 men, women and children are held as political prisoners in prison camps and many others are held in other detention facilities. (Brain Todd, CNN)
- HRNK Insider features full-text English translations of President Moon Jae-in's speeches and words in Pyongyang, including Mokrangwan Address in Reply, May Day Stadium Speech, and Mt. Baekdu. (Hangyun Kim and Raymond Ha, *HRNK Insider*)

In North Korea

- North Korea will not hope for an end-of-war declaration if the United States does not want it, adding that the issue should not be used as a "bargaining chip" in denuclearization talks, the country's state media said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- A desperately poor father and his son were attacked by a group of local residents after trying to steal an electricity converter, with the son ultimately dying from his wounds, report sources in North Korea. (Kim Yoo Jin, *DailyNK*)
- Private education is becoming increasingly popular in North Korea, with home tutoring services and cram schools spreading across the country, report local sources. (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)
- For North Korea an end-of-war declaration "can never be a bargaining chip" to get the country to denuclearize, and it will not hope for such a declaration if the US does not want it, according to the country's state media on Tuesday. (Jung Min-kyung, *The Korea Herald*)

- Tax discounts and other business incentives are generous and there are no other competing hotels of international standard. There is one catch — this is North Korea, the most business-unfriendly nation on earth. (Richard Lloyd Parry, *The Times*)
- North Korea said it won't declare an official end of the Korean War if the United States is not willing to do the same for the conflict that ended in a truce -- but not a resolution -- in 1953. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- North Korea's Kim Il Sung University has signed an agreement with the Free University of Berlin on cooperation and education exchange programs in the humanities and sociology, the German school announced, Monday. (Kim Jae-heun, *The Korea Times*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un sent a congratulatory message to Chinese President Xi Jinping for China's 69th National Day on Oct. 1, the official [North] Korean Central News Agency said Monday. (Kim Myong-song, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un gave President Moon Jae-in a pair of Pungsan breed dogs as a gift, according to Cheong Wa Dae on Sunday. (Lee Min-seok, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- A special handgun was reportedly stolen last month from an office at a shooting range under the command of the 597th United Corps, which is part of the East Coast Fleet Command based in Nakwon County, South Hamgyong Province. (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)
- North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho left New York on Monday after attending the United Nations General Assembly and meeting with his U.S. counterpart to plan a second summit between their leaders. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's official newspaper on Tuesday carried a report on its foreign minister's activities on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York last week but didn't mention his meetings with his American and Japanese counterparts. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho showed up at a meeting of pro-Pyongyang Korean Americans in New York on Sunday. Ri, who was in New York for the UN General Assembly, took time out to attend a meeting of the Korean American National Coordination Council in a high-end Chinese restaurant, according to Japan's TBS News on Monday. (Kim Jin-myung, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- North Korea says it will not abandon its nuclear weapons program in exchange for an official declaration of the end of the Korean War. (*VOA News*)
- Kim Il Sung University, North Korea's most prestigious institution of higher learning, has established an exchange and cooperation relationship with Germany's Berlin Free University in the field of humanities and sociology. (*Yonhap*)
- Pyongyang accused Washington Tuesday of using a declaration to end the 1950-53 Korean War as a "bargaining chip" for denuclearization, saying the regime won't "particularly hope for it" if the United States doesn't want it, either. (Lee Sung-eun and Yoo Jee-hye, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Ramping up pressure on the United States, North Korea on Tuesday accused the Trump administration of demanding too much but offering too few concessions in its negotiations over the terms of denuclearizing the North. (Choe Sang-Hun, *The New York Times*)
- A top South Korean official told lawmakers that North Korea is estimated to have up to 60 nuclear weapons, in Seoul's first public comment about the size of the North's secrecy-clouded weapons arsenal. (AP)

- North Korea is stressing economic self-reliance in a new report about the completion of a "Juche Iron" facility in Songrim, North Hwanghae Province. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- North Korea has ruled out dismantling its nuclear arsenal in exchange for the US declaring an end to the Korean War, saying on Tuesday that a peace treaty should "never be a bargaining chip." (*The Daily Telegraph*)
- Washington and Pyongyang will soon begin working-level talks in Vienna to possibly seek a "big deal" on denuclearization. Steve Biegun, the U.S. special representative for North Korea, is expected to lead the delegation from Washington for talks with a North Korean delegation possibly headed by Vice Foreign Minister Choi Sun-hee. (Lee Min-hyung, *The Korea Times*)
- Wasn't the purpose of this month's North-South summit in Pyongyang to make the peninsula safer? One may argue that beyond the vague agreements, the actual risks have not been reduced and possibly even increased, while the actual weapons of mass destruction are being overlooked. (Tom Coyner, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- With the fall harvest period fast approaching, sources in North Korea have reported that the North Korean government is taking countermeasures to prevent the loss of grain this season. (Kim Yoo Jin, *DailyNK*)
- Duowei News reported Tuesday three Ilyushin Il-76 freighters are headed for the port city in the Russian Far East. The strategic airlifters were previously used during Kim Jong Un's visits to Beijing and Singapore, and they are en route to Russia to prepare for a summit between Kim and Russian President Vladimir Putin, according to South Korean newspaper Kukmin Ilbo. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

In South Korea

- Now that such a "meaningful" declaration has unexpectedly been dismissed by North Korea, the Moon administration may be embarrassed. But North Korea has never expressed a willingness to denuclearize in return for a declaration ending the war. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Officials from the presidential office, ministries and the ruling Democratic Party (DP) will meet next week to discuss follow-up measures regarding the latest inter-Korean summit in Pyongyang, party officials said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- The absence of a military parade triggered criticism from the main opposition Liberty Korea Party, which saw it as a sign the Moon Jae-in administration was being too careful not to agitate North Korea, and claimed that holding a low-key celebration was bad for the military's morale. (*The Korea Times*)
- "Moon wants to improve communications with big businesses in a way to jointly develop inter-Korean business projects after the easing of economic sanctions on the North," another industry source said. (Kim Yoo-chul, *The Korea Times*)
- Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha on Monday urged the U.S. to "take corresponding measures" before North Korea hands over its nuclear stockpile so that Pyongyang can take denuclearization steps without anxiety. (Park Sang-ki, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- South Korea on Tuesday lifted a ban on the departure of a blacklisted Russian ship that it seized last week in the southern port city of Busan, following an investigation, Seoul's foreign ministry said. (*Yonhap*)

- The United States needs to take measures to build political trust with North Korea in return for the North's actions related to its denuclearization bid, a former South Korean foreign minister has said. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- Cheong Wa Dae on Tuesday released behind-the-scenes photos taken during the third summit between South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in the North capital of Pyongyang on Sept. 18-20. (Park Si-soo, *The Korea Times*)
- A South Korean delegation of 150 government officials, politicians, civic workers and others from the private sector will visit North Korea from Thursday through Saturday to celebrate the 11th anniversary of a peace declaration signed during a summit between the leaders of both Koreas in 2007. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- A group of South Korean government officials, politicians, civic and religious leaders will visit Pyongyang this week to jointly mark the 11th anniversary of the 2007 inter-Korean summit for the first time, the unification ministry said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- The leader of the minor opposition Justice Party on Monday called for North Korean leader Kim Jong-un to deliver a speech at the National Assembly if he visits Seoul. (Hwang Dae-jin, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- Seoul Mayor Park Won-soon on Monday shared some notes with the press that he took during his visit to North Korea last month as part of President Moon Jae-in's entourage. (Kim Sun-yup, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- The two Koreas began operations to remove landmines in the Joint Security Area (JSA) in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and part of Cheorwon, Gangwon Province on Monday. Seoul's defense ministry said that the demining operation is the first measure implemented among a series of military agreements made in the Panmunjom Declaration. (Sang-Ho Yun, *The Dong-A Ilbo*)

International

- According to the poll commissioned by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, 77 percent of Americans are in favor of such a concession, along with providing economic and humanitarian aid to the North at 54 percent. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. citizens' support for the American troop presence in South Korea has risen to a record 74 percent, a survey by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs released Monday suggests. The figure rose from 60 percent in 2012 and 70 percent in 2016. (Cho Yi-jun and Lee Min-seok, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- An increasing number of Singaporeans have been visiting North Korea since it started to open up this year. In the final segment of a three-part special report, correspondents Walter Sim and Lim Yan Liang are struck by how its capital reminds them of home. (Walter Sim, *The Straits Times*)

- The U.S. press reported Saturday that President Donald Trump said he fell in love with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Trump has been complimenting Kim a lot recently, and even compared him and Kim as lovers at an election rally in Wheeling, West Virginia on the day. (Mi-Kyung Jung, *The Dong-A Ilbo*)
- Last fall, when war with North Korea seemed imminent, Senator Lindsey Graham said that, "if there's going to be a war to stop [Kim Jong Un], it will be over there." But for more than 406,000 Americans whose jobs depend on trade with South Korea, that's not true. (Jacob Marx, *38 North*)
- China is fully aware the U.S. is reluctant to announce an end-of-war declaration with North Korea because of China itself. Both the U.S. and China view such a declaration in terms of their geopolitical competition, which boils down to the question of the U.S. Forces Korea (USFK). (Lee Seong-hyon, *The Korea Times*)

Prepared by Hangyun Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250730184808/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-how-seoul-tacitly-endorses-pyongyangs-brutality-trump-on-kim-jong-un-we-fell-in-love

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Wednesday, October 3, 2018

South Korea Declares War on 'Fake News,' Worrying Government Critics; Pompeo to fly into Pyongyang Sunday

Top News
South Korea Declares War on 'Fake News,' Worrying Government Critics (*The New York Times*, 10/02/2018)

In North Korea
Man arrested after speaking to family in South Korea dies in custody (*DailyNK*, 10/03/2018)
NKorea Said to Have Stolen a Fortune in Online Bank Heists (*The New York Times*, 10/02/2018)
N. Korea wants more than denuclearization (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 10/03/2018)
N. Korea: War-ending declaration is the non-negotiable bargain (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 10/03/2018)
South Korean-born North Korean film director Park Jung-joo dies (*The Korea Times*, 10/03/2018)

In South Korea
[From the scene] S. Korea's 'Hurt Locker' mission: Removing landmines in DMZ (*The Korea Herald*, 10/03/2018)
Foundation Day elicits varied hopes by parties (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/03/2018)
Korea allows Russian ship to leave (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/03/2018)

Photo exhibition to showcase Pyongyang architecture (*The Korea Herald*, 10/03/2018)
Prime minister underlines peace vision on National Foundation Day (*Yonhap*, 10/03/2018)
S. Korea frees Russian ship tied to N. Korea (*The Korea Times*, 10/03/2018)
S. Korea's ministry on N. Korea under more cyber threats (*Yonhap*, 10/03/2018)
Seoul: Possibilities grow for second U.S.-North Korea summit (UPI, 10/03/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship

More S. Korean delegates to visit Pyongyang for summit anniversary event (*Yonhap*, 10/03/2018)
Koreas begin demining DMZ to build trust (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/03/2018)
Koreas to discuss implementation of summit agreement: minister (*Yonhap*, 10/03/2018)
U.N. Command approves mine removal on North-South Korea border (UPI, 10/03/2018)

International

(3rd LD) Pompeo to travel to N. Korea Oct. 7, meet Kim (*Yonhap*, 10/03/2018)
As Pompeo heads for Pyongyang, North Korea appears to raise its demands (*The Washington Post*, 10/03/2018)
China's refined oil exports to NK surpassed 2,000 tons in August: VOA (*The Korea Herald*, 10/03/2018)
Hopes for Pompeo's trip (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/03/2018)
Mike Pompeo to visit North Korea for further talks with Kim Jong-un (*The Guardian*, 10/03/2018)
Pompeo to fly into Pyongyang Sunday (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/03/2018)
Pompeo to travel to North Korea (*The Korea Herald*, 10/03/2018)
Pompeo to visit N. Korea again on Oct. 7 despite negative signals (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 10/03/2018)
Pompeo to Visit Pyongyang for Weekend Talks with N.Korean Leader (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/03/2018)
Pompeo's 4th North Korean visit fuels optimism for denuclearization (*The Korea Times*, 10/03/2018)
Report: ASEAN nations seek return of Korean War remains (UPI, 10/03/2018)
The Challenging Road Ahead to a Second Trump-Kim Summit (VOA *News*, 10/03/2018)
U.S. envoy on N. Korea to accompany Pompeo on trip to Pyongyang Sunday (*Yonhap*, 10/03/2018)
Who will be the Nobel Peace Prize winner for 2018? (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 10/03/2018)

Top News

- South Korea announced a sweeping crackdown on "fake news" on Tuesday, calling it "a destroyer of democracy." Conservative critics of the government, however, cried foul, accusing it of trying to impede freedom of speech. President Moon took power last year after Park Geun-hye was impeached as president and ousted on corruption and other criminal charges. While in office, Ms. Park was also widely accused of plotting to silence her critics. Now, Mr. Moon faces the same accusations. (Choe Sang-hun, *The New York Times*)

In North Korea

- The man was arrested during a call to his relatives and was subjected to continual beatings and torture during his interrogation, the source reported. He was unable to eat properly and

was frequently hit with a 20-kilogram club wielded by his 22-year-old interrogator. (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)

- North Korea's nuclear and missile tests have stopped, but its hacking operations to gather intelligence and raise funds for the sanction-strapped government in Pyongyang may be gathering steam. (AP)
- North Korea's Korean Central News Agency commented Tuesday that a war-ending declaration is not a gift from one to the other, emphasizing that it is not to be exchanged with denuclearization. It added that if Washington is not ready and not willing to make a war-ending declaration, the North would not take any further step, either. (*The Dong-A Ilbo*)
- Having been involved in a tug-of-war with the United States, North Korea responded in a stringent position Tuesday, maintaining that a war-ending declaration is not a subject of negotiations. Washington and Pyongyang have been arguing over denuclearization and corresponding measures, war-ending declaration. (*The Dong-A Ilbo*)
- Park Jung-joo, a South Korean-born North Korean movie director, died on Tuesday at the age of 74, according to the Korean Central News Agency. North Korean leader Kim Jong-un sent a wreath and mourned his death, speaking highly of Park's career at the Korean Film Studio, for which he received the highest cultural award from the North's founder Kim Il-sung. (Lee Min-young, *The Korea Times*)

In South Korea

- Hence the choice of the particular area for land mine removal operations at last month's inter-Korean summit in Pyongyang. The other site to be demined is near the Joint Security Area inside the border village of Panmunjom. (Yeo Jun-suk, *The Korea Herald*)
- South Korean political parties on both ends of the spectrum commemorated National Foundation Day on Wednesday with words of peace and prosperity - but spoke of the North Korea nuclear issue in different tones. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- On Tuesday, Korea lifted a ban on the departure of a blacklisted Russian ship that it seized last week in the southern port city of Busan, following an investigation, Seoul's Foreign Ministry said. (*Yonhap*)
- Seoul City is set to display pictures of North Korean architecture starting from Thursday. According to the city government, photographs of buildings in the North's capital city of Pyongyang will be presented at the lobby of City Hall from Thursday. The exhibition is open to the public and will run through Oct. 19. (*The Korea Herald*)
- South Korean Prime Minister Lee Nak-yon requested the international community's support Wednesday for efforts to bring lasting peace and co-prosperity to the peninsula, as Koreans marked National Foundation Day. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea released a Russian-flagged ship, Tuesday, after detaining it in Busan on suspicion of violating the U.N. Security Council (USNC) sanctions on North Korea, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Wednesday. (Yi Whan-woo, *The Korea Times*)
- The Ministry of Unification came under a total of 1,518 cyberattacks from 2014 through August 2018, according to a ministry report submitted to Rep. Park Byeong-seug of the ruling Democratic Party. (*Yonhap*)

- As the U.S. State Department announced Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's visit to Pyongyang this weekend, South Korea raised hope about another U.S.-North Korea summit earlier than expected, according to an official of South Korea's presidential office. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- Nine members of a civic group devoted to inter-Korean cooperation will join South Korea's delegation to visit North Korea this week for a joint event to mark the 11th anniversary of the second inter-Korean summit in 2007, the Ministry of Unification announced Wednesday. (Yonhap)
- The excavation project is part of a comprehensive military agreement that the two Koreas' defense ministers signed last month after the third summit between President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in Pyongyang. (Yonhap)
- South and North Korea are expected to discuss ways to implement the agreement reached at the latest meeting between their leaders, including a trip by North Korean leader Kim Jong-un to the South, Seoul's point man on North Korea said Wednesday. (Yonhap)
- The United Nations Command has approved the South Korean government's plan to remove landmines on the North and South Korean border areas, VOA reported on Wednesday. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)

International

- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will travel to North Korea next week to meet with its leader, Kim Jong-un, the State Department said Tuesday. Pompeo will visit Pyongyang Sunday as the U.S. pushes to dismantle the regime's nuclear weapons program and set up a second summit between President Donald Trump and Kim. (Yonhap)
- President Trump may have fallen "in love" with his North Korean counterpart, Kim Jong Un, but Pyongyang wants more than just beautiful words. It wants Washington to prove its affection — by lifting sanctions. (Simon Denyer, The Washington Post)
- China sold about 2,700 tons of refined oil to North Korea in August, triple the amount it exported to the neighboring country in July, Voice of America said Wednesday, citing the UN Security Council's North Korea sanctions committee. (Jung Min-kyung, The Korea Herald)
- In any case, North Korea must agree to denuclearize in a sincere way. In a briefing at the State Department, spokeswoman Heather Nauert said that the U.S. government is confident enough to keep the dialogue going. We hope Pompeo brings back good results from the visit. (Korea JoongAng Daily)
- Mike Pompeo, the US secretary of state, will travel to Pyongyang on Saturday to try to further denuclearization talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, the state department has announced. (Reuters)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will make his fourth trip to Pyongyang this year to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un Sunday, the State Department announced Tuesday,

as a second summit between the countries' two leaders is in the works. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will travel to North Korea on Sunday to push forward denuclearization talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, as the countries seek to narrow their differences on efforts to rid the Korean Peninsula of nuclear weapons. (Ock Hyun-ju, *The Korea Herald*)
- Earlier that day, North Korea's Ri struck a different tone, telling the United Nations that continued U.S. sanctions were deepening Pyongyang's mistrust in the United States and there was no way the country would disarm unilaterally under such circumstances. (*Reuters*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will travel to Pyongyang on Saturday to try to further denuclearization talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, the State Department said on Tuesday. (*VOA News*)
- Cheong Wa Dae was optimistic about the visit amid speculation that a declaration to end the 1950-53 Korean War and other corresponding measures for denuclearization can be discussed. President Moon Jae-in is committed to declaring an end to the war by December and the U.S.-North Korea consensus on denuclearization is critical in meeting this commitment. (Yi Whan-woo, *The Korea Times*)
- Southeast Asian governments requested the repatriation of Korean War remains from North Korea following the June Singapore summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un, according to a South Korean press report. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Some theorize that a declaration for declaration approach is needed to move the process forward. But for the United States to move toward declaring an end to the war, Rees stresses that requires getting some concessions from North Korea. (Steve Miller, *VOA News*)
- U.S. Special Representative for North Korea Stephen Biegun said Tuesday he will make his first trip to Pyongyang this weekend since being appointed to lead denuclearization negotiations with the regime. (Lee Haye-ah, *Yonhap*)
- Henrik Urdal, director of Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), a Nobel Peace Prize think tank, posted a shortlist for this year's Nobel Peace Prize on its website. President Moon, North Korean leader Kim, and President Trump are not on the list. (Taek Kyoon Sohn, *The Dong-A Ilbo*)

Prepared by Hangyun Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250730185032/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-south-korea-declares-war-on-fake-news-worrying-government-critics-pompeo-to-fly-into-pyongyang-sunday

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Thursday, October 4, 2018

U.S. Groups Accuse Seoul of Ignoring N.Korean Human Rights; North Korean hackers tried to steal over $1 billion, report says

Top News

U.S. Groups Accuse Seoul of Ignoring N.Korean Human Rights (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/4/2018)

In North Korea

Donju maintain rent payments at $50 per month despite falling demand (*DailyNK*, 10/4/2018)
Grain yield projection takes 5% hit at farm in South Pyongan Province (*DailyNK*, 10/4/2018)
How North Korean hackers stole millions of pounds in a string of methodical cyber-heists (*The Telegraph*, 10/4/2018)
My trip to Pyongyang: Finding South Korea there (*Korea Times*, 10/4/2018)
N. Korea checks into athletes' village for Asian Para Games (*Yonhap*, 10/4/2018)
N. Korea disposes of land mine found during JSA disarming work: defense ministry (*Yonhap*, 10/4/2018)
N. Korean hacking group attempted to steal $1.1 billion from global banks: reports (*Yonhap*, 10/4/2018)
New apartment construction near Wonsan-Kalma Coastal Tourist Zone (*DailyNK*, 10/4/2018)
NKorea said to have stolen a fortune in online bank heists (*Associated Press*, 10/3/2018)
North Korea announces dog hide tax ahead of Party Foundation Day (*DailyNK*, 10/4/2018)
North Korea cautions 'foreign powers' against intervention (UPI, 10/3/2018)
North Korean hackers tried to steal over $1 billion, report says (CNN, 10/3/2018)

In South Korea

Poll finds over half of S. Korean small businesses willing to cooperate with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 10/4/2018)
South Korea's economy is slowing. Its leader still wants to spend millions on Pyongyang (*CNBC*, 10/3/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship

(5th LD) S. Korean delegation visits Pyongyang for summit anniversary (*Yonhap*, 10/4/2018)
Delegation in North for a three-day visit (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/4/2018)
Delegation leaves for Pyongyang, join 2007 summit anniversary (*Korea Times*, 10/4/2018)
(LEAD) Flexibility key to advancing N. Korea denuclearization: minister (*Yonhap*, 10/4/2018)
South Koreans head North for 2007 summit anniversary (UPI, 10/4/2018)
South Koreans Return to Pyongyang for Summit Anniversary (VOA, 10/4/2018)

International

Analyst: U.S.-China trade war could impede North Korea progress (UPI, 10/4/2018)
Denuclearization roadmap in the works (*Korea Times*, 10/4/2018)
(LEAD) Pompeo refuses to set timeline for N.K. denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 10/4/2018)
N. Korea calls U.S. sanctions 'source of mistrust' (*Yonhap*, 10/4/2018)
N. Korean vice foreign minister visits China ahead of Pompeo's Pyongyang trip (*Yonhap*, 10/4/2018)

Pompeo's 4th North Korean visit fuels optimism for denuclearization (*Korea Times*, 10/4/2018)
Pompeo backs away from North Korea denuclearisation timeline (*The Guardian*, 10/3/2018)
Pompeo Faces Challenges Setting Up Second Trump, Kim Summit (VOA, 10/4/2018)
Pompeo optimistic Pyongyang trip will yield U.S.-North Korea progress (*Reuters*, 10/3/2018)
Pompeo's mission (*Korea Times*, 10/4/2018)
Reports: U.S.-North Korea summit could be in Geneva or Vienna (UPI, 10/4/2018)
Seoul: U.S., North Korea could discuss dismantling nuclear, missile facilities (*UPI*, 10/4/2018)
Sounding naive (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/4/2018)
South Korea reveals plan to break stalemate in U.S.-North Korea talks (*Washington Post*, 10/3/2018)
The Decades-Old Backstory Of America's Conflict With North Korea (NPR, 10/3/2018)
Top envoy plays down inventory ahead of Pompeo's visit (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/4/2018)
Trump's 'Maximum-Pressure' Strategy Is Destined to Fail (*The Atlantic*, 10/3/2018)

Top News

- The Chosun Ilbo quoted HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu as well as his recent WSJ editorial in an article concerning the South Korean government's changing attitude towards North Korean human rights. (Cho Yi-jun, Kim Myong-song, *The Chosun Ilbo*)

In North Korea

- The real estate market in North Korea appears to be stagnating as apartment prices continue to fall in major cities, including Pyongyang and Pyongsong, in tandem with falling demand for rental accommodation. (Mun Dong Hui, *DailyNK*)
- September's grain yield projection for the Ripsok Cooperative Farm in Mundok Country, South Pyongan Province, has been set at 60% of the estimate made earlier in the year. (Jo Hyon, *DailyNK*)
- Agang of digital bank robbers working for the North Korean government stole millions of pounds in a string of "complex and destructive" heists, researchers say. (Laurence Dodds, *The Telegraph*)
- This is the first part in a three-part series about travel in North Korea. (Jon Dunbar, *Korea Times*)
- The 23-member North Korean delegation, led by chef de mission Jong Hyon, was officially welcomed at the athletes' village. The North Korean athletes were seen taking photos with their smartphones during the welcoming ceremony, with some of them shedding tears when their national flag was being hoisted. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea on Thursday disposed of a land mine in the Demilitarized Zone for the first time since it started demining work earlier this week to disarm the Joint Security Area (JSA) in the buffer zone, Seoul's defense ministry said. (*Yonhap*)
- A North Korean hacking group has attempted to steal at least US$1.1 billion (about 1.23 trillion won) from about 16 banks in 11 countries worldwide over the past four years, news reports said Wednesday, citing an American cyberspace security firm. (*Yonhap*)
- The modernization of Samjiyon County in Ryanggang Province is continuing, while development projects at major sites across the country keep pace. The North Korean

authorities have recently begun tearing down old apartment buildings near the Wonsan-Kalma Coastal Tourist Zone and constructing new ones. (Kim Yoo Jin, DailyNK)

- North Korea's nuclear and missile tests have stopped, but its hacking operations to gather intelligence and raise funds for the sanction-strapped government in Pyongyang may be gathering steam. (Matthew Pennington, Associated Press)
- North Korea has ordered the collection of "dog hides" to commemorate the 73rd anniversary of the establishment of the Workers' Party of Korea on October 10. (Kim Yoo Jin, DailyNK)
- North Korea is promoting national unity in state media and warning against "foreign interference," ahead of a South Korean delegation visit to mark the anniversary of the 2007 Oct. 4 Declaration. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- The North Korean government uses a shadowy network of cyberactors to conduct financial crimes on behalf of Kim Jong Un's regime that have attempted to steal over $1.1 billion in "particularly aggressive" attacks on global banks, according to a new report from a cybersecurity watchdog. (Zachary Cohen, Alex Marquardt, Jamie Crawford, CNN)

In South Korea

- More than half of South Korea's small and medium businesses are willing to participate in inter-Korean economic cooperation projects, a poll showed Thursday. (Yonhap)
- As South Korea's economy stumbles, the government is looking to spend hundreds of millions on economic and cultural projects with its northern neighbor. (Nyshka Chandran, CNBC)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- A group of South Korean government officials, politicians and civic and religious leaders visited North Korea Thursday to take part in an event to jointly celebrate the anniversary of the 2007 inter-Korean summit. (Yonhap)
- Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon said Thursday he will use a visit to North Korea this week to rapidly implement agreements made in the third summit between the leaders of both Koreas last month. (Lee Sung Eun, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- South Korea sent a delegation to the North, Thursday, to jointly celebrate the anniversary of the second inter-Korean summit between then-President Roh Moo-hyun and then-North Korean leader Kim Jong-il. (Yi Whan-woo, Korea Times)
- South Korea's top diplomat on Thursday stressed the need for flexibility in denuclearization talks with North Korea and called for a bold approach that differs from that of past negotiations. (Lee Chi-dong, Yonhap)
- More than 160 South Koreans headed to Pyongyang Thursday to attend a ceremony to mark the 11th anniversary of the 2007 inter-Korean summit. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- South Korea's Unification Minister, Cho Myoung-gyon, led a delegation of about 160 others to Pyongyang Thursday along with Democratic Party leader Lee Hae-chan. The three-day trip is set to commemorate the 11th anniversary of the October 4 Declaration, signed in 2007. (Steve Miller, VOA)

International

- The ongoing U.S.-China trade dispute could impede progress on U.S. North Korea policy and even hurt the South Korean economy, a U.S. analyst says. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Expectations are growing over progress in North Korea's denuclearization, possibly laying out a roadmap for a big deal being reached this month, the 1950-53 Korean War declared over in November, and the North Korean leader visiting Seoul in December. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- The United States would like to see a quick dismantlement of North Korea's nuclear weapons program but won't commit to a specific timeline, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's official newspaper on Thursday denounced the United States for clinging to its sanctions on Pyongyang, saying they are a source of growing mistrust and could possibly undercut any progress in denuclearization talks. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Choe Son-hui, who is in charge of the North's denuclearization negotiations with the United States, visited China on Thursday, ahead of U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's visit to Pyongyang this weekend. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will travel to North Korea, Sunday, fueling optimism for progress in the stalled nuclear talks between the two countries. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- The US secretary of state, Mike Pompeo, has backed away from a previously stated goal of North Korea giving up its nuclear weapons by the end of Donald Trump's first term in January 2021. (Benjamin Haas, *The Guardian*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will travel to North Korea this weekend to meet with its leader, Kim Jong Un, for denuclearization talks.The top U.S. diplomat's fourth visit to North Korea this year comes as Washington and Pyongyang are making arrangements for a second summit between their leaders. (Nike Ching, VOA)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Wednesday he was optimistic his planned visit to Pyongyang this weekend would bring progress toward a second summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and in building a path to North Korea's denuclearization. (Lesley Wroughton, David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)
- The U.S. Department of State has confirmed Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will visit Pyongyang this weekend. This time the visit to North Korea is part of a four-nation Asian trip that also includes Japan, South Korea and China. (*Korea Times*)
- The second summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un could take place in Geneva, Switzerland, or Vienna, according to Japanese press reports. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- When U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo visits Pyongyang on Sunday, he is likely to discuss permanent dismantlement of missile test and nuclear facilities, according to an official of South Korea's presidential office. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- In a recent interview with the Washington Post, Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha said the United States should hold off its demand for an inventory of nuclear weapons and facilities from North Korea. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korea is proposing that the United States hold off on a demand for an inventory of North Korea's nuclear weapons and accept the verified closure of a key North Korean nuclear facility as a next step in the negotiations, Seoul's top diplomat said. (John Hudson, *Washington Post*)

- The historian Hampton Sides has been exploring the origins of the U.S. conflict with North Korea. He's written a history of Americans in a brutal battle in the dead of winter, which happened when Americans tried to unify North and South Korea. (NPR)
- Seoul is calling for flexibility in North Korea denuclearization talks, proposing that Washington hold off on a demand for an inventory of North Korea's nuclear arsenal and accept as a next step the verified dismantlement of the Yongbyon nuclear complex, according to South Korea's top diplomat. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Trump believes his strategy of maximum pressure—economic sanctions, diplomatic isolation, and even the threat of war—will result in historic deals with North Korea and Iran. But even if developments with North Korea have given Trump reason for hope, this is not going to be a winning strategy. (Vali Nasr, *The Atlantic*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250804162219/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-us-groups-accuse-seoul-of-ignoring-nkorean-human-rights-north-korean-hackers-tried-to-steal-over-1-billion-report-says

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Friday, October 5, 2018

U.S. pressures Pyongyang with new unilateral sanctions; Koreas hold high-level peace talks in Pyongyang

In North Korea:
Dog hide tax starting to bite for North Koreans (*Telegraph*, 10/05/2018)
Moon's 90-degree bow pleasantly surprises North Koreans (*Daily* NK, 10/05/2018)
No new dismantlement activity at N.K. missile site: 38 North (*Yonhap*, 10/05/2018)
N.Korea joins S.Korean protest over Japan's "Rising Sun" flag (*Reuters*, 10/05/2018)
N. Korean, Chinese vice foreign ministers hold talks in China (*Yonhap*, 10/05/2018)
N. Korea steps up diplomacy to ease sanctions, attract humanitarian aid (*Yonhap*, 10/05/2018)
N. Korea urges Seoul to ban Japan's controversial flag in Jeju fleet review (*Yonhap*, 10/05/2018)
North Korean authorities loosen crackdown on South Korean goods (*Daily* NK, 10/05/2018)
North Korean Military Sees Increase in Officers Seeking Discharge (RFA, 10/04/2018)
North Korea releases new animation episodes on Goguryeo kingdom founder (*Korea Times*, 10/05/2018)
North Korea's Choe Son Hui meets with Chinese vice foreign minister (*UPI*, 10/05/2018)
North Korea's Denuclearization is going down the wrong path (*Daily* NK, 10/05/2018)
North Korea's Sohae Satellite Launching Station: No New Dismantlement Activity (*38 North*, 10/04/2018)
Pokka still widely available in North Korea, despite Japanese embargo (*NK News*, 10/05/2018)

Rapid progress at Samjiyon construction project since summer, imagery reveals (*NK News*, 10/05/2018)
Russia, N. Korea in talks to set up Kim's visit: Russian parliamentary leader (*Yonhap*, 10/05/2018)
Why number of North Korean defectors keep decreasing (*Korea Times*, 10/05/2018)

In South Korea:
Seoul removes references to Kim Yong Chol in Cheonan sinking (UPI, 10/04/2018)
S. Korea, France hold high-level talks on cooperation on denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 10/05/2018)
S. Korea reacts cautiously to latest N. Korea sanctions (*Korea Times*, 10/05/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
2 Koreas Start Removing Mines from DMZ (*Chosun Ilbo*, 10/05/2018)
(2nd LD) Koreas hold high-level talks to discuss implementation of summit agreement (*Yonhap*, 10/05/2018)
(4th LD) Koreas hold first joint event to celebrate 2007 summit anniversary (*Yonhap*, 10/05/2018)
Koreas affirm Oct. 4 declaration (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/05/2018)
Koreas agree to follow up on 2007 summit (*Korea Times*, 10/05/2018)
Koreas hold high-level peace talks in Pyongyang (*The Washington Post*, 10/05/2018)
South Koreans visiting North Korea for summit anniversary (*The Washington Post*, 10/04/2018)

International:
(3rd LD) U.S. imposes N.K.-related sanctions on Turkish firm, individuals (*Yonhap*, 10/05/2018)
Japanese fisherman call for stronger measures against illegal North Korean fishing vessels (*Daily NK*, 10/05/2018)
Kavanaugh overshadows Korea (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/05/2018)
Nuke talks need some basic principles: Moniz (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/05/2018)
Treasury targets firms with ties to North Korea, Hezbollah (*The Hill*, 10/04/2018)
U.N. chief urges attention to human rights issues in N. Korea (*DongA Ilbo*, 10/05/2018)
US blacklists Turkish firm for trade with North Korea (*The Washington Post*, 10/04/2018)
U.S. Imposes Sanctions on Turkish Company for Trade With North Korea (*The New York Times*, 10/04/2018)
U.S. pressures Pyongyang with new unilateral sanctions (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/05/2018)
U.S. sanctions Turkish firm, North Korean diplomat for weapons trade (*Reuters*, 10/04/2018)
WHO includes N. Korea among countries most burdened with tuberculosis: report (*Yonhap*, 10/05/2018)

In North Korea:

- North Korea has ordered its citizens to donate dog hides to the regime as part of celebrations marking the 73rd anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea on October 10. (Julian Ryall, *Telegraph*)
- On September 18, South Korean President Moon Jae-in made a deep, respectful bow toward the North Korean citizens that welcomed him during his visit to Pyongyang for the third inter-Korean summit this year. (Ha Yoon-ah, *Daily NK*)

- North Korea has not taken additional steps to dismantle its main missile test site since early August, a U.S. website monitoring the regime said Thursday. (Yonhap)
- Japan should refrain from flying the "Rising Sun" flag on a warship in a fleet review planned in South Korea next week, a North Korean propaganda website said on Friday, joining South Koreans in the latest spat over the countries' colonial history. (Joyce Lee, Reuters)
- Vice foreign ministers from North Korea and China held a meeting on Friday on issues regarding the Korean Peninsula, the Chinese foreign ministry said. (Yonhap)
- North Korea appears to be making all-out diplomatic efforts to mitigate United Nations sanctions and induce more humanitarian support from the international community, watchers said Friday. (Yonhap)
- North Korea's external propaganda media on Friday urged Seoul not to allow Japan to hoist its controversial naval flag during its participation in an international fleet review set to take place off South Korea's Jeju Island next week. (Yonhap)
- Restrictions on the selling of South Korean-made goods have recently begun to loosen in North Korea, with some North Korean observers suggesting that the authorities are preparing for improving inter-Korean relations and more exchanges. (Mun Dong-hui, Daily NK)
- As their elite status begins to wane, many of North Korea's high-ranking military officers are now trying to exit the military, according to an RFA Korean Service source. (Joonho Kim, RFA)
- North Korea's premier April 26 Animation Studio recently released new episodes — Nos. 21 and 22 — of its showpiece 3D history animation "Gojumong" that depicts the story of King Dongmyeong of Goguryeo (37 B.C.-A.D. 668). (Jung Da-min, Korea Times)
- North Korea Vice Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui met with a deputy Chinese diplomat to "discuss issues of the Korean Peninsula," according to Beijing's foreign ministry on Friday. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- On September 29, North Korea's Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho addressed the United Nations with the statement that North Korea would not unilaterally disarm first without any trust in the US. (Thae Yong-ho, Daily NK)
- Recent commercial satellite imagery of the Sohae Satellite Launching Station ("Tongchang-ri"), North Korea's main space launch facility, indicates that despite dismantlement pledges formalized in the recent Pyongyang Declaration, no additional activity has been observed at either the vertical engine test stand or the launch pad since August 3. (Jack Liu, Peter Makowsky, 38 North)
- Drinks manufactured in Singapore by the famous Japanese brand Pokka are still being widely sold in Pyongyang, NK News has learned, despite Tokyo and Singapore's ongoing total trade bans on North Korea. (Chad O'Carroll, Kosuke Takahashi, NK News)
- Progress at Samjiyon, the site one of North Korea's largest and most politically-important construction projects, has been swift in recent months following two on-site visits from DPRK leader Kim Jong Un, satellite imagery provided by Planet Labs shows. (Colin Zwirko, NK News)
- Russia and North Korea are in talks to set up a visit to Russia by North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, the speaker of Russia's upper house of parliament was quoted as saying Friday. (Yonhap)

- Chun Ki-won, a pastor with the Durihana Mission in Seoul who has been helping North Korean defectors in South Korea and third countries since the 1990s, says he receives fewer inquiries from defectors seeking to escape from the North these days, compared to the past. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)

In South Korea:

- The South Korean government has been quietly amending official statements on the 2010 sinking of the South Korean warship Cheonan -- and has deleted references to senior North Korean official Kim Yong Chol. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- South Korea and France have held a high-level meeting on bilateral cooperation on the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, the foreign ministry here said Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Friday that the latest U.S. sanctions on a Turkish company are believed to have been made in line with Washington's strategy of pursuing dialogue with and sanctions on Pyongyang simultaneously. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- North Korea has started removing landmines from the northern side of the Joint Security Area. (*Chosun Ilbo*)
- South and North Korea held high-level talks on Friday to discuss follow-up measures on the summit agreement reached by their leaders last month. (*Yonhap*)
- South and North Korea held their first-ever joint event to celebrate the anniversary of a 2007 summit in Pyongyang on Friday amid a growing mood of rapprochement. (*Yonhap*)
- South and North Korea vowed to follow through on the two declarations their leaders signed in April and September during a joint ceremony in Pyongyang Friday, promising a more peaceful and prosperous future. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The two Koreas jointly celebrated the anniversary of the 2007 inter-Korean summit in Pyongyang, Friday. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- The Koreas held a high-level meeting in North Korea's capital on Friday to discuss the implementation of agreements from a summit last month between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in. (Kim Tong-hyung, AP)
- A South Korean government delegation arrived in North Korea on Thursday for a joint celebration of the anniversary of a 2007 summit and to possibly hold further peace talks. (Kim Tong-hyung, AP)

International:

- The United States on Thursday imposed sanctions on a Turkish company and several individuals for their alleged violation of sanctions against North Korea. (*Yonhap*)
- Yamatotai is located in Japan's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), 300 kilometers west of the Noto Peninsula in Ishikawa Prefecture, and is considered a prime fishing area. (*Daily NK*)

- At the end of September and in early October, the United States was busy with the UN General Assembly and corresponding diplomatic schedules. But what really shook the United States was not foreign policy issues like North Korea's nuclear program but Supreme Court Justice nominee Brett Kavanaugh. (Lee Ga-young, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will have to establish some basic principles with North Korean negotiators on denuclearization that would lead to a very strong verification system during his upcoming visit to Pyongyang, said Ernest J. Moniz, former U.S. secretary of energy in the Barack Obama administration. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The Treasury Department on Thursday targeted 12 individuals and companies accused of violating U.S. sanctions on transactions with North Korea and Hezbollah. (Sylvan Lane, *The Hill*)
- According to Voice of America's reports on Wednesday (local time), United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres commented on North Korea's human rights situations, referring to a UN report dated Aug. 6 that was submitted to the 73rd United Nations General Assembly held in its New York headquarters. (Sohn Taek-kyoon, *DongA Ilbo*)
- The United States on Thursday blacklisted a Turkish company and two executives for allegedly attempting to circumvent sanctions prohibiting sales of weapons and luxury goods to North Korea. (Matthew Pennington, AP)
- The United States imposed sanctions on Thursday against a Turkish company and two of its officers for doing business with North Korea, sending a tough signal to Pyongyang ahead of Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's expected visit there this weekend. (Gardiner Harris, *The New York Times*)
- On the eve of the top American diplomat's trip to Pyongyang, Washington Thursday announced sanctions on a Turkish company and three individuals for involvement in weapons and luxury goods trading with North Korea. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The United States on Thursday imposed sanctions against a Turkish-based company, its top directors, and a North Korean diplomat, accusing them of trading in weapons and luxury goods with Pyongyang in violation of international sanctions. (Lesley Wroughton, *Reuters*)
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has included North Korea on a list of 30 countries with the worst tuberculosis problem over the 2016-20 period, Radio Free Asia reported Friday. (*Yonhap*)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250804162307/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsus-pressures-pyongyang-with-new-unilateral-sanctionskoreas-hold-high-level-peace-talks-in-pyongyang

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Saturday, October 6, 2018

Who Will Speak up for the Interests of S.Koreans?; Pompeo seeks allied unity on North Korea denuke effort

Top News:
Who Will Speak up for the Interests of S.Koreans? (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/5/2018)

In North Korea:
Commentary: Denuclearising North Korea won't make it a normal country (*Channel NewsAsia*, 10/5/2018)
North Korea's Yongbyon Nuclear Scientific Research Center: Quiet After the Pyongyang Summit (*38North*, 10/5/2018)

In South Korea:
(3rd LD) S. Korean delegation returns home after celebrating summit anniversary (*Yonhap*, 10/6/2018)
Parties voice expectation for Pompeo's visit to N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 10/6/2018)
South Korea politician says Seoul's national security law needs 'review' (UPI, 10/5/2018)
The paleontology of South Korean politics (*Korea Times*, 10/6/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(3rd LD) Koreas hold high-level talks to discuss implementation of summit agreement (*Yonhap*, 10/5/2018)
'Dog is livestock subject to meat consumption' (*Korea Times*, 10/6/2018)
Koreas march together under single flag at Asian Para Games (*Yonhap*, 10/6/2018)
North Korean-style cold noodles are a hot commodity in the South after summits (ABC, 10/4/2018)
S. Korean, N. Korean para sports chiefs vow to strengthen cooperation (*Yonhap*, 10/6/2018)

International:
How long should U.S. troops stay in Korea? Even after reunification, South Korean lawmakers say. (*Washington Post*, 10/5/2018)
(LEAD) Senior N.K. diplomat to hold bilateral, trilateral talks with Russian, Chinese officials in Moscow (*Yonhap*, 10/6/2018)
Lindsey Graham to Trump: Make North Korea Choose Between 'Death or Condos' (*The Atlantic*, 10/4/2018)
N. Korea blasts Abe's push for constitutional revision (*Yonhap*, 10/6/2018)
Pompeo, Abe vow unified approach ahead of North Korea visit (CNN, 10/6/2018)
Pompeo Arrives in Japan, First Stop on Asia Tour (VOA, 10/6/2018)
Pompeo doesn't see China tensions hurting North Korea talks (*Reuters*, 10/5/2018)
Pompeo Faces Challenges in Second Trump-Kim Summit (VOA, 10/5/2018)
Pompeo goes to North Korea under pressure to show progress (*Associated Press*, 10/5/2018)
Pompeo heads to N. Korea to meet Kim on nukes, summit (*Yonhap*, 10/6/2018)
Pompeo Lowers Expectations for a Summit Plan in North Korea Visit (*Wall Street Journal*, 10/5/2018)

Pompeo pledges coordination with Japan in North Korea talks, to raise abduction issue (*Reuters*, 10/6/2018)
Pompeo returns to North Korea Amid Cyberattack (CNN, 10/5/2018)
Pompeo seeks allied unity on North Korea denuke effort (*Associated Press*, 10/6/2018)
Pompeo to return to North Korea (CNN, 10/5/2018)
S. Korea: N. Korea may have 60 nuclear weapons (CNN, 10/5/2018)
Secretary of State Pompeo reassures Japan en route to meet Kim in North Korea (*Washington Post*, 10/6/2018)
War-end declaration 'slippery slope' for U.S. Korea presence: U.N. Command general (Reuters, 10/5/2018)

Top News:

- HRNK was quoted in an article by The Chosun Ilbo regarding South Korea's current attitude and policies towards North Korea: "The U.S. Committee for Human Rights in North Korea said it was "very regretful" to see activists in South Korea face "censorship and restrictions" and their budgets shaved." (Yang Sang-hoon, *The Chosun Ilbo*)

In North Korea:

- The most pressing goal with North Korea is obviously denuclearisation but any efforts towards this goal should be in accord with a bigger, more comprehensive picture — that is, to transform the North Korean regime into a denuclearised normal state. (Shin Gi-wook, Joyce Lee, *Channel NewsAsia*)
- Recent commercial satellite imagery of North Korea's Yongbyon Nuclear Scientific Research Center indicates no significant changes in the fissile material production areas since our last report. (Frank V. Pabian, Jack Liu, *38North*)

In South Korea:

- A group of South Korean government officials, politicians and civic and religious leaders returned home on Saturday after participating in a joint event to celebrate the anniversary of the 2007 inter-Korean summit in Pyongyang a day earlier. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean political parties on Saturday expressed the expectation that U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's upcoming trip to North Korea would yield substantive progress in Pyongyang's denuclearization. (*Yonhap*)
- The leader of South Korea's ruling party suggested his country's national security law should be "re-examined" during high-level peace talks in North Korea on Friday. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- You could see just how seductive for President Moon that level of enthusiasm in Pyongyang was, especially as the politics practiced in Seoul has degenerated into the empty ritual of bowing before those with power and money to receive their blessings. (Emanuel Pastreich, *Korea Times*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- South and North Korea held high-level talks on Friday to discuss follow-up measures on the summit agreement reached by their leaders last month. (Yonhap)
- In line with the government's efforts to improve inter-Korean ties, the association plans to send tens of thousands of dogs to North Korea for its starving people, believing it will help the two Koreas become closer. (Kang Seung-woo, Korea Times)
- South and North Korean para athletes marched together under a single flag for the first time at the opening ceremony of the 3rd Asian Para Games on Saturday. (Yonhap)
- During the first inter-Korean summit in April, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un brought a specialty dish of Pyongyang cold noodles for his South Korean counterparts to taste. Curiosity about the simple dish, called Naeng-myon in Korean, has skyrocketed sales in South Korea since the summits. (Hakyung Kate Lee, ABC)
- The South Korean and North Korean para sports chiefs vowed to strengthen cooperation to develop unity between the two sides as they met on the sidelines of the 3rd Asian Para Games in Jakarta on Saturday. (Yonhap)

International:

- Ongoing talks with North Korea have raised the possibility of a future with far less tension on the Korean Peninsula — even, possibly, a declaration of the end of the Korean War. (Adam Taylor, Washington Post)
- A senior North Korean diplomat will hold talks with Russian and Chinese officials on the situation on the Korean Peninsula, following her arrival in Moscow on Saturday, Russia's media reported. (Yonhap)
- On Wednesday—just after Donald Trump gushed about falling “in love” with North Korea’s dictator and ahead of another trip by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to Pyongyang to prepare for a second summit between Trump and Kim Jong Un—Lindsey Graham delivered a stark message to the U.S. president: End the lovefest. (Uri Friedman, The Atlantic)
- North Korea's state media on Saturday criticized Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's push to revise his country's war-renouncing Constitution, arguing that the peninsula's onetime colonizer is the "most dangerous." (Yonhap)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Saturday he would raise the issue of abductions as well as nuclear and missile concerns on behalf of Japan when he meets with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Pyongyang on Sunday. (Laura Smith-Spark, Sandi Sidhu, CNN)
- Heading to Asia on Friday, Pompeo said he hoped to develop options for the timing and location of the next summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korea leader Kim Jong Un. (Nike Ching, VOA)
- China will be part of the solution to the North Korean crisis, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Friday, brushing aside the possibility that worsening U.S. tensions with Beijing could hamper efforts to persuade Pyongyang to give up its nuclear weapons. (David Brunnstrom, Reuters)
- Heading to Asia, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Friday that he hoped to develop options for the timing and location of the next summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korea leader Kim Jong Un. (Nike Ching, VOA)

- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo headed off to North Korea on Friday under pressure to produce tangible progress at persuading the country to get rid of its nuclear weapons as President Donald Trump seeks a second summit with leader Kim Jong Un. (Matthew Lee, Matthew Pennington, *Associated Press*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo departed for North Korea Friday as pressure mounts to deliver results on the denuclearization of the regime. (*Yonhap*)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo expressed doubts Friday about whether a brief trip to Pyongyang would result in a time and place for another meeting between President Trump and North Korea's Kim Jong Un, but said that a second summit remains a top goal. (Courtney McBride, *Wall Street Journal*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Saturday he would coordinate closely with Japan during denuclearization talks with North Korea and promised to raise the issue of the abductions of Japanese citizens in his meetings in Pyongyang. (Tim Kelly, *Reuters*)
- Secretary of State Pompeo heads to North Korea as Trump team changes timeline for denuclearization. (CNN)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo pledged Saturday that the Trump administration's effort to get North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons would be fully coordinated with allies Japan and South Korea, as he prepared to travel to Pyongyang under pressure to produce tangible progress toward that goal. (Mari Yamaguchi, *Associated Press*)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will return to North Korea as President Trump says the US won't put deadlines on Kim Jong Un's regime to denuclearize. (CNN)
- As President Trump is dispatching Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to North Korea, CNN's Brian Todd reports on a warning from South Korea's unification minister that Kim Jong Un may have as many as 60 nuclear weapons. (Brian Todd, CNN)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Saturday and reassured him Japan's interests would not be forgotten as he heads to Pyongyang to continue talks over North Korea's nuclear and missile program. (Simon Denyer, *Washington Post*)
- A declaration to end the 1950-53 Korea War could be a "slippery slope" to questioning the need for the U.S. troop presence in South Korea, the deputy head of the U.N. Command overseeing the Korean armistice said on Friday, ahead of new talks between Washington and Pyongyang. (David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250804162217/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-who-will-speak-up-for-the-interests-of-skoreans-pompeo-seeks-allied-unity-on-north-korea-denuke-effort

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Sunday, October 7, 2018

Pompeo asks NK to specify timeline on denuke; N. Korean media report recent joint inter-Korean celebratory event

In North Korea:
How private trade is transforming the North (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/07/2018)
N. Korean media report recent joint inter-Korean celebratory event (*Yonhap*, 10/07/2018)
North Korean media attacks South's conservative party (*Korea Times*, 10/07/2018)

In South Korea:
From Pyongyang with love: defectors find a perfect match with South Korean men (*The Guardian*, 10/06/2018)
Inter-Korean Assembly summit challenges ruling party (*Korea Times*, 10/07/2018)

International:
(LEAD) Pompeo arrives in N. Korea for meeting with Kim Jong-un (*Yonhap*, 10/07/2018)
(LEAD) Pompeo arrives in S. Korea after Pyongyang trip (*Yonhap*, 10/07/2018)
Pompeo arrives in South Korea after nuclear talks in North Korea (*Reuters*, 10/07/2018)
Pompeo asks NK to specify timeline on denuke (*Korea Times*, 10/07/2018)
Pompeo has 'productive conversation' with Kim Jong Un in North Korea, attempting to set stage for second Trump-Kim summit (*The Washington Post*, 10/07/2018)
Pompeo, Kim agree to second U.S.-North Korea summit 'as soon as possible': South Korea (*Reuters*, 10/07/2018)
Pompeo meets Kim for 3rd time (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/07/2018)
Pompeo says U.S., North Korea continue to make progress toward denuclearization (*Reuters*, 10/07/2018)
Pompeo's trip 'better than the last time': U.S. official (*Reuters*, 10/07/2018)
U.S. and North Korea Agree to New Summit Meeting, South Korea Says (*The New York Times*, 10/07/2018)
U.S.-Japan officials to work together on North Korea (UPI, 10/07/2018)
U.S. Puzzles Out 'Peace Declaration' (Not a 'Treaty') With North Korea (*The Wall Street Journal*, 10/07/2018)

In North Korea:

- Hyeson, a defector who worked as a shoe vendor in Hyesan, Ryanggang Province, North Korea, said her dream was buying a home in one of the shiny new high-rises under construction across North Korea. (Jeong Yong-soo, Kwen Yu-jin, Kim Ji-a, Shim Kyu-seok, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- State North Korean media on Sunday reported the hosting of the joint inter-Korean event to celebrate the 11th anniversary of the 2007 summit between the two Koreas' former leaders. (*Yonhap*)

- North Korean media used South Korean news reports, Sunday, in attacks on the South's conservative Liberty Korea Party, saying the party is ruining itself and being isolated from peace efforts. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)

In South Korea:

- Female refugees from the north are being paired with husbands in the south. But some fear that the patriarchy is the real winner. (Benjamin Haas, *The Guardian*)
- As a first-ever inter-Korean legislative summit is being discussed amid the growing mood of rapprochement on the peninsula, the ruling party must persuade the opposition parties to participate. (Park Ji-won, *Korea Times*)

International:

- United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo arrived in Pyongyang on Sunday and is set to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong-un to discuss the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, news reports said. (*Yonhap*)
- United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo arrived in South Korea Sunday after visiting Pyongyang earlier in the day for a meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, Seoul officials said. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo arrived in South Korea on Sunday after visiting North Korea, where he had expected to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and discuss how to dismantle Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programs. (*Reuters*)
- A senior Cheong Wa Dae official said U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo may have asked North Korean leader Kim Jong-un for a timeline regarding the North's denuclearization during his trip to Pyongyang, Sunday. (Kim Yoo-chul, *Korea Times*)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo spent several hours with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Pyongyang on Sunday, later describing his talks as "productive" and "another step forward," as he attempted to set the stage for a summit between Kim and President Trump. (Simon Denyer, *The Washington Post*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo agreed to arrange a second summit between the two countries as soon as possible, South Korea's presidential office said on Sunday. (Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo made his fourth trip to Pyongyang on Sunday and met with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un to try to get denuclearization talks back on track. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo held two hours of talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Pyongyang on Sunday and said the two sides continued to make progress toward denuclearization. (Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)
- A U.S. official said on Sunday that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's trip to North Korea was "better than the last time" but further efforts were needed. (*Reuters*)

- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said he had a "good trip" to North Korea, meeting with its leader, Kim Jong-un, on Sunday and making progress in diplomatic efforts to denuclearize the country. (Choe Sang-hun, *The New York Times*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe agreed Saturday to work together in their approaches to denuclearizing North Korea. (Sommer Brokaw, UPI)
- As Secretary of State Mike Pompeo works to regain traction in negotiations with North Korea, one of the main questions hanging over the talks will be how to go about ending a 65-year-old war. (Michael R. Gordon, *The Wall Street Journal*)

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Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250804162552/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemspompeo-asks-nk-to-specify-timeline-on-denuken-korean-media-report-recent-joint-inter-korean-celebratory-event

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Monday, October 8, 2018

Pompeo visit fails to bridge gap on denuclearization; DP chair sparks fiery backlash

In North Korea

(LEAD) N.K. leader expresses belief in 'good program' for 2nd summit with Trump (*Yonhap*, 10/08/2018)
'Kim Jong-un to visit Russia soon; Chinese leader to North Korea' (*The Korea Times*, 10/08/2018)
'The Children Gone to Poland' traces North Korea war orphans abroad (*The Japan Times*, 10/07/2018)
Choe Son-hui avoided Pompeo by traveling (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/08/2018)
For Leverage Against U.S., North Korea's Kim Seeks Help From Old Friends (*The Wall Street Journal*, 10/08/2018)
IKEA in North Korea: illegal kitchen capitalism arrives in Pyongyang (*The Sydney Morning Herald*, 10/08/2018)
Kim Jong Un orders OGD to control Party ideology following inter-Korean summit (*DailyNK*, 10/08/2018)
Kim Jong-un expresses belief in 'good program' for 2nd summit with Trump: KCNA (*The Korea Times*, 10/08/2018)
Kim vows to allow experts at Punggye-ri (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/08/2018)
Long haul to denuclearization (*The Korea Times*, 10/08/2018)
N. Korea unlikely to hold military parade on party anniversary (*Yonhap*, 10/08/2018)
N. Korean diplomat heads to Russia for trilateral meeting (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 10/08/2018)

N. Korean leader satisfied with talks with Pompeo: KCNA (*Aju Business Daily*, 10/08/2018)
N.K. cargo jet's Vladivostok flight suggests Kim's Russia visit imminent (*Yonhap*, 10/08/2018)
North Korea Agrees to Allow Inspectors Into Nuclear Testing Site, Pompeo Says (*The New York Times*, 10/07/2018)
North Korea bans "Mother's Voice" by the Moranbong Band (*DailyNK*, 10/08/2018)
North Korea's mysterious trade deficit with China -- in charts (*Nikkei Asian Review*, 10/08/2018)
Opinions divided among South Pyongan Province on field management system (*DailyNK*, 10/08/2018)
Positive move from North (*The Korea Times*, 10/08/2018)

In South Korea
(2nd LD) S. Korean minister says Pompeo's Pyongyang trip was fruitful (*Yonhap*, 10/08/2018)
(LEAD) Second U.S.-N.K. summit anticipated in near future: Seoul official (*Yonhap*, 10/08/2018)
'Germany, Korea allies in multilateralism, partners in unification' (*The Korea Herald*, 10/08/2018)
DP chair sparks fiery backlash (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/08/2018)
Korea, Japan, US offer different views of USFK (*The Korea Times*, 10/08/2018)
Lee's inappropriate remarks (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/07/2018)
Moon says China's Xi will visit North Korea soon (*The Korea Times*, 10/08/2018)
Moon says a 'new order' is being made on peninsula (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/08/2018)
Moon says 'new order' being formed on Korean Peninsula (*The Korea Herald*, 10/08/2018)
Seoul: U.S., N.Korea Agree to 2nd Summit 'As Soon as Possible' (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/08/2018)
S. Korea proposes inter-Korean parliamentary meeting in Nov. in Pyongyang (*Yonhap*, 10/08/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship
At Para Asian Games, joint flag flies proudly (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/07/2018)
Dogs of North Korea: Kim's pets, valuable pelts and inter-Korean peace offerings (*South China Morning Post*, 10/08/2018)
No time to waste (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/08/2018)
U.N. ambassadors of two Koreas agree to meet often for discussions (*Yonhap*, 10/08/2018)

International
2nd NK-US summit may take place before US mid-term election (*The Korea Times*, 10/08/2018)
A Second Trump-Kim Appears Closer, Experts Still Await Concrete Denuclearization Steps (*VOA News*, 10/08/2018)
Mike Pompeo says North Korea ready to let inspectors into missile and nuclear sites (*The Daily Telegraph*, 10/08/2018)
Mike Pompeo upbeat on 'successful morning' in North Korea (*The Guardian*, 10/07/2018)
Pompeo cites progress on 2nd summit after 'good' meeting (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 10/08/2018)
Pompeo promises Abe to raise abductee issue with N. Korea (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 10/08/2018)
Pompeo visit fails to bridge gap on denuclearization (*Nikkei Asian Review*, 10/08/2018)
Pompeo's Pyongyang visit boosts denuclearization talks (*The Korea Herald*, 10/08/2018)
Pompeo, Kim Jong Un agree to hold 2nd summit with Trump as soon as possible (*The Washington Post*, 10/07/2018)
Pompeo: 'Significant progress' in denuclearization talks with North Korea (*UPI*, 10/08/2018)

Second Trump-Kim meeting is last chance for denuclearization (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 10/08/2018)
Top U.S. Soldier Warns Against Declaring End of Korean War (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/08/2018)
U.S. Reports Progress in North Korea Talks Following Pompeo Visit (*The Wall Street Journal*, 10/07/2018)
What Did Mike Pompeo Get From Kim Jong-un? Four Takeaways (*The New York Times*, 10/08/2018)

In North Korea

- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has expressed his belief that a "good program" will be arranged "sooner or later" for his second summit with U.S. President Donald Trump, the North's state media said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is expected to visit Russia soon, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said on Monday, and Chinese leader Xi Jinping is also expected to travel to North Korea. (*Reuters*)
- A new documentary sheds light on the little-known story of North Korean war orphans sent to Poland, where they formed an unlikely bond with their teachers before their traumatic return home. (*AFP-JIJI*)
- North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Choe Son-hui visited Russia last weekend as U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and his team landed in Pyongyang, defying expectations that she'd remain in the North to meet her de-facto American counterpart, Stephen Biegun. (Lee Chul-jae, Park Yong-han and Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Mr. Kim, whose trip to China in March was his first outside North Korea as leader, is likely to request support from Beijing and Moscow as he presses the U.S. for concessions in return for North Korean progress on dismantling its nuclear facilities. (Andrew Jeong, *The Wall Street Journal*)
- South Korea has the largest IKEA store in the world. Officially, North Korea has none: but that hasn't stopped the Hermit Kingdom from selling the famous flat-pack furniture and kitchen items in Pyongyang. (Michael Ruffles, *The Sydney Morning Herald*)
- Kim Jong Un ordered the Organization and Guidance Department (OGD) to strengthen its ideological training and step up monitoring within the Korean Workers' Party a day after the inter-Korean summit took place in Pyongyang. The preemptive measure appears intended to strengthen solidarity toward the regime to prevent unrest as inter-Korean exchanges increase in the future. (Lee Sang Yong, *DailyNK*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has expressed his belief that a "good program" will be arranged "sooner or later" for his second summit with U.S. President Donald Trump, the North's state media said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un invited U.S. nuclear experts to verify the permanent dismantling of the Punggye-ri nuclear testing site during his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Sunday. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- It appears that Pyongyang has shifted the focal point of its demand from a war ending declaration to an easing of sanctions as a pressing corresponding measure it seeks from Washington. Future progress will depend more on the tangible reduction of sanctions than on political statements. (Tony Kim, *The Korea Times*)

- North Korea shows no signs of preparing a military parade to celebrate the anniversary of a major political event this week, the unification ministry said Monday. (Yonhap)
- North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui arrived in Moscow on Saturday (local time) to hold a trilateral meeting with China and Russia. On the second leg of her trip, Choe will take part in vice-ministerial talks with Russia on Monday, and trilateral talks including China on Tuesday, according to Russia's Tass news agency. (Na-Ri Shin, The Dong-A Ilbo)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un expressed his belief that a "good program" would be made soon for his second summit with U.S. President Donald Trump, citing a "positively developing" situation on the Korean peninsula, according to Pyongyang's official news agency. (Lim Chang-won, Aju Business Daily)
- A North Korean cargo plane reportedly arrived in Russia's Vladivostok on Sunday, triggering speculation that North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's Russia visit may be imminent. (Yonhap)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that in his meeting with Kim Jong-un on Sunday, the leader of North Korea had agreed to allow inspectors into a key nuclear testing site that the North has claimed it blew up, a down payment on the country's commitment to denuclearize the country. (Choe Sang-Hun and David E. Sanger, The New York Times)
- The North Korean authorities have recently banned approximately 70 items deemed "impure propaganda materials" from being viewed or distributed within the country. Officials have informed residents of the punishments to be faced if the ban is violated. (Kim Yoo Jin, DailyNK)
- The Chinese government has, on paper at least, adhered fully to U.N. Security Council sanctions against North Korea, and Beijing's trade statistics support the party line. But even when the numbers appear to add up, official data often leaves more questions than answers regarding what passes between the two countries and how. (Ben Heubl, Nikkei Asian Review)
- Some North Korean farmers in South Pyongan Province have more incentives to work following the implementation of the field management system (pojon tamdangjae). In recent months in particular, as the need to support military bases with fur and leather has decreased, many farmers are feeling more enthusiastic about their work while others complain of diminishing returns, report sources in South Pyongan Province. (Ha Yoon Ah, DailyNK)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's visit to Pyongyang, Sunday, appears to have made some progress in the denuclearization talks with North Korea. Yet it would be better to have cautious optimism given that the two sides have yet to see eye to eye over how to denuclearize. (The Korea Times)

In South Korea

- South Korea's top diplomat said Monday that U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's weekend trip to North Korea appears to have been successful. "It seems like that has brought good results," Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha told reporters. (Yonhap)
- South Korea's national security advisor said Monday that he expects a second summit between the United States and North Korea to be held in the near future. (Yonhap)

- With the two Koreas upping their efforts at rapprochement, a reunified Germany looks to the Korean Peninsula with particular interest and passion, said Germany's top envoy to Korea, adding that Berlin and Seoul are important partners in an "alliance for multilateralism." (Joel Lee, *The Korea Herald*)
- Acrid debate engulfed the National Assembly on Monday after the ruling party chairman said that the country may need to revise the contentious National Security Act while on a trip to Pyongyang. Many left-leaning governments have sought to revise the act in the past only to be shut down by conservatives. (Hyun Il-hoon and Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- As the ongoing peace gestures from North Korea cast doubt on the future of the United States Forces Korea (USFK), a group of U.S.-allied countries — such as South Korea and Japan — are on track to underline the need to maintain U.S. troops here. (Lee Min-hyung, *The Korea Times*)
- If the ruling party gives the impression that it will take advantage of inter-Korean ties to score points in domestic politics, that will surely lead to the opposition's fierce resistance. Lee and the ruling party must draw bipartisan cooperation from opposition parties by refraining from partisan remarks and listening to their positions. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- President Moon Jae-in said Monday that Chinese President Xi Jinping will visit North Korea "soon," while North Korean leader Kim Jong-un plans to visit Russia in the near future. (Kim Yoo-chul, *The Korea Times*)
- Remarking on an expected visit by North Korean leader Kim Jong-un to Russia and Chinese President Xi Jinping's possible reciprocal visit to Pyongyang in coming weeks, Moon said a new order was being "established on the Korean Peninsula," which he said would pave the way for setting up a new order in Northeast Asia during a cabinet meeting at the Blue House. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- President Moon Jae-in on Monday said the geopolitical order on the Korean Peninsula was taking on a new form, citing developments concerning North Korea. (Choi He-suk, *The Korea Herald*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un have agreed to arrange a second U.S.-North Korea summit "as soon as possible." (*VOA News*)
- South Korea has proposed holding an inter-Korean parliamentary meeting in November in Pyongyang and another gathering next year in Seoul. The proposal was made by South Korean politicians who visited Pyongyang last week to attend the first-ever joint event to celebrate the 11th anniversary of the 2007 inter-Korean summit. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- South and North Korean para athletes marched together under a single flag for the first time at the opening ceremony of the 3rd Asian Para Games in Indonesia on Saturday. (*Yonhap*)
- Two pungsan puppies have been gifted from North to South Korea, while the hermit state has been collecting dog fur from its citizens before one of its biggest national holidays. (Crystal Tai, *South China Morning Post*)
- The golden combination of Moon and Trump will remain only for a limited time period. If Trump, who said he has fallen in love with Kim, fails to secure accomplishments in

denuclearization and loses the Nov. 6 mid-term election, the North-U.S. negotiations will become a deflated balloon. (Lee Ha-kyung, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

- South Korean Ambassador to the United Nations Cho Tae-yul had his first meeting with new North Korean Ambassador to the U.N. Kim Song last week and they agreed to meet again often to hold consultations, according to a Facebook post by Cho on Sunday. (*Yonhap*)

International

- With Washington and Pyongyang agreeing to hold a second U.S.-North Korea summit at the earliest date possible, expectations are that it will take place sometime before the U.S. mid-term election which falls Nov. 6. (Lee Min-hyung, *The Korea Times*)
- A long-held sticking point in denuclearization talks with North Korea has been the divergent view on the procedural steps to achieve it. Washington continues to assert that international sanctions will remain in place until Pyongyang completes the process, while North Korea has called for various "corresponding measures" as it denuclearizes. (Steve Miller, *VOA News*)
- Mike Pompeo, US Secretary of State, said on Monday North Korean leader Kim Jong-un was ready to allow international inspectors into the North's nuclear and missile testing sites, one of the main sticking points over an earlier denuclearisation pledge. (*The Daily Telegraph*)
- The US secretary of state, Mike Pompeo, has said he had a "good trip" to North Korea and that he had made progress in negotiations over the country's nuclear programme. (Benjamin Haas, *The Guardian*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo agreed to arrange a second leaders summit "as soon as possible," and discussed potential U.S. monitoring of Pyongyang's steps toward denuclearization, South Korea's presidential office said on Sunday. (*Reuters*)
- Nihon Keizai Shimbun of Japan reported that U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe Saturday and said he would raise the issue of abductees on behalf of Japan when he meets with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Pyongyang. (Young-A Soh, *The Dong-A Ilbo*)
- The U.S. touted progress in new talks with North Korea but disclosed few specific steps after Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's latest meeting with Kim Jong Un, leaving the work of nailing down the next bilateral summit to lower-level officials. (Yosuke Onchi and Kenichi Yamada, *Nikkei Asian Review*)
- With North Korea and the US alike hailing the progress that was achieved during US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's fourth visit to Pyongyang, the previously slow-moving talks aimed at achieving North Korea's denuclearization are now gaining momentum. (Ock Hyun-ju, *The Korea Herald*)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said he had "productive talks" with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Pyongyang on Sunday, with the pair reportedly agreeing to hold a summit between Kim and President Trump as soon as possible. (Simon Denyer, *The Washington Post*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Monday that the U.S. and North Korea has made "significant progress" in their denuclearization talks. (Wooyoung Lee, *UPI*)

- If the situation continues, there will be a crack in the front of levying sanctions on the North Korean regime, and the international community will be torn between the U.S. side that demands sanctions remain in place and the other side with North Korea, China, and Russia. (*The Dong-A Ilbo*)
- The deputy head of the UN Command that oversees the armistice last week warned declaring a formal end to the Korean War could be a "slippery slope" to dispensing with the U.S. troop presence on the Korean Peninsula altogether. (Yu Yong-weon and Jun Hyun-suk, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo reported progress—but no immediate breakthrough—on slow-moving denuclearization talks after meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Sunday. (Courtney McBride and Michael R. Gordon, *The Wall Street Journal*)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met on Sunday with Kim Jong-un of North Korea as he tried to get him to take steps toward denuclearization and arrange another summit meeting with President Trump. Here are four things Mr. Pompeo got — and didn't get — from the meeting. (Choe Sang-Hun, *The New York Times*)

Prepared by Hangyun Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250804162751/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-pompeo-visit-fails-to-bridge-gap-on-denuclearization-dp-chair-sparks-fiery-backlash

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Tuesday, October 9, 2018

North Korean food supply still precarious as donor stay away, U.N. says; Kim Jong-un Invites Pope Francis to North Korea

In North Korea

All North Korea cities to run children's traffic parks, state media says (*UPI*, 10/8/2018)
Donju are princes of North Korean economy (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/9/2018)
Exorbitant bribes paid for Party membership in North Korea (*DailyNK*, 10/9/2018)
Kim Jong Un appears to have a new Rolls-Royce (CNN, 10/9/2018)
Masters of the farm: North Korea's new agricultural entrepreneurs (*NKNews*, 10/9/2018)
North Korea Hackers Tried to Take $1.1 Billion in Bank Attacks (*Bloomberg*, 10/8/2018)
North Korea is ready to allow inspection of key nuclear site, Pompeo says (CNN, 10/8/2018)
North Korea's Baby Steps (*Wall Street Journal*, 10/8/2018)
North Korea's denuclearization will take over 10 years: former US energy secretary (*Korea Times*, 10/9/2018)
North Korean food supply still precarious as donors stay away, U.N. says (*Reuters*, 10/9/2018)

Opening N. Korea's market could boost housing investment by 77 tln won: report (*Yonhap*, 10/9/2018)

In South Korea
Bareunmirae at odds with itself over declaration (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/9/2018)
Beware of nationalism (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/9/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship
PM says gov't will resume work with N. Korea to compile common dictionary (*Yonhap*, 10/9/2018)
Seoul pitches parliamentary meeting with North Korean politicians (UPI, 10/8/2018)
Two Koreas working for parliamentary meeting: S. Korean parliamentary speaker (*Yonhap*, 10/9/2018)
Unified Korean swimming team takes bronze at Asian Para Games after judging controversy (*Yonhap*, 10/9/2018)

International
(3rd LD) Pompeo: N. Korea, U.S. to discuss logistics of inspectors for nuclear, missile sites (*Yonhap*, 10/8/2018)
Australian government moves to deport North Korean defector after drug offences (*9News*, 10/9/2018)
Chinese athletes visit NKorea in latest sign of thaw in ties (*Associated Press*, 10/8/2018)
Ending the Cold War (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/9/2018)
Kim Jong-un Invites Pope Francis to North Korea (*New York Times*, 10/9/2018)
Kim Jong Un invites Pope Francis to Pyongyang (UPI, 10/9/2018)
Kim Jong-un invites pope to Pyongyang (*The Guardian*, 10/9/2018)
Kim invites Pope North via Moon (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/9/2018)
(LEAD) Unification minister to visit U.S. next month (*Yonhap*, 10/9/2018)
N.K. cargo jet's Vladivostok flight suggests Kim's Russia visit imminent (*Yonhap*, 10/8/2018)
North Korea Invites Pope Francis for Visit (VOA, 10/9/2018)
North Korea politician headed to Equatorial Guinea (UPI, 10/9/2018)
North Korea wants to 'ardently welcome' Pope Francis, South says (*Reuters*, 10/9/2018)
North Korean leader invites the Pope to Pyongyang (*Korea Times*, 10/9/2018)
Pompeo hails 'significant' North Korea progress; experts skeptical (*Reuters*, 10/7/2018)
Pompeo has a rough meeting in Beijing (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/9/2018)
Report: Kim Jong Un offered 'no comment' on Japan abduction issue (UPI, 10/8/2018)
Unification minister set to head to US next month (*Korea Times*, 10/9/2018)

In North Korea

- North Korea has completed construction on children's traffic parks in more than 50 cities and counties across the country, according to state media. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- These entrepreneurs, known in Korean as the donju, which loosely translates as “masters of money,” are said to be the invisible hand of the North’s growing economy - working for both

profit and stability. (Jeong Yong-soo, Kwen Yu-jin, Kim Ji-a, Shim Kyu-seok, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

- The number of bribes being accepted in exchange for membership in North Korea's Workers' Party is on the rise as the country is set to commemorate the Party's establishment on October 10, sources in Ryanggang Province report. (Kim Yoo Jin, *DailyNK*)
- Kim Jong Un seems to have a new ride. The young North Korean leader arrived in what appeared to be a black Rolls-Royce at his meeting with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo this weekend. (Joshua Berlinger, CNN)
- One point that Kim makes that is revolutionary however, is that the state will take "a certain portion of grain [produced]," leaving "the rest to farmers whose distribution will be decided by the number of days they have worked – the amount they have earned." (Peter Ward, *NKNews*)
- A North Korean hacking group has tried to steal at least $1.1 billion in a series of attacks on global banks over the past four years, according to cybersecurity firm FireEye Inc. (Yalman Onaran, *Bloomberg*)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Monday that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is ready to allow international inspectors into a key nuclear testing site, signaling a step forward in Pyongyang's commitment to denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula. (Angela Dewan, James Griffiths, CNN)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo heralded "significant progress" after his weekend trip to North Korea, but it looks like that depends on how you define "significant." The diplomatic atmospherics look good, and the bonhomie is nice, but there still isn't much progress toward denuclearization. (*Wall Street Journal*)
- Put the ongoing beehive of activities for North Korea's denuclearization together and it would look as if a resolution were within immediate reach. But one expert warns that this is nothing but an illusion and it may take 10 years or more to defang the North's nuclear capability because of a lack of mutual trust. (Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)
- The supply of food remains precarious in North Korea, where one in five children is stunted by malnutrition, the United Nation's food agency said on Tuesday. (Stephanie Nebehay, *Reuters*)
- North Korean people's demand for better houses will create as much as 77 trillion won (US$68.1 billion) in additional construction investment between 2021 and 2030 if the reclusive country fully opens its market, a report said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)

In South Korea

- The centrist Bareunmirae Party is being torn apart over debates on whether to ratify the Panmunjom Declaration, which was signed by the leaders of the two Koreas on April 27. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- If we really want peace, we need to refrain from openly expressing nationalistic desire. It is not only dangerous but backward to advocate ethnic unity in an era of diversity. It could be asking for trouble. (Bae Myung-bok, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- The South Korean prime minister on Tuesday reaffirmed the government's will to restart efforts to compile a unified Korean-language dictionary with North Korea as his country observed Hangul Day, which marks the invention of the Korean alphabet more than five centuries ago. (Yonhap)
- South Korean lawmakers have proposed a parliamentary meeting with North Korean politicians in Pyongyang next month. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- South Korea's parliament is pushing to hold talks with its North Korean counterpart to promote peace on the divided Korean Peninsula, South Korea's parliamentary speaker said Tuesday. (Yonhap)
- The unified Korean swimming team took a bronze medal at the 3rd Asian Para Games in Indonesia after accepting the organizers' decision on Tuesday. (Yonhap)

International

- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has promised to let foreign inspectors visit the country's key nuclear test site in Punggye-ri as soon as logistics-related details are worked out, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Monday. (Yonhap)
- Lee Park* fled North Korea under threat of execution for speaking out against the totalitarian regime when he was just 18. He found his way to Australia and admits he has since done 'a lot of bad things', including being found guilty of serious drug offences. (Belinda Grant Geary, 9News)
- A large group of Chinese athletes and sports officials arrived in North Korea on Monday in the latest sign of a thaw in relations between the two countries this year. (Associated Press)
- Although the reason for his confidence is unclear, many would welcome the removal of Cold War remnants from the Korean Peninsula. The chain collapse of the Soviet and Eastern European bloc in 1989 did not reach this part of the world. (Korea JoongAng Daily)
- Kim Jong-un, the leader of North Korea, which has been condemned as one of the worst suppressors of religious freedom in the world, has invited Pope Francis to visit his country, South Korea's government said Tuesday. (Choe Sang-hun, New York Times)
- Kim Jong Un has invited Pope Francis to Pyongyang, and has said he would "warmly welcome" him to North Korea in what would be a historic visit to the country by the head of the Roman Catholic Church. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Kim told his South Korean counterpart, Moon Jae-in, at a summit last month that he would "ardently welcome the pope if he visits Pyongyang", according to a spokesman for the presidential Blue House. (Benjamin Haas, The Guardian)
- Kim Eui-kyeom, the Blue House spokesman, said Moon will deliver North Korean leader Kim's wish to invite the leader of the Catholic Church to Pyongyang during his visit to the Vatican on Oct. 17 and 18. Moon will kick off a nine-day trip to Europe on Saturday. (Kang Jin-kyu, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- South Korea's unification minister plans to visit the United States next month in an apparent bid to soothe skepticism among officials and experts over the North's denuclearization commitment and peace talks on the Korean Peninsula. (Yonhap)
- A North Korean cargo plane reportedly arrived in Russia's Vladivostok on Sunday, triggering speculation that North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's Russia visit may be imminent. (Yonhap)

- Kim Eui-kyeom, a spokesman for South Korean President Moon Jae-in told reporters Tuesday that President Moon will deliver the North Korean leader's invitation when he visits the pontiff on October 17. (VOA)
- A North Korean official influential in economic affairs arrived in Beijing on Tuesday, en route to Equatorial Guinea, according to a South Korean press report. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has invited Pope Francis to visit Pyongyang, a gesture designed to highlight peace efforts, South Korea's presidential office said on Tuesday. (Hyonhee Shin, Ju-min Park, *Reuters*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un will invite Pope Francis to the communist nation's capital Pyongyang, promising a "fervent welcome" during the papal visit, Cheong Wa Dae said Tuesday. (Oh Young-jin, *Korea Times*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Monday hailed "significant progress" in talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un at the weekend and said the sides were "pretty close" to agreeing details for a second summit between Kim and President Donald Trump. (Hyonhee Shin, David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo reaffirmed with Chinese officials their "shared resolve to achieving the final, fully verified denuclearization" of North Korea, according to the U.S. State Department Monday, despite being at odds with each other on a slew of other issues. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Kim Jong Un provided no response to U.S. queries into the issue of Japanese abductees during his most recent meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, according to a Japanese press report. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon plans to visit Washington, D.C., next month to persuade high-profile U.S. officials about Seoul's engagement-centric policy toward North Korea and to brief them about the latest developments on the nuclear disarmament talks, the ministry said, Tuesday. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250804162727/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-north-korean-food-supply-still-precarious-as-donor-stay-away-un-says-kim-jong-un-invites-pope-francis-to-north-korea

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Wednesday, October 10, 2018

North Korean defectors urge Trump to be tough on Kim; Pompeo has a rough meeting in Beijing

Top News

Defectors to Trump: Put rights in any N. Korea deal (*Daily Mail*, 10/10/2018)

N.K. defector hopes Pope Francis prays for Kim (*Yonhap*, 10/10/2018)
North Korean defectors to Donald Trump: Put human rights in any deal with Kim Jong Un (*The Straits Times*, 10/10/2018)
North Korean defectors urge Trump to be tough on Kim (*The Washington Times*, 10/10/2018)

In North Korea
(LEAD) N. Korea, China discuss cooperation in sports (*Yonhap*, 10/10/2018)
Kim Jong Un hints at accepting other corresponding measures (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 10/10/2018)
Kim Jong-un Has a New Rolls-Royce (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/10/2018)
Kim Jong-un Invites Pope to N.Korea (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/10/2018)
Kim Jong-un invites the Pope to Pyongyang (*The Korea Times*, 10/10/2018)
Kim-Trump summit after Nov. 6 (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/10/2018)
N. Korea, U.S. refuse to budge over accord to end Korean War (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 10/10/2018)
Nearly 40% of N.Koreans Suffering from Malnutrition (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/10/2018)
North Korean defector hopes Pope Francis prays for Kim (*The Korea Times*, 10/10/2018)
North Korean hackers stole $100 million from 11 countries (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/10/2018)
North Korean training document emphasizes self-sufficiency (*DailyNK*, 10/10/2018)
N.Korea's Forests Have Shrunk 40% (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/10/2018)
Rolls-Royce Phantom is Kim Jong Un's new ride (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 10/10/2018)
Sanctions can't stop Kim Jong-un from rolling on in his Rolls-Royce (*The Korea Times*, 10/10/2018)
Where do North Korea's agricultural policy changes stand? (*North Korea Economic Watch*, 10/09/2018)

In South Korea
(3rd LD) Minister: S. Korea mulls lifting sanctions on N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 10/10/2018)
'Government looking into ending May 24 measures on NK': Foreign Minister Kang (*The Korea Herald*, 10/10/2018)
13 anti-tank defenses to be dismantled within the year (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 10/10/2018)
Anti-Tank Barriers Torn Down on the Way to Seoul (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/10/2018)
Kang flubs it (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/10/2018)
Korean peace moves: 'It takes three to tango' (*The Korea Times*, 10/10/2018)
May 24 gov't sanctions might be lifted: Kang (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/10/2018)
Moon keeps pushing declaration (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/10/2018)
Moon urges ratification of Panmunjeom Declaration (*The Korea Times*, 10/10/2018)
President Moon urges parliamentary ratification of inter-Korean summit deal (*Yonhap*, 10/10/2018)
Seoul seeks inclusion in nuke inspection (*The Korea Times*, 10/10/2018)
S. Korea says tap water supply in Kaesong does not violate global sanctions (*Yonhap*, 10/10/2018)
South Korea conservatives reject changes to anti-communist law (*UPI*, 10/10/2018)
South Korea Considers Lifting Sanctions Against North Korea (*The New York Times*, 10/10/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship
Inter-Korean Dialogue and Denuclearization—Will the Twain Shall Meet? (*38 North*, 10/09/2018)
Penalty or 11-metre foot kick? North and South Korea work on unified dictionary (*The Guardian*, 10/10/2018)

S. Korea invites N. Korea to participate in national sports festival in 2019 (*Yonhap*, 10/10/2018)
UNC chief offers 'full support" for DMZ demining, excavation work (*The Korea Times*, 10/10/2018)

International

(3rd LD) Trump says summit with Kim will be held after Nov. midterm elections (*Yonhap*, 10/10/2018)
China sends floral basket to celebrate founding anniversary of N.K. ruling party (*Yonhap*, 10/10/2018)
China's Yao Ming visits North Korea during basketball exchange (*UPI*, 10/10/2018)
Dennis Rodman benched for Yao Ming at Pyongyang friendly? (*The Korea Herald*, 10/10/2018)
Experts skeptical of Pompeo's North Korea gains (*The Korea Times*, 10/10/2018)
Ex-NBA player Yao Ming leads China delegation for match in North Korea (*The Korea Times*, 10/10/2018)
Japan offers to host second U.S.-North Korea summit: report (*The Japan Times*, 10/10/2018)
Kim Jong-un's invitation for Pope Francis to visit North Korea condemned as propaganda stunt (*The Daily Telegraph*, 10/10/2018)
Nuclear inspection should be accompanied by actual denuke steps (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 10/10/2018)
Pompeo has a rough meeting in Beijing (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/10/2018)
Report: Kim, Pompeo disagree on denuclearization measures (*UPI*, 10/10/2018)
Trade war and N. Korea's denuclearization are different issues (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 10/10/2018)
Trump says will meet Kim after midterms, venue undecided (*The Korea Herald*, 10/10/2018)
Trump: summit with North Korean leader 'after Nov. 6 midterm elections' (*The Korea Times*, 10/10/2018)
US, IAEA likely to inspect NK nuclear test site: experts (*The Korea Herald*, 10/10/2018)
U.S. hails N. Korea's invitation of inspectors as 'very good step' (*Yonhap*, 10/10/2018)

Top News

- On Tuesday, Ji was back in Washington, this time in an office building several blocks from the White House, where he had a message for Trump: make any declaration negotiated in his burgeoning relationship with Kim Jong Un contingent on human rights. Ji was joined at the news conference by Kang Chol Hwan, who was jailed for a decade from the age of nine after the totalitarian state accused his grandfather of treason. (AFP)
- North Korean defector and human rights activists Ji Seong-ho's comments on the Pope's visit to Pyongyang during the HRNK event on October 9th was featured by Yonhap News Agency. Ji highlighted the importance of North Korean human rights on the agenda of any end-of-war declaration. (*Yonhap*)
- "I think there should be a declaration of the end of abuse, not just a declaration of the end of war," Mr Ji told a news conference at the National Press Club called by the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea advocacy group. (AFP)
- The defectors, who held a briefing at the National Press Club on Tuesday, urged the U.S. administration to reject all offers by North Korea to sign a former peace treaty as part of the talks until the North addresses the human rights issue is addressed. (Dan Boylan, *The Washington Times*)

In North Korea

- North Korea and China have discussed cooperation in the sports sector, the North's state media said Wednesday, in the latest sign of improving ties. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un met with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Sunday and reportedly said that declaring an end to the Korean War does not have to be the only corresponding measure the U.S. needs to take in exchange for giving up nuclear weapons. (Sang-Jun Han, *The Dong-A Ilbo*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un seems to have a new Rolls-Royce as his official ride, CNN reported on Tuesday. Kim arrived in a black limousine sporting the luxury carmaker's distinctive "R" on the whole hubs for a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in Pyongyang on Sunday. (*The Chosun Ilbo*)
- President Moon Jae-in will deliver an invitation from North Korean leader Kim Jong-un to Pope Francis when Moon meets the pontiff later this month, Cheong Wa Dae said Tuesday. (Lee Min-seok, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has invited Pope Francis to become the first pontiff to visit the state. The invitation will be delivered by the South Korean president. A mass for peace on the Korean Peninsula is being held at the Vatican next week. But the Vatican hasn't confirmed if the invitation to Pyongyang will be accepted. (*Reuters*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump said Tuesday his second summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un will take place after the U.S. midterm elections on Nov. 6, with several venues being discussed. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Washington and Pyongyang are still far apart regarding a declaration ending the Korean War but continue to push plans for a second summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. (Yoshihiro Makino, *The Asahi Shimbun*)
- The UN World Food Programme said on Tuesday that more than 10 million North Koreans are undernourished and need humanitarian aid. But the WFP, which provides fortified cereals and enriched biscuits to some 650,000 women and children in North Korea each month, may have to cut aid due to a lack of funding. (*Arirang News*)
- Ji Seong-ho, who rose to prominence after being invited to U.S. President Donald Trump's State of the Union speech this year, was commenting on news that Kim had invited the pontiff to visit Pyongyang. He called for greater attention to the North's human rights situation as negotiations are underway to dismantle the regime's nuclear weapons program. (*Yonhap*)
- A North Korean hacking group has tried to steal at least $1.1 billion in a series of attacks on global banks over the past four years, according to cybersecurity firm FireEye. North Korean diplomats and official media have denied that the country plays any role in cyberattacks. (*Bloomberg*)
- The North Korean authorities reportedly held ideological training for all Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) members and workers at the beginning of September. These training sessions reportedly emphasized "support projects" and appear related to efforts to remind North Koreans about "self-sufficiency," which was a keyword at the Third Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee in April. (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)

- North Korea's forest area has shrunk about 40 percent over the last 25 years, according to a UN study. The finding brings home the urgency of the two Koreas' recent agreement to cooperate in restoring forests in the North. (Yoon Hyung-jun, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, known for his enthusiasm about cars, gathered attention on Sunday when he was seen in a Rolls-Royce Phantom, not in his usual Mercedes Benz, which reportedly has been his favorite, in his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on his 4th visit to Pyongyang. (Gi-Jae Han, *The Dong-A Ilbo*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un was spotted in what appeared to be his gleaming new Rolls-Royce Phantom as he arrived for his latest meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in Pyongyang on Oct. 7. (Lee Min-young, *The Korea Times*)
- One crucial question that seems to remain, however, is around how the state sets its quotas. As Ward points out, farmers get to know ahead of time how much of their output they will get to keep, based on estimated harvests. (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, *North Korea Economic Watch*)

In South Korea

- South Korea is reviewing whether to lift its sanctions against North Korea, Seoul's top diplomat said Wednesday, amid a summit-driven reconciliatory mood. Opposition lawmakers accused Kang of talking about ditching the May 24 Measure without a formal apology from the North for the killing of 46 sailors in the Cheonan attack. (Lee Chi-dong, *Yonhap*)
- The Korean government is considering lifting the May 24 measures against North Korea, Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha said Wednesday. The Foreign Ministry later said that Kang had meant that the measures should be reviewed within the framework of international sanctions as denuclearization talks are underway, and that there is no active review underway. (Choi He-suk, *The Korea Herald*)
- The South Korean military has decided to dismantle 13 anti-tank defenses in Gangwon and northern Gyeonggi provinces. Anti-tank defenses are concrete structures on the roads that are meant to prevent North Korean armies from moving south in case of a war. (Sang-Ho Yun, *The Dong-A Ilbo*)
- Anti-tank barriers built in frontline areas to deter North Korea's mechanized forces from marching south in a war have been removed at an alarming rate this year. Only six alternative barriers were built to substitute for the ones that were removed. (Yu Yong-weon, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- We can't violate international sanctions. Sanctions are the very leverage we have to denuclearize the North. If the Moon administration believes Pyongyang will more actively denuclearize as long we show sincerity, that's wishful thinking. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Presidential adviser Moon Chung-in, who is known to have great influence on President Moon Jae-in's foreign policy, said Wednesday three leaders — Kim Jong-un, Donald Trump and Moon — were equally responsible for creating the atmosphere for peace on the Korean Peninsula. (Oh Young-jin, *The Korea Times*)

- Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha said that the government is "reviewing with relevant agencies" whether to lift South Korea's May 24 sanctions on the North during a parliamentary audit on Wednesday. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- President Moon Jae-in again pressed conservative opposition parties to ratify his April summit agreement with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon wants to push forward with his engagement initiative with North Korea with backing from the Assembly. His wishes reflect the past case in which 2007 agreements reached between President Roh Moo-hyun and North Korean leader Kim Jong-il were abandoned after conservatives took power. (Kim Bo-eun, *The Korea Times*)
- President Moon Jae-in again pressed conservative opposition parties to ratify his April summit agreement with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un Wednesday. His remarks came shortly after the minor opposition Bareunmirae Party expressed its clear opposition to ratifying the inter-Korean summit agreement and instead offered to push for a parliamentary resolution supporting the summit deal. (*Yonhap*)
- The government is closely discussing with the U.S. about including South Korean experts in the inspection of the Punggye-ri nuclear testing site in the North, Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha said Wednesday. The remarks came during the National Assembly's audit of the ministry. (Kim Bo-eun, *The Korea Times*)
- South Korea on Wednesday brushed off concerns that the recent resumption of tap water supply to a liaison office in North Korea violates global sanctions imposed on Pyongyang for its nuclear and missile provocations. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea's main opposition conservatives said Wednesday talk of repealing the country's anti-communist National Security Act is comparable to building a highway for a North Korea takeover. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- South Korea said on Wednesday that it was considering lifting a sweeping embargo on bilateral trade and exchanges with North Korea, despite Washington's efforts to keep the economic noose on the North until it denuclearizes. (Choe Sang-Hun, *The New York Times*)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- Despite these constraints, the political momentum created by the series of inter-Korean summits could compel the United States to continue to move forward, as indicated by President Donald Trump's willingness to hold a second US-DPRK summit in the near future, possibly timed for the November midterm election. (Go Myong-hyun, *38 North*)
- Amid a rapprochement between the two Koreas after three summits this year between the leaders, South Korean officials are working to restart efforts to create a unified dictionary and bridge the language divide. (Benjamin Haas, *The Guardian*)
- South Korea has proposed that North Korea participate in its centennial national sports festival in 2019, Seoul's sports minister said Wednesday. Next year's 100th Korean National Sports Festival is scheduled to be held in Seoul from Oct. 4-10. (*Yonhap*)
- Vincent Brooks, chief of the U.S.-led U.N. Command, has offered "full support" for South Korea's ongoing operations to clear landmines in order to carry out an inter-Korean project

to excavate Korean War remains in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), his office said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)

International

- U.S. President Donald Trump said Tuesday that he will hold a second summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un after the U.S. midterm elections slated for early next month. (*Yonhap*)
- China's Communist Party Central Committee has sent a floral basket to North Korea's ruling Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) to celebrate its 73rd founding anniversary, the North's media reported Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- Two Chinese basketball teams visited North Korea this week with a delegation that included former NBA All-Star Yao Ming. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- The former Houston Rockets center and eight-time NBA all-star took center court in Pyongyang, North Korea's capital, on Tuesday as Chinese and North Korean basketball players held a friendly match, part of a high-profile sports exchange between the two countries intended to help thaw ties that had been growing chilly over the past year. (*AP*)
- While U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo hailed "significant progress" in talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on the weekend and said the sides were "pretty close" to agreeing details for a second summit between Kim and President Donald Trump, experts on East Asian politics are skeptical. (*Reuters*)
- China's Yao Ming, the former Houston Rockets center and eight-time NBA all-star, arrived in Pyongyang on Monday with a high-level delegation to preside over a friendly match between Chinese and North Korean female basketball players on Tuesday. (Lee Min-young, *The Korea Times*)
- A South Korean newspaper reported Wednesday that Japan has conveyed to the United States its readiness to host a second U.S.-North Korea summit being arranged by Washington and Pyongyang. (*Kyodo*)
- A human rights activist has criticised North Korea's invitation for the Pope to visit Pyongyang as an "impure manoeuvre" designed to fool the world into believing that the regime is becoming more open to religious freedoms. (Julian Ryall, *The Daily Telegraph*)
- If the regime insists that the U.S. administration first take pre-emptive measures while unilaterally shutting down its test site and allowing inspectors to just observe the scene, we will not be able to unearth the truth of North Korea's nuclear development, let alone verify its dismantlement. (*The Dong-A Ilbo*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo reaffirmed with Chinese officials their "shared resolve to achieving the final, fully verified denuclearization" of North Korea, according to the U.S. State Department Monday, despite being at odds with each other on a slew of other issues. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Despite smiles and handshakes, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo differed on steps to take toward denuclearization at their meeting on Sunday in Pyongyang, a Japanese news report said. (Wooyoung Lee, *UPI*)

- The United States and China alike should not link denuclearization to other irrelevant affairs such as trade disagreement and Taiwan-related issues. Washington and Beijing have to prevent Kim's miscalculations by confirming that the international community stays firm until the North realizes denuclearization. (*The Dong-A Ilbo*)
- The second US-North Korea summit will be held after the US midterm elections, with three or four locations being considered, US President Donald Trump said Tuesday. (Choi He-suk, *The Korea Herald*)
- Trump tells reporters traveling with him to a rally in Iowa that he doesn't have time for a foreign trip as he's crisscrossing the country holding rallies to try to boost Republican turnout in November. (AP)
- Personnel from the US and international organizations are among the most likely candidates for carrying out the inspection of a North Korean nuclear site proposed by Kim Jong-un during his meeting with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, experts say. (Jung Min-kyung, *The Korea Herald*)
- The United States on Tuesday hailed North Korea's invitation of inspectors to a demolished nuclear test site as a "very good step" on the path to denuclearization. (*Yonhap*)

Prepared by Hangyun Kim, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250804163028/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-north-korean-defectors-urge-trump-to-be-tough-on-kim-pompeo-has-a-rough-meeting-in-beijing

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Thursday, October 11, 2018

South Korea conservatives reject changes to anti-communist law; Vatican waiting for invitation from N.Korean leader: official

In North Korea

Despite consumer frugality following poor harvest, North Korean art trade hums along (*DailyNK*, 10/11/2018)
How to Tell When North Korea Starts to Denuclearize (*The Atlantic*, 10/10/2018)
Kim Jong-un's new Rolls-Royce shows North Korean sanctions are 'a bit of a joke' (*The Telegraph*, 10/11/2018)
Kim Jong Un's True Plan for North Korea's Nuclear Weapons (*Newsweek*, 10/10/2018)
N.K. leader Kim visits mausoleum marking party's founding anniversary (*Yonhap*, 10/11/2018)
N. Korea appears to have altered launch pad fuel/oxidizer bunker: 38 North (*Yonhap*, 10/11/2018)
N. Korea's mineral resources estimated at US$3.3 tln: report (*Yonhap*, 10/11/2018)
N. Korean leader visits newly renovated orchestra theater in Pyongyang (*Yonhap*, 10/11/2018)
North Korea malnutrition worsened in 2017, humanitarian agencies say (*UPI*, 10/11/2018)

North Korea's intentions are starting to show (*Daily*NK, 10/11/2018)
North Korea's Sohae Satellite Launching Station: Activity at a Launch Pad Fuel/Oxidizer Bunker (38*North*, 10/10/2018)
Number of foreign professors sharply decreases in N.K. university: report (*Yonhap*, 10/11/2018)

In South Korea

(2nd LD) Unification minister says Seoul not considering lifting N. Korea sanctions (*Yonhap*, 10/11/2018)
At naval review, Moon stresses strong defense (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/11/2018)
Customs office probing two additional suspected cases of NK coal shipment (*Yonhap*, 10/11/2018)
(LEAD) Trump's wording triggers controversy in S. Korea (*Yonhap*, 10/11/2018)
S. Korea walks back on possibly lifting sanctions on North (*Associated Press*, 10/11/2018)
Seoul court acquits North Korean defector of spying after 49 years (*UPI*, 10/11/2018)
South Korea Backtracks on Easing Sanctions After Trump Comment (*New York Times*, 10/11/2018)
South Korea conservatives reject changes to anti-communist law (*UPI*, 10/10/2018)
South Korea says no change on North Korean sanctions (*Reuters*, 10/10/2018)
South Korea wants to lift sanctions on North Korea. That could kill Trump's nuclear plan. (*Vox*, 10/10/2018)
Trump's remarks infringe national sovereignty (*Korea Times*, 10/11/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship

A sentimental trip to Pyongyang (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/11/2018)
'Koreas discussing inspections for economic cooperation' (*Korea Times*, 10/11/2018)
(LEAD) Moon says two Koreas will reach complete denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 10/11/2018)
Moon adviser says a 'big deal' with the North is possible (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/11/2018)
(Yonhap Feature) Seoul eyes first-ever parliamentary meeting with North amid thawing ties (*Yonhap*, 10/11/2018)

International

Australia, Japan agree to keep pressure on North Korea (*Associated Press*, 10/10/2018)
Bargaining for peace (*Korea Times*, 10/11/2018)
Bishop: Possible pope trip to North Korea 'a gigantic step' (*Associated Press*, 10/11/2018)
Calgary-raised photojournalist leaves North Korea with trove of intimate images (*CBC*, 10/10/2018)
China, Russia and North Korea eye adjustment of U.N. sanctions in talks (*Reuters*, 10/10/2018)
Hope for pope's visit (*Korea Times*, 10/11/2018)
In North Korea, Yao Ming becomes China's answer to Dennis Rodman (*Washington Post*, 10/10/2018)
(LEAD) Trump says S. Korea won't lift N.K. sanctions without U.S. approval (*Yonhap*, 10/11/2018)
Military deal bothered Pompeo (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/11/2018)
Moscow speaks of need for five-way international talks to end Korean tensions (*Reuters*, 10/10/2018)
N. Korea, China, Russia call for 'corresponding' measures in denuclearization talks (*Yonhap*, 10/11/2018)
Pope visit to North Korea feasible if well prepared, South Korean bishop says (*Reuters*, 10/11/2018)
S. Korea in talks with U.S. over joining nuclear inspection in N. Korea: official (*Yonhap*, 10/10/2018)
Schisms on sanctions (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/11/2018)

‘Seoul needs my approval’ on sanctions: Trump (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/11/2018)
Trump angry after South Korea signals it may ease North Korea sanctions (*The Guardian*, 10/11/2018)
Trump's praise for North Korea complicates cyber deterrence (*The Hill*, 10/11/2018)
U.S. hopes to hold working-level talks with N. Korea soon (*Yonhap*,10/11/2018)
Vatican waiting for invitation from N. Korean leader: official (*Yonhap*, 10/11/2018)
'Why aren't they paying?': Trump hits out at South Korea about missile defense system (*CNBC*, 10/10/2018)

In North Korea

- Sources in Ryanggang Province who reported that retired artists from the famed Mansudae Art Studio have been touring the country, offering their services for cash. The artists are producing works of art for patrons in several regions, including the outskirts of Pyongyang. (Kang Mi Jin, *DailyNK*)
- Most North Korea and nuclear experts—the authors of this article, included—doubt that Kim has decided to abandon his nuclear-weapons program. North Korea has an established pattern of dragging out negotiations and breaking its commitments. (Eric M. Brewer, Jung H. Pak, *The Atlantic*)
- Kim Jong-un arrived at his recent meeting with Mike Pompeo, the US secretary of state, in a new Rolls-Royce Phantom, suggesting that international sanctions are no longer halting the regime’s acquisition of luxury goods. (Julian Ryall, *The Telegraph*)
- Actions speak far louder than words. Kim’s actions suggest that his real objective is to delay U.S. actions against him until he can build a coercive nuclear weapon force with dozens of ICBMs to directly threaten the United States. (Bruce W. Bennett, *Newsweek*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun on the occasion of the 73rd anniversary of the country's ruling party founding, the North's state media said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea appears to have altered part of a launch pad at a key missile test site on the country's west coast that it has pledged to dismantle as part of its denuclearization commitment, 38 North, a U.S. website monitoring the communist state, has said. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea has mineral resources estimated to be worth 3,795 trillion won (US$3.3 trillion) in terms of current market value, about 15 times that of South Korea, a state-run agency's report showed Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has visited the newly renovated Samjiyon Orchestra Theater in Pyongyang on the occasion of the founding anniversary of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea, the North's media reported Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- In its annual 2018 Global Hunger Index, Concern Worldwide, German World Hunger Aid, and the U.S.-based International Food Policy Research Institute, ranked North Korea as a country at serious risk, South Korean news agency Yonhap reported Thursday. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- However, if we begin to accept North Korea’s ‘Salami Tactic’ of taking a “step-by-step approach to only things that are possible,” then we are not going down the path of complete denuclearization but rather the path of nuclear disarmament by accepting North Korea as a nuclear power. (Thae Yong-ho, *DailyNK*)

- A review of commercial satellite imagery of the Sohae Satellite Launching Station beginning in spring and running through fall 2018 reveals activity beyond the previously reported dismantlement steps taken at the launch pad and vertical engine test stand. (Jack Liu, Frank V. Pabian, Peter Makowsky, 38North)
- The number of foreign professors at North Korea's only private university has nosedived amid the strict enforcement of U.N. sanctions on Pyongyang, Radio Free Asia reported Thursday. (Yonhap)

In South Korea

- South Korea is not considering lifting its unilateral sanctions on North Korea which were imposed after the North's deadly attack on a South Korean warship in 2010, Seoul's unification minister said Thursday. (Yonhap)
- President Moon Jae-in on Thursday emphasized it was essential for South Korea to have a "strong national defense" to ensure peace and prosperity on the peninsula. He also noted that South and North Korea had embarked on a journey toward complete denuclearization and peace in a speech to top-ranking naval officials from around the world. (Kang Jin-kyu, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- South Korea's customs office said Thursday that it has been investigating two additional suspected cases of North Korean coal shipments that may be in violation of international sanctions against Pyongyang. (Yonhap)
- A controversy has erupted in South Korea over U.S. President Donald Trump's choice of words in a comment regarding South Korea's sanctions on North Korea. (Lee Chi-dong, Yonhap)
- South Korea on Thursday walked back on a proposal to lift some of its unilateral sanctions against North Korea following U.S. President Donald Trump's blunt retort that Seoul could "do nothing" without Washington's approval. (Kim Tong-hyung, Associated Press)
- A Seoul court acquitted a former vice president of North Korea's state-run Korea Central News Agency, who defected to the South in 1967, of charges of spying. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- South Korea moved to patch up an emerging diplomatic row with the United States on Thursday, disowning any plan to lift sanctions against North Korea after President Trump's blunt remark that Seoul could "do nothing" without Washington's "approval." (Choe Sang-hun, New York Times)
- South Korea's main opposition conservatives said Wednesday talk of repealing the country's anti-communist National Security Act is comparable to building a highway for a North Korea takeover. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- South Korea never considered lifting sanctions against North Korea imposed over the 2010 sinking of a South Korean warship, the country's Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon said on Thursday. (Joyce Lee, Hyonhee Shin, Reuters)
- For years, South Korea has imposed punishing economic sanctions on its neighbor, North Korea. But on Wednesday, South Korea signaled it's willing to lift some of those sanctions. If it does so, it's a growing sign that the US-led campaign to pressure North Korea into dismantling its nuclear arsenal is falling apart. (Alex Ward, Vox)

- U.S. President Donald Trump has irritated South Korean officials and the people with his recent remarks over the possible lifting of Seoul's unilateral sanctions on the North. His statement is seen as infringing on the national sovereignty of South Korea. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- The Democratic Party lawmakers who visited North Korea for three days to attend the 11th anniversary of the October 4, 2010 inter-Korean summit had mixed feelings — especially the former activists who contacted the North as part of the reunification movement in the late 1980s. (Kang Chan-ho, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The government is discussing preparations for economic cooperation with North Korea, Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon said Thursday. "We are talking with the North about carrying out inspections in preparation for economic cooperation," he said in a National Assembly audit. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- South Korea will completely denuclearize the Korean Peninsula and establish permanent peace, President Moon Jae-in said Thursday, stressing the need for strong defense capabilities to support such efforts. (*Yonhap*)
- Presidential special adviser Moon Chung-in, a long-time advocate of closer relations with North Korea, discussed the possibility of a denuclearization agreement or a “big deal” between the United States and Pyongyang during two interviews with the JoongAng Ilbo on Sept. 30 and Oct. 4. (Bae Myung-bok, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Now, South Korea's National Assembly is again eyeing its first-ever parliamentary meeting with its North Korean counterpart, the Supreme People's Assembly (SPA), in the latest in a series of reconciliatory moves that started early this year. (Kim Soo-yeon, *Yonhap*)

International

- Australia and Japan on Wednesday reaffirmed their commitment to pressuring North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons program and enforcing sanctions on Pyongyang. (*Associated Press*)
- In a year full of surprises about confrontation on the Korean Peninsula, it's still hard to imagine that Kim seriously is inviting the Pope Francis to Pyongyang. (Donald Kirk, *Korea Times*)
- A South Korean bishop says a visit by Pope Francis to North Korea would mark a “gigantic step” for peace on the peninsula but that there are many issues about religious freedom that must be resolved. (*Associated Press*)
- A Calgary-born and raised photojournalist, now based in Vancouver, has published a book based on two trips to North Korea, normally considered inhospitable to foreigners. Austin Andrews' *Red Star Utopia: Inside North Korea* is the product of a two visits to the country six months apart and a 36-hour train ride from one end of the country to the other. (David Bell, *CBC*)

- China, Russia and North Korea believe it is necessary to consider adjusting U.N. sanctions against North Korea at an appropriate time, China's foreign ministry said on Wednesday. (Michael Martina, *Reuters*)
- It is too early to get excited about the visit because Pyongyang has yet to send an official invitation. All eyes will be on how the pope will respond. Kim's invitation seems to be part of his efforts to engage in active international diplomacy. (*Korea Times*)
- Yao Ming, the 7-foot-6 former NBA player who now serves as chairman of the Chinese Basketball Association, arrived in Pyongyang on Monday as part of a high-level delegation from China. The one-time Houston Rockets center took to the court after a friendly game between Chinese and North Korean players Tuesday, offering congratulations to both sides. (Adam Taylor, *Washington Post*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday ruled out the possibility of South Korea lifting sanctions on North Korea without approval from the United States. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was unhappy about the inter-Korean military agreement signed during the Pyongyang summit last month, Seoul's top diplomat confirmed. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Wednesday that Russia, China and North Korea had agreed on the need for five-way talks including the United States and South Korea to end tensions on the Korean peninsula. (Tom Balmforth, *Reuters*)
- Senior diplomats of North Korea, China and Russia have called for "corresponding measures" in response to the North's "practical" denuclearization steps, the North's state media reported Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- A trip by Pope Francis to North Korea is "a dream that can be realized" and would be a gigantic step toward peace on the Korean peninsula, a senior South Korean bishop said on Thursday. (Philip Pullella, *Reuters*)
- South Korea and the United States have been in close consultations over allowing South Korean experts to join a team that will inspect North Korea's demolished nuclear test site, Seoul's top diplomat said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea-U.S. relations are getting shaky. After Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha hinted at the possibility of easing our sanctions on North Korea at the National Assembly, U.S. President Donald Trump said on Wednesday, "South Korea will not lift sanctions on Pyongyang without U.S. approval." (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump rejected the notion that South Korea may lift some of its unilateral sanctions on North Korea, declaring it won't happen without his "approval" on Wednesday. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korea has considered lifting economic sanctions designed to force North Korea to relinquish its nuclear weapons, drawing a swift rebuke from Donald Trump and exposing a rift in Seoul's alliance with Washington. (Benjamin Haas, *The Guardian*)
- President Trump's recent goodwill toward North Korea is at odds with his administration's attempts to crack down on the country's cyberattacks, and experts say the president's plaudits could hinder U.S.-led efforts to deter North Korean aggression in cyberspace. (Jacqueline Thomsen, Olivia Beavers, *The Hill*)

- The United States hopes to hold working-level talks with North Korea soon to make progress on denuclearization and a second summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, the State Department said Wednesday. (Yonhap)
- The Vatican is waiting for North Korea's invitation to Pope Francis, its spokesman said, amid rising speculation about his visit to Pyongyang. (Yonhap)
- U.S. President Donald Trump criticized Seoul on Tuesday for failing to finance the U.S. deployment of a missile defense system on the Korean Peninsula. Last year, the U.S. deployed two Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, launchers to South Korea in response to North Korea's increased missile and nuclear tests. (Amanda Macias, CNBC)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250804163138/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-south-korea-conservatives-reject-changes-to-anti-communist-law-vatican-waiting-for-invitation-from-nkorean-leader-official

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Friday, October 12, 2018

Inside Kim Jong Un's Courtship of Pope Francis; North Korea intends to abolish all nuclear weapons, South says

Top News:
Inside Kim Jong Un's Courtship of Pope Francis (*Daily Beast*, 10/12/2018)

In North Korea:
Buyers disappear as apartment prices plummet in Sinuiju, North Korea (*Daily NK*, 10/12/2018)
Heads of 6 N. Korean universities to visit Canada next week: report (*Yonhap*, 10/12/2018)
Hopes increase among North Koreans for Kim Jong Un visit to Seoul (*Daily NK*, 10/12/2018)
Kim, Putin exchange messages to mark 70th anniversary of bilateral ties (*Yonhap*, 10/12/2018)
N. Korea extends mass gymnastics performance until late Oct. (*Yonhap*, 10/12/2018)
N. Koreans will survive even 100 years of sanctions, newspaper says (*Yonhap*, 10/12/2018)
North Koreans Optimistic That Flurry of Diplomacy Will Bring Sanctions Relief (RFA, 10/11/2018)
North Koreans visit university in Canada (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/12/2018)
North Korea's economy grew 3.7% in 2017, professor says (*Nikkei Asian Review*, 10/12/2018)
On-year tuber crop yield holding steady (*Daily NK*, 10/12/2018)
[Photo] Farmers in North Korea's mountainous regions report poor corn harvest (*Daily NK*, 10/12/2018)
Report: K-pop dance moves popular among young North Koreans (UPI, 10/12/2018)
Subdued celebrations for Party Foundation Day, emphasis placed on warming ties with China (*Daily NK*, 10/12/2018)

Top N. Korean officials watch friendly basketball match with China (*Yonhap*, 10/12/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) Moon says N. Korean denuclearization includes giving up existing weapons (*Yonhap*, 10/12/2018)
Moon aims to win EU backing for peace process (*Korea Times*, 10/12/2018)
Moon says end to war is 'only a matter of time' (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/12/2018)
North Korea intends to abolish all nuclear weapons, South says (*Reuters*, 10/12/2018)
South Korea's Moon optimistic about end to Korean War (BBC, 10/12/2018)
South Korea's Moon says North Korea means to abolish all nuclear weapons (*Reuters*, 10/12/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) Koreas to hold high-level talks next Monday (*Yonhap*, 10/12/2018)
North, South Korea to hold high-level talks on Oct. 15 (*Reuters*, 10/12/2018)
South Korean military says North Korean leader recognizes Northern Limit Line (*Yonhap*, 10/12/2018)

International:
Australia assigns warship to enforce North Korean sanctions (*The Washington Post*, 10/12/2018)
China: Trade with North Korea down 59 percent in 2018 (UPI, 10/12/2018)
Experts See Scant Progress From Pompeo's North Korea Trip (VOA, 10/12/2018)
Moon: Trump and Kim looking toward another summit (UPI, 10/12/2018)
North Korea Weaponizes Its Deal With Trump to Tangle Talks (*The New York Times*, 10/12/2018)
US blocking medical aid to North Korea: Health minister (*The Korea Herald*, 10/12/2018)
U.S. Blocks Aid Workers From North Korea (*The Wall Street Journal*, 10/12/2018)
U.S. NGOs being blocked from humanitarian work in N. Korea, sources say (*NK News*, 10/12/2018)

Top News:

- Daily Beast quoted HRNK's Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu on Kim Jong Un's Courtship of Pope. Scarlatoiu said, "Kim will remind the pope that North Korea is a paradise of human rights, and North Koreans are free to worship as they wish." (Barbie Latza Nadeau, Donald Kirk, *Daily Beast*)

In North Korea:

- Apartment prices are falling in Sinuiju, a city through which an estimated 70% of Sino-North Korean trade passes, as the downward trend that began in Pyongyang spreads nationwide. (Mun Dong-hui, *Daily NK*)
- The heads of six major North Korean universities will visit Canada next week at the invitation of the University of British Columbia (UBC), American broadcaster Radio Free Asia (RFA) reported on Friday. (*Yonhap*)

- North Korean residents have responded favorably to President Moon Jae-in's speech in Pyongyang, and there are rising expectations that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will visit Seoul, sources in North Korea have reported. (Kim Yoo-jin, *Daily NK*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and Russian President Vladimir Putin have exchanged messages to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral diplomatic ties, Pyongyang's state media reported Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea will stage its mass gymnastics performance until late October, about two weeks longer than initially planned, a travel agency specializing in tours to the reclusive state said Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's official newspaper said Friday that the country will be ready to survive even 100 years of sanctions by means of self-reliance. (*Yonhap*)
- A renewed flurry of diplomacy with North Korea has made many people in the isolated country optimistic that subsequent summits between leader Kim Jong Un and the presidents of South Korea and the United States could lead to the removal of UN sanctions and improve the economy, a Pyongyang-based source told RFA's Korean Service. (Lee Myung-chul, RFA)
- Heads of six top North Korean universities and senior North Korean officials will visit University of British Columbia (UBC) in Vancouver on a five-day program next week to help them widen their perspective beyond their country. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- North Korea's economy grew 3.7 percent in 2017, a professor of a think tank in Pyongyang said in brushing aside the view that the country has faced an economic contraction against a backdrop of international sanctions. (*Nikkei Asian Review*)
- With collective farms in Mundok County, South Pyongan Province reporting an overall 5% decrease in crop yield from the previous year, farmers in the region are starting to feel the effects of a disastrous harvest season exacerbated by typhoons, a record-breaking heat wave, and torrential rains. (Kang Mi-jin, *Daily NK*)
- As farmers in North Korea's Pyongan and Hwanghae provinces in the country's southern region near completion of this year's harvest, farmers in North Hamgyong, Ryanggang and other northern mountainous provinces are being mobilized en masse for the fall harvest and [grain] threshing activities. (Kim Yoo-jin, *Daily NK*)
- Draconian punishment for distributing or watching South Korean media is not stopping ordinary North Koreans from accessing material banned in the country, and "private institutes" teaching K-pop dance moves are on the rise, according to a South Korean press report. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Despite being one of the country's major holidays, North Korea did not hold any special celebrations to commemorate the establishment of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) on October 10. (Ha Yoon-ah, *Daily NK*)
- North Korea and China held a friendly basketball match in Pyongyang on Thursday attended by top North Korean officials, including the de facto No. 2 official Choe Ryong-hae, Pyongyang's media reported Friday. (*Yonhap*)

In South Korea:

- South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Friday North Korea understands the need to give up its existing nuclear weapons to achieve complete denuclearization and says it will do so. The only remaining questions are when and how, he added. (Yonhap)
- President Moon Jae-in is seeking to win support from key European Union countries on his nine-day visit there to participate in an Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) summit, Cheong Wa Dae said Friday. (Kim Yoo-chul, Korea Times)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Friday said he believed it was only a "matter of time" before related countries declare an end to the 1950-53 Korean War in an interview with the BBC at the Blue House. (Kang Jin-kyu, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un intends to abolish all nuclear weapons, materials and facilities to achieve "complete" denuclearization, South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who held his third summit with Kim last month, said on Friday. (Hyonhee Shin, Reuters)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in has told the BBC that it is only a matter of time before the US and North Korea declare an end to their state of war on the Korean peninsula. (BBC)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un means to abolish all nuclear weapons, materials and facilities to achieve "complete" denuclearization, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said on Friday. (Hyonhee Shin, Reuters)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The two Koreas will hold high-level talks next week on ways to implement their latest summit deal, Seoul's unification ministry announced Friday. (Yonhap)
- North and South Korea will hold high-level talks on Monday at the border village of Panmunjom to discuss follow-up steps to their recent summit, Seoul's Unification Ministry said on Friday. (Hyonhee Shin, Reuters)
- South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said Friday that the leaders of the two Koreas have recognized the Northern Limit Line (NLL), a de facto sea border, as the term was included in this year's key inter-Korean agreements. (Yonhap)

International:

- Australia has assigned a guided missile frigate to the East China Sea to boast international efforts to enforce sanctions against North Korea, an Australian officer said Friday. (Rod McGuirk, The Washington Post)
- China says its compliance with international sanctions has had a significant impact on trade with North Korea. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is calling his recent trip to Pyongyang a success, but experts experienced in negotiating with Pyongyang remain unclear what he achieved in his meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. (Christy Lee, VOA)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in told BBC News Friday the second summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will be held soon, and that U.S. and North Korean officials are working to set it up. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)

- In hailing the deal he reached with Kim Jong-un this summer in Singapore, President Trump said it "largely solved" the North Korean nuclear crisis. (Choe Sang-Hun, *The New York Times*)
- Health Minister Park Neung-hoo said Friday that the US was blocking South Korean efforts to provide medical aid to North Korea. (Kim So-hyun, *The Korea Herald*)
- U.S. officials are preventing American aid workers from making humanitarian trips to North Korea, according to people familiar with the matter, inhibiting the flow of food and medical assistance to the isolated country ahead of a new round of diplomacy over Pyongyang's nuclear program. (Jonathan Cheng, *The Wall Street Journal*)
- Several U.S. NGOs regularly working in North Korea have since September had applications to visit the country for humanitarian reasons repeatedly rejected by the Department of State, NGOs and those familiar with their situation have told NK News. (Chad O'Carroll, *NK News*)

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250804163116/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsinside-kim-jong-uns-courtship-of-pope-francisnorth-korea-intends-to-abolish-all-nuclear-weapons-south-says

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Saturday, October 13, 2018

U.S. security adviser Bolton vows tougher approach to China; South Korea taking second look at 'Iron Dome' defense system

In North Korea:
N. Korea aims for Korean Peninsula free of nuclear weapons: NK foreign minister (*Yonhap*, 10/13/2018)
North Korean Crackdown on Cellphone Use Causes Spike in Corruption (RFA, 10/12/2018)
North Korean professor says DPRK GDP at $30.7 billion in 2017 (*NK News*, 10/12/2018)
What would it take for North Korea to join the IMF? (BBC, 10/12/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) S. Korean president arrives in France on state visit (*Yonhap*, 10/13/2018)
President Moon embarks on five-nation Europe tour (*The Korea Herald*, 10/13/2018)
South Korea taking second look at 'Iron Dome' defense system (UPI, 10/12/2018)

International:
Bolton says 2nd U.S.-N.K. summit will take place in 'next couple of months' (*Yonhap*, 10/13/2018)
China-North Korea trade falls 59% this year: report (*Korea Times*, 10/13/2018)

Japan's UN envoy talks N.Korea sanctions (NHK *World*, 10/12/2018)
U.S. security adviser Bolton vows tougher approach to China (*Reuters*, 10/12/2018)

In North Korea:

- North Korea's top diplomat said the country is trying to make the Korean Peninsula free of nuclear weapons and threats, according to a news report. (*Yonhap*)
- Corruption in North Korea is on the rise as agents from the Ministry of State Security more brazenly demand bribes to look the other way when North Koreans make calls to their relatives in South Korea on their mobile phones, North Korean sources told RFA's Korean Service. (Myungchul Lee, RFA)
- The DPRK's gross domestic product (GDP) stood at $30.7 billion last year, increasing by 3.7 percent compared with 2016, according to Ri Gi Song, a North Korean professor at Pyongyang's Institute of Economics at the Academy of Social Sciences. (Leo Byrne, *NK News*)
- At the recent UN General Assembly, South Korea's President Moon Jae-in was discussing North Korea's strides to build relations and open up to the world. (Ana Nicolaci da Costa, BBC)

In South Korea:

- South Korean President Moon Jae-in arrived in Paris on Saturday for a four-day state visit that will include a summit with French leader Emmanuel Macron. (*Yonhap*)
- The South Korean leader will endeavor to explain the Pyongyang Joint Statement, which was the outcome of the latest third inter-Korean summit held in North Korea, and urge for European states' understanding and support for Korean Peninsula's peace and denuclearization, officials said. (Bae Hyun-jung, *The Korea Herald*)
- South Korea's joint chiefs of staff are considering an Iron Dome missile defense system to guard against potential long-range projectiles from North Korea -- refuting past judgments that the system would be inadequate to defend Seoul. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

International:

- U.S. national security adviser John Bolton has said President Donald Trump's second meeting with his North Korean counterpart, Kim Jong-un, will take place in the "next couple of months." (*Yonhap*)
- The trade volume between China and North Korea has fallen by 59 percent this year from a year earlier, a Chinese newspaper reported Friday. (Park Si-soo, *Korea Times*)
- Japan's envoy to the United Nations says the Security Council has not received any concrete proposal to lift any sanctions on North Korea. (*NHK World*)
- U.S. national security adviser John Bolton has vowed to further intensify the Trump administration's tough approach to China, saying Beijing's "behavior needs to be adjusted in the trade area, in the international, military and political areas." (David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250804163321/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-us-security-adviser-bolton-vows-tougher-approach-to-chinasouth-korea-taking-second-look-at-iron-dome-defense-system

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Sunday, October 14, 2018

One big reason North Korea is not too eager to denuclearize; South Korea's Moon optimistic about end to Korean War

In North Korea:
Book Review: "Ask a North Korean: Defectors Talk About Their Lives Inside the World's Most Secretive Nation" (38*North*, 10/12/2018)
'N. Korea economy has become durable despite sanctions': presidential adviser (*Korea Times*, 10/14/2018)
North Korea: Diplomatic life inside Pyongyang can be 'superficial, difficult, and controlled' (ABC *News* AU, 10/13/2018)
One big reason North Korea is not too eager to denuclearise (*Al Jazeera*, 10/13/2018)

In South Korea:
Book Review: "South Korea at the Crossroads: Autonomy and Alliance in an Era of Rival Powers" (38*North*, 10/12/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korean president vows joint efforts with France to build peace (*Yonhap*, 10/14/2018)
Moon starts Europe tour in Paris (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/14/2018)
The weird world of a Kim Jong-un impersonator (BBC, 10/13/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Koreas to hold high-level talks this week to discuss implementation of summit agreement (*Yonhap*, 10/14/2018)

International:
Bolton says U.S.-North summit will be held in 'next couple of months' (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/14/2018)
Hanwha chair meets with Heritage Foundation founder (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/14/2018)
Haste can make waste (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/14/2018)
Moon, Macron to hold talks on N. Korea, bilateral ties (*Yonhap*, 10/14/2018)
North Korean propaganda team on rare trip to UK, France, Hong Kong (*Korea Times*, 10/14/2018)
Pro-Pyongyang website denounces U.S. warning about N. Korea-backed cyberattacks (*Yonhap*, 10/14/2018)

South Korea's Moon optimistic about end to Korean War (BBC, 10/12/2018)

In North Korea:

- Daniel Tudor's *Ask a North Korean: Defectors Talk About Their Lives Inside the World's Most Secretive Nation* offers a raw and unfiltered account from seven defectors on a variety of questions of daily life in North Korea. (Patrick McEachern, *38North*)
- North Korea has adapted to international sanctions and its economy has become increasingly durable, according to President Moon Jae-in's foreign policy adviser. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- North Korea is the last place many would consider as an international diplomatic hub, but the world's most isolated country has a surprising number of foreign embassies. (Tasha Wibawa, *ABC News AU*)
- For the world to be genuinely safe from the North Korean nuclear threat, and for President Trump to not look like a fool, Pyongyang should take concrete steps to eliminate all its nuclear weapons and capabilities. (Alexander Gillespie, *Al Jazeera*)

In South Korea:

- In *South Korea at the Crossroads: Autonomy and Alliance in an Era of Rival Powers*, Scott Snyder begins with a framework to contextualize South Korea's strategic interests, including its North Korea policy. (Patrick McEachern, *38North*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Saturday vowed increased cooperation with France to address major global issues, such as climate change, while also stressing the need for joint efforts to denuclearize North Korea and establish lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon Jae-in called on France to help South Korea denuclearize the Korean Peninsula and establish permanent peace during a speech made to a crowd of some 200 South Korean expats in Paris Saturday. (Lee Sung-eun, Kang Tae-hwa, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Kim Jong-un has had his fair share of headlines in 2018, be it for threatening nuclear Armageddon, jousting verbally with Donald Trump, or signing peace agreements. But every time he makes the news, two very unlikely beneficiaries prepare for their phones to start ringing. (David Cox, BBC)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- South and North Korea will hold high-level talks this week to discuss the implementation of the summit agreement their leaders reached last month, the unification ministry here said Sunday. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- The second U.S.-North Korea summit will be held "in the next couple of months," White House national security adviser John Bolton said in a radio interview aired Friday, suggesting it may not be held by the end of this year. (Lee Sung-eun, Yoo Jee-hye, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

- According to Hanwha Sunday, Kim emphasized that the close relationship between the two countries should be maintained, especially when their alliance has brought North Korea to the table for negotiations with the international society on various issues including denuclearization during the two-hour meeting with Feulner. (Kim Jee-hee, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Are Seoul and Washington on the same page on North Korean issues? The U.S. Treasury Department called on South Korean banks to remind them of their obligation to comply with international sanctions on North Korea following President Moon Jae-in's visit to Pyongyang in September. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in and French President Emmanuel Macron will hold talks this week that will likely focus on North Korea amid Seoul's efforts to peacefully denuclearize the communist state, officials from Moon's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said Sunday. (Byuk Duk-kun, *Yonhap*)
- North Korean propagandists are making a rare overseas trip with its purpose and other details shrouded in secrecy. The delegation led by Vice Chairman Jo Yong-sam of the DPRK Information Committee left on Saturday to visit Britain, France and Hong Kong, the North's state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)
- A pro-Pyongyang website on Sunday slammed the United States for issuing warnings related to a North Korea-backed hacking group, saying such action is "childish, nasty and a vicious slander." (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in has told the BBC that it is only a matter of time before the US and North Korea declare an end to their state of war on the Korean peninsula. (BBC)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250804163542/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-one-big-reason-north-korea-is-not-too-eager-to-denuclearize-south-koreas-moon-optimistic-about-end-to-korean-war

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Monday, October 15, 2018

Open Letter to President Moon Jae-in; Rival Koreas defy US and agree rail and road links

Top News
Open Letter to President Moon Jae-in (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/15/2018)

In North Korea
Hailed as a Hero, Executed as a Spy, and Exonerated Decades Later (*The New York Times*, 10/15/2018)

Impending calamity for the Kim regime (*The Korea Times*, 10/15/2018)
Kaesong: gateway to Korea's past and future (*The Korea Times*, 10/15/2018)
N.Korea Claims 3.7% Economic Growth Last Year (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/15/2018)
N. Korea opens website for trade, investment (*Yonhap*, 10/15/2018)
North Korea strengthens ties with Mongolia (*The Korea Times*, 10/15/2018)
North Korean and Chinese border agencies crack down on smuggling activities (*DailyNK*, 10/15/2018)
Newspaper warns N. Koreans not to have illusions about imperialism, capitalism (*Yonhap*, 10/15/2018)
Rodong calls on Europe to make 'right choice' on Russia-Germany joint project (*The Korea Times*, 10/15/2018)
Truck loaded with pine nuts for export to China rolls over on Hyesan-Samjiyon highway, six killed. (*DailyNK*, 10/15/2018)

In South Korea

Cheong Wa Dae 'Delayed Interceptor Missile Tests' (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/15/2018)
Defense Ministry claims delay in missile test not politically motivated (*The Korea Herald*, 10/15/2018)
Military says L-SAM interceptor missile test delayed for technical reasons (*Yonhap*, 10/15/2018)
Moon says world needs to show N. Korea made 'right' decision (*Yonhap*, 10/15/2018)
Moon to hold summit with Macron, seek concessions for N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 10/15/2018)
Moon to Macron: 'North Korea offers to dismantle all nuclear weapons' (*The Korea Times*, 10/15/2018)
On Europe tour, Moon touts Kim's sincerity (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/15/2018)
Seoul Is Fast Becoming the Weakest Link in N.Korea Sanctions (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/15/2018)
South Korea denies 'discrimination' in defector journalist ban (*UPI*, 10/15/2018)
South Korean President Moon Jae-in says North Korea should be rewarded for 'sincere' move to abandon nuclear weapons (*South China Morning Post*, 10/15/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship

(2nd LD) Seoul under fire for excluding defector-turned-journalist from covering talks with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 10/15/2018)
(3rd LD) Koreas hold high-level talks to discuss implementation of summit agreement (*Yonhap*, 10/15/2018)
(5th LD) Koreas to break ground for railway, road connection late Nov. or early Dec. (Yonhap, 10/15/2018)
[Breaking] Koreas agree to start railway, road work by Dec. (*The Korea Herald*, 10/15/2018)
Defector-turned-journalist excluded from media pool covering talks with North Korea (*The Korea Times*, 10/15/2018)
Drones ruled out for spying under a pact with North (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/15/2018)
Koreas agree to start work on rehabilitating overland transport artery (*Aju Business Daily*, 10/15/2018)
Koreas to resume Manwoldae dig around next week (*The Korea Herald*, 10/15/2018)
Koreas Resume High-Level Talks as Moon Presses for Sanction Relief (*VOA News*, 10/15/2018)
Koreas will begin relinking railways (*The Korea Times*, 10/15/2018)

North Korea - South Korea diplomacy flourishes, but what about Kim Jong Un's nukes? (*CBS News*, 10/15/2018)
Rival Koreas defy US and agree rail and road links (*Financial Times*, 10/15/2018)
Two Koreas agree to push ahead with road, rail links despite sanctions (*The Washington Post*, 10/15/2018)
Universiade group pitches 2021 joint Korean games (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/15/2018)
Work on roads, rails get serious for two Koreas (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/15/2018)

International
Bolton: 2nd summit with Kim in 'next couple of months' (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 10/15/2018)
Kazakhstan has advice on how to shed nukes (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/15/2018)
Pope Francis said to hope to visit N.K. next spring: ruling party chief (*Yonhap*, 10/15/2018)
Pope Francis' choice (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/15/2018)
Pope hopes to visit NK: Ruling party chief (*The Korea Times*, 10/15/2018)
Russian-US consultations on North Korea to be held in Moscow on October 16 (TASS, 10/15/2018)
Trump reiterates that sanctions on North will stay for now (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/15/2018)
U.S. warns of secondary sanctions (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 10/15/2018)

Top News

- HRNK's Human Rights Attorney Amanda Mortwedt Oh published a column to The Chosun Ilbo, Korea's largest-circulated newspaper. Amanda wrote an open letter to ex-human rights lawyer President Moon Jae-in, questioning Moon's reconciliatory approach towards Pyongyang whilst neglecting the voiceless victims of ongoing egregious rights violations. (Amanda Mortwedt Oh, *The Chosun Ilbo*)

In North Korea

- Amid the more than 30,000 defections to South Korea from North Korea, Lee Soo-keun's stands out as one of the most sensational and tragic. (Choe Sang-Hun, *The New York Times*)
- It should be noted that at the upcoming high level meetings, world leaders should seriously and concretely discuss offering North Korea an opportunity for regime survival in exchange for peaceful denuclearization. The latest UNSC sanctions may spell out a bleak future for North Korea, but the aftermath of armed conflict and regime disintegration would be incalculably costly on a global scale. (Chan Young Bang, *The Korea Times*)
- Kaesong's fate is to serve as a gateway between the Koreas. The city, located between Seoul and Pyongyang on Korea's oldest train line, the Gyeongui Line, has incredible cultural value. (Jon Dunbar, *The Korea Times*)
- North Korea on Friday claimed that its economy grew 3.7 percent last year. Ri Gi-song, a professor at North Korea's Institute of Economics at the Academy of Social Sciences, told Kyodo News that the North's GDP grew from US$296 billion in 2016 to $307 billion last year. (Kim Myong-song, *The Chosun Ilbo*)

- North Korea has recently launched a new website dedicated to external trade and investment in what appears to be a move to induce more foreign investment to aid its economic growth. (Yonhap)
- North Korea is strengthening its ties with Mongolia, with Mongolian President Khaltmaagiin Battulga's inviting Chairman Kim Jong-un to visit the country to mark the 70th anniversary of North Korea-Mongolia diplomatic relations. (Jung Da-min, The Korea Times)
- Severe crackdowns and anti-smuggling operations have been launched by the authorities in both North Korea and China in the border area near Dandong. (Ha Yoon Ah, DailyNK)
- North Korea's official newspaper on Monday urged its people not to have illusions about imperialism in order to safeguard socialism. The Rodong Sinmun, the organ of the ruling Workers' Party, said in an editorial that capitalism and a bourgeois life fundamentally go against socialism and are "like a cancer." (Yonhap)
- North Korea's party mouthpiece Rodong Sinmun's Monday edition highlighted conflicts surrounding a joint gas pipeline project between Germany and Russia, supporting Russia's argument that European countries should approve the project. (Jung Da-min, The Korea Times)
- On October 8, an eight-ton truck affiliated with a trading company overturned as it was heading towards Hyesan on the road that links Hyesan and Samjiyon in Ryanggang Province, North Korea sources told Daily NK. Six fatalities were reported. (Kim Yoo Jin, DailyNK)

In South Korea

- Cheong Wa Dae has intentionally delayed testing of a new home-grown interceptor missile, an opposition lawmaker alleged Sunday. He said the National Security Council sent a secret letter to military authorities telling them to stay the tests citing inter-Korean and U.S.-North Korea summits. (Jun Hyun-suk, The Chosun Ilbo)
- If the delay in the development of the L-SAM system continues, the lawmaker warned the system would not be deployed as scheduled. The missile defense system is expected go into production in 2023 after development is completed in 2018. (Yeo Jun-suk, The Korea Herald)
- South Korea's defense ministry said Monday it has decided to put off the testing of a new surface-to-air interceptor missile due to technical, not political, reasons. Critics said the test was delayed at the instruction of the presidential office, Cheong Wa Dae, as the Moon Jae-in administration wanted to avoid antagonizing the North amid a reconciliatory mood. (Yonhap)
- The international community needs to prove that North Korea has made the right decision to give up its nuclear ambition, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Sunday, apparently stressing the need to start easing international sanctions against the communist state. (Yonhap)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in was set to meet with French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday for talks that will likely focus on North Korea amid his efforts to peacefully denuclearize the communist state. (Yonhap)
- North Korea has offered to dismantle all of its nuclear weapons and material if the United States takes "corresponding measures" and promises security guarantees, President Moon

Jae-in told French President Emmanuel Macron during their summit at the Elysee Palace, late Monday (KST). (Kim Yoo-chul, *The Korea Times*)

- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has "taken the strategic decision to abandon his nuclear weapon," said South Korean President Moon Jae-in in an interview with French daily Le Figaro published Sunday. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- These incidents clearly show that the U.S. now regards South as the weakest link among its allies in international sanctions against North Korea. And it is not the only country that is being given that impression. (*The Chosun Ilbo*)
- South Korea's unification ministry expressed "deep regret" over its decision to ban a North Korean defector from covering talks at Panmunjom while also defending the decision. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un is sincere and really means to abandon nuclear weapons, South Korean President Moon Jae-in told a French newspaper, adding that the international community needed to reward him for that. (*Reuters*)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- South Korea's unification ministry has excluded a North Korean defector-turned-journalist from covering Monday's inter-Korean high-level talks, sparking a controversy over its possible violation of freedom of speech and discrimination against the people from the North. (*Yonhap*)
- South and North Korea are holding high-level talks Monday to discuss the implementation of the summit agreement their leaders reached last month. (*Yonhap*)
- The two Koreas agreed Monday to start a joint project to modernize and eventually connect their railways and roads across their borders in late November or early December. Experts say that the United Nations Command's disapproval of the two Koreas' scheduled railway inspection in September might have been a veiled sign of Washington's discomfort. (*Yonhap*)
- The two Koreas have agreed to break ground for the modernization of cross-border railways and roads in late November or early December, said a statement released by South Korea's Unification Ministry on Monday. (Jung Min-kyung, *The Korea Herald*)
- South Korea's unification ministry has excluded a North Korean defector-turned-journalist from joining pool reporters for Monday's high-level talks with the North. The move is also raising eyebrows as it could be seen as an action focusing too much on how the North reacts rather than protecting freedom of the press. (*Yonhap*)
- Seoul sacrificed a multi-billion won military project to develop unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) by signing a comprehensive military agreement with North Korea last month, a South Korean lawmaker from the main opposition Liberty Korea Party said Sunday. (Lee Keun-pyung and Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The two Koreas agreed to hold a ground-breaking ceremony in late November or early December for their joint project to modernize and re-connect severed railways and roads across the border. (Lim Chang-won, *Aju Business Daily*)

- South and North Korea are presumed to resume the joint excavation of an ancient palace site in North Korea as early as next week, according to the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism. (Yoon Min-sik, *The Korea Herald*)
- The meeting discussed the implementation agreements made during the recent Pyongyang summit as South Korean President Moon Jae-in called upon the international community to reward North Korean leader Kim Jong Un for his efforts to denuclearize. Despite Moon's assertions, experts remain cautious that any real denuclearization progress has been made. (Steve Miller, *VOA News*)
- The two Koreas reached a consensus Monday to begin reconnecting railways and roads sometime between late November and early December, they said in a joint statement on the sidelines of inter-Korean high-level talks. (Lee Min-hyung, *The Korea Times*)
- South Korea's enthusiasm for engagement with its rival appears to have created discomfort with the United States, a key ally. Moon's government last week walked back a proposal to lift some of its unilateral sanctions against North Korea following Mr. Trump's blunt retort that Seoul could "do nothing" without Washington's approval. (AP)
- Seoul has continued to pursue economic engagement with Pyongyang by agreeing to hold a groundbreaking ceremony to connect their railways and roads, defying US concern over the speed of inter-Korean engagement. (Song Jung-a, *Financial Times*)
- North and South Korea agreed on Monday to press ahead with plans to establish road and rail links, pledging to hold a groundbreaking ceremony on the project in late November or early December. (Simon Denyer and Min Joo Kim, *The Washington Post*)
- Eric Saintrond, secretary general of the International University Sports Federation (FISU), met with Seoul Mayor Park Won-soon during the mayor's trip to Switzerland earlier this month to propose hosting a Seoul-Pyongyang Summer Universiade in 2021. (Esther Chung, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The two Koreas agreed in a high-level meeting Monday to hold a joint ceremony some time between late November and early December to mark the start of working to modernize and link roads and railways connecting the two countries along the seas. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

International

- In an interview with a radio station on Friday (local time), U.S. National Security Advisor John Bolton said he expected a second summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un "sometime in the next couple of months." (Jeong-Hun Park, *The Dong-A Ilbo*)
- The ambassador of Kazakhstan to Korea, Bakyt Dyussenbayev said that Kazakhstan's experience with denuclearization can be an example for North Korea. (Esther Chung, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korea's ruling party chief said Monday that he heard Pope Francis is hoping to visit North Korea next spring as its leader Kim Jong-un has invited him to Pyongyang. Lee Hae-chan, the chairman of the Democratic Party (DP), made the remark without revealing the source of the information. (*Yonhap*)

- Pyongyang was once called "Jerusalem in Korea," but today, religion is banned in North Korea. Will the pope accept Kim Jong-un's invitation? Hopefully, he will cast true light and peace on the Korean Peninsula. (Kim Su-jeong, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korea's ruling party chief said Monday that he heard that Pope Francis is hoping to visit North Korea next spring as its leader Kim Jong-un has invited him to Pyongyang. (Park Ji-won, *The Korea Times*)
- Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Morgulov has said he will held a meeting with US Special Representative for North Korea Stephen Biegun in Moscow on October 16. (TASS)
- In an interview with CBS on Sunday, U.S. President Donald Trump reiterated that he is not yet prepared to ease sanctions on North Korea, rebuffing Pyongyang's call for some form of relief. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The Office of Foreign Assets Control of the U.S. Treasury Department recently added a phrase "secondary sanctions risk" in the organization and individual information section on the Specially Designated Nationals list on its webpage. (*The Dong-A Ilbo*)

Prepared by Hangyun Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250804163650/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-open-letter-to-president-moon-jae-in-rival-koreas-defy-us-and-agree-rail-and-road-links

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Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Koreas, US-led UN Command discuss disarming border area; Eugene Bell staff to visit N. Korea for 3 weeks for medical aid

In North Korea:

Allure of South Korean products continues to undermine crackdowns (*Daily* NK, 10/16/2018)
N.K. media report on high-level talks with S. Korea (*Yonhap*, 10/16/2018)
N. Korea demands lifting of sanctions, calls them hostile policy against Pyongyang (*Yonhap*, 10/16/2018)
N. Korea hands over S. Korean citizen held for illegal entry (*Yonhap*, 10/16/2018)
N. Korea's contribution to U.N. to rise slightly in 2019-2021 period: report (*Yonhap*, 10/16/2018)
North Korea charges 'imperialists' with 'cunning' call for peace (*UPI*, 10/15/2018)
North Korea releases South Korean after illegal border crossing (*Reuters*, 10/16/2018)
North Korea's economic growth – from Pyongyang's perspective (*North Korean Economy Watch*, 10/15/2018)
North's warning casts doubt on Moon's claim (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/16/2018)
Reality Check: How is North Korea evading sanctions? (BBC, 10/16/2018)

In South Korea:

(4th LD) Moon says France, U.N. can speed up N. Korea's denuclearization by easing sanctions (*Yonhap*, 10/16/2018)
Defector excluded from a press pool (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/16/2018)
Going soft on sanctions (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/16/2018)
KEPCO chief says discussions on investment in N. Korea can begin after progress in Washington-Pyongyang talks (*Yonhap*, 10/16/2018)
Leaders of S. Korea, France agree to improve ties, denuclearize N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 10/15/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korean president, UNESCO chief vow efforts toward inter-Korean reconciliation (*Yonhap*, 10/16/2018)
Moon asks Vatican to engage N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 10/16/2018)
Moon calls for increased cooperation between parliaments of S. Korea, France (*Yonhap*, 10/16/2018)
Moon, Macron discuss sanctions relief (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/16/2018)
No change in S. Korea's defense commitment to NLL: military (*Yonhap*, 10/16/2018)
S. Korea abiding by U.N. sanctions over economic ties with N. Korea: ministry (*Yonhap*, 10/16/2018)
S. Korean president to meet leaders of Britain, Germany, Thailand this week (*Yonhap*, 10/16/2018)
When the dream dies: female North Korean defectors suffer prejudice in the competitive, self-absorbed South (*South China Morning Post*, 10/16/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

(3rd LD) Two Koreas, U.N. Command discuss disarming Joint Security Area in DMZ (*Yonhap*, 10/16/2018)
Koreas to discuss Internet connection at liaison office in Kaesong (*Yonhap*, 10/16/2018)
Koreas to reconnect roads, rail, U.S. concerned over easing sanctions (*Reuters*, 10/15/2018)
Koreas, US-led UN Command discuss disarming border area (*The Washington Post*, 10/16/2018)
Report: South Korea railroad agency requests assessment of North (UPI, 10/16/2018)
Talks Begin on Disarming Korean Border Village (*The New York Times*, 10/16/2018)
Three-Way Talks Begin on Disarming Key Part of Korean Border (VOA, 10/16/2018)
Two Koreas, U.N. Command wrap up first talks on disarming border (*Reuters*, 10/16/2018)

International:

China's tourists are growing source of foreign exchange for North (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/16/2018)
Eugene Bell staff to visit N. Korea for 3 weeks for medical aid (*Yonhap*, 10/16/2018)
France says it could help North Korea denuclearize if it sees real commitment (*Reuters*, 10/15/2018)
Latvia Probes Multiple Unnamed Banks Over North Korea Ties (*Bloomberg*, 10/16/2018)
(LEAD) U.S. calls for sanctions implementation following inter-Korean rail agreement (*Yonhap*, 10/16/2018)
Mattis cites progress with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 10/16/2018)
[News in focus] U.S. Treasury warns banks to stay out of North (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/16/2018)
Top U.S. diplomat on North Korea travelling to Moscow on Tuesday: State (*NK News*, 10/16/2018)
Trump says N. Korea situation 'coming along very well' (*Yonhap*, 10/16/2018)
US envoy for NKorea to hold talks in Russia, France, Belgium (AP, 10/15/2018)
U.S. nonprofit to deliver tuberculosis medicine to North Korea (UPI, 10/16/2018)

Vatican gives cautious response to speculation on pope's N. Korea visit (*Yonhap*, 10/16/2018)
What Approach to Take on North Korean Sanctions? (VOA, 10/16/2018)

In North Korea:

- Despite continued crackdowns by the North Korean authorities, South Korean products, including clothes, cosmetics, and electronics, remain popular among ordinary North Koreans. (Mun Dong Hui, *Daily NK*)
- North Korea's media Tuesday reported on high-level talks with South Korea a day earlier, saying that they "deeply discussed" practical measures to implement their leaders' recent summit agreement. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea called for the United States to lift sanctions immediately Tuesday, calling such restrictive measures indicative of Washington's continued hostile policy toward its regime. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea on Tuesday repatriated a 60-year-old South Korean man who was detained last month after Pyongyang claimed he entered the country illegally, Seoul's unification ministry said. (*Yonhap*)
- The ratio of North Korea's contribution to the United Nations' regular budget will increase slightly to 0.006 percent in the years 2019-2021, an American broadcaster reported Tuesday, citing a U.N. report. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea remains wary of the outside world even as U.S. President Donald Trump said in a recent interview he trusts Kim Jong Un will follow up on denuclearization. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- North Korea released a South Korean who illegally crossed the border into the North, South Korea's Unification Ministry said on Tuesday, as relations between the two sides show a steady thaw. (*Reuters*)
- Has North Korea's economy been growing under sanctions? That's what an economist in Pyongyang claims. (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, *North Korean Economy Watch*)
- North Korea warned the South Korean Navy twice last Sunday to stay out of its waters in the Yellow Sea after two vessels crossed into the northern side of Pyongyang's purported maritime border, Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said Tuesday. (Lee Chul-jae, Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- UN sanctions have been imposed to pressure Kim Jong-un's government over its nuclear weapons programme. Reality Check investigates how North Korea tries to evade these sanctions. (Jacqueline Galvin, BBC)

In South Korea:

- South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Monday stressed the need to ease international sanctions against North Korea when and if the communist state takes practical steps to denuclearize. (*Yonhap*)

- The UN's top human rights envoy in Seoul expressed concerns about curbs on press freedoms Monday after the Unification Ministry blocked a defector journalist from joining the press pool for that day's inter-Korean talks. (Shim Kyu-seok, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in seems to be determined on his European tour to call for an easing of international sanctions on North Korea. On his visit to France, the first destination on the trip, Moon urged French President Emmanuel Macron to ease sanctions when denuclearization reaches a point of no return. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Kim Jong-gap, the CEO of the state-run Korea Electric Power Corp. (KEPCO), said Tuesday that earnest discussions on investment in North Korea can come after progress in talks between the United States and North Korea. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in and French President Emmanuel Macron agreed Monday to further improve their countries' bilateral relationship and work together to peacefully denuclearize North Korea. (*Yonhap*)
- The leaders of South Korea and UNESCO agreed Tuesday to promote reconciliation between the divided Koreas partly through increased assistance for North Korea in education and other areas. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in asked the Vatican on Tuesday to begin engaging North Korea and to support denuclearization efforts in an article contributed to a daily newspaper in the Holy See. (*Yonhap*)
- He asked for the French National Assembly's continued support for exchange and cooperation between their countries. Moon also sought France's support for his country's efforts to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in urged France's leader to play a role in easing international sanctions on North Korea amid indications of a growing rift between Seoul and Washington on economic pressure on the North. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korea's military said Tuesday it remains firmly committed to the defense of the Northern Limit Line (NLL), the de facto sea border with North Korea. (*Yonhap*)
- The South Korean government reaffirmed its resolve Tuesday to comply with U.N. sanctions while pushing for economic cooperation with North Korea, particularly joint road and rail projects. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in will hold bilateral meetings with British Prime Minister Theresa May, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha on the sidelines of Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in Belgium this week, the presidential office said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- Many North Korean women have escaped to the South via China, in search of freedom, happiness and a modern lifestyle. But the fantasy so often ends in disappointment (Ann Babe, *South China Morning Post*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The two Koreas and the United Nations Command (UNC) held their first trilateral consultations Tuesday on disarming the Joint Security Area (JSA) in the heavily fortified border area, Seoul's defense ministry said. (*Yonhap*)

- South Korea has proposed to North Korea installing Internet networks for its staff stationed at their joint liaison office in the North's border town of Kaesong, a Seoul official said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- The two Koreas agreed on Monday to begin reconnecting rail and road links, another step in an improving relationship in spite of U.S. concerns that the rapid North-South thaw could undermine efforts to press North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons. (Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)
- The rival Koreas and the U.S.-led United Nations Command met Tuesday to discuss efforts to disarm a military zone the rivals control within their shared border under a peace agreement between the two countries. (Kim Tong-hyung, AP)
- South Korea's railroad corporation placed a request for proposal for an assessment of the economic viability of an inter-Korea railroad, independent of a joint survey between North and South, according to a local press report. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Officials from North and South Korea and the United Nations began talks on Tuesday to turn a border village into an unarmed neutral enclave where military guards and tourists from both sides would move freely across the demarcation line. (Choe Sang-hun, *The New York Times*)
- Negotiators from North and South Korea, along with the U.S.-led United Nations Command, are holding their first talks Tuesday on demilitarizing a section of the heavily fortified border that separates the rival Koreas. (VOA)
- North and South Korea held their first three-way talks with the United Nations Command (UNC) on Tuesday to discuss ways to demilitarize the border as the neighbors push for peace, South Korea's defense ministry said. (Hyonhee Shim, *Reuters*)

International:

- Bereft of its primary source of income - coal exports to China - the North Korean regime is seeking new ways to make money, legal or otherwise. (Jeong Yong-soo, Kwen Yu-jin, Kim Ji-a, Shim Kyu-seok, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The Eugene Bell Foundation, a U.S.-based group that has long provided medical humanitarian assistance to North Korea, especially for multidrug-resistant tuberculosis, said that its officials will visit the North for three weeks beginning Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- France is ready to help in North Korea's denuclearization efforts, but Pyongyang must first show some detailed commitments and real desire to dismantle its nuclear and ballistic arsenal, President Emmanuel Macron said on Monday. (John Irish, Marine Pennetier, *Reuters*)
- Latvia is looking into connections between several unnamed local lenders and a Turkish company sanctioned by the U.S. for attempting to supply North Korea with weapons and luxury goods. (Aaron Eglitis, *Bloomberg*)
- The United States on Monday called for the full enforcement of United Nations sanctions on North Korea as the two Koreas moved to establish rail and road links across their border. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said there is progress on dismantling North Korea's nuclear weapons program, although it remains a difficult issue. (*Yonhap*)

- Major Korean banks have come under scrutiny for trying to reopen branches in North Korea as the United States reiterates its continued support for United Nations sanctions on Pyongyang. (Park Eun-jee, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- U.S. special representative on North Korea Stephen Biegun will travel to Moscow on Tuesday as part of a three country tour to discuss developments on the Korean peninsula. (Leo Byrne, *NK News*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump said Monday that the situation with North Korea is "coming along very well" and he expects "good things" to happen in the future. (*Yonhap*)
- The Trump administration's envoy for North Korea is traveling to Russia, France and Belgium for talks with counterparts there as the U.S. prepares for a second leadership summit with the North. (Matthew Pennington, AP)
- A U.S. nonprofit that has supplied humanitarian aid to North Korea says it has received permission to travel to the North to deliver tuberculosis medicine. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- The Vatican has reacted cautiously to a veteran South Korean politician's remarks about Pope Francis' possible visit to North Korea next spring. (*Yonhap*)
- The United States has called for the continued full enforcement of United Nations sanctions on North Korea after the two Koreas moved to establish rail and road links across their shared border and South Korean President Moon Jae-in continued to make the case for easing international sanctions against Pyongyang as it makes incremental progress toward denuclearization. (Steve Miller, VOA)

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Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250804164002/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemskoreas-us-led-un-command-discuss-disarming-border-areaeugene-bell-staff-to-visit-n-korea-for-3-weeks-for-medical-aid

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Wednesday, October 17, 2018

Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Co-Chairs Urge President Trump to Include Human Rights in North Korea Negotiations

Top News

Co-Chairs Urge President Trump to Include Human Rights in North Korea Negotiations (*Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission*, 10/16/2018)
Universal Periodic Review of the DPRK (May 2019) (HRNK, 10/04/2018)
[VOA 뉴스] "인권 개선 필수...진정성 확인해야" (VOA *News*, 10/10/2018)
[VOA *News*] "*Improvement in Human Rights is a Must... Should Check Their Sincerity*"
[VOA 뉴스] "재미 이산가족 상봉 의제 올려야" (VOA *News*, 10/16/2018)

[VOA News] "Reunion of the Divided Families in the US Should be an Agenda"

In North Korea

China's tourists are growing source of foreign exchange for North (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/17/2018)
Kim Jong Un refuses to provide nuclear facilities list to U.S. (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 10/16/2018)
Kim Jong-un to visit Russia soon (*The Korea Times*, 10/17/2018)
N. Korean media condemns Japan for seeking to revise constitution (*Yonhap*, 10/17/2018)
N. Korean newspaper calls for economic success this year (*Yonhap*, 10/17/2018)
North Korean Government Agencies Opening Parking Lots to Earn Needed Cash (*Radio Free Asia*, 10/16/2018)
Report: Kim Jong Un asked Pompeo to lift sanctions on North Korea (UPI, 10/17/2018)
The nuclear legacies of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il (*DailyNK*, 10/17/2018)

In South Korea

(LEAD) S. Korean president, UNESCO chief vow efforts toward inter-Korean reconciliation (*Yonhap*, 10/17/2018)
'Father's War' gets nod to resume filming (*The Korea Times*, 10/17/2018)
Bigwigs inspect DMZ disarming (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/17/2018)
Korea's new passport design ignites controversy (*The Korea Times*, 10/17/2018)
Moon asks European leaders to ease sanctions on N. Korea (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 10/17/2018)
Moon to ask Europe to ease sanctions on NK (*The Korea Times*, 10/17/2018)
Moon to Push Pope Over N.Korea (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/17/2018)
Moon to seek support of Vatican, Italy for NK peace efforts (*The Korea Herald*, 10/17/2018)
Moon's 2nd Europe stop is Italy (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/17/2018)
S.Korea Has Conducted No Artillery Drills Since April (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/17/2018)
S. Korea, U.S. working closely on inter-Korean road, rail project: Cheong Wa Dae (*Yonhap*, 10/17/2018)
Unification Minister considers meeting with NK defectors amid controversy (*The Korea Herald*, 10/17/2018)
Unification ministry mulls meeting with N. Korea defectors amid controversy (*Yonhap*, 10/17/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship

[Editorial] Too hasty (*The Korea Herald*, 10/17/2018)
2 Koreas to Allow Civilians into Joint Security Area (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/17/2018)
Ambassador seeks to dispel U.S. concerns about inter-Korean ties (*Yonhap*, 10/17/2018)
Begging for peace (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/17/2018)
Gen. Brooks says its 'encouraging' that DMZ talks with Koreas to go on (*Yonhap*, 10/17/2018)
Seoul Bans N.Korean Defector from Reporting on Cross-Border Talks (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/16/2018)
South, North Korea push ahead with joint ventures despite US complaint (*Maeil Business News Korea*, 10/16/2018)
Two Koreas, UNC start talks to disarm JSA border village (*Maeil Business News Korea*, 10/17/2018)

International

[News in focus] U.S. Treasury warns banks to stay out of North (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/16/2018)
(Yonhap Interview) N. Korea is welcome to join World Bank when ready: VP (*Yonhap*, 10/17/2018)
Harris warns Seoul on too much engagement (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/17/2018)
Int'l Press Body Protests Against Defector's Ban from Cross-Border Talks (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/17/2018)
Italy backs CVID of North Korea (*The Korea Times*, 10/17/2018)
Macron Was Right to Snub Moon Over N.Korea Sanctions (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/17/2018)
Mattis cites progress with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 10/17/2018)
Theresa May expected to reject Seoul's request to relax sanctions on North Korea (*The Daily Telegraph*, 10/17/2018)
Tokyo gives up on S. Korean President Moon visit to Japan this year (*The Mainichi*, 10/17/2018)
U.N. moves to adopt N.K. human rights resolution in Nov. for 14th straight year: envoy (*Yonhap*, 10/17/2018)
U.S.-N. Korea Summit is likely to be held in Stockholm or Geneva (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 10/17/2018)
U.S. Alarmed at Speed of Inter-Korean Railways Project (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/17/2018)
U.S. Restricts Koreans' Access to Military Bases in Japan (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/16/2018)
U.S. seeks Russia's cooperation on N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 10/17/2018)
UNC, North Korean military discuss JSA disarmament (*The Korea Times*, 10/17/2018)

Top News

- Reps. Randy Hultgren (R-IL) and Jim McGovern (D-MA), Co-Chairs of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, wrote to President Donald Trump on the strategic importance of incorporating human rights indicators into the Administration's ongoing denuclearization talks with North Korea. To further this objective, the Co-Chairs also urged the President to appoint a Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights Issues as provided for in the North Korea Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2017. The letter follows a September hearing convened by the Commission on human rights in North Korea, in which HRNK's Roberta Cohen and Greg Scarlatoiu testified. (Randy Hultgren and Jim McGovern, *Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission*)
- In this submission, HRNK focuses its attention on the DPRK's – 1) system of political imprisonment, wherein a multitude of human rights violations are evidenced, including enforced disappearance, amounting to crimes against humanity; 2) restrictions on freedom of movement, affecting women in particular, as evidenced in sexual violence, human trafficking, and arbitrary detention; 3) policy of social and political discrimination, known as "songbun," which impacts the economic and social rights of North Korea's citizens, and in particular affects the health care of vulnerable groups, including prisoners. (HRNK)
- HRNK's latest public event was covered by Voice of America's Korean news service. HRNK's Co-Chair Emeritus Roberta Cohen said North Korea has reportedly insisted that human rights be excluded from discussions about peace and denuclearization and threatened not to participate with South Korea if human rights concerns are raised. HRNK's Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu spoke about Pyongyang's invitation to Pope, that Kim Jong-un is trying to undermine the economic sanctions as a part of the propaganda campaign aimed at that strategic objective. Ji Seong-ho of NAUH was also quoted in the news coverage: "North

Korea lacks will to change if we do not raise the issue of North Korean human rights. Political prison camps still exist." (Carnie Kim, VOA News)

- HRNK's Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu was featured in Voice of America's Korean news service. Scarlatoiu said the House Resolution introduced in October 12th urging North Korea to release any abducted foreign nationals will play a very important role in focusing attention on the abduction issue. (Carnie Kim, VOA News)

In North Korea

- Tour packages to North Korea are once again commonly sold in China, but that wasn't the case just a few months ago. Last July, the Chinese government banned all tour packages to North Korea in response to accusations by the U.S. that it was deliberately lax on enforcing the international sanctions put on Pyongyang by the UN as a result of the regime's nuclear and missile tests. (Jeong Yong-soo, Kwen Yu-jin, Kim Ji-a and Shim Kyu-seok, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The Japanese Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper reported on Monday that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un refused to provide the list of nuclear sites to U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo during their meeting in Pyongyang on October 7. (Young-A Soh, *The Dong-A Ilbo*)
- The Kremlin plans to host North Korean leader Kim Jong-un for a possible summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin, according to the Russian government. (Lee Min-hyung, *The Korea Times*)
- The North's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) made the condemnation in its coverage of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's reelection as president of the Liberal Democratic Party and his pledge to push to revise the constitution by 2020. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's official newspaper on Wednesday called for concerted national efforts to achieve success in the economic field. In its front-page editorial, the Rodong Sinmun said that the year 2018 is gravely significant in the founding and development path of the Juche Chosun, which means a self-reliant North Korea. (*Yonhap*)
- A North Korean State Security Office in Pyongan Province has opened a parking lot in order to generate the necessary funds to remain open, a local source told RFA's Korean Service. (Hyemin Son, *Radio Free Asia*)
- Kim Jong Un requested the United States lift economic sanctions on North Korea during his most recent meeting in Pyongyang with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, according to a Japanese press report. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Considering that Kim Jong Un cannot override the authority of Kim Il Sung in his current status, and looking again at his speech following the September 19 summit, it appears that the real focus of his words are on "the absence of a nuclear threat" rather than a "Korean Peninsula without nuclear weapons." (Jong Kyo Jin, *DailyNK*)

In South Korea

- The leaders of South Korea and UNESCO agreed Tuesday to promote reconciliation between the divided Koreas partly through increased assistance for North Korea in education and other areas. (Yonhap)
- Director Lim Sung-chan got the green light from Seoul High Court for his ongoing film project, tentatively titled "Father's War" which revolves around the suspicious death of first lieutenant Kim Hoon two decades ago. Kim, with a gunshot wound in his temple, was found dead on Feb. 23, 1998, in an underground bunker of the Joint Security Area near the inter-Korean border. (Kang Hyun-kyung, The Korea Times)
- South Korean Presidential Chief of Staff Im Jong-seok and two cabinet ministers visited a site in the border county of Cheorwon, Gangwon, Wednesday to check on a land mine removal operation, part of a follow up to the Pyongyang Declaration signed by the leaders of South and North Korea last month. (Kang Jin-kyu, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- They said the new passport looks like the North Korean passport or represents the ruling Democratic Party of Korea, which uses the color blue to symbolize itself. Some raised suspicion that the color was changed due to the reconciliatory mood with North Korea. (Jung Hae-myoung, The Korea Times)
- On a seven-day tour of Europe, South Korean President Moon Jae-in met with French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday and called on France to do its part in efforts toward peace with North Korea. It appears that President Moon's European tour is focused on persuading European leaders to ease sanctions against North Korea. (The Dong-A Ilbo)
- Cheong Wa Dae said Wednesday (KST) that President Moon will ask British Prime Minister Theresa May at their summit this week to consider lifting some sanctions in response to North Korea's planned denuclearization steps. Moon also plans to hold a meeting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel. (Kim Yoo-chul, The Korea Times)
- President Moon Jae-in in an article for the official Vatican newspaper on Tuesday pledged to turn division and confrontation on the Korean Peninsula into prosperity through peace. (Lee Min-seok, The Chosun Ilbo)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in and Italian President Sergio Mattarella met in Rome on Wednesday to discuss bilateral ties and ways to expand cooperation on regional and global issues. (Kim So-hyun, The Korea Herald)
- On Wednesday evening, Moon was scheduled to attend a special mass for peace on the Korean Peninsula presided over by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, secretary of state in the Vatican. The Vatican allowed the mass to be aired live in Korea. (Lee Sung-eun, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- South Korea has suspended since April both live-fire drills of K-9 self-propelled howitzers and joint South Korea-U.S. marine drills on the northwesternmost islands off North Korea's coast in the West Sea. (Yu Yong-weon, The Chosun Ilbo)
- The office of President Moon Jae-in said Wednesday that South Korea is working closely with the United States as it seeks to reconnect roads and railways across the border with North Korea. (Yonhap)
- South Korea's unification minister is mulling a meeting with a North Korean defector group, a ministry official said Wednesday. The move is being seen as an effort to quell criticism over the minister's decision to block a journalist who defected from the North from covering a high-level inter-Korean meeting held Monday. (Jung Min-kyung, The Korea Herald)

- South Korea's unification minister is considering meeting with a group of North Korean defectors, a ministry official said Wednesday, amid a backlash from his controversial decision to exclude a defector-turned-journalist from covering recent inter-Korean talks. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- Just look at the reality. North Korea has tens of nuclear bombs and devices that can deliver them as far as the US mainland. Add to these menaces conventional weapons that already ranks the country as one of the world's strongest military powers. (*The Korea Herald*)
- North and South Korea soldiers guarding the Joint Security Area in the border truce village of Panmunjom will be disarmed within this year and foreign tourists will be allowed to enter the area. (Jun Hyun-suk, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- South Korea will continue to enforce international sanctions on North Korea, but it also believes that improved inter-Korean ties can contribute to the North's denuclearization, Seoul's top envoy to Washington said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- It would be a mistake if the government believes it can earn North Korea's heart and gain peace on the peninsula simply by trying to please North Korea. Kim Jong-un is not that different from Trump. He would not trust South Korea just because it cares for him. (Kim Hyun-ki, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The head of the United Nations Command (UNC) said Wednesday his troops will continue tripartite dialogue with South and North Korea on their agreement to turn the truce village of Panmunjom into a weapon-free zone, a highly symbolic measure to reduce tensions along the border. (*Yonhap*)
- The Unification Ministry on Monday banned a Chosun Ilbo reporter who is a North Korean defector from a four-member pool of South Korean journalists covering talks with North Korean officials. (Lee Yong-soo, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- South and North Korea agreed to press ahead with the groundbreaking ceremony to reconnect and modernize railways and roads along the coastlines of both Koreas over the next two months despite questions about the expediency and timing of the ventures amid little tangible steps towards denuclearization. (Kim Sung-hoon and Lee Ha-yeon, *Maeil Business News Korea*)
- The two Koreas and the U.S.-led United Nations Command (UNC) met Tuesday for the first time since the end of the Korean War in 1953 to discuss demilitarizing the world's most heavily armed border area. (Ahn Doo-won and Kim Hyo-jin, *Maeil Business News Korea*)

International

- Major Korean banks have come under scrutiny for trying to reopen branches in North Korea as the United States reiterates its continued support for United Nations sanctions on Pyongyang. The U.S. Department of the Treasury contacted seven Korean banks including the Korea Development Bank, Shinhan, KEB Hana, Woori and KB Kookmin last month to urge them to comply with UN sanctions on North Korea. (Park Eun-jee, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

- North Korea is welcome to join the World Bank (WB) as a member when it meets the international community's expectations for "peace and stability," one of the financial institution's senior officials said Wednesday. (Kim Eun-jung, *Yonhap*)
- U.S. Ambassador to Seoul Harry Harris said Wednesday that inter-Korean dialogue "must be linked" with Pyongyang's denuclearization and South Korea should stay "synchronized" with the United States. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The International Press Institute on Tuesday protested against the exclusion of a Chosun Ilbo reporter who is a North Korean defector from covering Monday's talks with North Korean officials. Kim settled in South Korea in 2002 and joined the Chosun Ilbo in 2013, where he has been assigned to cover the Unification Ministry. But the ministry apparently felt that sending a defector would be seen as a slap in the face by the North. (Yoon Hyung-jun, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte expressed full support for President Moon Jae-in's drive for complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization (CVID) of North Korea. (Kim Yoo-chul, *The Korea Times*)
- Moon hopes that North Korea's denuclearization can reach an irreversible level in a few months and is going around the world asking global leaders to stimulate the process by easing sanctions. Macron quite rightly brushed him off, saying sanctions must continue until "concrete denuclearization steps are taken." (*The Chosun Ilbo*)
- U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said there is progress on dismantling North Korea's nuclear weapons program, although it remains a difficult issue. (*Yonhap*)
- Theresa May is expected to rebuff a request from Moon Jae-in, the South Korean president, for Britain to relax sanctions on Pyongyang when the two leaders hold talks at the Asia-Europe Meeting in Belgium on Friday. (Julian Ryall, *The Daily Telegraph*)
- The government has given up on a visit to Japan by South Korean President Moon Jae-in this year due to rising bilateral tensions over issues including the treatment of former "comfort women," as well as Seoul's tight diplomatic schedule including a planned visit by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, according to people familiar with the decision. (Shinichi Akiyama, *The Mainichi*)
- The United Nations is expected to seek to adopt a resolution on the human rights situation in North Korea next month for the 14th straight year, diplomatic sources in New York said Tuesday. If the resolution passes the Third Committee, it will be sent to the U.N. General Assembly, which has adopted a resolution on human rights in North Korea for 13 consecutive years. (*Yonhap*)
- The Asahi Shimbun announced on Tuesday that U.S. government officials anticipate a second U.S.-North Korea summit to be held in Europe mid-November. Stockholm and Geneva are mentioned as the venue of the summit. (Young-A Soh, *The Dong-A Ilbo*)
- U.S. officials expressed alarm Tuesday about an inter-Korean agreement reached a day earlier to break ground on a project reconnecting severed cross-border railways and roads in late November or early December. (Kim Jin-myung, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- South Koreans will have to undergo extra screening before they can be escorted onto U.S. bases in Japan, as will people from North Korea, China and Russia, the U.S. military newspaper Stars and Stripes reported Monday. (Jun Hyun-suk, *The Chosun Ilbo*)

- The U.S. envoy for North Korea met with his Russian counterparts Tuesday to ensure full coordination on efforts to dismantle the North's nuclear weapons program, the State Department said. (*Yonhap*)
- The two Koreas and the United Nations Command (UNC) discussed disarmament of the Joint Security Area (JSA) Tuesday amid expectations for unarmed soldiers to "guard" the inter-Korean border area in a near future. (Lee Min-hyung, *The Korea Times*)

Prepared by Hangyun Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250804164017/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-tom-lantos-human-rights-commission-co-chairs-urge-president-trump-to-include-human-rights-in-north-korea-negotiations

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Thursday, October 18, 2018

U.S. Bars American Aid Groups From Traveling to North Korea; Analysis: With 'America First,' where do human rights rank?

In North Korea

Comrades at work: dream jobs in North Korea (*NKNews*, 10/18/2018)
Distance education boom rapidly spreading in N. Korea: report (*Yonhap*, 10/18/2018)
Korean traditional clothes on show in Pyongyang [PHOTOS] (*Korea Times*, 10/18/2018)
N. Korean newspaper calls on Japan to atone for its wartime crimes (*Yonhap*, 10/18/2018)
N. Korean official reconfirms denuclearization in IPU address (*Yonhap*, 10/18/2018)
North Korea Demands Japan Must Apologize For Its Wartime Crimes (*Newsweek*, 10/18/2018)
North Korea strengthens regional ties on Workers' Party foundation anniversary (*Korea Times*, 10/18/2018)
North Korean Abductions of Japanese Citizens: A Timeline (*Nippon*, 10/18/2018)
Show must go on: North Korea extends new 'Mass Games' spectacle (*Reuters*, 10/18/2018)
State security employees issued smartphones with voice encryption technology (*DailyNK*, 10/18/2018)
When North Korea experimented, unsuccessfully, with old-school Keynesianism (*NKNews*, 10/18/2018)

In South Korea

Army chief vows firm border security despite tension-reducing measures (*Yonhap*, 10/18/2018)
EU's call for CVID no different from S. Korea's 'complete denuclearization' goal: Cheong Wa Dae (*Yonhap*, 10/18/2018)
Rumors of rice aid to North Korea circulate as prices skyrocket (*UPI*, 10/17/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship

A woman's last and only chance to meet her son (CNN, 10/17/2018)
At Vatican, South Korean leader says he's certain of peace (*Associated Press*, 10/17/2018)
Hyundai chief pushing to visit N. Korea for anniversary of stalled tour program (*Yonhap*, 10/18/2018)
(LEAD) President Moon preaches Korean peace at Vatican (*Yonhap*, 10/18/2018)
(LEAD) South proposes liaison office meeting with North this week (*Yonhap*, 10/18/2018)
North and South Korean border may soon open to tourists (*The Telegraph*, 10/18/2018)
On eve of meeting pope, South Korean president speaks of peace hopes (*Reuters*, 10/17/2018)

International

(2nd LD) Leaders of S. Korea, Italy agree to upgrade ties, expand economic cooperation (*Yonhap*, 10/17/2018)
(2nd LD) Pope Francis says may visit Pyongyang following official invitation (*Yonhap*, 10/18/2018)
Analysis: With 'America First,' where do human rights rank? (*Associated Press*, 10/17/2018)
China may 'ease up' on sanctions against North Korea as the trade war drags on (CNBC, 10/18/2018)
Commentary: Europe's North Korea moment (*Reuters*, 10/18/2018)
CTBTO ready to participate in inspection of N. Korea's nuke test site: report (*Yonhap*, 10/18/2018)
Ease or Squeeze? U.S., Seoul Wrangle Over North Korea Policy (*Wall Street Journal*, 10/18/2018)
Flexibility on North Korea (*Korea Times*, 10/17/2018)
Korea discusses sanctions exemptions with Trump gov't (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/18/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea, China to hold talks on denuclearizing N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 10/18/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korean president meets Pope Francis with invitation from N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 10/18/2018)
Moon meets Pope Francis at the Vatican (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/18/2018)
Pope Francis signals interest in meeting with Kim Jong Un (UPI, 10/18/2018)
Pope gets invite to North Korea, indicates will consider it (*Reuters*, 10/18/2018)
Pope indicates willingness to visit North Korea (*Associated Press*, 10/18/2018)
Russia supplied more oil to N. Korea than China: UN (*Korea Times*, 10/18/2018)
S. Korean president set for meeting with Pope Francis (*Yonhap*, 10/18/2018)
The dilemma of humanitarian aid (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/18/2018)
'They give me food, a place to sleep': Netherlands' North Koreans (*Al Jazeera*, 10/18/2018)
Trump says U.S. unlikely as venue of 2nd N.K. summit (*Yonhap*, 10/18/2018)
Trump to nominate former Air Force general as top Asia diplomat (*Reuters*, 10/17/2018)
US ambassador urges S. Korea to have "common voice" with US (*Korea Times*, 10/17/2018)
U.S. Bars American Aid Groups From Traveling to North Korea (*New York Times*, 10/17/2018)
U.S. opposed to Koreas' plan for no-fly zone over border: sources (*Reuters*, 10/18/2018)
Vatican welcomes Moon with special mass for Korean peace (*Yonhap*, 10/18/2018)
Watches and wine: Singapore files more charges over North Korea sanctions breaches (*Reuters*, 10/18/2018)

In North Korea

- When it comes to the relative prestige of different jobs, there is a clearly visible and massive difference between North Korea and Western societies (and, for that matter, between North and South Korean societies). (Andrei Lankov, *NKNews*)

- Web-based distance learning is growing in popularity in North Korea, a magazine report said Thursday, as the North's regime has stressed the importance of education after declaring a shift in its policy focus to the economy early this year. (Yonhap)
- Colorful Korean traditional clothes are being exhibited at the 16th National Exhibition of Korean Dress in Pyongyang, North Korea's state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported Thursday. (Jung Da-min, Korea Times)
- North Korea's official newspaper on Thursday called on Japan to abstain from insulting the victims of Japanese wartime sexual slavery and sincerely atone for its past wrongdoing. (Yonhap)
- North Korea said that it is determined to faithfully carry out its summit agreement reached with the United States in June to promote peace on the Korean Peninsula. (Yonhap)
- North Korea's main state newspaper has called on its neighbor Japan to apologize for the atrocities its armed forces committed during the Second World War. The commentary in *Rodong Sinmun* said that Tokyo must "sincerely atone" for its "past wrongdoing," the South Korean Yonhap news agency reported. (Brendan Cole, Newsweek)
- North Korea is committed to strengthening its regional ties in Asia, especially with traditional allies such as China, Russia and Mongolia, on the 73rd anniversary of the foundation of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea (WPK). (Jung Da-min, Korea Times)
- In 2002, five of the abductees were returned to Japan following the visit of Prime Minister Koizumi Jun'ichirō to North Korea that year. Then in 2004, eight of their family members rejoined them in Japan. Since that time, however, no additional major progress has been made. Here we look back at the key events over the years regarding the abduction issue. (Nippon)
- More than 1.5 million people, among them "tens of thousands" of foreigners, have attended North Korea's new mass performances, state media said on Thursday, adding that the spectacle would be extended due to popular demand. (Josh Smith, Reuters)
- North Korea's legal authorities have issued Ministry of State Security (MSS) employees with smartphones that encrypt voice calls, North Korean sources told Daily NK on October 16. (Kang Mi Jin, DailyNK)
- Before Kim Jong Un's rise to power, the North Korean government principally focused on wage and price controls as a centerpiece of macroeconomic policy. Now North Korean economic policy is dominated by incentives and innovation. But before that, they tried a spot of demand-side policy that was quite redolent of the post-war Keynesianism. (Peter Ward, NKNews)

In South Korea

- South Korea's top Army commander voiced confidence Thursday that his front-line troops will keep a close watch on North Korea in spite of a recent inter-Korean deal on easing border tensions. (Yonhap)
- The European Union's call for "complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization" (CVID) of North Korea is no different from South Korea's goal to achieve "complete denuclearization," the presidential spokesman said Thursday. (Yonhap)

- False rumors of South Korean government deliveries of massive amounts of rice to North Korea are spreading online at a time when consumers are struggling with record-high prices, according to a South Korean press report. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- A 92-year-old woman was given the chance to go to North Korea for three days to meet her son for the first time since the 1950 Korean War. (CNN)
- South Korea's president said he was certain peace could be achieved on the Korean Peninsula as he prepared for an audience Thursday with Pope Francis where he's expected to extend an invitation from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un for Francis to visit. (Nicole Winfield, *Associated Press*)
- The head of Hyundai Group is pushing for a trip to a scenic North Korean mountain resort next month to mark the 20th anniversary of a long-stalled inter-Korean tour program, a company official said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon Jae-in summoned the Christian love for humanity and the European spirit of unity to inspire peace on the divided Korean Peninsula Wednesday, as the South Korean leader preached his policy to engage and denuclearize the rival North at the Vatican. (*Yonhap*)
- The two Koreas are likely to hold a meeting at their joint liaison office in the North's border town of Kaesong this week to discuss follow-up steps on last month's summit agreement, a unification ministry official said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- Tourists may soon get the chance to take the perfect selfie in the highly fortified border zone between North and South Korea, where the countries two leaders had a first historic handshake in April. (Nicola Smith, *The Telegraph*)
- South Korea's president spoke of "heart-warming" moves toward peace on the Korean peninsula on Wednesday, a day before he is expected to relay an invitation to Pope Francis to visit North Korea. (Philip Pullella, *Reuters*)

International

- The leaders of South Korea and Italy agreed Wednesday to upgrade the countries' relationship to a strategic partnership, setting a diplomatic framework to push for deeper political, security and economic cooperation. (*Yonhap*)
- Pope Francis expressed his willingness Thursday to visit North Korea if officially invited, also saying he will "certainly" respond to such an invitation from the communist state. (Byuk Duk-kun, *Yonhap*)
- Trump has shown no interest in calling out the kingdom over Khashoggi — or calling out Russian President Vladimir Putin on assassinations or North Korea's Kim Jong Un on political prisoners. (Zeke Miller, Jonathan Lemire, Catherine Lucey, *Associated Press*)
- As President Donald Trump continues to ramp up trade pressure on China, Beijing may be "less motivated to cooperate" with the U.S. over sanctions against North Korea, an expert told CNBC Wednesday. (Harini V, CNBC)

- Many in Seoul hope that Europe will take a step forward and become more involved in dealing with Pyongyang, because when it comes to the current diplomatic process taking place in the Korean Peninsula, the EU is clearly punching below its weight. (Yoon Young-kwan, Ramon Pacheco Pardo, *Reuters*)
- The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) has shown its willingness to take part in the inspection of Punggye-ri, North Korea's only known nuclear test site, in line with an agreement between Washington and Pyongyang, the Voice of America reported Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- Friction is growing between South Korea and the U.S. over how best to persuade North Korea to give up its nuclear program, with Washington maintaining pressure and Seoul seeking to ease sanctions and reduce the North's isolation. (Jonathan Cheng, Andrew Jeong, *Wall Street Journal*)
- What worries the Donald Trump administration most is possible damage the progress in inter-Korean relations could bring to the sanctions regime against North Korea while it sees no tangible results from the denuclearization talks. (Na Jeong-ju, *Korea Times*)
- Seoul is in discussions with Washington on sanctions exemptions for North Korea to accommodate its inter-Korean roads and railways project, and the Blue House on Thursday said that it expects "good results." (Kim Hyun-ki, Yoo Jee-hye, Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Top South Korean and Chinese nuclear envoys will hold talks this week on ways to denuclearize North Korea and bring lasting peace to the peninsula, Seoul's foreign ministry said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Thursday paid a courtesy call on Pope Francis at the Vatican, where he was expected to ask the pope on behalf of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un to visit Pyongyang. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Thursday met with Pope Francis in the Vatican for an hour on his last day in Rome before departing for Brussels, wrapping up an eventful stop in the ancient city on the second leg of a nine-day European trip. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Francis told visiting South Korean President Moon Jae-in he could travel to the isolated state if Kim sent him an official invitation, South Korean news service News 1 reported. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- Pope Francis on Thursday received an invitation to visit North Korea and the pontiff indicated that he would consider making what would be a landmark trip to the hermit nation, according to South Korean officials. (Philip Pullella, *Reuters*)
- Pope Francis indicated his willingness to visit North Korea during a private audience with South Korean President Moon Jae-in at the Vatican, Moon's office said Thursday. (*Associated Press*)
- Russia supplied 2,000 more tons of refined oil to North Korea than China this year, U.N. data showed Wednesday. It has provided 12,324 tons of refined oil to the North so far, while China has supplied 10,109 tons, according to the website of the U.N. Security Council's sanctions committee. (Park Ji-won, *Korea Times*)

- South Korean President Moon Jae-in was set to meet with Pope Francis on Thursday to ask the pope on behalf of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un to visit the communist state and help move its denuclearization process forward. (*Yonhap*)
- These latest developments, if true, raise the deeper moral dilemmas surrounding humanitarian assistance. These dilemmas are particularly acute with respect to authoritarian regimes like North Korea that have long histories of ignoring the human rights and welfare of their citizens. (Stephen Haggard, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- There are 91 North Koreans in the Netherlands but many are not accepted as refugees and fear deportation to South Korea. (Je Seung Lee, *Al Jazeera*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump said his second summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un is unlikely to be held in the United States, although it may happen in the future. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump plans to nominate former Air Force General David Stilwell to be the State Department's top diplomat for East Asia, a post that has remained unfilled for more than a year despite major challenges in the region. (David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)
- South Korea and the United States should have a "common voice" in dealing with North Korea rather than putting priority on improving inter-Korean relations over denuclearization, U.S. Ambassador to Seoul Harry Harris said Wednesday. (Park Ji-won, *Korea Times*)
- The Trump administration has barred American aid workers from going to North Korea as it pressures Pyongyang to dismantle the country's nuclear weapons program, according to humanitarian groups and a former United States ambassador. (Edward Wong, *New York Times*)
- The United States opposes a plan by South and North Korea to set up a no-fly zone over their heavily fortified border, the latest sign of a rift between Seoul and its top ally, two sources familiar with the matter told Reuters. (Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in attended a special mass for peace on the Korean Peninsula at the Vatican on Wednesday. The mass was presided over by its top diplomat, Pietro Parolin, in honor of Moon, a Catholic, whose peace drive has revived cooperation between the two Koreas and talks to denuclearize the North. (*Yonhap*)
- Singapore charged a citizen, a North Korean and three companies in court on Thursday with supplying prohibited luxury items to North Korea, the latest example of sanctions breaches in the wealthy Asian city-state. (Fathin Ungku, John Geddie, *Reuters*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250804164153/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-us-bars-american-aid-groups-from-traveling-to-north-korea-analysis-with-america-first-where-do-human-rights-rank

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Friday, October 19, 2018

Pope receives Kim Jong Un's invitation to visit North Korea; Moon's Push to Ease North Korea Sanctions Falls Flat

Top News:
Pope receives Kim Jong Un's invitation to visit North Korea (CNN, 10/18/2018)

In North Korea:
Attempted cover-up of sexual assault of prisoner in Ministry of State Security detention center (*Daily* NK, 10/19/2018)
Envoy says U.N. sanctions threaten North Koreans' existence: report (*Yonhap*, 10/19/2018)
Hoping for a brave decision from the Pope (*Daily* NK, 10/19/2018)
In North Korea, living on a paycheck can't be done (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/19/2018)
N. Korea's sole Catholic church draws 70 to 80 Christians on weekends: research (*Yonhap*, 10/19/2018)
North Korean Authorities Target Rich Chinese Johns in Prostitution Crackdown (RFA, 10/18/2018)
North Korea's birth rate remains below replacement level (*Korea Times*, 10/19/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) Leaders of S. Korea, Britain discuss bilateral ties, N.K. denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 10/19/2018)
(LEAD) Moon, Merkel hold summit on bilateral ties, North Korea (*Yonhap*, 10/19/2018)
(LEAD) President Moon arrives in Brussels for ASEM summit (*Yonhap*, 10/19/2018)
(LEAD) Ruling party expects pope's visit to N.K. to speed up denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 10/19/2018)
Moon Jae-in: Korean peace would complete link between Asia, Europe (UPI, 10/19/2018)
Moon's adviser says U.S. approval not needed to lift sanctions on N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 10/19/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
In 19 days, land mines are cleared from JSA (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/19/2018)
Koreas' civic groups to hold joint event at Mount Kumgang next month (*Yonhap*, 10/19/2018)
Koreas will not have meeting of liaison office chiefs this week: official (*Yonhap*, 10/19/2018)

International:
Date for Putin's meeting with North Korea's Kim being discussed: RIA (*Reuters*, 10/19/2018)
Former negotiator with North Korea believes denuclearization can happen through step-by-step approach, advocates deepening dialogue (*Daily* NK, 10/19/2018)
Hoping for the pope (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/19/2018)
Intelligence meetings may be paving the way for meeting between Shinzo Abe and Kim Jong-un (*South China Morning Post*, 10/19/2018)
Inter-Korean Military Pact Leaves Washington Uneasy (VOA, 10/19/2018)
Japan and North Korea intelligence officials held secret meeting in Mongolia in October (*The Japan Times*, 10/19/2018)
JCS says 'no difference' with U.S. over inter-Korean agreement on no-fly zone (*Yonhap*, 10/19/2018)
Missing Japanese citizen entered North Korea, report says (UPI, 10/19/2018)
Moon's Push to Ease North Korea Sanctions Falls Flat (*The Wall Street Journal*, 10/19/2018)

Otto Warmbier: what happened in the North Korean jail that led to American's death? (*South China Morning Post*, 10/19/2018)
Pope ponders landmark visit to North Korea after Kim invitation (*Al Jazeera*, 10/19/2018)
Pope's possible visit to North Korea fuels peace momentum (*Korea Times*, 10/19/2018)
Pope trip to North Korea serious possibility under right conditions: Vatican (*Reuters*, 10/19/2018)
Pope wants invitation from Kim (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/19/2018)
Putin vows active involvement in N. Korean issue (*NHK World*, 10/19/2018)
Singaporean charged with supplying luxury items to North Korea (*The Straits Times*, 10/19/2018)
Singapore charges suspects with smuggling luxury goods to North Korea (*UPI*, 10/18/2018)
US and South Korea again call off a major military exercise (*The Washington Post*, 10/19/2018)
US cancels major military exercise with South Korea (*CNN*, 10/19/2018)
U.S. Suspends Another Military Exercise to Aid North Korea Talks (*Bloomberg*, 10/19/2018)
Vatican Mum on North Korea's Invitation to Pope Francis (*The New York Times*, 10/18/2018)
Will Trump Raise The Issue Of Mass Atrocities With The New Ally? (*Forbes*, 10/18/2018)

Top News:

- HRNK's Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu was featured on CNN with Brian Todd. Scarlatoiu said, "What Kim Jong-un intends to get is more good PR for the regime. [...] Religion was exterminated with extreme prejudice over a period of only a few years under Kim Il-sung..." (Dugald McConnell, Brian Todd, CNN)

In North Korea:

- A woman being investigated for illegally crossing the Sino-Korean border by the Ministry of State Security (MSS) at a county detention center in North Hamgyong Province was sexually assaulted while in custody last month, sources in North Korea have reported. (Ha Yoon-ah, *Daily NK*)
- North Korea told the United Nations earlier this month that international sanctions severely restrict the existence and development rights of its people, Voice of America reported Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- If even one more church or one more cross is put up in North Korea because of the Pope's visit to North Korea, that in itself will be a huge achievement. (Thae Yong Ho, *Daily NK*)
- At first glance, it appears impossible for an average North Korean worker, who earns a monthly salary of 4,000 North Korean won ($4), to survive in an economy where a pack of cigarettes costs more than that — 5,000 won. (Jeong Yong-soo, Kwen Yu-jin, Kim Ji-a, Shim Kyu-seok, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Following Pope Francis' positive reaction to an invitation from North Korean leader Kim Jong-un Thursday, Catholicism in the communist North is drawing fresh attention. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean authorities are focusing on extracting exorbitant fines from Chinese visitors caught buying sex when they visit the country for business, a source told RFA's Korean service. (Kim Joon-ho, RFA)

- Global trends towards smaller families and low birth rates are also being seen in North Korea, according to the United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) "State of World Population 2018" report, released Wednesday. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)

In South Korea:

- South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Friday stressed the need to start easing international sanctions against North Korea to further motivate the communist state in its efforts to denuclearize in a summit with British Prime Minister Theresa May. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in and German Chancellor Angela Merkel pledged efforts to further develop the countries' bilateral relationship during their meeting on the sidelines of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) summit in Brussels on Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in arrived in Brussels on Thursday for a two-day visit to attend a multilateral forum of Asian and European leaders. (*Yonhap*)
- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) on Friday expressed hope that Pope Francis' potential visit to North Korea will help speed up denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in called for support from member states of the Asia-Europe Meeting for his continued diplomatic engagement with North Korea in Brussels on Friday. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- South Korea, as an independent sovereign state, doesn't require the United States' approval before lifting its sanctions on North Korea, a security adviser to President Moon Jae-in said. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Operations to remove land mines in the truce village on the border between the two Koreas effectively ended Friday, the first step in fulfilling an agreement signed by the leaders of South and North Korea last April to disarm the demilitarized zone (DMZ). (Shim Kyu-seok, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- A civic organization in South Korea said Friday that it will hold a joint event with its North Korean counterpart next month to call for faithful implementation of the recent summit agreement between their leaders. (*Yonhap*)
- South and North Korea will not have a meeting at their joint liaison office in the North's border town of Kaesong this week, Seoul's unification ministry said Friday. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- A date for Russian President Vladimir Putin's meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is being discussed, Russian state news agency RIA cited Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Morgulov as saying on Friday. (*Reuters*)

- Joel Wit, a former US State Department official and operator of the prominent North Korea-focused website 38North.org, was quick to voice his disapproval of the American president. (Nate Kerkhoff, *Daily NK*)
- Pope Francis on Thursday was positive about an invitation to Pyongyang delivered by South Korean President Moon Jae-in at a meeting with the pontiff at the Vatican. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- A top Japanese intelligence official close to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe had a secret meeting with North Korean counterparts in early October in Mongolia, sources familiar with bilateral ties said on Thursday. (*South China Morning Post*)
- A gap is growing between Washington and Seoul over an inter-Korean military pact that Washington worries might weaken South Korea's defenses against a North Korea attack. (Christy Lee, VOA)
- A top Japanese intelligence official close to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe had a secret meeting with North Korean counterparts in early October in Mongolia, sources familiar with bilateral ties have said. (*The Japan Times*)
- South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) on Friday spurned news reports that it is at odds with U.S. forces over a recent inter-Korean agreement on setting up an expanded no-fly zone in front-line areas. (*Yonhap*)
- A Japanese citizen who was possibly abducted to North Korea in 1978 could still be alive, according to a Japanese press report on Friday. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- South Korea's president's attempt to rally European support for loosening sanctions on North Korea appeared to fall flat this week, and risked putting him further at odds with the Trump administration's efforts to maintain pressure on Pyongyang. (Dasl Yoon, Laurence Norman, *The Wall Street Journal*)
- The student was hailed by Donald Trump as a catalyst for his summit with Kim Jong-un. But what really happened between the 21-year-old's trial and his return home with brain damage, and was the truth held hostage for political ends? (Doug Bock Clark, *South China Morning Post*)
- Pope Francis indicated he would consider making what would be a landmark trip to North Korea after being invited to visit the isolated state, South Korean officials said. (*Al Jazeera*)
- President Moon Jae-in's vision for peace on the Korean Peninsula is expected to gain further momentum after Pope Francis accepted a handwritten letter from North Korean leader Kim Jong-un inviting him to visit Pyongyang, according to analysts, Friday. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- Pope Francis will seriously consider the possibility of an unprecedented visit to North Korea but some conditions will have to be met, a senior Vatican official said. (Philip Pullella, *Reuters*)
- Pope Francis said he "could go" to North Korea and that he would "definitely" respond to an invitation should Pyongyang send one, during his meeting with South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Thursday at the Vatican. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Russian President Vladimir Putin has expressed his country's commitment to helping stabilize the Korean Peninsula through economic cooperation with North and South. (*NHK World*)

- A Singaporean director of three local companies was taken to court for allegedly supplying to North Korea prohibited luxury items worth over $500,000. (Shaffiq Alkhatib, Derek Wong, *The Straits Times*)
- Singapore authorities have charged one Singaporean national and at least one North Korean citizen in connection to illegal exports of luxury goods from the island country to Pyongyang. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- The United States and South Korea are scrapping another major military exercise this year, a Pentagon official said Friday, citing a push for diplomatic progress with North Korea. (Robert Burns, AP)
- The US and South Korea decided Friday to suspend another major joint military exercise to give the diplomatic process with North Korea "every opportunity to continue." (Barbara Starr, Ryan Browne, CNN)
- The U.S. is suspending another military exercise with South Korea to aid ongoing negotiations over North Korea's nuclear program that President Donald Trump has said should "soon" result in another summit with Kim Jong Un. (Bill Faries, *Bloomberg*)
- Pope Francis received an invitation on Thursday to visit North Korea, a message relayed to him in a private audience at the Vatican with President Moon Jae-in of South Korea. (Gaia Pianigiani, Choe Sang-hun, *The New York Times*)
- After the meeting between President Trump and Kim Jong Un, many hoped that at least some of the human rights abuses in North Korea will be addressed. (Ewelina U. Ochab, *Forbes*)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250804164422/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemspope-receives-kim-jong-uns-invitation-to-visit-north-koreamoons-push-to-ease-north-korea-sanctions-falls-flat

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Saturday, October 20, 2018

U.S. and South Korea Suspend Military Drills; When it comes to North Korean diplomacy, keep an eye on Mongolia

In North Korea:
Report: North Korea-Sponsored Hacks Comprise 65 Percent of Total Crypto Stolen (*Coin Telegraph*, 10/19/2018)
The reality of overseas North Korean workers (*Korea Times*, 10/20/2018)
The Sanctions Effect in North Korea: Observations from Rason (38*North*, 10/19/2018)

In South Korea:

Seoul Fashion Week: Designers tackle themes of war and peace (CNN, 10/19/2018)
'Seoul set to apply new growth models for Pyongyang' (*Korea Times*, 10/20/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Koreas consider forming joint wrestling team at Tokyo Olympics (*Yonhap*, 10/20/2018)
Selfies in the Korean DMZ – and other unusual border travel experiences (*The Telegraph*, 10/19/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) S. Korea, U.S. agree to suspend another military exercise (*Yonhap*, 10/19/2018)
Around the halls: Can President Trump claim credit for progress on North Korea? (*Brookings*, 10/19/2018)
Bolton readies Moscow visit amid U.S. concerns about missile treaty (*Reuters*, 10/19/2018)
(LEAD) Pompeo hopes to meet N. Koreans soon to discuss next summit (*Yonhap*, 10/19/2018)
(LEAD) Seoul-Washington air drill suspended to promote peace: defense ministry (*Yonhap*, 10/20/2018)
Moon, Juncker commit to free trade, Korean peace (*Yonhap*, 10/19/2018)
Next summit for Trump, North Korea's Kim likely after first of year: senior U.S. official (*Reuters*, 10/19/2018)
Pentagon's goal of stopping enemy missiles before they're launched risks amplifying North Korean danger (*South China Morning Post*, 10/20/2018)
Pope and NK (*Korea Times*, 10/19/2018)
Pope Francis willing to visit North Korea, Vatican official says (*The Guardian*, 10/19/2018)
Trump's national security adviser heads to Moscow (*Associated Press*, 10/19/2018)
US, South Korea Again Call Off Major Drill (VOA, 10/19/2018)
U.S., South Korea suspend joint military exercise because of North Korea talks (*Washington Post*, 10/19/2018)
U.S., South Korea suspend more drills to bolster North Korea diplomacy (*Reuters*, 10/19/2018)
U.S. and South Korea Suspend Military Drills (*New York Times*, 10/19/2018)
US official: Trump likely to meet with Kim early next year (*Associated Press*, 10/19/2018)
VOA Interview: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo (VOA, 10/19/2018)
When it comes to North Korean diplomacy, keep an eye on Mongolia (*Quartz*, 10/19/2018)

In North Korea:

- Hacker group "Lazarus," reportedly funded by North Korea, has stolen a staggering $571 million in cryptocurrencies since early 2017, a study conducted by cybercrime company Group-IB reveals. (Marie Huillet, *Coin Telegraph*)
- A number of North Koreans are granted permission to work abroad. One such North Korean refugee escaped while abroad, arriving in South Korea a few years ago. She told her story on October 17, 2018, to a delegation of Americans visiting South Korea. (Voices From the North, *Korea Times*)

- Still, sanctions have caused enough problems that expressions of hope for the success of this year's summit diplomacy are universal among North Koreans in Rason and elsewhere. (Andray Abrahamian, 38North)

In South Korea:

- Amid a rare period rapprochement between North and South Korea, this season's collections took a comparatively somber tone, with some designers appearing to indirectly reference the conflict, or put forth their desire for peace. (Dianne Pineda, CNN)
- The South Korean government is prepared to help North Korea pursue new business models that could be sustained and applicable for economic growth of the world's poorest nation with their citizens suffering food shortages. (Kim Yoo-chul, Korea Times)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Korea Wrestling Federation said its competition director, Lee Joong-sub, and the North Korean wrestling body secretary general, Kim Il, met Thursday in Budapest, where the 2018 World Wrestling Championships is being held, and exchanged opinions on forming a joint wrestling team at the 2020 Olympics. (Yonhap)
- This is the news emerging from South Korea that, soon, travellers will not only be able to visit the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) which divides the two not-so-good neighbours of the Korean Peninsula - they will be able to hop back and forth across the precise "Demarcation Line" in the middle of the Joint Security Area (JSA). (Chris Leadbeater, The Telegraph)

International:

- South Korea and the United States have agreed to suspend another military exercise to facilitate negotiations over North Korea's nuclear weapons program, the Pentagon said Friday. (Lee Haye-ah, Yonhap)
- During parts of 2017, many feared that the United States and North Korea were on a path to war; today, diplomatic efforts are underway and the threat of outright conflict appears diminished. Has real progress on North Korea been made, and is President Trump correct to claim credit? Six Brookings experts on North Korea weigh in. (Richard C. Bush, Robert Einhorn, Ryan Hass, Michael E. O'Hanlon, Jung H. Pak, Jonathan D. Pollack, Brookings)
- While in Moscow, Bolton will emphasize the importance of maintaining sanctions against North Korea in order to keep pressure on the elimination of Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program. Russia and China have suggested easing sanctions. (Steve Holland, Reuters)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Friday that he hopes to meet with his North Korean counterpart "in the next week and a half or so" to continue planning for a second nuclear summit between their leaders. (Yonhap)
- South Korea's defense ministry said Saturday that Seoul and Washington have decided to suspend a combined air exercise in a bid to lend support to the ongoing diplomatic efforts for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. (Yonhap)

- South Korean President Moon Jae-in and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker also agreed to step up their joint efforts to peacefully denuclearize North Korea and build peace on the Korean Peninsula. (*Yonhap*)
- The next summit meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is likely to happen early next year, a senior administration official said on Friday. (Steve Holland, David Brunnstrom, David Alexander, Jane Chung, *Reuters*)
- In fact, earlier this year, a leaked document showed – without naming North Korea specifically – the development of a policy within the Pentagon to pursue "pre-conflict left of launch operations" against missiles. (Ankit Panda, *South China Morning Post*)
- Many Koreans have been wondering how the pope would react to the invitation. During his audience with Moon, he reportedly said he would be "available" to travel to Pyongyang. If realized, it will be the first time for the head of the Catholic Church to visit North Korea, which is notorious for its religious oppression. (*Korea Times*)
- Pope Francis will seriously consider making an unprecedented visit to North Korea, but some conditions would have to be met, a senior Vatican official has said. (Harriet Sherwood, *The Guardian*)
- Bolton also is expected to emphasize U.S. desire to maintain sanctions against North Korea to pressure Pyongyang to eliminate its nuclear weapons program. (Deb Riechmann, *Associated Press*)
- The United States and South Korea have suspended another major military exercise in a continued push for diplomacy, the Pentagon said Friday. (Carla Babb, VOA)
- The United States and South Korea suspended a high-profile air-power exercise scheduled for December, the fourth such military training operation the two allies have canceled as a result of nuclear disarmament talks with North Korea. (Paul Sonne, *Washington Post*)
- The United States and South Korea have suspended upcoming joint air defense drills to give diplomatic efforts with North Korea "every opportunity to continue," the U.S. military said on Friday. (Phil Stewart, Idrees Ali, *Reuters*)
- The United States and South Korea have suspended another military exercise this year as part of an effort to give the continuing nuclear negotiations with North Korea an opportunity to work, Pentagon officials said on Friday. (Helene Cooper, *New York Times*)
- President Donald Trump will likely have his second meeting with Kim Jong Un early next year to continue charting a way for the North Korean leader to give up his nuclear weapons in a verifiable way. (Deb Riechmann, *Associated Press*)
- For decades North Korea has depended on their nuclear arsenal, or the promise thereof, as their lynchpin for their security. to make that strategic decision that Chairman Kim tells us he has made that says we no longer need our nuclear arsenal for our country to be successful is a very difficult challenge for a North Korean leader. (Greta Van Susteren, VOA)
- When US president Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un held a summit in June, Singapore was chosen as the venue over other ideas that were floated, including Mongolia. Now the landlocked central Asian country could have another shot. (Isabelle Steger, *Quartz*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250804164427/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-us-and-south-korea-suspend-military-drills-when-it-comes-to-north-korean-diplomacy-keep-an-eye-on-mongolia

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Sunday, October 21, 2018

S. Korea to conduct solo air exercise in December; Koreas to hold 1st meeting in liaison office on Oct. 22

In North Korea:
'North Korea seeks to escape isolation by inviting Pope' (*Korea Times*, 10/21/2018)

In South Korea:
Another joint exercise canceled (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/21/2018)
Hope is not reality (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/21/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea's nuke envoy heads to U.S. over N.K. nuclear issue (*Yonhap*, 10/21/2018)
Moon gets support in peace process, but tasks ahead (*Korea Times*, 10/21/2018)
Moon heads home with European concessions for N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 10/21/2018)
No-fly zone: Prudent trust-building step or reckless concession? (*The Korea Herald*, 10/21/2018)
President Moon returns home after five-nation trip to Europe (*Yonhap*, 10/21/2018)
S. Korea to conduct solo air exercise in December (*Yonhap*, 10/21/2018)
South Korea's plan for no-fly zone area along North Korea border stirs debate (*The Straits Times*, 10/21/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Joint inspection of cross-border railways to start as early as this week (*The Korea Herald*, 10/21/2018)
Koreas to hold 1st meeting in liaison office on Oct. 22 (*Korea Times*, 10/21/2018)
(LEAD) Koreas to start joint inspection of western railway as early as this week (*Yonhap*, 10/21/2018)
North Korea's box of bones: A mythical king and the dream of Korean unification (*Reuters*, 10/20/2018)

International:
Conditions for denuclearization (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/21/2018)
Diplomatic hurdles face possible papal visit (*Korea Times*, 10/21/2018)
Pompeo's remarks on next meeting with NK official fuel speculation (*The Korea Herald*, 10/21/2018)

In North Korea:

- With North Korean leader Kim Jong-un inviting Pope Francis to visit his regime, Pyongyang's failed attempts to invite a former pontiff are resurfacing here. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)

In South Korea:

- South Korea and the United States decided to suspend the Vigilant Ace joint aerial exercise slated for December in consideration of ongoing diplomatic efforts with North Korea, the latest cancellation of joint drills this year. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- President Moon Jae-in has returned from his seven-day trip to Europe after having summits with five government leaders including French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Theresa May. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korea's top nuclear envoy left for the United States on Sunday to coordinate North Korea policy with Washington, Seoul's foreign ministry said. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon Jae-in's efforts to persuade the EU and permanent members of the U.N. Security Council (UNSC) to help North Korea get some relief from UNSC sanctions faces challenges following "differing thinking" between Moon and his European counterparts on the matter. (Kim Yoo-chul, *Korea Times*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in headed home Saturday, wrapping up a five-nation European tour that was apparently more successful than anticipated, heralding the possibility of a trip by Pope Francis to North Korea. (*Yonhap*)
- Controversy continues to grow over South Korea's plan to establish a no-fly zone along the border with North Korea, prompting debate over the question of building trust with Pyongyang without compromising the military's reconnaissance capabilities. (Yeo Jun-suk, *The Korea Herald*)
- President Moon Jae-in returned home Sunday after a high-stakes trip to Europe that sought to rally international support for his efforts to denuclearize North Korea and establish peace. (*Yonhap*)
- Despite the possible suspension of the upcoming joint air defense exercise with the United States, South Korea will carry out its own air drill as scheduled in December, an official of the defense ministry here said Sunday. (*Yonhap*)
- Controversy has grown over South Korea's plan to establish a no-fly zone along the border with North Korea, prompting debate over the question of building trust with Pyongyang without compromising the military's reconnaissance capabilities. (*The Straits Times*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The two Koreas are likely to start a joint inspection of cross-border railways as early as this week, government officials said Sunday, in an effort to implement the agreement reached between their leaders in April. (Jung Min-kyung, *The Korea Herald*)
- The first inter-Korean high-level meeting will be held at the newly opened liaison office in the North on Monday to discuss ways to tackle pest control for pine trees and the

modernization of seedling farms in North Korea. It is the first time for the two Koreas to hold such a meeting there since its official opening on Sept. 14. (Park Ji-won, *Korea Times*)

- South and North Korea are likely to start their joint on-site inspection as early as this week for a project to modernize and re-link railways across their border, government officials said Sunday. (*Yonhap*)
- It's the stuff of an Indiana Jones movie: supernatural kings, ancient tombs, and government-backed archaeologists striving to harness the power of legend for a greater cause. (*Reuters*)

International:

- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's fourth visit to Pyongyang and President Donald Trump's mentioning of a second U.S.-North Korea summit drew public attention to where the summit would be held and whether it would lead to an end-of-war declaration within the year and Kim's return visit. (Kim Hong-kyun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- North Korea is one of the few countries that does not have diplomatic relations with the Vatican. And this is likely to pose a challenge for North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in inviting Pope Francis to his country. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's recent remarks, indicating that he hopes to meet with his North Korean counterpart "in the next week and a half or so," without revealing details, is fueling speculation about the details of this potential meeting. (Jung Min-kyung, *The Korea Herald*)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250804164615/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemss-korea-to-conduct-solo-air-exercise-in-decemberkoreas-to-hold-1st-meeting-in-liaison-office-on-oct-22

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Monday, October 22, 2018

First talks held at new liaison office; Two Koreas, U.N. forces agree to remove weapons at border

In North Korea:

Factory's head of security arrested for attempting to smuggle metals to China (*Daily NK*, 10/22/2018)
Kim hinted at Yongbyon access, says Harris (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/22/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korean delegation arrives in Beijing to attend military forum (*Yonhap*, 10/22/2018)

N. Korean newspaper highlights growing feuds between U.S., China (*Yonhap*, 10/22/2018)
N. Korean officials head for Russia amid speculation about summit (*Yonhap*, 10/22/2018)
North Korea bought at least $640 million in luxury goods from China in 2017, South Korea lawmaker says (*Reuters*, 10/22/2018)
Report: North Korea officials likely to discuss military cooperation in China (UPI, 10/22/2018)
Rodong Sinmun highlights 'anti-capitalism' campaigns in South Korea (*Korea Times*, 10/22/2018)
South Korean reality show gains fans in North Korea (*Daily* NK, 10/22/2018)
Sub-standard construction practices in Hyesan 'speed battle' lead to widespread fears (*Daily* NK, 10/22/2018)

In South Korea:
First talks held at new liaison office (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/22/2018)
Official says Moon's Europe tour more successful than expected (*Yonhap*, 10/22/2018)
Seoul, Washington see eye-to-eye: Blue House (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/22/2018)
S. Korean Red Cross Completing Plan to Build Blood Bank for N. Korea (*KBS World Radio*, 10/22/2018)
S. Korea to hold cultural festival near DMZ this weekend (*Yonhap*, 10/22/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
2 Koreas, U.S.-led U.N. Command meet again at Koreas' border (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 10/22/2018)
(2nd LD) Top-ranking defense officials of two Koreas to attend military forum in Beijing (*Yonhap*, 10/22/2018)
(3rd LD) Koreas agree to jointly fight pine tree pests until March (*Yonhap*, 10/22/2018)
Guns, guard posts pulled from JSA this week (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/22/2018)
Koreas finish removing land mines from border village (*The Washington Post*, 10/22/2018)
(LEAD) Koreas hold talks on forestry cooperation (*Yonhap*, 10/22/2018)
North, South Korea discuss pine wilt disease prevention, tree nursery (UPI, 10/22/2018)
The Koreas and United Nations Command Work Toward Disarming the DMZ (VOA, 10/22/2018)
Two Koreas to hold general-level military talks on Friday (*NK News*, 10/22/2018)
Two Koreas, U.N. forces agree to remove weapons at border (*Reuters*, 10/22/2018)

International:
Abe to bring business leaders to Beijing amid US trade spat (*The Washington Post*, 10/22/2018)
Midterm Elections Could Impact America's Global Engagement (VOA, 10/22/2018)
S.Korea Taken Unawares by Cancellation of Joint Drills (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/22/2018)
U.S. Treasury calls reveal 'deep concern' over South Korea banks' North Korea plans: document (*Reuters*, 10/22/2018)

In North Korea:

- An ongoing investigation involving the head of security of a factory-enterprise in North Hamgyong Province has led to the arrest of the man's younger sister and her husband. The suspect has been accused of attempting to illicitly sell a large quantity of metal to China. (Lee Sang Yong, *Daily NK*)

- U.S. Ambassador to Seoul Harry Harris said that North Korean leader Kim Jong-un "hinted" at the opening of facilities "central to North Korea's missile and nuclear processing capabilities" during U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's visit to Pyongyang. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- North Korea's move to participate in an international military forum organized by the Chinese government is drawing keen attention, amid ongoing negotiations over its denuclearization. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's official newspaper again ran an article on the escalating conflict between the United States and China on Monday, citing expert opinions critical of Washington. (*Yonhap*)
- A group of North Korean officials left for Russia on Monday, the North's official news agency said, amid speculation that the leaders of the two countries might be planning to have a summit. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea imported at least $640 million worth of luxury goods from China last year, in defiance of U.N. sanctions outlawing such trade over North Korea's nuclear and missile programs, a South Korean lawmaker said on Monday. (Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)
- A senior North Korean official in Beijing for an upcoming military forum is likely to discuss military cooperation with the Chinese, according to a South Korean press report. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- North Korea's party mouthpiece Rodong Sinmun ran a series of articles on South Korea's political situation in its Monday edition, suggesting social rights of the disadvantaged, including workers and disabled, are being neglected in the South. The articles cited South Korean media's recent reports. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)
- The popular South Korean MBN program "I'm A Naturalist" is reportedly also gaining a sizable following in North Korea, North Korean sources have reported. (Lee Sang Yong, *Daily NK*)
- The Ryanggang Province city of Hyesan is in the midst of a "speed battle", a large redevelopment operation intended to allow the city to better support the surrounding regions of Samjiyon County. However, there are increasing concerns from local residents about the poor quality of construction occurring in the area. (Kim Yoo-jin, *Daily NK*)

In South Korea:

- The new joint liaison office in the North's border city of Kaesong made its debut as a venue for inter-Korean negotiations on Monday, after South and North Korean officials discussed ways to promote forestry cooperation between the two countries. (Shim Kyu-seok, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- President Moon Jae-in's just-concluded trip to five European countries was a greater success than earlier anticipated, a ranking official from the presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said. (*Yonhap*)
- A high-level Blue House official denied accusations that Seoul is at loggerheads with Washington over easing of sanctions on Pyongyang, saying Monday that both countries were "eventually heading towards the same path" albeit through a "slightly different" process. (Lee Sung-eun, Wie Moon-hee, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

- The head of the South Korean Red Cross says the organization's plan to establish a blood bank as part of its humanitarian assistance for North Korea is almost complete. (KBS World Radio)
- South Korea will hold a cultural festival at a former U.S. army base near the inter-Korean border this weekend as part of efforts to transform the heavily fortified Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) into a hub of peace-themed tourism, organizers said Monday. (Yonhap)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Military officers from the two Koreas and the U.S.-led U.N. Command met again at the Koreas' border village Monday to examine an ongoing effort to disarm the area. (AP)
- North Korea's move to participate in an international military forum organized by the Chinese government is drawing keen attention, amid ongoing negotiations over its denuclearization. (Yonhap)
- South and North Korea agreed Monday to jointly combat pine tree pests and other tree diseases until March next year as part of efforts to intensify their forestry cooperation. (Yonhap)
- All firearms and guard posts in the Joint Security Area (JSA) will be withdrawn by Thursday, a trilateral meeting involving both Koreas and the U.S.-led United Nations Command (UNC) concluded Monday. (Lee Sung-eun, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- The two Koreas have completed removing land mines planted at their shared border village as part of efforts to disarm the area located inside the world's most heavily fortified border, South Korean officials said Monday. (Hyung-jin Kim, AP)
- The two Koreas held talks Monday to discuss fighting tree disease as part of efforts to step up their forestry cooperation. (Yonhap)
- North and South Korea discussed plans to conduct a joint pest control to prevent pine wilt diseases in North Korean forests and ways to modernize tree nurseries, as follow-up measures for the inter-Korean summit in Pyongyang last month. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- North Korea, South Korea, and the United Nations Command (UNC) met Monday to further discuss plans to disarm the Joint Security Area (JSA) in the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). (Steve Miller, VOA)
- The two Koreas will hold general-level talks this Friday on the implementation of September's military agreement, the Ministry of National Defense (MND) announced on Monday. (Dagyum Ji, NK News)
- North and South Korea and the U.N. Command agreed on Monday to withdraw firearms and guard posts in the demilitarized zone village of Panmunjom this week, Seoul's defense ministry said, the latest move in a fast-improving relationship. (Hyonhee Shin, Reuters)

International:

- Around 500 Japanese business leaders will accompany Prime Minister Shinzo Abe when he visits Beijing this week, amid an ongoing China-U.S. trade feud that is hurting industries on

both sides. The official said North Korea will also be among the issues the two leaders discuss. (Christopher Bodeen, AP)

- While domestic concerns dominate much of the political debate ahead of next month's U.S. midterm elections, Democratic lawmakers say they are eager to assert themselves on foreign affairs and, when necessary, provide a check on the Trump administration if they win control of at least one chamber of Congress in November. (Michael Bowman, VOA)
- The U.S. has canceled a massive joint air drill with South Korea dubbed "Vigilant Ace" that was scheduled for December this year. (Yu Yong-weon, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- The U.S. Treasury Department is "deeply concerned" about planned financial cooperation between North and South Korea and has told South Korean banks that "U.N. and U.S. sanctions on North Korea remain valid", a South Korean regulatory document has shown (Joyce Lee, *Reuters*)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250804164857/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-first-talks-held-at-new-liaison-officetwo-koreas-un-forces-agree-to-remove-weapons-at-border

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Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Moon's move to ratify inter-Korean agreements draws backlash; US-South Korea divergence over North puts 70-year alliance at risk

In North Korea

Authorities warn residents of theft during the harvest season (*DailyNK*, 10/23/2018)
Despite crackdowns, South Korean media content remains popular (*DailyNK*, 10/23/2018)
Expert says pre-emptive military tension relief to speed up N. Korea's denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 10/23/2018)
Increase in vehicle smuggling across border Sino-NK border (*DailyNK*, 10/23/2018)
Kim Jong-un 'Spent $4 Billion on Luxury Goods in 6 Years' (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/22/2018)
More signals of a Kim-Putin summit coming (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/23/2018)
N.Korea Complains About Cross-Border Forestry Talks (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/23/2018)
N.Korea Has Landed Another Photo Op with Trump (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/23/2018)
N. Korea extends mass gymnastics performance again to Nov. 4 (*Yonhap*, 10/23/2018)
N. Korea wants to delay working-level talks for inter-Korean parliamentary meeting (*Yonhap*, 10/23/2018)

N. Korea's media report on inter-Korean talks on forestry cooperation (*Yonhap*, 10/23/2018)
NK media report on forestry cooperation talks, but omit results (*The Korea Herald*, 10/23/2018)
North Korea blasts Japan's role in pushing U.N. human rights resolution amid nuclear talks (*The Japan Times*, 10/23/2018)
North Korea Carefully Revs Up Public Warnings to Washington (*38 North*, 10/22/2018)
North Korea issues stamps marking Moon-Kim summits [PHOTOS] (*The Korea Times*, 10/23/2018)
Report: North Korea ambassador lobbies for sanctions relief at U.N. (*UPI*, 10/23/2018)
Rodong Sinmun blasts Japan, EU for pushing to submit N. Korean human rights resolution to U.N. (*Yonhap*, 10/23/2018)
Support for the underprivileged in urban areas of North Korea shows signs of improvement (*Daily*NK, 10/23/2018)
Voyage home from North Korea (*The Korea Times*, 10/23/2018)

In South Korea
(3rd LD) Moon ratifies summit agreement amid opposition parties' protest (*Yonhap*, 10/23/2018)
(LEAD) Cabinet approves inter-Korean summit deal before Moon ratifies it (*Yonhap*, 10/23/2018)
(LEAD) Parties clash over Cabinet's approval of Sept. inter-Korean summit deal (*Yonhap*, 10/23/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea cautious about Trump's decision to scrap nuclear treaty (*Yonhap*, 10/23/2018)
Bypassing the legislature (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/23/2018)
Land-and-sea drill is canceled (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/23/2018)
Moon ratifies his own summit declaration (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/23/2018)
Moon ratifies Pyongyang Declaration (*The Korea Times*, 10/23/2018)
Moon Remains Optimistic About Progress on N.Korea (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/23/2018)
Moon says inter-Korean rapprochement will ensure bright future of entire nation (*Yonhap*, 10/23/2018)
Moon's move to ratify inter-Korean agreements draws backlash (*The Korea Times*, 10/23/2018)
Pope expresses strong willingness to visit N. Korea: S. Korean bishop (*Yonhap*, 10/23/2018)
President Moon ratifies Pyongyang Declaration, inter-Korean military agreement (*The Korea Herald*, 10/23/2018)
Pyongyang Declaration will accelerate denuclearization: Moon (*Yonhap*, 10/23/2018)
S Korea to extend period for N. Korean defectors to apply for settlement (*Yonhap*, 10/23/2018)
Six in 10 S. Korean venture companies willing to invest in N. Korea: poll (*Yonhap*, 10/23/2018)
South Korea ratifies Pyongyang Declaration, military agreement (*UPI*, 10/23/2018)
The suspension of Vigilant Ace exercise (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 10/23/2018)
Unification minister to meet N.K. defectors amid controversy (*Yonhap*, 10/23/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship
Changes afoot at JSA (*The Korea Herald*, 10/23/2018)
Guns and guards to be removed from Korean 'truce village' of Panmunjom (*The Guardian*, 10/22/2018)
Koreas to remove guns and guard posts from Panmunjom 'truce town' (BBC, 10/22/2018)
Lawmakers divided over inter-Korean economic cooperation (*The Korea Herald*, 10/23/2018)
Moon to pitch 'sanctions relief' initiative in APEC (*The Korea Times*, 10/23/2018)
Seoul expected to implement inter-Korean military agreement next week (*Yonhap*, 10/23/2018)

Transit fees for trans-Korea gas pipeline estimated at over 200 bln won: KOGAS (*Yonhap*, 10/23/2018)
Why US midterm elections matter for Korea (*The Korea Times*, 10/23/2018)

International
AFC plays North's anthem for South's youth team (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/23/2018)
Bolton predicts summit with Kim next year (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/23/2018)
NK among 11 nations that severely violate freedom of religion: EU group (*The Korea Herald*, 10/23/2018)
Pope keen on North visit, says Korean bishop (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/23/2018)
US-South Korea divergence over North puts 70-year alliance at risk (*Financial Times*, 10/22/2018)

In North Korea

- Amidst a sluggish grain harvest this year due to damage from severe drought and typhoons, the North Korean authorities are delivering lectures warning the general public of the potential for grain theft, Daily NK source reported. (Kang Mi Jin, *DailyNK*)
- South Korean content is still being distributed through USBs and SDs card in the North, inspiring North Korean residents to dream about greater freedom in their society. (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)
- A pre-emptive easing of inter-Korean military tension is expected to help speed up North Korea's denuclearization and the formation of a Korean Peninsula peace treaty, an expert said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- Trading enterprises are smuggling in Chinese-made passenger cars through the Sino-DPRK border under the protection of the North Korean authorities, report several Daily NK sources. (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)
- North Korea spent at least US$4 billion on luxury cars, watches and jewelry since Kim Jong-un came to power in 2012, analysis of Chinese customs data suggests. Liberty Korea Party lawmaker Yoon Sang-hyun on Sunday said that he analyzed the Chinese data and found that the North blew $4.04 billion on luxury goods from 2012 to 2017. (Lee Yong-soo and Yoon Hyung-jun, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- A delegation of officials from North Korea's ruling Workers' Party departed Pyongyang on Monday for Russia, adding fuel to speculation that North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's first summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin is nigh. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South and North Korean officials on Monday agreed to cooperate in fighting tree diseases and modernizing 10 tree nurseries in the North. But North Korea expressed discontent at the results of the talks. (Yoon Hyung-jun, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- With the second summit with the U.S., it wants to stage another show as it did in Singapore earlier this year, pledging commitment to denuclearization efforts that are nothing more than tricks to deceive the world and trying to get international sanctions lifted in return. If it is successful in this ploy, it will never be persuaded to scrap its nuclear weapons. (*The Chosun Ilbo*)

- North Korea has extended its mass gymnastics performance by about one month to early November, a travel agency said Tuesday. According to the Beijing-based Koryo Tours, the North has extended the performance titled the "Glorious Country" to Nov. 4. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea wants to delay working-level talks to prepare for an inter-Korean parliamentary meeting, given its hectic diplomatic schedule, a Seoul official said Tuesday. The South earlier proposed holding a meeting at an early date to prepare for the first-ever inter-Korean parliamentary meeting this year. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's state media Tuesday reported on inter-Korean talks held a day earlier, saying that they discussed "practical" issues and "step-by-step" measures for forestry cooperation. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's state media on Tuesday reported on the inter-Korean talks on forestry cooperation, held a day earlier, without mentioning the outcome. At the wrap-up of the meeting, North Korea's top delegate, Kim Song-jun, complained that the meeting had failed "to meet the expectations of the people." (Jung Min-kyung, *The Korea Herald*)
- North Korea has singled out Japan, criticizing Tokyo's leading role in crafting a U.N. resolution condemning human rights violations and the abductions of foreign nationals by the nuclear-armed country, amid its ongoing thaw with the outside world. (Jesse Johnson, *The Japan Times*)
- KCNA rarely carries the full text of articles or official statements, and when it does, this signifies they are to be read with special care. The article came the closest any DPRK commentary has since early this year to criticizing President Trump directly. (Robert Carlin, *38 North*)
- North Korea has issued four sets of stamps commemorating the three inter-Korean summits this year — on April 27, May 26 and Sept. 18-20 — the North's state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said Monday. (Jung Da-min and Park Si-soo, *The Korea Times*)
- North Korea's new ambassador to the United Nations is circulating a press release that calls for the easing of sanctions, with the aim of bringing changes at the United Nations Security Council, according to a Japanese press report. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- North Korea's official newspaper on Tuesday blasted Japan and the European Union for spearheading a move to submit a new North Korean human rights resolution to the United Nations General Assembly. (*Yonhap*)
- Some accommodation facilities for the underprivileged in North Korea have recently been undergoing significant expansion. Children living on the streets, orphans, and the elderly near Pyongyang have reportedly seen improvements in their respective living conditions. (Kang Mi Jin, *DailyNK*)
- This is the story of how the 195-kilometer distance from Pyongyang to Seoul became a 1,022-kilometer journey taking 27 hours, four trains, three buses, one taxi, one random Chinese couple's car, one airplane, two border crossings and six beers. (Jon Dunbar, *The Korea Times*)

In South Korea

- President Moon Jae-in ratified last month's summit agreement with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, as conservative opposition parties cried foul and accused him of failing to seek parliamentary consent. (*Yonhap*)
- The Cabinet on Tuesday approved a wide-ranging peace agreement reached with North Korea at last month's third summit between President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in a procedural step necessary for Moon to sign and ratify the deal. (*Yonhap*)
- Rival parties on Tuesday clashed over the Cabinet's approval of an inter-Korean summit agreement in September prior to parliamentary ratification of the April summit deal clinched between the two Koreas. (*Yonhap*)
- The South Korean government said Tuesday it will closely monitor the aftermath of the U.S. move to annul a Cold War-era nuclear arms treaty with Russia. The Donald Trump administration announced a decision to exit the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty. It bans ground-launch nuclear missiles with ranges from 500-5,500 kilometers. (*Yonhap*)
- Moon's own push for the ratification of the declaration only sparked stronger resistance from the opposition. Some even ridiculed him for following Pyongyang's demands. Inter-Korean relations cannot sail smoothly without bipartisan cooperation. Moon must share information on negotiations with Pyongyang. That is a powerful tool to persuade the opposition. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- A major land-and-sea artillery exercise that was held twice last year by the South Korean Army and Navy has been canceled this year, a local military source exclusively told the JoongAng Ilbo Tuesday, apparently to avoid upsetting North Korea. (Park Yong-han, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in Tuesday ratified the Pyongyang Declaration he signed with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in the North Korean capital last month. Opposition politicians in the National Assembly groused about being totally bypassed. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- President Moon Jae-in ratified an agreement signed between him and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un at their third summit in Pyongyang last month. The conservative parties sharply criticized the move, claiming Moon was backtracking on his earlier pledge to seek parliamentary consent for inter-Korean deals. (Kim Yoo-chul, *The Korea Times*)
- President Moon Jae-in has told his staff not to worry that his hopes for a visit to Seoul by North Korea leader Kim Jong-un are being delayed. Moon had hoped that Kim would visit before the end of the year and the U.S. and North Korea formally declare an end to the Korean War before Kim's visit. (Jeong Woo-sang, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- President Moon Jae-in on Tuesday vowed stepped-up efforts to improve his country's ties with North Korea, saying the move will create new business opportunities for both Koreas, as well as those in other countries. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon Jae-in's plan to ratify the Pyongyang Joint Declaration and a separate military agreement reached at last month's summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in Pyongyang is drawing a strong backlash from the conservative parties. They sharply criticized Moon for pushing inter-Korean projects without the consent of the National Assembly. (Park Ji-won, *The Korea Times*)

- Lazarus You Heung-sik, who heads the Daejeon diocese, spoke in an interview with Yonhap News Agency at Casa Santa Marta in the Vatican, three days after the pope indicated during a meeting with South Korean President Moon Jae-in that he may visit the North. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon Jae-in ratified the Pyongyang Declaration and the inter-Korean military agreement for the implementation of the Panmunjom Declaration on Tuesday after the Cabinet approved the two agreements earlier in the day. (Choi He-suk, *The Korea Herald*)
- The inter-Korean agreement reached at the latest South Korea-North Korea summit in Pyongyang will help further accelerate the North's denuclearization process while creating new economic opportunities for the South, President Moon Jae-in asserted Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea will extend the period in which North Korean defectors can apply for settlement here from the current one year to three years as part of efforts to provide them with more support, the unification ministry said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- Six out of 10 South Korean venture companies with overseas operations are willing to invest in North Korea if inter-Korean economic cooperation is revitalized, according to a poll released Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in signed and ratified the Pyongyang Declaration and the military agreement at a cabinet meeting on Tuesday. The two agreements were signed with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un at the September summit in Pyongyang. (Wooyoung Lee, *UPI*)
- South Korea and the United States seemingly unaligned on the issue of suspending a combined air exercise Vigilant Ace. The allies have said that the drill's suspension will be decided around the time of the Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) slated for later this month in Washington, but discord between the two sides that surfaced in the crunch time has fueled much speculation. (Sang-Ho Yun, *The Dong-A Ilbo*)
- Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon will meet North Korean defectors this week apparently to assuage their concerns caused by his controversial decision to exclude a defector-turned-journalist from covering recent inter-Korean talks, a ministry official said. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- Eventually, soldiers from the two sides will be allowed to cross the MDL marked by a concrete slab and enter each other's zone freely without carrying guns. They will wear armbands that say "Military Police of Panmunjom," the border village inside the JSA where the two Koreas have recently held two summits and various talks. (Yeo Jun-suk, *The Korea Herald*)
- The two Koreas and the US-led United Nations Command have agreed to remove weapons in a border village where troops from both sides face off daily, the latest sign of increasingly warm relations between the once-hostile neighbours. (Benjamin Haas, *The Guardian*)
- North and South Korea have agreed to remove guns and guard posts from Panmunjom, the "truce town" that straddles their border. Also known as the Joint Security Area (JSA),

Panmunjom is the only place along the border where troops from the two Koreas face each other. (BBC)

- South Korean lawmakers from ruling and opposition parties were divided over the prospects of economic cooperation with the North during the parliamentary audit sessions on Tuesday. (Shin Ji-hye, *The Korea Herald*)
- President Moon Jae-in plans to use the upcoming APEC summit as a platform to win support for loosening sanctions on North Korea, a senior Cheong Wa Dae official said, Tuesday. But his attempts to rally European support for easing sanctions on the North appeared to fall flat after French President Emmanuel Macron and British Minister Theresa May responded coolly to Moon's "sanctions easing" message. (Kim Yoo-chul, *The Korea Times*)
- South Korea will likely implement its non-aggression military agreement with North Korea next week, a spokesman for the presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said Tuesday, a move that could be seen as paving the way for the declaration of a formal end to the Korean War. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea may have to pay around 200 billion won (US$175.9 million) annually for transit fees to North Korea if it imports Russian natural gas via a trans-Korea pipeline, an estimate by the state-run gas firm showed Tuesday. (Kim Eun-jung, *Yonhap*)
- In less than two weeks, Americans will go to the polls for the midterm elections. It would be understandable if most South Koreans only casually follow the results or missed them entirely. The recent stagnation in job growth in South Korea and changing relations with North Korea are of immediate concern. (Troy Stangarone, *The Korea Times*)

International

- South Korea's football governing body said Tuesday it has filed a complaint against the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) for playing the North Korean national anthem ahead of its national youth football team match. (*Yonhap*)
- John Bolton, U.S. President Donald Trump's national security adviser, said Monday that a second summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and Trump would take place sometime next year, in a radio interview with a Russian media outlet. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- A group of European Parliament members identified North Korea as one of 11 countries where severe violations of freedom of religion or belief occur, in a recently released annual report. The 11 countries named by the European Parliament Intergroup on Freedom of Religion or Belief and Religious Tolerance also include China, Iran, Egypt, Afghanistan and Pakistan. (Kim So-hyun, *The Korea Herald*)
- Lazarus You Heung-sik, who heads the Daejeon diocese, spoke in an interview with Yonhap News Agency at Casa Santa Marta in the Vatican, three days after the pope indicated during a meeting with South Korean President Moon Jae-in that he may visit the North. (*Yonhap*)
- For months the diplomatic duel between Seoul and Washington was played out behind closed doors as the two longstanding allies quietly diverged over the crucial next steps for dealing with North Korea. This divergence in methods has already sparked some tension

between the allies and analysts fear more is to come. (Bryan Harris, Demetri Sevastopulo and Emily Feng, *Financial Times*)

Prepared by Hangyun Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250804164915/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-moons-move-to-ratify-inter-korean-agreements-draws-backlash-us-south-korea-divergence-over-north-puts-70-year-alliance-at-risk

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Wednesday, October 24, 2018

North Korea blasts Japan's role in pushing U.N. human rights resolution amid nuclear talks; Human rights can't be ignored: UN envoy

Top News:
North Korea blasts Japan's role in pushing U.N. human rights resolution amid nuclear talks (*Japan Times*, 10/23/2018)
Human rights can't be ignored, says UN envoy (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/24/2018)
If human rights shelved in North Korea talks, U.N. expert warns: look at Myanmar (*Reuters*, 10/23/2018)
UN Expert on Human Rights Welcomes Thaw on Korean Peninsula (VOA, 10/23/2018)
U.N. expert says no change in N. Korea's human rights situation (*Yonhap*, 10/24/2018)
UN expert says North Korea's rights abysmal despite summits (*Associated Press*, 10/23/2018)
U.N. special rapporteur calls on North Korea to allow access (UPI, 10/23/2018)

In North Korea
N. Korea's autumn rice output to grow to 1.6 million tons this year: report (*Yonhap*, 10/24/2018)
North Korea and 'The Commons': Blank slate for a new kind of nation? (*Asia Times*, 10/24/2018)
'North Korea ready to expand internet access' (*Korea Times*, 10/24/2018)
North Korean authorities reiterate that expressions of dissent are 'unforgivable' (*Daily NK*, 10/24/2018)
North Korean Ex-Soldier Sentenced to Eight Years for Assaulting Police (*Radio Free Asia*, 10/23/2018)
North Koreans turn to dead leaves for heat as government clamps down on tree felling (*Daily NK*, 10/24/2018)

In South Korea
Analyst: SM-3 interceptor deployment in South Korea could stir tensions (UPI, 10/24/2018)

Blue House defends ratification (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/24/2018)
Businesspeople to visit Gaeseong next week (*Korea Times*, 10/24/2018)
Cheong Wa Dae denies unconstitutionality of military deal with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 10/24/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korean business people to visit now-suspended factory park in N. Korea: official (*Yonhap*, 10/24/2018)
Ruling party launches committee to faciliate sports exchanges with N.K. (*Yonhap*, 10/24/2018)
South Korean businessmen request visit to Kaeseong complex (UPI, 10/24/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship
North irked by forestry discussion (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/24/2018)
S. Korea seeks high-profile joint military committee with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 10/24/2018)
Two Koreas to create joint military committee (*Korea Times*, 10/24/2018)

International
A Saudi Arabia in Northeast Asia? (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/24/2018)
China and North Korea aim to clear legal hurdles to revive border regions with joint economic plans (*South China Morning Post*, 10/23/2018)
North Korea stalls on next talks with U.S. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/24/2018)
The Case for Funding the UN's Request for Humanitarian Assistance to the DPRK (*38 North*, 10/23/2018)
[The Future is Now] Trains could link South Korea to the world again (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/24/2018)
The war of nerves (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/24/2018)
Will Canceling Joint Exercises Move N. Korea Closer toward Denuclearization? (VOA, 10/24/2018)

Top News

- *Japan Times* quoted HRNK's recent statement that called upon the UN General Assembly to issue a strong rights resolution in an article regarding North Korea's attitude towards Japan pushing a UN human rights resolution: "North Korea's pursuit of a peace agenda … has not been matched by steps to improve its human rights record," it said. "This finding was confirmed by the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in the DPRK, Tomas Ojea Quintana, whose September 19, 2018 report to the General Assembly found 'no substantial changes in the serious human rights situation.' " (Jesse Johnson, *Japan Times*)
- A UN investigator raised concerns Tuesday in Washington that North Korea's human rights situation was being ignored in U.S. and South Korean talks with the regime, stressing that nothing has improved in North Korea. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- A United Nations investigator voiced concern about human rights being sidelined during U.S. and South Korean talks with North Korea over its nuclear and ballistic missile programs, warning on Tuesday: look at what happened in Myanmar. (Michelle Nichols, *Reuters*)
- "The human rights situation at the moment has not changed on the ground in North Korea, despite this important progress on security, peace and prosperity," Special Rapporteur Tomas Ojea Quintana told reporters Tuesday ahead of his briefing to the U.N. General Assembly committee that deals with human rights issues. (Margaret Besheer, VOA)

- Speaking to reporters in New York, Tomas Ojea Quintana, the U.N. special rapporteur on North Korea's human rights, said the issue should not be sidelined in nuclear negotiations between the North, and South Korea and the U.S. (Yonhap)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's summits with the presidents of South Korea and the United States have not changed his country's abysmal human rights record, the U.N. independent investigator on human rights in the isolated Asian nation said Tuesday. (Edith M. Lederer, Associated Press)
- The United Nations Special Rapporteur on North Korea human rights called on Pyongyang to show commitment and cooperation with the international community on a sensitive issue that has been neglected by world leaders amid diplomatic engagement with Kim Jong Un. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

In North Korea

- North Korea's rice production in the fall of this year is expected to slightly increase from last year to reach about 1.6 million tons, an American broadcaster reported Wednesday, citing a United States government report. (Yonhap)
- Could an emergent North Korea provide the world with a new, from-scratch benchmark of sustainable, collaborative economic and social development? With geopolitical change and emerging technologies, the idea of a national "commons" now looks increasingly feasible. (Emanuel Pastreich, Asia Times)
- North Korea is a country where residents do not have free access to the internet, but the country's science-priority policies are leading to an expansion in the number of new users. (Jung Da-min, Korea Times)
- The North Korean authorities have moved to suppress negative domestic views of the recent inter-Korean summit, in what appears to be an attempt to strengthen solidarity in the face of changing attitudes toward peace on the Korean Peninsula. (Ha Yoon Ah, Daily NK)
- A recently discharged North Korean soldier was sentenced to eight years in prison after brutally beating a police officer who responded to an altercation between himself and a local merchant, RFA sources say. (Hyemin Son, Leejin Jun, Eugene Whong, Radio Free Asia)
- As preparations begin for winter, some North Koreans are expressing discontent over North Korean leader Kim Jong Il's reforestation policies, an unnamed North Korean source has reported. (Ha Yoon Ah, Daily NK)

In South Korea

- A South Korean government decision to deploy an exo-atmospheric missile defense interceptor is controversial among South Korean advocates for greater engagement. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- The Blue House on Wednesday rebuked the opposition's argument that an inter-Korean military agreement signed last month in Pyongyang was subject to parliamentary approval, saying it was not a treaty with another state, drawing its logic from the Constitution. (Kang Jin-kyu, Korea JoongAng Daily)

- A group of businesspeople who had operations at the now-stalled inter-Korean industrial complex in the North Korean border city of Gaeseong will visit there next week. They will inspect production facilities there, South Korean officials said Wednesday. However, speculation is rampant that their visit is a step toward reopening the complex. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- The presidential office Cheong Wa Dae on Wednesday dismissed claims that its ratification of a military agreement with North Korea without parliamentary consent may have violated the Constitution, saying the Constitution requires parliamentary approval only for treaties signed with other countries. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean business people who ran factories in the Kaesong Industrial Complex are pushing to visit the now-suspended industrial park in the North Korean border town next week at the earliest, a government official said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- The ruling Democratic Party on Wednesday launched an internal committee to support the government's drive to increase sports and cultural cooperation with North Korea, including a bid to co-host the 2032 Olympic Games. (*Yonhap*)
- North and South Korea are discussing approving a visit by South Korean businessmen to an industrial complex in North Korea after multiple requests by the investors to revisit their factories. (Wooyoung Lee, *UPI*)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- Talks between South and North Korea on Monday on forestry issues disappointed the delegation from Pyongyang, which was blunt about its disgruntlement, particularly Seoul's attitude toward international sanctions. (Shim Kyu-seok, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korea's defense ministry plans to propose to North Korea that vice minister-level officials head a joint military committee to be formed to carry out a set of tension reduction measures agreed to at last month's summit, officials said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea will propose to North Korea that the envisioned inter-Korean military committee be headed by vice minister-level officials from both sides in an effort to prevent possible border conflicts. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)

International

- Just as Saudi Arabia has been spoiled by oil money, not paying attention to North Korea's human rights due to nuclear program negotiations could turn North Korea into an equivalent of Saudi Arabia in Northeast Asia. (Kim Hyun-ki, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- China and North Korea are officially examining each others' legal systems regarding trade and foreign investments – a sign of further accelerating economic cooperation at the border regions. (Lee Jeong-ho, *South China Morning Post*)
- Pyongyang is not coming up with a time and location for the next U.S.-North high-level talks, a senior South Korean government official said Tuesday, lending to a "frustrating" situation. (Sarah Kim, Jung Hyo-sik, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- In March, the United Nations issued an urgent call for humanitarian assistance to the DPRK. It requested $111 million to take care of the food, health and sanitation needs of the country's

6 million most vulnerable, including 1.7 million children under the age of five and more than 340,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women. (Kee B. Park, Eliana E. Kim, 38 North)

- Since the division of the two Koreas at the 38th parallel at the end of World War II, South Korea has been a virtual island. Going anywhere requires a trip by ship or plane. Land journeys stop at the demilitarized zone. Now the prospect of restoring by-gone, long-haul travel routes is rising with North Korea's denuclearization commitment. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- North Korea's denuclearization process is played on a game board set up by U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. The obvious stall of the process and the conflict between Seoul and Washington could be best understood in such a context. (Kim Byung-yeon, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- After the United States announced it was suspending a joint air defense military exercise with South Korea, Seoul announced it will conduct its own drill. The joint aerial exercise Vigilant Ace had been planned for December 2018, but was canceled by the Pentagon to give diplomatic efforts with North Korea "every opportunity to continue." (Steve Miller, VOA)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250804165012/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-north-korea-blasts-japans-role-in-pushing-un-human-rights-resolution-amid-nuclear-talks-human-rights-cant-be-ignored-un-envoy

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Thursday, October 25, 2018

Human rights are left behind as dialogue grows; Gov't Spent W10 Billion on Inter-Korean Liaison Office

In North Korea

[Herald Interview] Rise of startups in world's most reclusive regime (*The Korea Herald*, 10/25/2018)
Air raid drill held in Yangang Province on October 19 (*Daily*NK, 10/25/2018)
Architect of North Korea's 'Hong Kong' project is back (*Nikkei Asian Review*, 10/25/2018)
Defector: Sanctions have not curbed North Korea 'guest workers' (UPI, 10/25/2018)
Kim Jong Un orders renovations for Kumsusan Palace of the Sun (*Daily*NK, 10/25/2018)
N.K. economy to shrink more than 5 pct this year under int'l sanctions: scholar (*Yonhap*, 10/25/2018)
N.K. newspaper highlights friendly relations with China on war participation anniversary (*Yonhap*, 10/25/2018)
N. Korea announces it will lift freeze on Kaesong complex assets (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 10/25/2018)
N. Korea should denuclearize first before reopening Kaesong complex (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 10/25/2018)
N. Korean hackers send out malicious code in Hangeul file: ESTsecurity (*Yonhap*, 10/25/2018)

North Korea jacks up home electric bills (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/25/2018)
North Korea promotes 'soccer diplomacy' with South Korea, Japan (*UPI*, 10/25/2018)
North Korean authorities restrict electric bike usage in some areas due to concerns over power supply (*DailyNK*, 10/25/2018)
Pyongyang may have rejected NLL in pact (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/25/2018)
Russia-South Korea gas pipeline could earn Kim $195m a year (*Asia Times*, 10/24/2018)

In South Korea
'If you want peace, prepare for war,' says Kim Tae-young (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/25/2018)
Cheong Wa Dae says restart of Kaesong complex impossible under int'l sanctions (*Yonhap*, 10/25/2018)
Conservatives raise offensives over ratification of inter-Korean agreements (*The Korea Times*, 10/25/2018)
Home is right there but out of reach (*The Korea Times*, 10/25/2018)
LKP calls Moon's ratification unconstitutional (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/25/2018)
Main opposition party pushes for unification minister's dismissal (*Yonhap*, 10/25/2018)
Moon Is Jumping the Gun by Ratifying Cross-Border Agreements (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/24/2018)
N.K. remains committed to summit agreements with U.S., S. Korea: official (*Yonhap*, 10/25/2018)
Seoul envoy urges int'l efforts to induce N. Korea to denuclearize (*Yonhap*, 10/25/2018)
S. Korea denies report N. Korea informed it of decision to lift asset freeze in Kaesong complex (*Yonhap*, 10/25/2018)
S. Korea says spending money on joint liaison office does not violate global sanctions (*Yonhap*, 10/25/2018)
S. Korean security experts detect new cyber attack by Lazarus (*Aju Business Daily*, 10/25/2018)
W10b investment in joint liaison office does not violate sanctions: ministry (*The Korea Herald*, 10/25/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship
(LEAD) N. Korean footballers arrive in S. Korea for youth tournament (*Yonhap*, 10/25/2018)
First remains found on Arrowhead Ridge (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/25/2018)
Gov't Spent W10 Billion on Inter-Korean Liaison Office (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/25/2018)
Human rights are left behind as dialogue grows (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/25/2018)
Korean War remains recovered inside DMZ during demining operation (*The Korea Herald*, 10/25/2018)
Moon Signs Inter-Korean Military Pact into Law (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/24/2018)
S. Korea's local gov'ts speed up cooperation with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 10/25/2018)
S. Korean business owners may be allowed to visit Kaesong Industrial Complex (*Maeil Business News Korea*, 10/24/2018)
Visit to Gaeseong (*The Korea Times*, 10/25/2018)

International
China's Potential Role as Security Guarantor for North Korea (*38 North*, 10/24/2018)
Cuba president to visit Russia, China, N. Korea next month (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 10/25/2018)
UN Expert on Human Rights Welcomes Thaw on Korean Peninsula (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/24/2018)

U.S. Admission of North Korean Defectors Has Slowed to a Trickle (*The New York Times*, 10/25/2018)

In North Korea

- However, the more North Korea has faced tougher economic sanctions from the international community in the last 10 years, the more passion for business success among people there has built up, said Geoffrey See, founder of Choson Exchange, a Singapore-based nonprofit organization that runs training programs on entrepreneurship in the communist regime. (Cho Chung-un, *The Korea Herald*)
- The entire province of Ryanggang conducted an air raid drill on October 19. The drill was managed by the Security Department of the Ministry of People's Security and was similar to the military reserve and civil defense training operations that occur in South Korea. (Kang Mi Jin, *DailyNK*)
- Although cooperation on nuclear waste disposal did not materialize, private sector exchanges between Taiwan and North Korea have continued quietly behind the scenes. Was Yang's mysterious reappearance in Taiwan just a business trip? Or was there more to his mission? (Katsuji Nakazawa, *Nikkei Asian Review*)
- International sanctions designed to block North Korea deployment of overseas labor are not working and the state-sanctioned workforce in Russia and the Middle East remains a significant source of revenue for the Kim Jong Un regime, a defector said. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- On October 10 each year, the establishment of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) is commemorated in North Korea. Leader Kim Jong Un chose the occasion this year to order renovations for the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, where the bodies of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il lie preserved. (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)
- The North Korean economy is expected to shrink by more than 5 percent under the full impact of international sanctions, a South Korean scholar predicted. Prof. Kim Byung-yeon of Seoul National University made the forecast in an interview with Japan's Nihon Keizai Shimbun published on Thursday. North Korea's economy shrank by 3.5 percent in 2017. (*Yonhap*)
- The Rodong Sinmun newspaper highlighted North Korea's time-honored friendly relations with China on Thursday as the two countries marked the anniversary of China's participation in the 1950-53 Korean War. (*Yonhap*)
- It has been confirmed that North Korea would lift the freeze of South Korean assets within the Kaesong Industrial Complex. North Korea's action comes in two years and eight months since it unilaterally froze the assets in February 2016, protesting against South Korea's decision to shut down operations. (In-Chang Hwang and Sung-Gyu Kim, *The Dong-A Ilbo*)
- Pyongyang is not responding to Washington's request to start working-level talks for denuclearization, and relying on the South Korean government to seek a breakthrough. This kind of attitude will only raise a doubt from the international community. (*The Dong-A Ilbo*)
- ESTsecurity Corp. said Thursday it recently detected a malicious code apparently developed by North Korean hackers, which came with a file running on Hangeul, a Korean-language word processing program. (*Yonhap*)

- The North Korean government has dramatically raised electricity prices for ordinary households, apparently to replenish the state coffers after UN Security Council sanctions put a chokehold on revenues, particularly from coal exports. (Jeong Young-soo, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Members of a North Korean youth soccer league stepped into the South on Thursday ahead of an international tournament scheduled to take place in Gangwon Province. The 84 players used a land route to cross into South Korea to take part in the fifth Ari Sports Cup U-15 youth football tournament, according to Seoul Pyongyang News. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- The North Korean authorities in some areas of the country are cracking down on people who are riding electric bicycles without a permit. The authorities appear to be restricting their use as part of broader efforts to limit electricity usage. (Mun Dong Hui, *DailyNK*)
- Pyongyang's version of a military pact signed by both Koreas last month mentions the northern limit line (NLL) in angle quotes, which may mean it doesn't acknowledge the maritime border between the two Koreas in the Yellow Sea. Seoul's version doesn't place any punctuation marks around the same words. (Lee Keun-pyung and Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- State-run Korea Gas Corp (KOGAS) calculated the transit fees at the request of a member of the conservative Liberty Korea Party, Yonhap News reported, estimating them at between 180 billion won ($159 million) and 221 billion won ($195 million). (Andrew Salmon, *Asia Times*)

In South Korea

- The ambivalent attitude of our government toward the South Korea-U.S. alliance. The president says the alliance is important, but the cabinet acts the other way. If the government continues to downsize the military when the situation hasn't gotten better, the military will question why they have to be there. (Kim Su-jeong, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korea currently has no plans to reopen a joint industrial complex in North Korea's border town of Kaesong, officials from the presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said Thursday. The resumption of the Kaesong complex would be impossible unless international sanctions against the North are first removed, they added. (*Yonhap*)
- The Conservative parties are up in arms over President Moon Jae-in's ratification of the Pyongyang Joint Declaration and a separate inter-Korean military accord, threatening to take the case to the Constitutional Court. (Kim Yoo-chul, *The Korea Times*)
- On the island, where two-thirds of its coastline, extending 37.5 kilometers, are fenced off with barbwire, North Korean refugees and their families, who take the lion's share of its residents, are counting on the day they can return home, just 2.6 kilometers away, as freely as birds flying over the maritime boundary Northern Limit Line (NLL). (Park Jin-hai, *The Korea Times*)
- The opposition Liberty Korea Party (LKP) on Thursday slammed the Blue House for saying that an inter-Korean military agreement signed last month didn't require parliamentary approval because North Korea was not a foreign state. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

- The main opposition Liberty Korea Party (LKP) said Thursday it will push for the dismissal of Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon for his decision to exclude a North Korean defector-turned-reporter from covering the recent inter-Korean talks. (Yonhap)
- What, at any rate, was the rush? There has been absolutely no progress in North Korean denuclearization as the North continues to refuse to hand over an inventory of its nuclear weapons and facilities or hold working-level talks with U.S. officials. (The Chosun Ilbo)
- North Korea remains committed to faithfully implementing its summit agreements with the United States and South Korea, a senior North Korean defense ministry official said Thursday. (Yonhap)
- South Korea's ambassador to Belgium and the European Union has urged the international community to induce North Korea to take positive measures for its complete denuclearization. (Yonhap)
- South Korea denied a media report Thursday that North Korea has provided notification of its decision to lift the freeze on South Korean business assets in a suspended industrial complex in the North's border town of Kaesong. (Yonhap)
- South Korea has not violated global sanctions by spending money on facilities currently used as an inter-Korean liaison office in the North's border town of Kaesong, a unification ministry official said Thursday. (Yonhap)
- South Korean security experts accused Lazarus, a hacking group suspected of being tied to North Korean hackers, of staging a fresh cyber attack this week with malicious files disguised as government documents which run on Hangeul, a Korean-language word processing program. (Lim Chang-won, Aju Business Daily)
- South Korea did not violate international sanctions by repairing and remodeling the recently launched inter-Korean liaison office in North Korea, a Unification Ministry official said Thursday. (Jung Min-kyung, The Korea Herald)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- A group of North Korean football players arrived in South Korea on Thursday for an international youth football tournament, Seoul's unification ministry said. (Yonhap)
- Remains of two soldiers who died in the 1950-53 Korean War were recovered from the demilitarized zone (DMZ), the South Korean Ministry of National Defense announced Thursday, along with personal belongings of others. (Sarah Kim, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- The Unification Ministry spent a whopping W10 billion from the Inter-Korean Cooperation Fund on setting up a cross-border liaison office in the North Korean border town of Kaesong without consulting the National Assembly (US$1=W1,133). Lawmakers were left out of the whole process and merely informed after the money had been spent. Instead, the government got the expenses rubber-stamped by a body called the Inter-Korean Exchange and Cooperation Promotion Council. (Yoon Hyung-jun, The Chosun Ilbo)
- As relations between the two Koreas warm, defectors from the North and activists are worried that human rights are being sacrificed for reconciliation. It has barely been two years since the North Korean Human Rights Act — ratified by the South's National Assembly in March 2016 — went into effect in September 2016. Yet the two human rights archives

established via this law under the Unification Ministry and the Justice Ministry have since become paper organizations. (Park Jai-hyun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

- The South Korean military has discovered what may be Korean War remains during a demining operation at a front-line region, the Ministry of National Defense said Thursday, as the two Koreas withdrew firearms and guard posts from the jointly controlled zone inside the border area. (Yeo Jun-suk, *The Korea Herald*)
- President Moon Jae-in signed an inter-Korean military agreement into law in a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday without subjecting it to scrutiny by the National Assembly. He also signed into law a joint declaration drawn up by the leaders of the two Koreas at their summit in September. (Jeong Woo-sang and Choi Seung-hyun, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- Busan's Vice Mayor for Economic Affairs Yoo Jae-soo, Gyeonggi Province's Vice Governor for Peace Lee Hwa-young and Sejong City's Vice Mayor for Political Affairs Lee Kang-jin have returned from their joint visit to North Korea from Oct. 20-23. (*Yonhap*)
- About 150 South Korean tenants at Kaesong Industrial Complex, the first and longest lasting inter-Korean venture, will return to the industrial park next week at the earliest for the first time they were forced to pack out in February 2016. (Kim Sung-hoon and Choi Mira, *Maeil Business News Korea*)
- All this explains why Seoul should limit the purpose and meaning of the visit and prevent unnecessary misunderstandings with allies. Business owners also ought to wait calmly for the ripening of conditions before reactivating the park. (*The Korea Times*)

International

- The recent developments on the Korean Peninsula have been dominated by North Korea's rapid rapprochement with the US and the revitalization of inter-Korean relations. These improvements suggest China still has unique leverage over the peninsula and a potentially important role to play in the denuclearization process. (Fei Su, *38 North*)
- Cuba's President Miguel Diaz-Canel will visit Russia and Communist-run allies China, North Korea, Vietnam and Laos in early November on his first tour abroad, Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez said on Wednesday. (*Reuters*)
- The United Nations independent expert on human rights for North Korea has welcomed political talks and denuclearization efforts, but urged that the human rights situation not be forgotten. (*VOA News*)
- Only one North Korean defector arrived in the United States in 2017; five have been admitted this year. Supporters of the 2004 humanitarian law, which Congress reauthorized in July and Mr. Trump signed once again into law, have expressed concern that the drop in arrivals dilutes any message to North Korea that the United States is committed to integrating human rights with national security. (Miriam Jordan, *The New York Times*)

Prepared by Hangyun Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:

https://web.archive.org/web/20250804165422/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-human-rights-are-left-behind-as-dialogue-grows-govt-spent-w10-billion-on-inter-korean-liaison-office

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Friday, October 26, 2018

Defector: Sanctions have not curbed North Korea 'guest workers'; Human rights are left behind as dialogue grows

Top News:
Defector: Sanctions have not curbed North Korea 'guest workers' (*UPI*, 10/25/2018)
Human rights are left behind as dialogue grows (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/25/2018)

In North Korea
LinkedIn becomes social media of choice for North Korea's elite (*The Telegraph*, 10/26/2018)
N. Korea completes expansion and remodeling of Chinese military cemetery (*Yonhap*, 10/26/2018)
N. Korea displays latest technology products at IT exhibition (*Yonhap*, 10/26/2018)
North Korea mass games a hit, get extended run in Pyongyang (*Associated Press*, 10/25/2018)
North Korea should embrace best technologies from around the world (*Daily NK*, 10/26/2018)
North Korean general says country seeking 'stable peace' (*Associated Press*, 10/25/2018)
Report: Otto Warmbier lawsuit delivered to Pyongyang (*UPI*, 10/25/2018)
Where have North Korea's farmers gone? (*Daily NK*, 10/26/2018)

In South Korea
Ministry of Justice must lead way on human rights investigations (*Daily NK*, 10/26/2018)
New security guidelines promised (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/26/2018)
S.Korea to conduct military drills amid stalled exercises with U.S. (*Reuters*, 10/25/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship
2 Koreas to destroy 22 front-line guard posts by November (*Associated Press*, 10/26/2018)
(3rd LD) Koreas to each withdraw 11 border guard posts by November, launch joint military committee (*Yonhap*, 10/26/2018)
11 DMZ guard posts to be removed soon (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/26/2018)
Human remains found in the DMZ (*The Telegraph*, 10/25/2018)
Korean Truce Village to Be Free of Arms (VOA, 10/25/2018)
Koreas agree to demolish 22 guard posts (*Korea Times*, 10/26/2018)
Minister: S. Korea expects N. Korean leader's Seoul trip by year end (*Yonhap*, 10/26/2018)
N. Korean art troupe's performance in Seoul unlikely in Oct.: source (*Yonhap*, 10/26/2018)
North and South Korea agree to scrap 22 guard posts at border next month (*Reuters*, 10/25/2018)
North, South Korea begin demilitarizing 'scariest place on earth' (CNN, 10/25/2018)
S. Korea pushes for inter-Korean joint volcano observatory at Mount Paekdu (*Yonhap*, 10/26/2018)
Seoul to open bank branches in N.K. only after sanctions are lifted (*Yonhap*, 10/26/2018)

South, North Korea to withdraw guard posts, reduce military tension (UPI, 10/26/2018)
South Korea finds remains of soldier who died in DMZ 65 years ago (UPI, 10/25/2018)

International
(2nd LD) U.S. sanctions 2 Singapore firms, individual over N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 10/26/2018)
Biegun to visit Seoul next week (*Korea Times*, 10/26/2018)
Experts: Inducements Unlikely to Help North Korea Denuclearize (VOA, 10/25/2018)
Gas pipeline from Russia to South Korea would cost $195M (*UPI*, 10/25/2018)
Japan's PM Abe says to work with China on North Korea issue (*Reuters*, 10/26/2018)
Koreas Continue Tension-Easing Talks as the North Criticizes US (VOA, 10/26/2018)
North Korean fishermen 'defy water cannon in battles with Japanese coast guard' (*The Telegraph*, 10/26/2018)
North Korean general gets warm welcome in China as ties improve (*Reuters*, 10/25/2018)
Singapore trader denies laundering millions for North Korea (*BBC*, 10/26/2018)
Tasked with bringing North Korea abduction issue to a close, Suga vows to do all in his power (*Japan Times*, 10/26/2018)
The real reason behind Trump's nuclear treaty withdrawal isn't Russia. It's North Korea. (*Washington Post*, 10/25/2018)
Trump administration limits sharing of North Korea intelligence with Congress (CBS, 10/25/2018)
U.S. Charges Singaporean Trader With Laundering Money For North Korea (NPR, 10/26/2018)
U.S. imposes North Korea-related sanctions on Singapore firms (*Reuters*, 10/25/2018)
U.S. imposes sanctions on Singapore man accused of laundering money (UPI, 10/26/2018)
U.S. sanctions a Singaporean (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/26/2018)
US Treasury sanctions 2 Singapore firms for NKorea dealings (*Associated Press*, 10/26/2018)

Top News:

- Appearing at a North Korea human rights event at United Nations headquarters on Wednesday, the defector said he maintains contact with sources he developed while he worked at sites in Russia and the Middle East for seven years. He escaped in 2013 and resettled in South Korea in May 2014. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Activists from the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, PSCORE Human Rights and other non-governmental organizations that focus on human rights in North Korea hosted a panel discussion at the UN headquarters in New York City on Wednesday, the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. (Park Jai-hyun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

In North Korea

- North Koreans are increasingly using the LinkedIn social media site as the global internet gradually opens up to the hermit kingdom's elite. (Nicola Smith, Harriet Alexander, *The Telegraph*)
- North Korea has completed the expansion and remodeling of a cemetery of Chinese soldiers killed during the Korean War, Pyongyang's media reported Friday. (*Yonhap*)

- North Korea has recently kicked off an exhibition of information technology in Pyongyang, displaying a number of its achievements in the field, the North's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea has extended the run of its iconic mass games, which it revived last month to mark the country's 70th birthday. The games — which involve tens of thousands of gymnasts, dancers and flip-card-wielding hordes in the stands — appear to once again be a hit, filling Pyongyang's 150,000-seat May Day Stadium more than a month after they resumed to end a 5-year hiatus. (Eric Talmadge, *Associated Press*)
- The 14th Pyongyang Fall International Products Exhibition was recently held in Pyongyang's Three Revolutions Exhibition Center in September. "DPRK Today," a North Korean propaganda media outlet aimed at overseas audiences, reported that a new smart TV produced by the Puksae Electronics Technology Company received a lot of interest from exhibition attendees. (Jo Hyon, *Daily NK*)
- A top North Korean general said Thursday that his country seeks a "stable peace" and wants to turn the Korean Peninsula into "the cradle of peace and prosperity," furthering a departure from the bellicose language of the past. (Dake Kang, *Associated Press*)
- A lawsuit filed against North Korea for the wrongful death of University of Virginia student Otto Warmbier was delivered to Pyongyang's foreign ministry. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- Farmers and ordinary North Koreans have been mobilized *en masse* to complete the fall harvest in the country's northern regions. However, agricultural Party officials are having trouble dealing with some farmers who have found ways to avoid the mandatory labor and are instead working on their own private business activities to earn money. (Kim Yoo Jin, *Daily NK*)

In South Korea

- The creation of the North Korean Human Rights Foundation as stipulated by the 2016 North Korean Human Rights Act has been postponed due to budgetary reasons. It can be argued that there is a need to transfer the governing authority that deals with the task of investigating and recording claims of human rights abuse from the Ministry of Unification to the Ministry of Justice. (Mun Dong Hui, *Daily NK*)
- The Blue House said Friday it will release its new national security strategy guidelines next week, both in Korean and English, to set the tone for the country's security readiness. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korea will stage two military drills next week amid a thaw in relations with North Korea, which have prompted Seoul and Washington to suspend joint exercises with the United States to spur nuclear talks. (Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- The North and South Korean militaries agreed Friday to completely destroy 22 front-line guard posts by the end of November as they discussed their next steps in implementing a wide-ranging military agreement signed last month to reduce tensions. (Kim Tong-hyung, *Associated Press*)

- The two Koreas agreed to withdraw 11 border guard posts each by November and verify their removal the following month during general-grade military talks at the truce village of Panmunjom on Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- South and North Korea on Friday agreed to withdraw 11 guard posts from each side of the demilitarized zone by the end of November as a follow-up to an inter-Korean military agreement signed last month. In removing the guard posts, the militaries of the two Koreas consented to completely demolish guard posts and withdraw all personnel from there. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Human remains of what is thought to be a South Korean sergeant, sixty-five years after he died in battle, have been recovered from a front line in the border between North Korea and South Korea. (Saskia Lumley, *The Telegraph*)
- For the first time in decades, the 1953 truce village between North and South Korea will be weapons-free by Saturday. The two Koreas agreed last month to remove arms from Panmunjom, officially known as the Joint Security Area. (VOA)
- The two Koreas agreed late Friday to completely demolish 22 front-line guard posts by the end of November within the DMZ separating Seoul and Pyongyang, following a broad-reaching military agreement at President Moon Jae-in's summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un last month to reduce tensions. (Kim Yoo-chul, *Korea Times*)
- Despite no report of progress in North Korea-U.S. dialogue, South Korea wants the North's leader to visit Seoul before the end of this year, Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha told lawmakers Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- A North Korean art troupe's planned performance in South Korea will be unlikely to be held as agreed in October as details have not been determined, a government source said Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- North and South Korea agreed on Friday to "completely destroy" by next month 22 guard posts near their heavily fortified border, the latest advance in talks in the neighbors' effort to defuse military tension, Seoul's defense ministry said. (Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)
- North and South Korea have removed all weapons and ammunition from the Joint Security Area, the notorious spot between the two Koreas where soldiers from North and South stand face to face, guns at the ready. (Paula Hancocks, Jake Kwon, Joshua Berlinger, CNN)
- The Korea Meteorological Administration has drawn up a medium- and long-term plan to establish a facility to observe volcanic activities on the mountain, together with North Korea, according to administration officials and Rep. Sol Hoon of the ruling Democratic Party. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea will open bank branches in North Korea only after international sanctions are lifted in return for irreversible steps by the North to dismantle its nuclear weapons program, the top financial regulator here said Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- North and South Korean officials agreed at a general-level military talk Friday to withdraw some of the front-line guard posts at the border. South Korea's Defense Ministry said the two Koreas agreed to close 11 guard posts at the border and remove armed forces and equipment at the posts by December. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- South Korean officials have found the remains of a soldier in the Demilitarized Zone for the first time in 65 years. The Defense Ministry said Thursday it found an identification tag for

South Korean Army sergeant Pak Je Kwon, as well as unidentified thigh and rib bones and skulls in the same area. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)

International

- The Department of the Treasury said it is targeting Wee Tiong, a commodities trading company, WT Marine, a marine fuels company, and Tan Wee Beng, a Singaporean national who serves in senior positions in both firms. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. Special Representative for North Korea Stephen Biegun's scheduled visit to Seoul next week is drawing attention over possible developments in denuclearization talks between North Korea and the U.S. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- Despite the lack of progress on denuclearization, Washington should not grant unilateral concessions and sanctions relief to North Korea as a way to induce denuclearization until Pyongyang takes substantial steps to dismantle its nuclear weapons program, experts said. (Christy Lee, VOA)
- South Korea may have to pay nearly $200 million to North Korea for a gas pipeline from Russia, officials said. Korea Gas Corporation said each year South Korea can have 7.5 million tons of gas transported through 746 miles of pipeline from Russia to the South via North Korea. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- Japan and China have major responsibility for ensuring regional security and will work together on the North Korea issue, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Friday during an official visit to China. (Norihiko Shirouzu, Philip Wen, Reuters)
- North and South Korea continued joint military talks Friday in the truce-village of Panmunjom. The talks took place as the Joint Security Area (JSA) began implementing new protocols designed to reduce tension, while North Korea continued criticizing the United States' push for continued sanctions. (Steve Miller, VOA)
- Japanese fishermen are reporting clashes with North Korean fishing boats operating illegally within Japan's exclusive economic zone during the peak squid fishing season. (Julian Ryall, *The Telegraph*)
- A North Korean general got a warm welcome in Beijing on Thursday, a rare high-profile showing at an international military forum by his normally reclusive country, underscoring an improvement in ties with China and the world. (Ben Blanchard, Reuters)
- A Singaporean trader wanted by the FBI for allegedly helping North Korean entities evade US sanctions has flatly denied "all charges" against him. Tan Wee Beng told the BBC that he had only learned of criminal charges against him via news reports. (BBC)
- As the government's new point man on the abduction of Japanese citizens by North Korean agents, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said he will do all in his power to bring the issue to a close and secure the safe return of all who were kidnapped. (Tomohiro Osaki, *Japan Times*)
- But Trump's withdrawal may also be designed for another purpose. It sends a subtle but unmistakable message to North Korea: If you refuse to denuclearize, we can now surround your country with short- and medium-range missiles that will allow us to strike your regime without warning. (Marc A. Thiessen, *Washington Post*)

- The Trump administration is drastically cutting back on who on Capitol Hill gets to see intelligence reports on North Korea's nuclear weapons program, according to multiple congressional sources. (Kylie Atwood, CBS)
- The Department of Justice is accusing a Singaporean trader of helping North Korea circumvent sanctions, saying Tan Wee Beng laundered millions of dollars through the U.S. and Singapore. (James Doubek, NPR)
- The U.S. Treasury Department imposed sanctions on two Singapore-based companies and a man accused of money laundering through the U.S. financial system to evade sanctions against North Korea, the department said in a statement on Thursday. (Makini Brice, *Reuters*)
- The Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control said Thursday that Tan Wee Beng had concealed origins of payment and structured transactions to fulfill millions of dollars in commodities contracts for North Korea since at least 2011. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- The U.S. Treasury announced that it sanctioned a Singaporean trader and his two companies for allegedly laundering money for North Korea on Thursday, demonstrating that Washington is not leting up on pressure on Pyongyang to denuclearize. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- An executive of one of two Singapore companies named by the U.S. Treasury Department this week for violating sanctions against North Korea said Friday that he was unaware of any such dealings. (Annabelle Liang, *Associated Press*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250804165430/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-defector-sanctions-have-not-curbed-north-korea-guest-workers-human-rights-are-left-behind-as-dialogue-grows

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Saturday, October 27, 2018

North Korea's socialist system has 'collapsed,' activist says; U.S. calls on U.N. to enforce sanctions on North Korea

In North Korea

Court Papers Hint at Otto Warmbier's Treatment in North Korea (VOA, 10/27/2018)
Escaped worker fears N.Korea stepping up forced labor (*Korea Herald*, 10/27/2018)
High Demand Creates Black Market for Cosmetic Surgery in North Korea (*Radio Free Asia*, 10/26/2018)
N.K. media reports on military talks with Seoul, omits outcome (*Yonhap*, 10/27/2018)
N.Korea's Economy Is Shrinking (*Chosun Ilbo*, 10/26/2018)
North Korea's socialist system has 'collapsed,' activist says (UPI, 10/26/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship

100 Tons of Banned Goods Exported to N.Korea (*Chosun Ilbo*, 10/26/2018)
Inter-Korean military agreement already taking effect: official (*Yonhap*, 10/27/2018)

International

Can Abe Solve Japan's "North Korea" Dilemma? (*38 North*, 10/26/2018)
China, Japan agree to push for Korean denuclearization (*UPI*, 10/26/2018)
N. Korean diplomat leaves for Russia to hold talks (*Yonhap*, 10/27/2018)
North Korean workers and imports continue to cross border into China despite UN sanctions (*South China Morning Post*, 10/27/2018)
Singaporean businessman wanted by FBI denies laundering money for North Korea: Report (*Channel NewsAsia*, 10/27/2018)
The dismantlement of the UN Command will mean no peace and no denuclearization (*Daily NK*, 10/26/2018)
U.S. calls on U.N. to enforce sanctions on N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 10/26/2018)
U.S. Charges, Puts Sanctions on Singaporean Commodities Executive (*Wall Street Journal*, 10/25/2018)
U.S. missile defense system intercepts medium-range missile in test (*Reuters*, 10/26/2018)

In North Korea

- Declarations filed in support of a lawsuit filed by the parents of Otto F. Warmbier, the University of Virginia student who died after returning to the U.S. from 17 months in captivity in Pyongyang, may raise new questions about how the college student was treated while in North Korea. (Ham Ji-ha, VOA)
- A North Korean who said he escaped round-the-clock labor in the Middle East and Russia voiced fears Friday that Pyongyang was sending more forced workers abroad and appealed for greater international attention. (Cho Chung-un, *Korea Herald*)
- Cosmetic procedures in North Korea, where they are banned, are on the rise, sources say. "Plastic surgery has been popular among women living in Pyongyang for quite some time, but now it is becoming a national trend," a source in Ranggang Province told RFA's Korean Service. (Myung Chul Lee, Leejin Jun, Eugene Whong, *Radio Free Asia*)
- North Korea's state media on Saturday reported on general-level military talks with South Korea a day earlier but didn't mention the outcome of the meeting. North Korea's Korean Central News Agency reported that the general-level military talks were held for "implementing the historic September Pyongyang Joint Declaration." (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's economy will shrink five percent this year due to international sanctions, an expert said Thursday. "If the sanctions are thoroughly implemented, North Korea's exports this year will dive about 90 percent compared to 2016, exerting a huge impact on its domestic prices." (Kim Myong-song, *Chosun Ilbo*)
- North Korea's socialist system of economic planning has completely collapsed and Kim Jong Un inevitably faces reform or demise, South Korean activists said Friday. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- South Korea sent some 100 tons of goods to North Korea this year that are prohibited under UN Security Council sanctions, including machinery, iron and steel products, electrical materials, and oil products. (Kim Myong-song, *Chosun Ilbo*)
- The inter-Korean military agreement signed last month during the summit between South Korea President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in Pyongyang has already taken effect despite not being published in the government gazette, a Seoul official said Saturday. (*Yonhap*)

International

- Abe's talks with his Russian and Chinese counterparts come at a time when US-DPRK nuclear negotiations seem to have regained momentum, with talks of a second summit between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un getting underway. (Yuki Tatsumi, *38 North*)
- Leaders of China and Japan hailed bilateral ties Friday and confirmed a partnership of "mutual cooperation" while taking a united front on the issue of denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- A senior North Korean diplomat has left for Russia for talks with his Russian counterpart. North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Sin Hong-chol is set to meet with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Morgulov, the Korean Central News Agency said without providing further details. (*Yonhap*)
- Labourers and seafood products from North Korea can be easily found across the border in a northeast Chinese county that is reeling economically from United Nations sanctions aimed at curbing Pyongyang's nuclear programme. (Lee Jeong-ho, *South China Morning Post*)
- A Singaporean trader charged with money laundering to evade sanctions against North Korea and defrauding the United States has reportedly denied the accusations made against him. (*Channel NewsAsia*)
- On September 29, North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho, at his speech at the General Assembly, demanded the dismantlement of the UN Command, saying that "it is merely a 'command of allied forces' that only obeys the orders of the US" beyond the control of the UN. (Thae Yong Ho, *Daily NK*)
- The United States on Friday called on the United Nations to fully comply with sanctions on North Korea until the regime gives up its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. authorities filed criminal charges and imposed sanctions on the owner and director of a Singapore-based commodities-trading firm for allegedly laundering money on behalf of North Korea. (Samuel Rubenfeld, *Wall Street Journal*)
- The U.S. military said it successfully tested a key missile defense system on Friday, in a milestone that experts say shows a growing U.S. capability to knock down an incoming, medium-range missile from countries like North Korea and Iran. (Chris Sanders, Phil Stewart, *Reuters*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250804200805/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-north-koreas-socialist-system-has-collapsed-activist-says-us-calls-on-un-to-enforce-sanctions-on-north-korea

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Sunday, October 28, 2018

North Korea hospital director says Warmbier torture charges 'total distortion'; Koreas, UNC complete JSA disarmament verification

In North Korea
N. Korean hospital chief dismisses alleged torture of U.S college student Warmbier (*Yonhap*, 10/27/2018)
North Korea hospital director says Warmbier torture charges 'total distortion' (*Reuters*, 10/27/2018)
Why I escaped from North Korea (*Korea Times*, 10/28/2018)

In South Korea
Discontent with Moon (*Korea Times*, 10/28/2018)
Ministry unveils details on renovation costs for inter-Korean liaison office (*Yonhap*, 10/28/2018)
Pyongyang Declaration takes legal effect (*Korea Times*, 10/28/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship
Investment arbiter sees potential in Pyongyang (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/28/2018)
'Kim Jong-un, if he wants, can climb Mount Halla' (*Korea Times*, 10/28/2018)
(LEAD) Koreas, UNC complete JSA disarmament verification (*Yonhap*, 10/28/2018)
President Moon says he could take N.K. leader to Mount Halla during possible visit to S. Korea (*Yonhap*, 10/28/2018)

International
Column: Trump's nuclear-treaty withdrawal sends a message to North Korea (*Morning Sun*, 10/28/2018)
Commentary: Trump's floundering North Korea strategy (*Channel NewsAsia*, 10/28/2018)
(LEAD) U.S. nuclear envoy arrives in S. Korea for N.K. nuke talks (*Yonhap*, 10/28/2018)
N. Korea official visits Moscow to possibly discuss summit (*Korea Times*, 10/28/2018)
Skepticism prevails in US over North Korea's denuclearization (*Korea Times*, 10/28/2018)
Why We Should Keep the I.N.F. Treaty (*New York Times*, 10/28/2018)

In North Korea

- The head of a North Korean hospital on Saturday denied allegations that American college student Otto Warmbier was tortured to death in North Korea. "As the director of the hospital directly involved in medical treatment of Warmbier, I cannot repress my indignation over the American total distortion of the truth regarding his death." (*Yonhap*)
- The director of the hospital in North Korea that treated an American student who died last year after detention in the country has rejected fresh charges that he died as a result of torture. (David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)
- Imagine getting a dream job, but realizing it is a nightmare. You could quit, right? Most people give two weeks' notice or they just stop showing up for work. In my case, I couldn't quit. That's because I was born in North Korea. I tried to quit, and had 400 soldiers and police chasing me. (Cherie Yang, *Korea Times*)

In South Korea

- There are a lot of things Moon has done right regarding North Korea, but he is also being criticized for rushing to reduce sanctions on Pyongyang and obsessing over North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's visit to Seoul within the year. (*Korea Times*)
- South Korea's unification ministry on Sunday unveiled details about the money it spent on renovating the inter-Korean liaison office in the North's border city of Kaesong amid criticism that it set aside too much money for the work. (*Yonhap*)
- Last week, President Moon ratified the declaration despite a fierce backlash from conservative parties. On Monday, the declaration will be published in an official gazette and be effective from the time of its publication. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- As relations between South and North Korea continue to improve, people are starting to picture how Pyongyang could change once foreign investment flows in. Kim Sung-jin says he is already preparing for the time when he can play a role in solving difficulties for foreign firms trying to enter both Koreas. (Kim Jee-hee, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- President Moon Jae-in said Sunday he is willing to show North Korean leader Kim Jong-un around Mount Halla, if Kim visits South Korea within this year. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- The Koreas and the U.S.-led U.N. Command have finished their two-day work to verify the disarmament of the Joint Security Area (JSA) in the Demilitarized Zone, Seoul's defense ministry said Sunday. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon Jae-in said Sunday that he could give North Korea's Kim Jong-un a tour of Mount Halla, South Korea's tallest mountain, on the southern island of Jeju, if the leader comes for a visit. (*Yonhap*)

International

- Trump's withdrawal may also be designed for another purpose. It sends a subtle but unmistakable message to North Korea: If you refuse to denuclearize, we can now surround

your country with short- and medium-range missiles that will allow us to strike your regime without warning. (Marc A. Thiessen, *Morning Sun*)

- Trump's approach has been to reject everything that came before him, while involving himself in negotiations to an unprecedented degree. As a result, the US Secretary of State has been reduced to little more than a sherpa for his boss's summits with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. (Christopher R. Hill, *Channel NewsAsia*)
- U.S. Special Representative for North Korea Stephen Biegun arrived in South Korea on Sunday to discuss cooperation with South Korea over North Korea's nuclear disarmament, Seoul officials said. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Sin Hong-chol arrived in Moscow, Saturday, to meet Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Morgulov this week, according to the Russian foreign ministry, Sunday. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- While the South Korean government is eagerly pushing forward with inter-Korean diplomacy, there is a prevailing sense of skepticism in the U.S. over Pyongyang's intentions, analysts said. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- First, North Korea agreed to eliminate missiles with ranges over 500 kilometers during an unfinalized deal with the Clinton administration. The Trump administration could ask Pyongyang to accept the same limits, removing the Korean missile threat to Japan. (Dinshaw Mistry, *New York Times*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250804200624/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-north-korea-hospital-director-says-warmbier-torture-charges-total-distortion-koreas-unc-complete-jsa-disarmament-verification

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Monday, October 29, 2018

'North Korea eying Swiss, Singaporean-style success'; Seoul, Washington fine tune details on North Korea's denuclearization

In North Korea:
Drug distribution the most common crime in North Hamgyong Province (*Daily* NK, 10/29/2018)

Last believers in the North (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/29/2018)
N. Korean economist calls for fostering cutting-edge technologies (*Yonhap*, 10/29/2018)
N. Korea unwilling to provide nuclear list due to U.S. hostility: presidential adviser (*Yonhap*, 10/29/2018)
North Korea expects free movement at JSA to begin on November 1: travel agencies (*NK News*, 10/29/2018)
'North Korea eying Swiss, Singaporean-style success' (*The Korea Times*, 10/29/2018)
North Korean broker and accomplices arrested in Onsong (*Daily NK*, 10/29/2018)
North Korean economist calls for expanding autonomy of enterprises (*The Korea Times*, 10/29/2018)
North Korea official berated South executives at noodle lunch (*UPI*, 10/29/2018)
Pyongyang's envoys went to Europe to talk security (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/29/2018)
Reconstruction ordered for Samjiyon apartments due to design flaws (*Daily NK*, 10/29/2018)
River voyage shows everyday life in the North (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/29/2018)
Rodong Sinmun op-ed calls for DPRK to pursue reform, "knowledge-based economy" (*NK News*, 10/29/2018)

In South Korea:
(3rd LD) Unification minister says end-of-war declaration is still possible this year (*Yonhap*, 10/29/2018)
As South Korea's Leader Vouches for Kim's Sincerity, Critics See Deception (*The New York Times*, 10/29/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea's parliament wraps up annual audit of gov't agencies (*Yonhap*, 10/29/2018)
Moon hopes to go trekking with North Korea's Kim Jong Un (*UPI*, 10/29/2018)
Pyongyang Declaration formally promulgated (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/29/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
2 Koreas Complete Disarmament in Joint Security Area (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/29/2018)
All-South Korean taekwondo demonstration team set for Pyongyang performance (*Yonhap*, 10/29/2018)
Koreas agree to form unified table tennis teams at ITTF Swedish, Austrian Open (*Yonhap*, 10/29/2018)
World Taekwondo chief proud of taekwondo's role in improving inter-Korean relations (*Yonhap*, 10/29/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) Allies affirm close coordination for full denuclearization of N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 10/29/2018)
Firm in Japan could have transferred rare earth tech to North Korea (*UPI*, 10/29/2018)
Seoul, Washington fine tune details on North Korea's denuclearization (*The Korea Times*, 10/29/2018)
Top U.S., South Korean officials seek to drive momentum in North Korea talks (*Reuters*, 10/29/2018)
Trump is in no hurry to denuclearize North Korea (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/29/2018)
Trump's North Korea Envoy Strikes Out in Meeting His Counterpart (*Bloomberg*, 10/29/2018)
US envoy confident about achieving N. Korea denuclearization (*The Washington Post*, 10/29/2018)
US Envoy to N. Korea Expresses Confidence About Denuclearization (*VOA*, 10/29/2018)

U.S. nuclear envoy seeks S. Korean help for successful summit with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 10/29/2018)
U.S. special envoy seeks working-level talks with North Korea (*UPI*, 10/29/2018)
U.S. Treasury discloses photos of N. Korea's illegal oil transshipping (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 10/29/2018)
Youth football event organizers looking to invite U.S. teams to N. Korea: official (*Yonhap*, 10/29/2018)

In North Korea:

- Methamphetamine-based stimulants known as "bingdu" or "ice" are widely available and related crimes remain prevalent in North Korea, an internal source has reported. (Kim Yoo-jin, *Daily NK*)
- It was Easter in April 1988, a few months before the Seoul Olympic Games, when a dramatic event took place in the Vatican. Two Catholics from North Korea met with Pope John Paul II and received a blessing. (Joo Jung-wan, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- North Korea's official newspaper on Monday played up a column of a Pyongyang economist, who calls for expanding the share of knowledge and high technology industry in the North's economy. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea is unwilling to provide a list detailing its nuclear facilities and materials as long as the United States holds on to a policy of hostility towards Pyongyang, a security adviser to President Moon Jae-in said Monday, citing a top North Korean official. (*Yonhap*)
- DPRK authorities expect tourists visiting the North Korean side of the Joint Security Area (JSA) to be able to freely cross into the Southern side of the site on Thursday, travel industry sources told NK News on Monday. (Oliver Hotham, *NK News*)
- North Korea is exploring a grand plan to become a regional transportation hub, inspired in part by the successes of Singapore and Switzerland, and would be open to joining world financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund if current member states give up their "hostile" policies toward it, a senior government economist has told The Associated Press. (*AP*)
- A North Korean broker helping North Koreans attempting to defect, along with North Korean border guards who received bribes, were arrested at the end of August, North Korean sources have reported. (Mun Dong-hui, *Daily NK*)
- A Pyongyang economist on Monday called for changes in the regime's economic policies to expand the autonomy of enterprises and ensure the responsibility of workers. (Jung Da-min, *The Korea Times*)
- A North Korean official in charge of unification policy may have angered a visiting South Korean delegation when he used a derogatory phrase to describe them as they ate lunch at a renowned restaurant in Pyongyang, according to South Korean lawmakers. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- North Korean diplomatic officials visited Europe twice this month to attend security-related meetings alongside experts from the United States and South Korea. (Jeong Yong-soo, Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The North Korean government has been investing considerable resources to modernize Samjiyon County hoping to transform it into a model city nestled between mountains. (Kim Yoo-jin, *Daily NK*)

- Autumn had arrived in North Korea last week as our Chinese ferry traveled along the Yalu River, which divides China from the North. (Lee Young-jong, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- A rare op-ed by a North Korean economist carried by ruling party organ the Rodong Sinmun on Monday urged the country to pursue reform and transition to a high-tech "knowledge-based economy." (Dogyum Ji, *NK News*)

In South Korea:

- Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon said Monday that the declaration of a formal end to the Korean War could take place this year despite there being little progress in denuclearization talks. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon Jae-in of South Korea takes every opportunity to describe Kim Jong-un, North Korea's leader, as a "young and candid" strategist, one who is ready to bargain away his nuclear arsenal to secure economic growth for his impoverished nation. (Choe Sang-Hun, *The New York Times*)
- The National Assembly wrapped up its 20-day annual audit of government agencies Monday dominated by disputes over North Korea, corruption scandals and President Moon Jae-in's income-driven growth policy. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in, an avid hiker, hopes to go trekking with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on a southernmost mountain of South Korea when he makes a reciprocal visit to the South. (Wooyoung Lee, *UPI*)
- An inter-Korean agreement reached last month in Pyongyang that promised to halt "all hostile acts" between the South and North Korea officially took effect Monday amid simmering discontent from the opposition, especially the Liberty Korea Party. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- North and South Korea are set to open the Joint Security Area in the border village of Panmunjom to civilians and tourists as the area is now disarmed. (Yu Yong-weon, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- World Taekwondo's all-South Korean taekwondo demonstration team will perform in North Korea this week with the hope of delivering a message of peace and unification to the world. (*Yonhap*)
- South and North Korea have agreed to send unified teams to international table tennis competitions next month, Seoul's table tennis governing body said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- This year's catchphrase for World Taekwondo (WT) is "peace is more precious than triumph," and its chief, Choue Chung-won, believes the Seoul-based organization is on the right track to help bring peace to the Korean peninsula with the traditional martial art. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- Top South Korean and U.S. officials on North Korea sought Monday to assure the public that there's no quarrel between the allies over the denuclearization issue. (*Yonhap*)
- A company based in Japan might have transferred rare earth extraction technology to North Korea before it disbanded in 2007, according to a Japanese press report. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- The top nuclear envoys of South Korea and the United States met in Seoul, Monday, to discuss North Korea's denuclearization. (Kim Bo-eun, *The Korea Times*)
- The top U.S. envoy for North Korea sought to inject momentum to nuclear talks with Pyongyang, saying he is "absolutely certain" Washington and Seoul can work together to achieve their objective of denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. (Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump said Saturday during a campaign rally in Illinois that he doesn't care how long North Korean denuclearization takes as long as there is no nuclear testing. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- More than two months after being named President Donald Trump's special envoy for North Korea, Stephen Biegun still hasn't said exactly when he'll meet with his counterpart from Pyongyang. (Youkyung Lee, *Bloomberg*)
- The top U.S. envoy for North Korea on Monday expressed confidence about achieving North Korea's nuclear disarmament, despite worries about the slow pace of nuclear diplomacy in recent weeks. (Hyung-jin, Kim, AP)
- The U.S. special envoy for North Korea has expressed confidence about achieving the communist country's nuclear disarmament. (VOA)
- The top U.S. nuclear envoy has asked for South Korea's support to ensure a successful Washington-Pyongyang summit, the presidential office here said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- The U.S. special envoy for North Korea is open to working-level talks with Pyongyang -- at the earliest possible date, according to South Korean press reports. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- The U.S. Treasury Department has put increasing pressure on North Korea by revealing photos of its vessels illegally transshipping goods. It warned that Pyongyang would pay a hefty price for its illegal cyber activities as well. (*The Dong-A Ilbo*)
- The organizers of an international youth football tournament for inter-Korean sports exchanges are looking to invite teams from the United States next year when the competition will be held in North Korea, a South Korean governor said Monday. (*Yonhap*)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250804200636/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsnorth-korea-eying-swiss-singaporean-style-successseoul-washington-fine-tune-details-on-north-koreas-denuclearization

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Tuesday, October 30, 2018

Trump hurts North Korea 'maximum pressure' approach by ignoring human rights, critics; U.S. pressures chaebol on North

Top News

Trump hurts North Korea 'maximum pressure' approach by ignoring human rights, critics say (*The Washington Times*, 10/29/2018)

In North Korea

(LEAD) N. Korea yet to answer Seoul's offer on art troupe performance in Oct. (*Yonhap*, 10/30/2018)
Apartment construction remains steady despite fall in real estate prices (*DailyNK*, 10/30/2018)
Humanitarian aid, luxury goods and aid diversion in North Korea (*North Korea Economy Watch*, 10/29/2018)
Kim Jong Un provides field guidance in snow-covered Samjiyon County (UPI, 10/30/2018)
Middle school students in Ryanggang Province caught watching South Korean movie (*DailyNK*, 10/30/2018)
N.K. leader inspects construction site, first reported activity in 19 days (*Yonhap*, 10/30/2018)
N. Korea ideal for construction of smart cities, Seoul scholar says (*Yonhap*, 10/30/2018)
N. Korean vice foreign minister meets Russian counterpart (*Yonhap*, 10/30/2018)
Nine in 10 defectors wished for unification while living in N. Korea: poll (*Yonhap*, 10/30/2018)
North Korea's grand plan to become the 'next Singapore' – if only the West would give them a chance (*South China Morning Post*, 10/30/2018)
Transportation education expands to focus on bike safety (*DailyNK*, 10/30/2018)
University students ordered to help manage Hyesan-Samjiyon train tracks (*DailyNK*, 10/30/2018)

In South Korea

Lay off our companies (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/30/2018)
Moon's like-minded aides steer conciliatory North Korea policy (*Nikkei Asian Review*, 10/29/2018)
Moon's oblivion (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/30/2018)
Presidential chief of staff under siege (*The Korea Times*, 10/30/2018)
ROK, US to hold defense talks in Washington DC (*The Korea Times*, 10/30/2018)
S. Korea, US pin hope on security talks to bridge gaps on NK (*The Korea Herald*, 10/30/2018)
South Korea's Leader Vouches for Kim's Sincerity, as Critics See Deception (*The New York Times*, 10/29/2018)
US-China conflict and Korea (*The Korea Times*, 10/30/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship

2 Koreas Complete Disarmament in Joint Security Area (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/30/2018)
Inter-Korean projects put on hold (*The Korea Times*, 10/30/2018)
North and South Korea: The football game that kicked off peace (*BBC News*, 10/30/2018)
Parliamentary panel on inter-Korean economic cooperation sets sail (*Yonhap*, 10/30/2018)
World Taekwondo delegation heading to North Korea to discuss cooperation (*The Korea Times*, 10/30/2018)

International

(2nd LD) Top U.S. nuke envoy reaffirms allies' shared objective of denuclearizing N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 10/30/2018)
Firm in Japan could have transferred rare earth tech to North Korea (*UPI*, 10/29/2018)
Human rights a test of Kim's intent to denuclearize: ex-CIA analyst (*Yonhap*, 10/30/2018)
Pompeo may restart talks with North in Nov. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/30/2018)
Steve Biegun visits Seoul with a N. Korean map (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 10/30/2018)
Top US nuke envoy reaffirms allies' shared objective of denuclearizing NK (*The Korea Herald*, 10/30/2018)
US calls on Seoul to slow North Korea policy (*The Korea Times*, 10/30/2018)
U.S. Envoy to N.Korea Expresses Confidence About Denuclearization (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/30/2018)
U.S. pressures chaebol on North (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/30/2018)
U.S. Treasury discloses photos of N. Korea's illegal oil transshipping (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 10/29/2018)

Top News

- HRNK's Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu's remarks at the Heritage Foundation on 29 October was quoted by the Washington Times. Scarlatoiu said he did not want to "bash or criticize President Moon," but the South Korean president is clearly pushing to "make progress as quickly as possible and, in this process, it seems that human rights has been left behind." HRNK's Human Rights Attorney Amanda Mortwedt Oh's recently published open letter to Mr. Moon was also featured in the Washington Times. "How can you reconcile the ideals of universal human rights and dignity for everyone with the current priorities of your government, which has stated that human rights should take a back seat in diplomacy with North Korea?" she wrote. "This approach has been unsuccessful for decades, but my greater fear is that this will normalize atrocities and ignore victims who need our help." HRNK's Board of Director David Maxwell's insights were introduced as well: "Human rights is a national security issue. You can't have maximum pressure if you don't include human rights." (Guy Taylor, *The Washington Times*)

In North Korea

- North Korea has yet to respond to South Korea's offer of details regarding a North Korean art troupe's performance in Seoul, which their leaders have agreed to hold in October, a unification ministry official said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- Despite the fall in North Korean real estate prices, apartment construction has not slowed down, report sources in the country. Daily NK reported earlier this month that the price of apartments in central Pyongyang, including in Jung district and those near the Taedong River, had fallen from a high of 200-300,000 dollars in June this year to around 50,000 dollars in August. (Mun Dong Hui, *DailyNK*)
- Now, none of this means that Kim Jong-un is personally swimming in a sea of handbags and TV-sets in Pyongyang. Rather, it means that North Korea – whether semi-private companies or state entities – has imported a fair amount of so-called luxury goods, despite sanctions

that should prevent such imports. (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, *North Korea Economy Watch*)

- The North Korean leader is visiting the area adjacent to Mount Paektu for the third time in 2018. The visit reported by KCNA on Tuesday is also Kim's first public appearance in 19 days, when he was last seen at the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun to commemorate a Workers' Party anniversary. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- In July, the North Korean authorities caught seven middle school students watching a South Korean movie. Although three months have passed since the arrest, the investigation is still ongoing and even the students' parents are being questioned. (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has inspected a construction site in the country's northern region in his first reported public activity in 19 days, according to the North's state media Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea is an ideal location for the construction of smart cities, a South Korean expert has said, proposing concrete measures to boost inter-Korean economic cooperation. (*Yonhap*)
- A senior North Korean diplomat met his Russian counterpart on Tuesday amid speculation that North Korean leader Kim Jong-un could visit Moscow for his first summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin. (*Yonhap*)
- The poll, based on interviews with 87 defectors, by the Institute for Peace and Unification Studies at Seoul National University, showed 90.8 percent of respondents saying that they thought unification was very necessary during their stay in the North. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea is exploring a grand plan to become a regional transportation hub, inspired in part by the successes of Singapore and Switzerland, and would be open to joining world financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund if current member states give up their "hostile" policies toward it, according to a senior government economist. (AP)
- Lately, there have been lectures all across the country delivered in various places like factories and businesses to try and increase awareness of transportation laws. (*Unification Media Group*)
- Frequent visits to Samjiyon County by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to check on the area's modernization projects have led the local People's Committee to establish a system to manage the safety and "cleanliness" of the railway stretching from Hyesan to Samjiyon. (Kim Yoo Jin, *DailyNK*)

In South Korea

- Our government must take responsibility for pushing our business leaders into a corner. If they had not accompanied Moon, they could have avoided such embarrassment. In an ever-tougher economic environment, the government must not interfere in the private sector and dictate what it must do. It must let companies do business according to their needs. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- As South Korean President Moon Jae-in pursues a conciliatory approach toward the North, those who share his vision are playing a bigger role in his inner circle, sowing the seeds of

discord with Washington. Meanwhile, senior officials who place importance on South Korea's alliance with the U.S. have taken a back seat. (Yosuke Onchi, *Nikkei Asian Review*)

- The further the government moves ahead, the bigger the changes in its North Korea policy three and half years later. If North Korea is concerned about possible changes, it might become reluctant. It's important not to rush inter-Korean exchanges. It is time for the administration to listen to different opinions and reach a national consensus on policy. (Nam Jeong-ho, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Im came under fire for "playing politics" by accompanying Defense Minister Jeong Kyeong-doo and ranking military officials during his visit to "Arrow Hill" in Cheorwon, Gangwon Province. (Lee Min-hyung, *The Korea Times*)
- Defense chiefs from South Korea and the United States will discuss top security issues during their annual defense meeting, or the Security Consultative Meeting (SCM), Wednesday (local time). (Lee Min-hyung, *The Korea Times*)
- The South Korean and US defense chiefs will hold annual security talks in Washington on Wednesday amid concerns that an alleged gap between the two countries' approaches to North Korea might pose a challenge to the decades-old alliance. (Yeo Jun-suk, *The Korea Herald*)
- President Moon Jae-in of South Korea takes every opportunity to describe Kim Jong-un, North Korea's leader, as a "young and candid" strategist, one who is ready to bargain away his nuclear arsenal to secure economic growth for his impoverished nation. (Choe Sang-Hun, *The New York Times*)
- Even if it was inherently a competing power projection between Washington and Beijing over strategic dominance in East Asia, Seoul that has borne the brunt of it as China retaliated against Seoul, not Washington. (Lee Seong-hyon, *The Korea Times*)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- North and South Korea are set to open the Joint Security Area in the border village of Panmunjom to civilians and tourists as the area is now disarmed. (Yu Yong-weon, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- Projects between the South and North continue to be put on hold as talks aimed at denuclearizing on the Korean Peninsula failed to break an impasse. The government initially had a number of plans for this month — including allowing businesspeople with factories in the Gaeseong Industrial Complex (GIC) to a visit there, and conducting joint inspections of railway sections in the North. (Kim Bo-eun, *The Korea Times*)
- Many fear that disarming the North may prove impossible. There has been little progress on denuclearisation in recent months despite the showy US-North Korean summit in Singapore and meetings between President Moon and Kim Jong-un at the border and in Pyongyang. (Laura Bicker, *BBC News*)
- A parliamentary special committee on inter-Korean economic cooperation held its first meeting Tuesday and ruling and opposition party lawmakers pledged efforts for bipartisan cooperation. (*Yonhap*)

- The 49-member delegation, led by WT President Choue Chung-won, will arrive in Pyongyang via Beijing. The delegation will stay in Pyongyang until Saturday after receiving an invitation from the North Korean-led International Taekwondo Federation (ITF). (Yonhap)

International

- The top U.S. nuclear envoy reaffirmed Tuesday that Washington and Seoul have the same objective of denuclearizing North Korea amid concerns about a possible rift between the allies in dealing with the communist state. (Yonhap)
- A company based in Japan might have transferred rare earth extraction technology to North Korea before it disbanded in 2007, according to a Japanese press report. The Sankei Shimbun reported Monday the trading firm was based in Tokyo and was established under the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan, or Chongryon. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- An effort to address North Korea's human rights situation would be a clear signal of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's seriousness to dismantle the country's nuclear weapons program, a former CIA analyst said Monday. (Yonhap)
- Talks between U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and a senior North Korean official are expected to take place in the second week of November, right after the American midterm elections, according to diplomatic sources Tuesday. (Sarah Kim, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- Biegun brought with him a bulky set of documents, including a map of North Korea containing detailed names of places. Observers in the diplomatic circle said the two representatives might discuss specific plans for nuclear inspection and corresponding measures. (The Dong-A Ilbo)
- The top US nuclear envoy reaffirmed that Washington and Seoul were on the same page on achieving the denuclearization of North Korea, amid concerns about possible discord between the allies over the pace of developments in inter-Korean relations. (Jung Min-kyung, The Korea Herald)
- Washington appears to have asked Seoul to backtrack "a bit" on President Moon Jae-in's headlong approach emphasizing dialogue and engagement with North Korea, a government official said Tuesday. (Kim Yoo-chul, The Korea Times)
- The U.S. special envoy for North Korea has expressed confidence about achieving the communist country's nuclear disarmament. Stephen Biegun met with South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha in Seoul on Monday to discuss the progress in the talks between Pyongyang and Washington. (VOA News)
- Washington has contacted four major South Korean conglomerates that sent representatives to Pyongyang last month for the inter-Korean summit to put the brakes on economic cooperation with the North, confirmed a Blue House source Tuesday. (Kang Tae-hwa, Wie Moon-hee and Sarah Kim, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- The U.S. Treasury Department has put increasing pressure on North Korea by revealing photos of its vessels illegally transshipping goods. It warned that Pyongyang would pay a hefty price for its illegal cyber activities as well. (The Dong-A Ilbo)

Prepared by Hangyun Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250804201347/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-trump-hurts-north-korea-maximum-pressure-approach-by-ignoring-human-rights-critics-us-pressures-chaebol-on-north

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Wednesday, October 31, 2018

Minister under fire as opposition chokes on NK's naengmyeon remark; North looks to be preparing for visit by nuclear inspectors

In North Korea

'North Korea closed part of nuclear and missile test sites' (*The Korea Times*, 10/31/2018)
Caffeine Crazed: Increase in Coffee Consumption Reflects Cultural Changes in North Korea (*Radio Free Asia*, 10/30/2018)
Kim Jong-un promotes Samjiyon as hub for potato production [PHOTOS] (*The Korea Times*, 10/31/2018)
Kim Jong-un Resumes on-Site Inspections (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/31/2018)
New apartments given to Hyesan families who lost their homes to fire (*DailyNK*, 10/31/2018)
North Korea 'preparing to allow international inspectors to visit Punggye-ri nuclear test site' (*The Daily Telegraph*, 10/31/2018)
North Korea continues to hack computers to mine cryptocurrency (*UPI*, 10/31/2018)
North Korea issues stamps of historic Korean figures [PHOTOS] (*The Korea Times*, 10/31/2018)
North Korea optimal for smart city test bed: Maekyung Group chair (*Maeil Business News Korea*, 10/31/2018)
North Korea preparing for inspectors' visit to nuclear test site: spy agency (*The Korea Times*, 10/31/2018)
North Korea set to allow inspectors into nuclear test site (*The Guardian*, 10/31/2018)
North looks to be preparing for visit by nuclear inspectors (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/31/2018)
N.K. preparing for foreign inspectors' visit to nuclear test site: Seoul spy agency (*Yonhap*, 10/31/2018)
N. Korea says ties with Russia strengthening (*Yonhap*, 10/31/2018)
N. Korea uses 600 bln won for luxury goods each year: spy agency (*Yonhap*, 10/31/2018)
N. Korea's carrier reduces flights on Pyongyang-Beijing route (*Yonhap*, 10/31/2018)
N. Korea's media step up demand for Seoul to lift sanctions (*Yonhap*, 10/31/2018)

In South Korea

[Editorial] In step with the world (*The Korea Herald*, 10/31/2018)

[INTERVIEW] 'There's no way out if US sees North Korea through its frame' (*The Korea Times*, 10/31/2018)
[INTERVIEW] Speaker hopes Kim Jong-un will address Assembly (*The Korea Times*, 10/31/2018)
[Newsmaker] Minister under fire as opposition chokes on NK's naengmyeon remark (*The Korea Herald*, 10/31/2018)
(LEAD) Main opposition party submits proposal for dismissal of unification minister (*Yonhap*, 10/31/2018)
After tragedies and big losses, Hyundai looks to reverse North Korea fortunes (*Reuters*, 10/31/2018)
LKP seeks to oust unification chief (*The Korea Times*, 10/31/2018)
Mayors, governors urge parliamentary ratification of inter-Korean summit deal (*Yonhap*, 10/31/2018)
Ministry reaffirms two Koreas' commitment to summit accord despite delay in joint projects (*Yonhap*, 10/31/2018)
Moon faces daunting task to advance denuke talks (*The Korea Times*, 10/31/2018)
Opposition slams gov't over reported U.S. contacts (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/31/2018)
Seoul pushes for N. Korean athletes' participation in 100th National Sports Festival in 2019 (*Yonhap*, 10/31/2018)
Seoul to host 2019 Sports Festival (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/31/2018)
South Korea's major opposition party calls for firing unification minister (*UPI*, 10/31/2018)
South Korean leader's support slips amid 'North Korea fixation' (*Deutsche Welle*, 10/30/2018)
South, U.S. set up a new consultative body (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/31/2018)
U.S. sanctions rumor hurts finance stocks (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/31/2018)
Unification minister expects private-sector exchanges with N. Korea to increase (*Yonhap*, 10/31/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship
(LEAD) Koreas to hold sports talks this week (*Yonhap*, 10/31/2018)
All-S. Korean taekwondo demonstration team performs in Pyongyang (*Yonhap*, 10/31/2018)
Koreas will discuss joint Olympic bid on Friday (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 10/31/2018)
October timeline for inter-Korean cooperation pushed back (*The Korea Herald*, 10/31/2018)
S. Korean taekwondo demonstration team arrives in N. Korea for performances (*Yonhap*, 10/31/2018)
Taekwondo chiefs from 2 Koreas discuss cooperation (*Yonhap*, 10/31/2018)

International
'Sanctions relief key for North Korea denuclearization' (*The Korea Times*, 10/31/2018)
Chinese artists' delegation to visit N. Korea Nov. 2: report (*Yonhap*, 10/31/2018)
Ivanka Trump Cancels Visit to Korea (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/31/2018)
Japanese high court upholds denial of tuition waivers for students of pro-Pyongyang school (*The Japan Times*, 10/31/2018)
Pompeo likely to meet N.K. counterpart in New York next week: sources (*Yonhap*, 10/31/2018)
POW office: Recovery of Korean War remains could restart in spring (*UPI*, 10/30/2018)
Top former intel official says Singapore summit was "serious misstep" (*CBS News*, 10/31/2018)
Report: Pompeo to Meet with N.Korean Counterpart Next Week (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 10/31/2018)
Report: U.S. envoy proposed joint inspection of North Korea nuclear sites (*UPI*, 10/31/2018)
US knew about no-fly zone well before Pyongyang summit: source (*The Korea Herald*, 10/31/2018)

In North Korea

- North Korea has cleared some of its Tongchang-ri missile testing sites and shut down the Punggye-ri nuclear testing site, the National Intelligence Service (NIS) said Wednesday. (Park Ji-won, *The Korea Times*)
- Coffee consumption is on the rise in North Korea as the introduction of market forces to the state-run economy leaves the country more open to foreign cultural influences. Once reserved only for elites in the capital Pyongyang, having a cup of joe has become more commonplace for those out in the provinces in recent years. (Myung Chul Lee, *Radio Free Asia*)
- North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un has visited the Samjiyon Potato Farina Production Factory for the second time this year, after a visit in July, the state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported Tuesday. (Jung Da-min, *The Korea Times*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un visited a construction site in Samjiyon, Ryanggang Province, North Korean state media reported on Tuesday. This was his first public appearance in 19 days since his on-site inspection of the newly renovated theater of the Samjiyon Orchestra on Oct. 11. (Yoon Hyung-jun, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- With ongoing construction taking place to modernize the city, tenants have begun moving into newly constructed apartments in Hyesan, Ryanggang Province. Of particular note, 52 families who lost their homes to a fire in Kangan area three years ago have been given new apartments. (Kang Mi Jin, *DailyNK*)
- However, its refusal to allow international experts to observe the destruction of the site, which has been the staging ground for all six of its nuclear tests, including its most powerful one – reportedly of an H-bomb – last September, drew criticism that its actions were for show and could be reversed. (Nicola Smith, *The Daily Telegraph*)
- North Korea is hacking computers to mine cryptocurrency to bring extra cash into the country, according to South Korea's intelligence service. (Wooyoung Lee, *UPI*)
- North Korea recently issued a set of stamps showing four historic Korean figures, the state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported on Saturday. (Jung Da-min, *The Korea Times*)
- North Korea could be an optimal place to test smart city development, and South Korea would be the best partner for the regime's city development projects, said Chang Dae-whan, chairman of South Korea's leading media organization Maekyung Media Group. (Yoon Won-sup and Choi Mira, *Maeil Business News Korea*)
- North Korea is apparently preparing for a possible visit by outside inspectors to verify the shutdown of its nuclear test site in the northeast, Seoul's spy agency said Wednesday during a parliamentary audit. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea is preparing its Punggye-ri nuclear test site for international inspectors, according to South Korea's National Intelligence Service, the first time foreign experts would be allowed to inspect facilities since a thaw in tensions this year. (Benjamin Haas, *The Guardian*)

- North Korea is apparently preparing for a possible visit by outside inspectors to verify the shutdown of its nuclear test site, Seoul's spy agency said Wednesday during a parliamentary audit. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea is apparently preparing for a possible visit by outside inspectors to verify the shutdown of its nuclear test site in the northeast, Seoul's spy agency said Wednesday during a parliamentary audit. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea said Wednesday that relations with Russia are "further strengthening" as the two countries mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral diplomatic ties. (*Yonhap*)
- The North Korean regime spends about 600 billion won (US$520 million) a year on purchases of luxury goods, the head of South Korea's state spy agency told lawmakers Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's flag carrier Air Koryo has reduced the number of flights on its Pyongyang-Beijing route, apparently in anticipation of decrease in aviation demand in the winter, industry officials said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's propaganda outlets stepped up their demand Wednesday for South Korea to lift sanctions imposed on Pyongyang for its 2010 deadly torpedo attack against a South Korean warship, calling them an "obstacle" to advancing inter-Korean relations. (*Yonhap*)

In South Korea

- The decision of South Korea and the US to launch a working group on North Korea reflects Washington's concerns about the pace of Seoul's efforts to improve ties with Pyongyang in the absence of a substantial progress in denuclearizing the North. (*The Korea Herald*)
- Differences between South Korea and the United States on how to push North Korea's denuclearization are standing out more than ever as progress is being seen in inter-Korean relations. (Kim Bo-eun and Kim Yoo-chul, *The Korea Times*)
- National Assembly Speaker Moon Hee-sang hopes North Korean leader Kim Jong-un will make a speech at the National Assembly in response to President Moon Jae-in's Pyongyang speech in front of North Korean people. (Park Ji-won, *The Korea Times*)
- Taking issue with inaction against a remark by a high-ranking North Korea military negotiator, the main opposition Liberty Korea Party submitted a proposal for the dismissal of Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon on Wednesday. (Jo He-rim, *The Korea Herald*)
- The conservative party claimed that he violated the Constitution by pushing for projects to connect inter-Korean railways and roads without undergoing a parliamentary procedure required by the charter for such plans involving massive fiscal spending. (*Yonhap*)
- International sanctions over the North's nuclear weapons program make it unclear how quickly investments can resume. But executives and investors are betting Hyundai stands to benefit the most from any peace dividend on the Korean peninsula. (Ju-min Park and Heekyong Yang, *Reuters*)
- The main opposition Liberty Korea Party (LKP) has submitted a motion demanding dismissal of Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon over his alleged infringement of the Constitution

while carrying out inter-Korean reconciliatory projects, the party said Wednesday. (Lee Min-hyung, *The Korea Times*)

- Local administration chiefs affiliated with the ruling Democratic Party (DP) urged parliament Wednesday to approve a ratification motion for the April inter-Korean summit agreement, pending for nearly two months amid partisan wrangling. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea's unification ministry said Wednesday the two Koreas will keep working together to actively implement last month's summit agreement amid growing concerns about delayed cooperation projects. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon Jae-in has so far been successful in bringing North Korea onto the diplomatic stage, but he faces a more challenging task to break an impasse in the denuclearization talks by persuading the United States and United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to make concessions for North Korea's repeated commitment toward denuclearization. (Kim Yoo-chul, *The Korea Times*)
- Conservative lawmakers bashed President Moon Jae-in's Blue House on Wednesday for "harming the pride" of South Korea's government and conglomerates in response to a report that the U.S. Embassy in Seoul directly contacted domestic companies to inquire about their projects with North Korea. (Lee Sung-eun and Han Young-ik, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The Seoul Metropolitan Government said Wednesday that it will push to invite North Korean athletes to participate in the 100th Korean National Sports Festival scheduled to be held in the South Korean capital from Oct. 4-10, 2019. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean athletes may also be joining, though not as an official team, according to the tourism and sports bureau of the Seoul Metropolitan Government. Mayor Park Won-soon said during an inter-Korean Taekwondo festival at City Hall in February that he "hopes the opening ceremony will be hosted in Seoul and the closing ceremony in Pyongyang." (Esther Chung, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korea's major opposition Liberty Korea Party has submitted a request to National Assembly to fire a minister in charge of North Korea-related affairs, saying the minister pushed ahead inter-Korean projects that could cause a financial burden to the country. (Wooyoung Lee, *UPI*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in has taken the credit for building a working relationship with North Korea, but his critics say he is neglecting a looming economic crisis in Asia's fourth-largest economy. (Julian Ryall, *Deutsche Welle*)
- Seoul and Washington will launch a working group to coordinate their approaches to North Korean denuclearization, sanctions implementation and inter-Korean cooperation, the U.S. State Department announced Tuesday. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- A rumor that the United States Treasury is considering including a Korean bank in a secondary boycott in early November has pushed down the shares of major financial institutes, although the country's financial regulator and banks deny the claim. (Park Eun-jee, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korean Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon said Wednesday that private-sector exchange with North Korea will likely increase going forward in line with improving relations between the two countries. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- South and North Korea will hold sports talks later this week to discuss forming united teams for the 2020 Summer Olympics and other international sports events, the unification ministry said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- World Taekwondo (WT)'s all-South Korean tYaekwondo demonstration team on Wednesday gave an energetic performance in Pyongyang, delivering a message of peace and unification. (*Yonhap*)
- The two Koreas will hold a sports meeting this Friday at the inter-Korean liaison office just north of the border to discuss forming combined teams for the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics and mount a joint bid for the 2032 Summer Games. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The timeline for a chain of inter-Korean projects is being pushed back with meetings and events planned for October failing to take place, amid Washington's apparent concerns that the Koreas' ties may be outpacing its denuclearization talks with Pyongyang. (Jung Min-kyung, *The Korea Herald*)
- A South Korea-led World Taekwondo (WT) delegation has arrived in Pyongyang for performances and talks in the North Korean capital. The 49-member delegation, led by WT's South Korean President Choue Chung-won, arrived in Pyongyang via Beijing on Tuesday evening. They will stay in Pyongyang until Saturday. (*Yonhap*)
- The officials of World Taekwondo (WT) and the International Taekwondo Federation (ITF) had a meeting in Pyongyang ahead of a WT taekwondo demonstration team's performance. The 49-member WT delegation arrived in the North Korean capital on Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)

International

- The United States and international society need to offer interim sanctions relief for North Korea, as such a phased step is essential to keep the regime's dialogue momentum moving forward, according to experts familiar with the inter-Korean affairs. (Lee Min-hyung, *The Korea Times*)
- A Chinese artistic delegation is scheduled to visit North Korea in early November, Pyongyang's broadcaster said, amid a rapid improvement in the bilateral relationship. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump's daughter and White House senior adviser Ivanka Trump has canceled her plans to visit Korea in late October, according to a source on Tuesday. (Ahn Jun-yong, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- A high court upheld a lower court's ruling Tuesday in favor of the government's decision to exclude a pro-Pyongyang school in Tokyo from a tuition waiver program that covers most of the nation's high schools. (*Kyodo*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will likely meet with his North Korean counterpart in New York next week to continue discussions on a potential second summit between their leaders, sources said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)

- The Defense POW/MIA Accounting agency has been exchanging correspondence with the North Korean military and plans are underway to restart the recovery of U.S. war remains. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- The Trump administration committed a "serious misstep" in arranging the Singapore summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, according to top former Treasury official and former CIA deputy director David Cohen. (Michael Morell, *CBS News*)
- Yonhap news agency says U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is likely to meet with his North Korean counterpart in the United States next week. The news agency reports that the two sides are trying to arrange a meeting shortly after the U.S. midterm elections on Nov. 6. (*VOA News*)
- The U.S. special envoy for North Korea proposed Seoul and Washington jointly inspect Pyongyang's Punggye-ri and Yongbyon nuclear sites, according to a South Korean press report. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- The top US Commander in South Korea was notified of the plan to establish a no-fly zone over a cross-border region well before the two Koreas announced it during the inter-Korean summit in September. (Yeo Jun-suk, *The Korea Herald*)

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250804201431/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-minister-under-fire-as-opposition-chokes-on-nks-naengmyeon-remark-north-looks-to-be-preparing-for-visit-by-nuclear-inspectors

11. NOVEMBER

Thursday, November 1, 2018

At the Latest Inter-Korean Summit, KJU Created a Diplomatic Minefield for the US; NK #MeToo Voices: 'They Consider Us Toys'

Top News

At the Latest Inter-Korean Summit, Kim Jong-un Created a Diplomatic Minefield for the United States (*War on the Rocks*, 10/31/2018)
(Yonhap Interview) North Korea's human rights, denuclearization not separate issues: watchdog chief (*Yonhap*, 11/1/2018)

In North Korea

Access to market key issue in North Korea's food security (*Korea Times*, 11/1/2018)
'Ashamed and scared': group details 'endemic' sex abuse in North Korea (*Reuters*, 10/31/2018)
HRW condemns rampant sexual assault in North Korea (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/1/2018)
Human Rights Watch Calls on North Korea to End Pervasive Sexual Abuse (VOA, 11/1/2018)
Human Rights Watch: North Korean women face sex abuse in marketplaces (*UPI*, 11/1/2018)
Human Rights Watch: Sexual Violence in North Korea 'Accepted as Part of Ordinary Life' (*Radio Free Asia*, 10/31/2018)
Kim Blasts 'Vicious' Sanctions Squeezing North Korean Economy (*Bloomberg*, 10/31/2018)
Kim Jong-un condemns sanctions as the work of 'hostile forces' (*The Telegraph*, 11/1/2018)
N. Korean leader criticizes sanctions (*Yonhap*, 11/1/2018)
N. Korean websites condemn U.S. for intervening in inter-Korean cooperation (*Yonhap*, 11/1/2018)
North Korea #MeToo Voices: 'They Consider Us Toys' (*New York Times*, 10/31/2018)
North Korea promotes 'rich' fruit production amid food crisis (*Korea Times*, 11/1/2018)
North Korea: Sexual abuse of women 'common' – report (BBC, 11/1/2018)
North Korea women suffer serious sexual abuse but no 'MeToo' (*Associated Press*, 11/1/2018)
North Korean officials subjected women to sexual abuse, report claims (*The Telegraph*, 11/1/2018)
North Korean women face widespread sexual violence by 'government officials,' rights group says (*Washington Post*, 10/31/2018)
Pyongyang resident shares feelings on inter-Korean relations (*Daily NK*, 11/1/2018)
Sexual violence against women widespread in N. Korea, watchdog report says (*Yonhap*, 11/1/2018)
Sexual violence rampant in NK: report (*Korea Times*, 11/1/2018)
'They considered us toys': North Korean women reveal extent of sexual violence (*The Guardian*, 11/1/2018)
'We are at the mercy of men': Reports of rape and sexual abuse in North Korea (CNN, 11/1/2018)

In South Korea

Im's ambition betrays him (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/1/2018)
Moon asks assembly to respect 'miracle' (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/1/2018)
Seoul rejects union activists' request for North Korea visit (*Yonhap*, 11/1/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship

Koreas take measures to prevent possible conflict at border (*Korea Times*, 11/1/2018)
Koreas to hold meeting of liaison office chiefs (*Yonhap*, 11/1/2018)
(LEAD) Koreas halt all 'hostile' military acts near border (*Yonhap*, 11/1/2018)
No-fly zone, military drill ban near Korea border take effect (*Reuters*, 10/31/2018)
S. Korea's Moon: N. Korean leader Kim to visit Seoul 'soon' (*Associated Press*, 11/1/2018)
Seoul ceases military drills along the border (*UPI*, 11/1/2018)

International

Decision on US-Korea joint exercises coming by December (*Associated Press*, 10/31/2018)
(LEAD) N.K. human rights resolution submitted to U.N. panel (*Yonhap*, 11/1/2018)
NK, US to hold high-level talks next week (*Korea Times*, 11/1/2018)
Play nice with Japan (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/1/2018)
Seoul, Washington give assurances on Opcon (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/1/2018)
Singaporean accused of NKorea dealings to talk to officials (*Associated Press*, 11/1/2018)
(Yonhap Interview) N. Korea wants embassy in Ankara but sanctions relief needed first: Turkish envoy (*Yonhap*, 11/1/2018)

Top News

- HRNK Board Member David Maxwell and former HRNK Research Intern Mathew Ha published an article discussing the diplomatic challenges of the current state of US-South Korean-North Korean relations: "At the summit, the two Korean leaders signed a joint declaration that spoke of "transform[ing] the Korean Peninsula into a land of permanent peace." They agreed to measures that may relieve economic pressure on the North without reducing the threat it poses." (David Maxwell, Mathew Ha, *War on the Rocks*)
- Human rights should not be separate from denuclearization talks with North Korea, the head of an international human rights watchdog said, calling for active efforts to deal with the uncomfortable but critical issue in negotiations with the reclusive state. (Koh Byung-joon, *Yonhap*)

In North Korea

- Some might think North Korea's food supply and demand would be unstable, but prices in the market are remarkably steady, according to Kwon Tae-jin, director of the Center for North Korean and Northeast Asian Studies at the GS&J Institute. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)
- Sexual abuse by North Korean officials appears to be "endemic", a watchdog group reported on Thursday, as activists complain the isolated country's rights record is being ignored as an international push is made to improve relations. (Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- North Korean officials rape and harass women in the country with almost total impunity, according to a report released by Human Rights Watch on Thursday. (Shim Kyu-seok, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

- Human Rights Watch calls for immediate action to stop what it says is widespread sexual abuse in North Korea. In an 86-page report released Thursday, the group says its three year study of the issue has found that abuse against women is so common, “it has come to be accepted as part of ordinary life,” in North Korea. (Steve Miller, VOA)
- Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch, said Thursday at a press conference in Seoul sexual violence in the North is a major issue everyone is acutely aware of but nobody wants to talk about, South Korean newspaper Herald Business reported.(Elizabeth Shim,UPI)
- Sexual violence is so rampant in North Korea that it has become an accepted part of ordinary life, according to a report released Wednesday by Human Rights Watch (HRW) based on interviews with women from the North who have taken asylum in South Korea. (Eugene Whong, Hee Jung Yang, *Radio Free Asia*)
- Kim Jong Un lashed out at the “vicious” sanctions regime against North Korea in the latest sign of his frustration with the pace of peace talks with the Trump administration.(Jihye Lee, *Bloomberg*)
- Kim Jong-un, the North Korean leader, has condemned international sanctions on his country as the work of “hostile forces” to impede efforts to improve the living standards of his citizens. (Julian Ryall, *The Telegraph*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has criticized international sanctions on his regime, blasting "hostile forces" for attempting to hamper its efforts to improve the lives of its people, the North's state media reported Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's propaganda media on Thursday hurled criticism at the United States for intervening in inter-Korean affairs. Uriminzokkiri, a website controlled by the Pyongyang government, said in a commentary that unreasonable interference by foreign forces should be thoroughly resisted. (*Yonhap*)
- The flourishing markets have a dark side: a prey-and-predator relationship between the mostly female traders and male officials who extort bribes and demand sexual favors from them, Human Rights Watch said in a report released on Thursday.(Choe Sang-hun, *New York Times*)
- North Korean media are promoting the "rich" harvest from fruit farms around the country, despite droughts and floods that damaged the country's overall food production this year.(Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)
- North Korean officials commit sexual abuse against women with near total impunity, according to a report from rights group Human Rights Watch. HRW said such abuse is so common it has become part of ordinary life.(BBC)
- North Korean refugees say sexual violence against women in their former homeland is part of daily life. But a new report suggests there’s little chance that abused women in the North will get to say “MeToo” anytime soon.(Hyung-jin Kim, *Associated Press*)
- North Korean police and other officials prey on women with near-total impunity, a human rights group said on Thursday, in a rare report into sexual abuse in the isolated nation.(*The Telegraph*)
- North Korean officials commit sexual violence against women with apparent impunity as part of systemic oppression and other abuses tolerated within Kim Jong Un’s regime,

according to a Human Rights Watch report released Wednesday.(Min Joo Kim, *Washington Post*)

- The citizens of Pyongyang enthusiastically welcomed South Korean President Moon Jae-in during his visit to the city this past September for the third inter-Korean summit. But what do Pyongyang citizens think about the increase in exchanges and cooperation between the two Koreas as tension dissipates on the peninsula?(Ha Yoon Ah, *Daily NK*)
- Sexual assaults and harassment against North Korean women are widely committed by state officials, but there has been little reporting or punishment due to social stigma, fear and a lack of any remedy, according to a report issued Thursday by an international human rights watchdog.(*Yonhap*)
- A report by Human Rights Watch, an international nongovernmental organization, revealed Thursday that government officials committing sexual violence is rampant in North Korea. The report, titled "You Cry at Night but Don't Know Why': Sexual Violence against Women in North Korea," contains interviews with 106 North Korean defectors conducted between January 2015 and July 2018. (Kim Jae-heun, *Korea Times*)
- Women in North Korea are routinely subjected to sexual violence by government officials, prison guards, interrogators, police, prosecutors, and soldiers, according to a new report, with groping and unwanted advances a part of daily life for women working in the country's burgeoning black markets.(Benjamin Haas, *The Guardian*)
- Harrowing accounts of widespread sexual abuse allegedly carried out by North Korean officials against ordinary women have been laid out in a new report, that details evidence of a culture where officials commit acts with near total impunity.(Euan McKirdy, Jake Kwon, *CNN*)

In South Korea

- Blue House Chief of Staff Im Jong-seok is aggressive. This position is usually reserved for those with reticence and subtleness. But his moves and tendencies defy such virtues. He reinforced his reputation with a visit to the DMZ in Cheorwon Gangwon, on Oct. 17. (Park Bo-gyoon, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- President Moon Jae-in on Thursday asked the National Assembly to support his peace initiative and help bring South and North Korea closer to unity, using the term "miraculous" twice in a 35-minute speech to lawmakers. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korea's unification ministry has rejected a request by four labor activists to participate in an event to be held in North Korea to call for the faithful implementation of the summit agreement between their leaders in September, a ministry official said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- The two Koreas have implemented an agreement signed in mid-September designed to prevent any military conflict with each other on their land, sea and air borders, the Ministry of National Defense said Thursday. (Lee Min-hyung,*Korea Times*)
- South and North Korea will hold a meeting of liaison office chiefs for the first time in about a month on Friday, a unification ministry official said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)

- The armed forces of South and North Korea are at the forefront of the peace process with the implementation of a bilateral confidence-building pact Thursday, the South's top military officer said. (*Yonhap*)
- A no-fly zone and a ban on military drills near the heavily fortified border between North and South Korea came into effect on Thursday as the once uneasy neighbors push to further defuse tensions. (Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Thursday that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will "soon" visit Seoul as part of a series of high-profile diplomatic efforts aimed at ridding North Korea of its nuclear weapons. (Hyung-jin Kim, *Associated Press*)
- Seoul's defense ministry said that two Koreas has ceased all hostile acts against each other in land, air and sea from Thursday, as part of a military agreement between North and South Korea. (Wooyoung Lee, *UPI*)

International

- South Korean Defense Minister Jeong Kyeong-doo told reporters Wednesday at the Pentagon that if more exercises are suspended the two countries will conduct other training to mitigate the lapse. He says the review will be done by Nov. 15. (Lolita C. Baldor, *Associated Press*)
- The South Korean government said Thursday it supports a new North Korean human rights resolution submitted to a U.N. panel. The Third Committee is expected to pass the resolution by consensus and forward it to a U.N. General Assembly session for a vote next month, according to Kim Deuk-hwan, deputy spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo confirmed a high-level meeting with his North Korean counterpart would take place as earlier stated, amid signs of Pyongyang making preparations for inspections to take place at key nuclear and missile testing sites. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- As it is hard to suddenly change the direction of North Korea policy, we need to think about where we should start to get what we want. In the end, we need to bring more countries to our side. The only country that has overlapping interests with us regarding North Korea's nuclear threat is Japan. (Lee Ga-young, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The two defense chiefs recognized the "constructive commitments" made in the three inter-Korean summits and first North-U.S. summit this year and "noted the steps" taken by Pyongyang. But they also highlighted that "full implementation of all UN Security Council resolutions would continue until we are confident about North Korea's complete denuclearization."(Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- A Singaporean businessman facing criminal charges in the United States for allegedly violating sanctions against North Korea said he was taking the concerns "very seriously."(Annabelle Liang, *Associated Press*)
- North Korea is eager for the opening of an embassy in the Turkish capital and the resumption of humanitarian aid from the former enemy, Ankara's top envoy here said Thursday. (Lee Chi-dong, *Yonhap*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821211016/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsat-the-latest-inter-korean-summit-kju-created-a-diplomatic-minefield-for-the-us-nk-metoo-voices-they-consider-us-toys?e=%5BUNIQID%5D

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Friday, November 2, 2018

Humanitarian aid activists demand opening of financial transaction channel with N. Korea; Koreas will mount Olympic bid

Top News:
Human Rights in North Korea (*C-Span*, 10/29/2018)
Moon has met Kim three times and human rights were raised not once. At what point does appeasement, neglecting DPRK's crimes against humanity—egregious human rights violations—constitute endorsement? (*The John Batchelor Show*, 10/18/2018)
"The pressure to cancel the United Nations North Korean Human Rights event by a member state in the Security Council" (*Chosun Ilbo*, 11/2/2018)

In North Korea:
2019 calendar captures face of North Korea [PHOTOS] (*The Korea Times*, 11/2/2018)
A survivor, a princeling, and an outsider: the Politburo Standing Committee (*NK News*, 11/1/2018)
Electric bike transport services popular in Pyongyang (*Daily NK*, 11/2/2018)
Kim Jong Un disgruntled with tourist resort, economic sanctions (UPI, 11/1/2018)
N.Korea: Cuban president to visit Pyongyang (*NHK World*, 11/1/2018)
N. Korea slams Japan over U.N. human rights resolution (*Yonhap*, 11/2/2018)
North Korean, Russian universities agree to scientific exchanges (*NK News*, 11/2/2018)
North Korea's Uranium Mining and Milling Operations Continue at Pyongsan (*38 North*, 11/2/2018)
Pyongyang media call for complete halt to hostile military acts between Koreas (*Yonhap*, 11/2/2018)
Report: Fuel shortage in North Korea forcing station shutdowns (UPI, 11/2/2018)
Standing firm against North Korea's time-dragging tactic (*Daily NK*, 11/2/2018)

In South Korea:
3D analysis gives hints on Kim Jong-un's health (*The Korea Times*, 11/2/2018)
After tragedies and big losses, Hyundai looks to reverse North Korea fortunes (*Reuters*, 11/2/2018)
China's Xi hopes to see U.S. and North Korea advance denuclearization: state media (*Reuters*, 11/1/2018)
GGGI sees 'positive outlook' for renewable energy, but more efforts needed (*Reuters*, 11/2/2018)

Humanitarian aid activists demand opening of financial transaction channel with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 11/2/2018)
Kim Jong-un's health under scrutiny in South Korea - as questions raised over successor (*The Telegraph*, 11/2/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea analyzing soil sample from N.K.'s nuclear test site: lawmakers (*Yonhap*, 11/2/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) Koreas agree to formally inform IOC of intent to co-host 2032 Olympics (*Yonhap*, 11/2/2018)
(2nd LD) Koreas hold meeting of liaison office chiefs amid delayed cross-border projects (*Yonhap*, 11/2/2018)
Joint Korean handball team to compete with expanded roster at worlds (*Yonhap*, 11/2/2018)
Koreas to inform IOC of intent to co-host 2032 Games (*The Washington Post*, 11/2/2018)
Koreas will mount Olympic bid (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/2/2018)
(LEAD) Koreas resume exchanging information on illegal fishing near sea border (*Yonhap*, 11/2/2018)
North and South Korea set to combine for Tokyo 2020 and co-host 2032 Olympics (CNN, 11/2/2018)
North, South Korea to send IOC letter for joint Olympic bid in '32 (*UPI*, 11/2/2018)
S. Korea proposed forming unified teams with N. Korea in 6 or 7 sports at Tokyo 2020: source (*Yonhap*, 11/2/2018)
Two taekwondo bodies to launch joint organization for integration [FULL TEXT] (*The Korea Times*, 11/2/2018)

International:
(LEAD) U.S. says sanctions on N. Korea will remain in place (*Yonhap*, 11/2/2018)
Pompeo, 'counterpart' to meet next week (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/2/2018)
U.S. abstains from vote on Japan-sponsored antinuclear resolution at U.N. disarmament panel (*Japan Times*, 11/2/2018)
U.S. Treasury says contact with banks routine (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/2/2018)
Why Trump Holds the Cards on North Korea Sanctions (*Bloomberg*, 11/1/2018)

Top News:

- The Heritage Foundation hosted a discussion on human rights in North Korea and how the topic should be addressed in nuclear disarmament negotiations. HRNK's Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu's presentation begins at counter 28:22. Scarlatoiu said, "There can be no economic development in the future…without paying attention to the North Korean human rights issue." (*C-Span*)
- HRNK's Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu was featured on The John Batchelor Show. Scarlatoiu's interview begins at counter 1:22. Scarlatoiu said, "President Moon Jae-in of South Korea has had three summit meetings with Kim Jong-un this year and human rights were not raised once." (*The John Batchelor Show*)
- HRNK's Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu was interviewed by Chosun Ilbo regarding the recent pressure on North Korean human rights advocates. "The pressure on North Korean human rights groups has reached an unprecedented level," he said, "and even an agency of

the United Nations has pressured us to cancel events related to North Korean human rights." [in Korean] (Cho Eui-jun, *Chosun Ilbo*)

In North Korea:

- A 2019 calendar showing the everyday life of North Koreans is available from an online shop run by NK News, a subscription-based North Korea monitoring website. (Jung Da-min, *The Korea Times*)
- North Korea is ruled by the Party and the Party's top institution is the Standing Committee of the Politburo of the Central Committee (조선로동당 중앙위원회 정치국 상무위원회, also sometimes translated as "Presidium"). (Fyodor Tertitskiy, *NK News*)
- Electric bicycles, also known as e-bikes, are becoming popular in North Korea as a means of earning money, sources in the capital report. (Kim Song-il, *Daily NK*)
- Kim Jong Un expressed irritation with a tourist resort being built in the Wonsan-Kalma coastal area in Kangwon Province, according to state media. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- North Korea's state-run media says Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel is to visit the country. The Korean Central News Agency said on Thursday that Diaz-Canel was invited by leader Kim Jong Un. (*NHK World*)
- North Korea's media lambasted Japan on Friday for submitting a new U.N. human rights resolution against its regime, saying that it is a plot to tarnish the North's reputation and kill its socialist system. (*Yonhap*)
- One of North Korea's most prominent universities, the Kim Chaek University of Technology (KCUT), signed a memorandum of cooperation in areas including science and engineering with a university based out of Vladivostok on Thursday, according to a press release issued by the Russian Far Eastern Federal University (FEFU). (Colin Zwirko, *NK News*)
- An examination of commercial satellite imagery beginning in 2016 of the Pyongsan Uranium Concentrate Pilot Plant, one of North Korea's two largest declared uranium ore concentrate facilities, suggests that the plant has continued to operate up through the present. (Frank V. Pabian, Peter Makowsky, Irv Buck, *38 North*)
- North Korea's media on Friday urged the Koreas to halt all military actions that provoke the other side. (*Yonhap*)
- Parts of North Korea are facing a fuel shortage, and state media is blaming U.S. sanctions against Iran for the shortfall. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- November is beginning with many existing problems which were not settled in October following the Pyongyang Joint Declaration in September and the agreement between Kim Jong Un and US Secretary of State Pompeo on October 7. (Thae Yong-ho, *Daily NK*)

In South Korea:

- The National Intelligence Service (NIS) has been monitoring North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's health using a three-dimensional video analysis program, according to a lawmaker, Friday. (Yi Whan-woo, *The Korea Times*)

- For Hyundai, the South Korean conglomerate, North Korea has been a story of lost opportunities – and tragedy. (Ju-min Park, Heekyong Yang, Reuters)
- Chinese President Xi Jinping hopes the United States and North Korea will further promote the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and push for peace, Chinese state media reported on Thursday. (Reuters)
- Rijsberman also said the organization has been exploring ways to help North Korea such as with a study plan for 100 percent renewable energy for the Korean Peninsula. It also made a forestry project offer to the North Korean government. (Jane Chung, Reuters)
- Humanitarian aid activists for North Korea said Friday that United Nations agencies and international and nongovernmental organizations should be allowed to open at least one financial transaction channel with the North. (Yonhap)
- South Korea's intelligence agency is using a sophisticated video analysis program to monitor the well-being of Kim Jong-un, the North Korean leader, apparently out of concern that a recurrence of his previous bouts of ill-health could trigger instability within the regime. (Julian Ryall, The Telegraph)
- South Korea's spy agency is analyzing a soil sample collected from around North Korea's nuclear test site, which Pyongyang demolished in May, lawmakers said Friday. (Yonhap)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- South Korea and North Korea agreed on Friday to inform the International Olympic Committee (IOC) formally of their intention to co-host the 2032 Summer Games. (Yonhap)
- South and North Korea held a meeting of liaison office chiefs Friday amid worries over a delay in some of their agreed-upon joint projects, the unification ministry said. (Yonhap)
- Having agreed to field a joint team at next year's men's world handball championships, South Korea and North Korea will be afforded an expanded roster at the event, officials said Friday. (Yonhap)
- North and South Korea on Friday agreed to officially inform the International Olympic Committee of their intent to co-host the 2032 Summer Olympics as they continued with reconciliation efforts. (Kim Tong-hyung, AP)
- South and North Korea will submit a joint bid to co-host the 2032 Summer Olympic Games to the International Olympic Committee, officials from both countries agreed in a meeting on Friday. (Lee Sung-eun, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- South and North Korea exchanged information on foreign boats illegally fishing through their military communication line for the first time in about 10 years Friday, Seoul's defense ministry said. (Yonhap)
- North and South Korea are planning to compete as a unified team at the Tokyo Olympics in 2020 and are bidding to co-host the 2032 Summer Games. (CNN)
- North and South Korea have decided to send a letter to the International Olympic Committee, proposing a joint bid to host the 2032 Summer Olympics, officials said Friday. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- South Korea asked North Korea to form joint teams in six or seven sports for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics during their sports talks on Friday, a source here said. (Yonhap)

- Two international taekwondo governing bodies will form a joint committee by the end of the year in an effort to integrate the sport. (Jung Min-ho, *The Korea Times*)

International:

- The United States said Thursday that sanctions on North Korea will remain in place until it gives up its nuclear weapons program, remarks following North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's sharp rebuke of "vicious sanctions." (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said he will meet with his North Korean "counterpart" next week for denuclearization talks and that the second U.S.-North summit will hopefully be held early next year. (Lee Sung-eun, Kang Tae-hwa, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- A Japan-sponsored resolution calling for the total elimination of nuclear arms was passed by a United Nations committee on Thursday, but the United States — a key Tokyo ally — abstained, calling it a "step back" from last year's document. (*Japan Times*)
- The United States Treasury Department said it is not considering any measures against Korean banks despite contacting a number of the local institutions directly in September. (Park Eun-jee, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- In October, President Donald Trump slapped down South Korean efforts to ease sanctions on North Korea, saying it couldn't be done "without our approval." He's not far off. (Youkyung Lee, David Tweed, *Bloomberg*)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250821211110/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemshumanitarian-aid-activists-demand-opening-of-financial-transaction-channel-with-n-koreakoreas-will-mount-olympic-bid?e=%5BUNIQID%5D

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Saturday, November 3, 2018

North Korea Threatens to Resume Nuclear Work Without Sanctions Relief; Beyond Denuclearization: Dealing With North Korea's Other WMDs

In North Korea:
Kim Jong-un's health good despite family history of diabetes, high blood pressure: lawmaker (*Korea Herald*, 11/2/2018)
N.K. media reports on sports talks with Seoul, omits outcome (*Yonhap*, 11/3/2018)
N. Korea threatens to resume nuke development over sanctions (*Associated Press*, 11/3/2018)

North Korea threatens to restart nuclear program unless U.S. lifts sanctions (*Washington Post*, 11/3/2018)
North Korea threatens to restart nuclear programme over 'foolish idea' of US sanctions (*Independent*, 11/3/2018)
North Korea Threatens to Resume Nuclear Program, Slams Sanctions (*Bloomberg*, 11/3/2018)
North Korea Threatens to Resume Nuclear Work Without Sanctions Relief (*Wall Street Journal*, 11/2/2018)
North Koreans turn to drug trade in struggling economy, report says (*UPI*, 11/2/2018)

In South Korea:
South Koreans see gamble in trusting Kim Jong Un over nuclear weapons (*NBC News*, 11/3/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Koreas showcase joint taekwondo performance in Pyongyang (*Yonhap*, 11/3/2018)
N. Korean youth footballers head back home after competing in S. Korea (*Yonhap*, 11/3/2018)
S. Korean civic group departs for joint event with N. Koreans (*Yonhap*, 11/3/2018)

International:
Beyond Denuclearization: Dealing With North Korea's Other WMDs (*The Diplomat*, 11/2/2018)
The Nuclear Test Ban and the Verifiable Denuclearization of North Korea (*Arms Control Today*, 11/2/2018)
Trump cites N. Korea's invitation of inspectors as progress (*Yonhap*, 11/3/2018)
US, South Korea to Launch Joint Working Group on North Korea (VOA, 11/3/2018)

In North Korea:

- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's health is in relatively good condition, though he has a family history of diabetes and high blood pressure, according to lawmakers briefed by South Korea's spy agency. (Ock Hyun-ju, *Korea Herald*)
- North Korea's state media on Saturday reported on the country's sports talks with South Korea a day earlier but didn't mention the outcome of the meeting. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea has warned it could revive a state policy aimed at strengthening its nuclear arsenal if the United States does not lift economic sanctions against the country. (Kim Tong-hyung, *Associated Press*)
- North Korea has threatened to restart the development of its nuclear weapons program unless the United States lifts sanctions, underscoring one of the major potential stumbling blocks in Washington's diplomatic outreach with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. (Simon Denyer, *Washington Post*)
- North Korea has threatened to push ahead with its nuclear weapons programme if the US does not lift "foolish" sanctions against the country. (Peter Stubley, *Independent*)
- North Korea stepped up its attack on U.S.-led sanctions, threatening to resume its nuclear program if the measures aren't lifted. The Foreign Ministry's Institute for American Studies said it could revive its policy of economic construction and nuclear development if sanctions continue. (Jihye Lee, *Bloomberg*)

- North Korea warned on Friday it may revive a policy aimed at strengthening its nuclear arsenal if the U.S. doesn't lift sanctions, signaling it won't give up more concessions in nuclear negotiations with the U.S. (Andrew Jeong, *Wall Street Journal*)
- More North Koreans are manufacturing drugs in the country's burgeoning private sector because the narcotics trade is more lucrative than the strained coal industry and other businesses, according to a South Korean press report. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

In South Korea:

- Many South Koreans are wary. While a recent poll commissioned by South Korea's JoongAng Daily newspaper showed that seven out of 10 respondents were satisfied with President Moon Jae-in's recent three-day trip to Pyongyang, more than half did not trust Kim on denuclearization. (Daniel Hurst, *NBC News*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- World Taekwondo's all-South Korean taekwondo demonstration team and North Korean taekwondo practitioners from the International Taekwondo Federation performed together in front of some 2,300 people who packed Taekwondo Hall in Pyongyang. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean youth football players who took part in an international competition in South Korea headed back home Saturday. Some North Korean players shed tears when saying goodbye to South Korean athletes when they left their residence in Inje, Gangwon Province. (*Yonhap*)
- The members of the Korean Council for Reconciliation and Cooperation (KCRC) left Seoul to take part in an event with the group's North Korean counterpart. The event is to call for faithful implementation of the recent summit agreement between their leaders. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- There are three reasons why Trump has to pursue North Korean WMD disarmament in addition to denuclearization, and he should bring these concerns to the negotiations with North Korea at the second U.S.-DPRK summit. (Sungku Jang, *The Diplomat*)
- Verification is key to permanently ending nuclear test explosions in North Korea. At his press conference following the Singapore summit with Kim, U.S. President Donald Trump stated that denuclearization would be verifiable. (Lassina Zerbo, *Arms Control Today*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump remained optimistic about the prospects of North Korea's denuclearization, citing the regime's invitation of outside inspectors to its nuclear and missile sites. (*Yonhap*)
- The United States and South Korea have agreed to launch a joint working group to coordinate their North Korea sanctions, a move that reflects Washington's attempt to bridge the allies' diverging approaches to denuclearizing the Kim regime, experts said. (Christy Lee, VOA)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250821211208/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-north-korea-threatens-to-resume-nuclear-work-without-sanctions-relief-beyond-denuclearization-dealing-with-north-koreas-other-wmds?e=%5BUNIQID%5D

Sunday, November 4, 2018

(2nd LD) N. Korea blasts U.S. human rights report; N. Korea threatens nuke program restart over sanctions

In North Korea:
(2nd LD) N. Korea blasts U.S. human rights report (*Yonhap*, 11/4/2018)
Cuban president due in N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 11/4/2018)
Kim attends China-North Korea joint performance in Pyongyang (*Yonhap*, 11/4/2018)
N. Korea threatens nuke program restart over sanctions (*UPI*, 11/4/2018)
Two secret churches in North Korea show how powerful the Bible really is (*Fox News*, 11/4/2018)

In South Korea:
IMF alum to head Moon's Northern committee (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/4/2018)
Two Miles from North Korea, Islanders Brace for an Uneasy Peace (*The Wall Street Journal*, 11/3/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Koreas hoist yellow flags at DMZ guard posts in first step toward dismantlement (*Yonhap*, 11/4/2018)
Koreas to launch joint waterway inspection for joint use of river estuaries (*Yonhap*, 11/4/2018)
(LEAD) Senior N. Korean official taunts S. Korean ruling party lawmaker about pot belly (*Yonhap*, 11/4/2018)
Ri Son-gwon plays bad cop to South's visitors (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/4/2018)
South and North Koreans call for resumption of exchanges (*Yonhap*, 11/4/2018)

International:
Trump trumpets ties with Kim (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/4/2018)
Uncovering North Korea's sexual assault epidemic (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/4/2018)
U.S., South Korea set delayed military drills; North Korea urges end to pressure (*Reuters*, 11/4/2018)

In North Korea:

- North Korea has blasted a report by a U.S. human rights watchdog criticizing allegedly widespread sexual violence against women in the North, the North's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported Sunday. (*Yonhap*)

- Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel was due in North Korea on Sunday on a visit that underlines the "invincible friendship and unity and comradely friendship" between the two countries, the North's main state-run newspaper Rodong Sinmun said. (Yonhap)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un attended a joint performance by artists from China and his country in Pyongyang on Saturday, according to a new report. (Yonhap)
- The North Korean Foreign Ministry warned that unless the United States lifts sanctions and Washington stopped behaving "arrogantly," North Korea could reinstate "pyonjin," its policy of simultaneously developing its nuclear weapons program alongside economic development. (Sommer Brokaw, UPI)
- In the early morning light, a small group of North Korean believers meets on the riverbank, lugging their fishing gear with them. Quietly, they load into a small boat and push off from land. It's not until they're far into the middle of the river that they dare to dig through their gear and pull out their Bibles. (Rachel Godwin, Fox News)

In South Korea:

- The Blue House on Sunday appointed Kwon Goo-hoon, chief Korea economist and strategist at Goldman Sachs, as head of the Presidential Committee on Northern Economic Cooperation, which seeks to foster economic cooperation with northern states, including North Korea. (Kang Jin-kyu, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- YEONPYEONG ISLAND, South Korea—For decades, this speck of South Korea-controlled territory, which sits 2 miles from North Korean soil in waters claimed by Pyongyang, has been a flashpoint. (Andrew Jeong, The Wall Street Journal)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- South and North Korea raised yellow flags at 11 guard posts each along their heavily fortified border on Sunday in a first step toward dismantling the posts under a military agreement reached as part of September's summit. (Yonhap)
- South and North Korea will together launch a waterway inspection Monday as part of an agreement to jointly take advantage of the estuaries of the Han and Imjin rivers along their western border, officials said Sunday. (Yonhap)
- A senior North Korean official in charge of exchanges with South Korea ridiculed a lawmaker of the South's ruling party about his pot belly during an inter-Korean event in Pyongyang last month, participants in the event said. (Yonhap)
- Ri Son-gwon, a senior North Korean official, poked fun at the Democratic Party (DP) Rep. Kim Tae-nyeon's pot belly during an inter-Korean event in Pyongyang last month, according to participants in the event. (Esther Chung, Lee Chul-jae, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- Hundreds of South Korean civic leaders and North Korean officials on Sunday renewed calls for the resumption of inter-Korean exchanges as they met at a scenic mountain resort on the North's east coast for the first time in a decade. (Yonhap)

International:

- U.S. President Donald Trump boasted about his North Korea policy achievements at a rally days before midterm elections scheduled for Tuesday, commenting that his relationship with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un was "very good." (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- While the world focuses on whether North Korea will truly abandon its nuclear ambitions, the country's dismal human rights record has largely fallen out of the picture. (Kang Jung-hyun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The United States and South Korea will begin small-scale military drills on Monday that were delayed during talks with North Korea, days after Pyongyang threatened to restart work on its nuclear program if international pressure does not ease. (Josh Smith, Joyce Lee, *Reuters*)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250821211358/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items2nd-ld-n-korea-blasts-us-human-rights-reportn-korea-threatens-nuke-program-restart-over-sanctions?e=%5BUNIQID%5D

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Monday, November 5, 2018

North Korea issues nuclear threat ahead of high-level talks with US; Moon Jae-in worried about helipad if Kim Jong Un visits South

In North Korea

(LEAD) Cuban leader given enthusiastic welcome in Pyongyang, vows to further boost ties with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 11/05/2018)
[Newsmaker] Ordinary North Koreans join elite in acquiring taste for coffee (*The Korea Herald*, 11/05/2018)
2 natural earthquakes detected in sea off North Korea (*The Korea Times*, 11/05/2018)
About 6 million cell phones in use in N. Korea: minister (*Yonhap*, 11/05/2018)
Exhibition encourages contributions to the Samjiyon Modernization Project (*DailyNK*, 11/05/2018)
Families with defector relatives facing heavy surveillance (*DailyNK*, 11/05/2018)
Fortune teller and clients arrested in Ryanggang Province (*DailyNK*, 11/05/2018)
Musan Mine on the verge of total shutdown, sources say (*DailyNK*, 11/05/2018)
NK-US high-level meeting to discuss corresponding measures (*The Korea Times*, 11/04/2018)
North Korea issues nuclear threat ahead of high-level talks with US (CNN, 11/05/2018)
North Korea, Cuba hold 1st summit in 32 years [VIDEO] (*The Korea Times*, 11/05/2018)
North Korea: Furious Pyongyang issues NUCLEAR warning ahead of US talks (*Daily Express*, 11/05/2018)

N.Korea 'Still Mining Uranium' (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 11/05/2018)
N.K. rejects U.S. demand for nuke list (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 11/05/2018)

In South Korea
Banks on alert over US 'secondary boycott' (*The Korea Times*, 11/05/2018)
Defectors Blame Kim Jong-un for N.Korea's Economic Failure (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 11/05/2018)
Moon Jae-in worried about helipad if Kim Jong Un visits South (*UPI*, 11/05/2018)
Moon says US-NK summit to advance denuke talks (*The Korea Times*, 11/05/2018)
N. Korean leader likely to visit Russia in November: S. Korean envoy (*Yonhap*, 11/05/2018)
South Korea, US resume marine drills (*The Korea Times*, 11/05/2018)
South Korea and US resume military drills ahead of nuclear talks (*The Guardian*, 11/04/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship
2 Koreas to Inform IOC of Intent to Co-host 2032 Summer Olympics (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 11/05/2018)
Hyundai to celebrate 20th anniversary of tour program with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 11/05/2018)
Koreas hoist yellow flags at DMZ guard posts in first step toward dismantlement: Yonhap (*Aju Business Daily*, 11/05/2018)
Koreas to hold talks over health cooperation this week (*Yonhap*, 11/05/2018)
South, North Korea begin waterway survey (*The Korea Times*, 11/05/2018)

International
Cuban president meets North Korea's Kim Jong Un in Pyongyang (*The Washington Post*, 11/05/2018)
Harris stresses alliance during visit to minor liberal party (*The Korea Times*, 11/05/2018)
Pompeo Resuming Nuclear Talks with N.Korea This Week (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 11/05/2018)
Pompeo: 'I will meet North Korea No.2 in New York' (*The Korea Times*, 11/05/2018)
U.S., N. Korea to meet right after midterm elections (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 11/05/2018)

In North Korea

- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un held summit talks with visiting Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel in Pyongyang on Sunday, and they expressed "full support and solidarity" with each other, the North's media reported Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Koreans have developed a new taste for coffee as its consumption saw a rapid increase over the past few years with the introduction of market forces to the state-run economy, according to a report from Radio Free Asia on Thursday. (Catherine Chung, *The Korea Herald*)
- South Korea's weather agency detected two natural earthquakes in the sea off North Korea on Monday. The first quake, measured at 3.2 on the Richter scale, took place 12:02 p.m. in waters 43 kilometers southwest of North Korea's Ongjin County and the second with a 3.1 magnitude at 12:07 p.m. at almost the same location. (Park Si-soo, *The Korea Times*)
- The number of mobile phones in use in North Korea is estimated at around 6 million, with each device selling for US$100 to $200, South Korean Minister of Unification Cho Myoung-gyon said Monday. (*Yonhap*)

- An exhibition in North Korea's city of Hyesan was held to recognize donations by residents towards the construction and remodeling efforts currently ongoing in the Ryanggang Province region. (Kim Yoo Jin, *DailyNK*)
- The North Korean authorities are strengthening their efforts to monitor some families of defectors as hopes rise among residents toward improving inter-Korean relations following the Pyongyang summit. (Kang Mi Jin, *DailyNK*)
- A fortune-teller and her clients were recently arrested in Ryanggang Province, a source in the country has reported. The authorities appear to be strengthening their efforts to curb superstitious activities. (Mun Dong Hui, *DailyNK*)
- Musan Mine in North Hamgyong Province is North Korea's largest iron ore production site. As mineral exports have fallen in the wake of international sanctions, the mine has faced difficulties and local residents are experiencing extraordinary difficulties as a result, report sources in the country. (Ha Yoon Ah, *DailyNK*)
- The prospect of the United States providing North Korea with some sanctions relief for its initial steps toward denuclearization will be among the main issues discussed at a high-level meeting between Pyongyang and Washington next week. (Kim Bo-eun, *The Korea Times*)
- As the United States and North Korea prepare for another round of high-level talks this week, Pyongyang's increasingly heated rhetoric has analysts worried that the stalemate between the two sides could lead to a breakdown in negotiations. (Joshua Berlinger, CNN)
- North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un has received Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel with "magnificent" welcoming events, North Korea's state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported Monday, with Kim repeatedly stressing "the strategic and comradely friendship with Cuba." (Jung Da-min, *The Korea Times*)
- TENSIONS between North Korea and the US have dramatically risen ahead of high-level talks with Pyongyang's increasingly heated rhetoric sparking the threat of a major breakdown in negotiations. (Simon Osborne, *Daily Express*)
- North Korea seems to have continued uranium mining operations even during denuclearization talks with South Korea and the U.S., the website 38 North at Johns Hopkins University said on Friday. (Lee Kil-seong and Jun Hyun-suk, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- North Korea is rejecting the U.S. demand for a nuclear list, by saying, "It is no different from request for a list of places as targets that you will launch attack at," Seoul National University emeritus professor Yoon Young-kwan said. (Suk-Ho Shin, *The Dong-A Ilbo*)

In South Korea

- The nation's financial authorities and commercial banks are joining forces to improve their anti-money laundering system in order to avoid becoming a target of U.S. "secondary boycott" sanctions. (Jhoo Dong-chan, *The Korea Times*)
- The living conditions of North Koreans have deteriorated since the isolated state allocated huge sums of money to developing nuclear weapons and testing long-range missiles, prompting unprecedented U.S. sanctions. (Kim Myong-song, *The Chosun Ilbo*)

- South Korean President Moon Jae-in says he is "worried" his next summit with Kim Jong Un might not take place on a dormant volcanic mountain because of a lack of infrastructure, according to a local press report. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- President Moon Jae-in said a second summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, if it happens, will "hugely" advance denuclearization talks. (Kim Yoo-chul, *The Korea Times*)
- South Korean Ambassador Woo Yoon-keun told reporters that Russia and North Korea do not appear to have reached an agreement on Kim's visit yet but the most likely time seems to be this month in consideration of several circumstances. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea and the United States resumed their combined marine drills Monday for the first time since they were suspended in June to support diplomacy with North Korea over its denuclearization. (*Yonhap*)
- The United States and South Korea have resumed some military exercises just days ahead of a high-profile meeting focused on denuclearisation between US secretary of state Mike Pompeo and North Korean officials. (Benjamin Haas, *The Guardian*)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- South and North Korea are launching a joint bid to host the Olympic Games. Delegations from Seoul and Pyeongyang met at the joint liaison office in North Korea's border town of Kaesong on Friday for talks, with vice sports ministers leading the delegations. (*Arirang News*)
- Hyundai Group, a South Korean conglomerate, said Monday it will hold a ceremony at a scenic North Korean mountain resort this month to mark the 20th anniversary of a long-stalled inter-Korean tour program. (*Yonhap*)
- South and North Korea raised yellow flags at 11 guard posts each along their heavily fortified border on Sunday in a first step toward dismantling the posts under a military agreement reached as part of September's summit. (Park Sae-jin, *Aju Business Daily*)
- The two Koreas will hold talks over joint efforts to fight contagious diseases and other forms of health cooperation at their liaison office in North Korea's border city of Kaesong this week, Seoul's unification ministry said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- The two Koreas began a joint survey of a waterway on Monday to examine possible use of the estuaries of the Han and Imjin rivers. It is the first joint survey of this area in 65 years since North Korea signed an armistice with the U.S. and China for the 1950-53 Korean War. (Kim Bo-eun, *The Korea Times*)

International

- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel — both hoping to get out from under U.S. economic sanctions — have agreed to expand and strengthen their strategic relations, North Korea's state media reported Monday. (AP)

- U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Harry Harris met the leader of a minor liberal party Monday, and reaffirmed that the allies should share a common voice on the North Korea denuclearization issue. (Park Ji-won, *The Korea Times*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo says he is resuming denuclearization talks with North Korea this week in New York, meeting with Pyongyang's second in command, Kim Yong-chol. (*VOA News*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Sunday he will meet this week in New York with North Korea's number two to discuss denuclearization and a possible second summit between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Friday (local time) that he will meet with his North Korean counterpart next week to continue talks on the denuclearization of the regime. Observers speculate that the high-level meeting will be held around Wednesday and Thursday in New York. (*The Dong-A Ilbo*)

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Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821211425/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-north-korea-issues-nuclear-threat-ahead-of-high-level-talks-with-us-moon-jae-in-worried-about-helipad-if-kim-jong-un-visits-south?e=%5BUNIQID%5D

Tuesday, November 6, 2018

North Korea Must Respect and Protect Women!; What Do North Korean Gymnastics Say About Kim Jong-un's Politics?

Top News

North Korea Must Respect and Protect Women! (*French Committee to Help North Korean Population*, 11/5/2018)

In North Korea

Artists of N. Korea, China hold joint performance in Pyongyang (*Yonhap*, 11/6/2018)
DPRK Notches Up the Warnings (*38 North*, 11/5/2018)
DPRK police officer punished for embezzlement (*Daily NK*, 11/6/2018)
How Kim Jong-un's first official portrait will bolster cult of personality (*The Telegraph*, 11/6/2018)
KCNA office in Pyongyang caught fire in August, sources report (*Daily NK*, 11/6/2018)
Kim Jong-un meets Cuban President Diaz-Canel in Pyongyang to boost economic ties (*The Telegraph*, 11/5/2018)
Kim Jong-un's historic trip to Seoul may be delayed until next year, as Pompeo meets senior North Korean official (*The Telegraph*, 11/6/2018)

N.K. leader meets Cuban president at his Pyongyang office (*Yonhap*, 11/6/2018)
North Korea's Kim Jong-un gets 'first official portrait' (*BBC News*, 11/6/2018)
North Korea's protocols for visiting dignitaries [PHOTOS] (*Korea Times*, 11/6/2018)
North Korea women's group leader visits Vietnam (*UPI*, 11/6/2018)
Protests arise as People's Committee reneges on housing promise (*Daily NK*, 11/6/2018)
Pyongyang bolsters old alliances (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/6/2018)
Report: Solar-powered lamps popular with North Koreans (*UPI*, 11/5/2018)
Toward a Ban on Deployment and Production of Kim's Missiles (*38 North*, 11/5/2018)What Do North Korean Gymnastics Say About Kim Jong-un's Politics? (*New York Times*, 11/6/2018)

In South Korea
Banks play down plans to cooperate with North (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/5/2018)
LKP rips into Im over border trip (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/6/2018)
Moon asks Assembly to prepare welcome for Kim Jong-un (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/5/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship
Group has many plans for resort (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/5/2018)
Hyundai Group will celebrate on Mt. Kumgang (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/5/2018)
(LEAD) Koreas, UN Command agree to draft 'rules of interaction' for JSA guard duty (*Yonhap*, 11/6/2018)
Koreas start joint survey of border rivers (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/5/2018)
S. Korea mulls approving trip by N. Koreans to local peace event (*Yonhap*, 11/6/2018)
There's something about Ri (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/5/2018)
U.N. Command in Korea agrees to 'rules' at border between North, South (*UPI*, 11/6/2018)

International
Abe and Mike Pence may meet next week to discuss North Korea: Japanese government sources (*Japan Times*, 11/6/2018)
(LEAD) Allies expected to open 'working group' after New York talks with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 11/6/2018)
Pompeo meets Kim Yong-chol on Thursday (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/6/2018)
Pompeo to meet North Korean official in New York on Thursday (*Reuters*, 11/5/2018)
Pompeo to meet with NK counterpart Thursday in New York (*Associated Press*, 11/5/2018)
Pompeo to Meet with Top N. Korean Thursday in New York (VOA, 11/6/2018)
U.S. backs disarmament steps along Korean demilitarized zone: general (*Reuters*, 11/5/2018)
U.S.-North Korea talks could affect U.S. military posture in Korea: Dunford (*Reuters*, 11/5/2018
U.S., North Korea Toughen Stance Ahead of Nuclear Talks (*Wall Street Journal*, 11/6/2018)
U.S., South Korea marines hold small-scale exercise ahead of North Korea talks (*Reuters*, 11/4/2018)
Warmbiers' suit against North Korea begins next month (*Korea Times*, 11/6/2018)

Top News

- The French Committee to Help North Korean Population published a statement via HRNK regarding the need to protect human rights and women's rights in North Korea. Below is an

excerpt from the statement: Obsessed exclusively with the nuclear question, diplomats and political leaders of the civilized world apparently no longer care to address the numerous and constant human rights violations in North Korea, though North Korea has the worst human rights record since the fall of the Khmer Rouge. (*French Committee to Help North Korean Population*)

In North Korea

- Artists of North Korea and China held a joint performance at the Mansudae Art Theatre in Pyongyang, according to the North's media Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- As a means of escalating the profile of its criticisms while still keeping them from crossing the line into a formal, official complaint, Pyongyang chose to issue a "commentary" on November 2 by Kwon Jong Gun, director of the Foreign Ministry's Institute for American Studies (IFAS). (Robert Carlin, *38 North*)
- A North Korean police officer has been stripped of his duties after it was determined that he stole money that a defector living in South Korea had sent to their family in North Korea, sources reported on October 30. (Kim Yoo Jin, *Daily NK*)
- Kim Jong-un has elevated himself to parity with North Korea's previous dictators with the unveiling in Pyongyang of the first larger-than-life portrait of the "Young General" beaming at his subjects. (Julian Ryall, *The Telegraph*)
- A Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) building located in Pyongyang caught fire in mid-August, multiple sources in North Korea have reported. (Kim Song Il, *Daily NK*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un welcomed Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel to Pyongyang on Sunday. (*The Telegraph*)
- Km Jong-un's much anticipated trip to Seoul may be delayed until early next year, Moon Jae-in, the South Korean president, told parliamentary leaders on Monday. (Nicola Smith, *The Telegraph*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un held talks with Cuba's president at his Pyongyang office on ways to strengthen cooperation between the two sides, the North's state news agency reported Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- While his predecessors' portraits are all across the country, Kim Jong-un has long been styled as a successor rather than a leader in his own right. (*BBC News)*
- North Korea has a set of protocols for visiting heads of state, shown during President Moon Jae-in's visit to the capital Pyongyang and repeated for Cuba's President Miguel Diaz-Canel, who visited this week for the first summit between the countries in 32 years. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)
- The head of a North Korean women's union visited Vietnam and signaled interest in the country's economic reforms, according to Vietnamese state media. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- Hyesan's skyline continues to change with the rise of new apartments that are rapidly replacing older homes. Local residents have been busy moving into these newly built apartments as the winter season approaches. (Kim Yoo Jin, *Daily NK*)
- Ahead of high-level talks between North Korea and the United States in New York this week, Pyongyang has been busy strengthening ties with friendly countries, including China, Russia and Cuba. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

- Solar-powered lamps of South Korean origin are in popular demand among North Korean traders visiting the Chinese border city of Dandong, according to a South Korean press report. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- By suspending test-launches of missiles before completing the development of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), Kim Jong Un opened the door to a summit meeting with President Donald Trump. (Leon V. Sigal, 38 North)
- For North Korea experts, virtually every detail in the authoritarian state is a potential window into the political priorities of its elusive leader, Kim Jong-un. (Mikes Ives, *The New York Times*)

In South Korea

- South Korean banks are taking a step back from efforts to cooperate with North Korea after phone calls in September from the U.S. Treasury Department caused panic in the financial sector. (Kim Tae-yun, Jeong Yong-hwan, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Im Jong-seok, President Moon Jae-in's chief of staff, was criticized by the opposition during a parliamentary audit of the Blue House on Tuesday for his recent trip to a military installation to monitor a landmine removal operation last month. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Monday he was preparing to invite North Korean leader Kim Jong-un to Seoul and hopes he will come by the end of this year at a meeting with floor leaders of five political parties at the Blue House. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- A Seoul-based pro-unification civic group led by the youngest son of former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, whose engagement of Pyongyang won him the Nobel Peace Prize in 2000, gathered with North Korean officials over the past weekend at the Mount Kumgang resort to mark the group's 20th birthday. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Hyundai Group said Monday it will hold a ceremony to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the launch of tours to Mount Kumgang, the scenic resort mountain in North Korea, as prospects for the restarting of those tours rise. (Kim Jee-hee, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The Koreas and the U.S.-led U.N. Command (UNC) agreed Tuesday to draw up joint "rules of interaction" governing their guard duty in a disarmed Joint Security Area (JSA) in the Demilitarized Zone, Seoul's defense ministry said. (*Yonhap*)
- Both Koreas launched a team of military officials and waterway experts on Monday to survey the estuaries of the Han and Imjin rivers along the west coast in hopes of using the area for future projects. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The South Korean government is considering approving a trip by a North Korean delegation to an international peace and prosperity event to be held in the South this month, the unification ministry said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)

- The provocative remarks made by a senior North Korean official over lunch in Pyongyang last month continue to stir controversy in South Korea. (Chun Young-gi, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The United Nations Command on the Korean Peninsula met with military officials of the North and South on Tuesday and agreed to create a "rules of interaction" for the Joint Security Area in the demilitarized zone. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

International

- Japan and the United States are planning a meeting between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Vice President Mike Pence in Tokyo on Nov. 13 to discuss cooperation toward North Korea's denuclearization, Japanese government sources said Tuesday. (Kyodo, Reuters, *Japan Times*)
- South Korea's top envoy on the denuclearization of North Korea will likely travel to the United States soon after its high-level talks with North Korea in New York later this week, officials here said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*).
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will meet with Kim Yong-chol on Thursday in New York to work on North Korean denuclearization negotiations, the U.S. State Department announced Monday. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will hold a new round of talks with a senior North Korean official in New York on Thursday, hoping to open the way for a second summit of the two countries' leaders and make progress on denuclearization. (David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will be traveling to New York on Thursday to meet with his North Korean counterpart, Kim Yong Chol. (*Associated Press*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will meet with a senior North Korean official Thursday in New York City. (VOA)
- The outgoing commander of American troops in South Korea voiced support on Monday for controversial measures to reduce military activity along the border with North Korea, as U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo prepared for talks with North Korean officials on denuclearization and plans for a second leaders' summit. (Josh Smith, Joyce Lee, *Reuters*)
- The top U.S. military officer said on Monday that the United States would have to start making changes to its military posture on the Korean peninsula over time if talks with North Korea advance. (Idrees, Ali, Phil Stewart, *Reuters*)
- As the U.S. prepares to resume nuclear negotiations with North Korea this week, both sides are hardening their positions, dimming hopes for a compromise. (Andrew Jeong, *Wall Street Journal*)
- About 500 United States and South Korean marines began small-scale military drills on Monday, just days before U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is set to hold talks with North Korea on denuclearization and plans for a second summit of their leaders. (Josh Smith, Joyce Lee, *Reuters*)
- The parents of Otto Warmbier, a U.S. college student who died after he was reportedly mistreated in a North Korean labor camp, will be in court next month as the trial of their lawsuit against the North Korean regime begins. (Korea Times)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, Cassandra Wood, HRNK Research Interns

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821211439/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-north-korea-must-respect-and-protect-women-what-do-north-korean-gymnastics-say-about-kim-jong-uns-politics?e=%5BUNIQID%5D

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Wednesday, November 7, 2018

Pompeo's meeting with North Korean counterpart called off at last minute; N.K. human rights issues will not be disregarded: HRC head

In North Korea
Kim Jong-un Fears List of Nuclear Assets Could Spark U.S. Attack (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 11/07/2018)
N.K. human rights issues will not be disregarded: HRC head (*Yonhap*, 11/07/2018)
N.K. leader sees off Cuban president after 3-day visit (*Yonhap*, 11/07/2018)
N.Korean Crime Rackets Try to Bring in Hard Currency (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 11/07/2018)
N. Korea invites foreigners to invest in large-scale water park at Mount Kumgang (*Yonhap*, 11/07/2018)
N. Korea preparing to establish agency charged with opening up to outside world: lawmaker (*Yonhap*, 11/07/2018)
N. Korea promotes inter-Korean summit symbols among foreign tourists (*Yonhap*, 11/07/2018)
N. Korean leader's first painted portrait displayed at airport (*Yonhap*, 11/07/2018)
North Korean authorities hire more informants to clamp down on dissent (*DailyNK*, 11/07/2018)
North Korean hacker group infiltrates popular South Korean security program (*DailyNK*, 11/07/2018)
North Korean leader watches 'Mass Games' with Cuban President (*The Korea Times*, 11/07/2018)
North Koreans Shun Government Cabbage During Kimchi Season (*Radio Free Asia*, 11/06/2018)

In South Korea
(2nd LD) S. Korea: N.K.-U.S. dialogue to continue despite delay in New York talks (*Yonhap*, 11/07/2018)
'Peace of Korean Peninsula will lead prosperity of Asia' (*The Korea Times*, 11/07/2018)
Cancellation of talks takes fizz out of markets (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/07/2018)
Kwon takes on northern economic cooperation committee (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/07/2018)
Moon asks floor leaders to release a statement welcoming Kim's visit (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, 11/06/2018)
N. Korean pine mushrooms safe to eat, presidential office says (*Yonhap*, 11/07/2018)
Paju seeking to open NK restaurant branch (*Yonhap*, 11/07/2018)
S. Korea biz lobby launches committee for inter-Korean econ ties (*Yonhap*, 11/07/2018)
S. Korea informed early of U.S. decision to delay talks with N. Korea: Cheong Wa Dae (*Yonhap*, 11/07/2018)

South Korean politicians divided over North Korea human rights (UPI, 11/07/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship

(3rd LD) Koreas to exchange info on contagious diseases in pilot program (*Yonhap*, 11/07/2018)
350 billion won earmarked for North's rails, roads (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/07/2018)
Bigwigs from North invited South (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/07/2018)
Koreas discuss expanding cooperation on health issues (*Yonhap*, 11/07/2018)
Ministry says no plan for talks with NK officials to visit next week (*Yonhap*, 11/07/2018)
Stop speeding inter-Korean talks (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/07/2018)

International

'Unpredictable US diplomacy makes NK denuclearization not feasible' (*The Korea Times*, 11/07/2018)
Asian nations vow to support peace in Korea (*The Korea Times*, 11/07/2018)
Chinese boat smuggling North Korean goods stopped by Chinese authorities (*DailyNK*, 11/07/2018)
High-level US-North Korea meeting postponed without reason (CNN, 11/07/2018)
Human Rights Watch executive director urges pressure on North Korean human rights, criticizes 'one-dimensional approach' (*DailyNK*, 11/07/2018)
Kremlin hopes N. Korean leader will visit Russia next year (*Yonhap*, 11/07/2018)
Meeting Between Top US Diplomat, N. Korean Official Postponed (VOA *News*, 11/07/2018)
Mike Pompeo's meeting with North Korean official postponed (UPI, 11/07/2018)
Pompeo delays talks set this week with senior North Koreans (*The Korea Times*, 11/07/2018)
Pompeo's meeting with Kim Yong-chol canceled abruptly (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/07/2018)
Pompeo's meeting with North Korean counterpart called off at last minute (*The Washington Post*, 11/07/2018)
Talks between Pompeo and N. Korean official delayed: Yonhap (*Aju Business Daily*, 11/07/2018)
Tokyo Olympics minister shows knack for giving baffling replies (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 11/07/2018)
Trump's North Korea diplomacy quietly stalls (*The Washington Post*, 11/07/2018)
U.S. Military Chief Hints at Reduced Role for USFK (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 11/07/2018)
US abruptly postpones top-level N.Korea talks (ABS-CBN *News*, 11/07/2018)
UN Mulls Taking N.Korea to Court Over Rights Abuses (*The Chosun Ilbo*, 11/07/2018)

In North Korea

- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un told President Moon Jae-in during a summit that submitting an inventory of his country's nuclear arsenal and facilities to the U.S. could spark an attack, national security adviser Chung Eui-yong said Tuesday. (Kim Myong-song and Ahn Jun-yong, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- The head of South Korea's human rights watchdog said Wednesday she will never leave North Korean human rights issues unattended, adding that a foundation handling them should be launched as early as possible. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has seen off Cuban President Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez after his three-day visit to Pyongyang, the communist state's state media reported Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)

- North Korea is resorting to computer hacking, trade in protected animals and other organized crime to earn foreign currency. The hackers demanded 20 bitcoins then valued at around US$120,000 per computer, but the company says it refused. (Yoon Hyung-jun, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- The website of the North's Kumgangsan International Travel Company posted an investment guide on Wednesday, saying it will build the so-called Kumgangsan Swimming Complex for tourists on a 200,000-square-meter site in Onjong-ri of Kangwon Province's Kosong County. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea is preparing to launch a government agency charged with pushing for the opening up of the reclusive communist nation to the outside world, a South Korean lawmaker said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea anxious to jack up its tourism revenue appears to be aggressively promoting the symbols of inter-Korean summit talks, such as Pyongyang cold noodles, the border peace village of Panmunjom and Mount Paekdu, to potential foreign tourists. (*Yonhap*)
- What appears to be the first official portrait of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un appeared in the North earlier this week in time for the visit of Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel, British broadcaster BBC reported Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- The North Korean authorities have recently increased the number of secret informants in North Korean cities straddling the Sino-DPRK border as part of efforts to prevent further defections, sources in the country say. (Lee Sang Yong, *DailyNK*)
- A hacker group likely supported by North Korea has launched an advanced persistent threat (APT) attack by inserting malicious code in a popular South Korean security program. (Mun Dong Hui, *DailyNK*)
- Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel watched a massive performance known as the 'Mass Games' alongside North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Pyongyang, state media reported on Tuesday (November 6). (*Reuters*)
- With kimchi-making season in full swing, North Koreans dissatisfied with the quality of napa cabbages grown in state-run farms are reportedly looking to privately grown alternatives for the fermented staple of Korean cuisine. (Hyemin Son, *Radio Free Asia*)

In South Korea

- South Korean officials remained relatively optimistic Wednesday about denuclearization talks between North Korea and the United States in spite of the expected cancellation of their New York meeting this week. (Lee Chi-dong, *Yonhap*)
- Chairman Seung Myung-ho of The Korea Times and Hankook Ilbo said at the KOR-ASIA Forum 2018 on Wednesday that the Korean Peninsula would become "the hub of Asia" when peace is achieved, after the current historical inflection point where there are conflicts on its path to denuclearization and peace. (Jung Da-min, *The Korea Times*)
- Korean shares ended lower Wednesday as U.S. midterm election results rolled in and the postponement of U.S.-North Korea talks increased investor concerns. The Korean won appreciated against the U.S. dollar. (Chae Yun-hwan, *Yonhap*)

- Kwon Goo-hoon, the new head of the presidential committee tasked with expanding economic cooperation with northern states - North Korea in particular - said he will take advantage of his experience at Goldman Sachs and the International Monetary Fund to lead the committee. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Meeting the leaders of the five political parties in three months, President Moon said he would not rush them into ratifying the Panmunjom Declaration but asked them to release a statement, welcoming North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's visit to South Korea instead. (Sang-Jun Han, *The Dong-A Ilbo*)
- South Korea's presidential office said Wednesday it has tested the radiation level of the pine mushrooms sent by North Korea and confirmed they are safe to eat before giving them as gifts to separated families. (*Yonhap*)
- The South Korean border city of Paju said Wednesday it is seeking to open the first branch of Pyongyang's famous cold noodles restaurant Okryukwan in the city. To that end, the city, just north of Seoul, said it has requested the Gyeonggi provincial government, which has jurisdiction over it, to provide full support. (*Yonhap*)
- The Federation of Korean Industries (FKI) has launched a special committee to promote inter-Korean exchanges as Seoul seeks economic ties with Pyongyang after three summits between their leaders this year, the business lobby said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea said Wednesday it received a prior notification from the United States on its plan to put off high-level talks with North Korea in New York this week. Washington informed Seoul of the decision before a related announcement by the State Department, according to senior presidential press secretary Yoon Young-chan. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean politicians disagree on a solution to North Korea human rights abuses that range from summary execution to rape, torture and forced labor, and members of the progressive ruling party say engagement will improve conditions in the country. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- South and North Korea agreed on Wednesday to launch a pilot program within this year to exchange information on contagious diseases as they move to expand cooperation in the health sector. (*Yonhap*)
- Seoul plans to spend more than 350 billion won ($312.5 million) on modernizing North Korean roads and railways next year using South Korean taxpayers' money, a local opposition lawmaker exclusively told the JoongAng Ilbo Wednesday. (Yoo Sung-woon, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- A high-level North Korean delegation might visit Goyang, Gyeonggi next week to attend an international forum hosted by a local civic group and the Gyeonggi provincial government office, which would mark the first time since the PyeongChang Winter Olympics in February that a high-level official from Pyongyang steps on South Korean soil aside from in the truce village of Panmunjom. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South and North Korea held talks Wednesday to discuss ways to jointly fight contagious diseases and expand cooperation on health-related matters. This was the first inter-Korean

talks related to health issues in 11 years. The two Koreas previously held similar talks on December 2007. (Yonhap)

- South Korea's unification ministry said Wednesday there's no plan yet for an official meeting with two senior North Korean officials visiting here next week. (Yonhap)
- Most serious of all, if South Korea speeds up its access to the North sympathizing with the North's position, the risk of weakening the South-U.S. alliance and entangling South Korea in the North's People's Liberation Front strategy will loom large. When the South Korea-U.S. alliance falls apart, the process of communizing the whole Korean Peninsula under nuclear-armed North Korea will start with the approval of communist China. (Park Sung Soo, Korea JoongAng Daily)

International

- The denuclearization of North Korea is unlikely to be realized in the near future because of the "low trust" in U.S. diplomacy that changes from "one day to another" according to a Russian security expert, Wednesday. (Yi Whan-woo, The Korea Times)
- Former and current leaders of Asian nations pledged their support for a process to bring peace to the Korean Peninsula and expressed hopes for greater economic cooperation at The KOR-ASIA Forum held in Seoul, Wednesday. (Kim Bo-eun, The Korea Times)
- A Chinese smuggling ship was recently boarded by Chinese authorities as it was heading back to China after picking up goods banned under international sanctions in Sinuiju, North Pyongan Province. (Kim Song Il, DailyNK)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's Thursday meeting with a key aide to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has been postponed, the State Department said, a potential setback in the seemingly stalled talks between Washington and Pyongyang. (Michelle Kosinski, Elise Labott and Joshua Berlinger, CNN)
- On November 1, Human Rights Watch (HRW),an international organization tracking human rights violations in over 90 countries, hosted a press conference at the Korea Press Center in Seoul to discuss its highly critical report on sexual violence against women in North Korea. (Brian Boyle, DailyNK)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un is likely to visit Russia next year, a Russian presidential aide said Wednesday, which is later than had been expected. "I hope that his visit will be possible next year," Russian presidential aide Yury Ushakov was quoted as saying by Russian news agency Itar-Tass. (Yonhap)
- The State Department issued a statement early Wednesday morning saying the meeting "will now take place at a later date. We will reconvene when our respective schedules permit." The statement did not give a reason why the meeting was called off. (VOA News)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's meeting with his North Korean counterpart, scheduled for Thursday in New York, has been postponed, the State Department said Wednesday. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- A meeting between U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and North Korean officials set for Thursday in New York has been postponed and will be rescheduled "when our respective schedules permit," the U.S. State Department said on Wednesday. (Reuters)

- A day after announcing that U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and a top North Korean official would hold talks in New York this week, the U.S. Department of State abruptly said Wednesday the meeting has been postponed to an unspecified later date. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's planned meeting with his North Korean counterpart in New York has been called off at the last minute, the State Department announced Wednesday, without giving any explanation or new date. (Simon Denyer, *The Washington Post*)
- This week's planned meeting between U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and his North Korean counterpart has been postponed to a later date, the State Department announced. (Lim Chang-won, *Aju Business Daily*)
- At a news conference on Nov. 6, Sakurada was asked about a media report that said Japan was set to allow North Korea's sports minister to attend an international Olympic meeting in Tokyo on Nov. 28-29 despite the entry ban on North Koreans. "I am not aware of (the report) at all, and I don't know," Sakurada, 68, said. (Takahiro Okubo, *The Asahi Shimbun*)
- Rapprochement with North Korea has been perhaps the biggest foreign-policy achievement of President Trump's tenure. But a number of quiet developments over the past few days suggest that there are major problems in the diplomatic process. Indeed, the United States and North Korea may have grown further apart since Trump's historic summit with Kim Jong Un on June 12. (Adam Taylor, *The Washington Post*)
- The top U.S. military officer on Monday hinted that the U.S. Forces Korea could reduce its role if diplomatic efforts to engage North Korea make progress. "The more successful we are in the diplomatic track, the more uncomfortable we will be in the military space," Reuters quoted Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman Gen. Joseph Dunford as telling a forum at Duke University. (Yu Yong-weon and Cho Yi-jun, *The Chosun Ilbo*)
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Tuesday abruptly shelved plans to meet a top North Korean official in New York, the latest twist in diplomacy to secure a potentially landmark peace deal. (Shaun Tandon, *Agence France-Presse*)
- The UN General Assembly is considering taking North Korea to the International Criminal Court for egregious human rights abuses, Voice of America reported Monday. (O Youn-hee and Kim Myong-song, *The Chosun Ilbo*)

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Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821211907/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-pompeos-meeting-with-north-korean-counterpart-called-off-at-last-minute-nk-human-rights-issues-will-not-be-disregarded-hrc-head

Thursday, November 8, 2018

North Korean worker seeks Dutch shipbuilder's prosecution over labor abuses; Woman Risks Everything to Bring Jesus to North Korea

Top News:

Secure Freedom Radio with Frank Gaffney, Episode 514 (*Center for Security Policy*, 11/7/2018)

In North Korea

As North Korea ponders economic reform, its top diplomat to visit Vietnam (*Reuters*, 11/7/2018)
Kim Jong Un just unveiled a new portrait of himself. Here's what it tells us about him. (*Washington Post*, 11/8/2018)
Mass mobilization order to collect mushrooms, nuts and berries from mountains (*Daily NK*, 11/8/2018)
N. Korea displays 800 IT achievements at Pyongyang exhibition (*Yonhap*, 11/8/2018)
North Korea could be 'moving forward' with nuclear program, analysts say (UPI, 11/7/2018)
North Korea requires assistance to improve agricultural infrastructure (*Daily NK*, 11/8/2018)
North Korea woos investors with plans for hotel, water park (UPI, 11/7/2018)
North Korean Supreme Guard Command Officer Purged for Listening to RFA (*Radio Free Asia*, 11/7/2018)
Woman Risks Everything to Bring Jesus to North Korea (*Faithwire*, 11/2/2018)

In South Korea

Gov't drew up W350 bil. for inter-Korean railway, road project (*Korea Times*, 11/8/2018)
Hasty engagement (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/8/2018)
High-ranking defector cancels event appearance over 'threatening letter' (*Korea Times*, 11/8/2018)
It's horse, then cart (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/8/2018)
(LEAD) Seoul still preparing to hold inter-Korean rail connection ceremony: official (*Yonhap*, 11/8/2018)
Pro-North Korea groups welcome Kim Jong Un's visit to Seoul (*UPI*, 11/8/2018)
South Korea declares Kim Jong-un's mushrooms safe to eat (*The Telegraph*, 11/8/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship

Kim Jong Un slow walks nuke talks, woos SKorean investors (*Associated Press*, 11/7/2018)
'Naengmyeon' vs. 'Naengjeon' (*Korea Times*, 11/82/2018)
Nat'l Theater plans to invite N. Korean art troupe to South Korea (*Yonhap*, 11/8/2018)
Two Koreas agree to disease-fighting plan (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/8/2018)
Will BTS perform in Pyongyang? (*Korea Times*, 11/8/2018)

International

1st Korea-Russia forum in Pohang (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/8/2018)
(2nd LD) N. Korea delayed New York talks with U.S.: S. Korean minister (*Yonhap*, 11/8/2018)
China makes trade zone at North Korea border 'national priority' (UPI, 11/7/2018)
Diplomacy Appears Stalled With North Korea, Despite Trump's Declarations (*New York Times*, 11/7/2018)

Exclusive: North Korean worker seeks Dutch shipbuilder's prosecution over labor abuses (*Reuters*, 11/8/2018)
How to Structure Sanctions Relief in Any Future DPRK Deal (*38 North*, 11/7/2018)
Kang: North Korea called off meeting with U.S. due to 'tight schedule' (UPI, 11/8/2018)
Kremlin says North Korea's Kim could visit Russia next year (*Associated Press*, 11/7/2018)
Malaysian Judge: Kim Jong Nam Murder Trial to Resume in January (*Radio Free Asia*, 11/7/2018)
Mike Pompeo abruptly cancels meeting with North Korea as negotiations stall (*The Telegraph*, 11/7/2018)
North Korea 'really angry' at US as tensions rise (CNN, 11/7/2018)
North Korean files slavery complaint in Netherlands (*Associated Press*, 11/8/2018)
North Korean labourer sues European company for 'profiting from his slavery' (*The Independent*, 11/8/2018)
Pence to visit Japan on start of Asian tour next week (*Associated Press*, 11/8/2018)
Pompeo meeting with North Korean envoy delayed (*Associated Press*, 11/7/2018)
Russia asks U.N. Security Council to discuss North Korea sanctions Thursday (*Reuters*, 11/7/2018)
Seoul: N. Korea Asked for Postponement of Meeting With Pompeo (VOA, 11/8/2018)
South Korean minister: US says N. Korea canceled meeting (*Associated Press*, 11/8/2018)
Trump expects Kim summit early next year despite Pompeo postponement (*Reuters*, 11/7/2018)
Trump expects to meet Kim Jong-un next year as nuclear talks stall (*The Guardian*, 11/7/2018)
Trump insists all is well with Kim (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/8/2018)
Trump: 'No Rush' to Drop Sanctions Against North Korea (VOA, 11/7/2018)
Trump says he's 'in no rush' after NKorea talks postponed (*Associated Press*, 11/7/2018)
U.S. 'confident' about North Korea talks despite meeting delay (*Reuters*, 11/7/2018)
US to Southeast Asian Bloc: Continue Maximum Pressure Campaign Against North Korea (VOA, 11/7/2018)

Top News:

- HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu was interviewed on Secure Freedom Radio with Frank Gaffney regarding the North Korean denuclearization process and negotiations, the backseat that human rights issues have taken in the negotiations, the potential visit of the Pope to North Korea. The following is a quote from the interview: "As a human rights defender, I have seen and I have spoken about this in the press, and I have written about this: human rights being sacrificed on the altar of this so-called reconciliation process. Human rights organizations are under pressure, North Korean human rights defenders in South Korea are also under pressure." (Frank Gaffney, Greg Scarlatoiu, *Center for Security Policy*)

In North Korea

- North Korea's foreign minister, Ri Yong Ho, will visit Vietnam this month to learn about its model of economic reform, a diplomatic source and media reported on Wednesday. (James Pearson, Hayoung Choi, *Reuters*)
- Kim Jong Un came to power in 2011, after the death of his father Kim Jong Il, but he did not have an official portrait until this week. In the painting, unveiled on state television during a

visit by the Cuban president, Kim is shown smiling, wearing black-rimmed glasses and a Western-style suit and tie. (Amanda Erickson, *Washington Post*)

- The mobilization order was handed down in early October as a "task of the Party" and affects those living in farming communities close to hills and all those near mountainous regions throughout the country. (Jo Hyon, *Daily NK*)
- North Korea opened a national exhibition of information communication technology in Pyongyang on Wednesday, displaying the country's latest achievements in high-tech fields, the North's media reported. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea could be quietly moving forward with its nuclear weapons program while stalling talks on denuclearization -- as differences between the United States and South Korea raise new concerns, analysts tell UPI. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- The expected harvest from the Paeksong Farm in Pyongsog, a major barley producing region, is only expected to reach half of the state-set agricultural yields. Although the state-set yields are always higher than the actual harvest, the state still takes away its set amount as the compulsory recipient of 30% of whatever is harvested. (Jo Hyon, *Daily NK*)
- North Korea is inviting outside investors with deep pockets to reconsider the Mount Kumgang Tourist Region, briefly popular with South Koreans before tours were abruptly suspended in 2008. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- An officer of North Korea's elite Supreme Guard Command (also known as Unit 963) was reportedly purged last month for having listened to an RFA broadcast. Sources say the officer, a member of the Command's signal corps, was caught listening to RFA while on patrol. He was discovered by another officer. (Hyemin Son, Leejin Jun, Eugene Whong, *Radio Free Asia*)
- Shortly after arriving in a Chinese border town, Jang-mi met and fell in love with her husband, who also was from North Korea. They had both also met and fell in love with Jesus. (*Faithwire*)

In South Korea

- The unification ministry set aside around 350 billion won ($315 million) to connect the rail and road networks of the two Koreas according to documents that were initially undisclosed. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- We are deeply concerned about the sizzling pace of inter-Korean economic cooperation ardently pursued by the Moon Jae-in administration despite a seeming deadlock in negotiations about the denuclearization of North Korea after the U.S. State Department announced the delay of the meeting between Mike Pompeo and Kim Yong-chol. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Thae Yong-ho, a high-ranking North Korean defector who has backed sanctions on North Korea, called off attending a public event early this week after receiving a threatening letter from an online community for progressive students. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)
- "Peace is the economy" is a defendable claim in every way, especially considering the geopolitical situation of South Korea. The North Korean nuclear risk affects our sovereign credit rating in a big way. (Yi Jung-jae, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

- South Korea will make preparations to hold a groundbreaking ceremony for the connection and the modernization of inter-Korean railways, as agreed earlier by the Koreas, regardless of the recent postponement of high-level talks between North Korea and the United States. (*Yonhap*)
- Thirteen pro-North Korea and progressive civic groups announced Wednesday that they have established a joint committee that will support Kim's visit to Seoul, Chosun Ilbo reported. (Wooyoung Lee, *UPI*)
- The South Korean president's office has declared that nearly 2 tonnes of prized pine mushrooms that were a gift from Kim Jong-un, the North Korean leader, are safe to consume after an opposition politician warned the mushrooms could be contaminated with radioactive fallout from the North's nuclear tests. (Julian Ryall, *The Telegraph*)

Inter-Korean Relationship

- A decade after the North-South experiment in cooperation on Kumgang ended in bitter failure, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in want to give it another try. (Eric Talmadge, *Associated Press*)
- Naengmyeon, already popular icy cold Korean noodle dish in the sizzling heat of summer, has sparked a craze anew in South Korea this autumn, thanks to an outspoken North Korean strongman, adding to the "naengjeon" or cold war on the Korean Peninsula. (Park Moo-jong, *Korea Times*)
- The National Theater of Korea (NTK) plans to invite a North Korean art troupe to a festival to mark the 70th anniversary of its opening in 2020, the theater's new head said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- Both Koreas agreed Wednesday to launch a pilot program by the end of this year to share information on contagious diseases. The agreement was reached during an inter-Korean health meeting at the joint liaison office in Kaesong, just north of the border that separates the two countries. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The party's Rep. Ahn Min-suk, who is chairman of the National Assembly's Culture, Sports, and Tourism Committee, said on Wednesday a special committee in the DPK had been commited to expanding inter-Korean exchanges in culture and sports. (Dong Sun-hwa, *Korea Times*)

International

- South Korean President Moon Jae-in emphasized trilateral cooperation between Seoul, Pyongyang and Moscow Thursday while giving a speech at a forum in Pohang, North Gyeongsang, describing the southeastern port city as a potential trade and tourism hub once an "era of peace" begins on the Korean Peninsula. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- North Korea called for the postponement of high-level talks with the United States in New York, Seoul's top diplomat said Thursday. Speaking at a National Assembly session, Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha cited consultations with Washington on the issue. (*Yonhap*)

- China is prioritizing a trade zone bordering North Korea in possible preparation for increased commerce between the two countries, according to a South Korean press report. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- The goal of a diplomatic meeting set for Thursday seemed simple: Nail down a plan for a second summit between President Trump and the North Korean leader, Kim Jong-un. (Edward Wong, *New York Times*)
- A North Korean laborer has filed a landmark criminal complaint against a Dutch shipbuilding company that allegedly profited from the abuse of workers in its supply chain in Poland and was aware of the "slave-like conditions", lawyers said on Thursday. (Kieran Guilbert, Magdalena Mis, Reuters)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will almost certainly seek sanctions relief in any future deal on denuclearization. It is important, therefore to consider how this relief should be structured to maximize US negotiating leverage and achieve a sustainable agreement. (Richard Nephew, *38 North*)
- South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-hwa said that North Korea asked to postpone the planned high-level talks between U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and his North Korean counterpart Kim Yong Chol because of a "tight schedule." (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- Russian President Vladimir Putin's foreign affairs adviser, Yuri Ushakov, said Wednesday that "I hope the visit could be possible next year." The announcement contrasted with earlier Kremlin statements that Kim was expected to visit Russia this fall. (*Associated Press*)
- The defense phase of the trial of two Asian women charged with murdering the half-brother of North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un at a Kuala Lumpur airport will start Jan. 7, a Malaysian judge ruled on Wednesday, allowing a defense attorney time to heal from surgery. (BenarNews, *Radio Free Asia*)
- A high-stakes meeting between Mike Pompeo, the US Secretary of State, and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's righthand man was shelved on Wednesday, marking a potential setback in nuclear disarmament talks. (Nicola Smith, *The Telegraph*)
- North Korea is getting increasingly angry at the US, as talks are deadlocked and tensions between the two countries are on the rise, a source familiar with the discussions told CNN. (Nicole Gaouette, Michelle Kosinski,Barbara Starr, CNN)
- A North Korean worker who claims he is a victim of modern slavery in a Polish shipyard has filed a criminal complaint against a Dutch shipbuilder that bought products from the Polish firm, an activist group said Thursday. (Mike Corder, *Associated Press*)
- The worker, who is remaining anonymous, was sent to Poland by the North Korean regime and is alleged to have worked 12 hour days for low wages in unsafe conditions, according to his volunteer legal team. (Jon Stone, *The Independent*)
- U.S. Vice President Mike Pence will visit Japan next week to discuss North Korea and other issues ahead of two key regional meetings. Suga said Pence's visit will be an "ideal opportunity" for the two sides to discuss North Korea, China and other regional issues and reaffirm their cooperation. (*Associated Press*)
- A meeting between U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and a senior North Korean envoy has been delayed, throwing stalemated diplomacy over the North's nuclear weapons into further uncertainty. (Kim Hyung-jin, *Associated Press*)

- Russia has asked the United Nations Security Council to discuss North Korea sanctions on Thursday, diplomats said, a move that comes after a planned meeting between top U.S. and North Korean officials in New York this week was postponed. (Michelle Nichols, Reuters)
- South Korea says North Korea has asked for a delay of high-level talks with the United States that were scheduled to take place Thursday in New York. (Nike Ching, VOA)
- South Korea's foreign minister said Thursday that U.S. officials told Seoul that it was North Korea that canceled nuclear talks this week between U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and a senior North Korean official. (Kim Tong-hyung, Associated Press)
- President Donald Trump said on Wednesday he expects to meet again with North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un early next year and that a meeting between U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and North Korean officials supposed to have taken place this week would be rescheduled. (Jeff Mason, David Brunnstrom, Reuters)
- Donald Trump has said he expects to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un for a second summit "sometime early next year" amid stalled negotiations over Pyongyang's nuclear program. (Benjamin Haas, The Guardian)
- U.S. President Donald Trump said Wednesday at a press conference in the White House following midterm elections that his second summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un would be held "sometime early next year." (Sarah Kim, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- President Donald Trump says he is in "no rush" to finalize a deal with North Korea and remove sanctions. "I would love to take the sanctions off, but they have to be responsive too. It's a two-way street," Trump said. (Nike Ching, VOA)
- President Donald Trump said Wednesday the U.S. is "in no rush" after talks between his top diplomat and a senior North Korean envoy were postponed, throwing stalled diplomacy over the North's nuclear weapons into further uncertainty. (Matthew Pennington, Associated Press)
- Top U.S. diplomat Mike Pompeo's meeting with North Korean officials was postponed over scheduling issues, and talks between the two countries remain in a good place, a State Department spokesman said on Wednesday. (Lesley Wroughton, Makini Brice, Reuters)
- The United States is rallying Southeast Asian countries to continue a maximum pressure campaign against North Korea, until the Korean Peninsula achieves complete denuclearization. (Nike Ching, VOA)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821212022/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-north-korean-worker-seeks-dutch-shipbuilders-prosecution-over-labor-abuses-woman-risks-everything-to-bring-jesus-to-north-korea

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Friday, November 9, 2018

North Korea's Sohae Satellite Launching Station: Low Level Activity Continues; Haley: North Korea Canceled High-Level Talks

In North Korea:
How should we understand North Korean market crackdowns? (*North Korean Economy Watch*, 11/8/2018)
Kim's wooing of investors and slow-walk on nukes bares rift (*The Washington Post*, 11/8/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korea, U.S. rescheduling high-level talks: Seoul's top diplomat (*Yonhap*, 11/9/2018)
No further dismantlement at N.K. missile site: 38 North (*Yonhap*, 11/9/2018)
N. Korean media condemn S. Korea-U.S. working group, joint military drill (*Yonhap*, 11/9/2018)
North Korean woman abducted by human traffickers while trying to defect (*Daily NK*, 11/9/2018)
North Korea promotes Im Chon Il to vice foreign minister (*NK News*, 11/9/2018)
North Korea's Sohae Satellite Launching Station: Low Level Activity Continues (*38 North*, 11/8/2018)
Pyongyang fumes over initiative (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/9/2018)
Rodong Sinmun says N. Korean economy stronger than sanctions (*Yonhap*, 11/9/2018)
Senior manager at Songjin Steel Complex banished to Musan Mine (*Daily NK*, 11/9/2018)
What to Make of the Latest US-North Korea Negotiation Road Bump? (*The Diplomat*, 11/9/2018)

In South Korea:
South Korea moves forward with railroad plans amid North's silence (UPI, 11/8/2018)
South Korean lawmaker proposes BTS to perform in Pyongyang (UPI, 11/9/2018)
Unification minister to visit US at critical time (*The Korea Times*, 11/9/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Approaching the Ri Son Kwon noodle controversy from the perspective of national reconciliation (*Daily NK*, 11/9/2018)

International:
Haley: North Korea Canceled High-Level Talks (VOA, 11/8/2018)
How the Army Could Destroy North Korea's Nuclear Weapons (*The National Interest*, 11/9/2018)
North Korean Restaurants in Russia Fail to Draw Diners (RFA, 11/8/2018)
North Korea postponed U.S. talks because 'they weren't ready': Haley (*Reuters*, 11/9/2018)
Senator Urges Trump to Ease Ban on Aid Workers Traveling to North Korea (*The New York Times*, 11/8/2018)
Third court delay for Singaporean director charged on North Korea sanctions (*NK News*, 11/9/2018)
UN exempts humanitarian items to North Korea from sanctions (UPI, 11/9/2018)
U.S. ambassador expects 'frank' exchanges in China dialogue on Friday (*Reuters*, 11/8/2018)
U.S. Ambassador Haley: Russia wants to lift bank restrictions on North Korea (*Reuters*, 11/8/2018)
US ambassador says North Korea canceled Pompeo talks (*The Washington Post*, 11/9/2018)

In North Korea:

- Daily NK reports (in Korean) that a “inspection unit against anti-socialist activities”, is active on Hyesan markets, inspecting goods and confiscating ones deemed either illegally smuggled in from China, or harmful for people’s health, such as narcotics. (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, *North Korean Economy Watch*)
- A decade after the North-South experiment in cooperation on Kumgang ended in bitter failure, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in want to give it another try. (Eric Talmadge, *AP*)
- North Korea and the United States are trying to set a new date for a meeting between their top officials, Seoul's foreign minister said Friday in response to skepticism about momentum in denuclearization talks. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's key missile site has not been dismantled further since August, a U.S. website monitoring the regime said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's external propaganda media on Friday lashed out at recent decisions by South Korea and the United States to launch a working group on the North's denuclearization and resume a joint marine drill. (*Yonhap*)
- A North Korean woman who attempted to defect has reportedly been abducted by a human trafficker. (Kim Song-il, *Daily NK*)
- North Korea recently promoted First European Department director general Im Chon Il to the position of Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, state media and the Russian Embassy in the DPRK reported this week. (Colin Zwirko, *NK News*)
- Commercial satellite imagery from October 31 indicates that North Korea has installed new equipment, possibly for ventilation, on the roof of the eastern-most fuel/oxidizer storage bunker at the Sohae Satellite Launching Station. (Jack Liu, Peter Makowsky, Irv Buck, *38 North*)
- North Korea lashed out at the United States and South Korea Friday for forming a working group on Pyongyang’s denuclearization, calling Washington “arrogant” and Seoul “disgraceful” in a report published by a state-run propaganda website aimed at foreign readers. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- North Korea's official newspaper on Friday urged its people to overcome outside pressure and sanctions with unity and self-reliance. (*Yonhap*)
- The head of engineering at Songjin Steel Complex in Kimchaek, North Hamgyong Province, has been stripped of his position and sent with his family to another region of the province after being accused of allowing the prestigious enterprise to fail to meet state-set production goals. (Ha Yoon-ah, *Daily NK*)
- As I arrived in South Korea for a short visit this week, I learned that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un’s point-man on negotiations with the United States, Kim Yong Chol, had decided not to go to New York, where he would have met U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. (Ankit Panda, *The Diplomat*)

In South Korea:

- South Korea's unification ministry said it has mapped out plans to renovate railroads in North Korea, despite a lack of response from the Kim Jong Un regime on moving forward on inter-Korea projects. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- A South Korean lawmaker of the major ruling Democratic Party of Korea has met mixed reactions to his plan to hold a BTS concert in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang next year after his radio interview on Wednesday. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon will visit the U.S. next week, to discuss inter-Korean affairs with key government officials and members of the Congress there. (Kim Bo-eun, *The Korea Times*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Remarks by Ri Son Kwon, chairman of North Korea's Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Country, about South Korea's top business executives consumption of cold noodles during an inter-Korean event in October has become a major controversy. (Thae Yong-ho, *Daily NK*)

International:

- U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley says it was North Korea that postponed this week's high-level talks with Washington. (Nike Ching, VOA)
- The Pentagon has just released a new manual that lays out how the United States might destroy North Korea's nukes. (Michael Peck, *The National Interest*)
- North Korean-themed restaurants in Vladivostok, Russia are facing financial difficulty recently as customers are staying away. (Jieun Kim, RFA)
- North Korea postponed talks with the United States on Thursday "because they weren't ready," U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley said as she urged Pyongyang to implement a June deal between the two countries. (Michelle Nichols, *Reuters*)
- A Democratic senator has urged President Trump to allow American humanitarian aid workers into North Korea, despite a recent ban on travel to what officials consider a hostile nuclear state but also one of the world's poorest nations. (Edward Wong, *The New York Times*)
- A company director charged by Singaporean authorities in July for supplying luxury goods worth approximately USD$6 million to North Korea had his trial hearing delayed for the third time in three months, it emerged on Thursday. (Chad O'Carroll, *NK News*)
- The United Nations has allowed shipment of humanitarian supplies to North Korea, including medical equipment, for a healthcare project. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- A "frank" exchange of views can be expected in top-level diplomatic and security talks between the United States and China on Friday, including on issues such as human rights and the South China Sea, the U.S. ambassador to China said. (David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)

- The U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley said on Thursday that Russia wants to lift banking restrictions on North Korea put in place to try to curb Pyongyang's nuclear program, but the United States would not let that happen. (Michelle Nichols, *Reuters*)
- U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley said Thursday that North Korea canceled this week's talks between U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and a senior North Korean official, but a meeting between the two nations' leaders is still on for after Jan. 1. (Edith M. Lederer, AP)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821212024/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsnorth-koreas-sohae-satellite-launching-station-low-level-activity-continues-haley-north-korea-canceled-high-level-talks

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Saturday, November 10, 2018

Humanitarian aid for North Korea roils UN Security council; US Remains Committed to N. Korea Sanctions

In North Korea:
Low-key North Korea activity at launchpad ongoing, analysts say (UPI, 11/09/2018)
North Korea's Punggye-ri Nuclear Test Site: Minor Cleanup Activity (*38 North*, 11/9/2018)

In South Korea:
Will BTS perform in Pyongyang? (*Korea Times*, 11/09/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) Koreas to hold second meeting of joint road research group Monday (*Yonhap*, 11/09/2018)
2 Koreas complete the disarming of 22 guard posts (*Associated Press*, 11/10/2018)
Koreas withdraw troops, firearms from dozens of border guard posts (*Yonhap*, 11/10/2018)

International:
Banned U.S. citizen says North Korea defectors fabricating stories (UPI, 11/9/2018)
Humanitarian aid for North Korea roils UN Security council (*Korea Herald*, 11/9/2018)
(LEAD) Pro-N. Korea newspaper says no talks necessary if U.S. sticks to status quo (*Yonhap*, 11/10/2018)
(LEAD) Top officials of US, China discuss North Korea (*Yonhap*, 11/10/2018)
N.Korean Laborer Sues Dutch Firm Over Slavery (*Chosun Ilbo*, 11/09/2018)
Unification minister to visit U.S. next week to discuss peninsula peace (*Yonhap*, 11/09/2018)
US Remains Committed to N. Korea Sanctions (VOA, 11/09/2018)

In North Korea:

- North Korea activity has not stopped at Sohae Satellite Launching Station, where the regime sent a long-range rocket into space in 2016. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Recent commercial satellite imagery of North Korea's Punggye-ri nuclear test site shows some partial site cleanup, possibly including reclamation and removal of wood from the buildings demolished last May as part of the site's closure. (38 North)

In South Korea:

- Will K-pop sensation BTS perform in North Korea next year? The ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) is trying to make it happen. (Dong Sun-hwa, Korea Times)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- South and North Korea agreed to hold a second meeting of their joint road research group on Monday in the North's border city of Kaesong, the Ministry of Unification said Friday. (Yonhap)
- The North and South Korean militaries completed withdrawing troops and firearms from 22 front-line guard posts on Saturday as they continue to implement a wide-ranging agreement reached in September to reduce tensions across the world's most fortified border, a South Korean Defense Ministry official said. (Kim Tong-Hyung, Associated Press)
- The two Koreas have withdrawn troops and firearms from dozens of their border guard posts (GP) as they are pushing for their complete demolition, a government source said Saturday. (Yonhap)

International:

- An American banned from South Korea in 2015 for praising the North Korea regime is stirring controversy again with her remarks about refugees who flee the country. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Controversy continues to escalate at the United Nations Security Council over humanitarian aid for North Korea, with member states divided over sanctions exemptions required to send relief materials to the country. (Yeo Jun-suk, Korea Herald)
- A pro-North Korean newspaper in Japan said Saturday that North Korea's talks with the United States will not be necessary if Washington does not intend to implement its June summit agreement but only seeks to stick to the status quo. (Yonhap)
- Top officials of the United States and China met in Washington Friday to discuss their bilateral relationship and efforts to rid North Korea of its nuclear weapons. (Yonhap)
- A North Korean laborer who worked in a shipyard in Poland for several years accuses a Dutch shipbuilding company of exploitation in "slave-like conditions." (Jung Ji-sup, Chosun

- Top officials of the United States and China met in Washington Friday to discuss their bilateral relationship and efforts to rid North Korea of its nuclear weapons. (Yonhap)
- South Korea's minister in charge of inter-Korean cooperation will visit the United States next week to discuss bringing permanent peace to the Korean Peninsula, his office said Friday. (Yonhap)
- U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley told reporters North Korea hasn't progressed enough on the denuclearization front to warrant lifting sanctions. (Steve Miller, VOA)

Prepared by Cassandra Wood, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821212111/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-humanitarian-aid-for-north-korea-roils-un-security-council-us-remains-committed-to-n-korea-sanctions

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Sunday, November 11, 2018

N. Korean media intensifies pressure on Seoul to drop out of new U.N. resolution; Pence repeats call for pressure on Pyongyang

In North Korea:
N. Korean media intensifies pressure on Seoul to drop out of new U.N. resolution (*Yonhap*, 11/11/2018)
N. Korean newspaper slams Japan for not acknowledging past wrongdoings (*Yonhap*, 11/11/2018)

In South Korea:
A North Korean defector's account of English speech contest (*The Korea Times*, 11/11/2018)
Life after Kim: inside the schools catering to North Korean defectors (*South China Morning Post*, 11/11/2018)
South Korea's rush to North Korea (*The Korea Herald*, 11/11/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Koreas begin destroying 20 front-line guard posts (*The Korea Herald*, 11/11/2018)
(LEAD) Cheong Wa Dae gifts N.K. tangerines in return for mushrooms (*Yonhap*, 11/11/2018)
Summit bears fruit as South Korea flies tangerines to North (*Reuters*, 11/11/2018)
Two Koreas withdraw from 22 DMZ guard posts (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/11/2018)

International:
Pence repeats call for pressure on Pyongyang (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/11/2018)
Stalled talks with North Korea indicate larger unravelling of progress (*The Hill*, 11/10/2018)

U.S. commander supports inter-Korean military deal on reducing tension (*Yonhap*, 11/11/2018)

In North Korea:

- Uriminzokkiri, the North's external propaganda website, on Sunday warned South Korea against its move to vote for a new human rights resolution at the United Nations. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's Rodong Sinmun lambasted Japan on Sunday for its "denial of past sins" committed against wartime forced labor victims. (*Yonhap*)

In South Korea:

- I got up as usual, I got dressed. Then I headed out to be an assistant at the second English speech contest hosted by the Korea Hana Foundation, the government agency that assists North Korean refugees after they enter South Korean society. (James Lee, *The Korea Times*)
- As a star student at Haankkum school, about an hour's drive north of Seoul, Kang will have fond memories when she graduates in the summer. (David Lee, *South Morning China Post*)
- A new type of "gold rush" of sorts is unfolding, as the latest detente with North Korea grabs the imagination of enterprising South Koreans eyeing fresh opportunities in the North. (Jung Min-kyung, *The Korea Herald*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The South and North Korean militaries began destroying 20 front-line guard posts on Sunday after withdrawing troops and firearms as they implemented a comprehensive agreement on reducing tensions on the tense border, Seoul's defense ministry said. (Ock Hyun-ju, *The Korea Herald*)
- Cheong Wa Dae sent a gift of 200 tons of tangerines to North Korea, in return for the North's mushrooms in September following the summit between the two leaders in the North's capital city of Pyongyang, the presidential office said Sunday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean military transport aircraft began a tangerine airlift to North Korea on Sunday, the first of a gift of 200 tons of the fruit from the southern island of Jeju, South Korea's presidential Blue House said. (Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- South and North Korea both withdrew troops and weapons from a total of 22 guard posts in the demilitarized zone (DMZ) on Saturday, fulfilling an inter-Korean military agreement reached last month. (Shim Kyu-seok, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

International:

- U.S. Vice President Mike Pence called on the international community to keep "the pressure campaign" on North Korea "until we achieve the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula." (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

- The cancelation of a highly anticipated meeting between Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and North Korean officials has experts worried the quest for Pyongyang's denuclearization is quietly unraveling. (Ellen Mitchell, *The Hill*)
- The commander of United States Forces Korea (USFK) said Sunday he supports an inter-Korean military agreement on reducing tension. (*Yonhap*)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821212335/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsn-korean-media-intensifies-pressure-on-seoul-to-drop-out-of-new-un-resolutionpence-repeats-call-for-pressure-on-pyongyang

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Monday, November 12, 2018

In North Korea, Missile Bases Suggest a Great Deception; North Korea 'ghost ships' turn up in record numbers near Japan

In North Korea:
Efforts ramp up to promote Kim Jong Un personality cult (*Daily NK*, 11/12/2018)
Images show N. Korea improving missile bases (CNN, 11/12/2018)
In North Korea, Missile Bases Suggest a Great Deception (*New York Times*, 11/12/2018)
Kim's 'Nuclear Minimalism' (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/12/2018)
National Geographic journeys 'Inside North Korea's Dynasty' (CNN, 11/11/2018)
North Korea Keeping Up Work on Missile Sites, Report Says (*Wall Street Journal*, 11/12/2018)
North Korea keeps undeclared missile bases up and running: U.S. think tank (*Reuters*, 11/12/2018)
North Korean military officers face economic hardship (*Daily NK*, 11/12/2018)
Options limited, North Korea lit by flashlights, creaky grid (*Associated Press*, 11/12/2018)
Rason Special Economic Zone sees production slowdown in wake of sanctions (*Daily NK*, 11/12/2018)
Tenants begin winterizing homes in new Hyesan apartment complex (*Daily NK*, 11/12/2018)
US analysts ID 13 secret North Korean missile sites: report (*Associated Press*, 11/12/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) S. Korea defends joint marine drill with U.S. against N. Korea's criticism (*Yonhap*, 11/12/2018)
Moon to step up peace diplomacy (*Korea Times*, 11/12/2018)
North Korean Pungsan dog gives birth to puppies in Seoul (UPI, 11/12/2018)
President on diplomatic high wire this week (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/12/2018)
Pungsan dog gifted by N.K. leader to Moon gives birth to six puppies (*Yonhap*, 11/12/2018)
[REVIEW] 'Madam B' tells story of North Korean caught between two Koreas (*Korea Times*, 11/12/2018)

South Korea defends joint military exercises after North Korea complaint (UPI, 11/12/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) Koreas hold 2nd meeting to discuss joint survey of cross-border roads (*Yonhap*, 11/12/2018)
(LEAD) Minister: N. Korea eliminated 636 mines from Panmunjom area (*Yonhap*, 11/12/2018)
(LEAD) Two Koreas, UNC hold talks on disarming Panmunjom (*Yonhap*, 11/12/2018)
North and South Korea agree to collaborate on infectious diseases (*The Telegraph*, 11/12/2018)
Orange alert (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/12/2018)
Ruling party pushes for businesspeople's trip to N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 11/12/2018)
S. Korea sends tangerines to North in return for mushrooms (*Associated Press*, 11/12/2018)
Seoul approves visit by seven N. Korean officials this week (*Yonhap*, 11/12/2018)
Seoul sends tangerines to Pyongyang in return for mushrooms (UPI, 11/12/2018)
Two Koreas to modernize North Korean roads (*Korea Times*, 11/12/2018)

International:
'Ghost boats' believed from N. Korea wash up on Japan shores (*Associated Press*, 11/12/2018)
North Korea 'ghost ships' turn up in record numbers near Japan (UPI, 11/12/2018)
North Korea raps Seoul, Washington over joint marine drills (*Korea Times*, 11/12/2018)
Pence in Japan to discuss trade, N. Korea before summits (*Associated Press*, 11/12/2018)
Remembering the Forgotten War (*New York Times*, 11/11/2018)
South Korea-U.S. military drills violate agreements: North Korea media (*Reuters*, 11/11/2018)
US and North Korea suffer communication breakdown (BBC, 11/12/2018)

In North Korea:

- The North Korean regime has been focusing on shoring up the growing personality cult around leader Kim Jong Un. Seeking to place him on the same pedestal as Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Un and emphasizing his "greatness," the authorities are bolstering his image as a leader who loves his people and enacts the legacies of his predecessors. (Ha Yoon Ah, *Daily NK*)
- North Korea may be making improvements at more than a dozen hidden missile bases, contradicting claims from President Trump that his negotiations with North Korean Dictator Kim Jung Un are working. (Barbara Starr, CNN)
- North Korea is moving ahead with its ballistic missile program at 16 hidden bases that have been identified in new commercial satellite images, a network long known to American intelligence agencies. (David E. Sanger, William J. Broad, *New York Times*)
- No issue since the 1950-53 Korean War has plagued the history of inter-Korean relations more than concern over North Korea's nuclear weapons program. The desire for a nuclear-free North Korea has been at the core of arduous negotiations over the years to resolve this seemingly intractable issue. (Lee Byung-chul, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- North Korea has become a focal point of US foreign-policy discussions, but having been called a "hermit kingdom," one suspects many Americans know relatively little about the reigning family's brutal history -- or how that came to be. (Brian Lowry, CNN)

- North Korea is maintaining a network of undeclared ballistic-missile operating bases as diplomatic talks with the U.S. have stalled, a new analysis of commercial satellite images suggests. (Jonathan Cheng, *Wall Street Journal*)
- A U.S. think tank said on Monday it had identified at least 13 of an estimated 20 undeclared missile operating bases inside North Korea, underscoring the challenge for American negotiators hoping to persuade Pyongyang to give up its nuclear weapons and long-range missiles. (Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- Some military officers in North Korea have reportedly been experiencing financial difficulties to the extent that some have had to move into smaller houses. (Mun Dong Hui, *Daily NK*)
- More than 20 years after his father almost bargained them away for a pair of nuclear reactors, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has his nuclear weapons — and a nation still plagued by chronic blackouts. (Eric Talmadge, *Associated Press*)
- According to multiple sources in the city, international sanctions have led to a slowdown in production in Sino-North Korean joint enterprises and factories, and some imports of Chinese raw materials have been blocked from entering the country. (Kim Song Il, *Daily NK*)
- As residents begin moving into new apartments in Hyesan, Ryanggang Province and prepare to weatherize their homes for winter, demand for plastic sheeting is high in local markets. (Kang Mi Jin, *Daily NK*)
- U.S. analysts say they have located more than half of an estimated 20 secret North Korean missile development sites. The findings come as the Trump administration's denuclearization talks with the North appear to have stalled. (Matthew Lee, *Associated Press*)

In South Korea:

- South Korea's defense authorities made clear Monday that Seoul will continue the ongoing joint marine exercise with the United States, countering North Korea's claim that the exercises amount to a breach of a recent military agreement between the Koreas. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon Jae-in will seek wider support for inter-Korean agreements to defuse tension and promote peace at upcoming ASEAN and APEC meetings, Cheong Wa Dae said Monday. (Kim Yoo-chul, *Korea Times*)
- A female Pungsan dog, a gift from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to South Korean President Moon Jae-in, gave birth to six puppies last week. (Wooyoung Lee, *UPI*)
- A series of regional diplomatic summits kicks off this week in Singapore and Papua New Guinea, but South Korea faces a predicament with its North Korea peace overtures, which puts it at odds with the United States over sanctions, while relations with Japan are cooling over historical issues. (Yoo Jee-hye, Wie Moon-hee, Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- One of the two dogs given to President Moon Jae-in by North Korean leader Kim Jong-un as a gift after their third summit in Pyongyang in September has given birth to puppies, Moon said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- "Madam B" or "Mrs. B: a North Korean Woman" is a real-life documentary, on which director Jero Yun's first commercial film "Beautiful Days" is based. The documentary focuses on a woman making a painful journey from North Korea to China and then to South Korea, but ending up a pariah belonging to none of them. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)

- South Korea's defense ministry said joint exercises with the United States are not a violation of inter-Korea military agreements, after North Korea state media denounced the training. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- South and North Korea held a second meeting of their joint road research group Monday but failed to fix the dates for any additional field examinations necessary for their reconnection, the unification ministry said. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea has removed 636 land mines from the truce village of Panmunjom straddling the border with South Korea, Seoul's defense chief said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- Military officials from South and North Korea and the United Nations Command (UNC) opened another round of working-level consultations Monday on disarming the truce village of Panmunjom inside the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), the Ministry of National Defense said. (*Yonhap*)
- North and South Korea have reached an agreement on creating measures to combat infectious diseases – singling out tuberculosis and malaria as the focus of their efforts. (Julian Ryall, *The Telegraph*)
- South Korea is shipping 200 tons of tangerines to North Korea by air as a token of appreciation after North Korean leader Kim Jong-un sent two tons of pine mushrooms for South Korean families who missed the opportunity to see relatives in the North during President Moon Jae-in's visit to Pyongyang in September. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korea's ruling party is pushing for a trip by about 100 businesspeople to North Korea, apparently to foster inter-Korean economic cooperation, a party official said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea has airlifted 200 tons of tangerines to North Korea in return for shipments of pine mushrooms by the North in September, officials said Monday. (Kim Hyung-jin, *Associated Press*)
- The South Korean government has approved a visit by seven North Korean officials to the South later this week to attend an international peace forum, the Ministry of Unification said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- The South Korean presidential office said that it is sending 20,000 boxes of tangerines in four shipments on Air Force cargo planes over Sunday and Monday. (Wooyoung Lee, *UPI*)
- The two Koreas met Monday to discuss ways to modernize cross-border roads along the eastern coast, according to South Korea's Unification Ministry. (Kim Yoo-chul, *Korea Times*)

International:

- Scores of dilapidated wooden boats believed to be from North Korea have washed ashore in northern Japan in a seasonal influx. The coast guard said Monday that 95 rickety boats, sometimes carrying skeletonized bodies, have arrived so far this year. (Mari Yamaguchi, *Associated Press*)
- A record number of North Korean "ghost ships" have been identified near the coast of Japan in 2018, according to Tokyo's coast guard on Monday. A total of 89 vessels from North Korea,

either wrecked or deserted, have been located in Japanese territorial waters. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

- North Korea has stepped up criticism of South Korea and the United States for their resumption of joint marine exercises, calling the move a military act against the ongoing peace momentum on the Korean Peninsula. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)
- U.S. Vice President Mike Pence arrived in Tokyo on Monday to discuss North Korea and other issues with Japanese officials before heading to two regional summits. (Mari Yamaguchi, *Associated Press*)
- Although more than 320,000 Americans served in the Korean War — and more than 33,000 were killed in action — it is still our Forgotten War, a kind of also-ran in our historical consciousness. (Hampton Sides, *New York Times*)
- South Korea's resumption of small-scale military drills with the United States violated a recent agreement aimed at lowering tensions on the Korean peninsula, North Korean state media said on Monday. (Jeongmin Kim, *Reuters*)
- Remember when Donald Trump said he and Kim Jong-un fell in love? Well now it seems they just don't talk anymore. Instead, the US and North Korea appear to be staring one another down, waiting for the other to blink or make a move. And neither appears willing to give way. (Laura Bicker, BBC)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250821212443/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-in-north-korea-missile-bases-suggest-a-great-deception-north-korea-ghost-ships-turn-up-in-record-numbers-near-japan

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Tuesday, November 13, 2018

N. Korea running at least 13 undeclared missile operating bases: CSIS; Smart home system displayed at N. Korea's IT exhibition

In North Korea:

Kidnappers apprehended following abduction of four-year-old girl in ransom case (*Daily* NK, 11/13/2018)
N. Korean officials urged to closely study public sentiment in times of adversity (*Yonhap*, 11/13/2018)
N. Korea running at least 13 undeclared missile operating bases: CSIS (*Yonhap*, 11/13/2018)
North Korea missile base 'active' despite pacts, U.S. analysts say (UPI, 11/13/2018)
North Korean foreign trade businesses ordered to import corn (*Daily* NK, 11/13/2018)
North Korean MSS officer demoted for assaulting inmate (*Daily* NK, 11/13/2018)
North Koreans farmers turn to asbestos paper manufacturing (*Daily* NK, 11/13/2018)
Smart home system displayed at N. Korea's IT exhibition (*Yonhap*, 11/13/2018)

In South Korea:
Seoul plays down media claim on North Korea's missile base (UPI, 11/13/2018)
South Korea says 'nothing new' in report identifying North Korean bases (NBC, 11/13/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Koreas, UNC discuss ways of allowing tourists to access JSA (*Yonhap*, 11/13/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) Report of N. Korea's 'undisclosed' missile bases not new, S. Korea says (*Yonhap*, 11/13/2018)
(2nd LD) S. Korea's unification minister to visit U.S. to discuss North Korea issues (*Yonhap*, 11/13/2018)
Clear and present danger (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/13/2018)
CSIS discloses North's covert missile bases (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/13/2018)
Mike Pence: North Korea sanctions to remain until denuclearization (UPI, 11/13/2018)
North Korea maintaining more than a dozen missile launch sites, photos show (*The Guardian*, 11/12/2018)
Pence, Abe agree on North Korea sanctions, new trade talks (*Washington Post*, 11/13/2018)
Pence, Abe Discuss Trade, North Korea ahead of APEC (VOA, 11/13/2018)
Report: China bans North Korea financial transactions (UPI, 11/13/2018)
Satellite images reveal hidden North Korean missile bases (CNN, 11/13/2018)
'Treasured sword': North Korea seen as reliant as ever on nuclear arsenal as talks stall (*Reuters*, 11/13/2018)
US analysts locate secret North Korean missile sites (*Korea Times*, 11/13/2018)
When it comes to North Korea, who's really being deceptive? (CNN, 11/13/2018)

In North Korea:

- The abduction of a four-year-old girl was reported to police on October 24, with the kidnappers demanding a large ransom for her release. Following an investigation, the perpetrators were identified and arrested on October 28. (Ha Yoon Ah, *Daily NK*)
- The official mouthpiece of North Korea's ruling Workers' Party on Tuesday urged its officials to pay closer attention to public sentiment. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea has operated at least 13 undeclared missile sites across the nation, a potential blow to U.S. President Donald Trump's assertion that his strategy on Pyongyang has effectively eliminated its military threats, a new study showed Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- A North Korean missile base is active as of November and has stayed "well maintained" despite agreements from Pyongyang to denuclearize, according to U.S. analysts on Monday. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- Companies involved in foreign trade in some parts of North Korea have recently been ordered to import agricultural materials and foodstuffs, sources inside North Korea report. (Ha Yoon Ah, *Daily NK*)

- An agent affiliated with the Ministry of State Security (MSS) in North Hamgyong Province has been demoted from a second lieutenant to a private after being found guilty of torturing an illegal border crosser. (Lee Sang Yong, *Daily NK*)
- Due to a slump in the harvest season, some farmers have abandoned the fields to find work elsewhere. (Jo Hyon, *Daily NK*)
- Researchers of North Korea's top university have developed a voice-controlled smart home system and other advanced information technology devices and displayed them at a public exhibition in Pyongyang, the North's official newspaper reported Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)

In South Korea:

- South Korea's presidential office said that South Korea and the United States have been aware of the North Korean missile base, which a U.S. think tank revealed and claimed to be active based on commercial satellite images. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- If any country should be worried about Kim Jong Un's nuclear weapons, it's South Korea, technically still at war with North Korea and with tens of millions of people in easy range of its arsenal. (Stella Kim, Alexander Smith, NBC)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Military officials from South and North Korea and the United Nations Command (UNC) held another round of working-level consultations at the border truce village of Panmunjom Tuesday on disarming the Joint Security Area (JSA) in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and allowing civilians to travel freely inside the restricted area. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- South Korea's presidential office on Tuesday played down a new report on North Korea's "undisclosed" missile sites, saying the state intelligence communities of South Korea and the United States earlier acquired relevant information. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea's unification minister left for the United States on Tuesday for a five-day visit amid speculation over possible differences between the two allies over how to achieve North Korea's denuclearization. (*Yonhap*)
- A satellite image exposing missile bases across three belts in North Korea raised a stir amid a stalemate in negotiations over North Korean denuclearization. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- A U.S. think tank said Monday it has identified at least 13 of an estimated 20 undeclared missile bases inside North Korea, a claim that could undermine denuclearization negotiations between Pyongyang and Washington. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- U.S. Vice President Mike Pence vowed to work toward the complete denuclearization of North Korea and fully enforce sanctions during a joint press conference with Japan's prime minister on Tuesday. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- North Korea is maintaining more than a dozen missile launch sites, according to new research, in a further sign that the summit diplomacy pursued by Kim Jong-un has not led to any significant disarmament. (Julian Borger, *The Guardian*)

- U.S. Vice President Mike Pence and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Tuesday reaffirmed the need to keep sanctions on North Korea to achieve its denuclearization as they showcased their bilateral alliance, while Pence also urged Japan to do more to reduce the U.S. trade deficit. (Mari Yamaguchi, *Washington Post)*
- U.S. Vice President Mike Pence says a bilateral trade agreement with Japan is the best way to resolve a trade imbalance that Washington says has put U.S. products at a disadvantage. (Steve Miller, VOA)
- China is enforcing secondary North Korea sanctions that impact domestic firms as North Korea faces a long hard winter, according to a South Korean press report. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- New commercial satellite images released Monday have identified more than a dozen undeclared North Korean missile operating bases, another sign that Pyongyang is continuing to move forward with its ballistic missile program amid indications that talks with the US have stalled in recent months. (Zachary Cohen, CNN)
- Amid signs that negotiations between North Korea and the U.S. are stalling, analysts say Pyongyang still sees its nuclear arsenal as a key tool in securing its national safety and winning concessions from international rivals. (Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- U.S. analysts said Monday they have located 13 secret North Korean missile development sites, underscoring the challenge that the Trump administration faces in trying to reach its promised broad arms control agreement with Pyongyang. (*Korea Daily*)
- The existence of more than a dozen supposedly secret North Korean missile bases should come as a surprise to nobody -- certainly not the United States or South Korea. (CNN)

Prepared by Cassandra Wood, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821212529/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-n-korea-running-at-least-13-undeclared-missile-operating-bases-csis-smart-home-system-displayed-at-n-koreas-it-exhibition

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Wednesday, November 14, 2018

North Korea officials cancel visit to South; Trump: Report of N. Korean Missile Bases 'Fake News'

In North Korea:
Can Kim reign without terror? (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/14/2018)
In Factory After Factory, Kim Tries to Grow N. Korea Economy (VOA, 11/13/2018)
Is the North Korean Won Pegged to the RMB? Probably, but the Numbers Don't Show It (*38 North*, 11/14/2018)

(LEAD) N. Korea continuing nuclear, missile activity even after summit with U.S.: Seoul (*Yonhap*, 11/14/2018)
N. Korea condemns Japan for rejecting Seoul's compensation ruling over forced labor (*Yonhap*, 11/14/2018)
N. Korea to host int'l health and sports science fair Nov. 22-26 (*Yonhap*, 11/14/2018)
Report: North Korea miniaturized nukes after summit (UPI, 11/14/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) Gov't, party to push for early passage of spy agency reform bill (*Yonhap*, 11/14/2018)
Moon asks Moscow to play bigger role in prompting denuclearization steps from Pyongyang (*The Korea Herald*, 11/14/2018)
Report: South Korea's unification minister to meet with Pompeo (UPI, 11/14/2018)
S. Korea's nuclear envoy seeks to visit US next week: report (*The Korea Herald*, 11/14/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) Koreas to hold meeting to discuss aviation cooperation (*Yonhap*, 11/14/2018)
(2nd LD) N. Korean officials arrive in S. Korea to attend int'l forum (*Yonhap*, 11/14/2018)
NK delegates to visit Pangyo Techno Valley (*The Korea Times*, 11/14/2018)
North Korean Delegation Visits South to Attend History Forum (VOA, 11/14/2018)
North Korea officials cancel visit to South (UPI, 11/14/2018)
North Korea to kick off delayed business forum for South Koreans on Thursday (*NK News*, 11/14/2018)
S. Korean businesspeople abroad to visit Pyongyang this week (*Yonhap*, 11/14/2018)

International:
Bolton speaks of second summit with NK (*The Korea Times*, 11/14/2018)
China more friend than foe to U.S. in North Korea denuclearization (UPI, 11/14/2018)
Experts: Cancellation of US-N. Korea Meeting Suggests Snag in Talks (VOA, 11/13/2018)
Japan, N. Korea Reportedly Had High-Level Contact in Mongolia (*KBS World Radio*, 11/14/2018)
(LEAD) Trump dismisses NYT report on N. Korea's hidden missile bases as 'inaccurate' (*Yonhap*, 11/14/2018)
Missiles 'Fake News,' says Trump (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/14/2018)
New Report Finds North Korea Has Continued To Develop Its Missile Capabilities (NPR, 11/13/2018)
North Korean Nuclear Shell Game (*The New York Times*, 11/13/2018)
Oxfam worried about NK human rights (*The Korea Times*, 11/14/2018)
The New York Times' Misleading Story on North Korean Missiles (*38 North*, 11/13/2018)
Trump: NY Times report on North Korean missile bases inaccurate (*The Hill*, 11/13/2018)
Trump: Report of N. Korean Missile Bases 'Fake News' (VOA, 11/13/2018)
Trump says he's 'in no rush' to deal with North Korea's weapons programs. It shows. (*The Washington Post*, 11/13/2018)
Trump says 'nothing new' in report on hidden missile bases in North Korea (*The Washington Post*, 11/13/2018)
US Vice President Presses Asian Leaders on Rohingya, Maritime Dispute (VOA, 11/14/2018)
UPDATE 1-Trump says North Korean missile sites are 'nothing new' (*Reuters*, 11/13/2018)

In North Korea:

- A few months ago, a high-class North Korean official said that there was public support for denuclearization in North Korea. It can be interpreted that without the approval of the elites, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un may not be able to decide on denuclearization. (Kim Byung-yeon, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- For North Korean factory managers, a visit by leader Kim Jong Un is the highest of honors and quite possibly the most stressful event imaginable. (AP)
- The market exchange rate between the North Korean won, the Chinese renminbi (RMB), and the US dollar (USD) has looked remarkably stable over the past few years. (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, Peter Ward, *38 North*)
- North Korea is presumed to be continuing nuclear and missile activity even after its first summit with the United States in June, South Korea's spy agency was quoted as saying Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's official news agency has denounced Japan's rejection of a recent South Korean court ruling ordering a Japanese firm to compensate forced labor victims as "impudent and shameless." (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea plans to open an international exhibition on health goods and sports science in Pyongyang next week, a media report said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea's spy agency said North Korea has continued to miniaturize nuclear warheads, even after the Singapore summit between Kim Jong Un and U.S. President Donald Trump, according to a South Korean press report. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

In South Korea:

- South Korea's government and ruling party agreed Wednesday to handle a revised bill on the spy agency's operations during the ongoing parliamentary regular session. (*Yonhap*)
- Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday hinted that sanctions on North Korea should be eased, in a meeting with President Moon Jae-in in Singapore, Cheong Wa Dae said. (Choi He-suk, *The Korea Herald*)
- South Korea's unification minister left Seoul late Tuesday for Washington, where he is expected to meet with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, South Korean press reported. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- South Korea's top nuclear envoy is seeking to meet with his US counterpart as early as next week to discuss the launch of a "working group" aimed at coordinating their North Korea policy, according a local news report Wednesday. (Ock Hyun-ju, *The Korea Herald*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The two Koreas will hold a meeting later this week to discuss cooperation in the aviation sector, the unification ministry said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)

- A group of North Korean officials arrived in South Korea on Wednesday to attend an international forum and tour various local facilities. (*Yonhap*)
- A group of senior North Korean officials will visit Pangyo Techno Valley, Thursday, a Seongnam City spokesman said Wednesday. (Kim Yoo-chul, *The Korea Times*)
- A five-member North Korean delegation is visiting South Korea to attend an academic forum on Japan's wartime actions. (AP)
- Two North Korean officials who were expected to attend an international forum in the South canceled their plans unexpectedly on Wednesday, amid an ongoing controversy over undisclosed North Korea missile bases. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- North Korea is set to host an international forum for South Korean business people from Thursday through Sunday this week, with the ROK's Ministry of Unification (MOU) announcing late Wednesday it approved 97 individuals to make the trip. (Colin Zwirko, *NK News*)
- Dozens of South Korean business leaders based overseas will visit Pyongyang this week, a related ministry here said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton, Tuesday, reaffirmed Washington's willingness for a second summit with North Korea. (Lee Min-hyung, *The Korea Times*)
- When North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in June pledged to work toward "complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" by 2020, the White House hailed the agreement as "a tremendous moment for the world." (Randy Kluver, Robert Hinck, Skye Cooley, *UPI*)
- The abrupt cancellation of high-level talks between the United States and North Korea suggests denuclearization negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang have hit a snag, experts said. (Christy Lee, VOA)
- North Korea and Japan reportedly held a high-level meeting in Mongolia amid speculation regarding a possible bilateral summit. (*KBS World Radio*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump has dismissed a news report on North Korea's hidden missile bases as "inaccurate," amid growing skepticism over Pyongyang's willingness to follow through on its denuclearization commitment. (*Yonhap*)
- Pyongyang has continued its nuclear and missile activities even after North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and U.S. President Donald Trump met in Singapore on June 12, according to the National Intelligence Service (NIS) Wednesday. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- NPR's Ailsa Chang talks with Victor Cha of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, who co-authored the report that found North Korea is still developing its ballistic missile capabilities at several test sites. (NPR)
- President Trump, who styles himself a master deal maker and reader of people, claimed to have put an end to the North Korean nuclear threat with his meeting in June with the North Korean dictator, Kim Jong-un. (*The New York Times*)
- Oxfam Humanitarian Lead Richard Corbett said the organization was worried about humanitarian issues in North Korea, emphasizing the importance of working closely with governments both there and in South Korea to deliver aid. (Park Ji-won, *The Korea Times*)

- That is the ominous lede of a story by David Sanger and William Broad in The New York Times on Monday, November 12. Substituting tendentious hyperbole for sound reporting may convince editors to feature a story on page one, but it is a disservice to readers. (Leon V. Sigal, 38 North)
- President Trump slammed The New York Times on Tuesday for its coverage of a report that said it had identified 13 of the estimated 20 previously undeclared missile operating bases in North Korea, claiming that the paper's article was "inaccurate." (Megan Keller, *The Hill*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump has weighed in on a report that North Korea has at least 13 undeclared bases capable of hiding missiles, calling the report "fake news." (VOA)
- "WE'RE IN no rush," President Trump declared last week about efforts to slow or reverse North Korea's nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs. Well, North Korea is also in no rush. (*The Washington Post*)
- President Trump lashed out Tuesday at a new report that identified more than a dozen hidden bases in North Korea that could be used to disperse mobile launchers for ballistic missiles, even as the president continues to claim a greatly diminished nuclear threat. (John Wagner, Adam Taylor, *The Washington Post*)
- While leaders from 10 Southeast Asian countries largely discussed trade in Singapore Wednesday, participating U.S. Vice President Mike Pence sought help in checking North Korean nuclear ambitions and pressed Myanmar on its treatment of Rohingya refugees. (Ralph Jennings, Nike Ching, VOA)
- U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday criticized what he called inaccurate media reports that said North Korea had not declared more than a dozen missile bases. (Makini Brice, *Reuters*)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821212418/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsnorth-korea-officials-cancel-visit-to-southtrump-report-of-n-korean-missile-bases-fake-news

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Thursday, November 15, 2018

N.K. rights issue may get more emphasis in Democratic-led House; North Koreans Increasingly Look For Work Abroad To Earn Higher Pay

In North Korea:
[INTERVIEW] 'North Korea's Sakkanmol missile base still of great threat' (*Korea Times*, 11/15/2018)
Kim Jong Un is doing what he said he would (*Washington Post*, 11/14/2018)
N. Korea to resume int'l amateur golf competition next year: report (*Yonhap*, 11/15/2018)

Naval command ordered to defend maritime demarcation line in West Sea at all costs (*Daily* NK, 11/15/2018)
New apartment openings push demand for security devices (*Daily* NK, 11/15/2018)
North Korea's Pyongyang Golf Club undergoing expansion, imagery reveals (*NK News*, 11/15/2018)
North Koreans Increasingly Look For Work Abroad To Earn Higher Pay (*Radio Free Asia*, 11/14/2018)

In South Korea:
East Asia Institute opens English website on N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 11/15/2018)
Moon gov't asked to map out contingency plan for N. Korean denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 11/15/2018)
S. Korea to push for expanding no-fly zone to NLL, Han River estuary (*Yonhap*, 11/15/2018)
South Korea dismantles guard posts with dynamite, excavators (*Associated Press*, 11/15/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) Hyundai Group chief to visit Mount Kumgang for anniversary of suspended tour program (*Yonhap*, 11/15/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korean officials visit S. Korean hub of technology startups (*Yonhap*, 11/15/2018)
(LEAD) Ruling party head meets N.K. official handling inter-Korean ties (*Yonhap*, 11/15/2018)
N. Korea's media ramp up criticism of S. Korea for military exercises (*Yonhap*, 11/15/2018)
North Korean defectors see uncertain future in Korean reconciliation (*Reuters*, 11/15/2018)
North Korean official visits South Korea's startup cluster (UPI, 11/15/2018)

International:
41 years since Megumi Yokota was abducted to North Korea (*Asahi Shimbun*, 11/15/2018)
Can 200 tons of tangerines restart talks between the US and North Korea? (*Daily* NK, 11/15/2018)
China appears to relax North Korea sanctions: report to U.S. Congress (*Reuters*, 11/14/2018)
New China-North Korea bridge across Tumen River nears completion, video reveals (*Daily* NK, 11/15/2018)
N.K. rights issue may get more emphasis in Democratic-led House: ex-U.S. diplomat (*Yonhap*, 11/15/2018)
Pence on North Korea: 'Now We Need to See Results' (VOA, 11/15/2018)
Pence: Second U.S.-North Korean summit is deadline for a list of the country's nuclear sites (*Washington Post*, 11/15/2018)
Pence: Trump and Kim likely to meet next year (UPI, 11/15/2018)
Report: Japanese spies met with North Koreans in Mongolia (UPI, 11/14/2018)
Review: Reaching Across Korean Borders in 'Wild Goose Dreams' (*New York Times*, 11/14/2018)
Rodong Sinmun slams U.S., Europe, Japan over U.N. resolution on N. Korean human rights (*Yonhap*, 11/15/2018)
Trump to meet North Korea's Kim in 2019, wants plan to end arms program: Pence (*Reuters*, 11/15/2018)
Trump to Raise North Korea Sanctions With Chinese Leader, Pence Says (*New York Times*, 11/15/2018)

In North Korea:

- North Korea's missile bases may look rudimentary but they are being "well-maintained" and therefore pose a serious threat, a U.S. expert told The Korea Times. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)
- Now a new report from a respected Washington think tank that identified hidden North Korean missile bases has sparked fresh debate about Pyongyang's trustworthiness. These bases — and the activity at them — seem to show that North Korea continues to prepare for a potential nuclear war. (Adam Taylor, *Washington Post*)
- North Korea plans to resume its international golf championship for amateurs next year after a lapse of two years, American broadcaster Radio Free Asia (RFA) said Thursday, citing a British tour agency. (*Yonhap*)
- An urgent order was handed down to the Korean People's Navy's Naval Command in the early morning of November 3 to defend the maritime demarcation line in the West Sea at all costs, North Korean sources have reported. (Mun Dong Hui, *Daily NK*)
- As local residents of Hyesan begin moving into their new apartments, sales of security devices and fire alarms are taking off. The source who reported this said that residents of the new apartments are going from market to market to buy security devices for their new homes. (Kang Mi Jin, *Daily NK*)
- The Pyongyang Golf Club on the outskirts of the North Korean capital is undergoing a major expansion, exclusive images obtained by *NK News* show this week, making it the newest luxury resort to see substantial upgrades as the country continues to improve tourist amenities nationwide. (Colin Zwirko, *NK News*)
- In the face of sanctions that prohibit labor exports from the Stalinist state, workers from the capital city of Pyongyang are looking to take menial jobs in China and Russia. They seek higher pay and a way to work around the local public distribution system that is now failing to meet their basic needs. (Myungchul Lee, Leejin Jun, Eugene Whong, *Radio Free Asia*)

In South Korea:

- The East Asia Institute (EAI), a Seoul-based think tank, on Thursday launched an English-language website on North Korea to provide "comprehensive and balanced" information. (*Yonhap*)
- Former South Korean Minister of Unification Jeong Se-hyun said Thursday that President Moon Jae-in should begin a contingency plan and persuade North Korea to take the first steps towards denuclearization. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea will seek to expand a no-fly zone along its land border with North Korea to cover their maritime boundaries and the Han River estuary, an official at Seoul's defense ministry said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea exploded a front-line guard post Thursday, sending plumes of thick, black smoke into the sky above the border with North Korea, in the most dramatic scene to date in the rivals' efforts to reduce animosities that sparked last year's fears of war. (Chang Yong Jun, Hyung-jin Kim, *Associated Press*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Hyundai Group Chairwoman Hyun Jeong-eun will visit North Korea next week to celebrate the 20th anniversary of its long-suspended tourism program to a scenic North Korean mountain, a government official said Thursday. (Yonhap)
- A five-member North Korean delegation, who arrived in South Korea on Wednesday to attend an international peace forum, visited a Korean version of Silicon Valley on the southern outskirts of Seoul on Thursday. (Yonhap)
- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) chief on Thursday met a visiting North Korean official in charge of inter-Korean ties to discuss ways to boost cultural exchanges and cross-border tourism, the party's spokesman said. (Yonhap)
- North Korea's media repeated its criticism of South Korea for carrying out military exercises on Thursday, calling them an "outright provocation" and "violation" of the inter-Korean agreement to halt hostility toward each other. (Yonhap)
- Amid international efforts to reduce military tensions and improve ties with North Korea, many of the 32,000 North Korean refugees in South Korea say they feel like political pawns suddenly discarded. (Hyonhee Shin, Reuters)
- A North Korean delegation visited South Korea's latest technology hub and startup cluster Thursday as part of a four-day visit to attend an international forum, the country's Gyeonggi Province Government said. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)

International:

- The mother of high-profile abductee Megumi Yokota renewed her call Nov. 14 for the Japanese government to bring about the return of all victims. The plea by Sakie Yokota came on the eve of the 41st anniversary of her daughter's disappearance. (Asahi Shimbun)
- The South Korean government sent 200 tons of tangerines from the country's southern island of Jeju-do to North Korea on November 11-12. The gift came in response to the two tons of pine mushrooms gifted by the North in September. (Ahn Jong Sik, Daily NK)
- A U.S. congressional commission said on Wednesday that China appears to have relaxed enforcement of sanctions on North Korea and called on the Treasury Department to provide a report on Chinese compliance within 180 days. (David Brunnstrom, Reuters)
- On November 10, a celebration was held to mark the completion of the final decking on a new bridge over the Tumen River connecting Namyang District in North Hamgyong Province and the Chinese city of Tumen. Observers say that the bridge will likely help invigorate existing Sino-North Korean trade. (Ha Yoon Ah, Daily NK)
- North Korea's human rights issue may get "more emphasis" in the U.S. House of Representatives with the Democrats winning back control in last week's midterm elections, a former U.S. diplomat said Thursday. (Yonhap)
- The proposed second summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un must result in a detailed list of North Korean nuclear weapons sites, U.S. Vice President Mike Pence said Thursday. (VOA)
- The Trump administration will not insist on a complete accounting of North Korean nuclear-related assets ahead of a second summit between President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, Vice President Pence acknowledged Thursday. (Anne Gearan, Washington Post)

- U.S. Vice President Mike Pence said Thursday that U.S. President Donald Trump is likely to hold a second summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un next year. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- Senior Japanese intelligence agents met with North Korea officials in Mongolia on Friday, according to a Japanese press report.Fuji News Network reported Wednesday the meeting took place in the Mongolian capital of Ulaanbaatar. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Though they more or less speak the same language, Guk Minsung and Yoo Nanhee often don't understand each other, especially in moments of attempted levity. "Is that a joke?" one will ask the other, sometimes with a postscript: "A South Korean joke?" or "A North Korean joke?" (Ben Brantley, *New York Times*)
- North Korea's official newspaper on Thursday condemned Western countries and Japan for pushing to adopt an anti-North human rights resolution at the United Nations while "covering up" their own human rights problems. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. Vice President Mike Pence said on Thursday President Donald Trump plans to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in 2019 and will push for a concrete plan outlining Pyongyang's moves to end its arms programs. (John Geddie, *Reuters*)
- President Trump is likely to bring up the enforcement of sanctions against North Korea when he meets with President Xi Jinping of China this month, Vice President Mike Pence said on Thursday. (Gerry Mullany, *New York Times*)

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Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821212829/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-nk-rights-issue-may-get-more-emphasis-in-democratic-led-house-north-koreans-increasingly-look-for-work-abroad-to-earn-higher-pay

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Friday, November 16, 2018

(LEAD) U.N. panel adopts resolution condemning N.K. human rights abuses; Kim Jong Un tests 'high-tech' weapon in message to the US

In North Korea:
(3rd LD) N.K. leader inspects test of new high-tech weapon amid stalemated nuke talks (*Yonhap*, 11/16/2018)
Kim attends his first weapons test in almost a year (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/16/2018)
Kim Jong Un tests 'high-tech' weapon in message to the US (CNN, 11/16/2018)
KNCA: Kim Jong Un inspects latest weapon development (UPI, 11/15/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korea decides to deport U.S. citizen detained for illegal entry (*Yonhap*, 11/16/2018)

(LEAD) N. Korean leader orders development of gateway city to China (*Yonhap*, 11/16/2018)
(LEAD) Senior N. Korean official urges Asia-Pacific support for inter-Korean peace (*Yonhap*, 11/16/2018)
N.K. leader orders distribution of S. Korean tangerines to students, workers (*Yonhap*, 11/16/2018)
N. Korea may have tested new long-range artillery: source (*Yonhap*, 11/16/2018)
North Korea deports American even as it boasts of new weapon (*The Washington Post*, 11/16/2018)
North Korea deports US citizen detained since October, state media reports (CNN, 11/16/2018)
North Korea Kim Jong Un says new tactical weapon is display of 'defense capabilities to the whole region': KCNA (*Reuters*, 11/15/2018)
North Korean leader Kim Jong Un inspects testing of unspecified new 'tactical weapon' (*The Washington Post*, 11/16/2018)
North Korean official in South demands Japan compensate for war crimes (*Reuters*, 11/16/2018)
North Korea running low on TB meds, experts fear epidemic (*The Washington Post*, 11/16/2018)
North Korea says it has tested 'ultramodern tactical weapon' (*The Korea Times*, 11/16/2018)
North Korea Says It Has Tested 'Ultramodern Tactical Weapon' (*The New York Times*, 11/15/2018)
North Korea Says It Will Deport American Who Tried to Enter From China (*The New York Times*, 11/16/2018)
North Korea says it will deport U.S. citizen, detained for illegal entry (UPI, 11/16/2018)
North Korea's Kim inspects newly developed 'tactical' weapon, releases U.S. prisoner (*Reuters*, 11/16/2018)
North Korea's Kim Jong-un supervises test of 'new ultramodern weapon' (*The Guardian*, 11/16/2018)
North Korea stresses ethnic unity with South amid missile base controversy (UPI, 11/15/2018)
North Korea 'tests new high-tech weapon' (BBC, 11/16/2018)
North Korea to deport American it detained for illegal entry (*The Korea Times*, 11/16/2018)
North Korea to deport U.S. citizen held since October: state media (*Reuters*, 11/16/2018)
North Korea to expel detained US citizen, state media say (BBC, 11/16/2018)
Pork prices spike as end-of-year celebrations begin (*Daily NK*, 11/16/2018)
Pyongyang to deport American who snuck across border (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/16/2018)
Report: North Korea to deliver Jeju tangerines to students, workers (UPI, 11/16/2018)
Tobacco farm unit awarded with trip to Pyongyang for surpassing quota (*Daily NK*, 11/16/2018)
Young woman found dead in Tumen River (*Daily NK*, 11/16/2018)

In South Korea:
Avoid the extremes (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/16/2018)
Hyundai Group gets permission to go North (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/15/2018)
Korea-U.S. alliance should not be undermined (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/15/2018)
(LEAD) EugeneBell calls for support in tackling TB crisis in N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 11/16/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea's top nuclear envoy to visit U.S. next week (*Yonhap*, 11/16/2018)
Moon says he hopes N. Korea will participate in ASEAN meetings after complete denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 11/15/2018)
Moon to meet Xi to discuss easing of North Korea sanctions (*The Korea Times*, 11/16/2018)
N.K. weapon test doesn't signal abandonment of nuke talks: official (*Yonhap*, 11/16/2018)
North Korean-made Clot Buster Drug Sold Illegally in South Korea (RFA, 11/16/2018)
Peace foundation chairman says Korea is at a tipping point (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/16/2018)

Seoul backs UN resolution on N.Korea human rights (*The Korea Times*, 11/16/2018)
Unification minister says inter-Korean projects will be pursued within framework of sanctions (*Yonhap*, 11/16/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) N. Korea proposes connecting int'l air routes over border with S. Korea (*Yonhap*, 11/16/2018)
Amateur golfers invited to tee off in the North (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/15/2018)
(LEAD) Koreas hold meeting on aviation cooperation (*Yonhap*, 11/16/2018)
(LEAD) N.K. leader's Seoul visit still possible this year: minister (*Yonhap*, 11/16/2018)
(LEAD) Ruling party head meets N.K. official handling inter-Korean ties (*Yonhap*, 11/15/2018)
N.K. official proposes S. Korean lawmakers' visit to Pyongyang (*Yonhap*, 11/16/2018)
N. Korean officials visit lake park, residential town near Seoul (*Yonhap*, 11/16/2018)
Why Korea Needs Peace: A Korean American Perspective (*38 North*, 11/16/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) Pence asks Moon to communicate, talk more closely with N. Korea: official (*Yonhap*, 11/15/2018)
A comforting reminder (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/16/2018)
A look at Americans who have been detained in North Korea (*The Washington Post*, 11/16/2018)
Chinese tourists flock to Dandong to visit North Korea (*Daily* NK, 11/16/2018)
Imagining a New US-South Korean Security Architecture (*38 North*, 11/15/2018)
Key UN Committee Condemns North Korea's Rights Violations (VOA, 11/16/2018)
(LEAD) U.N. panel adopts resolution condemning N.K. human rights abuses (*Yonhap*, 11/16/2018)
Moon, Pence sanguine on North (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/15/2018)
Pence drops key US demand for Trump-Kim summit (CNN, 11/16/2018)
Pence says second Trump-Kim summit will focus on creating 'verifiable' denuclearization plan (*Politico*, 11/15/2018)
Pence: U.S. won't require nuclear inventory before 2nd N.K. summit (*Yonhap*, 11/16/2018)
The Latest: Pence cites progress on N. Korea but more needed (*The Washington Post*, 11/15/2018)
U.N. panel passes resolution to condemn North Korea's human rights violations (UPI, 11/16/2018)
US Flexes New Muscle in Asia (VOA, 11/15/2018)
U.S. says confident North Korean promises will be fulfilled, despite weapons test (*Reuters*, 11/15/2018)
US to N. Korea: We Will Maintain Maximum Pressure Until Complete Denuclearization (VOA, 11/16/2018)
Without a decrease in North Korea's nuclear attacking ability, no sanctions will be lifted (*Daily* NK, 11/16/2018)

In North Korea:

- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has inspected a test of a newly developed high-tech weapon, the North's state media reported Friday amid stalemated denuclearization talks with the United States. (*Yonhap*)

- North Korea's state media reported Friday that its leader, Kim Jong-un, supervised "a newly developed ultramodern tactical weapon test" at a defense institute, the first time in a year that Kim was officially described as overseeing a weapons experiment. (Lee Sung-eun, Chun Su-jin, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- North Korea has tested a "newly developed ultramodern" weapon in an event supervised by leader Kim Jong Un, state media said Friday, amid faltering nuclear disarmament negotiations with the United States. (Yoonjung Seo, Ben Westcott, CNN)
- North Korea's state media reported Friday that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un watched testing of a newly developed strategic weapon. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- North Korea has decided to deport a U.S. citizen detained for illegally entering the country, its state media reported on Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has instructed a sweeping development of Sinuiju, the North's main border city with China, Pyongyang's media reported Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- A senior North Korean official on Friday asked Asia-Pacific nations to actively support the two Koreas' peace efforts at an international forum in South Korea. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has instructed the tangerines that South Korea recently sent as a gift be distributed to students and workers in Pyongyang, the country's state media said Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's newly developed tactical weapon is thought to be a long-range artillery piece, a government source in Seoul said Friday, hours after Pyongyang's media reported on leader Kim Jong-un's supervision of its recent testing. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea on Friday said it will deport an American citizen it detained for illegal entrance, an apparent concession to the United States that came even as it announced the test of a newly developed but unspecified "ultramodern" weapon that will be seen as a pressuring tactic by Washington. (Hyung-Jin Kim, Kim Tong-Hyung, AP)
- North Korea deported a US citizen who was detained last month after he "illegally entered our country through the border between North Korea and China," the state-run Korean Central News Agency said Friday. (Sophie Jeong, Caroline Kelly, CNN)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un inspected the testing of a newly developed tactical weapon, calling it "another display of our rapidly-growing defense capabilities to the whole region," North Korean state media said on Friday. (Joyce Lee, *Reuters*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has inspected a newly developed "ultramodern tactical weapon," state media said Friday, without specifying what kind of weapon was tested. (Simon Denyer, Min-joo Kim, *The Washington Post*)
- A North Korean delegation called on Japan on Friday to pay "sufficient compensation" for the forced labor and conscription of the "Korean people" during World War Two and other Asia-Pacific conflicts. (Joyce Lee, Jeongmin Kim, *Reuters*)
- The withdrawal of a major international aid organization threatens to leave tens of thousands of tuberculosis patients in North Korea without the medication they need and could spiral into a severe crisis if it is not addressed soon, according to health experts familiar with the situation in the North. (Eric Talmadge, Kim Tong-Hyung, AP)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un observed the successful test of "a newly developed ultramodern tactical weapon," the nation's state media reported Friday, though it didn't describe what sort of weapon it was. (AP)

- North Korea has tested a new tactical weapon, the North's official news media said on Friday, reporting that Kim Jong-un witnessed the event in his first publicized visit to a weapons test site since the country test-launched its intercontinental ballistic missile last November. (Choe Sang-hun, *The New York Times*)
- North Korea will deport an American citizen it detained a month ago for illegally entering the isolated country, state media announced on Friday, in an apparent gesture of good will amid the stalled nuclear talks with the United States. (Choe Sang-hun, *The New York Times*)
- North Korea's state media said Friday that the country will deport a U.S. citizen, who was detained for an illegal entry last month. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- North Korea's leader publicly inspected a new weapon for the first time in nearly a year, state media reported on Friday, while it also decided to release a U.S. prisoner, sending conflicting signals at a time of sensitive negotiations. (Joyce Lee, Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has visited a test site to supervise a "newly developed ultramodern weapon", according to state media, marking the first announcement of continued weapons development since he began a rapprochement with the United States and South Korea earlier this year. (Benjamin Hass, *The Guardian*)
- North Korea state media said Thursday inter-Korea issues should be resolved through the "people" of North and South, following revelations this week Pyongyang has maintained activity at an undeclared missile base, following the Singapore summit between Kim Jong Un and U.S. President Donald Trump. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has supervised the successful test of a new "high-tech" tactical weapon, state-run media say. (BBC)
- North Korea says it will deport an American citizen it recently detained for illegally entering the country. (AP)
- North Korea will deport a U.S. citizen detained since October after he entered illegally from China and told his captors he was manipulated by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the North Korean state news agency reported on Friday. (Josh Smith, *Reuters*)
- North Korea says it will deport a US citizen who was detained in October after entering illegally from China. (BBC)
- As the end of the year approaches, North Korean Workers' Party of Korea (WPK), occupational and labor organizations have begun their end-of-year criticism sessions and yearly send-off parties, which has led to a rise in alcohol and food prices. (Kang Mi-jin, *Daily NK*)
- North Korea will deport a U.S. citizen detained for illegally entering the country a month ago, the North's state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported on Friday. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un ordered state officials to deliver tangerines, a gift from South Korea, to students and workers, North Korea's state media said Friday. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- A work unit at the 4.25 Tobacco Farm (Changpyong Farm) in Onsong County, North Hamgyong Province, was awarded a trip to Pyongyang for surpassing its production quota of tobacco leaves this year. The work unit's team leader was also promoted to head one of the farm's 8 sections. (Kim Yoo-jin, *Daily NK*)

- The body of a North Korean woman in her 20s found in the Tumen River near Onsong County, North Hamgyong Province, was discovered by border guards and has been turned over to local police. (Kim Yoo-jin, *Daily NK*)

In South Korea:

- Pro-Pyongyang activities have become brazen amid renewed engagement. A group calling itself the "Baekdu-honoring Committee" has been formed by 13 organizations, including the Korean Progressive Student Alliance. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Hyundai Group earned approval from the Ministry of Unification to hold a ceremony to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the launch of tours to Mount Kumgang, a resort mountain in North Korea, it said Thursday. (Kim Jee-hee, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- North Korea criticized, through its propaganda organ on Friday, that the South Korea-U.S. working group was a result of the United States' malicious intention to check, brake and destroy cooperation projects between South and North Korea. (Park Sung-soo, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The head of the EugeneBell Foundation Korea said Friday that the tuberculosis problem in North Korea is reaching a critical point that requires swift action and support from South Korea. (*Yonhap*)
- Senior South Korean and U.S. diplomats will have talks next week on joint efforts to denuclearize North Korea, including the planned launch of a bilateral "working group," Seoul's foreign ministry said Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Thursday he hopes North Korea will participate in various meetings with Southeast Asian nations after carrying out complete denuclearization. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon Jae-in and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping will hold a summit Saturday in Papua New Guinea, Cheong Wa Dae said Friday. (Lee Min-hyung, *The Korea Times*)
- North Korea's test of an unspecified high-tech weapon should not be interpreted as a sign that the regime is abandoning denuclearization talks with the United States, a senior South Korean official said Thursday. (Lee Haye-ah, *Yonhap*)
- Smuggling of medicines between North and South Korea has traditionally gone from the wealthy South to the impoverished North, where scarcity has created a lucrative smuggling route through China to serve those northerners who have the means to buy higher-quality drugs. (Joonho Kim, RFA)
- "This is the moment of truth for inter-Korean relations," said Hong Seok-hyun, chairman of the Korea Peace Foundation, at the Pohang University of Science and Technology (Postech) in North Gyeongsang on Thursday. (Chun Su-jin, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korea's backing of a resolution adopted by a U.N. General Assembly committee on North Korea's dire human rights records, Thursday, was in accordance with a policy to pursue "substantive improvement, according to the the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (Yi Whan-woo, *The Korea Times*)

- South Korea's unification minister reaffirmed Thursday that the government will push for inter-Korean cooperative projects within the framework of global sanctions on North Korea. (Yonhap)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- North Korea on Friday proposed connecting international air routes along the western and eastern coasts of the Korean Peninsula during the first-ever inter-Korean meeting on aviation cooperation, Seoul's unification ministry said. (Yonhap)
- North Korea will resume an annual amateur golf tournament in 2019 after a two-year hiatus as the country struggles to earn foreign exchange due to international sanctions. (Lee Sung-eun, Jeong Yong-soo, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- South and North Korea held a meeting Friday to discuss cooperation in the aviation sector, including the possible opening of a direct air route between the countries. (Yonhap)
- A top South Korean official said Thursday that he believes it is still possible for North Korean leader Kim Jong-un to visit Seoul before the end of the year. (Yonhap)
- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) chief on Thursday met a visiting North Korean official in charge of inter-Korean ties to discuss ways to boost cultural exchanges and cross-border tourism, the party's spokesman said. (Yonhap)
- A visiting North Korean official has proposed that South Korean lawmakers visit Pyongyang rather than the two Koreas seeking a formal inter-Korean parliamentary meeting, the head of the South Korean ruling party said Friday. (Yonhap)
- A five-member North Korean delegation that arrived in South Korea on Wednesday to attend an international peace forum toured a residential town and a lake park on the northern outskirts of Seoul on Friday. (Yonhap)
- Over the last 20 years, the relationship between South and North Korea has ebbed and flowed based on elections in the South and the leadership of the North. There have been many past South-North dialogues, but none has led to substantial progress towards peace. (Charlie Jung, 38 North)

International:

- U.S. Vice President Mike Pence asked South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Thursday to communicate and talk more closely with North Korea, Moon's spokesman said. (Yonhap)
- In a meeting in Singapore on Thursday on the sidelines of Asean meetings, South Korean President Moon Jae-in and U.S. Vice President Mike Pence reaffirmed the importance of the South Korea-U.S. alliance. (Korea JoongAng Daily)
- Sneaking into North Korea has proved to be a powerful temptation for some Americans. Some were driven by religious zeal, others simply were attracted by the mystery of a remote and cloistered country that seems the polar opposite of anything they had experienced. (Kim Tong-Hyung, AP)

- Amid warming relations between China and North Korea, a major entry point has seen throngs of Chinese tourists gathering to cross the border, sources in the area report. (Kim Song-il, *Daily NK*)
- Declaring an official end to the Korean War should not be seen as a slippery slope to the withdrawal of the 28,500 US troops in South Korea or the end of the US-ROK alliance, although it would generate pressure to reduce the American military footprint on the peninsula and shift more of the collective defense burden to the South. (Richard Sokolsky, Daniel R. Depetris, *38 North*)
- A key U.N. committee adopted a resolution Thursday condemning North Korea's "longstanding and ongoing systematic, widespread and gross violations of human rights" and strongly urging its government to immediately end the abuses. (AP)
- A United Nations committee on Thursday adopted a resolution calling for accountability for gross human rights violations in North Korea. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. Vice President Mike Pence said Thursday that he was looking forward to discussing a second summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and U.S. President Donald Trump with President Moon Jae-in, noting that progress had been made with North Korea over the past year. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Vice President Mike Pence said Thursday that the US will not require North Korea to provide a full list of its nuclear and missile sites before President Donald Trump meets with dictator Kim Jong Un for a second summit slated for early next year. (Zachary Cohen, CNN)
- The second summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will focus on creating a "verifiable plan" for North Korea's denuclearization, Vice President Mike Pence said Thursday, but an accounting of Pyongyang's nuclear weapons and testing sites will not be a prerequisite for the meeting. (Caitlin Oprysko, *Politico*)
- U.S. Vice President Mike Pence said Thursday that the U.S. will not require North Korea to submit a list of its nuclear arsenal before a second bilateral summit, but that the two sides will have to come up with a plan to identify the weapons during the meeting. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. Vice President Mike Pence says "great progress" has been made on North Korea but more had to be done, after Pyongyang reported a successful test of a new weapon. (AP)
- A United Nations committee has adopted a resolution that condemns North Korea's human rights violations. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- The United States flexed new muscle in Asia Thursday with pledges to counter China's expansion in a contested sea and set up a second summit with the leader of North Korea, which Washington regards as a military threat to Western allies. (Ralph Jennings, Nike Ching, VOA)
- The United States remains confident that promises made by President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un at their Singapore summit will be fulfilled, a U.S. State Department spokesman said on Thursday, after North Korea said it successfully tested a new tactical weapon. (David Brunnstrom, *Reuters*)
- U.S. Vice President Mike Pence says Washington will not ease economic sanctions against North Korea, urging Southeast Asian nations to continue a maximum pressure campaign against Pyongyang until it reaches the goal of a complete denuclearization. (Nike Ching, VOA)

- The North Korea-US high-level talks that had been scheduled on November 8 have been postponed after a unilateral decision from North Korea. While the United States claims that the talk was delayed due to the lack of preparations from North Korea, in truth, it was the outcome of the conflict between the US and North Korea on the agenda of the talk. (Thae Yong-ho, *Daily NK*)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821212837/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemslead-un-panel-adopts-resolution-condemning-nk-human-rights-abuseskim-jong-un-tests-high-tech-weapon-in-message-to-the-us

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Saturday, November 17, 2018

Kim attends his first weapons test in almost a year; American detained in North Korea deported back to US, official says

In North Korea:
Kim attends his first weapons test in almost a year (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/17/2018)
North Korea expels US citizen who attempted to enter illegally (*The Guardian*, 11/16/2018)
North Korea's stable exchange rates confound economists (*Associated PressI*, 11/16/2018)
North Korea's Yongbyon Nuclear Scientific Research Center: 5 MWe Reactor Unlikely Operating (*38 North*, 11/16/2018)

International:
American detained in North Korea deported back to US, official says (*Fox News*, 11/16/2018)
China's Xi intends to visit North Korea next year, South Korea says (*Reuters*, 11/17/2018)
(LEAD) U.S. voices appreciation for N. Korea's release of American citizen (*Yonhap*, 11/17/2018)
The Latest: US official: American on plane from North Korea (*Associated Press*, 11/17/2018)
U.S. top diplomat thanks North Korea, Sweden for working to secure American's release (*Reuters*, 11/16/2018)
US Welcomes North Korean Announcement to Release US Citizen (VOA, 11/16/2018)
Washington Under Pressure to Ease North Korean Sanctions (VOA, 11/17/2018)

In North Korea:

- North Korea's state media reported Friday that its leader, Kim Jong-un, supervised "a newly developed ultramodern tactical weapon test" at a defense institute, the first time in a year

that Kim was officially described as overseeing a weapons experiment. (Lee Sung-eun, Chun Su-jin, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

- North Korea has expelled a US citizen who tried to enter illegally, an unusually swift resolution of a case that could have further complicated reconciliation moves between the two countries. (*The Guardian*)
- It's a question that nags at North Korea economy watchers: How has the country been able to maintain stable exchange rates — and avert hyper-inflation — despite intense sanctions, political tensions and a swelling trade imbalance? (Eric Talmadge, *Associated Press*)
- Recent commercial satellite imagery of North Korea's Yongbyon Nuclear Scientific Research Center indicates that although a minor flow of water could be detected from the pre-existing cooling water outfall pipe of the 5 MWe reactor, such a low flow is more likely indicative of residual waste heat removal from past reactor operations than any new reactor operations. (*38 North*)

International:

- An American citizen claiming to be a spy when he was detained in North Korea has been deported to the United States after a month of captivity, an official said. (Paulina Dedaj, *Fox News*)
- Chinese President Xi Jinping intends to visit North Korea next year after receiving an invite from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, South Korea said on Saturday, which would make Xi the first Chinese leader to do so since 2005. (Ju-min Park, Soyoung Kim, *Reuters*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Friday expressed appreciation for North Korea's release of an American citizen held there for alleged illegal entry. (*Yonhap*)
- The Latest on the deportation of an American man from North Korea (all times local): 3 p.m. A U.S. official says an American citizen detained last month by North Korea has been deported and is on a flight back to the United States. (*Associated Press*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo thanked North Korea and Sweden for cooperating to secure the release of a U.S. citizen, Bruce Byron Lowrance, who has been detained by Pyongyang since entering the country illegally from China in October. (David Alexander, *Reuters*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo thanked North Korea for cooperating to secure the release of a U.S. citizen, after the North announced it will deport the man who was detained in October for illegally entering the country from China. (VOA)
- Washington faces mounting pressure from China, Russia and South Korea, as well as humanitarian groups, to ease sanctions on North Korea as the Trump administration's denuclearization talks with Pyongyang have hit a snag. (Christy Lee, VOA)

Prepared by Cassandra Wood, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:

https://web.archive.org/web/20250821212825/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-kim-attends-his-first-weapons-test-in-almost-a-year-american-detained-in-north-korea-deported-back-to-us-official-says

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Sunday, November 18, 2018

North Korea's new 'tactical' weapon test highlights military modernization; U.S., Britain discuss stopping N.K. sanctions evasion

In North Korea:
Kim Jong-un calls for modernized production in visit to glass victory (*Yonhap*, 11/18/2018)
North Korea's new 'tactical' weapon test highlights military modernization (*Reuters*, 11/18/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Delegation marks 20 years of Mt.Kumgang tours (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/18/2018)
Hyundai, North to commemorate 20th anniversary of Mount Geumgang program (*Korea Times*, 11/18/2018)
(LEAD) Two Koreas celebrate anniversary of suspended joint tour program (*Yonhap*, 11/18/2018)
N. Korean officials head home after 4-day cross-border trip (*Yonhap*, 11/17/2018)
Two Koreas on rapid military reconciliation (*Korea Times*, 11/18/2018)

International:
China aims to weaken U.S.-Korea ties: Report (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/18/2018)
CIA key official makes secret visit to Seoul (*Korea Times*, 11/18/2018)
CIA official paid secret visit to Seoul for talks with N.K. counterparts: sources (*Yonhap*, 11/17/2018)
Moon dances around sanctions talk during trip (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/18/2018)
North Korea's titular head to visit Cuba, Venezuela, Mexico (*Yonhap*, 11/18/2018)
North Korean official condemns Japan and demands apologies over 'sinful history' (*Japan Times*, 11/17/2018)
North Korean schools in Japan build loyalty, even love, abroad (*CBS News*, 11/18/2018)
S. Korean minister, Pompeo coordinate N.K. strategy (*Yonhap*, 11/17/2018)
U.S., Britain discuss stopping N.K. sanctions evasion (*Yonhap*, 11/17/2018)
U.S. upbeat about N.K. denuclearization despite new weapon test (*Yonhap*, 11/17/2018)

In North Korea:

- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un stressed the importance of modernized production during his visit to a glass factory in the country's western region, Pyongyang's state media reported Sunday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's claim last week that it had tested an unidentified "ultramodern tactical weapon" highlighted its desire to upgrade its conventional arms and reassure its military

even as talks are under way to end its nuclear program, analysts said. (Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- A South Korean delegation traveled to North Korea Sunday to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the launch of tours to the North's Mount Kumgang resort. It was the first time in three years that a group was allowed to travel to the North to celebrate the launch of the tours, which have been suspended for the past 10 years. (Esther Chung, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Hyundai Group and North Korea held a joint event Sunday to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the inter-Korean tourism program at the North's Mount Geumgang. (Park Ji-won, *Korea Times*)
- The two Koreas held an event Sunday to mark the 20th anniversary of the long-suspended joint tourism program at the North's scenic Mount Kumgang. About 100 South Koreans and 80 North Koreans were in attendance at the first celebratory two-day event for four years at the east coast resort. (*Yonhap*)
- A five-member North Korean delegation left South Korea on Saturday to return home after wrapping up their four-day visit to attend an international peace forum. (*Yonhap*)
- The two Koreas are on a rapid track to disarm fortifications on land border areas and ease military tension by taking concrete steps to realize their common goal of building peace on land, sea and in the air. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)

International:

- China isn't as committed to North Korea's denuclearization as Washington or Seoul and aims to weaken the South Korea-U.S. alliance, according to an annual report on the U.S.-China economic and security relationship submitted to the U.S. Congress on Wednesday. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- A senior Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) official on Korean affairs secretly visited South Korea and met senior officials of the two Koreas, according to local media reports last week. (Park Ji-won, *Korea Times*)
- A senior U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) official in charge of Korean affairs paid a secret visit to South Korea this week and held talks with North Korean counterparts in the border truce village of Panmunjom, sources familiar with the matter said Saturday. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon Jae-in avoided discussing sanctions relief for North Korea during his recent meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin, President Xi Jinping of China and U.S. Vice President Mike Pence in Singapore and Papua New Guinea. (Kang Jin-kyu, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- North Korea said Sunday its titular head of state, Kim Yong-nam, will visit Cuba in the latest efforts to enhance ties with the socialist country. Kim, president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, will lead a delegation to Cuba, Venezuela and Mexico, the North's official Korean Central News Agency said. (*Yonhap*)
- A North Korean official urged Japan on Friday to take responsibility for its "sinful history," including the forced mobilization of millions of Koreans during its 1910-1945 colonial rule,

and to officially apologize and sufficiently compensate the victims and their families. (*Japan Times*)

- At Korea University, located in the suburbs of the Japanese capital, the 600 or so students are taught that North Korea is their only ally and strongest supporter. "This is a really great period for North Korea. It's a good period for us, better than any other time," student Ha Minee told CBS News. (*CBS News*)
- South Korea's top official handling North Korea affairs met with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo Friday to coordinate efforts to dismantle the North's nuclear weapons program, the State Department said. (*Yonhap*)
- The United States and Britain held a workshop Friday to discuss ways to stop North Korea's evasion of sanctions related to its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs, the U.S. State Department said. (*Yonhap*)
- The United States expressed confidence Friday that North Korea will honor its commitment to denuclearize despite its test of an unspecified high-tech weapon. (*Yonhap*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821212926/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-north-koreas-new-tactical-weapon-test-highlights-military-modernization-us-britain-discuss-stopping-nk-sanctions-evasion

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Monday, November 19, 2018

Defector: 'Young North Koreans indifferent to politics'; U.S. calling for high-level talks with North soon

In North Korea:

'80% of young North Koreans not loyal to Kim Jong-un,' says defector soldier [VIDEO] (*The Korea Times*, 11/19/2018)
Chongjin factory roof collapse leads to fatalities (*Daily* NK, 11/19/2018)
Defector: 'Young North Koreans indifferent to politics' (UPI, 11/19/2018)
Heat damage still haunts North Korea (*The Korea Times*, 11/19/2018)
Kim Jong Un 'applauds' North Korea glass factory during visit (UPI, 11/19/2018)
K-pop dance moves all the rage in North Korea (*Daily* NK, 11/19/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korean propaganda outlet blasts U.S. for maximum pressure tactic (*Yonhap*, 11/19/2018)
N. Korean newspaper calls Arab pro-democracy movement 'Arab Winter' (*Yonhap*, 11/19/2018)
N. Korea touts bumper harvest of potatoes (*Yonhap*, 11/19/2018)
North Korea defector: next generation have no loyalty to Kim Jong-un – report (*The Guardian*, 11/19/2018)
North Korea Denuclearization Plan Has Gone Nowhere Since Trump-Kim Summit (NPR, 11/19/2018)

North Korean defector: 'If you don't have money or power, you die in a ditch' (CNN, 11/19/2018)
North Korean soldier who defected last year says he thought war with U.S. was inevitable (*The Washington Post*, 11/19/2018)
North Korean Weapon Test Demonstrates Pyongyang's Resolve (VOA, 11/19/2018)
North Korea outside of Pyongyang (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/19/2018)
North Korea weapons test is a shot across the bow of Washington (*The Telegraph*, 11/19/2018)
UNC is stumbling block: NK media (*The Korea Times*, 11/19/2018)
Why there has been no progress in nuclear talks with North Korea (*The Economist*, 11/19/2018)

In South Korea:
Activists hold rally praising Kim Jong-un (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/19/2018)
(LEAD) Seoul says N.K. leader's visit this year is still possible (*Yonhap*, 11/19/2018)
South has sent tangerines to North before, to little effect (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/19/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) Tour program to Mount Kumgang unlikely to be resumed this year: Hyundai chief (*Yonhap*, 11/19/2018)
North, South Korea delegates mark anniversary at mountain resort (UPI, 11/19/2018)

International:
DPRK should be allowed to buy new commercial planes, says Russian ambassador (*NK News*, 11/19/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea, U.S. set to launch 'working group' on N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 11/19/2018)
S. Korea-US working group on North Korea to be launched this week (*The Korea Herald*, 11/19/2018)
U.S. calling for high-level talks with North soon (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/19/2018)
U.S. Expert Calls for N.Korea's Spy Bureau to Be Neutralized (*Chosun Ilbo*, 11/19/2018)
U.S. sanctions South African for helping North Korea acquire oil (*Reuters*, 11/19/2018)
U.S. Targets Libyan Militia Leader, North Korea-Linked Middleman With Sanctions (*The Wall Street Journal*, 11/19/2018)
Xi to Visit Both Koreas Next Year (*Chosun Ilbo*, 11/19/2018)

In North Korea:

- Eighty percent of young North Koreans have no loyalty to the country's leader, according to a Japanese newspaper. (Jung Da-min, *The Korea Times*)
- A partial roof collapse occurred recently at the Chongjin Bag Factory in North Hamgyong Province while repairs were being made on the structure, leading to a number of deaths. Kim Jong Un had earlier visited the factory in July. (Ha Yoon-ah, *Daily NK*)
- A former North Korean soldier, who risked his life to cross the heavily guarded border to defect to the South last year, said a majority of young North Koreans are indifferent to politics and the regime failed to keep people loyal to the leadership, in an interview with a Japanese media outlet. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)

- North Korea is yet to recover from damage caused by unusually hot weather that struck the country from mid-July to August, according to a recent report by an international aid agency. (Jung Da-min, *The Korea Times*)
- Kim Jong Un is turning his attention to the domestic economy, and acknowledging difficulties faced by North Korea's workforce, as one of his senior officials takes his place in key meetings in Latin America. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Will North Koreans ever perform the dance moves of Bangtan Boys (BTS) and other South Korean idol groups? (Mun Dong-hui, *Daily NK*)
- A North Korean propaganda outlet blasted the United States Monday for sticking to "maximum pressure" in pushing for denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, calling it a "medieval-era" tactic that would never work on the North. (*Yonhap*)
- The mouthpiece of North Korea's ruling party on Monday described the Arab Spring, a wave of pro-democracy uprisings in the early 2010s, as the "Arab Winter." (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's main newspaper on Monday reported a record harvest of potatoes in its northeastern province of Yanggang this year. (*Yonhap*)
- The North Korean soldier who defected to the South in a hail of bullets last year is a general's son but says most Northerners of his age have no loyalty to Kim Jong-un, according to a Japanese newspaper. (AFP)
- After meeting with North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore this past June, President Trump was effusive."Our conversation was open, honest, direct and very, very productive," he said. "We produced something that is beautiful." (Geoff Brumfiel, NPR)
- The North Korean soldier who was caught on tape making a dramatic escape through the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) to South Korea late last year has given some startling insights into life in the North, including the suggestion that the majority of young people there have no loyalty to Kim Jong Un. (Euan McKirdy, CNN)
- Last November, North Korean soldier Oh Chong Song made a dash toward freedom through the Korean Peninsula's demilitarized zone. His fellow North Koreans fired at him, hitting him at least five times and leaving him fighting for his life. (Adam Taylor, *The Washington Post*)
- What does a new "tactical" weapon mean for the North Korean denuclearization process? Both the United States and the South Korean government downplayed the weapons test, but Adam Mount, a member of the Federation of American Scientists, disagreed. (Steve Miller, VOA)
- "Prohibition on sale of women and children crossing the border! Prohibition on accommodating and providing room and board to border crossers!" said warning signs on the Duman (Tumen) River in Baishan, Jilin Province along the border of North Korea and China. (Kim Su-jeong, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The test-firing of an "ultramodern tactical weapon" by the North Korean military sends messages to both domestic and international audiences, according to analysts, with the presence of Kim Jong-un at Friday's exercises underlining Pyongyang's resolve to stand up to Washington. (Julian Ryall, *The Telegraph*)
- North Korea denounced the U.S.-led United Nations Command (UNC) in South Korea as an impediment to inter-Korean reconciliation, through media reports Monday. (Kim Bo-eun, *The Korea Times*)

- “THERE IS NO longer a Nuclear Threat from North Korea,” President Donald Trump tweeted in June. Mr Trump had just returned from a meeting in Singapore with Kim Jong Un, North Korea’s dictator. (L.R.S., *The Economist*)

In South Korea:

- A pro-North Korean group staged a rally praising North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in Gwanghwamun Square, central Seoul, on Sunday, despite being reported multiple times for violating the National Security Act. (Kim Da-young, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- It is still possible that North Korean leader Kim Jong-un could visit the South this year despite a delay in denuclearization talks between Washington and Pyongyang, the unification ministry said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- Last week, the government flew 200 tons of tangerines to North Korea on an Air Force plane. The top-secret transfer resembled a military operation more than a gift-giving gesture. (Lee Young-jong, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The head of Hyundai Group on Monday expressed reservations about any quick resumption of a stalled tour program to North Korea's scenic mountain resort. (*Yonhap*)
- North and South Korean delegates with mutual business interests celebrated progress in inter-Korea ties at North Korea's Mount Kumgang on Monday, despite reports last week Kim Jong Un inspected a "tactical" weapon test. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

International:

- Russia is actively pushing for the easing of sanctions on North Korea to allow, among other things, the country’s national carrier Air Koryo to purchase new commercial aircraft, the country’s ambassador to the DPRK Alexander Matsegora said in an interview with Izvestia published late last week. (Colin Zwirko, *NK News*)
- South Korea and the United States are expected to launch a key consultative body to speed up denuclearization and coordinate the tempo of sanctions on North Korea. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea’s top nuclear envoy on Monday headed to the US, where he is expected to launch a working group with his US counterpart aimed at better coordinating their North Korea policy, amid ongoing efforts to rid the Korean Peninsula of nuclear weapons. (Ock Hyun-ju, *The Korea Herald*)
- Washington is suggesting to Pyongyang a high-level negotiation in New York between late November and early December, a source with knowledge of the situation exclusively told the JoongAng Ilbo Sunday. (Jeong Yong-soo, Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- A U.S. expert has expressed alarm at the cyber threat from North Korea and called for its General Bureau of Reconnaissance to be incapacitated. (Cho Yi-jun, *Chosun Ilbo*)

- The United States on Monday sanctioned a South African man for helping North Korea acquire oil, Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control said. (Lisa Lambert, *Reuters*)
- The U.S. Treasury Department on Monday announced new sanctions designations targeting a Libyan militia leader and a man who helped North Korea acquire oil. (Samuel Rubenfeld, *The Wall Street Journal*)
- President Moon Jae-in told his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping on Saturday he hopes both sides will work more closely to improve ties between Seoul and Beijing and to promote peace on the Korean Peninsula. (Lee Min-seok, *Chosun Ilbo*)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821213008/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-defector-young-north-koreans-indifferent-to-politics-us-calling-for-high-level-talks-with-north-soon

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Tuesday, November 20, 2018

North Korea defector shares startling insights; North Korea's maternity mortality rate 8 times higher than South Korea's

Top News:
North Korea defector shares startling insights (CNN, 11/19/2018)

In North Korea:
Look Before You Tweet: The Perils of Rushing Analysis (*38 North*, 11/19/2018)
N. Korea's maternity mortality rate 8 times higher than S. Korea's (*Korea Times*, 11/20/2018)
North Korean soldier imprisoned for military service complaint (*Daily NK*, 11/20/2018)
North's new toy is likely short-range missile (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/20/2018)
Report shows deteriorating health of N. Korean infants, mothers (*Yonhap*, 11/20/2018)
Retired North Korean Official Arrested for Criticizing Kim Jong Un (*Radio Free Asia*, 11/19/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) Minister says Seoul will honor sanctions in seeking inter-Korean economic cooperation (*Yonhap*, 11/20/2018)
S. Korea allows son of late N.K. official to visit Pyongyang for memorial service (*Yonhap*, 11/20/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Kim Jong-un must visit Seoul as promised (*Korea Times*, 11/20/2018)
Mt. Geumgang tours unlikely to resume soon (*Korea Times*, 11/20/2018)
N. Korea's media report on events for anniversary of Mount Kumgang tour (*Yonhap*, 11/20/2018)

North Korea demolished ten guard posts with explosives, Seoul says (UPI, 11/20/2018)
S. Korean aid groups seek to visit N. Korea this month (*Yonhap*, 11/20/2018)
Seoul: North Korea destroys 10 guard posts to lower tensions (*Associated Press*, 11/20/2018)

International:
(LEAD) N. Korea's ceremonial head of state arrives in Beijing (*Yonhap*, 11/20/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea, U.S. to launch N.K. working group this week (*Yonhap*, 11/20/2018)
Moon, Trump might meet at G-20 summit in Argentina (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/20/2018)
N. Korea presses Japan to break from U.S.-led sanctions (*Yonhap*, 11/20/2018)
North Korea's Kim Yong Nam seen leaving Beijing airport (UPI, 11/20/2018)
Pompeo thanks Sweden for help in American's release from N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 11/20/2018)
Remains of US soldier killed in Korean War identified (*Associated Press*, 11/19/2018)
South-U.S. working group meets (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/20/2018)
Trump made some very scary statements about North Korea in his Fox News interview (*Vox*, 11/19/2018)
US adds Russian-born South African to financial blacklist (*Associated Press*, 11/19/2018)
U.S. sanctions S. African over N. Korea ties (*Yonhap*, 11/20/2018)
U.S., South Korea launch working group on North Korea issues (UPI, 11/20/2018)
US Targets South African Who Helped North Korea Skirt Oil Sanctions (VOA, 11/19/2018)
U.S. wants 'evidence' of North's sincerity (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/20/2018)

Top News:

- HRNK Executive Director Greg Scarlatoiu was interviewed on CNN for a piece discussing recent North Korean defector Oh Chong-song's insights regarding life in North Korea. The following is a quote from the interview: "You have to live on scraps; ordinary people are left to fend for themselves and they must find means to survive." (Brian Todd, Greg Scarlatoiu, CNN)

In North Korea:

- What, then, are we to make of the report on Kim's visit to the weapon's test site? In fact, the report was similar to that for other visits he has made over the past several years for tests at the Academy of Defense Science, i.e., brief reporting that is relatively free of provocative language. (Robert Carlin, *38 North*)
- Health and welfare conditions in North Korea have turned for the worse in recent years, especially for pregnant women and infants, according to a report, Tuesday. (Kim Hyun-bin, *Korea Times*)
- A soldier working at an underground military rocket storage facility near Nammoon District in Kanggye, Changgang Province, complained openly about the state of military affairs and WKP policies while drunk and may be expelled from the facility, North Korean sources have reported. (Mun Dong Hui, *Daily NK*)
- South Korea's military believes that the "newly developed ultramodern tactical weapon" North Korea said it successfully tested last week is a new type of short-range missile, a local

government source exclusively told the JoongAng Ilbo on Monday. (Park Yong-han, Korea JoongAng Daily)

- Amid the prolonged international sanctions on North Korea, the health of the North's infants and pregnant women is in a very vulnerable state, a South Korean government think tank said Tuesday. (Yonhap)
- A retired North Korean official from Ryanggang Province was arrested earlier this month for his critical comments of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un, according to RFA sources. The retired official, who was in his 60s, was once the deputy chairman of the People's Committee in Hyesan, a city that borders China and is the province's administrative center. (Hyemin Son, Leejin Jun, Eugene Whong, Radio Free Asia)

In South Korea:

- South Korea will continue to closely cooperate with the international community in enforcing global sanctions on North Korea even when it pushes for inter-Korean economic cooperation, Seoul's unification minister said Tuesday. (Yonhap)
- South Korea has allowed a man to visit Pyongyang to attend a memorial service for his mother who was a high-ranking North Korean official, a unification ministry official said Tuesday. (Yonhap)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The U.S. and North Korea should hold a high-level meeting before the month passes, and Kim ought to make a visit to the South by the year-end, which would serve as a stepping stone to the second summit between him and Trump. (Choi Sung-jin, Korea Times)
- The two Koreas expressed hopes of resuming the suspended tour program at the North's Mount Geumgang but it is unlikely to be this year, Hyundai Group Chairwoman Hyun Jeong-eun told reporters Monday, after a two-day visit to the North. (Jung Da-min, Korea Times)
- North Korea's media Tuesday reported on recent events to mark the 20th anniversary of a now-suspended tour program to a scenic North Korean mountain. (Yonhap)
- North Korea detonated ten guard posts inside the demilitarized zone on Tuesday but left one guard post intact, as the two Koreas move forward to carry out agreements between Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- South Korea's private humanitarian aid groups are planning to visit North Korea this month to discuss various assistance programs with the North's authorities, officials said Tuesday. (Yonhap)
- North Korea on Tuesday blew up some of its front-line guard posts as part of an agreement to ease tensions along its heavily fortified border with South Korea, Seoul's Defense Ministry said. (Kim Hyung-jin, Associated Press)

International:

- North Korea's ceremonial head of state, Kim Yong-nam, arrived in Beijing on Tuesday, apparently on his way to Latin America. Kim, president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, arrived at Beijing's Capital International Airport. (Yonhap)
- South Korea and the United States will launch a working group this week to aid coordination in their efforts to rid North Korea of its nuclear weapons program, a top South Korean official said Monday. (Yonhap)
- Blue House spokesman Kim Eui-kyeom said during a media briefing that the South Korean government was discussing a Moon-Trump summit with Washington, but that they have yet to conclude whether both leaders will actually meet. If they do, it will be their sixth summit. (Lee Sung-eun, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- North Korea's external propaganda media on Tuesday urged Japan to withdraw its "anachronistic and self-destructive" support for the United States-led sanctions on the North. (Yonhap)
- North Korea's titular head of state arrived in Beijing on Tuesday, en route to Latin America for meetings with the leaders of Cuba, Mexico and Venezuela, according to a South Korean press report. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo thanked his Swedish counterpart Monday for the Nordic country's help in securing the release of an American citizen from North Korea, the State Department said. (Yonhap)
- According to the Pentagon's Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, a burial site near the reservoir was excavated in September 2001 during a joint U.S.-North Korean recovery operation. Remains were sent to the DPAA laboratory in Hawaii for identification. (Chris Carola, Associated Press)
- Lee Do-hoon, South Korea's special representative for Korean Peninsula peace and security affairs, held talks with Stephen Biegun, the U.S. special representative for North Korea, on Monday. The the two negotiators agreed to hold the first meeting of the working group the following day. (Sarah Kim, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- President Donald Trump just basically admitted that the US was very close to going to war with North Korea last year, and that he doesn't believe clear intelligence showing Pyongyang is improving its missile program. (Alex Ward, Vox)
- U.S. authorities accused a Russian-born citizen of South Africa on Monday of taking part in a scheme to help North Korea evade sanctions aimed at curbing its nuclear weapons program. (Matthew Pennington, Associated Press)
- The United States on Monday sanctioned a South African individual for allegedly helping North Korea buy oil through illicit means. Vladlen Amtchentsev, a Russian-born South African national, advised an already sanctioned entity, Velmur Management Pte. Ltd., on how to evade U.S. sanctions to support purchases of fuel oil for North Korea. (Yonhap)
- The United States and South Korea have launched a joint working group to coordinate issues that emerge in negotiations for denuclearization of North Korea's nuclear weapons and in the process for improving inter-Korean relations. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- Vladlen Amtchentsev, 49, purportedly helped North Korea obtain fuel oil and gas oil, and worked with Singapore front companies to launder millions of dollars through the U.S. to help sanctioned North Korean banks. (VOA)

- A South Korean government official said Tuesday that U.S. government officials recently called for "evidence that North Korea will denuclearize," even as Pyongyang and Washington are trying to reschedule a high-level meeting in New York initially set for Nov. 8. (Jeong Yong-soo, Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821213109/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-north-korea-defector-shares-startling-insights-north-koreas-maternity-mortality-rate-8-times-higher-than-south-koreas

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Wednesday, November 21, 2018

North Korean defector in Russia unexpectedly repatriated; North Korean anti-socialist task force groups stage end-of-year crackdown

In North Korea:

Blockchain conference slated for Pyongyang in April (*Korean Times*, 11/21/2018)
N. Korea abstains from vote on U.N. resolution against arbitrary executions: report (*Yonhap*, 11/21/2018)
N. Korean media highlight high-tech achievements amid economic development campaign (*Yonhap*, 11/21/2018)
North Korean anti-socialist task force groups stage end-of-year crackdown (*Daily NK*, 11/21/2018)
North Korea athletes at Iran archery event take gold, silver and bronze (UPI, 11/21/2018)
Report: North Korea man arrested after escape attempt (UPI, 11/21/2018)
Researchers in their 10s, 20s leading North Korea's AI technology: state media (*Korea Times*, 11/21/2018)
Where Did North Korea's Cyber Army Come From? (VOA, 11/20/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

Jeju council adopts resolution welcoming leaders of two Koreas to Mount Halla (*Yonhap*, 11/21/2018)
(LEAD) Koreas to hold meeting to discuss improving direct communications lines (*Yonhap*, 11/21/2018)

International:

As clock ticks, South Korea looks for a leap of faith from Washington over North Korea (*The Washington Post*, 11/21/2018)
International anti-land mine coalition welcomes demining along inter-Korean border (*Yonhap*, 11/21/2018)

N. Korean defector says Japan's Sankei newspaper apologized about interview (*Yonhap*, 11/21/2018)
(News Focus) Washington's support on railway survey brightens outlook for stalled inter-Korean cooperation (*Yonhap*, 11/21/2018)
North Korea sends engineering apprentices to China, skirting international sanctions (*Daily NK*, 11/21/2018)
North Korean defector in Russia unexpectedly repatriated (*Daily NK*, 11/21/2018)
Pompeo: Inter-Korean cooperation should not outpace N.K. denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 11/21/2018)
Pompeo tells Seoul nuclear progress must not lag better Korea ties (*Reuters* 11/20/2018)
S. Korea, U.S. hold inaugural session of N.K. working group (*Yonhap*, 11/21/2018)
U.S. backs joint Korean railway survey: Envoy (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/21/2018)
U.S., South Korea hold first working group meeting on North Korea (UPI, 11/21/2018)
U.S. 'strongly supports' inter-Korean railway study: official (*Yonhap*, 11/21/2018)
Wobbly bike ride (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/21/2018)

In North Korea:

- The Korean Friendship Association (KFA) said on its website that the Pyongyang Blockchain and Cryptocurrency Conference will be held in the Science and Technology Complex in the North Korean capital April 22 and 23. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)
- North Korea has abstained from voting on two United Nations resolutions on arbitrary executions and freedom of association and assembly, American broadcaster Radio Free Asia (RFA) reported on Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's media outlets are repeatedly playing up the importance of information and communications technology (ICT) apparently as part of an effort to attain economic development. (*Yonhap*)
- Some North Korean residents are reportedly complaining about harsh crackdowns led by anti-socialist task force groups (dispatched by the government) on illegal transactions in Hyesan and areas of Ryanggang Province as the end of the year approaches. (Kim Yoo-jin, *Daily NK*)
- North Korean athletes in Iran won gold, silver and bronze medals at the first CISM World Military Archery Championships in Tehran, according to Pyongyang's state media. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- A North Korean man who once held office in a regional city was arrested after attempting to escape, according to sources in the country. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Researchers in their 10s and 20s are leading North Korea's development of artificial intelligence (AI) technology, the country's state-run media said. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)
- North Korean hackers continue to circumvent protections and compromise computer systems around the globe. (Steve Miller, VOA)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The Jeju Special-Governing Provincial Council on Wednesday adopted a resolution calling for the leaders of the two Koreas to together visit the southern resort island's Mount Halla during North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's future visit to South Korea. (Yonhap)
- South and North Korea will hold a working-level meeting later this week to discuss ways to modernize underground cables set up across their border for direct phone and other communication lines, the unification ministry said Wednesday. (Yonhap)

International:

- On the militarized front line dividing the Korean Peninsula, South Korea has been busy bulldozing and blowing up some of its guard posts. (Simon Denyer, The Washington Post)
- An international anti-land mine coalition welcomed a demining operation that South and North Korea have been undertaking along their border, saying it hopes the confidence-building measure will reduce tensions on the Korean Peninsula. (Yonhap)
- A North Korean soldier who made a dramatic escape to the South via the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) last year said Wednesday he received a message of apology from a Japanese newspaper for running an interview with him with distorted facts. (Yonhap)
- The U.S. expression of "strong support" for South Korea's efforts to reconnect cross-border railways with North Korea brightened the peace project's prospects, but any meaningful progress appears to hinge on how the stalled denuclearization negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang will go. (Yonhap)
- Despite the restrictions placed on North Korea's foreign currency-earning activities, the regime has found a way around the sanctions that allows them to send North Korean laborers abroad. (Kim Song-il, Daily NK)
- A defector living in Russia who had recently chosen to move to South Korea was suddenly and unexpectedly repatriated back to North Korea. (Kim Song-il, Daily NK)
- The United States wants to ensure that progress in denuclearizing North Korea is not outpaced by efforts to improve inter-Korean ties, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Tuesday. (Yonhap)
- The United States has told its ally South Korea it should not improve ties with North Korea faster than Pyongyang takes steps to give up its nuclear weapons, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Tuesday. (Reuters)
- South Korea and the United States on Tuesday held the inaugural session of a working group designed to help coordination on efforts to denuclearize North Korea. (Yonhap)
- South Korea's nuclear envoy said that the United States showed "strong support" for an inter-Korean railway survey after meeting with his American counterpart in Washington on Tuesday. (Lee Sung-eun, Yoo Jee-hye, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- The United States and South Korea held the first meeting of its bilateral working group on North Korea in Washington on Tuesday, as U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called for greater coordination. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- The United States has expressed its "strong support" for the Koreas' plan to study the possibility of reconnecting a railway across their border, a South Korean official said Tuesday. (Yonhap)

- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo made it clear on Wednesday that he was sending South Korea the message that the United States does not want denuclearization of North Korea to lag behind the improvement of inter-Korean relations. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)

Prepared by Cassandra Wood, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821213357/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-north-korean-defector-in-russia-unexpectedly-repatriated-north-korean-anti-socialist-task-force-groups-stage-end-of-year-crackdown

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Thursday, November 22, 2018

Sweden raises alarm over sanctions' impact on NK human rights; North Korea boosts ideological education amid sanctions

In North Korea:
Analyst: North Korea's economy initiatives more reformative than predecessor (UPI, 11/22/2018)
Bad memories of 'confession diplomacy' could be a reason for N.K.'s refusal to declare nuclear program: expert (*Yonhap*, 11/22/2018)
Computers in North Korea run on look-alike Mac software called 'Red Star 3.0' — see what it looks like to log in and use it (*Business Insider South Africa*, 11/21/2018)
Kim Jong-il's secretary is now in prison camp: Source (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/22/2018)
N. Korea's media call sanctions 'most heinous' but useless in deterring economic development (*Yonhap*, 11/22/2018)
North Korea boosts ideological education amid sanctions (*Korea Times*, 11/22/2018)
North Korean construction workers in Samjiyon face long hours in icy temperatures (*Daily NK*, 11/22/2018)
North Korean soldiers at Joint Security Area sporting new uniforms, photos reveal (*NK News*, 11/22/2018)
North Korean still working at main nuclear site, IAEA says (*Reuters*, 11/22/2018)

In South Korea:
A warning for Moon (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/22/2018)
Cheong Wa Dae denies alleged hacking attempt by N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 11/22/2018)
Kim Jong Who? South Korea revamps the way students study North Korea (*Reuters*, 11/21/2018)
Korean War hero Gen. Paik Sun-yup honored on his 99th (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/22/2018)
Moon's approval ratings hit a low of 52.5% (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/22/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

(2nd LD) Koreas connect road inside heavily fortified DMZ (*Yonhap*, 11/22/2018)
Inter-Korean summit expected in near future: spy agency (*Yonhap*, 11/22/2018)
(LEAD) Inter-Korean rail survey expected soon, top nuclear envoy says (*Yonhap*, 11/22/2018)
Two Koreas Connect Road Across DMZ (VOA, 11/22/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) S. Korea, U.S. to scale back military drill next spring: Mattis (*Yonhap*, 11/22/2018)
(3rd LD) S. Korea in consultations with U.S., relevant countries on sanctions exemptions for railway project (*Yonhap*, 11/22/2018)
Activists condemn Russia for handing over North Korean defector (*The Telegraph*, 11/22/2018)
Cuba and North Korea are supposed to share values, but they have totally different ways of treating children (*Business Insider*, 11/21/2018)
Current foreign fiction has found new U.S. readers. 9/11 is part of the reason. (*Washington Post*, 11/21/2018)
Foal Eagle is being scaled back (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/22/2018)
IAEA calls on North Korea to re-admit nuclear inspectors (*Associated Press*, 11/22/2018)
Mattis says US-South Korea military exercise will be scaled back (CNN, 11/21/2018)
Mattis: US, South Korea could reduce scope of 'Foal Eagle' military exercise (*UPI*, 11/22/2018)
Pompeo holds out hope for 2nd N.K. summit (*Yonhap*, 11/22/2018)
S. Korea, U.S. plan biweekly 'working group' consultations on N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 11/22/2018)
Sweden raises alarm over sanctions' impact on NK human rights (*Korea Herald*, 11/22/2018)
U.S., South Korea to reduce scope of 'Foal Eagle' military drill: Mattis (*Reuters*, 11/21/2018)
US, South Korea to Scale Back 2019 Military Exercises (VOA, 11/21/2018)
US and South Korea scale back major military exercise to aid nuclear talks (*The Guardian*, 11/21/2018)
US and South Korea to scale back major military exercise (*Associated Press*, 11/21/2018)
U.S. has little to show for stalled nuclear talks with North Korea (*Los Angeles Times*, 11/22/2018)
(Yonhap Interview) Ambassador Cho: No Plan B if talks with N. Korea fail (*Yonhap*, 11/22/2018)

In North Korea:

- North Korea's major economic initiatives under the current leader Kim Jong Un bear much resemblance to those implemented in the early stages of economic growth and reform in China and Vietnam, according to a South Korean analyst at a forum Wednesday. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- North Korea's refusal to submit a declaration of its nuclear weapons and facilities could be because of concerns that the move could end up inviting international criticism and other unexpected side effects and complicate denuclearization negotiations, a South Korean expert said. (*Yonhap*)
- When former Google employee Will Scott had the chance to visit the Pyongyang University of Science and Technology, he also purchased a copy of North Korea's "Red Star 3" operating system before returning to America. (Dave Smith, *Business Insider South Africa*)
- Former North Korean leader Kim Jong-il's secretary Kim Ok, once rumored to be the late ruler's secret fourth wife, appears to have been sent to a prison camp, a local government

official exclusively told the JoongAng Ilbo on Wednesday. (Jeong Yong-soo, Korea JoongAng Daily)

- North Korea's media criticized hostile forces for imposing "most heinous" sanctions on the North on Thursday but emphasized that they could not deter it from realizing economic development. (Yonhap)
- North Korea is strengthening ideological education, particularly for workers and students, in a move to promote the country's new economic strategy declared last April. (Jung Da-min, Korea Times)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un made his third on-the-spot visit to the Samjiyon modernization project site late last month. The site is now in the midst of a flurry of activity as the project end date has been brought forward to October 2020. (Kim Yoo Jin, Daily NK)
- North Korean soldiers inside the Joint Security Area (JSA) have begun wearing updated uniforms, photos show, as negotiations over a new system of free movement and other logistical issues within the newly-demilitarized zone continue. (Colin Zwirko, NK News)
- The statement by the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency is a further sign that North Korea is pressing ahead with its atomic activities despite pressure from the United States for it to scrap its nuclear weapons programme. (Francois Murphy, Reuters)

In South Korea:

- President Moon Jae-in's approval rating dropped to barely above 50 percent, the lowest since he took office in May 2017. More alarmingly, the fall has continued over the last eight weeks. If the trend continues, his approval rating could fall below 50 percent. (Korea JoongAng Daily)
- North Korea apparently poses no immediate threat to South Korea's cybersecurity, with no serious attempt reported at least since late March, Seoul's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said Thursday. (Yonhap)
- A year of warming relations between North and South Korea has raised the prospects of closer ties, if not some form of unification for the still-warring neighbors far in the future. But it might not be obvious in a typical South Korean classroom. (Joyce Lee, Jeongmin Kim, Reuters)
- The celebration of Paik's 98th birthday -- or the celebrated 99th by Korean count -- was held at the Ministry of National Defense Convention Center in central Seoul with nearly the full roster of American representatives in Korea in attendance. (Lee Chul-jae, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- President Moon Jae-in's approval rating dropped to 52.5 percent, the lowest level since taking power in May 2017, affected by a stagnating economy with no signs of an immediate rebound and stalled talks on North Korea's denuclearization. (Kang Jin-kyu, Korea JoongAng Daily)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The Koreas connected a 3 kilometer-long tactical road across the Military Demarcation Line inside the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) on Thursday to support a joint project to excavate Korean War remains at a notorious battle site. (Yonhap)

- South Korea's spy agency said Thursday an inter-Korean summit will be held "in the near future," adding Seoul is pushing to organize the meeting south of the border. (Yonhap)
- South Korea's top nuclear envoy struck an upbeat note Thursday on the planned field survey of inter-Korean railways as he returned from a trip to the United States. (Yonhap)
- North and South Korea have connected a road across their shared border for the first time in 14 years, Seoul's defense ministry said Thursday in the latest reconciliation gesture between the neighbors. (VOA)

International:

- South Korea and the United States will scale back a joint military exercise next spring to facilitate negotiations over North Korea's nuclear weapons program, U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Wednesday. (Yonhap)
- South Korea is in consultations with the United States and other relevant countries to discuss temporary sanctions exemptions for a joint railway field study with North Korea, a unification ministry official said Thursday. (Yonhap)
- Human rights activists say the speed with which the investigators acted and the Russian authorities' apparent disregard for Mr Jun's likely fate should be cause for concern. (Julian Ryall, *The Telegraph*)
- Kim Jong Un, North Korea's tyrannical leader, recently "reaffirmed historic ties" with Miguel Diaz-Canel, Cuba's president. Diplomacy between Cuba and North Korea is odd. (Robert Huish, Peter Steele, *Business Insider*)
- A few months into the Iraq War, three American women founded a magazine called Words Without Borders. "The only writing we could get was writing from the North Koreans' own literary journals, which they had in their New York office at the United Nations." An intern was dispatched to the United Nations for reconnaissance. (Liesl Schillinger, *Washington Post*)
- Seoul and Washington will scale back a major annual joint military drill next spring, the Foal Eagle exercise, said U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis Wednesday, a concession to ongoing denuclearization talks with North Korea. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Speaking at a board meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency Thursday, Director General Yukiya Amano noted that Pyongyang had in September talked about denuclearization measures including the "permanent dismantlement of the nuclear facilities in Yongbyon" — a reactor where it produces plutonium. (*Associated Press*)
- The next major joint US-South Korea military exercise will be "reduced in scope" to avoid hurting diplomatic efforts with North Korea, Secretary of Defense James Mattis said Wednesday. (Ryan Browne, CNN)
- The United States and South Korea could reduce the scope of one of the largest annual joint military exercises, U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis said Wednesday. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Wednesday that he continues to hope for a second meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un early next year. (Yonhap)

- South Korea and the United States will hold bilateral "working group" consultations on North Korea as often as possible, either through face-to-face talks or videoconferencing, officials said Thursday. (Yonhap)
- Sweden's UN envoy on Wednesday raised concerns that human rights conditions in North Korea are worsening due to sanctions on the country, calling for exemptions for selected items. (Choi He-suk, Korea Herald)
- U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said on Wednesday a joint military exercise with South Korea called "Foal Eagle" would be reduced in scope next year so it does not harm diplomatic efforts with North Korea. (Idrees Ali, Reuters)
- The U.S. said Wednesday it will scale back military exercises with South Korea next year, so the war games are not a hindrance to diplomacy over ending North Korea's nuclear weapons program. (VOA)
- The United States and South Korea have scaled down a joint military exercise scheduled for the spring of 2019 to facilitate nuclear talks with North Korea, Jim Mattis, the US defense secretary, said on Wednesday. (The Guardian)
- The United States and South Korea will scale back a major military exercise next spring to avoid setting back diplomacy over North Korea's nuclear weapons, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Wednesday. (Robert Burns, Associated Press)
- Nearly six months after President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un embraced at a historic Singapore summit and made vague promises of peace and prosperity, talks have flatlined and Pyongyang has taken no significant steps to reduce its nuclear arsenal or production facilities. (Tracy Wilkinson, Victoria Kim, Los Angeles Times)
- South Korea's top envoy to the United States has voiced his view that there is no "Plan B" if diplomatic efforts fail to rid North Korea of its nuclear weapons program. (Yonhap)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821213519/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-sweden-raises-alarm-over-sanctions-impact-on-nk-human-rights-north-korea-boosts-ideological-education-amid-sanctions

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Friday, November 23, 2018

NK sanctions set to be exempted for railway inspection; S. Korea expresses regret over N. Korea's brief seizure of fishing boat

In North Korea:
Carbon monoxide poisoning at guest house kills five (*Daily* NK, 11/23/2018)
Doubling in scrap iron prices brings complaints (*Daily* NK, 11/23/2018)

Inside North Korea: Hidden aid packages belie Kim Jong-un's promise to feed his nation's children (*The Telegraph*, 11/23/2018)
N. Korea blasts U.S. again for sticking to sanctions (*Yonhap*, 11/23/2018)
N. Korean, Russian diplomats agree on need for 'phased, synchronized approach' to nuclear issue (*Yonhap*, 11/23/2018)
North Korean propaganda promotes EMP attacks using nuclear weapons (*Daily* NK, 11/23/2018)
North Korean still working at main nuclear site, IAEA says (*Reuters*, 11/23/2018)
North Korea says U.S. sanctions violate children's rights (*UPI*, 11/23/2018)
North Korea seized South Korea fishing boat, Seoul says (*UPI*, 11/23/2018)
Over 100 companies present at Pyongyang health tech expo, says state media (*NK News*, 11/23/2018)

In South Korea:
Moon will talk nukes during overseas jaunt (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/23/2018)
S. Korea expresses regret over N. Korea's brief seizure of fishing boat (*Yonhap*, 11/23/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) Koreas agree to actively cooperate over modernizing direct phone lines (*Yonhap*, 11/23/2018)
Koreas discuss modernizing Panmunjeom cables (*Korea Times*, 11/23/2018)
(LEAD) Koreas hold talks about modernizing direct phone lines (*Yonhap*, 11/23/2018)
Minister says inter-Korean railway study can start as early as this month (*Yonhap*, 11/23/2018)
Ministry says smooth inter-Korean projects hinge on denuclearization, cross-border ties (*Yonhap*, 11/23/2018)
Seoul to push for comprehensive cooperation with N.K. once sanctions are lifted (*Yonhap*, 11/23/2018)

International:
NK sanctions set to be exempted for railway inspection (*Korea Times*, 11/23/2018)

In North Korea:

- Since the 1980s, coal briquettes have been considered the 'grim reaper of the bedroom' by North Korean citizens due to their role in carbon monoxide poisoning-related deaths over the years. (Kim Yoo-jin, *Daily NK*)
- North Korean residents tasked with submitting state-set quotas of scrap iron are facing difficulties due to a recent spike in scrap iron prices. (Ha Yoon-ah, *Daily NK*)
- The "Children's Foodstuffs" factory in the North Korean capital, Pyongyang, has a proud tradition of nourishing generations of the country's children with its fresh and powdered milk and delicious soybean yogurt drinks. (Nicola Smith, *The Telegraph*)
- North Korea accused the United States on Friday of an "inhumane act" of imposing sanctions even on school supplies and toys for children in the communist nation, the latest in a series of criticism seen as a call for easing such restrictions amid stalled denuclearization talks. (*Yonhap*)

- A senior North Korean diplomat handling denuclearization negotiations with the United States met with Russia's ambassador to Pyongyang, and the two sides agreed on the need to solve "existing problems on the basis of a phased, synchronized approach," the Russian mission said Friday. (Yonhap)
- North Korean officials charged with spreading propaganda are informing residents about the significance of nuclear electromagnetic pulse weapons. Propaganda officials are tasked with promoting the Workers' Party of Korea's (WPK) policies while also aiming to increase economic production. (Mun Dong-hui, Daily NK)
- North Korea appears to be still expanding operations at its main nuclear site, the U.N. atomic watchdog indicated on Thursday. (Francois Murphy, Reuters)
- North Korea called U.S. sanctions against the country "unhumanitarian" that impose a ban on children's stationaries and toys. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- North Korea briefly seized a South Korean fishing vessel in international waters before releasing the crew, citing improved inter-Korea relations, according to multiple press reports. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- More than 100 foreign and domestic companies were present at this week's Pyongyang International Sci-Tech Exhibition: Health and Physical Culture, DPRK state media reported on Thursday. (Oliver Hotham, NK News)

In South Korea:

- South Korean President Moon Jae-in will pitch his views on North Korea's denuclearization to a host of world leaders after he leaves for an eight-day trip to the Czech Republic, Argentina and New Zealand next week. (Kang Jin-kyu, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- South Korea on Friday voiced regret over North Korea's search and brief seizure earlier this month of a fishing boat and called for measures to prevent a recurrence, Seoul's unification minister said. (Yonhap)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- South and North Korea agreed Friday to actively cooperate in modernizing underground cables set up across the border village of Panmunjom for direct communication lines, Seoul's unification ministry said. (Yonhap)
- The two Koreas had a working-level dialogue on modernizing underground cables in the border village of Panmunjeom, Friday. (Yi Whan-woo, Korea Times)
- Officials of South and North Korea held talks Friday about modernizing underground cables set up across the border village of Panmunjom for direct phone and other communication lines. (Yonhap)
- South Korea's unification minister said Friday that Seoul and Pyongyang may be able to start their field study on railways as early as this month to modernize and eventually connect them across their border. (Yonhap)

- South Korea's unification ministry said Friday that smooth inter-Korean economic projects are linked to progress in the denuclearization of the peninsula and improvement in cross-border ties. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea's trade ministry said Friday it will push for comprehensive inter-Korean projects in areas of industry, energy and resources once international sanctions on North Korea are lifted. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- The U.N. Security Council (UNSC) sanctions on North Korea are set to be exempted to enable inspections of North Korean railways to take place. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821213530/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsnk-sanctions-set-to-be-exempted-for-railway-inspections-korea-expresses-regret-over-n-koreas-brief-seizure-of-fishing-boat

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Saturday, November 24, 2018

Koreas gain UN sanctions exemption for joint rail survey; Fake Adidas and Hello Kitty: a taste of consumerism for North Korea's elite

In North Korea:
Fake Adidas and Hello Kitty: a taste of consumerism for North Korea's elite (*The Guardian* 11/24/2018)
Report: North Korea running low on steel (*UPI*, 11/23/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Koreas gain UN sanctions exemption for joint rail survey (*Associated Press*, 11/24/2018)North and South Korea Get U.N.'s Go-Ahead to Study Joint Rail Project (*New York Times* 11/24/2018)

International:
Report: U.S. State Department shares IAEA's North Korea nuclear concerns (UPI, 11/23/2018)
South Korea secures U.N. sanctions exemption for inter-Korean railway survey (*Korea Times*, 11/24/2018)

In North Korea:

- At the Ryuwon shoe factory in Pyongyang, Adidas trainers gleam on a stand beside the production line, a personal gift from dictator Kim Jong-un to inspire workers churning out imitations for the North Korean faithful. (Emma Graham-Harrison, *The Guardian*)
- North Korea may be running low on structural steel for construction and has instructed its trading enterprises to increase imports from China, according to a recent press report. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- South Korea said Saturday that the United Nations Security Council granted an exemption to sanctions that will allow surveys on North Korean railroad sections the Koreas want to connect with the South. (Kim Tong-hyung, *Associated Press*)
- The United Nations Security Council has approved a plan by North and South Korea to conduct a joint field study on connecting their railways, exempting the project from the extensive sanctions it has imposed on the North over its nuclear weapons program, officials said on Saturday. (Choe Sang-hun, *New York Times*)

International:

- A source at the U.S. State Department said Friday it shares the concerns of the International Atomic Energy Agency regarding North Korea's nuclear activities, following comments from the U.N. agency regarding nuclear developments. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- South Korea said on Saturday it had received sanctions exemptions from the U.N. Security Council for a joint survey of inter-Korean railways, the first step towards reconnecting rail and road links cut during the 1950-53 Korean War. (Hyunjoo Jin, *Reuters*)

Prepared by Cassandra Wood, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250821213645/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-koreas-gain-un-sanctions-exemption-for-joint-rail-survey-fake-adidas-and-hello-kitty-a-taste-of-consumerism-for-north-koreas-elite

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Sunday, November 25, 2018

Pyongyang slams Seoul over U.N. human rights resolution; Two Koreas to speed up railway projects

In North Korea:
2019 is shaping up to be the Year of North Korea (*The Hill*, 11/25/2018)
A glimpse of daily life in Pyongyang – in pictures (*The Guardian*, 11/24/2018)
Inside North Korea: How Kim Jong-un is carefully crafting a personality cult to keep grip on power (*The Telegraph*, 11/25/2018)
North Korea is not eager to meet with U.S., say sources (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/25/2018)
Pyongyang slams Seoul over U.N. human rights resolution (*Yonhap*, 11/25/2018)

In South Korea:
Kim Jong-un's possible Seoul visit stirs up ideological divide (*Korea Times*, 11/25/2018)
South Korea president unveils 'peace gift' puppies (BBC, 11/25/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
N. Korean soprano plans to visit Jeju for joint concert with S. Korean violinist: source (*Yonhap*, 11/25/2018)
Two Koreas to speed up railway projects (*Korea Times*, 11/25/2018)

International:
(LEAD) U.S. sought secret high-level talks with Koreas in 1979: documents (*Yonhap*, 11/25/2018)
[Newsmaker] Transformation underway inside no-man's land (*The Korea Herald*, 11/25/2018)
UN exempts railway project from sanctions (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/25/2018)

In North Korea:

- The North Korean dictator, whose family is responsible for the death of millions of people and what amounts to the near enslavement of millions of his own citizens, is enjoying what can be described only as a personal renaissance over the past year. (*The Hill*, 11/25/2018)
- North Korea's capital is a carefully managed showcase for its dictatorship. Closely chaperoned, the Observer's international affairs correspondent captured what she could of the city's activity (Emma Graham-Harrison, *The Guardian*)
- Three generations of the dynasty, from current leader Kim Jong-un, to his father Kim Jong-il, and war hero grandfather, Kim Il Sung, are venerated as deities and their personality cults permeate daily life with a suffocating effect. (Nichola Smith, *The Telegraph*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has been pushing to hold high-level talks with Kim Yong-chol, vice chairman of the Central Committee of the North's ruling Workers' Party, by this month, but there is a high likelihood that it won't happen this week, according to a diplomatic source. (Jung Hyo-sik, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- A North Korean propaganda website lambasted South Korea on Sunday for the latter's participation in adopting a new U.N. human rights resolution against its regime, saying that it runs counter to the improvement of inter-Korean relations. (*Yonhap*)

In South Korea:

- Progressive-minded activists are calling for North Korean leader Kim Jong-un to visit Seoul promptly to speed up inter-Korean reconciliation. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)
- South Korea's president has revealed the first pictures of puppies mothered by one of North Korea's "peace gift" dogs, Gomi. (BBC)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- A North Korean soprano plans to visit the southern resort island of Jeju next month for a joint concert with a South Korean violinist as part of a project to promote reconciliation between the two sides, a source familiar with the matter said Sunday. (*Yonhap*)
- The two Koreas may start a joint field study this week at the earliest on reconnecting their railways, according to a unification ministry official, Sunday. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Times*)

International:

- The United States pushed for high-level talks with South and North Korea on reducing military tensions in the late 1970s amid a controversy over a troop pullout or reduction plan, declassified diplomatic documents showed Sunday. (*Yonhap*)
- In a mountainous region where the two Koreas engaged in one of the fiercest battles during the 1950-53 Korean War, the two sides' soldiers met in an unusual encounter earlier this month, decades after the war ended without an official peace treaty. (Yeo Jun-suk, *The Korea Herald*)
- On Saturday, the Blue House announced that an inter-Korean railway project surveying tracks running in both countries received sanctions exemptions from the United Nations Security Council, a major breakthrough for a cross-border initiative that's been stalled for weeks. (Lee Sung-eun, Jung Hyo-sik, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821213732/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemspyongyang-slams-seoul-over-un-human-rights-resolutiontwo-koreas-to-speed-up-railway-projects

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Monday, November 26, 2018

Children of North Korean Mothers Find More Hardship in the South; North harangues U.S. over human rights push

In North Korea:
DVDs of South Korean performers in Pyongyang for sale in Chongjin (*Daily NK*, 11/26/2018)
Inside North Korea: can the North pull itself out of the past to reunify with the South? (*The Telegraph*, 11/26/2018)
N. Korea talks up new slogan of 'state-first principle' amid stalled nuclear talks (*Yonhap*, 11/26/2018)
North Korean coal briquette factories open their doors ahead of winter (*Daily NK*, 11/26/2018)
Open for business: North Korean economists tell finance forum attracting foreign capital is priority (*South China Morning Post*, 11/26/2018)
Poor food rations leading to rise in absenteeism among public workers (*Daily NK*, 11/26/2018)
Traffic cops deployed for Accident Awareness Month in North Korea (*Daily NK*, 11/26/2018)

In South Korea:
Children of North Korean Mothers Find More Hardship in the South (*New York Times*, 11/25/2018)
Gift dog from Kim gives birth to national puppies (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/26/2018)
Kim Jong Un paper toy released, pulled out amid criticisms (UPI, 11/25/2018)
North Korean gift Pungsan dogs have six puppies [PHOTOS] (*Korea Times*, 11/26/2018)
Seoul still seeking declaration of end of Korean War before year's end: official (*Yonhap*, 11/26/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Joint survey of Han River's waterway to be completed next month (*Yonhap*, 11/26/2018)
Koreas tag-team for wrestling recognition (*BBC*, 11/26/2018)
Koreas win UNESCO recognition of traditional wrestling (*Associated Press*, 11/26/2018)
(LEAD) Koreas in talks to launch joint railway inspection this week (*Yonhap*, 11/26/2018)
North, South Korea join hands to get wrestling on U.N. culture list (*Reuters*, 11/26/2018)
North, South Korea to launch railroad survey after sanction exemption (UPI, 11/25/2018)
Seoul needs to reassure N.K. denuclearization is right way to go (*Yonhap*, 11/26/2018)
Unesco accepts historic joint Korean bid to recognise traditional wrestling (*The Guardian*, 11/26/2018)
Unesco recognizes joint Korean bid for ssireum (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/26/2018)

International:
IAEA gearing up for verification work on N.K. nukes: official (*Yonhap*, 11/26/2018)
Mexico keeps persona non grata status for North Korean envoy (*Korea Times*, 11/26/2018)
Moon to refrain from mentioning NK sanctions at G20 (*Korea Times*, 11/26/2018)
N.K. slams U.S. for using human rights issue to draw concessions in nuclear talks (*Yonhap*, 11/26/2018)
North harangues U.S. over human rights push (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/26/2018)
North Korea's top diplomat to visit Vietnam (UPI, 11/26/2018)
North Korean detained at Vladivostok airport for large-scale cash smuggling (*NK News*, 11/26/2018)

Pompeo stresses patience despite sputtering nuke talks (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/26/2018)
Pompeo: U.S. to be patient on N. Korea amid firm sanctions (*Yonhap*, 11/26/2018)
Pro-N.K. newspaper casts doubt on Washington's intention over talks (*Yonhap*, 11/26/2018)
U.S., North Korea high-level talks delayed again, report says (*UPI*, 11/26/2018)
US using human rights issue to draw concessions in nuclear negotiations: NK (*Korea Herald*, 11/26/2018)

In North Korea:

- Several South Korean musical acts participated in a series of events in Pyongyang in April, and a DVD of the performances is now being sold in parts of North Korea. (Ha Yoon Ah, *Daily NK*)
- One of the most startling first observations for foreign visitors to North Korea's capital, Pyongyang, is the complete absence of commercial advertising, which only amplifies the hermit kingdom's isolation from the contemporary, outside world. (Nicola Smith, *The Telegraph*)
- North Korea's main newspaper called for the country to unite around leader Kim Jong-un on Monday as it talked up a new slogan, "state-first" policy, as denuclearization talks with the United States remained stalled. (*Yonhap*)
- Winter is fast approaching in North Korea, and sources in some parts of the country report that newly-built coal briquette factories are opening one after another. (Mun Dong Hui, *Daily NK*)
- The presence of four government officials from North Korea at an economic conference in Guangzhou last week was the latest sign the isolated nation is beginning to open up as it shifts its policy focus to improving its economy. (Orange Wang, *South China Morning Post*)
- Public officials in some areas of North Korea are repeatedly skipping work, leaving areas of the government in a state of paralysis. At least some are reportedly having to work in the markets to make ends meet as the Central Party has stopped supplying them with food rations. (Ha Yoon Ah, *Daily NK*)
- In conjunction with the beginning of Accident Awareness Month this November, the North Korean government has dispatched additional personnel to problem areas to help crack down on traffic violations. (Kim Yoo Jin, *Daily NK*)

In South Korea:

- But many of the women and their Chinese-born children find that their suffering is not over once they finally settle in South Korea. Because the children were born in China, South Korea's government does not officially consider them defectors from the North. (Choe Sang-hun, *New York Times*)
- When one of the dogs North Korean leader Kim Jong-un gave President Moon Jae-in last September gave birth to six puppies recently, some Blue House staff joked about taking one home after Moon's term ends in 2022. (Kang Tae-hwa, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

- A South Korean education media firm released paper toy craft kits, featuring leaders of the United States, South and North Korea and China but pulled out North Korean leader Kim Jong Un from the sales following harsh criticisms. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- Cheong Wa Dae has released photos of the first couple of Korea with six puppies of Pungsan dogs, a gift from North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)
- South Korea still hopes to declare an official end to the Korean War before the year's end, an official from the presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said Monday, amid an apparent stumbling block in denuclearization talks between the United States and North Korea. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The two Koreas have completed nearly 80 percent of their inspection of the Han River's waterway and are set to complete the process by Dec. 11, a state-run research institute said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- Unesco has accepted a joint bid by North and South Korea and granted world cultural heritage status to Korean wrestling. The two countries had initially filed separately, but then decided to try a joint approach - a move the UN cultural agency's head called "unprecedented". (BBC)
- Divided for about seven decades, North and South Korea together won their first international recognition of Korean traditional wrestling as one of the world's cultural treasures on Monday. (Kim Hyung-jin, *Associated Press*)
- South and North Korea are in talks to launch a joint railway inspection this week as part of efforts to modernize and eventually connect railway systems of the two Koreas over their border, the unification ministry said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- North and South Korea joined forces to get their ancient wrestling tradition onto a U.N. list of cultural treasures on Monday - a step forward in their rapprochement as their governments grapple with deeper divides. (John Irish, *Reuters*)
- North and South Korea will begin a joint railway inspection at the earliest possible time as the United Nations Security Council exempted the survey from sanctions last week. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- South Korea should show North Korea possible economic incentives it could get in exchange for giving up its nuclear program so as to reassure Pyongyang that denuclearization is the right way to go, the unification minister said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- North and South Korea marked a new step in their reconciliation efforts on Monday as Unesco accepted an unprecedented joint bid for Korean wrestling to be recognised as one of the world's most treasured cultural practices. (Benjamin Haas, *The Guardian*)
- Traditional Korean wrestling, known as ssireum, became the first Intangible Cultural Heritage of Unesco jointly registered by South and North Korea. (Yim Seung-hye, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

International:

- The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has continued preparations for an "essential role" in the denuclearization process on the Korean Peninsula, encouraged by a round of recent talks involving Pyongyang, a senior agency official said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- Mexico's Secretariat of Foreign Affairs in September last year declared North Korean Ambassador Kim Hyong-gil as persona non grata and expelled him from the country. Ahead of the Mexican presidential election, Kim's status remains unchanged. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)
- President Moon Jae-in plans to tone down his drive to seek international understanding for easing sanctions on North Korea during his upcoming summits at this year's G20, a presidential aide said Monday. (Kim Yoo-chul, *Korea Times*)
- North Korea's media blasted the United States on Monday for taking issue with its human rights situation, calling it a tactic to draw concessions in denuclearization talks between the two countries. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea tore into the United States on Monday for denouncing its human rights situation, accusing Washington of scheming to overthrow the Pyongyang regime after receiving concessions in ongoing North-U.S. denuclearization talks. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- VN Express reported Monday Ri's state visit begins on Thursday and concludes on Sunday. Vietnam's foreign ministry said Pyongyang's top diplomat is visiting Hanoi at the invitation of Pham Binh Minh, Vietnam's foreign minister and deputy prime minister. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- A North Korean citizen was recently detained at Vladivostok International Airport in possession of USD$192,300 and 1000 euros in undeclared cash, local customs authorities said in a statement issued to press on Monday. (Oliver Hotham, *NK News*)
- Washington is “prepared to be patient” with North Korea, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Sunday, indicating U.S. flexibility despite Pyongyang stalling denuclearization negotiations. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said his country's administration will be patient in dealing with North Korea as long as it stays away from nuclear and missile tests. (*Yonhap*)
- A pro-North Korean newspaper in Japan said Monday that the United States' recent move to coordinate the pace of denuclearization dialogue and the inter-Korean cooperation raises doubt over whether Washington has a willingness to move nuclear talks with Pyongyang forward. (*Yonhap*)
- High-level talks between the United States and North Korea are not likely to take place before the end of November, according to a South Korean press report. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- North Korea’s state-run newspaper on Monday lambasted the US, claiming that the country has been using the communist nation’s human rights conditions as a means to draw concessions in denuclearization talks between the two countries. (Jung Min-kyung, *Korea Herald*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

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https://web.archive.org/web/20250821214005/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-children-of-north-korean-mothers-find-more-hardship-in-the-south-north-harangues-us-over-human-rights-push

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Tuesday, November 27, 2018

(LEAD) N.K. intensifies criticism against U.S., S. Korea over human rights issue; S. Korean aid group to visit N. Korea this week

In North Korea:
(2nd LD) N. Korea's sports minister in Japan for Olympics-related session (*Yonhap*, 11/27/2018)
Blockchain conference in North delayed (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/27/2018)
(LEAD) N.K. intensifies criticism against U.S., S. Korea over human rights issue (*Yonhap*, 11/27/2018)
Ministry of State Security holds defector's family hostage for $3000 (*Daily NK*, 11/27/2018)
NK Foreign Minister's Vietnam visit may include visit to SEZs: expert (*The Korea Herald*, 11/27/2018)
N. Korea condemns S. Korea over UN human rights resolution (*DongA Ilbo*, 11/27/2018)
North Korea ceremonial leader visits Venezuela, to meet with Maduro (*Reuters*, 11/27/2018)
North Korea Evades U.S. Pressure With Fleet of Illicit Ships Crisscrossing the Seas (*The Wall Street Journal*, 11/27/2018)
North Korean company seeking foreign investment for new exhibition center, hotel (*NK News*, 11/27/2018)
North Korean fishermen risking lives to meet fishing quotas (*Daily NK*, 11/27/2018)
North Korean woman on verge of being sold in Inner Mongolia saved (*Daily NK*, 11/27/2018)
Olympics: North Korean sports minister allowed into Japan for meetings (*Reuters*, 11/27/2018)
Pyongyang's first snow of season leaves white wonderland [PHOTOS] (*Korea Times*, 11/27/2018)

In South Korea:
Gov't draws up five-year blueprint for developing relations with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 11/27/2018)
Majority of S. Koreans support sanctions relief on N.K. to speed up nuke talks: survey (*Yonhap*, 11/27/2018)
Report: U.S., South Korea holding joint exercises away from peninsula (UPI, 11/27/2018)
S. Korean aid group to visit N. Korea this week (*Yonhap*, 11/27/2018)
South Korea to buy Israeli early warning radar to deter North despite thaw (*Reuters*, 11/27/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) S. Korea in talks with UNC for inter-Korean railway inspection: official (*Yonhap*, 11/27/2018)

International:
Arrested French official suspected of spying for North Korea (*The Washington Post*, 11/27/2018)
Biegun warns that window for deal is closing (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/27/2018)

Chinese agency sells Christmas tour programs to Pyongyang (*Yonhap*, 11/27/2018)
Chinese upgrading infrastructure along border with North Korea: satellite imagery (*NK News*, 11/27/2018)
France detains civil servant suspected of spying for North Korea (*Reuters*, 11/26/2018)
French civil servant 'arrested on suspicion of spying for North Korea' (*The Guardian*, 11/27/2018)
French gov't official arrested for allegedly spying for North Korea
French official 'suspected of spying for North Korea' (*BBC*, 11/27/2018)
(News Focus) N.K. release of American detainee loses spotlight as nuclear talks stall (*Yonhap*, 11/27/2018)
Senior French Senate civil servant Benoit Quennedey arrested for spying for North Korea (*The Telegraph*, 11/27/2018)
Seoul asked U.S. to stop bomber runs: General (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/27/2018)
State Department official suggests possibility of family reunions involving Korean-Americans: report (*Yonhap*, 11/27/2018)

In North Korea:

- North Korea's sports minister arrived in Tokyo on Tuesday to attend a meeting on the Olympics, local media reported. (*Yonhap*)
- A $3,740-per-person blockchain conference in Pyongyang has been rescheduled from October to next April. (Kim Eun-jin, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- North Korea's media ramped up criticism of the United States and South Korea on Tuesday for joining the recent adoption of a United Nations resolution condemning the North's miserable human rights situation. (*Yonhap*)
- The Ministry of State Security (MSS) has targeted a defector's family living in North Korea to extort money, forcing the defector to sever all ties with them. (Kim Song-il, *Daily NK*)
- North Korea's foreign minister is reportedly scheduled to visit Vietnam later this week, with reports saying his intention is to learn more about the Southeast Asian country's model of economic reform. But experts say Vietnam's special economic zones may be even higher on the agenda. (Jung Min-kyung, *The Korea Herald*)
- North Korea's Rodong Sinmun criticized the United States harshly in a commentary titled "Delving into the evils of the United States." (*DongA Ilbo*)
- North Korea's ceremonial leader Kim Yong Nam was expected to meet with socialist Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro during a trip to the South American nation's capital Caracas, Venezuela's press office said on Tuesday. (Luc Cohen, *Reuters*)
- Over the past two years, the U.S. and United Nations have unveiled the tightest sanctions ever applied to North Korea, aiming to cripple Pyongyang's trade with the outside world. (Niharika Mandhana, *The Wall Street Journal*)
- North Korea's Korean International Exhibition Corporation (KIEC) is seeking international investment for a plan to construct a new exhibition center and a 30-story hotel in Pyongyang, a proposal carried by a Ministry of External Economic Relations-run website revealed on Monday. (Dagyum Ji, *NK News*)

- North Korean fishermen in Chongjin, North Hamgyong Province, are continuing to risk their lives to catch fish due to the regime's policies aimed at increasing the volume of marine products produced by the country. (Ha Yoon-ah, *Daily NK*)
- Amid the worsening state of human trafficking on the Sino-North Korea border, a young female North Korean defector about to be sold by human traffickers to Inner Mongolia (China) has been saved and is now living in South Korea. (Ha Yoon-ah, *Daily NK*)
- North Korea's sports minister will be allowed to travel to Japan to attend Olympic meetings in Tokyo this week, the Japanese government said on Tuesday. (Jack Tarrant, *Reuters*)
- Pyongyang's first snow of the season fell on Saturday, leaving a heavy covering 96 millimeters deep, Choson Sinbo, a pro-North outlet based in Tokyo, reported Tuesday. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)

In South Korea:

- The government has put together a five-year blueprint for improving relations with North Korea and will report it to the National Assembly later this week, unification ministry officials said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- A majority of South Koreans think it is necessary to ease sanctions on North Korea to accelerate denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, a survey showed Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- Military training designed to avoid provoking North Korea has slowly replaced the reduced and postponed joint U.S.-South Korea military exercises on the peninsula, according to a recent South Korean press report. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- South Korea has allowed a major aid group to visit North Korea this week to discuss ways to expand humanitarian aid to the impoverished country, the organization said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea plans to buy two Israeli early warning radar systems, it said on Tuesday, as it reinforces air defenses against North Korea despite fast-improving relations. (Hyonhee Shin, *Reuters*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- South Korea is in talks with the United Nations Command to prepare for a joint railway inspection with North Korea expected to take place later this week, a government official said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- An employee of the French Senate is in custody on suspicion of spying for North Korea. (Angela Charlton, AP)
- Stephen Biegun, the top U.S. nuclear envoy, warned Seoul during a working group meeting last week that the "window of opportunity is closing" for a nuclear deal between the United

States and North Korea, according to a U.S. government official. (Kim Hyun-ki, Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

- A Chinese-based agency is selling tour programs to spend Christmas Day in North Korea's capital, Pyongyang. (*Yonhap*)
- China appears to be engaged in several construction projects of varying sizes along the Sino-North Korea border in an apparent preparation for increased trade and cross-border traffic, satellite imagery taken throughout the year reveals. (Hamish Macdonald, *NK News*)
- French security services have detained a civil servant suspected of having tried to pass sensitive government information to a North Korean spy, a judicial source said on Monday. (Emmanuel Jarry, Elizabeth Pineau, John Irish, *Reuters*)
- Intelligence agencies have arrested a senior French civil servant on suspicion of passing confidential information to North Korea, a judicial source has said. (*AFP*)
- A senior French government official has been arrested on suspicion of spying for North Korea. (Jung Min-ho, *Korea Times*)
- A senior official in the French Senate has been arrested on suspicion of spying for North Korea, judicial sources say. (*BBC*)
- The United States' low-key response to North Korea's latest return of a detained American citizen could partly be attributed to stuttering nuclear negotiations, analysts said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- The French authorities have arrested a senior civil servant accusing of spying for Pyongyang and handing over sensitive information to the North Korean regime. (Nicola Smith, *The Telegraph*)
- U.S. bombers are no longer flying over South Korea because Seoul asked for a pause due to the ongoing diplomatic efforts with Pyongyang, an American general said in Washington on Monday. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- A senior U.S. State Department official has suggested the possibility of Korean-Americans holding reunions by video or phone with their long-lost loved ones in North Korea, a news report said Tuesday. (*Yonhap*)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821213916/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemslead-nk-intensifies-criticism-against-us-s-korea-over-human-rights-issues-korean-aid-group-to-visit-n-korea-this-week

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Wednesday, November 28, 2018

NK tells Washington to back off human rights criticism; The Beginning of the End of the Korean War; North Korea's future military

In North Korea:
Analysis: Ground collapse detected after North Korea's nuclear test last year (*UPI*, 11/28/2018)
Ministry of State Security Official arrested on suspicion of espionage (*Daily NK*, 11/28/2018)
N.K. leader willing to allow nuke site inspection: source (*Yonhap*, 11/28/2018)
N. Korea claims completion of nuclear armament made dialogue possible (*Yonhap*, 11/28/2018)
North Korea's future military (*Korea Times*, 11/28/2018)
North Korea's Kim open to nuclear site inspection report (*Reuters*, 11/27/2018)
North Korean Party officials rote memorize ideology study guide (*Daily NK*, 11/28/2018)
North Koreans face bitter cold with firewood ban (*Daily NK*, 11/28/2018)

In South Korea:
Man wrongly imprisoned as N. Korean spy wins huge state compensation (*Yonhap*, 11/28/2018)
Moon to hold summit with Trump at G-20 (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/28/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) Koreas agree to begin joint railway inspection on Friday (*Yonhap*, 11/28/2018)
Additional sanction waivers necessary if Koreas to earnestly push for railway project: report (*Yonhap*, 11/28/2018)
N. Korea yet to answer Seoul's proposal to begin railway inspection this week (*Yonhap*, 11/28/2018)
North and South Korea discuss inviting Korean-Americans to family reunion (UPI, 11/28/2018)
Railway survey will start Friday (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/28/2018)
S. Korea to provide 50 tons of chemicals to N. Korea to combat pine tree diseases (*Yonhap*, 11/28/2018)
S. Korean engineers to inspect 2,600 kilometers of railways in NK (*Korea Times*, 11/28/2018)
South Korea approves humanitarian group's travel to North (UPI, 11/27/2018)
The Beginning of the End of the Korean War (*The Atlantic*, 11/28/2018)
Two Koreas study possible rail link as ties get back on track (*Reuters*, 11/28/2018)

International:
France Detains Civil Servant Suspected of Spying for North Korea (*Wall Street Journal*, 11/27/2018)
(LEAD) CIA official in charge of Korea to depart at year-end: sources (*Yonhap*, 11/28/2018)
(LEAD) Int'l community not prepared for lifting sanctions for rail network with N.K. until FFVD: U.S. official (*Yonhap*, 11/28/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korean foreign minister heads to Panama, Mexico (*Yonhap*, 11/28/2018)
N. Korea's titular leader arrives in Venezuela (*Yonhap*, 11/28/2018)
North Korea criticizes US for seeking UN meeting on rights (*Associated Press*, 11/27/2018)
North Korea tells Washington to back off human rights criticism (*Washington Post*, 11/28/2018)
North Korea, Venezuela agree to strengthen diplomatic, commercial ties (*NK News*, 11/28/2018)
North Korea's Olympic committee chief arrives in Tokyo (UPI, 11/27/2018)
North Korean defectors in China repatriated (*Daily NK*, 11/28/2018)
Report: Firms and ships under investigation in link to illegal North Korean trade (UPI, 11/28/2018)
Sanctions Exemption for Korean Rail Survey Seen as Move to Spur Denuclearization (VOA, 11/27/2018)

S. Korea, Australia to extend free English program for young N. Korea defectors (*Yonhap*, 11/28/2018)
Testing everyone's patience (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/28/2018)
U.S. asked North to change its nuke negotiator (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/28/2018)
US Sanctions Strand Russian Ship in South Korean Port (*Radio Free Asia*, 11/27/2018)

In North Korea:

- A North Korean nuclear test last year caused ground collapsing and several small earthquakes in the areas near the nuclear test site, according to a seismic data analysis by the U.S. and Chinese scientists. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- An official assigned to North Hamgyong Province's Ministry of State Security (MSS) in Onsong County was arrested in early October on suspicion of espionage, sources in the region report. (Kim Yoo Jin, *Daily NK*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has expressed a willingness to allow inspectors into the country's main nuclear complex, a senior diplomatic source said Tuesday, citing a message sent to U.S. President Donald Trump. (*Yonhap*)
- A North Korean propaganda media outlet claimed Wednesday that the country's declaration one year ago of the completion of its nuclear armament led inter-Korean relations and North-U.S. ties to enter into a dialogue phase. (*Yonhap*)
- While there is speculation that the test is an attempt to pressure the United States in talks over the dismantlement of North Korea's nuclear weapons, the test also highlights an important question. (Tony Stangarone, *Korea Times*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is willing to allow inspectors into the reclusive country's main nuclear complex in Yongbyon, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported on Tuesday, citing a senior diplomatic source. (Doina Chiacu, David Brunnstrom, David Alexander, *Reuters*)
- The North Korean authorities have reportedly conducted a massive round of ideological training in October for Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) officials with the distribution of a study guide. (Ha Yoon Ah, *Daily NK*)
- The North Korean regime is cracking down on the use of firewood in conjunction with ongoing reforestation efforts. Although there is high demand for firewood in the markets to prepare for the upcoming winter, it is not widely available for sale. (Kang Mi Jin, *Daily NK*)

In South Korea:

- A South Korean man imprisoned for 13 years on fabricated charges of spying for North Korea has won a huge state compensation through a court battle, officials said Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in will hold a bilateral summit with U.S. President Donald Trump this week on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Buenos Aires, the Blue House announced on Wednesday. (Lee Sung-eun, Kang Tae-hwa, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- South and North Korea agreed Wednesday to launch a joint railway inspection later this week in the latest move aimed at bolstering cross-border exchanges and cooperation. (Yonhap)
- Additional sanctions exemptions are necessary if South and North Korea are to push in earnest for a project to modernize and reconnect their cross-border railways, a U.N. official was quoted as saying Wednesday. (Yonhap)
- North Korea has yet to respond to South Korea's proposal to launch a joint railway inspection this week, the unification ministry said Wednesday. (Yonhap)
- North and South Korea are discussing inviting Korean-Americans to a family reunion to meet their separated family members in the North. Seoul's unification ministry said at a press briefing on Wednesday that Korean-Americans who have separated family members in the North could be invited to attend a future family reunion event. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- The two Koreas will begin a joint survey of railways in the North this Friday, the latest step in a cross-border infrastructure project aimed at modernizing North Korean train lines and connecting them to the South's to aid Pyongyang's economic development. (Lee Sung-eun, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- South Korea will provide about 50 tons of chemicals to North Korea this week to help it combat the outbreak of pine tree diseases, the unification ministry said Wednesday. (Yonhap)
- The Koreas will begin a joint inspection of railway facilities and systems in the North, Friday, after a months-long delay. The inspections are part of a project to connect the railways of the South and North as agreed to at inter-Korean summits this year. (Kim Bo-eun, Korea Times)
- The South Korean government has given permission to a local humanitarian group to travel to North Korea amid concerns sanctions are interfering with aid to ordinary North Koreans. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- The Korean War is beginning to end—not with the U.S. president achieving a dramatic breakthrough in nuclear negotiations, but with a series of incremental measures barely noticed outside the Korean peninsula. (Uri Friedman, The Atlantic)
- South and North Korea will launch a field study on Friday to relink railways cut since the 1950-53 Korean conflict, Seoul's Unification Ministry said on Wednesday, the latest development in improving ties between two sides technically still at war. (Hyonhee Shin, Reuters)

International:

- French counterespionage authorities have detained a senior French civil servant on suspicion of spying for the North Korean government, a French judicial official said. (Matthew Dalton, Andrew Jeong, Wall Street Journal)
- Andrew Kim, head of the CIA's Korea Mission Center, has tendered his resignation effective Dec. 20 to move to a research post at Stanford University, a senior official at South Korea's National Intelligence Service said. (Yonhap)
- A senior U.S. diplomat said Wednesday that the international community is not prepared for significantly lifting sanctions for a railway network linking North Korea until the communist state's "final, fully verified denuclearization (FFVD)." (Yonhap)

- South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha left for Panama on Wednesday for meetings with the country's president and top diplomat on improving bilateral ties. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's titular leader is in Venezuela to meet with top officials of the Southern American country for discussions on bilateral relations, the North's state media reported Wednesday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea is accusing the Trump administration and some supporters of trying to "stoke confrontation" instead of promoting peace efforts by calling for a U.N. Security Council meeting to discuss human rights in the country. (Edith M. Lederer, *Associated Press*)
- North Korea's appalling human rights record has become the latest barrier to a rapprochement between Pyongyang and Washington. The North Korean government accused the United States this week of "stoking confrontation" by calling a meeting of the United Nations Security Council to discuss human rights in the country. (Simon Denyer, *Washington Post*)
- North Korea and Venezuela held a series of high-level meetings and signed multiple agreements in Caracas on Tuesday, the office of President Nicolás Maduro reported, with the two countries vowing to strengthen diplomatic, economic, and commercial ties. (Colin Zwirko, *NK News*)
- The president of North Korea's Olympic committee was granted permission to travel to Japan to participate in the Association of National Olympic Committees General Assembly in Tokyo. He arrived in Tokyo late Tuesday. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Several North Korean defectors have recently been arrested in Dandong, China, by Chinese police and repatriated back to North Korea, according to sources close to the matter. (Kim Song Il, *Daily NK*)
- The United Nations and U.S. authorities have been investigating companies and vessels, involved in illegal North Korean trades, Wall Street Journal reported. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- The United States has granted a sanctions exemption requested by South Korea for a survey that could help reconnect railway links between North and South Korea. The sanctions were imposed by the U.N. Security Council. (Christy Lee, VOA)
- South Korea and Australia agreed Wednesday to extend a free English-language training program for young North Korean defectors as part of efforts to help them sharpen their competitive edge in the global community, the unification ministry said. (*Yonhap*)
- The USFK withdrawal is still a hot potato. No one knows when and how it will catch fire. U.S. President Donald Trump is negative about the USFK compared to his predecessors. At the U.S.-North Korea summit in Singapore, Trump said he would like to withdraw from the USFK someday. (Kim Hyun-ki, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Amid stalling denuclearization talks, Washington requested that North Korea change its chief negotiator for high-level talks from Kim Yong-chol, the vice chairman of the Central Committee of the North's ruling Workers' Party, to Pyongyang's top diplomat Ri Yong-ho, a South Korean government official said Wednesday. (Jeong Yong-soo, Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- A Russian ship that ran afoul of U.S. sanctions on North Korea has been stranded in the South Korean port of Busan for more than a month, as local oil companies are refusing to provide the fuel necessary for its voyage home. (Sangmin Lee, Leejin Jun, Eugene Whong, *Radio Free Asia*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821214105/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-nk-tells-washington-to-back-off-human-rights-criticism-the-beginning-of-the-end-of-the-korean-war-north-koreas-future-military

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Thursday, November 29, 2018

N. Korea demands UNC take hands off of JSA; (LEAD) U.N. chief reaffirms support for Korean peace process

Top News:
N. Korea demands UNC take hands off of JSA (*DongA Ilbo*, 11/28/2018)

In North Korea:
Completion of nuclear armament enabled N.K. to focus on economic development: propaganda outlet (*Yonhap*, 11/29/2018)
Dogs Not Barking: Pyongyang's Long Silence (*38 North*, 11/28/2018)
Factory director dismissed after visit by Kim Jong Un (*Daily NK*, 11/29/2018)
Farm director's wife commits suicide by self-immolation (*Daily NK*, 11/29/2018)
Is North Korea's MiG-29 Fleet Growing? (*The Diplomat*, 11/29/2018)
Kim Jong Un orders mass production of high-speed torpedo boats (*Daily NK*, 11/29/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korea downplays nuclear armament anniversary, refrains from criticizing U.S. (*Yonhap*, 11/29/2018)
N. Korean FM arrives in Beijing en route to Vietnam (*Yonhap*, 11/29/2018)
N.Korean Nuclear Site 'Was No Longer Usable' (*Chosun Ilbo*, 11/29/2018)
North Korea Accuses Washington of Weaponizing Human Rights as Nuclear Talks Stall (*The New York Times*, 11/29/2018)
North Korean sports ministry launches online lottery (*NK News*, 11/29/2018)
North Korea reaches out to Asean with proposal for dialogue (*The Strait Times*, 11/29/2018)
North Korea's Biggest Fear: F-35s and "Elephant Walks" (*National Interest*, 11/28/2018)
WATCH OUT. NORTH KOREAN HACKERS ARE COMING FOR YOUR BITCOIN (*South Morning China Post*, 11/29/2018)

In South Korea:
(2nd LD) South Korea confirms Moon-Trump summit plan (*Yonhap*, 11/28/2018)
Diplomacy freezes in winter (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/29/2018)
Moon's adviser calls for prompt second U.S.-N. Korea summit (*Yonhap*, 11/29/2018)
South Korea groups say they're ready to welcome Kim Jong Un (UPI, 11/29/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(3rd LD) Koreas agree to begin joint railway inspection on Friday (*Yonhap*, 11/29/2018)
Kim Jong-un's Seoul trip ultimately up to N. Korea: Seoul official (*Yonhap*, 11/28/2018)
S. Korea provides pesticides to N. Korea to combat pine tree diseases (*Yonhap*, 11/29/2018)
S. Korea pushes to hold groundbreaking ceremony for railway, road connections this year: official (*Yonhap*, 11/29/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) Int'l community not prepared for lifting sanctions for rail network with N.K. until FFVD: U.S. official (*Yonhap*, 11/28/2018)
(LEAD) Pompeo holds out hope for meeting with N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 11/29/2018)
(LEAD) U.N. chief reaffirms support for Korean peace process (*Yonhap*, 11/29/2018)
Olympics-Bach says IOC committed to aiding Korean peace efforts (*Reuters*, 11/29/2018)
Passing South Korea? (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/29/2018)
Why Insisting on a North Korean Nuclear Declaration Up Front is a Big Mistake (*38 North*, 11/28/2018)

Top News:

- North Korea's demand for leaving the United Nations Command (UNC) out of a newly launched inter-Korean organization to manage the Joint Security Area (JSA) is being seen by many experts as an intention to deny the command's role. (Hyo-ju Son, *DongA Ilbo*)

In North Korea:

- A North Korean propaganda outlet said Thursday that the country has been able to focus on economic development since it completed the development of nuclear weapons and delivery systems one year ago. (*Yonhap*)
- Since the US elections on November 6, North Korean central media have been conspicuously silent on the state of US-DPRK negotiations. There are times when such silence from Pyongyang is golden, other times ominous, and occasionally merely confusing. (Robert Carlin, *38 North*)
- Following an on-the-spot visit by Kim Jong Un, the director of a military supplies factory was reportedly stripped of his position and demoted to a forest logger position. He appears to have been punished for the factory's failure to meet its annual production quotas. (Mun Dong-hui, *Daily NK*)
- The wife of a collective farm managing director in Onsong, North Hamgyong Province, has reportedly committed suicide by self-immolation due to circumstances surrounding her husband's demotion. (Mun Dong-hui, *Daily NK*)
- North Korea's armed forces learned during the Korean War the potentially devastating consequences of losing air superiority in a conflict with the United States, and air defense

has ever since been a key priority in the country's military doctrine. (Abraham Ait, *The Diplomat*)

- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un ordered the mass production of "high-speed boats" equipped with torpedos during a visit to Chongjin, North Hamgyong Province in July this year, report sources in the country. (Mun Dong-hui, *Daily NK*)
- North Korea on Thursday downplayed the first anniversary of what it claimed was the country's completion of its nuclear armament and refrained from criticism of the United States in an indication that Pyongyang doesn't want to break up the dialogue phase. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho arrived in Beijing on Thursday, apparently on his way to Vietnam where he is expected to take a first-hand look at the Southeast Asian nation's reform policy. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea's destruction of its Punggye-ri nuclear test site came after such a severe underground collapse that the site was in any case no longer usable, a recent study suggests. (Choi Eun-kyung, *Chosun Ilbo*)
- North Korea has lashed out at the United States for continuing to press it to improve its human rights record, even with animosities between the two countries having eased so much that President Trump said he and the North's leader, Kim Jong-un, were "in love." (Choe Sang-hun, *The New York Times*)
- The North Korean Ministry of Physical Culture and Sports recently launched an intranet-based sports lottery, DPRK state-run media reported last week. (Dagyum Ji, *NK News*)
- North Korea has taken the initiative to kick-start Track II - or non-governmental - diplomacy with Asean, a Korea watcher has said. (Tay Hwee Peng, *The Strait Times*)
- On Nov. 19, 2018, two U.S. Air Force wings in Utah launched thirty-five F-35 stealth fighters in a short span of time. The air force lauded the display as evidence of America's overwhelming military might. At least one critic dismissed it as a publicity stunt. (David Axe, *National Interest*)
- North Korean hackers have taken to stealing cryptocurrency from individual investors as part of a new strategy by Pyongyang to blunt the impact of international sanctions. (John Power, *South Morning China Post*)

In South Korea:

- South Korean President Moon Jae-in and U.S. President Donald Trump will discuss joints efforts to peacefully denuclearize North Korea, an official from Seoul's presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said Wednesday, confirming the leaders will meet on the sidelines of the upcoming Group of 20 summit in Argentina. (*Yonhap*)
- This year was packed with diplomatic events for South Korea. Hopes of an unprecedented breakthrough in North Korean relations have been high following the back-to-back summit meetings between leaders of the two Koreas and also between North Korea and the United States. (Choi Young-jin, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

- The United States and North Korea should hold their second summit at an early date to break the impasse in their denuclearization talks, a special adviser to President Moon Jae-in said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean civic groups say they want Kim Jong Un to feel at home during his pending visit to the South, and organizers say they are on a mission to change public opinion of the North Korean leader. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- South and North Korea agreed Wednesday to launch an 18-day inspection of two railways running through the eastern and western parts of the North later this week as part of efforts to modernize and reconnect cross-border rail lines. (*Yonhap*)
- When and if North Korean leader Kim Jong-un will visit South Korea mostly depends on the North Korean leader himself, a ranking South Korean official said Wednesday, saying Seoul continues to hope for Kim's trip before the end of the year. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea sent about 50 tons of pesticides to North Korea on Thursday to help it combat the spread of pine tree diseases, the unification ministry said. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea is sticking to the plan to hold a groundbreaking ceremony for inter-Korean railway and road connection projects this year as the two Koreas are to begin a joint inspection of the rail system in North Korea this week, a unification ministry official said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)

International:

- A senior U.S. diplomat said Wednesday that the international community is not prepared for significantly lifting sanctions for a railway network linking North Korea until the communist state's "final, fully verified denuclearization (FFVD)." (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Wednesday that he is "very hopeful" for a new meeting with North Korean officials to discuss the denuclearization of the regime. (*Yonhap*)
- The head of the United Nations told South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha that his organization will continue to support the denuclearization of the peninsula and the establishment of a peace regime, Kang's ministry said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- The International Olympic Committee remains committed to helping the Korean Peninsula find lasting peace with its chief Thomas Bach praising the role his organisation and the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics had in easing tensions. (Jack Tarrant, *Reuters*)
- “Persuasion is needed to work with Japan on North Korea policy, but Seoul seems uninterested. It would be a mistake if North Korea and Japan go against South Korea’s intention.” (Lee Ga-young, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- My reply to the frequently asked question if Kim Jong Un will ever give up North Korea’s nuclear weapons is, “I don’t know, and most likely he doesn’t know either. But it is time to find out.” However, insisting that Kim Jong Un give a full declaration of his nuclear program up front will not work. (Siegfried S. Hecker, *38 North*)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821214149/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsn-korea-demands-unc-take-hands-off-of-jsalead-un-chief-reaffirms-support-for-korean-peace-process

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Friday, November 30, 2018

Malnourishment rife in many North Korean orphanages; Pro-North Korea activists in South threaten defector Thae Yong-ho

In North Korea:
Increasing risk for traders making phones calls to China (*Daily* NK, 11/30/2018)
Malnourishment rife in many North Korea's orphanages (*Daily* NK, 11/30/2018)
N. Korea stresses economic development amid impasse in nuclear talks (*Yonhap*, 11/30/2018)
North Korea showcases first smart house (*Daily* NK, 11/30/2018)
North Korea's Hwasong-14 ICBM: New Data Indicates Shorter Range Than Many Thought (38 *North*, 11/29/2018)

In South Korea:
(2nd LD) S. Korean president to advocate free trade at G-20 summit (*Yonhap*, 11/30/2018)
'Children on the border' portray their future in classroom of unified Korea (*Korea Times*, 11/30/2018)
Moon's approval falls below 50% for 1st time (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/29/2018)
Pro-North Korea activists in South threaten defector Thae Yong-ho (UPI, 11/30/2018)
South Korea launches project to study North Korean cities (UPI, 11/30/2018)
South Korean Youths Favor Unification with North (VOA, 11/30/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) S. Korean train travels to N. Korea for joint railway inspection (*Yonhap*, 11/30/2018)
A South Korean train heads North, but sanctions mean it has to carry its own fuel (CNN, 11/30/2018)
All aboard for Pyongyang (*Korea Times*, 11/29/2018)
First train in a decade departs South Korea for North Korea (*The Telegraph*, 11/30/2018)
For First Time in a Decade, a South Korean Train Rolls Into the North (*New York Times*, 11/29/2018)
Koreas complete removal of agreed border posts, landmines (*Korea Times*, 11/30/2018)
Koreas survey North's railways in hopes of joining networks (*Associated Press*, 11/29/2018)
Koreas Survey Railway Tracks Cut Since the Korean War (VOA, 11/30/2018)
(LEAD) Koreas complete work on removing some guard posts, land mines in DMZ (*Yonhap*, 11/30/2018)

(LEAD) S. Korea seeking N.K. leader's visit with 'all possibilities open' (*Yonhap*, 11/30/2018)
Railway diplomacy: South Korean trains venture north for first time in a decade (*The Guardian*, 11/29/2018)
South Korea sends a train into North for the first time in a decade (*Washington Post*, 11/30/2018)
South Korean train crosses DMZ into North Korea (BBC, 11/30/2018)
Train heads North for joint railway inspection (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/30/2018)
Watch: South Korea provides North Korea with pesticides to quell pine tree diseases (*The Telegraph*, 11/29/2018)

International:
China Customs Installs New Truck-Scanning Tech at North Korean Border (*Radio Free Asia*, 11/29/2018)
Don't alienate Japan (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 11/30/2018)
French civil servant charged with treason and spying for North Korea (*The Guardian*, 11/29/2018)
French civil servant investigated for treason over N.Korea spying claim: source (*Reuters*, 11/29/2018)
French Senate worker faces treason charges over North Korea (*Associated Press*, 11/30/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea-U.S. summit to be 'pull aside': report (*Yonhap*, 11/30/2018)
'Moon will ask Trump to meet Kim Jong-un early' (*Korea Times*, 11/30/2018)
N. Korea's titular leader meets Venezuelan president (*Yonhap*, 11/30/2018)
N. Korean FM holds talks in Hanoi with Vietnamese counterpart (*Yonhap*, 11/30/2018)
North Korea media: Kim Yong Nam signs agreements in Venezuela (UPI, 11/30/2018)
North Korea reached out to think tank in Myanmar, analyst says (UPI, 11/29/2018)
North Korean foreign minister in Vietnam for lessons on economic reform (*Channel NewsAsia*, 11/30/2018)
Report: North Korea's top diplomat could visit Syria after Vietnam (UPI, 11/29/2018)
Trump blacklists N. Korea again for human trafficking (*Yonhap*, 11/30/2018)
Trump, South Korea's Moon to Meet at G-20 with North Korea Talks Stalled (VOA, 11/30/2018)
U.N. grants sanctions exemption to charity group for medical aid to N.K. (*Yonhap*, 11/30/2018)
Wings, Trump and Kim Jong Un: Dress worn by Miss Universe entrant baffles Singapore (*Washington Post*, 11/29/2018)

In North Korea:

- The North Korean authorities have installed additional mobile phone surveillance stations along the Sino-North Korean border to track calls between North Koreans and cross-border contacts, Daily NK has learned. (Kang Mi Jin, *Daily NK*)
- Despite Kim Jong Un's proclaimed "love for children" and efforts by the government to expand and reform the country's child care facilities, there are still children being subjected to forced labor and suffering from severe malnutrition. (Kim Song Il, *Daily NK*)
- North Korea's main newspaper said Friday that the country will stick to its strategy of focusing on economic growth, despite the stalled progress of dismantling the regime's nuclear weapons program. (*Yonhap*)

- Competing brands for IoT-enabled speakers such as Kakao Mini and GIGA have been garnering a lot of attention in South Korea recently. In the midst of this trend, North Korea has also just announced its first IoT-enabled smart house. (Mun Dong Hui, *Daily NK*)
- Based on available data from the two tests, analysists rushed to estimate the Hwasong-14's reach if flown on a flatter trajectory intended to maximize range. The computed estimates for maximum range varied considerably, sparking vigorous debate among analysts about the Hwasong-14's performance capacity. (Michael Elleman, *38 North*)

In South Korea:

- South Korean President Moon Jae-in was set to attend the Group of 20 summit in Buenos Aires on Friday, with free trade, inclusive growth and Korean peace on his priority agenda. (*Yonhap*)
- In a high school of a united Korea, two groups of students confront each other: one attired in North Korean-style white blouses and red scarves and the other with typical South Korean high school sweater vests. (Jung Da-min, *Korea Times*)
- Analysts blamed the decline on Korea's stagnating economy and Moon's preoccupation with inter-Korean relations. Denuclearization talks with the North have stalled recently. (Lee Sung-eun, Kwon Ho, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- A radical group of pro-North Korea activists disrupted business at a media office in Seoul that specializes in creating content on North Korea and runs Daily NK, the news service that brings information out of the Kim Jong Un regime. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- A South Korean think tank has launched a project to study major cities in North Korea in preparation for increasing inter-Korean exchanges and joint projects along with diplomatic efforts to improve ties. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- More than half of South Korea's university-age students now possess a positive view toward Korean unification. That's according to a new poll conducted by the National Assembly's Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee. (Steve Miller, VOA)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- A South Korean train departed for North Korea on Friday for an 18-day joint railway inspection that the Koreas are conducting as part of efforts to modernize, and eventually reconnect, rail lines across their border. (*Yonhap*)
- A South Korean train arrived in North Korea Friday for the first time in more than a decade ahead of a potential rail link up of the divided peninsula, with the team on board carrying their own fuel and supplies to conform with stringent sanctions still in place against Pyongyang. (Jake Kwon, James Griffiths, CNN)
- Imagine the fun of boarding at Seoul Station and getting off three hours later in central Pyongyang or perhaps going all the way to the Chinese border, crossing the Yalu or Amnok River at Sinuiju, stopping at Dandong on the Chinese side. (Donald Kirk, *Korea Times*)
- A South Korean train rolled into North Korea for the first time in a decade on Friday as the countries began joint surveys on northern railway sections they hope someday to connect with the South. (Gianluca Avagnina, *The Telegraph*)

- A South Korean train on Friday crossed into North Korea for the first time in a decade, as the two countries began a joint study on renovating the North's decrepit rail system and linking it to the South's. (Choe Sang-hun, *New York Times*)
- South and North Korea completed the demolishing of guard posts within the demilitarized zone and removing landmines from the Arrowhead Ridge in Cheorwon, Gangwon Province, Friday. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- A South Korean train rolled into North Korea for the first time in a decade on Friday as the countries began joint surveys on northern railway sections they hope someday to connect with the South. (Kim Tong-hyung, *Associated Press*)
- A South Korean train entered to North Korea on Friday as the two countries began inspecting northern railways tracks they hope to relink with the south. About 30 officials from each side will participate in an 18-day joint survey of railways tracks cut since the Korean War. (VOA)
- South and North Korea completed the demolition of 10 front-line guard posts each and the demining of a ridge in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) Friday, Seoul's defense ministry said. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea's presidential office said Friday that it still leaves "all possibilities open" regarding North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's planned visit to Seoul, in response to a news report that Seoul was trying to arrange his trip in mid-December. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea has sent trains across the world's most heavily militarised border into North Korea for the first time in a decade. It's part of a mission to eventually modernise the North's dilapidated network and connect it with the South. (Benjamin Haas, *The Guardian*)
- A South Korean train rolled across the heavily militarized frontier into North Korea for the first time in a decade on Friday, as Seoul pushed ahead with a plan to reunite the two railway networks despite heavy U.N. sanctions. (Simon Denyer, *Washington Post*)
- For the first time in more than a decade, a train has travelled from South Korea across the heavily guarded border into North Korea. On board is a team of South Korean experts investigating ways to help North Korea modernise its rail network. (BBC)
- A South Korean train carrying 28 government officials and railway experts departed for North Korea on Friday morning to start a joint survey with Pyongyang on North Korean tracks. (Lee Sung-eun, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korea sent some 50 tons of pesticides to North Korea on November 29 to help the North's struggle against the spread of pine tree diseases. (*The Telegraph*)

International:

- Chinese authorities will be using new technology at the border with North Korea to screen trucks carrying cargo to and from China, replacing the x-ray scanners with state-of-the-art equipment more effective at finding smuggled contraband, sources say. (Hyemin Son, Leejin Jun, Eugene Whong, *Radio Free Asia*)
- The government must draw up measures to minimize the conflict as soon as possible. It needs Japanese support and capital to solve the North Korean nuclear issue and any future development of the impoverished North. We must not worsen relationship with our neighbor beyond reason. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)

- Benoît Quennedey, a senior administrator in France's upper parliament chamber, the senate and president of the Franco-Korean Friendship Association, was taken into custody late on Sunday. (*The Guardian*)
- A French civil servant was placed under formal investigation for treason over allegations of having tried to pass sensitive government information to North Korea, a judicial source said on Thursday. (Emmanuel Jarry, John Irish, *Reuters*)
- A judicial official says that a French Senate employee has been handed preliminary charges for treason for allegedly collecting and delivering information to North Korea. (Elaine Ganley, *Associated Press*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in and U.S. President Donald Trump will have a "pull aside" rather than a formal bilateral meeting on the sidelines of a Group of 20 summit in Argentina this week. (*Yonhap*)
- President Moon Jae-in plans to ask U.S. President Donald Trump to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un as early as possible, a presidential aide said Friday. (Kim Yoo Chul, *Korea Times*)
- North Korea's titular leader has met with Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro in the South American country for discussions on bilateral relations, the North's state media reported Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho held talks with his Vietnamese counterpart Friday on the first full day of a four-day visit to the Southeast Asian nation. (*Yonhap*)
- Korean Workers' Party newspaper Rodong Sinmun reported Friday that President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly Kim Yong Nam met with Maduro in the Venezuelan capital of Caracas on Tuesday and signed agreements. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- North Korea reached out to a think tank in Myanmar to organize a dialogue on the Korean Peninsula, an analyst said this week. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- North Korea's foreign minister kicked off an official visit to Vietnam Friday (Nov 30) as the hermit nation seeks to learn lessons from the one-party state's post-war economic reform that has transformed the communist nation into one of Asia's fastest growing economies. (*Channel NewsAsia*)
- North Korea's top diplomat arrived at Beijing's international airport late Thursday, ahead of a planned trip to Vietnam, and possibly Syria. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday blacklisted North Korea again for human trafficking, extending a symbolic ban on provisions of U.S. funding to the regime for another year. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump is scheduled to meet with South Korean President Moon Jae-in during the Group of 20 summit, where they are likely to discuss stalled nuclear negotiations with North Korea. (Christy Lee, VOA)
- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) granted a sanctions exemption for a U.S. charity group to deliver medical aid to North Korea, the foundation said Friday. (*Yonhap*)
- On June 12, President Trump held a summit with North Korea's Kim Jong Un in Singapore. Now, the event will be commemorated again — when Singapore's entrant in the 2018 Miss Universe pageant next month wears a dress bearing a giant digital image of Trump and Kim shaking hands. (Adam Taylor, *Washington Post*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821214318/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-malnourishment-rife-in-many-north-korean-orphanages-pro-north-korea-activists-in-south-threaten-defector-thae-yong-ho

12. DECEMBER

Saturday, December 1, 2018

HRNK News Items: North Korean soldier defects to South: South's military; Japan holding secret talks with North Korea on abduction issue

In North Korea:
(LEAD) In first reported activity in 13 days, N.K. leader inspects fishery stations (*Yonhap*, 12/1/2018)

In South Korea:
(LEAD) N. Korea soldier defects to S. Korea: JCS (*Yonhap*, 12/1/2018)
Moon calls for world support for nuclear-free Korea at G-20 summit (*Yonhap*, 12/1/2018)
North Korean soldier defects to South across border after guard posts blown up (*The Telegraph*, 12/1/2018)
North Korean Soldier Defects to South, Crossing Heavily Armed Border (*The New York Times*, 11/30/2018)
North Korean soldier defects to South: South's military (*Reuters*, 12/1/2018)
North Korean soldier flees to South as Trump talks up second Kim summit (*The Guardian*, 12/1/2018)
South Korea Says North Korean Soldier Defects to South (VOA, 11/30/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) Trump reaffirms second summit with Kim, welcomes Seoul visit of Kim (*Yonhap*, 12/1/2018)
Japan holding secret talks with North Korea on abduction issue (*The Asahi Shimbun*, 12/1/2018)
Moon, Trump hold talks on N. Korean denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 12/1/2018)
(News Focus) Moon-Trump summit sets stage for Kim's unprecedented trip to Seoul (*Yonhap*, 12/1/2018)
The Latest: Trump open to 2nd meeting with North Korea's Kim (*The New York Times*, 11/30/2018)
Trump, Abe talk N. Korea at G-20 (*Yonhap*, 12/1/2018)
U.S.-S. Korea alliance not suffering from reduction of military exercises: commander (*Yonhap*, 12/1/2018)
Vietnam willing to share development model with North Korea (NK *News*, 11/30/2018)

In North Korea:

- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has inspected fishery stations in the country's eastern coastal region in his first reported public activity in 13 days, according to the North's state media Saturday. (*Yonhap*)

In South Korea:

- A North Korean soldier defected to South Korea across the eastern land border on Saturday, Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in called for international support for a peaceful, nuclear-free Korean Peninsula, which he emphasized as a key building block for global security and prosperity. (*Yonhap*)
- A North Korean soldier fled to South Korea early on Saturday, the military in Seoul said, the first such defection since a number of guard posts were blown up at the border this week. (Chris Graham, *The Telegraph*)
- A North Korean soldier defected to South Korea on Saturday morning, fleeing across the countries' heavily armed land border, officials said. (Choe Sang-hun, *The New York Times*)
- A North Korean soldier defected to South Korea on Saturday, the South Korean military said, but there were no unusual movements by North Korea's military in response. (Hayoung Choi, *Reuters*)
- A North Korean soldier has defected to the South by crossing the border in the demilitarised zone (DMZ), where the two countries have been removing fortifications to reduce tensions and build trust. (Emma Graham-Harrison, *The Guardian*)
- South Korea's military says a North Korean soldier has fled across the countries' heavily fortified border to defect to the South. (*AP*)

International:

- U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday reaffirmed his commitment to a second summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, while apparently offering his blessing to Kim's scheduled trip to Seoul. (*Yonhap*)
- Behind the scenes, Japanese officials are still talking to North Korea on ways to resolve the issue of Japanese nationals abducted decades ago. (Yoshihiro Makino, *The Asahi Shimbun*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in and U.S. President Donald Trump met on the sidelines of the Group of 20 summit here Friday to discuss ways to peacefully denuclearize North Korea. (*Yonhap*)
- Even when North Korean leader Kim Jong-un promised to visit Seoul about two months ago in his most recent summit with South Korean President Moon Jae-in, many still doubted such a high-profile trip would be possible, especially before the end of the year. (Byun Duk-kun, *Yonhap*)
- South Korea's presidential office says U.S. President Donald Trump has reaffirmed a willingness to hold his second summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un early next year. (*AP*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe discussed the issue of North Korea's nuclear weapons program as they met on the sidelines of a Group of 20 summit in Argentina Friday, the White House said. (*Yonhap*)
- The readiness of U.S. and South Korean forces has not has been impaired by the suspension of large-scale military exercises, and the alliance between the two remains strong, a top U.S. military commander has said. (*Yonhap*)

- Vietnam aims to cooperate with North Korea and is willing to share its socio-economic development model with Pyongyang, local media reported on Friday. (Leo Byrne, NK News)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821214547/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsnorth-korean-soldier-defects-to-south-souths-militaryjapan-holding-secret-talks-with-north-korea-on-abduction-issue

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Sunday, December 2, 2018

HRNK News Items: (Yonhap Interview) Politics should remain separate from humanitarian assistance to N.Korea; N.Korean Hackers Attack S.Korean Agencies

In North Korea:
Construction of science research center at major tech university near completion: N.K. media (*Yonhap*, 12/2/2018)
One unfortunate factory manager, and North Korea's command economy (*North Korea Economy Watch*, 12/2/2018)
NK sanctions: Green light for profit seekers and red light for concerned citizens (*Korea Times*, 12/1/2018)

In South Korea:
[Feature] Kim Jong-un's charm offensive enthralls some, angers others (*Korea Herald*, 12/2/2018)
N.K. defector soldier in late teens or early 20s: source (*Yonhap*, 12/2/2018)
NK soldier defects to South (*Korea Times*, 12/2/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) S. Korean FM meets North's titular leader in Mexico (*Yonhap*, 12/2/2018)
Hopes grow for inter-Korean relations to advance denuclearization process (*Korea Times*, 12/2/2018)
N. Korea's sports minister: 2032 joint Olympics would help unite the two Koreas (*Yonhap*, 12/2/2018)
N.Korean Hackers Attack S.Korean Agencies (*Chosun Ilbo*, 11/30/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) Trump says second summit with N.K. leader likely to happen in January or February: report (*Yonhap*, 12/2/2018)
Contending theories on N. Korea (*Korea Times*, 12/2/2018)
Diplomatic challenges are ahead (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 12/2/2018)

(LEAD) (Yonhap Interview) Politics should remain separate from humanitarian assistance to N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 12/2/2018)
N.K. propaganda outlet calls for end to all military exercises between S. Korea, U.S. (*Yonhap*, 12/2/2018)
Pompeo: U.S.-N. Korea summit to happen 'shortly after first of year' (*Yonhap*, 12/2/2018)
President Trump says next meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un likely in early 2019 (CNN, 12/2/2018)
Slow and steady is best (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 12/2/2018)
Trump says next meeting with North Korea's Kim likely in early 2019 (*Reuters*, 12/1/2018)
Trump says summit will be soon (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 12/2/2018)
Trump sees need for 2nd summit with Kim Jong-un at early date: official (*Yonhap*, 12/2/2018)
Trump supportive of Kim's visit to Seoul (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 12/2/2018)

In North Korea:

- The construction of a large-scale science and technology center at a prestigious technology university in Pyongyang is nearly complete, a North Korean newspaper said Sunday. (*Yonhap*)
- Still, we don't actually know with certainty what spheres of North Korea's economy that still operate under centrally planned rules and procedures. Likely, virtually all do to some extent, with enforcement and rigidity varying greatly between sectors. (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, *North Korea Economy Watch*)
- So what is the point of those "crippling" economic sanctions that limit all interactions with North Korea? Well, it appears as if the sanctions are intended to block the participation of little people in the dialogue with North Korea that is obviously advancing quickly. (Emanuel Pastreich, *Korea Times*)

In South Korea:

- Though staged by small groups of young activists with little ties to other official progressive groups that favor engagement with the North, the event demonstrated South Korea's divided perceptions of Kim Jong-un. (Yeo Jun-suk, *Korea Herald*)
- The North Korean soldier, who defected to the South across the heavily armed border on Saturday, is in his late teens or early 20s, a government source said. Further details about the soldier were not available. (*Yonhap*)
- A North Korean soldier defected to South Korea, Saturday, the first such incident since the two Koreas finished demolishing 10 guard posts on each side of the border line with inter-Korean reconciliation moves. (Lee Min-hyung, *Korea Times*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha has met with the North's ceremonial head of state in Mexico and expressed her hope for North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's prompt visit to Seoul, the foreign ministry here said Sunday. (*Yonhap*)

- Inter-Korean projects, which were put on hold for months after the summit between leaders of the South and North in September, are back on track. The long-stalled joint inspections of railway sections in the North began Friday. (Kim Bo-eun, *Korea Times*)
- North Korea's sports minister said working together with South Korea to co-host the 2032 Olympics will contribute to making the divided peninsula one, a Tokyo-based pro-North Korean newspaper reported Sunday. (*Yonhap*)
- Four North Korean hacking groups continue hacking attacks on South Korean companies, public corporations and financial institutions despite rapprochement between the two Koreas. (Lim Kyeong-eop, *Chosun Ilbo*)

International:

- U.S. President Donald Trump said that a second summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un is likely to take place in January or February, and three possible venues are under consideration, a news report said Sunday. (*Yonhap*)
- Diplomacy is at a stalemate again on denuclearization, casting more doubt over its ability to pull off an acceptable end state of negotiations. No nuclear talks have taken place since last month. (Tong Kim, *Korea Times*)
- The denuclearization of North Korea and the peace process are still in their beginning stages. The order of implementing the two goals hasn't been set. Both of these processes could be long and complicated. (Oh Young-hwan, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Politics should be kept separate from efforts for humanitarian aid, the head of the North Korean office of an international Red Cross organization has said, adding that any link between them could be "dangerous" as it could turn assistance into a "negotiation tool." (Koh Byung-joon, *Yonhap*)
- A North Korean propaganda outlet called for an end to all military exercises between the United States and South Korea, after the U.S. defense chief suggested the possibility of scaling back a joint exercise set for next spring. (*Yonhap*)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Saturday that he expects a second summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un to take place "shortly after the first of the year." (*Yonhap*)
- President Donald Trump said a second summit with North Korea's Kim Jong Un will likely take place in January or February. The first Trump-Kim summit took place in June in Singapore but Trump has said the next meeting will probably take place at a new location. (Nicole Chavez, CNN)
- President Moon Jae-in and U.S. President Donald Trump agreed to revive the momentum on negotiations for the denuclearization of North Korea in a meeting between the two leaders in Buenos Aires. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump said on Saturday he is likely to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in January or February and that three sites for their second meeting are under consideration. (Roberta Rampton, *Reuters*)
- U.S. President Donald Trump said Sunday that a second summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un will likely take place in January or February and that three venues are under consideration. (Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)

- Trump reaffirmed his commitment to holding the second U.S.-North Korea summit early next year in his talks Friday with South Korean President Moon Jae-in on the sidelines of the Group of 20 summit. (Yonhap)
- Korean President Moon Jae-in and U.S. President Donald Trump agreed during their meeting in Argentina that North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's visit to Seoul will provide "additional momentum" to establish peace on the peninsula, according to the Blue House. (Kang Tae-hwa, Sarah Kim, Korea JoongAng Daily)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821214434/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-yonhap-interview-politics-should-remain-separate-from-humanitarian-assistance-to-nkorea-nkorean-hackers-attack-skorean-agencies

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Monday, December 3, 2018

HRNK News Items: Seoul summit is still possible this year: Moon; Japanese products most popular in North Korea's markets

In North Korea:
Kim Jong Un praises North Korea shoe factory, state media says (UPI, 12/3/2018)
N. Korea arrests retired official for criticizing Kim Jong-un (Korea Daily, 12/3/2018)
N. Korea remains low key over anniversary of 'nuclear armament' (Korea Daily, 12/3/2018)
N.K. leader emphasizes 'world-level' quality, designs during trip to shoe factory (Yonhap, 12/3/2018)
New 4D theater constructed in Hyesan (Daily NK, 12/3/2018)
North Korea hands down order for navy to adopt "battle-readiness posture" (Daily NK, 12/3/2018)
North Korea spent $2M on surveillance and wiretapping equipment in May (Daily NK, 12/3/2018)
North Korea's 'pink lady' off air as state TV revamped with younger faces (The Telegraph, 12/3/2018)
North Koreans shun state-grown cabbages during kimchi season (Korea Daily, 12/3/2018)

In South Korea:
Ban Ki-moon urges N. Korea to take denuclearization steps (*Associated Press*, 12/3/2018)
Moon remains cautious about 'groundbreaking ceremony' for inter-Korean rail project (*Yonhap*, 12/3/2018)
Seoul summit is still possible this year: Moon (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 12/3/2018)
(LEAD) Seoul thinks it is still possible for N.K. leader to visit S. Korea this year (*Yonhap*, 12/3/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Donghae Line survey team will travel by bus (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 12/3/2018)

Master plan for inter-Korean relations focuses on denuclearization, peace, mutual trust (*Yonhap*, 12/3/2018)
Report: Kim Jong Un could visit Seoul before end of year (*UPI*, 12/3/2018)
'Risk-taking' leadership style makes N.K. leader's visit to S. Korea plausible: expert (*Yonhap*, 12/3/2018)
Stuck at a level crossing (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 12/3/2018)

International:
Bush and Roh (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 12/3/2018)
Japanese products most popular in North Korea's markets (*Daily* NK, 12/3/2018)
Mnuchin: Trump is leading trade negotiations with China (CNN, 12/3/208)
N. Korean FM visits Vietnam to discuss bilateral ties (*Yonhap*, 12/3/2018)
North Korea 'exports' more workers to China, Russia (Korea Times, 12/3/2018)
North Korea Studies Vietnam for Development Ideas (VOA 12/3/2018)
Pyongyang-run restaurants losing customers in Russia (Korea Times, 12/3/2018)
Rewards for N.K. denuclearization steps could be other than sanctions relief: Moon's adviser (*Yonhap*, 12/3/2018)
(2nd LD) S. Korean FM meets North's titular leader in Mexico (*Yonhap*, 12/3/2018)
S. Korea, U.S. plan video conference meeting on N. Korea (*Yonhap* 12/3/2018)
S. Korea's Moon: Trump wants to grant Kim Jong Un's wishes (*Associated Press*, 12/2/2018)
(2nd LD) Trump says second summit with N.K. leader likely to happen in January or February: report (*Yonhap*, 12/3/2018)
Trump wants Kim to know he likes him and will fulfill his wishes, South Korean leader says (*Reuters*, 12/3/2018)

In North Korea:

- Kim Jong Un made a surprise visit to a North Korean shoe factory and praised the workers for their exemplary labor, according to state media. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- A retired North Korean official in his 60s was arrested for criticizing the country's leader Kim Jong-un, according to sources familiar with the matter. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Daily*)
- North Korea took a low-key approach last week to the first anniversary of what it claimed was the country's completion of its nuclear armament. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Daily*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has visited a shoe factory in what appears to be a move to emphasize the importance of improving people's lives with products that meet their needs, the state-run media reported Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- When a South Korean delegation visiting North Korea to commemorate the October 4 Declaration put on special glasses at a 4D movie theater at Pyongyang's Scientific Technology Exhibition Center, it hit the headlines. (Mun Dong-hui, *Daily NK*)
- An order signed by Supreme Commander Kim Jong Un was handed down to the Naval Command on November 12 for the navy to adopt a 'battle posture', a source has reported. (Mun Dong-hui, *Daily NK*)
- The North Korean regime imported a large shipment of mobile phone wiretapping devices from China in May, local sources have reported. (Kim Song-il, *Korea Daily*)

- The melodramatic appearances of North Korea's most famous television broadcaster may soon be consigned to the past as the regime's state-controlled channel, KCTV, undergoes a modern makeover. (Nicola Smith, *The Telegraph*)
- North Koreans are buying privately grown napa cabbages for kimchi-making season because they are unhappy with the quality of cabbages from state-run farms, according to sources in Pyongyang. (Yi Whan-woo, *Korea Daily*)

In South Korea:

- Former U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Monday to take concrete steps toward complete denuclearization and gain the trust of the international community if he wants sanctions lifted. (Kaori Hitomi, Mari Yamaguchi, *Associated Press*)
- President Moon Jae-in's use of a different word, instead of a "groundbreaking ceremony," to refer to the beginning of an inter-Korean road and railway reconnection project, appears to reflect his cautious approach in making sure the project doesn't violate sanctions, observers said Monday. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in told reporters that there is "still a possibility" that North Korean leader Kim Jong-un will make a trip to Seoul by the end of the year, which raises questions of whether security, logistics and an agenda can be prepared in time. (Kang Tae-hwa, Wie Moon-hee, Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- It is still possible for North Korean leader Kim Jong-un to visit South Korea before the end of this year, the unification ministry said Monday, adding the government continues to make relevant preparations. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The two Koreas are expected to carry out their inspection of the Donghae Line along the eastern coast by bus rather than train due to the poor condition of the North's railroads. (Jeong Yong-Soo, Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- South Korea unveiled a midterm master plan for developing inter-Korean relations Monday mostly focusing on the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, the establishment of lasting peace and mutual trust with North Korea. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in suggested Kim Jong Un could visit Seoul before the end of the year -- the first official statement about plans for engagement after weeks of speculation the North Korean leader would travel to the South for his next summit. (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un could make a surprise visit to South Korea before the end of the year, considering his risk-taking leadership style and his characteristic of honoring promises, a South Korean expert said Monday. (*Yonhap*)

- The expression, “twists and turns,” is used to describe a complicated situation. Last week, the two Koreas finally began a joint survey on inter-Korean railways after a series of twists and turns. (Ahn Byung-min, Korea JoongAng Daily)

International:

- In mid-September 1987, Roh Tae-woo, then head of the Democratic Justice Party, met with U.S. Vice President George H.W. Bush at NBC in Washington. (Kim Su-jeong, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- Many North Koreans widely prefer Japanese products over goods manufactured in China. (Kang Mi-jin, Daily NK)
- Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin on Monday made clear there's only one person leading trade negotiations with China: President Donald Trump. (Donna Borak, CNN)
- North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho has discussed bilateral ties with top Vietnamese officials during his trip to the Southeast Asian country, the North's state media said Monday. (Yonhap)
- More North Koreans, including Pyongyang's upper class, are seeking jobs outside the country amid prolonged international sanctions on the North, according to sources. (Yi Whan-woo, Korea Daily)
- Vietnam, a fast-growing country that’s liberal on trade and has friends in multiple countries, is offering to help advance North Korea, a fellow communist state that’s impoverished as well as distrusted by the West. (Ralph Jennings, VOA)
- North Korean restaurants, once the source of foreign cash for the country's nuclear program, are losing customers in Vladivostok, Russia, according to sources familiar with Pyongyang. (Yi Whan-woo, Korea Daily)
- The United States can help break the impasse in denuclearization talks with North Korea without sanctions relief if it allows humanitarian businesses in the communist nation to go forward, a special adviser to President Moon Jae-in said Monday. (Yonhap)
- South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha has met with the North's ceremonial head of state in Mexico and expressed her hope for North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's prompt visit to Seoul, the foreign ministry here said Sunday. (Yonhap)
- South Korean and U.S. officials are expected to hold "working group" consultations on North Korea this week via videoconferencing, a diplomatic source here said Monday. (Yonhap)
- South Korea’s president says U.S. President Donald Trump told him he has a “very friendly view” of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and wants to grant his wishes if he denuclearizes. (Kim Hyung-jin, Associated Press)
- U.S. President Donald Trump is ready to give everything he promised to North Korea should the communist state faithfully implement its denuclearization steps, South Korean President Moon Jae-in has said. (Byun Duk-kun, Yonhap)
- Donald Trump wants North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to know that he likes him and will fulfill his wishes, South Korea’s President Moon Jae-in said on Sunday, a day after meeting the U.S. president at an economic summit in Argentina. (Hyonhee Shin, Reuters)

Prepared by Cassandra Wood, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821214556/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-seoul-summit-is-still-possible-this-year-moon-japanese-products-most-popular-in-north-koreas-markets

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Tuesday, December 4, 2018

North Korea condemns South's air force exercises; Cases of theft spike in North Korea's markets during the kimchi-making season

In North Korea:
Cases of theft spike in North Korea's markets during the kimchi-making season (Daily NK, 12/4/2018)
Kim Jong-un's birthday remains unmarked in 2019 calendars (Yonhap, 12/4/2018)
Kim Jong Un orders deployment of joint inspection team to border region (Daily NK, 12/4/2018)
(News Focus) Kim can show commitment to denuclearization by visiting Seoul: experts (Yonhap, 12/4/2018)
North Korea prepares for annual winter military exercises (Daily NK, 12/4/2018)
North Korean Small Businesses Threatened by State-run Food Factories (Radio Free Asia, 12/3/2018)

In South Korea:
(2nd LD) S. Koreans to return home Wed. following railway inspection of N. Korea's western line (Yonhap, 12/4/2018)
Moon says Kim's Seoul visit will accelerate denuclearization (Yonhap, 12/4/2018)
Moon says summit still possible this month (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/4/2018)
S. Korean President Moon Eager for Visit from N. Korean Leader (VOA, 12/4/2018)
Seoul stepping up preparations for Kim Jong-un's possible visit (Korea Times, 12/4/2018)
South Korean President says visit from North Korea's Kim 'a possibility' (Reuters, 12/4/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Creating a United and Welcoming Korea (New York Times, 12/4/2018)
Kim Jong-un 'likely to visit Seoul Dec. 18-20,' says ex-minister (Korea Times, 12/4/2018)
Kim Jong-un's possible Seoul visit stirs up ideological divide (Korea Times, 12/4/2018)
North Korea condemns South's air force exercises (UPI, 12/4/2018)

International:

Experts Unsure of Outcomes ahead of Possible Kim Visit to Seoul, Second Summit With Trump (VOA, 12/4/2018)
Jeffrey Sachs encourages the North to open up (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/4/2018)
Kim Jong-un's Seoul visit will lead to successful NK-US summit (Korea Times, 12/4/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korean FM meets Syrian president (Yonhap, 12/4/2018)
Mattis: N. Korea is most urgent threat to U.S. (Yonhap, 12/4/2018)
N. Korean, Chinese foreign ministers to hold talks in Beijing (Yonhap, 12/4/2018)
N. Korean FM arrives in Syria after Vietnam visit (Yonhap, 12/4/2018)
North Korea FM says his country and Syria face same 'enemy' (Associated Press, 12/4/2018)
North Korean and Syrian foreign ministers meet in Damascus (Reuters, 12/4/2018)
North Korean foreign minister to visit China this week (Reuters, 12/4/2018)
North Korea, Vietnam reach 'agreement' after discussing reform (UPI, 12/3/2018)
President Trump says next meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un likely in early 2019 (CNN, 12/3/2018)
Sanctions relief may be possible (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/4/2018)
Trump urges China to help with North talks (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/4/2018)

In North Korea:

- The kimchi-making season is now in full-throttle and there are reports that spring onions, chili peppers, sesame seeds, and other ingredients required for making kimchi are being stolen from markets in North Korea. (Kim Yoo-jin, Daily NK)
- The presumed birthday of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un remains unmarked in the North's calendars for 2019. (Yonhap)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has dispatched a joint inspection team to the Sino-North Korean border area to investigate and implement measures to prevent border-crossings and defections. (Mun Dong-hui, Daily NK)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un can show the world he is a leader who keeps his promises, and is committed to denuclearization, if he carries out his pledge to visit Seoul before the end of the year, experts said Tuesday. (Choi Soo-hyang, Yonhap)
- North Korea is busy preparing for its winter civil joint exercises that start annually in December. Preparations include the holding of emergency meetings for the country's civil defense forces, Daily NK sources report. (Kim Yoo-jin, Daily NK)
- North Korea's small businesses in the food sector are being threatened by large-scale, state-run processed food manufacturers, who in recent months have been flooding local markets in the provinces with instant noodles and other snack products, RFA sources say. (Eugene Whong, Radio Free Asia)

In South Korea:

- A group of South Korean officials and railway experts will return home this week after completing a joint inspection on the rail line along North Korea's western region, a unification ministry official said Tuesday. (Yonhap)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Tuesday highlighted the importance of a proposed visit by North Korean leader Kim Jong-un to his country, saying it may help speed up the North's denuclearization process. (Yonhap)

- On a trip to New Zealand on Tuesday, President Moon Jae-in reiterated that a summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in Seoul could still happen within the year, stressing that such a visit could help speed along the denuclearization process. (Sarah Kim, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in says a potential visit to his country by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un would be "very meaningful." (VOA)
- The government is expected to step up efforts for a possible visit to Seoul this month by North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. President Moon Jae-in said this possibility was still open following his summit with U.S. President Donald Trump. (Kim Bo-eun, Korea Times)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in said on Tuesday a visit to Seoul by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un was “a possibility” and that such a trip would help to improve Pyongyang’s relationship with the United States. (Charlotte Greenfield, Reuters)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Growing up in North Korea in the 1980s, I was brainwashed into believing that South Koreans were suffering horribly under their government, but that with the unconditional support of the North Korean people, our “Dear Leader” Kim Il-sung would liberate our southern neighbors and reunify the Korean Peninsula. (Hyeonseo Lee, New York Times)
- All eyes are on North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's possible visit to Seoul this year. (Park Si-soo, Korea Times)
- Progressive-minded activists are calling for North Korean leader Kim Jong-un to visit Seoul promptly to speed up inter-Korean reconciliation. (Yi Whan-woo, Korea Times)
- North Korea state media condemned South Korea for holding independent air force exercises in place of Vigilant Ace, the combined combat training for pilots Seoul and Washington agreed to suspend to mitigate tensions. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

International:

- Following the Group of 20 (G-20) meeting in Argentina this past weekend, U. S. President Donald Trump said that he not only was looking forward to a possible meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in early 2019, but also supported a trip to Seoul by Kim to meet with South Korean President Moon Jae-in, possibly before the end of the year. (Steve Miller, VOA)
- As a renewed economist, public policy analyst and adviser to a number of Eastern European countries as they transitioned to a market economy, Jeffrey Sachs is well-versed in economic transformations. (Park Hyun-young, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's visit to Seoul, if realized, could help accelerate denuclearization of the North, President Moon Jae-in said Tuesday (KST). (Kim Yoo-chul, Korea Times)
- North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho met Syrian President Bashar al-Assad on Tuesday, discussing expanding ties between the two countries, the Syrian presidential office said. (Yonhap)
- U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has called North Korea the most urgent threat to the United States as negotiations to dismantle the regime's nuclear weapons program have stalled. (Yonhap)

- The top diplomats of North Korea and China will hold talks in Beijing this week on bilateral relations and regional security conditions, the Chinese government announced Tuesday. (Yonhap)
- North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho has arrived in Syria, Pyongyang's state media reported Tuesday, where the top diplomat is expected to discuss a potential visit to Pyongyang by the Syrian president. (Yonhap)
- North Korea's foreign minister says his country and Syria face the same "enemy" and called for increased cooperation between them. (Associated Press)
- Syria and North Korea's foreign ministers met in Damascus on Tuesday, officials said, and thanked each other for their support during years of international isolation. (Lisa Barrington, Reuters)
- North Korea's foreign minister will visit China this week for three days to meet senior officials and discuss the situation on the Korean peninsula, China's foreign ministry said on Tuesday. (Reuters)
- North Korea media reported Monday a consensus was reached on "mutual interests" between Hanoi and Pyongyang, a day after North Korea Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho concluded meetings with top Vietnamese officials. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- President Donald Trump said a second summit with North Korea's Kim Jong Un will likely take place in January or February. (Nicole Chavez, CNN)
- The U.S. government is willing to lift some economic sanctions on North Korea if the regime demonstrates "sincere measures" toward denuclearization, a source with knowledge of Pyongyang-Washington talks exclusively told the JoongAng Ilbo on Tuesday. (Jung Hyo-sik, Chun Su-jin, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- U.S. President Donald Trump Tuesday played up the role of China in getting North Korea to denuclearize following his bilateral talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping. (Sarah Kim, Korea JoongAng Daily)

Prepared by Cassandra Wood, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821214446/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-north-korea-condemns-souths-air-force-exercises-cases-of-theft-spike-in-north-koreas-markets-during-the-kimchi-making-season

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Wednesday, December 5, 2018

HRNK News Items: UN: North Korea needs more humanitarian assistance next year; South Koreans divided over Kim Jong-un's possible visit

In North Korea:

Family mine workers in South Hamgyong Province sent to political prison camp (Daily NK, 12/5/2018)
Kim Jong-un oversees master plan for Sinuiju facelift and construction (North Korean Economy Watch, 12/5/2018)
N.K. propaganda outlet slams U.S. for hindering inter-Korean cooperation (Yonhap, 12/5/2018)
N. Korea develops WiFi service for mobile devices (Yonhap, 12/5/2018)
N. Korean leader expresses condolences for death of senior official (Yonhap, 12/5/2018)
N. Korean newspaper urges efforts to secure more scientists, engineers (Yonhap, 12/5/2018)
North Korean state media attacks high-profile defectors in new videos (NK News, 12/5/2018)
North Korea's Wi-Fi Story: The Mirae is Today (38 North, 12/4/2018)
Pyongyang's top envoy heads to Beijing (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/5/2018)
Three North Korean women apprehended en route to work in China (Daily NK, 12/5/2018)
Transplanted fish 'alive and well' on Mount Paektu, North Korea says (UPI, 12/4/2018)

In South Korea:
Duelling delusions (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/5/2018)
Explainer: South Korea's unique Unification Ministry has thorny task of handling ties with North (Reuters, 12/4/2018)
Far-left group protests against UMG-Thae Yong Ho collaboration (Daily NK, 12/5/2018)
Growing split in Seoul over North Korea threatens Korea detente, nuclear talks (Reuters, 12/5/2018)
Military to open up more restricted land (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/5/2018)
Moon's callous overconfidence (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/5/2018)
S. Korea abuzz about N. Korean leader Kim's possible trip (The Washington Post, 12/5/2018)
South Koreans divided over Kim Jong-un's possible visit (Korea Times, 12/5/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Kim 'clears schedule' for landmark visit to Seoul in late December (Telegraph, 12/5/2018)
Kim Jong-un's democracy test [PHOTOS] (Korea Times, 12/5/2018)
Koreas in consultation to fix schedule for road inspection across border (Yonhap, 12/5/2018)
Koreas not in discussions about schedule of N.K. leader's visit: unification minister (Yonhap, 12/5/2018)
Koreas to deliver letter of intent to co-host Olympics to IOC in Feb. 2019 (Yonhap, 12/5/2018)
(LEAD) N.K. leader's Seoul visit linked to N.K.-U.S. talks: S. Korea spy agency (Yonhap, 12/5/2018)
(LEAD) S. Koreans return home after inspection of N. Korea's western railway (Yonhap, 12/5/2018)
Report: Kim Jong Un could travel to South Korea in December (UPI, 12/5/2018)
South Korea railroad surveyors reach Sinuiju at China border (UPI, 12/4/2018)

International:
Experts See Risks in Trump's Plan to Meet with North Korea's Kim (VOA, 12/4/2018)
Hopeful signs of progress on peace with North Korea (CNN, 12/4/2018)
John Bolton says North Korea failure to meet commitments requires second Trump-Kim summit (CNN, 12/4/2018)
North Korea to need USD$111 million in humanitarian aid next year, says UN (NK News, 12/5/2018)
Second summit needed as North Korea not living up to commitments: Bolton (NK News, 12/4/2018)

S. Korea, U.S. still reviewing military exercise plans: Pentagon (Yonhap, 12/5/2018)
Trump to Meet With Kim Jong-un, Despite North Korea's Lapses, Bolton Says (The New York Times, 12/4/2018)
Trump wants 2nd summit with Kim to ensure progress on commitments: Bolton (Yonhap, 12/5/2018)
UN: North Korea needs more humanitarian assistance next year (UPI, 12/5/2018)
U.N. says over US$111 mln required for humanitarian aid to N.K. next year (Yonhap, 12/5/2018)
U.S., North Korean officials meet to discuss second summit (UPI, 12/5/2018)

In North Korea:

- Members of a family in South Hamgyong Province working at the Komdok Mining Complex were arrested and sent to a political prison camp in mid-November, sources inside North Korea reported Sunday. (Kim Yoo-jin, Daily NK)
- A couple of weeks ago, KCNA carried a report of Kim Jong-un's oversight of a grand, general reconstruction plan for Sinuiju, North Korea's most important hub for trade with China. (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, North Korean Economy Watch)
- A North Korean state propaganda outlet slammed the United States on Wednesday for hindering inter-Korean cooperation, saying it is because of U.S. pressure on South Korea that the conciliatory mood between the two Koreas has failed to deliver due outcomes. (Yonhap)
- North Korea has developed a WiFi service that enables mobile devices to access a state-sanctioned intranet network, the North's state media report showed Wednesday. (Yonhap)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has expressed deep condolences for the death of a late senior official known for his longtime involvement in military affairs, the North's state media reported Wednesday. (Yonhap)
- North Korea's official newspaper called Wednesday for the country to secure more talented scientists and engineers for economic development in what appears to be an effort to emphasize self-reliance amid stalled denuclearization talks with the United States. (Yonhap)
- North Korea's state-run Uriminzokkiri outlet recently attacked two prominent defectors based in the U.S. and UK, as part of a series of videos released mid-October and late November. (Dagyum Ji, NK News)
- Korean Central Television recently broadcast a couple of reports about a new outdoor wireless data service in Pyongyang. The service is apparently based on Wi-Fi but unusually requires a SIM card for access. (Martyn Williams, 38 North)
- North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho, following a four-day visit to Vietnam last week, made a trip to Syria and next heads to China, where he will hold talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi. (Sarah Kim, Chae In-taek, Shin Kyung-jin, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- Following the apprehension of three North Korean women trying to cross over to China, the Kimjongsuk County border guards have responded to the incident by restricting access to a frequently-used shortcut in the area. (Kang Mi-jin, Daily NK)
- North Korea has "successfully" transplanted fish to Mount Paektu, where Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in took pictures during their September summit, according to state media. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

In South Korea:

- There are people with expertise and experience in Seoul. But the progressives try to recruit people based on their ideological values instead of their expertise in diplomacy and security. (Kim Byung-yeon, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- South Korea's Unification Ministry, responsible for inter-Korean affairs, has seen its standing wax and wane along with relations between the still officially warring neighbors. (Hyonhee Shin, Reuters)
- Members of the Paektu Protection Squad, which was created to welcome North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to Seoul, last week visited the offices of the Unification Media Group (UMG) to demand that a regular column written by former North Korean diplomat Thae Yong Ho for Daily NK be cancelled. (Mun Dong-hui, Daily NK)
- When Seoul was preparing to open a liaison office in the North Korean city of Kaesong this summer after a decade of virtually no contact with its longtime enemy, South Korean officials had heated debates over whether they should seek approval from Washington. (Hyonhee Shin, Reuters)
- Twenty-one different areas across the country will be stripped of their military facility protection zone status, the South Korean government announced on Wednesday, a move that will allow civilians to gain access to districts that have been off-limits for years. (Lee Sung-eun, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- While South Korea focused on North Korea and went between the United States and China, South Korea was dropped and India moved in. (Kim Hyun-ki, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- Day after day, rampant speculation about North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's possible trip to Seoul is making headlines in South Korea, despite no official confirmation from either government. (Hyung-jin Kim, AP)
- A bold statement drew attention at Gwanghwamun Square in Seoul, Nov. 26. "I am a fan of Kim Jong-un," Kim Soo-keun, the leader of the Korea Youth Solidarity (KYS), said. "I love communism and you will too," he added. (Jung Hae-myoung, Korea Times)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Kim Jong-un has cleared his schedule for three days in late December and will use the time for a landmark visit to Seoul, according to a former South Korean government minister. (Julian Ryall, Telegraph)
- By all indications, North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un will likely visit Seoul before the end of this year. He promised this during President Moon Jae-in's visit to Pyongyang in September. (Oh Young-jin, Korea Times)
- South and North Korea are in consultation to determine when and how they will conduct a joint inspection of roads of the two Koreas to modernize and reconnect them across their border, the unification ministry said Wednesday. (Yonhap)
- South Korea is not in talks with North Korea about possible dates for a visit to Seoul by the North's leader Kim Jong-un, but all possibilities remain open, Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon said Wednesday. (Yonhap)

- South and North Korea are expected to submit a letter to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in February 2019 stating their intent to co-host the 2032 Olympic Games, Seoul's sports ministry said Wednesday. (Yonhap)
- North Korea is expected to decide if its leader Kim Jong-un will visit Seoul in tandem with progress of its denuclearization talks with the United States, South Korea's spy agency was quoted as saying Wednesday. (Yonhap)
- A group of South Korean officials and railway experts returned home Wednesday after completing a joint inspection of the rail system in western North Korea. (Yonhap)
- South Korea has officially denied any discussions with the North regarding a date for an inter-Korea summit in Seoul, but sources in government say the North has provided specific days when Kim Jong Un could travel to the South, according to a local press report. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- A South Korean railroad survey team safely arrived in the North Korean city of Sinuiju at the China border, Seoul's unification ministry said Tuesday. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

International:

- North Korea experts have cautioned against another summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, citing a lack of progress on denuclearization since the first summit in Singapore. (Christy Lee, VOA)
- With North Korea, it appears nearly everything is bad news. The denuclearization talks are "stuck." North Korea's intermediate-range missile bases are a "great deception." And the alliance between the United States and South Korea is on the rocks, as "Washington scrambles to slow Seoul's roll." (S. Nathan Park, CNN)
- National security adviser John Bolton said Tuesday that President Donald Trump believes he should hold a second summit with Kim Jong Un because the North Korean leader hasn't lived up to commitments he made during their first meeting. (Donna Borak, Zachary Cohen, CNN)
- A total of USD$111 million will be required to fund humanitarian assistance in North Korea next year, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said in a report on Tuesday. (Dagyum Ji, NK News)
- U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton on Tuesday said a second summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is necessary as the DPRK has not lived up to commitments made in Singapore. (Leo Byrne, NK News)
- South Korea and the United States continue to review plans for next year's combined military exercises to avoid hurting disarmament talks with North Korea, a Pentagon official said Tuesday. (Yonhap)
- President Trump plans to hold a second summit meeting early next year with Kim Jong-un, even though North Korea has failed to follow through with promises to start dismantling its nuclear weapons program, John R. Bolton, the national security adviser, said on Tuesday. (Edward Wong, David E. Sanger, The New York Times)
- U.S. President Donald Trump wants a second summit with Kim Jong-un to ensure the North Korean leader makes good on the promises he made at their first meeting in June, U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton said Tuesday. (Yonhap)

- The United Nations estimated that some 6 million North Koreans will require humanitarian assistance next year as the country experienced poor harvest due to the heatwave and flooding this year. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- More than US$111 million will be needed for humanitarian assistance to North Korea next year amid international sanctions on the impoverished country, a U.N. report showed Wednesday. (Yonhap)
- The United States and North Korean officials held a secret meeting at a North-South Korean border village to discuss holding a second summit between U.S. and North Korean leaders, South Korean media reported, citing high-ranking government officials in Seoul. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821214904/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsun-north-korea-needs-more-humanitarian-assistance-next-yearsouth-koreans-divided-over-kim-jong-uns-possible-visit

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Thursday, December 6, 2018

North Korean worker demands accountability for slave labour in supply chain; N.Korea 'significantly' expands key missile base: report

Top News:
North Korean worker demands accountability for slave labour in supply chain (*Equal Times*, 12/6/2018)

In North Korea:
Getting to grips with law and business in high-risk North Korea (*Asia Times*, 12/3/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korea holds state funeral for former anti-Japanese fighter, military official (*Yonhap*, 12/6/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korea 'significantly' expands key missile base: report (*Yonhap*, 12/6/2018)
New satellite images reveal activity at unidentified North Korean missile base (CNN, 12/6/2018)
New satellite images reveal North Korea is expanding key missile base (*The Telegraph*, 12/6/2018)
North Korea holds funeral for anti-colonial veteran Kim Chol Man (UPI, 12/6/2018)
North Korea holds public trial for zinc smugglers (*Daily NK*, 12/6/2018)
North Korea Is Expanding Missile Base With Eye Toward U.S., Experts Warn (*New York Times*, 12/6/2018)
North Korea: Life Inside the Secret State, review: simple animations underpin pessimistic documentary about North Korean life (*The Telegraph*, 12/5/2018)
North Korea: secret missile site revealed in new satellite images (*The Guardian*, 12/5/2018)

North Korea's aid needs next year, same as this year? (*North Korean Economy Watch*, 12/5/2018)
Report: Satellite image reveals active North Korean missile base (UPI, 12/6/2018)
Ri Yong Ho's visit to Vietnam (or: the futile guessing game of North Korea's developmental model of choice) (*North Korean Economy Watch*, 12/6/2018)
[Updated] Kim Jong-un oversees master plan for Sinuiju facelift and construction (*North Korean Economy Watch*, 12/5/2018)

In South Korea:
Envoys celebrate Public Diplomacy Night (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 12/5/2018)
How a South Korean security law is becoming obsolete amid thaw with North Korea (*Reuters*, 12/6/2018)
Moon is left to struggle (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 12/6/2018)
No place on the air (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 12/6/2018)
PM hints at continuing to remain low-key in lifting sanctions on NK next year (*Korea Times*, 12/6/2018)
Poll: Majority of South Koreans support Kim Jong Un trip to Seoul (UPI, 12/5/2018)
President's approval rating ticks up past 50% (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 12/6/2018)
Six out of 10 S. Koreans in favor of N.K. leader's possible visit to Seoul: poll (*Yonhap*, 12/6/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
If You Think North Korea Is a Wild Place, Check Out the DMZ (*Wall Street Journal*, 12/3/2018)
Koreas to verify removal of border guard posts next week (*Associated Press*, 12/6/2018)
Minister vows to seek better inter-Korean relations to speed up denuclearization (*Yonhap*, 12/6/2018)
South Korean railroad inspectors to survey eastern line (UPI, 12/6/2018)

International:
Canada quietly prepping for a North Korea nuclear test: internal memos (*Global News*, 12/5/2018)
EU official talks sports diplomacy (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 12/6/2018)
Foal Eagle drill decision tied to second summit (*Korea JoongAng Daily*, 12/6/2018)
Japan arrests North Korea man for 'fraud,' report says (UPI, 12/6/2018)
(LEAD) Allies' diplomats to hold talks over N. Korea (*Yonhap*, 12/6/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korean foreign minister arrives in Beijing (*Yonhap*, 12/6/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea, U.S. in coordination over groundbreaking ceremony for inter-Korean road, railway connection (*Yonhap*, 12/6/2018)
Mongolia prime minister to visit Japan to discuss North Korea, report says (UPI, 12/5/2018)
North Korean sends top diplomat to key ally China (*Associated Press*, 12/6/2018)
U.S. wants brighter future for N.K. after its denuclearization: official (*Yonhap*, 12/6/2018)

Top News:

- On 8 November 2018 a North Korean overseas worker who had worked in slavery-like conditions for a Polish shipyard, a supplier of a Dutch shipbuilding company, filed a criminal complaint at the Dutch prosecution office against the Dutch firm. The

exploitation of North Korean workers in two separate Polish shipyards was brought to light in two reports, one published in 2016 and another published in 2018, both by the LeidenAsiaCentre, a research institute affiliated with Leiden University in the Netherlands. (Imke van Gardingen, *Equal Times*)

In North Korea:

- At the epicenter of economically thriving Northeast Asia squats a black hole for commerce: North Korea. Globally vilified, massively sanctioned, poorly understood, it is Asia's last true frontier market. (Andrew Salmon, *Asia Times*)
- North Korea has held a state funeral for a former anti-Japanese fighter also long involved in the country's military affairs, Pyongyang's state media reported Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korea has "significantly" expanded a key long-range missile base, while denuclearization negotiations with the United States have stalled, CNN reported Wednesday, citing new satellite imagery. (*Yonhap*)
- New satellite images obtained exclusively by CNN reveal North Korea has significantly expanded a key long-range missile base located in the mountainous interior of the country, offering yet another reminder that diplomatic talks with the US have done little to prevent Kim Jong Un from pursuing his promise to mass produce and deploy the existing types of nuclear warheads in his arsenal. (Zachary Cohen, CNN)
- New satellite images have revealed that North Korea has significantly expanded a key long-range missile base located in a remote mountainous area, despite ongoing talks this year with the US over the country's nuclear disarmament. (Nicola Smith, *The Telegraph*)
- North Korea held a funeral for Kim Chol Man, a veteran of past anti-Japanese movements, who was credited for "modernizing the North Korean military." Kim, a member of the Korean Workers' Party's central committee who reportedly died Monday at the age of 98, was also a member of the Supreme People's Assembly. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- The public trial was the second to be held in Tanchon this year, and the authorities gave four days' advanced notice to the mine's workers and residents of Tanchon beforehand to encourage attendance. (Kim Yoo Jin, *Daily NK*)
- North Korea is expanding an important missile base that would be one of the most likely sites for deploying intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of reaching the United States, two experts on the North's missile programs said Thursday, citing new research based on satellite imagery. (Choe Snag-hun, *New York Times*)
- Earlier this year Michael Palin went on tour in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. What he found was neither a democracy nor a republic. (Jasper Rees, *The Telegraph*)
- North Korea has significantly expanded and upgraded long-range missile sites, according to satellite images published by CNN, highlighting the lack of progress in negotiations with the US in the months since Kim Jong-un met Donald Trump. (Benjamin Haas, *The Guardian*)
- It appears that the calculation of North Korea's needs next year isn't really a calculation, but just an assumption that conditions and needs will remain the same for the foreseeable future. (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, *North Korean Economy Watch*)

- A new satellite image discovered an active North Korean missile base that recently underwent construction despite North Korea's pledge to denuclearize its nuclear weapons and missiles, CNN reported. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- With the risk of sounding like a broken record: it seems that every time a North Korean official visits or mentions another country, especially those in the region, speculation follows about whether North Korea is soon to adopt the "model" of the country in question. (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, *North Korean Economy Watch*)
- North Korea, it seems, expects that trade primarily with China will continue to grow and remain the country's most important source of foreign currency revenue for the foreseeable future. (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, *North Korean Economy Watch*)

In South Korea:

- Over 100 members of the diplomatic corps, Korean government officials, the Seoul mayor and the heads of district offices, military cadets and scholars gathered in southern Seoul for the Korea JoongAng Daily's Public Diplomacy Night to honor diplomats' contribution to local outreach and peace on the Korean Peninsula. (Esther Chung, Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Thousands of students, citizens and defectors were prosecuted, jailed and even executed under the 1948 law, which bars "praising, inciting or propagating the activities of an anti-government organization". (Hyonhee Shin, Joyce Lee, *Reuters*)
- After hearing the news that President Moon Jae-in asked British, German and French leaders to ease sanctions on North Korea, but was turned down at the Asia-Europe Meeting last month, ruling Democratic Party (DP) lawmaker Lee Sang-min was angry. (Kang Chan-ho, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- The state-run broadcaster triggered public outrage by airing a nonsensical comment that North Korea's three-generation dynasty of Kim Il Sung, Kim Jong-il and Kim Jong-un — current leader of the rogue state — is no different from our former presidents Park Chung Hee and his daughter Park Geun-hye. (*Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Prime Minister Lee Nak-yon said South Korea will continue pursuing a low-key approach in assessing North Korean nuclear issues by saying Seoul plans to boost various inter-Korean programs relating to cultural exchanges. (Park Ji-won, *Korea Times*)
- Six out of 10 people in South Korea said they will welcome North Korean leader Kim Jong Un if he makes a historic visit to Seoul, a poll showed Thursday. The survey, which asked 500 South Koreans aged more than 19, showed how South Koreans feel about the North Korean leader's first visit to the South Korean capital. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- The left's growing discontent, however, could be assuaged by a visit by North Korean leader Kim Jong-un to Seoul - a promise he made to Moon at the last inter-Korean summit in Pyongyang in September. (Shim Kyu-seok, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- More than six out of 10 South Koreans are in favor of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's potential visit to Seoul on hopes for peace on the Korean Peninsula, a poll showed Thursday. (*Yonhap*)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The demilitarized zone that separates the two Koreas has been off limits to nearly all human habitation for more than 60 years. Now, as North and South Korea give peace a chance, conservationists fear the same can't be said for the DMZ's wildlife. (Dasl Yoon, Andrew Jeong, *Wall Street Journal*)
- The two Koreas will exchange inspection teams across their heavily armed border next week to verify each other's works to remove some of their front-line guard posts, Seoul's Defense Ministry said Thursday. (Kim Hyung-jin, *Associated Press*)
- South Korea will continue to push for improving inter-Korean relations to help foster denuclearization and peace-building efforts on the Korean Peninsula, the unification minister said Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- A South Korean team of railroad inspectors departed Thursday to North Korea to survey train tracks on the eastern line, South Korea's unification ministry said. South Koreans will join a North Korean railroad inspection team and travel some 497 miles together from Mount Kumkang to Tumen River along the east coast from Sunday through Dec. 17. (Wooyoung Lee, *UPI*)

International:

- Internal memos show Canadian officials have been quietly preparing for the fallout from an atmospheric nuclear-weapons test by North Korea, including the spread of radioactive debris across the Pacific and the major public concerns that would arise. (*Global News*)
- Agata Dziarnowska, policy officer of the sports unit at the European Commission, was keen to congratulate Korea on the united South and North Korean women's ice hockey team that formed for the 2018 Winter Olympics. (Jin Eun-soo, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Seoul and Washington will make a decision on whether to conduct its annual Foal Eagle joint military exercise scheduled for next spring taking into consideration a potential second North Korea-U.S. summit, according to multiple military sources Thursday. (Lee Chul-jae, Sarah Kim, *Korea JoongAng Daily*)
- Japan is holding a North Korean man in custody for fraud, as the number of North Korean fishing vessels in Japan-claimed waters reached a record in 2018. n a sign Tokyo may be stepping up pressure on the Kim Jong Un regime as denuclearization talks are delayed, Japanese police arrested a North Korean passport holder for working as a "key North Korean agent." (Elizabeth Shim, *UPI*)
- South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha will hold talks with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo this week, Kang's ministry announced Thursday. (*Yonhap*)
- North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho arrived Thursday in Beijing on a previously unscheduled visit apparently intended for him to get a briefing on the outcome of a recent U.S.-China summit amid a stalemate in Pyongyang's nuclear talks with Washington. (*Yonhap*)
- South Korea and the United States are closely coordinating on all inter-Korean exchanges, including an agreed-upon plan to hold a ceremony to break ground for a railway and road reconnection project before year's end. (*Yonhap*)
- Mongolian Prime Minister Ukhnaagiin Khürelsükh has played a key role in ongoing negotiations between senior Japanese intelligence agents and North Korean officials,

permitting the meetings to take place in Ulaanbaatar in 2018 -- most recently in November. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

- North Korea's foreign minister arrived in key ally China on Thursday for talks amid stalled efforts to persuade his government to dismantle its nuclear weapons programs. Ri Yong Ho is to meet Friday with his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, according to China's foreign ministry. (Christopher Bodeen, *Associated Press*)
- The United States is ready to offer a brighter future to North Korea, but only after it completely abandons its nuclear weapons program, a senior U.S. official said Wednesday. (Lee Haye-ah, *Yonhap*)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821214910/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsnorth-korean-worker-demands-accountability-for-slave-labour-in-supply-chain-nkorea-significantly-expands-key-missile-base-report

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Friday, December 7, 2018

Beijing, Pyongyang envoys meet; (LEAD) Top diplomats of S. Korea, U.S. vow close coordination on N.K.

In North Korea:
(2nd LD) N. Korean minister reaffirms denuclearization commitment in Beijing talks (Yonhap, 12/7/2018)
Beijing, Pyongyang envoys meet (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/7/2018)
N.K. calls for full implementation of inter-Korean summit deals (Yonhap, 12/7/2018)
N. Korean titular leader meets Castro: KCNA (Yonhap, 12/7/2018)
North Korean border guard arrested for human trafficking (Daily NK, 12/7/2018)
North Korea tells China it's committed to denuclearization (The Washington Post, 12/7/2018)
Real estate prices in Sinuiju rise following Kim Jong Un announcement (Daily NK, 12/7/2018)
The Problem With Aid to North Korea is Bigger Than Diversion (38 North, 12/6/2018)
Top North Korea diplomat arrives in Beijing (UPI, 12/6/2018)

In South Korea:
(2nd LD) S. Korea, U.S. discuss N. Korea issue in 'working group' (Yonhap, 12/7/2018)
Allies' top diplomats pledge to maintain close coordination on NK (The Korea Herald, 12/7/2018)
Everyone Wants to Know if Kim Jong Un Will Visit Seoul This Month (Bloomberg, 12/6/2018)

How a South Korean security law is becoming obsolete amid thaw with North Korea (Reuters, 12/7/2018)
(LEAD) Top diplomats of S. Korea, U.S. vow close coordination on N.K. (Yonhap, 12/7/2018)
Moon seeks support for 'peace initiative' from Orthodox Church leader (Yonhap, 12/7/2018)
Publication of Thae Yong Ho's column to continue despite protests (Daily NK, 12/7/2018)
South Korea eyes $300-million deal to buy U.S. missiles for Aegis destroyers (Reuters, 12/7/2018)
U.S., S.Korea Cancel Another Large-Scale Military Drill (The Chosun Ilbo, 12/7/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) Kim's possible Seoul visit not discussed at inter-Korean liaison officers' meeting (Yonhap, 12/7/2018)
Kim Jong-un invited to Seoul Dec. 12-14, report says [PHOTOS] (Korea Times, 12/7/2018)
(LEAD) Koreas to hold chief liaison officers' meeting amid speculation over Kim's possible trip to Seoul (Yonhap, 12/7/2018)
Speculation on Kim Jong Un's visit to Seoul grows (UPI, 12/7/2018)
S. Koreans to visit Pyongyang next week for talks on forestry cooperation (Yonhap, 12/7/2018)

International:
Bolton says 2nd summit possible after New Year (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/7/2018)
China's Xi urges North Korea, United States to meet halfway (Reuters, 12/7/2018)
Chinese sanctions enforcement on North Korea: don't jump to conclusion (North Korean Economy Watch, 12/7/2018)
Clashing views color future of stalled N.Korea nuclear talks (The Washington Post, 12/7/2018)
(LEAD) Trump seeks to give N.K. chance to fulfill denuclearization promise: Bolton (Yonhap, 12/7/2018)
Pompeo meets with South Korea's top diplomat after Bush's funeral (UPI, 12/6/2018)
US Intelligence Not Shocked North Korea Upgrading Missile Bases (VOA, 12/6/2018)

In North Korea:
- North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho told his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, on Friday that Pyongyang's commitment to denuclearization remains unchanged, according to Wang's ministry. (Yonhap)
- Pyongyang remains committed to its denuclearization pledge, North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho told Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in bilateral talks on Friday in Beijing on the heels of a U.S.-China summit last week. (Sarah Kim, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- A North Korean state propaganda outlet called Friday for full implementation of inter-Korean summit agreements amid scant progress in economic cooperation between the two Koreas and no signs of easing sanctions from the U.S. (Yonhap)
- North Korea's titular leader has met with Raul Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, on his way home from a recent trip to three Latin American countries, state media reported Friday. (Yonhap)
- A squad leader attached to the border garrison in Onsong County, North Hamgyong Province has been arrested on suspicion of human trafficking. (Kim Yoo-jin, Daily NK)

- North Korea's foreign minister said his country remains committed to ending its nuclear weapons program in talks Friday with his Chinese counterpart, according to China's foreign ministry. (Christopher Bodeen, AP)
- Korea Central News Agency (KCNA) recently reported that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un made an on-the-spot visit to "guide" construction plans in Sinuiju, North Pyongan Province. (Kim Song-il, Daily NK)
- On October 23, Kee B. Park and Eliana E. Kim made a convincing case for funding the UN's request for humanitarian assistance to North Korea. The authors argue that even if it tried, the regime could, at most, divert only negligible sums of aid money to its missile and nuclear programs. (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, 38 North)
- North Korea Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho arrived in Beijing for a three-day visit during which he could exchange views with Chinese officials, following talks between Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Donald Trump during the G20 Summit. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

In South Korea:

- South Korean and U.S. officials handling the North Korea issue held a working-level videoconference Friday to coordinate their policy and strategy. (Yonhap)
- The top diplomats of South Korea and the US pledged united efforts to deal with North Korea's nuclear and missile programs, as the allies' leaders seek another summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un amid the stalled nuclear talks between Pyongyang and Washington. (Yeo Jun-suk, The Korea Herald)
- A wave of speculation is sweeping South Korea over whether Kim Jong Un will visit Seoul this month, a trip that would mark a North Korean leader's first time in the capital. (Youkyung Lee, Bloomberg)
- In downtown Seoul, some 40 young South Koreans last month braved early winter chills to show their support for a planned visit to the South Korean capital by North Korea's leader, chanting "Kim Jong Un! Kim Jong Un! Kim Jong Un is a great man!" (Hyonhee Shin, Joyce Lee, Reuters)
- The top diplomats of South Korea and the United States met in Washington Thursday and agreed to coordinate closely in their efforts to denuclearize North Korea, both sides said. (Yonhap)
- President Moon Jae-in on Friday asked for the support of the Orthodox Church for his government's efforts to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula and establish peace, along with its efforts to protect its natural environment. (Yonhap)
- Last Friday, Members of the Paektu Protection Squad made an unannounced visit to the offices of Daily NK and Unification Media Group (UMG). They wore dark coats, sunglasses, and came with pickets and paper flyers. (Lee Kwang-Baek, UMG, President, Daily NK)
- South Korea plans to buy dozens of U.S.-built ship-to-air missiles, in an order worth about $300 million, to boost air defenses against North Korea, even as it moves to reduce tension with Pyongyang, Seoul's arms buying agency said on Friday. (Hyonhee Shin, Reuters)
- South Korea and the U.S. have decided to cancel the large-scale "Foal Eagle" joint military exercise scheduled for April of 2019. (Yang Seung-sik, The Chosun Ilbo)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The issue of a possible visit to Seoul by North Korean leader Kim Jong-un was not discussed at a meeting between the chief liaison officers of South and North Korea on Friday, the unification ministry said. (Yonhap)
- While it is still uncertain when North Korean leader Kim Jong-un will visit Seoul, his South Korean counterpart has invited him on Dec. 12-14, according to a Friday report. (Ko Dong-hwan, Korea Times)
- South and North Korea will hold a meeting of their chief liaison officers on Friday, the unification ministry said, amid speculation that North Korean leader Kim Jong-un could visit Seoul before year's end. (Yonhap)
- As speculation grows over whether North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will visit Seoul this month, South Korea's presidential office has reportedly sent an invitation to Kim to visit the South Korean capital next week, according to South Korean media reports. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- South Korea will send 10 officials and experts to Pyongyang next week for talks on forestry cooperation, the unification ministry said Friday. (Yonhap)

International:

- John Bolton, the U.S. national security adviser, said Thursday that Washington will remove sanctions when it sees "performance" from North Korea and advocated a second summit between the two countries' leaders. (Sarah Kim, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday told North Korea's foreign minister that he hoped North Korea and the United States could meet each other halfway and address each other's reasonable concerns, China's foreign ministry said. (Philip Wen, Ben Blanchard, Reuters)
- Is China enforcing UN sanctions on North Korea? Is "maximum pressure" still on and working? How much is China really trading with North Korea? (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, North Korean Economy Watch)
- To hear a beaming Donald Trump at his June summit with Kim Jong Un in Singapore, the solution to North Korea's headlong pursuit of nuclear weapons, a foreign policy nightmare that has flummoxed U.S. leaders since the early 1990s, was at hand. (Foster Klug, Matthew Lee, AP)
- U.S. President Donald Trump wants to give North Korea a "chance" to deliver on its denuclearization commitment by holding a second summit with the North's leader, Kim Jong-un, early next year, U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton said Thursday. (Yonhap)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met with his South Korean counterpart Kang Kyung-wha in Washington on Thursday to discuss bilateral efforts on North Korea. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- North Korean efforts to upgrade and expand a long-range missile base come as no surprise to U.S. intelligence officials, who have long been wary of promises by Pyongyang to denuclearize. (Jeff Seldin, VOA)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:

https://web.archive.org/web/20250821214917/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsbeijing-pyongyang-envoys-meetlead-top-diplomats-of-s-korea-us-vow-close-coordination-on-nk

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Saturday, December 8, 2018

U.S. withdraws bid for U.N. meeting on N.K. human rights; Koreas not decided on schedule of N.K. leader's visit

Top News:
Diplomats: US postpones meeting on North Korea human rights (Associated Press, 12/7/2018)
U.S. drops bid for December U.N. meeting on North Korea abuses: diplomats (Reuters, 12/7/2018)
U.S. withdraws bid for U.N. meeting on N.K. human rights (Yonhap, 12/8/2018)

In North Korea:
[INTERVIEW] 20 Years on North Korea's underground railroad (part I) (Korea Times, 12/8/2018)

In South Korea:
'Cheong Wa Dae to announce Kim's Seoul visit as early as Sunday': report (Korea Times, 12/8/2018)
Defectors' view of Kim Jong-un's Seoul visit (Korea Times, 12/8/2018)
Renowned surgeon appointed as Honorary Navy Commander (Korea Times, 12/8/2018)
South Korea's president once decried powerful tycoons. Now he needs them to woo Pyongyang. (Washington Post, 12/8/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) S. Koreans travel to N. Korea to conduct joint railway probe of eastern line (Yonhap, 12/8/2018)
Koreas not decided on schedule of N.K. leader's visit (Yonhap, 12/8/2018)

International:
Australia Deploys P-8A Poseidon to Japan to Enforce North Korea Sanctions (The Diplomat, 12/7/2018)
'I can't stop him.' UN ambassador Nikki Haley used Trump's harsh North Korea rhetoric as leverage (USA Today, 12/7/2018)
Japan's military sees record spending, aims to buy more U.S. arms: Nikkei (Reuters, 12/7/2018)
Pompeo: 'Hard task' of denuclearizing N. Korea remains (Yonhap, 12/8/2018)
Pope Unlikely to Visit North Korea Next Year, Vatican Says (VOA, 12/7/2018)
What Trump could learn from Clinton on North Korea (Asia Times, 12/8/2018)
U.S., South Korea hold video conference on North Korea (UPI, 12/7/2018)
Xi Jinping praises improved Korea ties, promotes 'compromise' (UPI, 12/7/2018)

Top News:

- The United States postponed a Security Council meeting scheduled for Monday to discuss human rights in North Korea because it couldn't get enough support to hold it, U.N. diplomats said Friday. (Edith M. Lederer, Associated Press)
- The United States has dropped a push for the United Nations Security Council to hold its fifth annual meeting on human rights abuses in North Korea this month as it does not have enough support, diplomats said on Friday. (Michelle Nichols, Reuters)
- The United States has withdrawn its bid to convene a United Nations meeting on North Korea's human rights situation due to a lack of support, according to a report Friday. (Yonhap)

In North Korea:

- How do you begin to comb over the lives of people who have been compared to Oskar Schindler, and who started a "Ton a Month" food aid program that probably saved thousands at the peak of North Korea's famine? (Rachel Stine, Korea Times)

In South Korea:

- Citing an unidentified "high-ranking government official," the Segye Ilbo reported Saturday that he will come to Seoul, Dec. 13 or 14, for a two- to three-day visit. It added the presidential office will make an announcement on the North Korean leader's visit as early as Sunday. (Park Si-soo, Korea Times)
- I'm not happy with welcoming Kim Jung-un. He is an a—hole. My hope is that South Koreans will see that he is a jerk and a dictator who is ruining people's lives.My concern is that South Korean media will put on a show trying to make him look like a nice guy because they don't want to embarrass President Moon. (Casey Lartigue Jr., Korea Times)
- He also treated a North Korean defector who crossed the Joint Security Area at Panmunjeom last year and received a letter of appreciation from the U.S. Embassy in Korea. He also served as honorary ambassador for the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the National Maritime Police. (Kim Hyun-bin, Korea Times)
- It's clear that South Korea's megacompanies have become key partners in his outreach to North Korea. That impression was reinforced when South Korea's president brought bosses from the four largest chaebols to Pyongyang in September as part of a large business delegation. (Simon Denyer, Washington Post)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- A group of South Korean officials and experts traveled to North Korea on Saturday for a 10-day probe of the North's eastern rail system as part of efforts to connect railways along the divided peninsula. (Yonhap)
- Seoul and Pyongyang have not agreed on possible dates for a visit to Seoul by the North's leader Kim Jong-un, the presidential office said Saturday, denying a media report that he may come next week. (Yonhap)

International:

- The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) is dispatching one of its Boeing P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft to Kadena Air Base in Okinawa this week in support of the

international effort to enforce United Nations Security Council resolutions on North Korea. (Franz-Stefan Gady, The Diplomat)

- Outgoing United Nations ambassador Nikki Haley said she used President Donald Trump's unpredictability and bellicose rhetoric to persuade other world leaders they had to crack down on North Korea or the U.S. would take military action. (Deirdre Shesgreen, USA Today)
- Japan's Ministry of Defence in August sought record spending of 5.3 trillion yen next year to help pay for major upgrades to defenses designed to shoot down any North Korean ballistic missile, which that Tokyo sees as a continued threat despite Pyongyang's promise to abandon nuclear weapons. (Osamu Tsukimori, Reuters)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Friday that despite North Korea's release of American detainees, the "hard task" of dismantling the country's nuclear weapons program still remains. (Yonhap)
- In what appeared to be a setback for Seoul's diplomacy to ease tensions on the Korean peninsula and nudge North Korea into embracing openness, the Vatican said Friday Pope Francis is unlikely to visit North Korea next year. (Ahn So-young, VOA)
- Bush's cancellation of nuclear accords with Kim Jong Il, current North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's father, set the stage for Trump, if he plays the cards right, to restore the relatively favorable situation Bill Clinton's administration forged a quarter-century ago. (Muhammed Cohen, Asia Times)
- The United States and South Korea held a working-level group meeting to discuss North Korea, sanctions and coordination, following a meeting between U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and South Korea's Kang Kyung-wha. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Chinese President Xi Jinping said he supports improved ties between North and South Korea, but also said the United States and North Korea must reach a "compromise" for progress on denuclearization. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821215016/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-us-withdraws-bid-for-un-meeting-on-nk-human-rights-koreas-not-decided-on-schedule-of-nk-leaders-visit

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Sunday, December 9, 2018

In North Korea:
N.K. media report on its foreign minister's meeting with Xi (Yonhap, 12/9/2018)
N. Korea on diplomatic offensive indicates desperation: experts (Korea Herald, 12/9/2018)
[REVIEW] A glance at changes in North Korean society (Korea Times, 12/9/2018)

In South Korea:
Even if Kim Jong-un came to Seoul, most South Korean might not know until last minute: experts (Korea Herald, 12/7/2018)

Kim Jong-un's democracy test [PHOTOS] (Korea Times, 12/9/2018)
(LEAD) No signs of progress on N.K. leader's possible Seoul visit: Cheong Wa Dae (Yonhap, 12/9/2018)
Seoul prepares for every scenario on Kim's visit (Korea Times, 12/9/2018)
Time running out for Kim Jong-un's Seoul trip (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/9/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) Koreas complete joint survey of Han River estuary (Yonhap, 12/9/2018)
[Signe Poulsen] Inter-Korean talks best way to commemorate 70th anniversary of UDHR (Korea Herald, 12/9/2018)

International:
From 'strategic patience' to 'maximum pressure': obstacles to progress remain in pushing North Korea on its nuclear weapons (South China Morning Post, 12/9/2018)
More Foreign Airlines Fly Through N.Korea's Flight Info Region (Chosun Ilbo, 12/3/2018)
N. Korea, Mongolia agree to boost bilateral ties (Yonhap, 12/9/2018)

In North Korea:
- North Korean media carried belated reports Sunday on its top diplomat's meetings with his Chinese counterpart and President Xi Jinping during a trip to Beijing late last week. (Yonhap)
- North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho's trips to the communist state's allies -- China, Syria and Vietnam -- show the North's desperation amid stalled denuclearization talks between Pyongyang and Washington, experts say. (Ock Hyun-ju, Korea Herald)
- This year marked a period of great change on the Korean Peninsula. North Korea's economy and society displayed signs of renewed vitality. With coal exports decreasing, domestic electric power generation enhanced the reliability of the electric grid, reducing blackouts. (Wang Xingxing, Korea Times)

In South Korea:
- "Even if the South Korean presidential office were notified by the North about when Kim would visit Seoul, the government may be reluctant to reveal it to the public immediately," a government source familiar with inter-Korean relations told The Korea Herald. (Yeo Jun-suk, Korea Herald)
- There is no reason to block Kim's visit to the South. It is better to welcome him, because there is a chance the trip will help ease inter-Korean tensions, push the two countries further along a reconciliation path and disarm Kim of his nuclear weapons and missiles. (Oh Young-jin, Korea Times)
- There appear to be no signs of progress in regard to a possible visit by North Korean leader Kim Jong-un to Seoul following the Moon Jae-in government's official invitation, the presidential office said Sunday. (Yonhap)
- Cheong Wa Dae remained cautious on Sunday about mentioning North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's possible visit as speculation grew stronger that he may arrive in Seoul very soon. (Yi Whan-woo, Korea Times)

- Yoon Young-chan, President Moon Jae-in's secretary for public affairs, told Blue House correspondents in a text message that there wasn't "any progress" made between the two Koreas on Kim's hoped for visit to Seoul, and that the Blue House had "nothing to announce" at the moment with regards to the subject. (Lee Sung-eun, Kang Tae-hwa, Jeong Yong-soo, Korea JoongAng Daily)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The two Koreas have completed their joint inspection of a waterway along their western border aimed at easing access to its restricted estuary following a September military agreement signed between the two sides, the Seoul government said Sunday. (Yonhap)
- What is currently missing from these high-level talks, involving some of the most powerful politicians on the planet, are the voices of the people within North Korea. Yet they are the ones who continue to deal with the worst consequences of this era of enmity. (Korea Herald)

International:

- North Korea deems itself to be a fully fledged nuclear power. A "tactical" test of an unidentified weapon reinforces the fact that its nuclear weapons are not going anywhere for now, so long as the gap remains in how Pyongyang and Washington (and its allies) define denuclearisation. (Edward Howell, South China Morning Post)
- Until July, only Russia sent airplanes through the area due to missile and other military threats from the North. But now Germany, the Netherlands and Taiwan also used the route when traveling to and from South Korean airports, according to data from the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport. (Hong Jun-ki, Choi Won-woo, Chosun Ilbo)
- North Korea and Mongolia agreed to boost their bilateral ties, Pyongyang's state media reported on Sunday. North Korea's foreign minister Ri Yong-ho and his Mongolian counterpart, Damdin Tsogtbaatar, exchanged views on cooperation in fields, such as trade and politics. (Yonhap)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

[EDITOR'S NOTE: It is unclear if the December 9, 2018 newsletter was originally published. Several indications in HRNK's internal records suggest that it was drafted, but not sent.]

Monday, December 10, 2018

Inter-Korean talks best way to commemorate 70th anniversary of UDHR; A glance at changes in North Korean society

Top News:

Giving North Korea Abuses a Free Pass (Human Rights Watch, 12/9/2018)
'Linking SDGs and human rights could persuade North Korea' (Korea Times, 12/10/2018)

Moon sidesteps human rights in North issue (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/10/2018)

In North Korea:
Kim's response likely hinges on Ri's return (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/10/2018)
N. Korea declares war on corruption (Yonhap, 12/10/2018)
Serial rapist publicly executed in North Korea (Daily NK, 12/10/2018)

In South Korea:
4 indicted for buying North coal (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/10/2018)
Kim Jong-un's visit seems unlikely this year (Korea Times, 12/10/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea's 2019 budget for inter-Korean cooperation fund exceeds 1 tln won (Yonhap, 12/10/2018)
Minister: S. Korea pins hopes on 'virtuous cycle' of inter-Korean ties, denuclearization (Yonhap, 12/10/2018)
Moon slammed for 'kowtowing' (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/10/2018)
Nearly half of S. Koreans agree with N. Korean leader addressing National Assembly: poll (Yonhap, 12/10/2018)
North's leader can expect warm Seoul welcome (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/10/2018)
S. Korea charges 4 with illegally importing N. Korean coal (Associated Press, 12/10/2018)
South Korea leader credits independent efforts as budget expands (UPI, 12/10/2018)
South Korean prosecutors indict four for importing North Korean coal (Reuters, 12/10/2018)
South Koreans protest Kim Jong Un's visit (UPI, 12/9/2018)
Will Kim Jong-un Visit Seoul This Month? South Korea Is Holding Its Breath (New York Times, 12/10/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) Koreas to meet this week for talks on cooperation in medical, health sectors (Yonhap, 12/10/2018)
Estuary near Kaesong complex needs dredging: institute (Yonhap, 12/10/2018)
Koreas to hold talks this week on co-hosting Olympics (Yonhap, 12/10/2018)
(LEAD) S. Koreans embark on trip to N. Korea for talks on forestry cooperation (Yonhap, 12/10/2018)
N.K. leader's Seoul visit unlikely within this year: expert (Yonhap, 12/10/2018)
North and South Korea complete joint survey on waterway (UPI, 12/10/2018)

International:
Before Building A Wall, Trump Should Ask Kim Jong-un About North Korea's 'Borders' (Forbes, 12/9/2018)
Mike Pompeo swaggers his way to failure (Washington Post, 12/9/2018)
N. Korea blasts U.S. over human trafficking blacklisting (Yonhap, 12/10/2018)
Never Take Their Photos: Tracking the Commandos, North Korea's Secret Export (Wall Street Journal, 12/9/2018)
North Korean media condemns "heinous" human trafficking blacklisting by U.S. (NK News, 12/10/2018)
Papal visit to North Korea still uncertain (Korea Times, 12/10/2018)

Report: U.S., South Korea renaming joint exercises (UPI, 12/10/2018)
Ri Yong Ho in Ulaanbaatar: where the DPRK-Mongolia relationship goes from here (NK News, 12/10/2018)
U.S. imposes sanctions on three North Korean officials (Reuters, 12/10/2018)
Vice unification minister to visit Japan for talks on N.K. policy (Yonhap, 12/10/2018)
Vinograd: US no longer Kim Jong Un's VIP guest (CNN, 12/10/2018)

Top News:

- It is a bitter irony that on the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Security Council will give North Korea's atrocious human rights record a free pass. (Param-Preet Singh, Human Rights Watch)
- Sustainable peace on the Korean Peninsula will not be possible without confronting North Korea's human rights issues, Thae Yong-ho, a noted North Korean defector said Monday. Thae suggested that South Korea could take lessons from the European Union's approach to the North by linking the North's human rights policies with its sustainable development goals (SDGs). (Jung Da-min, Korea Times)
- In a speech celebrating Human Rights Day, President Moon Jae-in said Monday in central Seoul that eliminating the remains of the Cold War on the Korean Peninsula and establishing a permanent peace is the way to improve the human rights of the "entire Korean people." (Lee Sung-eun, Kim Da-young, Korea JoongAng Daily)

In North Korea:

- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un is stalling on whether to visit Seoul within the calendar year, but a response from Kim isn't likely until North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho, who has been traveling overseas since last month, returns to Pyongyang. (Yoo Jee-hye, Sarah Kim, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- North Korea declared war on corruption Monday, with its main newspaper, Rodong Sinmun, calling for an "uncompromising struggle" against anyone involved in acts of corruption "regardless of their rank." (Yonhap)
- A serial rapist who raped nine women in North Hamgyong Province's Onsong County has been publicly executed by firing squad, local sources have reported. "A human trafficker was sentenced to life in prison, while a serial rapist was tried and executed on the spot." (Kim Yoo Jin, Daily NK)

In South Korea:

- Four South Koreans were indicted for smuggling North Korean coal into the country last year in violation of international sanctions, prosecutors said on Monday. (Baek Kyung-seo, Shim Kyu-seok, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un is unlikely to visit Seoul this year for a much-anticipated inter-Korean summit, as both sides have yet to make any progress in arranging a schedule, according to officials. (Lee Min-hyung, Korea Times)
- South Korea's budget allocated for cooperation projects with North Korea next year exceeded 1 trillion won (US$890.7 million) for first time in three years amid a thaw in relations, the unification ministry said Monday. (Yonhap)

- South Korea's top diplomat said Monday her government will redouble diplomatic efforts to pull off denuclearization and lasting peace via the "virtuous cycle" of improved inter-Korean relations and progress in the denuclearization process. (Yonhap)
- Opposition lawmakers accused the Blue House on Monday of “kowtowing” to Pyongyang for North Korean leader Kim Jong-un’s visit to Seoul this year. They argued that Seoul is acting servile and fueling domestic discord between the left and right. (Lee Sung-eun, Jeong Yong-soo, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- Nearly half of South Korean adults are in favor of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un making an address at the National Assembly if he comes to Seoul, a poll showed Monday. (Yonhap)
- Though it remains unclear if or when North Korean leader Kim Jong-un will make good on his promise made last September to visit Seoul, he may be surprised by a warm welcome already being readied by pro-Pyongyang civic groups. (Jeong Bum-chul, Shim Kyu-seok, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- South Korean prosecutors said Monday that they have charged four people with illegally importing North Korean coal via Russia in violation of U.N. sanctions. (Kim Hyung-jin, Associated Press)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Korea should take ownership of the issues on the Korean Peninsula, before an audience of South Korean ambassadors at postings in Russia, the United States and China. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- South Korean prosecutors have charged four people with illegally importing millions of dollars worth of North Korean coal in violation of international sanctions, by trying to disguise it as imports from Russia, a prosecutors’ office said on Monday. (Joyce Lee, Reuters)
- Two different protest groups were organized Saturday in Seoul, ahead of a rumored visit by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to Seoul. A student group held a mini-concert that included singing, dancing and waving flags of the Korean Peninsula that represents the unification of the two Koreas to welcome Kim to the South Korean capital. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- South Korea is holding its breath for what its president, Moon Jae-in, has repeatedly said could happen by the end of December: Kim Jong-un’s visit to Seoul, which would be a first for a North Korean leader. (Choe Sang-hun, New York Times)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Officials of South and North Korea will meet this week to discuss cooperation in medical and health sectors, including exchanging information on infectious diseases, the unification ministry said Monday. (Yonhap)
- The estuary of a river near the Kaesong industrial complex is full of sand and must be dredged to facilitate coastal development, a state-run research institute said Monday. (Yonhap)
- Sports officials of South and North Korea will meet later this week to discuss following up on a summit agreement to co-host the 2032 Summer Olympics and form joint teams for Olympics and international competitions, the unification ministry said Monday. (Yonhap)
- A 10-member team led by Lim Sang-seop, a senior official with the Korea Forestry Service, left for Beijing early in the day from which it will fly to the North on Tuesday for a three-day stay in Pyongyang. (Yonhap)

- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un is unlikely to visit Seoul within this year considering the lack of time for preparation, a U.S. expert said Monday amid mounting speculation over the possibility of the unprecedented trip. (Yonhap)
- North and South Korea has completed Sunday a month-long joint survey on waterways at the mouth of Han River near the border area. "We look forward to a safe and free access by civilian boats in the waterways at the mouth of Han River next year," Vice Defense Minister Seo Joo-seok was quoted as saying. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)

International:

- The North Korean escapees also remind us of what should be obvious: economics is the main driver of human movement. Just as Americans have long migrated to the best opportunities within the United States, so do humans do the same around the world. (John Tamny, Forbes)
- Evidently the North Korean ruler has decided he can't do business with Pompeo. Maybe that's because the secretary is refusing to give in to Kim's unreasonable demands for sanctions relief and a peace declaration. But perhaps the dictator is also put off by the #swagger. (Jackson Diehl, Washington Post)
- A North Korean propaganda outlet criticized the United States for blacklisting the communist nation as one of the worst human trafficking countries Monday, calling it a "hostile" act aimed at putting more pressure on Pyongyang. (Yonhap)
- Inside one of Uganda's air bases behind rings of security lurks a resource the nation pledged two years ago to jettison—North Korean soldiers. The commandos, from North Korea's special-operations division, are covertly training Uganda's elite troops in skills from martial arts to helicopter-gunnery operations, say senior Ugandan military officers. (Joe Parkinson, Wall Street Journal)
- North Korea's Uriminzokkiri outlet on Monday denounced a recent U.S. decision to blacklist the country for human trafficking as a "heinous hostile act." The Uriminzokkiri on Monday denounced Washington's "dual-faced behavior," committing to ending hostility and confrontation publicly while "atrociously slandering the dignity and regime of their counterpart for dialogue." (Dagyum Ji, NK News)
- A guessing game is going on about whether Pope Francis will visit North Korea next year. The latest round has been triggered by reports on the Voice of America (VOA), the U.S. government-funded international radio broadcaster, that the pope will not visit North Korea next year. (Oh Young-jin, Korea Times)
- U.S. and South Korea military authorities are reviewing new names for annual joint exercises that strengthen defense capabilities and deter North Korea, according to a South Korean press report. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Wrapping up a year of 70th anniversary celebrations, North Korean foreign minister Ri Yong Ho traveled to Mongolia this weekend following a visit to Beijing. The visit saw Ri hold discussions with his Mongolian counterpart Damdin Tsogtbaatar over DPRK-Mongolia bilateral ties as well as security issues on the Korean peninsula. (Anthony V. Rinna, NK News)
- The United States on Monday imposed sanctions on three North Korea officials, including a top aide to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, the U.S. Treasury Department said on Monday. (Tim Ahmann, Reuters)

- Vice Unification Minister Chun Hae-sung was to visit Japan on Monday for meetings with Japanese government and parliamentary officials about North Korea policy, the ministry said. (Yonhap)
- CNN's National Security analyst Samantha Vinograd discusses Jared Kushner, Jamal Khashoggi, and the expansion of a missile base in North Korea. (CNN)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821215150/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-giving-north-korea-abuses-a-free-pass-moon-sidesteps-human-rights-in-north-issue-south-koreans-protest-kim-jong-uns-visit

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Tuesday, December 11, 2018

US sanctions top North Korean officials over human rights abuses; Who's deceiving whom? Open source North Korea under the microscope

Top News:
Greg Scarlatoiu on Voice of America (VOA,12/11/2018)

In North Korea:
Day laborers paid to replace regular workforce at construction sites (Daily NK, 12/11/2018)
(LEAD) N.K. foreign minister in Beijing heads home from four-nation trip (Yonhap, 12/11/2018)
North Korea distributes new portrait badges to Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League (Daily NK, 12/11/2018)
Senior officials of N.K. leader's bodyguard unit purged: report (Yonhap, 12/11/2018)
Who's deceiving whom? Open source North Korea under the microscope (NK News, 12/11/2018)

In South Korea:
LKP elects Na Kyung-won as its first female floor leader (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/11/2018)
National Assembly speaker urges continued talks with North Korea (Korea Times, 12/11/2018)
S. Korea to tighten procedures for restricting inter-Korean projects (Yonhap, 12/11/2018)
S. Koreans want to see Kim Jong-un deliver Assembly address (Korea Times, 12/11/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
A crucial opportunity (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/11/2018)
Joint Korean handball team to start training in Germany (Yonhap, 12/11/2018)
Joint railway inspection going as scheduled: unification ministry (Yonhap, 12/11/2018)

Koreas to discuss joint march, unified teams at Tokyo 2020 during sports talks: official (Yonhap, 12/11/2018)
S. Korea to speed up talks with N.K. on groundbreaking ceremony for road, railway reconnection project (Yonhap, 12/11/2018)
Unified Korean ping pong team to compete in season-ending tournament in S. Korea (Yonhap, 12/11/2018)
Weekend is deadline for Kim to announce visit to Seoul (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/11/2018)

International:
(3rd LD) U.S. imposes sanctions on 3 N.K. officials (Yonhap, 12/11/2018)
Chinese authorities bringing in smugglers for questioning (Daily NK, 12/11/2018)
Hungarian envoy traces history of Korean dancer: Ambassador kicks off celebration of 30 years of diplomatic relations (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/11/2018)
N.K. leader's visit to play role as 'stepping stone' for U.S.-N.K. summit: minister (Yonhap, 12/11/2018)
N. Korea bristles at U.S. pressure over human rights abuses (Yonhap, 12/11/2018)
Report: North Korea made informal apology to Vietnam for assassination (UPI, 12/11/2018)
This Provocative Band Played North Korea. Now They've Made an Album About It. (New York Times, 12/11/2018)
Twilight zone (Korea Times, 12/11/2018)
US imposes sanctions on three top North Korean officials (The Guardian, 12/10/2018)
US sanctions 3 North Korean officials for human rights abuse (Associated Press, 12/10/2018)
U.S. sanctions Choe Ryong-hae (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/11/2018)
US sanctions North Korea on human rights as Trump floats second summit (CNN, 12/10/2018)
U.S. sanctions North Korean officials over human rights abuses, censorship (NK News, 12/10/2018)
U.S. sanctions three North Korean officials for alleged rights abuses (Reuters, 12/10/2018)
US sanctions top North Korean officials over human rights abuses (The Telegraph, 12/11/2018)

Top News:

- Greg Scarlatoiu is the Executive Director of the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea. Aboard a plane waiting to leave Seoul, he told VOA's Victor Beattie the U.S. efforts goes beyond U.N. sanctions which focus on Pyongyang's nuclear and missile ambitions. (Greg Scarlatoiu, Victor Beattie, VOA)

In North Korea:

- There has been a rise in the number of North Koreans paying others to take their place in mandatory state-led construction projects, sources in the country report. (Ha Yoon Ah, Daily NK)
- North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho headed home from Beijing on Tuesday after a four-nation trip that took him to Vietnam, Syria, China and Mongolia over the past two weeks. (Yonhap)
- The North Korean authorities have distributed new badges to the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League that feature the portraits of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il. (Daily NK)
- Senior officials of the bodyguard unit for North Korean leader Kim Jong-un have been purged for corruption, a Japanese newspaper report said Tuesday. (Yonhap)

- Part of the answer to this problem has been a tight focus on a small handful of targets. For a variety of reasons, North Korea has drawn an unusually large share of the attention of think tanks working with commercial overhead imagery, especially those interested in WMD. (Joshua H. Pollack, NK News)

In South Korea:

- During a radio interview with YTN on Tuesday morning, outgoing LKP floor leader Kim Sung-tae denounced Moon for paying most of his attention to North Korea and Kim Jong-un at the cost of the domestic economy. (Yoo Seong-un, Lee Sung-eun, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- National Assembly Speaker Moon Hee-sang stressed the importance of continued talks with North Korea for unification, urging the international community to help to build peace on the Korean Peninsula. (Park Ji-won, Korea Times)
- The Cabinet on Tuesday approved a proposal to make it mandatory for the government to go through a Cabinet review before restricting or terminating on-going cooperation projects with North Korea. (Yonhap)
- Almost half of the South Koreans surveyed want for North Korean leader Kim Jong-un to deliver an address at the National Assembly if he visits Seoul, according to results released Monday. (Park Ji-won, Korea Times)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Visiting an enemy state takes bold determination for a leader. It is a bold move to enter a place filled with people who hate you. Sudden reconciliation with a figure that had been demonized before can bring strong internal resistance. (Nam Jeong-ho, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- The joint Korean handball team at next year's men's world handball championships will start training later this month in Germany, officials from the sports ministry said Tuesday, hinting that North Korean athletes will not come to South Korea this time. (Yonhap)
- A group of South Korean railway officials and experts traveled to the North on Saturday to inspect a rail line running through the eastern part of the North. The two sides had earlier conducted a similar inspection on the North's western rail line. (Yonhap)
- South and North Korea will discuss organizing a joint march at the opening ceremony of the next Summer Olympics and fielding combined teams there, when they hold sports talks this week, a Seoul official said Tuesday. (Yonhap)
- South Korea will speed up discussions with North Korea to work out details of an agreement to hold a groundbreaking ceremony before year's end for a project to modernize North Korean railways and connect them to the South, the unification ministry said Tuesday. (Yonhap)
- The tandem of Jang Woo-jin (South) and Cha Hyo-sim (North) will compete in the mixed doubles at the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) World Tour Grand Finals, starting Thursday in Incheon, 40 kilometers west of Seoul. (Yonhap)
- After Monday rolled by with no response to Seoul's invitation for North Korean leader Kim Jong-un to visit Seoul, the Blue House is now hoping that the North will give an answer by the weekend. (Kang Tae-hwa, Lee Sung-eun, Korea JoongAng Daily)

International:

- The United States on Monday imposed sanctions on three North Korean officials, including a top aide to leader Kim Jong-un, in response to their alleged human rights abuses and censorship. (Yonhap)
- The Chinese authorities are bringing in citizens associated with smuggling on the Sino-Korean border for questioning, according to sources. (Kim Song Il, Daily NK)
- The works of poet Lim Hwa (1908-53) are also available in Hungarian, although he never visited the country. Many of these intellectuals were purged in North Korea, and when they died, North Korea also discarded their works, taking them off the shelves. (Yim Seung-hye, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's promised visit to Seoul, if realized, will be significantly meaningful as it could play a role as a "stepping stone" for a second summit between the North and the United States, the unification minister said Tuesday. (Yonhap)
- North Korean state media outlets slammed the United States on Tuesday for pressuring the communist nation over human rights issues, calling it a "hostile" act running counter to the goodwill spirit of the historic summit between the two countries. (Yonhap)
- North Korea offered an informal apology to Vietnam for the assassination last year of Kim Jong Nam, the half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, according to multiple South Korean press reports. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- In 2015, the group made headlines around the world — many bemused— when they played a show in the insular, communist country that consisted mostly of over-the-top covers from “The Sound of Music.” (Alex Marshall, New York Times)
- The nuclear talks with North Korea have fallen into a twilight zone — a state of suspended animation — six months after U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un met in Singapore. (John Burton, Korea Times)
- The United States has imposed sanctions on three North Korean officials, including a top aide to Kim Jong-un, in an abrupt shift from Donald Trump’s efforts to woo the regime. (The Guardian)
- The Trump administration imposed sanctions Monday on three senior North Korean officials for human rights abuses in the isolated country. U.S. officials said the sanctions are intended to call attention to “brutal” censorship and human rights abuses as well as the death last year of American captive Otto Warmbier. (Associated Press)
- Washington on Monday announced sanctions on three North Korean officials linked to human rights abuses or censorship in the country including the powerful Choe Ryong-hae, considered a right-hand man to leader Kim Jong-un. (Sarah Kim, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- The Trump administration slapped sanctions on three North Koreans Monday in response to Pyongyang's ongoing human rights abuses and censorship. The sanctions announcement comes as President Donald Trump floats the idea of a second summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. (Nicole Gaouette, Donna Borak, CNN)
- The U.S. Department of the Treasury sanctioned three high ranking North Korean officials on Monday over the country’s ongoing human rights abuses, the department announced in a press release. (Hamish McDonald, NK News)

- The United States said on Monday it had sanctioned three North Korean officials, including a top aide to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, for serious human rights abuses and censorship. (Tim Ahmann, Susan Heavey, Arshad Mohammed, Josh Smith, Reuters)
- The United States has imposed sanctions on three senior North Korean government officials, including a close ally of Kim Jong-un, for human rights abuses and other measures designed to "suppress and control the population". (Julian Ryall, The Telegraph)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821215310/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-us-sanctions-top-north-korean-officials-over-human-rights-abuses-whos-deceiving-whom-open-source-north-korea-under-the-microscope

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Wednesday, December 12, 2018

China Prevents a UNSC Meeting on North Korean Human Rights; U.S. Continues to Pressure North Korea for its Human Rights Abuses

Top News:
China Prevents a UN Security Council Meeting on North Korean Human Rights (Foundation for Defense of Democracies, 12/12/2018)
U.S. Continues to Pressure North Korea for its Human Rights Abuses (Foundation for Defense of Democracies, 12/12/2018)
North rights issue is card to be played by Trump (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/12/2018)
Rights abuses (Korea Times, 12/12/2018)
U.S. determined to press N.K. over human rights abuses: State Department (Yonhap, 12/12/2018)
Put Human Rights Back on Negotiating Table with N. Korea (CNS News, 12/11/2018)

In North Korea:
Does North Korea need to import 641,000 tons of grain, like the UN says? (North Korean Economy Watch, 12/12/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korea founder's second wife dies: source (Yonhap, 12/12/2018)
Mass mobilization for Wonsan-Kalma Coastal Tourist Zone project (Daily NK, 12/12/2018)
N. Korea appoints 35-year-old head coach for men's football team (Yonhap, 12/12/2018)
N. Korea needs 641,000 tons of grain: U.N. report (Yonhap, 12/12/2018)
North Korea named violator of religious freedom for 17 years (UPI, 12/12/2018)
North Korean authorities ramp up efforts to prevent cross-border information leakage (Daily NK, 12/12/2018)

North Korean government officials playing a part in the spread of South Korean films and dramas (Daily NK, 12/12/2018)
What Ri must learn from Hanoi (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/12/2018)

In South Korea:
Kim Jong-un Beauty Masks Are Pulled Off Shelves in South Korea (New York Times, 12/12/2018)
(LEAD) N.K. leader unlikely to visit Seoul this year: presidential office (Yonhap, 12/12/2018)
Prospects for 2019 (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/12/2018)
Report: Kim Jong Un unlikely to visit Seoul this year (UPI, 12/12/2018)
South Koreans flock to buy Kim Jong-un moisturising face masks (The Telegraph, 12/12/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Inspections of guard posts are first in 65 years (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/12/2018)
Koreas concur on holding groundbreaking ceremony for rail, road reconnection project: official (Yonhap, 12/12/2018)
Korean border troops verify removal of each other's posts (Associated Press, 12/12/2018)
Korean Soldiers Verify Removal of Border Armed Guard Posts (VOA, 12/12/2018)
(LEAD) Koreas hold working-level talks on health care (Yonhap, 12/12/2018)
N.K. blasts S. Korea over decisions to purchase foreign weapons (Yonhap, 12/12/2018)
North, South Korea check work to ease tension in 'milestone' step (Reuters, 12/12/2018)
North, South Korea cross-check guard post closure (UPI, 12/11/2018)
Six South Korean citizens still detained in North Korea (Korea Times, 12/12/2018)
Unified Korean ping pong team gets 1st practice before season-ending tourney (Yonhap, 12/12/2018)

International:
Ethnic Korean Groups in Japan Advance Korean Rights, Culture and Unification with Homeland (VOA, 12/12/2018)
How Trump made the North Korea crisis worse (Vox, 12/12/2018)
'I Just Don't Think It's the Right Approach.' Ambassador Christopher Hill on Why North Korea May Be Taking the U.S. for a Ride (TIME, 12/12/2018)
Lankov: Tokyo, Pyongyang diplomatic breakthrough seems distant (NK News, 12/12/2018)
(LEAD) U.S. redesignates N. Korea as violator of religious freedom (Yonhap, 12/12/2018)
North Korea issued 'informal apology' to Vietnam over allegedly tricking citizen into assassination (The Telegraph, 12/12/2018)
Pyongyang says sorry to Vietnam (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/12/2018)
S. Korea, U.S. discussing sanctions exemption for video reunions of separated families (Yonhap, 12/12/2018)
Trust building with NK (Korea Times, 12/12/2018)
US Deflects UN Request to Fund Humanitarian Aid for N. Korea (VOA, 12/11/2018)

Top News:

- The UN observes Human Rights Day each year on December 10, the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, signed exactly 70 years ago. However, just three days before this commemoration, seven members of the UN Security Council refused to support a

U.S.-led effort to have the body hold a formal meeting on the subject of human rights in North Korea. (David Maxwell, Foundation for Defense of Democracies)

- While North Korean propaganda outlets condemn such criticism as "slander," Washington's actions remind the Kim regime that the U.S. will not remain silent on human rights even during the ongoing nuclear talks. (Mathew Ha, Foundation for Defense of Democracies)
- On the surface, Washington raising the human rights card can be considered more pressure on the Kim Jong-un regime over denuclearization. It is also linked to the matter of North Korea gaining funding from major international financial institutions. (Yoo Jee-hye, Sarah Kim, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- The U.S. Treasury Department has imposed sanctions on three ranking North Korean officials for human rights abuses and censorship. This punitive action is the direct result of the Kim Jong-un regime's brutal rule and blatant disregard of the basic rights of North Koreans. Under any circumstances, such abuses should not be tolerated or justified. (Korea Times)
- The United States will continue to urge North Korea to address its human rights abuses while focusing on getting the regime to abandon its nuclear weapons program, the State Department said Tuesday. (Yonhap)
- To highlight these serious abuses, The Heritage Foundation hosted a panel discussion on Oct. 29 with experts Jung Pak of the Brookings Institution, Dan Aum of the National Bureau of Asian Research, and Greg Scarlatoiu of the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea to examine ways to integrate human rights into U.S. negotiations with North Korea. (Olivia Enos, CNS News)

In North Korea:

- I have my doubts about the accuracy of these estimates. It's highly unclear how the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has conducted any recent food production surveys in North Korea to generate these new figures. (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, North Korean Economy Watch)
- The second wife of North Korea's founder Kim Il-sung has died, a source said Wednesday. The source confirmed Kim Song-ae's death, but when and how she died were not immediately known. (Yonhap)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has ordered the Wonsan-Kalma Coastal Tourism Zone to finish construction by April 15 next year. The order has led to the ongoing mobilization of local residents and resources to finish the coastal road connecting Kalma Airport and the Wonsan Harbor surroundings, a North Korean source reported. (Kang Mi Jin, Daily NK)
- North Korea has appointed a 35-year-old head coach for its men's national football team, Pyongyang's state media reported Wednesday. (Yonhap)
- North Korea requires about 641,000 tons of grain this year as the impoverished communist nation produced a below-average yield, a U.N. food agency said in a recent report. (Yonhap)
- The U.S. State Department included North Korea on the list of countries that conducted "severe, ongoing, egregious, systematic violations of religious freedom" for 17 consecutive years, it said on Tuesday. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- The North Korean authorities have recently established a new bureau to crack down on the flow of information across the Sino-North Korean border. The change in name and growing role

of Bureau 15 suggests that the authorities are paying a lot of attention to the flow of information in and out of the country through its border with China. (Mun Dong Hui, Daily NK)

- These and other reports from Daily NK sources in North Korea suggest that MSS agents are leading the charge in spreading South Korean content in North Korea, despite being tasked with cracking down on South Korean and other "impure" video content. (Lee Sang Yong, Daily NK)
- On Nov. 29, North Korean foreign minister Ri Yong-ho visited Vietnam on a four-day trip. Having completed communist unification by fighting against the so-called "imperial America," Vietnam may be a "role model" for North Korea. (Lee Yu-jung, Korea JoongAng Daily)

In South Korea:

- More than 25,000 of these facial masks, which feature the North Korean leader's face and blocky hairline, have been sold online and in stores since June, according to 5149, the South Korean cosmetics and fashion company that produced them. (Tiffany May, Lee Su-hyun, New York Times)
- The presidential office Cheong Wa Dae thinks it would be difficult for North Korean leader Kim Jong-un to visit Seoul this year, a presidential official said Wednesday. (Yonhap)
- You can hardly expect a breakthrough in inter-Korean economic exchanges in the new year. Summit talks between North Korea and the United States, and between the two Koreas could take place. (Kim Kwang-ki, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- South Korea's presidential office concluded that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is not likely to visit Seoul before the end of the year, a government official told South Korean media Wednesday. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- Bemused South Korean shoppers are rushing to buy novelty Kim Jong-un moisturising face masks ahead of a possible inaugural visit by the North Korean leader to the South's capital, Seoul. (Nicola Smith, The Telegraph)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- South and North Korea on Wednesday began joint inspections of guard posts dismantled last month as part of an inter-Korean military agreement - the first time troops from the two technically warring countries visited each other's military installations in the DMZ since the end of the 1950-3 Korean War. (Park Kwang-soo, Shim Kyu-seok, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- South and North Korea share an understanding on the need to hold a groundbreaking ceremony before year's end for a project to modernize North Korean railways and connect them to the South, the unification ministry said Wednesday. (Yonhap)
- Dozens of North and South Korean soldiers crossed over the world's most heavily armed border Wednesday as they inspected the sites of their rival's front-line guard posts to verify they'd been removed, part of inter-Korean engagement efforts that come amid stalled U.S.-North Korea nuclear disarmament talks. (Ahn Young-joon, Kim Hyung-jin, Associated Press)
- Soldiers from North and South Korea criss-crossed their heavily-fortified border Wednesday to inspect efforts to remove front-line guard posts from their respective sides. (VOA)
- The two Koreas held working-level talks to share the latest data on influenza, paving the way for cooperation in the health and medical sector, the Seoul government said Wednesday. (Yonhap)

- North Korean state media outlets lashed out at South Korea for the third day in a row on Wednesday for Seoul's decisions to purchase foreign weapons, saying the move is equivalent to violating their military agreement to reduce tensions. (Yonhap)
- North and South Korean officials inspected work to ease tension on their militarized border on Wednesday, checking on the demolition of bunkers and probing for secret tunnels, despite scant progress on persuading the North to give up nuclear arms. (Hyonhee Shin, Reuters)
- North and South Korean military officials traversed the border Wednesday to cross-check the closure of major guard posts on each side. North and South Korea agreed in October to close 11 front-line guard posts at the border, and remove armed forces and equipment at the posts by December. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- Three of the detainees are Christian missionaries — Kim Jung-wook, who was arrested in October 2013, Kim Kook-kie and Choi Chun-kil, who has been held since 2014. The other three are North Korean defectors who had South Korean citizenship. (Jung Da-min, Korea Times)
- The unified Korean mixed doubles table tennis team of Jang Woo-jin (South) and Cho Hyo-sim (North) had their first practice ahead of the season-ending tournament near Seoul on Wednesday. (Yonhap)

International:

- Established in 1946, the Mindan group has ties to South Korea, while the Chongryon has closer ties to North Korea. Roughly 65 percent of ethnic Koreans affiliate themselves with Mindan and 25 percent are members of the latter. (Steve Miller, VOA)
- In his new book On the Brink: Trump, Kim, and the Threat of Nuclear War, Jackson retraces the Washington-Pyongyang standoff during President Donald Trump's first two years in office. (Alex Ward, Vox)
- Christopher Hill knows a thing or two about negotiating with North Korea. As U.S. Ambassador to South Korea between 2004 and 2005, he had a front row seat during the Six-Party Denuclearization Talks between North and South Korea, China, Russia, Japan and the U.S. (Charlie Campbell, TIME)
- To start with, none my Tokyo interlocutors expect any major breakthrough in relations between Japan and North Korea to happen in the foreseeable future. In recent months, one would encounter in the international media a number of speculations about a coming summit between Abe Shinzo and Kim Jong Un. (Andrei Lankov, NK News)
- The United States has redesignated North Korea as a violator of religious freedom for the 18th consecutive year, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Tuesday. (Yonhap)
- North Korea has issued an informal apology to Vietnam for involving one of its citizens in the assassination of Kim Jong-un's estranged half-brother in Malaysia, South Korean press reports have claimed. (Nicola Smith, The Telegraph)
- North Korea unofficially apologized to Vietnam for using a Vietnamese citizen to assassinate North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's estranged older half-brother in Malaysia last year, according to a high-level South Korean diplomatic source on Tuesday. (Lee Yu-jung, Sarah Kim, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- South Korea is talking to the United States about a possible sanctions exemption for video reunions Seoul hopes to hold with North Korea for families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War, the head of the South's Red Cross said Wednesday. (Yonhap)

- North Korea has not made any military provocation during that period. It dismantled some of its missile and nuclear facilities to show its commitment to denuclearization, while Seoul and Washington suspended their joint drills to spur dialogue with Pyongyang. (Na Jeong-ju, Korea Times)
- The United States is resisting calls from the United Nations to provide humanitarian aid to North Korea, citing Pyongyang's continuing expansion of its nuclear and ballistic missile arsenal. (Christy Lee, VOA)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821215200/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-china-prevents-a-unsc-meeting-on-north-korean-human-rights-us-continues-to-pressure-north-korea-for-its-human-rights-abuses

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Thursday, December 13, 2018

Human rights are the key; Canadian with North Korea ties detained after Huawei arrest; Punggye-ri nuclear site still active: 38 North

Top News:
Human rights are the key (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/13/2018)

In North Korea:
Buildings, roads remain intact at N.K. nuclear test site: 38 North (Yonhap, 12/13/2018)
Former ambassador to North Korea: There's 'pride' in nuclear weapons (UPI, 12/12/2018)
N.K. leader could put forward new negotiating card in New Year's address: expert (Yonhap, 12/13/2018)
North Korea food production down in 2018: UN body (Channel NewsAsia, 12/13/2018)
North Korea's Punggye-ri Nuclear Test Site: Current Status and Future Inspections (38 North, 12/12/2018)
Prevention patrol squad fails to stymie carbon monoxide poisoning in North Korea (Daily NK, 12/13/2018)
Punggye-ri nuclear site still active: 38 North (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/13/2018)
Relationship with female inmate leads to firing of labor center director (Daily NK, 12/13/2018)

In South Korea:
LKP leader slams Moon's economy push (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/13/2018)
'Peace treaty possible without ending war' (Korea Times, 12/13/2018)
South Korea Rules Out Visit by North Korean Leader This Year (VOA, 12/13/2018)
South Koreans argue over plan for objectors to substitute military service (Reuters, 12/13/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(3rd LD) Koreas agree to hold groundbreaking ceremony for rail, road reconnection on Dec. 26 (Yonhap, 12/13/2018)
Asking hard questions (Korea Times, 12/13/2018)
[INTERVIEW] NGOs 'better at solving some of North Korea's intractable problems' (Korea Times, 12/13/2018)
(LEAD) Unified Korean ping pong team wins 1st match at major tourney to take on S. Koreans (Yonhap, 12/13/2018)
North and South Korea soldiers cross DMZ in peace (BBC, 12/13/2018)
Rail and road ceremony planned in hurry (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/13/2018)

International:
Canadian Michael Spavor detained in China as Huawei row continues (BBC, 12/13/2018)
Canadian with North Korea ties detained after Huawei arrest (UPI, 12/13/2018)
Cocktails With Kim: Canadian Detained in China Met North Korean Dictator (Wall Street Journal, 12/13/2018)
Detained in China: Canadian businessman known for ties to North Korean leader (Reuters, 12/13/2018)
Fourth court delay for Singaporean director charged on North Korea sanctions (NK News, 12/13/2018)
Michael Spavor: The detained Canadian close to Kim Jong-un (BBC, 12/13/2018)
Moon ranks No. 5 for Time's Person of the Year 2018 (Yonhap, 12/13/2018)
NK up in arms over toughening US sanctions (Korea Times, 12/13/2018)
N.K. urges U.S. to come to senses, stop sticking to sanctions (Yonhap, 12/13/2018)
N. Korea denounces U.S. over human trafficking blacklisting (Yonhap, 12/13/2018)
North rebukes Washington over human rights effort (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/13/2018)
North Korean officials 'expressed regret' over Vietnam citizen's involvement in Kim Jong Nam murder, source says (CNN, 12/13/2018)
Official: N. Korea leader unlikely to visit Seoul this month (Associated Press, 12/12/2018)
Prominent N. Korea consultant detained in China on national security charges: MFA (NK News, 12/13/2018)
Russian Port City Exits Lucrative Sanctions-Dodging North Korean Coal Trade (Radio Free Asia, 12/12/2018)
Second Canadian arrested in China amid ongoing Huawei spat (The Telegraph, 12/13/2018)
Second Canadian missing in China after detention of former diplomat (Reuters, 12/12/2018)
Trump's 'maximum pressure' on North Korea worked, analyst says (UPI, 12/13/2018)
Washington Wants Pyongyang to Choose: Humanitarian Aid or Nukes (Foreign Policy, 12/12/2018)

Top News:

- The United States and United Nations are tightening sanctions on North Korea on the grounds of its repression of human rights and religious freedoms. On Wednesday, the U.S. State Department once again designated North Korea a “country of particular concern” (CPC) under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998. (Korea JoongAng Daily)

In North Korea:

- North Korea's nuclear test site may not have been completely abandoned, a U.S. website monitoring the country said Wednesday, citing satellite imagery of well-preserved buildings and roads at the site. (Yonhap)
- North Koreans are a proud people who believe they have "taken their destiny in their own hands" with the development of nuclear weapons, a former British ambassador to Pyongyang said Wednesday. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un could put forward a new negotiating card in the stalled denuclearization talks with the United States when he delivers a New Year's Day address, an expert said Thursday. (Yonhap)
- Food production has fallen this year in isolated, nuclear-armed North Korea, according to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization. Rice and maize are the North's main staples, but rice output was expected to be below average because of erratic rains and low irrigation supplies. (Channel NewsAsia)
- One task ahead for the United States and North Korea if current denuclearization negotiations continue will be to conduct an onsite inspection of the now shut-down Punggye-ri nuclear test site. (Frank V. Pabian, Joel Wit, 38 North)
- The Gas Inspection Squad, a unit whose objective is to help prevent the occurrence of carbon monoxide poisoning deaths, has been facing operational difficulties in parts of North Korea recently, which continues to see a rise in related accidents as a result. (Mun Dong Hui, Daily NK)
- The report from 38 North, a Pyongyang analysis website, called for international inspection to confirm the site's demolishment as a confidence-building measure amid denuclearization negotiations between the United States and North Korea. (Sarah Kim, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- The director of a disciplinary labor center in Onsong County, North Hamgyong Province, has been removed from his position after having an "inappropriate relationship" with a female prisoner and providing her with special benefits. (Kim Yoo Jin, Daily NK)

In South Korea:

- Na accused Moon of belatedly focusing on domestic issues after North Korean leader Kim Jong-un stood up his invitation to come visit Seoul. It was a jab at the president's recent surge of public activities related to the sluggish economy. (Lee Sung-eun, Ahn Hyo-sung, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- A state-run institute under the Ministry of Unification claimed Thursday that concerned nations can possibly discuss signing a peace treaty without declaring an end to the 1950-53 Korean War. (Kim Bo-eun, Korea Times)
- South Korea says a visit by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to Seoul before the end of the year is unlikely. Kim promised to visit the South Korean capital "in the near future" when he hosted President Moon Jae-in for their third summit of this year. (VOA)
- South Koreans on Thursday fiercely debated a government plan to allow conscientious objectors to work in prisons instead of mandatory military duty in a country still technically at war with North Korea. (Hyonhee Shin, Reuters)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- South and North Korea agreed Thursday to hold a groundbreaking ceremony later this month for their project to modernize North Korean railways and roads and connect them to the South, the unification ministry said. (Yonhap)
- One topic, however, is strictly off the table if you want to keep talking to them: human rights. That's why President Moon Jae-in, on the 70th anniversary this week of passage by the U.N. General Assembly of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, said not a word about North Korea. (Donald Kirk, Korea Times)
- "When government officials monopolize and control private level exchanges, it is difficult for people from the South and North to effect real reconciliation," said Dr. Stephen Linton, who has long led humanitarian efforts focused on North Korea. (Jung Da-min, Korea Times)
- The unified Korean mixed doubles table tennis team of Jang Woo-jin (South) and Cha Hyo-sim (North) won their first match at the season-ending tournament near Seoul on Thursday, setting up a showdown with a South Korean duo. (Yonhap)
- North and South Korean soldiers have made several friendly crossings into each other's territory for the first time since the countries were divided. The men were checking the dismantling of guard posts in the DMZ along the border as part of the two sides' recent rapprochement. (BBC)
- South and North Korea agreed in Kaesong on Thursday to hold a groundbreaking ceremony next Wednesday for the project to modernize the North's roads and railways and connect them to the South's. (Shim Kyu-seok, Korea JoongAng Daily)

International:

- Michael Spavor, arrested on 12 December, is a businessman based in Dandong, near the Chinese border with North Korea. He has ties to the North Korean government and has met its leader Kim Jong-un many times. (BBC)
- A Canadian citizen who met with Kim Jong Un and has business ties to North Korea has been arrested, China's foreign ministry confirmed Thursday. Spavor, who organizes business, culture and tourism trips to North Korea, is best known for organizing NBA Hall-of-Famer Dennis Rodman's visit to Pyongyang. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Canadian entrepreneur Michael Spavor shared drinks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and shepherded visitors into the reclusive state before Chinese authorities detained him as an alleged threat to national security. (Chun Han Wong, Jonathan Cheng, Wall Street Journal)
- Canadian Michael Spavor has jet skied with Kim Jong Un, felt the ground shake from a North Korean nuclear test, and now it appears, been detained by Chinese authorities.(Josh Smith, David Ljunnggren, Reuters)
- The trial of a Singaporean national charged by authorities in July for supplying luxury goods worth approximately USD$6 million to North Korea has had his trial hearing delayed for the fourth time in as many months, it was confirmed on Thursday. (Chad O'Carroll, Oliver Hotham, NK News)
- Few people can claim to have sipped cocktails on board North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's private yacht, but Michael Spavor is one of them. The Canadian businessman, who has longstanding ties with Pyongyang, has been detained in China and is being investigated on suspicion of harming its national security. (BBC)

- Moon was shortlisted for his efforts to bring peace to the Korean Peninsula and beyond through diplomatic engagements with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and U.S. President Donald Trump, the magazine said on its website Wednesday. (Yonhap)
- North Korea continued to condemn new sanctions recently imposed by the U.S. against the country and it being designated as a violator of religious freedom, Thursday, signaling a bumpy road to denuclearization talks between the two. (Park Ji-won, Korea Times)
- North Korea's official news agency on Thursday strongly blamed the United States for the impasse in their nuclear talks, saying Pyongyang is waiting for Washington to come to its senses and take corresponding steps for its denuclearization measures, instead of sticking to sanctions. (Yonhap)
- North Korean propaganda outlets lashed out at the United States on Thursday for pressuring the communist nation over human rights issues, calling it an "intolerable insult" and "political provocation." (Yonhap)
- The state-run Uriminzokkiri website accused the United States of trying to “condemn our country as a human trafficking country,” calling it an attempt to “make a scratch on our image” and “create an atmosphere for further sanctions pressure.” (Sarah Kim, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- North Korean officials informally expressed their regret to Vietnam that a Vietnamese national was charged with killing Kim Jong Nam, the estranged half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, a South Korean government source has told CNN. (Yoonjung Seo, Will Ripley, Joshua Berlinger, CNN)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un’s return visit to Seoul appears unlikely to take place this month, a senior South Korean official said. Kim and South Korean President Moon Jae-in had agreed on Kim’s visit to Seoul “in the near future” following their September summit in Pyongyang. (Associated Press)
- A prominent consultant on North Korean business issues has been under investigation by Chinese authorities since Monday for engaging in activities that jeopardize the country’s national security, the country’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) was reported to have confirmed on Thursday. (Oliver Hotham, NK News)
- The Russian Far Eastern port city of Nakhodka was very recently the center of the North Korean coal trade, where North Korean coal went to be laundered—disguised as Russian in origin—prior to export to other destinations. (Sangmin Lee, Jieun Kim, Leejin Jun, Eugene Whong, Radio Free Asia)
- Entrepreneur Michael Spavor, a prominent consultant on North Korean business issues and one of the few Westerners to have met Kim Jong-un, disappeared in China on Monday, the same day that Beijing detained former Canadian diplomat Michael Kovrig. (Nicole Smith, The Telegraph)
- Canadian businessman Michael Spavor, who worked with North Korea, is missing in China, a Canadian official said, days after Chinese authorities detained a former Canadian diplomat amid an escalating diplomatic row. (Christian Shepherd, Michael Martina, David Ljunggren, John Ruwitch, James Pearson, Josh Smith, Reuters)
- The maximum pressure campaign against North Korea that U.S. President Donald Trump launched in 2017 worked to bring Kim Jong Un to the negotiating table, a former adviser to the 2016 Trump campaign said Wednesday. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

- The administration of U.S. President Donald Trump is restricting some international relief agencies from delivering humanitarian assistance to needy North Koreans, in the latest effort to compel Pyongyang to dismantle its nuclear arms program. (Colum Lynch, Foreign Policy)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821215407/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-human-rights-are-the-key-canadian-with-north-korea-ties-detained-after-huawei-arrest-punggye-ri-nuclear-site-still-active-38-north

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Friday, December 14, 2018

Humanitarian response in the DPRK: which North Koreans are "vulnerable"?; South Koreans become skeptical of North Korea's pledge

In North Korea:
Elderly man dies after defection attempt and repatriation to North Korea (Daily NK, 12/14/2018)
Humanitarian response in the DPRK: which North Koreans are "vulnerable"? (NK News, 12/13/2018)
MSS agents resort to lure and bait schemes to exploit defectors (Daily NK, 12/14/2018)
North Korea holds inauguration for UN-approved hydropower plant (NK News, 12/13/2018)
Photos of North Korea special economic zone reveal impact of sanctions (Daily NK, 12/14/2018)

In South Korea:
Kim Jong-un face mask stirs controversy in South Korea (BBC, 12/13/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea to push for task force for fisheries cooperation with N. Korea (Yonhap, 12/14/2018)
Security, free speech in focus as Seoul braces for possible visit from North Korea's Kim (Reuters, 12/14/2018)
South Koreans become skeptical of North Korea's pledge (UPI, 12/14/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) Koreas to meet IOC in Feb. on joint Olympic bid (Yonhap, 12/14/2018)
(LEAD) Koreas discuss cooperation to fight tree diseases, modernize tree nurseries (Yonhap, 12/14/2018)
(LEAD) Unified Korean ping pong team defeats S. Koreans to reach final at major event (Yonhap, 12/14/2018)
Moon wants to help North Korea open its airspace to passenger jets (Nikkei Asian Review, 12/14/2018)
N. Korean propaganda outlets blast S. Korea over increased defense budget (Yonhap, 12/14/2018)

North Korea helicopter crosses South's tactical line (UPI, 12/13/2018)
South, North confer on Olympic bid (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/14/2018)

International:
(LEAD) Vietnam wants to host 2nd Trump-Kim summit: CNN (Yonhap, 12/14/2018)
N.K. could prepare 'Plan B' if U.S. continues unilateral demands: ex-minister (Yonhap, 12/14/2018)
N. Korea to join conference on forestry cooperation in East Asia: source (Yonhap, 12/14/2018)
Pentagon: NKorea slow to negotiate over US war remains (Associated Press, 12/13/2018)
Russian Shipping Company Accused of Doing Business With North Korea Hard-Hit by US Sanctions (Radio Free Asia, 12/13/2018)
S. Korea in consultations with U.S., U.N. for sanctions waiver before groundbreaking ceremony (Yonhap, 12/14/2018)
U.S., South Korea can't agree on sharing the bill after Trump's criticism (Reuters, 12/14/2018)
Vietnam 'interested' in hosting next US-North Korea summit (The Telegraph, 12/14/2018)

In North Korea:

- An elderly man in his 60s suffering from poverty died after a failed attempt to defect to China. He died after being repatriated back to North Korea following his involvement in a traffic accident in China, North Korean sources report. (Kim Yoo Jin, Daily NK)
- But as the DPRK has changed since the mid-1990s, humanitarian needs have also transformed. While no longer in the grips of famine, the DPRK continues to experience food insecurity and challenges in adequately meeting the health needs of its citizens. (Nazanin Zadeh-Cummings, NK News)
- North Korean Ministry of State Security (MSS) officials have been encouraging North Koreans wishing to defect and then arresting them to improve their performance reports and earn money, sources reported on Monday. (Kim Yoo Jin, Daily NK)
- North Korea recently staged an inauguration ceremony for the opening of the Ryesonggang Youth Power Station No. 5 in North Hwanghae province, according to state media on Thursday. (Hamish Macdonald, NK News)
- Although there were once lofty expectations for Rason as one of North Korea's designated special economic zones, the city has become stagnant due to the effects of international sanctions against North Korea for its nuclear weapons program. (Kim Song Il, Daily NK)

In South Korea:

- A South Korean fashion and cosmetics firm has stirred controversy with a facial mask featuring Kim Jong-un. The firm says it has sold more than 25,000 "unification moisture nuclear masks" since June. (BBC)
- South Korea plans to set up a task force that will take charge of expanding inter-Korean fishing sector cooperation, the head of the oceans ministry here said Friday. (Yonhap)
- Speculation that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will soon visit Seoul for the first time has sparked debate in South Korea over how to allow citizens to express often strongly held views while preventing any international incidents. (Jeongmin Kim, Yijin Kim, Reuters)
- Nearly half of South Koreans don't think North Korea will keep its pledge to denuclearize its nuclear weapons, a poll showed Friday. Some 45 percent of South Koreans doubt that North

Korea will comply with the agreements signed at the summits with South Korea while 38 percent think it will keep its promise, according to a survey by Gallup Korea. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- South Korea and North Korea announced Friday they will meet with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) early next year to discuss their joint Olympic bid. (Yonhap)
- South and North Korea discussed cooperation in combating forest diseases and modernizing tree nurseries in the North when a group of South Korean officials visited Pyongyang earlier this week, the unification ministry said Friday. (Yonhap)
- The unified Korean mixed doubles table tennis team of Jang Woo-jin (South) and Cha Hyo-sim (North) defeated a South Korean tandem to reach the final at a major tournament near Seoul on Friday. (Yonhap)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in has indicated he is willing to help North Korea open its airspace to international flights that land at or take off from Incheon Airport, about 50km southwest of Seoul. (Kim Jaewon, Nikkei Asian Review)
- North Korean propaganda outlets blasted South Korea on Friday for increasing its defense budget for next year, calling it an outright violation of an inter-Korean military deal to reduce cross-border tensions. (Yonhap)
- South Korea scrambled fighter jets after a North Korean aircraft crossed the South's tactical action line, according to a local news report. The South's military took corresponding action after an aircraft, identified as a North Korean helicopter, was detected on South Korean radar at about 11 a.m. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- South and North Korea held a second round of sports talks in the North's border city of Kaesong on Friday and agreed to meet with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) early next year to discuss their joint bid to host the 2032 Summer Olympics. (Shim Kyu-seok, Korea JoongAng Daily)

International:

- Vietnam has expressed an interest in hosting the envisioned second summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, CNN reported Thursday. (Yonhap)
- North Korea could decide to live under sanctions, rather than seeking rapid economic growth through a nuclear deal with the United States, if Washington insists on keeping sanctions until Pyongyang's denuclearization, a former unification minister said Friday. (Yonhap)
- North Korea will take part in a conference on regional forestry cooperation to be held in China later this week, an official with a South Korean civic group involved in inter-Korean affairs said Friday. (Yonhap)
- Months after the White House raised hopes for bringing home thousands of U.S. battlefield remains from North Korea, the returns have stalled. Detailed negotiations on future recovery arrangements have not even begun. (Robert Burns, Associated Press)
- A Russian shipping company is now on the brink of bankruptcy after running afoul of U.S. sanctions against North Korea, one of the firm's executive said. Vladivostok-based Gudzon

Shipping has had six of its ships blacklisted by the U.S. treasury department for allegedly engaging in ship-to-ship transfers of petroleum with a North Korean entity. (Sangmin Lee, Leejin Jun, Eugene Whong, Radio Free Asia)

- South Korea is in close consultations with the United States and the United Nations to get sanctions exemptions ahead of a planned groundbreaking ceremony in North Korea for a joint project on connecting roads and railways over their border, the unification ministry said Friday. (Yonhap)
- The United States and South Korea have failed to agree on a bigger South Korean share of the cost of maintaining U.S. troops, an official said on Friday, as the U.S. military warned Korean workers they might be put on leave if no deal is reached. (Hyonhee Shin, Reuters)
- Vietnam has reportedly expressed an interest in hosting the second proposed summit between Kim Jong-un and Donald Trump. High ranking Vietnamese officials told the South Korean government that they are interested in hosting the meeting between the North Korean and US leaders if it goes ahead. (Nicola Smith, The Telegraph)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821215524/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-humanitarian-response-in-the-dprk-which-north-koreans-are-vulnerable-south-koreans-become-skeptical-of-north-koreas-pledge

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Saturday, December 15, 2018

North, South Korea to explore co-hosting 2032 Summer Olympics; Is Trump on Path to 'Strategic Patience' on North Korea?

In North Korea:
North Korea's high-tech pursuits: Propaganda or progress? (BBC, 12/15/2018)
Top secret report: North Korea keeps busting sanctions, evading U.S.-led sea patrols (NBC, 12/14/2018)

In South Korea:
Kim Jong Un beauty masks cause a stir in South Korea (Washington Post, 1214/2018)
South Korean Company Sells Kim Jong Un Beauty Masks, Spurring Criticism (NPR, 12/14/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) Unified Korean ping pong team takes silver at major event in S. Korea (Yonhap, 12/15/2018)
North, South Korea to explore co-hosting 2032 Summer Olympics (UPI, 12/14/2018)

International:
Is Trump on Path to 'Strategic Patience' on North Korea? (VOA, 12/15/2018)

South Korea president's plane blacklisted by US after North Korea flight, reports say (Fox News, 12/15/2018)
(LEAD) Trump says 'in no hurry' to negotiate with N. Korea (Yonhap, 12/15/2018)
To North Korea, Verifying Requires Reconciling: The Lesson from A Troubled Past—Part I (38 North, 12/15/2018)
Top officials of U.S., Canada discuss N.K. sanctions evasion (Yonhap, 12/15/2018)

In North Korea:

- As with most things in the country, it is difficult to verify these claims, but it is significant to note the importance being given to technology. (Pratik Jakhar, BBC)
- A top secret U.S. military assessment found that North Korea is still evading U.N. sanctions by transferring oil at sea, and that a coalition of U.S.-led forces deployed to disrupt the movements has failed to dent the overall number of illegal transfers, three U.S. officials familiar with the intelligence told NBC News. (Courtney Kube, Dan De Luce, NBC)

In South Korea:

- Who hasn't admired Kim Jong Un's baby soft skin and perfect pores? Well, for just a few dollars in South Korea, they can almost be yours. (Siobhán O'Grady, Washington Post)
- Facial masks in the image of Supreme Leader of North Korea Kim Jong Un have been pulled from some store shelves in South Korea.(Shannon Van Sant, NPR)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The unified Korean mixed doubles table tennis team of Jang Woo-jin (South) and Cha Hyo-sim (North) took a silver medal at a major tournament near Seoul on Saturday. (Yonhap)
- North and South Korea are planning to discuss co-hosting the 2032 Summer Olympics with the International Olympic Committee in 2019, according to South Korean press reports. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

International:

- President Donald Trump could find himself embracing "strategic patience" on North Korea, an Obama administration approach he once denounced, as nuclear talks with Pyongyang have stalled, analysts say. (Christy Lee, VOA)
- An act of diplomacy on the Korean Peninsula reportedly led to a brief -- but inconvenient -- ban that temporarily barred South Korea's leader from coming to America. (Kathleen Joyce, Fox News)
- U.S. President Donald Trump said Friday that the U.S. is "in no hurry" to negotiate with North Korea, a remark that comes as progress on dismantling the country's nuclear weapons program has stalled. (Yonhap)
- The usual story going around Washington is that North Korea has no intention to denuclearize or to provide a complete and accurate declaration of all its nuclear facilities and inventory and allow the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) access to verify that declaration. (Leon V. Sigal, 38 North)
- Top officials of the United States and Canada on Friday discussed the issue of North Korea's sanctions evasion amid ongoing efforts to denuclearize the regime. (Yonhap)

Prepared by Cassandra Wood, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821221204/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-north-south-korea-to-explore-co-hosting-2032-summer-olympics-is-trump-on-path-to-strategic-patience-on-north-korea

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Sunday, December 16, 2018

North Korea marks 7th anniversary of Kim Jong Il's death; NK condemns Australia for planes 'monitoring sanctions'

In North Korea:
N. Korea kicks up commemorative mood on eve of 7th anniversary of late leader's death (Yonhap, 12/16/2018)
N.K. leader opts for far more economy, diplomacy events than military this year (Yonhap, 12/16/2018)
North Korea marks 7th anniversary of Kim Jong Il's death (Associated Press, 12/16/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Diplomacy on hold as North remembers Kim (Korea JonngAng Daily, 12/16/2018)

International:
The US-North Korea Deadlock (Diplomat, 12/16/2018)
NK condemns Australia for planes 'monitoring sanctions' (Korea Times, 12/16/2018)
North Korea condemns U.S. sanctions, warns denuclearization at risk (Reuters, 12/16/2018)
North Korea: U.S. Sanctions and Pressure 'Would Not Work Against Us' (Time, 12/16/2018)
Otto Warmbier's father speaks on North abduction issue (Korea JonngAng Daily, 12/16/2018)
U.S. envoy on N. Korea Biegun to visit Seoul this week (Yonhap, 12/16/2018)

In North Korea:

- North Korea's main newspaper on Sunday published a series of articles lauding late leader Kim Jong-il on the eve of the seventh anniversary of his death, focusing on how much he cared about his people. (Yonhap)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un made far more public appearances in relation to the country's economic and diplomatic affairs this year than ones related to the military, an analysis of North Korean news reports showed Sunday. (Yonhap)
- North Koreans are marking the seventh anniversary of the death of leader Kim Jong Il with visits to statues and vows of loyalty to his son and successor, Kim Jong Un. (Eric Talmadge, Associated Press)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Inter-Korean relations and flashy diplomatic activities have been put on pause as North Korea prepares to commemorate the seventh anniversary of the death of former leader Kim Jong-il today. (Sarah Kim, Korea JoongAng Daily)

International:

- The majority of Japanese are skeptical about the chances of complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement (CVID) in North Korea, this year's Singapore summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and U.S. President Donald J. Trump notwithstanding. (Atsuhito Isozaki, Diplomat)
- North Korea denounced Australia, Saturday, for its decision to deploy an additional maritime patrol plane to Japan to monitor the North's possible violation of sanctions. (Kim Bo-eun, Korea Times)
- North Korea on Sunday condemned the U.S. administration for stepping up sanctions and pressure on the nuclear-armed country, warning of a return to "exchanges of fire" and that disarming Pyongyang could be blocked forever. (Hyunjoo Jin, Josh Smith, Reuters)
- North Korea told the U.S. that sanctions and pressure—as evident from the past—won't work to force the country into action on its nuclear program. (Nour Al Ali, Time)
- Members of Otto Warmbier's family made a visit to Japan to address the human rights situation in North Korea. (Yool Seol-Young, Sarah Kim, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- The U.S. special representative on North Korea policy, Stephen Biegun, will visit Seoul this week to find ways to salvage dormant denuclearization negotiations with North Korea, officials said Sunday. (Yonhap)

Prepared by Cassandra Wood, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821221209/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-north-korea-marks-7th-anniversary-of-kim-jong-ils-death-nk-condemns-australia-for-planes-monitoring-sanctions

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Monday, December 17, 2018

UN likely to adopt resolution condemning NK rights violations; US-NK stalemate likely to continue; Slowly but steadily, NK grows

Top News:
South Korea envisions a building boom in the North. But Pyongyang still relies on 'forced labor' brigades. (Washington Post, 12/17/2018)

In North Korea:
Hyesan farmers concerned for winter survival (Daily NK, 12/17/2018)
Kim Jong-un marks 7th anniversary of father's death (Korea Times, 12/17/2018)
Kim reappears after two weeks (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/17/2018)
(LEAD) Kim Jong-un visits mausoleum of late father to mark 7th anniv. of death (Yonhap, 12/17/2018)
North Korea commemorates late leader's death anniversary (UPI, 12/16/2018)
North Korea marks seventh anniversary of death of former leader Kim Jong-il – video (The Guardian, 12/17/2018)
Rally honoring enthusiastic farm workers to be held after 19-year hiatus (Daily NK, 12/17/2018)
Slowly but steadily, North Korea grows (East Asia Forum, 12/17/2018)

In South Korea:
(3rd LD) S. Koreans return home after 10-day inspection of N. Korea's eastern rail line (Yonhap, 12/17/2018)
A time to change (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/17/2018)
Defectors 'amazed' by South Koreans' positive reactions to Kim's Seoul visit (Korea Times, 12/16/2018)
Hosting 1st Winter Olympics voted top S. Korean sports news story of '18 (Yonhap, 12/17/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Railway groundbreaking is still being planned (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/17/2018)
South Korea discovers unclosed North Korean crenels (UPI, 12/17/2018)
Unified Korean handball team to start pre-worlds training on Saturday (Yonhap, 12/17/2018)

International:
Continuing hope for peace (Korea Times, 12/16/2018)
Gyeonggi noodle chain lights up Broadway (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/17/2018)
Hard-Line U.S. Tactics Will 'Block' Path to Denuclearization, North Korea Warns (New York Times, 12/16/2018)
IAEA gearing up for inspection of N. Korean nuke, its chief says (Yonhap, 12/17/2018)
Jim Rogers to be outside director at Ananti (Korea Times, 12/17/2018)
(News Focus) N. Korea shifting gears up in criticism of U.S. in sign of thinning patience (Yonhap, 12/17/2018)
N. Korean media touch on U.N.'s move on its human rights abuses (Yonhap, 12/17/2018)
North Korea condemns latest US sanctions (BBC, 12/16/2018)
North Korea threatens return to 'exchanges of fire' over US sanctions (The Telegraph, 12/17/2018)
North Korea warns US over stalled nuclear negotiations (ABC News, 12/17/2018)
UN likely to adopt resolution condemning NK rights violations (Korea Herald, 12/17/2018)
US-NK stalemate likely to continue (Korea Times, 12/17/2018)

Top News:

- North Korea's economy — and construction industry, in particular — is built on slave labor. Human rights activists are asking: Could Moon's ambitious plans help undermine North Korea's entrenched system of forced labor? Or will they inadvertently fuel and encourage that system? (Simon Denyer, Min Joo Kim, Washington Post)

In North Korea:

- As temperatures plunge to below 20 degrees Celsius, those living in farming towns in Hyesan are expressing concerns as many were unable to properly prepare for such cold temperatures. (Ha Yoon Ah, Daily NK)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has visited the mausoleum of his late father Kim Jong-il to commemorate the seventh anniversary of his death, in his first public appearance in two weeks. (Park Ji-won, Korea Times)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un made his first public appearance in two weeks on Monday paying tribute to his father - the country's former leader Kim Jong-il - on the seventh anniversary of his death, reported the North's state media. (Shim Kyu-seok, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has visited the mausoleum of his late father in Pyongyang to commemorate the 7th anniversary of his death, the country's state media said Monday. (Yonhap)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un paid tribute to late leaders as North Korea commemorates the seventh anniversary of Kim Jong Il's death. Kim visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun in Pyongyang, where embalmed bodies of the founding leader Kim Il Sung and the second leader Kim Jong Il are laid in state. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- North Korea's state media has released video of leader Kim Jong-un visiting his father, Kim Jong-il's, mausoleum to commemorate the 7th anniversary of his death. It comes a day after North Korea's foreign ministry condemned the US administration for stepping up sanctions. (The Guardian)
- The authorities have selected "model workers" from the country's farms that have completed their yearly production and will feature them in an upcoming rally honoring "enthusiastic workers", multiple sources in North Korea have reported. (Kim Yoo Jin, Daily NK)
- From nuclear and missile tests and dangerous rhetoric about mutual annihilation in 2017, events on the Korean Peninsula shifted to summit meetings and declarations of cooperation and denuclearisation in 2018. (Rudiger Frank, East Asia Forum)

In South Korea:

- A group of South Korean officials and railway experts returned home Monday after completing a 10-day inspection of the rail along North Korea's east coast, the unification ministry said. (Yonhap)
- There is no progress in inter-Korean and North-U.S. negotiations to denuclearize North Korea. In the meantime, Moon's sky high approval ratings have dipped below 50 percent. (Lee Ha-kyung, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- On December 9, several North Korean refugees visited the Teach North Korean Refugees (TNKR) office at the invitation of a TNKR student studying in the organization. The refugees

were in agreement in denouncing South Koreans for welcoming Kim Jung-un to South Korea. (Casey Lartigue Jr., Korea Times)

- South Korea and North Korea marched together behind the Korea Unification Flag at the opening ceremony, marking their first joint march at an international multisport event since 2007. They also assembled a joint team in women's hockey, and the combined squad was hailed as an inspirational symbol of peace. (Yonhap)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- South Korea will send its officials to Kaesong this week to prepare for a Dec. 26 ceremony to break ground on a project to connect the two countries' railways, the Unification Ministry said Monday. (Shim Kyu-seok, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- The South Korean military said that it spotted one or two unclosed crenels in the border area where North and South Korea agreed to destroy guard post facilities. The crenels were found to be intact during an examination conducted by North and South Korean military officials last week. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- The unified Korean men's handball team set to compete at the upcoming world championships will begin their joint training on the weekend, Seoul officials said Monday. (Yonhap)

International:

- Approaching the end of 2018, it may be pertinent to note that some positive progress has been made toward peace on the Korean Peninsula, beyond the maintenance of a negative peace. (Tong Kim, Korea Times)
- The advertisement, displayed Dec. 13, promotes the Neungrado restaurant on a billboard bedecking the Reuters Building. Neungrado was founded by a North Korean who crossed the border during the Korean War. Its specialty is Pyongyang-style naengmyeon. (Kang Hye-ran, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- North Korea warned on Sunday that if the United States continued to escalate its sanctions and human rights campaign against the North, that approach could permanently shatter any chance of denuclearizing the country. (Choe Sang-hun, New York Times)
- The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is making preparations to dispatch its inspectors to North Korea in case the secretive nation decides to accept them, the head of the global agency was quoted as saying Monday. (Yonhap)
- The move has raised expectation that the long-stalled inter-Korean cooperation could resume through the American known for his vocal support for the need to warm toward the isolationist North. (Lee Kyung-min, Korea Times)
- After months of restraint, North Korea is gradually shifting gears up in its criticism of the United States over their deadlocked denuclearization negotiations, apparently signaling that its patience is wearing thin. (Yonhap)
- Just ahead of the United Nations' vote on a resolution against its human rights conditions, North Korea on Monday took note of Washington's failed attempt to discuss the issue at the international agency earlier this month. (Yonhap)

- North Korea has denounced the latest US sanctions, saying they could "block the path to denuclearisation on the Korean peninsula forever". Washington said it put the sanctions on three top officials, after a report threw up a raft of human rights abuses. (BBC)
- North Korea has hit out at the US for stepping up sanctions against its regime, warning that it could force a return to “exchanges of fire” and block the path to nuclear disarmament forever. (Nicola Smith, The Telegraph)
- As tens of thousands of North Koreans, including current leader Kim Jong Un, paid a visit on Sunday to Kim Jong Il's mausoleum in Pyongyang to commemorate the seventh anniversary of his death, North Korean state media also used the opportunity to take a jab at U.S. foreign policy. (Joohee Cho, ABC News)
- The UN General Assembly will hold a plenary session Monday morning in New York (early Tuesday, Seoul time), during which member nations are likely to reach a consensus on a resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly Third Committee. (Kim So-hyun, Korea Herald)
- The current stalemate between the United States and North Korea in their denuclearization talks shows no signs of abating, as both sides continue to engage in a war of nerves. (Lee Min-hyung, Korea Times)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821221215/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-un-likely-to-adopt-resolution-condemning-nk-rights-violations-us-nk-stalemate-likely-to-continue-slowly-but-steadily-nk-grows

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Tuesday, December 18, 2018

UN condemns North Korean human rights violations; North Korea Turns Coal Into Gas to Weather Sanctions; The US-North Korea deadlock

In North Korea:
All’s quiet in Pyongyang (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/18/2018)

Analyst: North Korea wants to rein in bribery (UPI, 12/18/2018)
Energy Journal: North Korea Defies Sanctions and Turns Coal Into Energy (Wall Street Journal, 12/18/2018)
Five dead, seven injured in North Korea traffic accident (Daily NK, 12/18/2018)
How North Korea turns coal into gas, and what it might mean for sanctions (North Korean Economy Watch, 12/18/2018)
N. Korea stresses negative effects of mobile phone use (Yonhap, 12/18/2018)
N. Korea's crop production down for 2nd year: report (Yonhap, 12/18/2018)
North Korea, Fearing K-Pop and Porn, Warns Against Smartphones' Influence (New York Times, 12/18/2018)
North Korea Turns Coal Into Gas to Weather Sanctions (Wall Street Journal, 12/17/2018)
North Korean media warns of "unhealthy ideas" spread by mobile phones (Reuters, 12/18/2018)
Report: North Korea's $7.8B Wonsan project seeks foreign investment (UPI, 12/17/2018)

In South Korea:
(2nd LD) Train used for joint railway inspections in N. Korea returns home (Yonhap, 12/18/2018)
Joint Games will cost South close to 4 trillion won (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/18/2018)
(LEAD) Over 1,000 North Koreans defect to South Korea this year (Yonhap, 12/18/2018)
S. Korea needs 3.9 tln won to pull off joint 2032 Olympics with Pyongyang: Seoul city (Yonhap, 12/18/2018)
Seoul submits budget plan for co-hosting 2032 Games with Pyongyang (UPI, 12/18/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Moon's Eurasia: opening up North Korea, serving Seoul's interests (Lowy Institute, 12/18/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) U.N. passes resolution condemning N.K. human rights abuses (Yonhap, 12/18/2018)
(4th LD) Top S. Korean, U.S. nuclear envoys to discuss N. Korea (Yonhap, 12/18/2018)
Chinese travel agency pushes Masikryong Ski Resort tours (Daily NK, 12/18/2018)
Colored-LEDs installed across Chinese bridge to North Korea: Photos (NK News, 12/18/2018)
Indonesian defendant suffers setback in Kim murder trial (Associated Press, 12/18/2018)
Kim Jong-un's year? (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/18/2018)
Malaysia airport VX poison trial suspended over witness statements (Reuters, 12/18/2018)
NK rejects UN human rights resolution (Korea Times, 12/18/2018)
North Korea warns 'vicious' US sanctions risk progress on talks (CNN, 12/17/2018)
North Korean Migrants in Vladivostok Forced to Repatriate Under UN Sanctions (Radio Free Asia, 12/17/2018)
North Korean Restaurants in Russia Struggle with Staff Shortages Caused by UN Sanctions (Radio Free Asia, 12/17/2018)
Otto Warmbier's parents demand $1.1 billion in compensation from North Korea (Korea Times, 12/18/2018)
Pompeo thanks New Zealand for support on N.K. (Yonhap, 12/18/2018)
Pyongyang: Willing to Wait (38 North, 12/17/2018)
Russia's view and interests changes in Northeast Asia (Korea Times, 12/18/2018)

Store selling clothes made by North Korean laborers opens in Dandong, photos reveal (Daily NK, 12/18/2018)
Tensions surface over US, N. Korea sanctions (CNN, 12/17/2018)
The U.S.-North Korea deadlock (Japan Times, 12/18/2018)
UN condemns North Korean human rights violations (Korea Times, 12/18/2018)
UN General Assembly slams North on rights (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/18/2018)
UN passes resolution condemning North Korea's human rights record (NK News, 12/17/2018)
US NKorea envoy to visit SKorea amid uncertainty over talks (Associated Press, 12/18/2018)

In North Korea:

- Dec. 17 marked the seventh anniversary of North Korean leader Kim Jong-il's death and Kim Jong-un's rise to power, and Pyongyang was still blanketed in snow from the day before. Party executives and residents held quiet memorial events. (Jung Hyo-sik, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- The Kim Jong Un regime is waging war against widespread corruption among cadres but the economy of bribe-giving in North Korean society may be hard to rein in, according to South Korea-based analysts. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- North Korea has got the Midas touch. Pyongyang has found a way to survive international sanctions against its energy sector by converting coal resources to gas. (Neanda Salvaterra, Wall Street Journal)
- In early November, a motorcycle towing a passenger carriage in Pyongwon County overturned while traveling downhill, leaving five people dead and seven in critical condition. "The seven victims are currently in critical condition at a hospital in Pyongsong. The driver jumped out right before the impact." (Jo Hyon, Daily NK)
- When trying to asses whether North Korea can "weather" sanctions or not, it's meaningful to remember that the economy as such is still, partially, recovering from the near-complete collapse of the 1990s. (Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, North Korean Economy Watch)
- North Korea's main newspaper highlighted the adverse effects of using cell phones on Tuesday, an unusual move given the country has boasted about developing smartphones on its own. (Yonhap)
- North Korea's agricultural production slipped for the second consecutive year in 2018 due to unfavorable weather conditions and a lack of fertilizers, a state-run agriculture institute here said Tuesday. (Yonhap)
- North Korea on Tuesday warned against the disruptive influence it said smartphones could have on its isolated population, as the devices have begun to expose young people in particular to information and trends from the outside world. (Choe Sang-hun, New York Times)
- North Korea has accelerated a little-known program to use its abundant coal supply to produce synthetic gas, helping the isolated nation reduce its dependence on foreign oil and withstand sanctions aimed at curbing its nuclear program. (Jeremy Page, Wall Street Journal)
- North Korea's main state newspaper warned on Tuesday of the "negative impact" from mobile phones use around the world, as both legal and illicit communications devices proliferate in the isolated country. (Josh Smith, Reuters)

- North Korea may have ambitions to transform a coastal area in its eastern Kangwon Province into the "next Singapore," but the regime needs about $7.8 billion to make Kim Jong Un's vision a reality, according to a South Korean press report. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

In South Korea:

- A South Korean train returned home from North Korea on Tuesday after an 18-day inspection of railways in the communist nation as part of a project to modernize the tracks and connect them to the South's. (Yonhap)
- A joint 2032 Summer Olympics in Seoul and Pyongyang will cost South Korea almost 4 trillion won ($3.5 billion), according to an estimate by the Seoul city government released on Tuesday. (Shim Kyu-seok, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- More than 1,000 North Koreans have defected to South Korea so far this year, a level similar to the number recorded during the same period of last year, the unification ministry said Tuesday. (Yonhap)
- South Korea will need a budget of about 3.9 trillion won (US$3.44 billion) to jointly host an envisioned 2032 Summer Olympics with North Korea, an estimate by the Seoul city government showed Tuesday. (Yonhap)
- The Seoul Metropolitan Government has proposed a draft plan to co-host the 2032 Summer Olympics with the North Korean capital to the city council, South Korean media reported. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
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Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Bringing sustainable peace to the Korean Peninsula. Improving South Korea's long-term economic prospects. Helping Seoul to shape regional geopolitics. South Korean President Moon Jae-in's "New Northern Policy" is an ambitious strategy designed to achieve these three goals. (Ramon Pacheco Pardo, Lowy Institute)

International:

- The United Nations passed a resolution Monday calling for accountability for gross human rights violations in North Korea. The resolution was adopted by consensus at a meeting of the U.N. General Assembly, marking the 14th consecutive year such a document has passed the global body. (Yonhap)
- South Korea and the United States will have senior-level discussions on North Korea this week, Seoul's foreign ministry said Tuesday, as the two Koreas plan to hold a groundbreaking ceremony for their railway and road project next week. (Yonhap)
- A recent Chinese promotional poster for North Korea's Masikryong Ski Resort obtained by Daily NK describes expanding markets targeting Chinese tourists who enter the country. A three night package is 4,580 RMB for adults and 3,580 RMB for children. The four night option costs 5,580 RMB for adults and 4,180 for children. (Kim Song Il, Daily NK)
- Dandong's Friendship Bridge, which straddles the Yalu River between North Korea and China, was decorated this week with color-changing LEDs across the full length of the structure, photos obtained by NK News show. (Chad O'Carroll, NK News)
- An Indonesian woman due to begin her defense next month in her trial for the murder in Malaysia of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's half brother suffered a setback Tuesday when

a judge rejected her bid to secure statements given to police by seven witnesses. (Associated Press)

- "2019 is shaping up to be the Year of North Korea," wrote the Hill. Unless North Korea conducts additional nuclear and missiles tests, Kim will soon have meetings with not only South Korean President Moon Jae-in, but also U.S. President Donald Trump, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin. (Nam Jeong-ho, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- A Malaysian court on Tuesday suspended the trial of a woman accused of killing the half-brother of North Korea's leader as her lawyers sought more time to seek written statements from witnesses. (Rozanna Latiff, Reuters)
- North Korea disputed its alleged human rights violations record Monday after the United Nations passed a resolution condemning it. This is the 14th consecutive year for the U.N. to approve a resolution calling attention to the human rights situation in the North. (Kim Bo-eun, Korea Times)
- North Korea is warning that recent US sanctions could take relations with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea back to the bristling tension of last year and endanger efforts to remove nuclear weapons from the Korean Peninsula. (Nicole Gaouette, Donna Borak, CNN)
- A once populous North Korean migrant community in Vladivostok, Russia now faces an uncertain future as Russia makes efforts to comply with U.N. sanctions on North Korea. (Sangmin Lee, Jieun Kim, Leejin Jun, Eugene Whong, Radio Free Asia)
- Once popular destinations for dining and entertainment, North Korean-themed restaurants in Russia are now facing difficulty due to labor shortages, sources say. The sanctions, aimed at depriving Pyongyang of $500 million per year that could be funneled into North Korea's nuclear program, are making it harder for North Koreans to obtain or renew visas to live and work in Russia. (Sangmin Lee, Jieun Kim, Leejin Jun, Eugene Whong, Radio Free Asia)
- The parents of Otto Warmbier, who died in a coma after being sent home from a North Korean labor prison, have demanded about $1.1 billion in compensation from Pyongyang. The calculation was based on a similar captivity case that led to the death of a missionary. (Lee Min-young, Korea Times)
- In his meeting with New Zealand Foreign Minister Winston Peters in Washington, Pompeo expressed gratitude for New Zealand's "continued support in working towards the final, fully verified denuclearization of North Korea as agreed to by Chairman Kim Jong Un." (Yonhap)
- After a lengthy, six-week silence, Pyongyang finally weighed in again with extended criticism of Washington's stance regarding US-DPRK talks, using what appears to be an authoritative-level article, written under the name of Jong Hyon and carried by the official KCNA. (Robert Carlin, 38 North)
- Moon Jae-in's efforts to stimulate inter-Korean detente and the ongoing denuclearization talks between North Korea and the U.S. are both welcome by Moscow and essential for achieving Russia's policy priorities with regards to Northeast Asia and Asia in general. (Timofey Bordachev, Korea Times)
- A clothing store selling North Korean garments has recently opened in Dandong, China, and is proving quite popular, sources in the region report. "The store sells affordable winter jumpers, hiking clothes, and exercise wear," a source in China reported to Daily NK. (Kim Song Il, Daily NK)

- North Korea is warning that recent US sanctions could take relations with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea back to the bristling tension of last year and endanger efforts to remove nuclear weapons from the Korean Peninsula. (Brian Todd, CNN)
- The majority of Japanese are skeptical about the chances of complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement (CVID) of nuclear weapons in North Korea. This year's Singapore summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and U.S. President Donald Trump notwithstanding. (Atsuhito Isozaki, Japan Times)
- The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution Monday condemning the "systematic, widespread and gross" human rights violations in North Korea. The non-binding resolution, which was passed by consensus without a vote, welcomes diplomatic efforts to end the crisis on the Korean peninsula. (Korea Times)
- The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution Monday calling for accountability for systematic and widespread human rights violations in North Korea for the 14th consecutive year, a move immediately rejected by Pyongyang's top diplomat to the United Nations. (Sarah Kim, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- The United Nations on Monday passed a resolution condemning North Korea's human rights record, during a plenary session of the UN General Assembly in New York. The resolution was passed without a vote and marks the 14th consecutive year the UN has approved a resolution calling attention to human rights violations in the DPRK. (Leo Byrne, NK News)
- The Trump administration's special envoy for North Korea is heading to South Korea amid growing uncertainty over the future of direct talks between Washington and Pyongyang. (Matthew Lee, Associated Press)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821221403/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-un-condemns-north-korean-human-rights-violations-north-korea-turns-coal-into-gas-to-weather-sanctions-the-us-north-korea-deadlock

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Wednesday, December 19, 2018

South Korea defends its North Korea human rights plan; Tackling the TB epidemic in the world's most secretive state

In North Korea:
"Chukbae!": The rise of North Korean beer (NK News, 12/19/2018)
Fortune teller executed by firing squad in North Korea (Daily NK, 12/19/2018)
Kim Jong Un orders Sinuiju development project completion by 2022 (Daily NK, 12/19/2018)
Markets in North Korea closed during 7th anniversary of Kim Jong Il's death (Daily NK, 12/19/2018)
N. Korea's trade volume down in 2017 over U.N. sanctions (Yonhap, 12/19/2018)

N. Korean newspaper calls for stepped-up efforts to eradicate corruption (Yonhap, 12/19/2018)
Open Scientific Collaboration May Be Helping North Korea Cheat Nuclear Sanctions (NPR, 12/19/2018)
Pro-North Korean paper says no change in N. Korea's approach to denuclearization (Yonhap, 12/19/2018)
Train derails in North Korea days after KTX accident in the South (Daily NK, 12/19/2018)

In South Korea:
Minister says early months of 2019 critical for N. Korea's denuclearization prospects (Yonhap, 12/19/2018)
Possession of 'subversive' pro-North Korean content punishable: court (Korea Times, 12/19/2018)
Seoul holds meeting on implementation of inter-Korean summit agreements (Yonhap, 12/19/2018)
South Korea defends its North Korea human rights plan (UPI, 12/19/2018)
(Yonhap Feature) N. Korean defectors ditch hometown accents for dreams in S. Korea (Yonhap, 12/19/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Could Peace in Korea Derail? (38 North, 12/18/2018)
Musicians from South and North Korea cancel planned joint concert in Jeju (Yonhap, 12/19/2018)
Survey of North's roads scheduled for weekend (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/19/2018)

International:
(3rd LD) U.S. to 'reevaluate' ban on American citizens' travel to N.K. for humanitarian aid (Yonhap, 12/19/2018)
Biegun in Korea for consultations on denuclearization, sanctions (Yonhap, 12/19/2018)
Biegun is spending four days in Seoul for range of talks (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/19/2018)
Cho says early 2019 is crucial (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/19/2018)
(LEAD) No significant progress in denuclearization expected in 2019: think tank (Yonhap, 12/19/2018)
Russian envoy credits China-Russia 'road map' for North Korea progress (UPI, 12/18/2018)
Tackling the TB epidemic in the world's most secretive state (The Telegraph, 12/19/2018)
U.S. can lift N.K. sanctions after denuclearization: State Department (Yonhap, 12/19/2018)
U.S. envoy on N.K. to visit Seoul to boost coordination: State Department (Yonhap, 12/19/2018)
U.S. envoy on N.Korea to visit S.Korea amid stalled nuclear talks (Reuters, 12/18/2018)
U.S. envoy on North Korea visits Seoul (UPI, 12/19/2018)
US official says Washington reviewing North Korea travel ban (Associated Press, 12/19/2018)
U.S. seeks to expedite aid for North Korea amid stalled nuclear talks (Reuters, 12/19/2018)
U.S. think tank puts N.K. issue as one of the top concerns for U.S. next year (Yonhap, 12/19/2018)
US to review North Korea travel ban, top diplomat says (CNN, 12/19/2018)
U.S. to review travel ban, sanctions to ensure aid reaches North Korea: U.S. envoy (Reuters, 12/19/2018)
U.S. Will Review Travel Ban on North Korea, Envoy Says (New York Times, 12/19/2018)
Washed ashore: North Korean ghost ships in Japan and Russia (NK News, 12/19/2018)
We must stay patient with North Korea (The Hill, 12/18/2018)
What the zero versus 18 means (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/19/2018)

In North Korea:

- Marcus McFarland, tour manager with Koryo Tours, believes Korea developed their taste for beer in the 1930s. It had been available before then, but only through expensive importation. It was during the Japanese occupation that beer gained widespread popularity. (Alessandro Ford, NK News)
- The North Korean authorities have recently focused on cracking down on "acts of superstition" leading to the execution of a fortune teller in the Chongjin and the arrest of other fortune tellers in Onsong and Hoeryong who are awaiting trial. (Ha Yoon Ah, Daily NK)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un announced during a visit to Sinuiju last month that the city's modernization project must be finished by April 15, 2022. Kim has emphasized that the modernization of Sinuiju is an important "legacy" of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il, who both handed down "teachings" relevant to the project's completion. (Mun Dong Hui, Daily NK)
- The seventh anniversary of Kim Jong Il's death saw a flurry of memorial events held across the country, with public meetings emphasizing the late leader's teachings and achievements. Markets were closed for the day to ensure the full attention of residents toward the activities. (Kim Yoo Jin, Daily NK)
- North Korea's trade volume fell in 2017 from a year earlier, government data showed Wednesday, apparently hit by tightened U.N. sanctions. The trade volume stood at US$5.55 billion in 2017, compared with $6.53 billion in 2016, according to the data compiled by Statistics Korea. (Yonhap)
- North Korea's official newspaper called for stepped-up efforts to crack down on corruption Wednesday, decrying the actions of those who profit by abusing the power given them by ordinary people. (Yonhap)
- Last year North Korea tested the most powerful weapons known to humanity: a nuclear device far larger than any it had tested before, and an intercontinental ballistic missile that put much of the world, including the U.S., within range. (Geoff Brumfiel, Sean Mcminn, NPR)
- A pro-North Korean newspaper in Japan said Wednesday that the North will not change its stance on complete denuclearization as its leader has already committed to the goal. (Yonhap)
- Sources in North Korea have reported that a train has derailed in North Hamgyong Province. The incident comes in the wake of another recent train derailment in South Korea. (Mun Dong Hui, Daily NK)

In South Korea:

- South Korea's unification minister said Wednesday that the early months of 2019 will be critical for the denuclearization prospects for North Korea, adding Seoul will perform a "mediating role" between Pyongyang and Washington to move the currently stalled negotiations forward. (Koh Byung-joon, Yonhap)
- Kim was prosecuted in October 2013 for possessing video or audio files extolling North Korea's "Juche" ideology or championing the concept of reunification of the two Koreas promoted by the North, in a violation of the National Security Act. (Park Si-soo, Korea Times)
- South Korea on Wednesday held a meeting of its special committee on the implementation of agreements from inter-Korean summits. The second meeting of the committee headed by

Presidential Chief of Staff Im Jong-seok was held at the presidential office Cheong Wa Dae. (Yonhap)

- There are no changes to Seoul's position on the need to improve the "freedom and social rights" of ordinary North Koreans, South Korea's unification ministry said Wednesday. The ministry released the statement in response to a local press report claiming the word "freedom" was removed from its official position, Newsis reported. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- A growing number of North Korean defectors, especially youngsters, are trying to ditch their hometown accents and pronunciations in the hope of fair competition in schools and workplaces without worries over being discriminated against just because they come from North Korea. (Yonhap)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The top two stories in South Korea's leading daily (online English version) on December 10 were 1) a rail accident in the ROK northeast; and 2) whether there is still time for Kim Jong Un to visit Seoul this year as planned. Substantively unconnected, but the symbolism is rich. (Aidan Foster-Carter, 38 North)
- A joint concert by South and North Korean musicians planned for later this month has been cancelled due to a lack of time for preparations despite the government's approval of a trip by a North Korean singer, an organizer said Wednesday. (Yonhap)
- South Korean officials and experts will begin surveying roads on North Korea's eastern coast starting Friday, a Seoul government official said Wednesday. The survey, which follows a joint survey of North Korean railways that concluded on Monday, will be conducted with North Korean officials for three days, according to the official. (Jeong Yong-soo, Korea JoongAng Daily)

International:

- The United States will "reevaluate" its ban on American citizens' travel to North Korea early next year to facilitate aid groups' delivery of humanitarian assistance to the communist state, a U.S. nuclear envoy said Wednesday. (Yonhap)
- Stephen Biegun, the U.S. special representative on North Korea policy, arrived in South Korea on Wednesday for discussions on ways to revitalize the denuclearization process. (Yonhap)
- Stephen Biegun, the U.S. special representative for North Korea, kicked off a four-day visit to Seoul Wednesday to meet with his South Korean counterpart a week ahead of a groundbreaking ceremony for an inter-Korean railway project. (Sarah Kim, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- The first few months of 2019 will decide the fate of denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula, Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon told reporters on Wednesday. "In terms of denuclearization, we can conclude that the process has failed to get on track so far," Cho told journalists at an end-of-year press conference in central Seoul. (Shim Kyu-seok, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- In the coming year, North Korea and the United States will likely continue lethargic negotiations on denuclearization, ratcheting up pressure on South Korea to choose between

inter-Korean ties and the alliance, a major security think tank here said Wednesday. (Lee Chi-dong, Yonhap)

- Igor Morgulov, Russia's deputy foreign minister, agreed with South Korea's special representative for Korean Peninsula Peace and Security Affairs Lee Do-hoon the United States and North Korea should resume dialogue as soon as possible. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Today, North Koreans welcome him with open arms when he arrives with drugs and a doctor to treat multidrug-resistant tuberculosis among the impoverished residents of rural parts of the country.But over that same period the United States' attitude has hardened. (Julian Ryall, The Telegraph)
- The United States is willing to lift sanctions on North Korea after the country dismantles its nuclear weapons program, the State Department said Tuesday. (Yonhap)
- The U.S. special envoy for North Korea will visit South Korea this week to coordinate the allies' push to dismantle Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program, the U.S. State Department said Tuesday. (Yonhap)
- A U.S. envoy on North Korea is to visit South Korea, officials said on Wednesday, as Washington and Pyongyang struggle to find a breakthrough in their stalled talks aimed at ending the North's nuclear programme. (Hyonhee Shin, Reuters)
- U.S. Special Representative for North Korea Stephen Biegun will visit Seoul on Wednesday to coordinate an approach to North Korea in the process to dismantle North Korean nuclear weapons, the U.S. State Department said. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- The Trump administration's special envoy for North Korea said Wednesday that Washington is reviewing easing its travel restrictions to North Korea to facilitate humanitarian shipments as part of efforts to resolve an impasse in nuclear diplomacy. (Kim Hyung-jin, Associated Press)
- U.S. officials will try to expedite humanitarian aid to North Korea, a U.S. envoy said on Wednesday, as Washington and Pyongyang struggle to find a breakthrough in stalled talks aimed at ending the North's nuclear program. (Hyonhee Shin, Reuters)
- The North Korean nuclear standoff is one of the top potential conflicts that could threaten the United States next year, a survey showed Wednesday, amid an impasse in denuclearization talks between Washington and Pyongyang. (Yonhap)
- The United States is considering reviewing a travel ban put in place barring most American citizens from traveling to North Korea, the State Department's top North Korea negotiator said Wednesday. (Yoonjung Seo, Joshua Berlinger, CNN)
- American officials plan to review sanctions slapped on North Korea and a ban on travel to the country imposed on U.S. citizens to ensure that they do not limit humanitarian aid, a U.S. special envoy said on Wednesday. (Hyonhee Shin, Reuters)
- The United States plans to review its ban on American travel to North Korea to help facilitate humanitarian aid shipments to the isolated country, Washington's top envoy to the North said on Wednesday. (Choe Sang-hun, New York Times)
- In recent years, inhabitants of fishing villages and towns located on the western coast of Japan have begun to make strange – and sometimes terrifying – discoveries on their beaches. In recent years, similar ghost ships also began to be discovered on the shores of Russia's Maritime province, north of Vladivostok. (Andrei Lankov, NK News)

- The prudent course forward for the United States is to allow inter-Korean relations to continue to progress, to maintain the patient approach Pompeo says is policy and to resume specific — if slow — diplomatic engagement backed by conventional deterrence. (Bonnie Kristian, The Hill)
- In fact, it may be Stephen Biegun who is most ardently looking at North Korea. It has been four months since he was made the U.S. Special Representative for North Korea, but he hasn't even seen a shadow of his North Korean counterpart Choe Son-hui. (Kim Hyun-ki, Korea JoongAng Daily)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821221812/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-south-korea-defends-its-north-korea-human-rights-plan-tackling-the-tb-epidemic-in-the-worlds-most-secretive-state

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Thursday, December 20, 2018

Human traffickers prey on young North Korean women defectors; North Korea Says U.S. Must Remove Nuclear Threat First

In North Korea:
N.K. collaboration with foreign scientists may aid nuke development: report (Yonhap, 12/20/2018)
North Korea denounces 'negative impact' of mobile phones (The Telegraph, 12/20/2018)
North Korea 'may have used foreign scientists to further its nuclear ambitions' (The Telegraph, 12/20/2018)
North Korea vows anti-corruption fight (Korea Times, 12/20/2018)
North Koreans Cynical of Kim Jong Un-praising Propaganda Lectures (Radio Free Asia, 12/19/2018)
Residents concerned over rise in violent crime in North Korea (Daily NK, 12/20/2018)
Smugglers jump on winter demand for heaters and solar panels (Daily NK, 12/20/2018)

In South Korea:
He Helped North Koreans Reach Freedom. Now He Wants South Korea's Protection. (Wall Street Journal, 12/19/2018)
(LEAD) Military to accelerate border tension reduction, seek early OPCON transfer (Yonhap, 12/20/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Deputy PM from North to attend rail ceremony (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/20/2018)
Inter-Korea peace process poses challenges for ASEAN (UPI, 12/20/2018)
Koreas hold hundreds of meetings at joint liaison office in Kaesong (Yonhap, 12/20/2018)
Koreas to launch joint survey on N. Korean roads this week (Yonhap, 12/20/2018)

Report: Discussion for Kim Jong Un's visit to Seoul 'ongoing' (UPI, 12/20/2018)

International:

In emotional hearing, Otto Warmbier's family seeks to hold North Korea accountable for his death (Washington Post, 12/19/2018)
[INTERVIEW] Human traffickers prey on young North Korean women defectors (Korea Times, 12/20/2018)
Japan's U.N. envoy says 'strong signal' needed on North Korea (UPI, 12/19/2018)
(LEAD) (News Focus) U.S. signals willingness to revitalize nuke talks through humanitarian aid (Yonhap, 12/20/2018)
(LEAD) U.S. special envoy on N. Korea visits DMZ (Yonhap, 12/20/2018)
N. Korea says it won't denuclearize unless US removes threat (Associated Press, 12/20/2018)
N. Korea says sanctions relief is 'touchstone' for U.S. commitment to Korean Peninsula denuclearization (Yonhap, 12/20/2018)
North Korea: 'Bizarre' U.S. must show signs of denuclearization (UPI, 12/20/2018)
North Korea media says denuclearization includes ending 'U.S. nuclear threat' (Reuters, 12/20/2018)
North Korea rejects denuclearization unless U.S. 'nuclear threat' is eliminated (Washington Post, 12/20/2018)
North Korea says it will not denuclearize until the US eliminates 'nuclear threat' (CNN, 12/20/2018)
North Korea Says It Won't Denuclearize Until U.S. Removes Threat (New York Times, 12/20/2018)
North Korea Says U.S. Must Remove Nuclear Threat First (Wall Street Journal, 12/20/2018)
North Korea's Human Rights Emerge as Issue as Nuclear Talks Stall (VOA, 12/19/2018)
Otto Warmbier's parents 'stand up to evil' in suing North Korea for his death (CNN, 12/19/2018)
Rebuttal to Mr. Katzeff Silberstein (38 North, 12/19/2018)
S. Korea, Japan seek talks on bilateral ties, N. Korea (Yonhap, 12/20/2018)
South Korea seeks smaller military drills with U.S. amid North Korea talks (Reuters, 12/19/2018)
US envoy on North Korea visits border village amid stalemate (Associated Press, 12/19/2018)
U.S. to review travel ban on North Korea (UPI, 12/20/2018)
Vipin Narang sees a future with nuclear North (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/20/2018)

In North Korea:

- North Korea could be developing nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles in defiance of sanctions by collaborating with foreign scientists on "dual use" technology, a new report showed Wednesday. (Yonhap)
- North Korea has issued a warning about the "negative impact" of mobile phones, blaming them for the spread of violence and pornography as the isolated state seeks to curtail illicit communications devices to control its population. (Nicola Smith, The Telegraph)
- North Korea may have been exploiting collaboration with foreign scientists to bypass tough international sanctions and further its nuclear weapons programme, according to a new investigation. (Julian Ryall, Nicola Smith, The Telegraph)
- The Workers' Party of Korea's (WPK) newspaper Rodong Sinmun published two editorials on Wednesday and Thursday criticizing the bureaucracy and improper power yielding by corrupted officials. On Dec. 10 it ran a front-page editorial on the issue. (Jung Da-min, Korea Times)

- The North Korean government is holding special propaganda lecture sessions that praise Kim Jong Un, but the North Korean public is extremely cynical about the latest effort to venerate their leader. (Jieun Kim, Hee Jung Yang, Leejin Jun, Eugene Whong, Radio Free Asia)
- "Due to the financial situation worsening for many here in North Korea, violent crimes such as robbery and murder have become more common," a source from North Hwanghae Province told Daily NK. (Mun Dong Hui, Daily NK)
- As frigid temperatures descend on the Korean Peninsula over the winter, cross-border smugglers are being kept busy trying to meet growing demand for heating devices and solar panels in North Korea, sources in North Pyongan Province report. (Kim Song Il, Daily NK)

In South Korea:

- Mr. Tu, who is 55, is in diplomatic limbo. After two stints in Chinese prisons for helping North Koreans flee, Mr. Tu sought asylum from South Korea in 2016. Officials rejected his claim, but after legal challenges he is awaiting a final decision expected Friday. (Jonathan Cheng, Wall Street Journal)
- South Korea's military said Thursday it will step up efforts to reduce tensions with North Korea in the new year and make speedy preparations for the transfer of wartime operational control (OPCON) from the United States. (Yonhap)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- A North Korean deputy prime minister will likely attend an inter-Korean railway project's groundbreaking ceremony in Kaesong scheduled for next Wednesday, a South Korean government source said on Thursday. (Baek Min-jeong, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in's policy provides incentives for member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to facilitate engagement with North Korea -- but some countries are cautious about getting too involved, an analyst told UPI. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- South and North Korea have held hundreds of meetings at their joint liaison office in the North's border town of Kaesong since it opened three months ago, the unification ministry said Thursday. (Yonhap)
- South and North Korea have agreed to launch a joint inspection of a highway along North Korea's east coast this week to modernize and reconnect it across the border, the unification ministry said Thursday. (Yonhap)
- A South Korean government official said North and South Korea continue to discuss the possibility of Kim Jong Un's visit to Seoul this month. The official told reporters that North Korea wants to keep its leader's promise to visit the South Korean capital before the end of the year. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)

International:

- In searing, emotional testimony Wednesday in federal court, the Warmbier family made their case against North Korea, and asked the judge to find the regime liable for taking 21-year-old Otto Warmbier hostage, torturing and killing him. (Susan Svrluga, Washington Post)

- Many North Koreans who flee their country, especially young women, are trapped by brokers and sold into marriage to Chinese farmers or forced into sex work as cam girls or in brothels, according to the leader of a group that helps defectors. (Jung Da-min, Korea Times)
- The top Japanese envoy to the United Nations says "firm messages" should be sent to North Korea from the international community regarding denuclearization. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- The U.S. expression of a willingness to allow American citizens to travel to North Korea for aid delivery is seen as a joint effort with South Korea to find a way out of the impasse in the stalled denuclearization talks with Pyongyang. (Choi Soo-hyang, Yonhap)
- A senior U.S. envoy on North Korea visited the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) on Thursday, an opportunity to familiarize himself with the fresh mood of the border area amid eased tensions but a stalemate in denuclearization talks. (Lee Chi-dong, Yonhap)
- North Korea said Thursday it will never unilaterally give up its nuclear weapons unless the United States first removes what Pyongyang called a nuclear threat. (Kim Tong-hyung, Associated Press)
- North Korea claimed on Thursday that lifting sanctions on the communist nation is a "touchstone" for determining whether the United States is committed to denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. (Yonhap)
- In remarks published on KCNA, the Kim Jong Un regime stated the country is unafraid of sanctions and that it is "better to find a new route than to hit a barrier on a well-worn path." (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Any deal for North Korea to give up its nuclear arsenal must include “completely removing the nuclear threats of the U.S.”, North Korean state media said on Thursday, in one of the clearest explanations of how North Korea sees denuclearization. (Jeongmin Kim, Josh Smith, Reuters)
- North Korea will not give up its nuclear arms unless the “U.S. nuclear threat to Korea” is eliminated, North Korean state media said Thursday. The statement was a particularly blunt indication that the two countries are still far apart on their ideas of what “denuclearization” means on the Korean Peninsula. (Min Joo Kim, Washington Post)
- North Korea will not relinquish its nuclear weapons until the US eliminates its own "nuclear threat," according to a commentary published by state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA). (Will Ripley, Sophie Jeong, Matthew Robinson, CNN)
- North Korea will not dismantle its nuclear weapons program until the United States also agrees to diminish its military capacity in the vicinity of the Korean Peninsula, its official news agency said on Thursday. (Choe Sang-hun, New York Times)
- North Korea said it wouldn’t give up its nuclear arsenal until the U.S. first removed its nuclear threat, raising fresh doubts about a breakthrough in stalled bilateral talks. (Andrew Jeong, Wall Street Journal)
- North Korea’s human rights record is emerging as the latest issue separating Washington and Pyongyang, as denuclearization talks have stalled. (Christy Lee, VOA)
- The family of Otto Warmbier, who died days after being returned to the US from detention in North Korea, said in an emotional day in court Wednesday that they are suing Kim Jong Un's regime because they want "closure" and "justice" for their son. (Veronica Stracqualursi, CNN)

- The debate over who is responsible unfortunately distracts from the real tragedy—the voiceless people of North Korea who are chronically hungry and lack clean water and basic medicines. They are unwittingly caught in the middle of a geopolitical conflict. We should help them. (Kee B. Park, Eliana E. Kim, 38 North)
- South Korea and Japan are pushing to hold talks next week on their strained ties and the North Korea issue, a source here said Thursday. (Yonhap)
- South Korea wants to hold smaller joint military drills with the United States next year, the defense ministry said on Thursday, scaling back larger exercises as part of an effort to boost nuclear diplomacy with North Korea. (Hyonhee Shin, Reuters)
- A U.S. special envoy for North Korea on Thursday visited a border village the rival Koreas has been demilitarizing as part of steps to reduce military tensions amid a larger diplomatic push to resolve the nuclear crisis. (Kim Tong-hyung, Associated Press)
- A U.S. envoy on North Korea said the U.S. government is considering allowing U.S. citizens to travel to North Korea for humanitarian purposes. U.S. Special Representative for North Korea Stephen Biegun said he was directed by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to review the U.S. policy on humanitarian assistance by private and religious groups. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- Narang shook up the political science world by challenging the traditional theory of nuclear deterrence, which argues that the sheer destructive capacity of nuclear weapons deters states from engaging in armed conflict. (Kim Dong-hyeon, Korea JoongAng Daily)

Prepared by Cassandra Wood, Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Interns

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821221817/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-human-traffickers-prey-on-young-north-korean-women-defectors-north-korea-says-us-must-remove-nuclear-threat-first

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Friday, December 21, 2018

HRNK Releases Report on Human Rights Denial at the Local Level in North Korea; Otto Warmbier parents seeks over $1B from North Korea

Top News:
HRNK Releases Report on Human Rights Denial at the Local Level in North Korea (Radio Free Asia, 12/20/2018)

In North Korea:
North Korea set up insurance firms (UPI, 12/21/2018)
North Korea urges citizens to make country a basketball powerhouse (The Telegraph, 12/21/2018)

In South Korea:
Mattis departure sending ripples in South Korea, analyst says (UPI, 12/21/2018)
Moon must listen to the people (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/21/2018)
Top security adviser says N. Korean denuclearization process is irreversible (Yonhap, 12/21/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) S. Koreans leave for N. Korea to conduct joint road survey (Yonhap, 12/21/2018)
Looking at South-North rail service (Korea Times, 12/20/2018)
N. Korea slams S. Korea over meager progress in joint projects (Yonhap, 12/21/2018)

International:
(2nd LD) Biegun says allies' cooperation can help end hostility, bring in brighter future (Yonhap, 12/21/2018)
(2nd LD) U.S. envoy hints at various incentives immune to sanctions for talks with N. Korea (Yonhap, 12/21/2018)
'A morning of alarm': Mattis departure sends shock waves abroad (Washington Post, 12/21/2018)
Analyst: North Korea needs to provide detailed list of arsenal (CNN, 12/21/2018)
Biegun gives O.K. to joint rail ceremony (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/21/2018)
(LEAD) Pompeo: U.S. still committed to N.K. denuclearization (Yonhap, 12/21/2018)
(LEAD) S. Korea's top security adviser meets U.S. envoy on N. Korea (Yonhap, 12/21/2018)
(LEAD) U.S. okays groundbreaking ceremony for inter-Korean infrastructure project: official (Yonhap, 12/21/2018)
North Korea-China Trade Only Slows Under UN Sanctions (Radio Free Asia, 12/20/2018)
North Korea warns it will not give up nuclear weapons until US removes 'threat' (The Telegraph, 12/21/2018)
Otto Warmbier parents seeks over $1B from North Korea (Associated Press, 12/20/2018)
S. Korea, U.S. hold second 'working group' meeting on N. Korea (Yonhap, 12/21/2018)
Slack 'bans users' who have visited US sanctioned countries (BBC, 12/21/2018)
Syria retreat undercuts Trump's once-tough North Korea policy (The Hill, 12/21/2018)
The U.S.-South Korea alliance can withstand the current diplomatic pressures (Washington Post, 12/20/2018)
'US eager to move to next stage of NK talks' (Korea Times, 12/21/2018)
US envoy optimistic about N. Korea despite latest friction (Associated Press, 12/21/2018)
US may resume North Korean humanitarian aid (Korea Times, 12/20/2018)
U.S. senator warns of N.K. repercussion from Syria withdrawal (Yonhap, 12/21/2018)
U.S. to help South Korea get flu drugs to North despite stalled nuclear talks (Reuters, 12/21/2018)

Top News:

- The Committee for Human Rights in North Korea (HRNK) has released a report that focuses on how human rights abuses affect ordinary people in North Korea, a bottom-up view that the author contrasts with a traditional top-down focus on the leaders and other state actors. Authored by North Korea expert Robert Collins, the report, Denied From the Start: Human Rights at the Local Level in North Korea, pays special attention to the ways in which the

government of North Korea not only denies the rights of citizens, but also uses the citizens themselves to deny rights to each other. (Eugene Whong, Radio Free Asia)

In North Korea:

- North Korea has established insurance companies that offer a broad range of coverage from fire damage, loss or damage of ships and airplanes to agriculture, technology and real estate. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- North Korean state media have declared basketball to be a critical part of the reclusive state's ideology and called on workers, soldiers and to turn the nation into a global powerhouse in the game. (Julian Ryall, The Telegraph)

In South Korea:

- The resignation of U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis is sending ripples throughout South Korea's policy community amid a lack of bilateral consensus on military burden-sharing for U.S. forces on the peninsula, according to a press report. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- High-profile events involving North Korean leader Kim Jong-un have helped sustain his approval ratings, but with the people's livelihood turning bad, no showy ventures with North Korea will be able to win back the public's favor. (Korea JoongAng Daily)
- North Korea's denuclearization process has already passed the point of no return, Seoul's national security adviser, Chung Eui-yong, said Friday, calling it one of most significant diplomatic achievements of South Korea and the United States in the year. (Yonhap)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- A group of South Korean officials left for North Korea on Friday to conduct a joint inspection of a highway along North Korea's east coast as part of an inter-Korean project to modernize and reconnect roads and railways over their border. (Yonhap)
- The notion of opening a rail service between South and North Korea is captivating.You have to hope that someday the dream will come true and trains will be hauling passengers and freight from South to North and back again as they should have been doing for many years. (Donald Kirk, Korea Times)
- A North Korean propaganda outlet accused South Korea of what it claims to be stalled inter-Korean cooperation on Friday, saying that Seoul cannot make a single step it wants to due to pressure from Washington. (Yonhap)

International:

- Top United States nuclear envoy Stephen Biegun said Friday that cooperation between Seoul and Washington on North Korea can help end the longstanding hostility on the Korean Peninsula and usher in a "brighter" chapter" for all people here. (Koh Byung-joon, Choi Soo-hyang, Yonhap)
- The United States expressed a strong willingness to resume formal dialogue with North Korea on Friday, rolling out a series of incentives to convince Pyongyang of a "brighter future" in the event of denuclearization. (Choi Soo-hyang, Yonhap)

- News of Mattis's departure reverberated on the Korean Peninsula, where Pyongyang has said this week it will not give up its nuclear arms until the "U.S. nuclear threat to Korea" is eliminated. (Griff Witte, Isaac Stanley-Becker, Washington Post)
- North Korea's state-run TV says it won't give up it's nuclear weapons until the U.S. ends it's "nuclear threat." CNN counterterrorism analyst Phil Mudd explains what he thinks the U.S. should do next. (CNN)
- The United States on Friday agreed to make an exception to the ban on industrial material transfers to North Korea, allowing the two Koreas to hold a groundbreaking ceremony for a project to connect their railways next week. (Ser Myo-ja, Chun Su-jin, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- The United States is working to achieve North Korea's commitment to dismantle its nuclear weapons program, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Thursday amid deadlocked negotiations. (Yonhap)
- Chung Eui-yong, the top security adviser to South Korean President Moon Jae-in, on Friday met with Washington's point man on North Korea, Stephen Biegun, for discussions on various issues possibly including when and where the second U.S.-North Korea summit might be held. (Yonhap)
- South Korea and the United States agreed Friday that a highly symbolic inter-Korean event will be held in North Korea next week as scheduled, Seoul's top nuclear envoy said. (Yonhap)
- North Korean trade with China has slowed because of restrictions imposed under international sanctions, but North Korean ore and minerals are being smuggled regularly across the border and banned seafood is still finding its way to Chinese markets, sources say. (Yongjae Mok, Hyemin Son, Leejin Jun, Richard Finney, Radio Free Asia)
- North Korea has vowed not to unilaterally give up its nuclear weapons unless the US reciprocates by removing its own nuclear threat to Pyongyang, in a blunt statement that casts fresh doubt on whether the current impasse in disarmament talks can be resolved. (Nicola Smith, The Telegraph)
- A wrongful death lawsuit filed this year by the parents of U.S. college student Otto Warmbier against North Korea is now seeking more than $1 billion from the government the Warmbiers say tortured and killed their son. (Associated Press)
- South Korea and the United States opened their second "working group" meeting on North Korea here Friday, with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo voicing optimism about another summit with the communist nation. (Yonhap)
- Some users of communication service Slack have reported their accounts have been closed over visits to countries under US sanctions. The move, which Slack says is to comply with US regulations, is believed to be affecting users who have visited nations including Iran and North Korea. (BBC)
- It is time for a mid-term review of the Trump administration's handling of the North Korea issue, which Barack Obama warned would be his most critical national security challenge. (Joseph Bosco, The Hill)
- A question has taken on fresh urgency: Is the U.S.-South Korean alliance fraying? South Korean President Moon Jae-in is eager to engage North Korea to try to decrease tension and build ties. The Trump administration wants to compel North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons through stringent sanctions. (Thomas J. Byrne, Washington Post)

- U.S. Special Representative for North Korea Stephen Biegun stated his country wishes to move to the next stage of denuclearization talks with North Korea, Friday. The remarks came after a working group meeting between South Korea and the U.S. led by Lee and Biegun. (Kim Bo-eun, Korea Times)
- The Trump administration's special envoy for North Korea on Friday expressed optimism about the diplomatic push to resolve the nuclear crisis, a day after the North issued a surprisingly blunt statement saying it will never disarm unless the United States removes what it calls a nuclear threat. (Kim Tong-hyung, Associated Press)
- U.S. Special Representative for North Korea Stephen Biegun said the U.S. is reviewing possible exemptions to the ban on U.S. citizens traveling to North Korea regarding humanitarian aid. (Kim Bo-eun, Korea Times)
- An influential U.S. senator warned Thursday of the repercussions on North Korea should U.S. President Donald Trump go ahead with his plan to pull troops from Syria. (Yonhap)
- The United States has agreed to help South Korea send flu medication to North Korea, a South Korean official said on Friday, after the United States said it would help deliver aid to the North despite stalled nuclear talks. (Hyonhee Shin, Reuters)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821222152/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-hrnk-releases-report-on-human-rights-denial-at-the-local-level-in-north-korea-otto-warmbier-parents-seeks-over-1b-from-north-korea

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Friday, December 22, 2018

HRNK Releases Report on Human Rights Denial at the Local Level in North Korea; Otto Warmbier parents seeks over $1B from North Korea

Top News:
Greg Scarlatoiu on The John Batchelor Show (The John Batchelor Show, 12/19/2018)
HRNK Releases Report on Human Rights Denial at the Local Level in North Korea (Radio Free Asia, 12/20/2018)
Syria retreat undercuts Trump's once-tough North Korea policy (The Hill, 12/21/2018)

In North Korea:

N. Korea criticizes Japan for conducting test of U.S.-Japan interceptor (Yonhap, 12/22/2018)
(UPI, 12/21/2018)
Report: North Korea removes restrictions on regional travel (UPI, 12/21/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Gov't sent back N. Korean sailors to Pyongyang: ministry (Yonhap, 12/22/2018)

International:
Pompeo says 'counting on' 2nd Trump-Kim summit (Yonhap, 12/22/2018)
Trump's Summit Plan Sends Mixed Signals on Talks With North Korea (VOA, 12/21/2018)

Top News:

- 120,000 people, including children & parents, are being held in forced labor camps & subjected to starvation in North Korea. South Korean human rights groups are under horrible pressure & censored by the South. (Greg Scarlatoiu, The John Batchelor Show)
- The Committee for Human Rights in North Korea (HRNK) has released a report that focuses on how human rights abuses affect ordinary people in North Korea, a bottom-up view that the author contrasts with a traditional top-down focus on the leaders and other state actors. Authored by North Korea expert Robert Collins, the report, Denied From the Start: Human Rights at the Local Level in North Korea, pays special attention to the ways in which the government of North Korea not only denies the rights of citizens, but also uses the citizens themselves to deny rights to each other. (Eugene Whong, Radio Free Asia)
- It is time for a mid-term review of the Trump administration's handling of the North Korea issue, which Barack Obama warned would be his most critical national security challenge. (Joseph Bosco, The Hill)

In North Korea:

- North Korea's state media on Saturday criticized Japan for conducting a test of a new missile interceptor system, which is being co-funded by the United States and Japan, arguing that the move could chill the "peace atmosphere" on the Korean Peninsula. (Yonhap)
- North Korea has reportedly abolished a once-mandatory travel permit in several regions of the country, and citizens now only need their identification when visiting other provinces. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The Unification Ministry said Saturday the government has repatriated three North Korean sailors and the body of one deceased sailor after they were retrieved from East Sea by the local Coast Guard. (Yonhap)

International:

- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said he is "counting on" a second summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un despite an apparent stalemate in talks between the sides. (Yonhap)

- In announcing his interest in holding another summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, U.S. President Donald Trump appears to be going against his administration's plan to have working-level officials lead denuclearization talks, analysts say. (Connie Kim, VOA)

Prepared by Grace Warwick, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821222203/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-greg-scarlatoiu-on-the-john-batchelor-showsyria-retreat-undercuts-trumps-once-tough-north-korea-policy

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Sunday, December 23, 2018

N.K. Media slam S. Korea over participation in U.N. human rights resolution; Travel ban review won't affect sanctions: Pompeo

In North Korea:
N.K. media slam S. Korea over participation in U.N. human rights resolution (Yonhap, 12/23/2018)
N. Korea's Air Koryo to hike flight fares next year (Yonhap, 12/23/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(LEAD) S. Korean team returns from N.K. visit over groundbreaking ceremony for joint project (Yonhap, 12/23/2018)

International:
China Jan-Nov total trade with North Korea down 52.9 pct y/y -customs data (Reuters, 12/23/2018)
Japan continues to fume over Korean radar use (Joongang Ilbo, 12/23/2018)
Koreas, US slow down on denuclearization talks (Korea Times, 12/23/2018)
Travel ban review won't affect sanctions: Pompeo (Joongang Ilbo, 12/23/2018)
US turning softer on NK ahead of second summit (Korea Times, 12/23/2018)

In North Korea:

- North Korea's media on Sunday denounced South Korea for participating in the passage of a U.N. resolution condemning the communist state's human rights abuses, despite ongoing trust-building efforts. (Yonhap)
- North Korea's flag carrier Air Koryo plans to raise flight fares in April and September next year when an increased number of tourists are expected to visit the communist state in time for political and other events, according to a travel agency Sunday. (Yonhap)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- A team of South Korean officials returned home Sunday after their hourslong work to prepare for this week's groundbreaking ceremony for a joint project to modernize railways and roads in the North, Seoul's unification ministry said. (Yonhap)

International:

- China's trade with North Korea fell 52.9 percent to $2.2 billion in the period from January to November compared to a year earlier, customs data showed on Sunday. (Reuters)
- A diplomatic row between South Korea and Japan escalated for a third day since a South Korean destroyer allegedly locked its radar on a Japanese surveillance plane Thursday during an operation to rescue a distressed North Korean vessel. (Shim Kyu-seok, Joongang Ilbo)
- The two Koreas and the United States are apparently slowing down talks over denuclearization, as seen from the postponement of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's second summit with U.S. President Donald Trump and Kim's trip to South Korea. (Yi Whan-woo, Korea Times)
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that "nothing could be further from the truth" than that Washington was relaxing its economic sanctions against North Korea by reviewing its ban on U.S. travel to the country. (Sung-eun Lee, Joongang Ilbo)
- U.S. President Donald Trump apparently thinks his second meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un anticipated for sometime early next year will go well because Washington is easing some of its pressure on North Korea. (Kim Yoo-chul, Korea Times)

Prepared by Grace Warwick, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821222208/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/nk-media-slam-s-korea-over-participation-in-un-human-rights-resolution-travel-ban-review-wont-affect-sanctions-pompeo

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Monday, December 24, 2018

Famine to feast: NK defectors awestruck by food choices in South; Koreas to discuss Seoul's provision of Tamiflu to N. Korea

In North Korea:

Commentary: The year Kim Jong Un made his diplomatic debut (Channel NewsAsia, 12/24/2018)
DPRK Repeats Stance on Denuclearization (38 North, 12/21/2018)
Fight disrupts Kim Jong Il memorial period in North Korea (Daily NK, 12/21/2018)
Homeless youth search for place to ride out winter in North Korea (Daily NK, 12/24/2018)
(LEAD) N.K.'s official newspaper urges military to lead economic development (Yonhap, 12/24/2018)

In South Korea:

Famine to feast: North Korean defectors awestruck by food choices in South (The Guardian, 12/24/2018)
Foreign minister 'invisible' in inter-Korean affairs (Korea Times, 12/23/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(2nd LD) Ranking officials of Koreas, other neighbors to attend groundbreaking ceremony in N. Korea (Yonhap, 12/24/2018)
(3rd LD) S. Koreans leave for N. Korea to check road conditions (Yonhap, 12/24/2018)
Koreas to discuss Seoul's provision of Tamiflu to N. Korea (Yonhap, 12/24/2018)
Meditations on the word 'unification' (Korea Times, 12/23/2018)
North, South Korea to hold railroad reconnection ceremony (UPI, 12/24/2018)
North Korea state media attacks 'double-faced' South over UN human rights resolution (Independent, 12/23/2018)

International:
2018 a year of remarkable world engagement for North Korea (UPI, 12/24/2018)
Boiling Springs man remembers USS Pueblo on anniversary (The Sentinel, 12/23/2018)
Commentary: North Korea in 2018, a year of turning over a new leaf or worldwide gullibility? (Channel NewsAsia, 12/22/2018)
Diplomacy Without Denuclearization: North Korea In 2018 (War on the Rocks, 12/24/2018)
Predictions for 2019 (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/23/2018)
Sanctions on North Korea: How will they be lifted? (Korea Times, 12/24/2018)
Way Too Much to Do About Nothing (38 North, 12/21/2018)
Why U.S.-North Korea Nuclear Talks Are Stalled (Bloomberg, 12/21/2018)

In North Korea:
- From testing intercontinental ballistic missiles and nuclear bombs, Kim moved to testing diplomatic prospects for the normalisation of himself as an international leader and of North Korea as a nuclear weapons state. (Scott Snyder, Channel NewsAsia)
- Just a week after the last high-level commentary carried by KCNA, another one by the same author—Jong Hyon—appeared on December 20. This one has caused a considerable reaction in Western media, though it actually contains little that is new. (Robert Carlin, 38 North)
- Despite strict conduct guidelines for surveillance handed down during the memorial period marking seven years since Kim Jong Il's death on December 17, a large fight in North Hamgyong Province disrupted the designated week of remembrance. (Kim Yoo Jin, Daily NK)
- Although conditions in some of North Korea's orphanages have improved for the country's homeless children (known as kkotjebi), inadequate food supplies and a general lack of capacity have forced many to migrate to other areas in search of shelter. (Kim Yoo Jin, Daily NK)
- North Korea's official newspaper called Monday on its military to take a leading role in building the country's economy on the anniversary of its late former leader's inauguration as the supreme commander of the Army. (Yonhap)

In South Korea:

- Many of the roughly 30,000 North Korean refugees living in the South are awestruck when they first arrive at seeing supermarkets stocked with items unseen back home. But they also find it difficult to cope with the plethora of choice and still carrying the trauma of growing up hungry. (Benjamin Haas, The Guardian)
- The foreign ministry is losing ground in the decision-making process on the ongoing inter-Korean affairs, as it is failing to win support from President Moon Jae-in's inner circle. (Lee Min-hyung, Korea Times)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- Ranking officials of the two Koreas and other neighboring countries will attend the upcoming symbolic groundbreaking ceremony for a project to modernize and connect roads and railways over the inter-Korean border, the unification ministry said Monday. (Yonhap)
- A team of South Korean officials left for North Korea on Monday to check the overall conditions of a road in western North Korea as part of a project to modernize and reconnect roads over the inter-Korean border, the unification ministry said. (Yonhap)
- South and North Korea will discuss Seoul's provision of antiviral medication to the North as part of cooperative efforts in the medical and health sectors across the border, the unification ministry said Monday. (Yonhap)
- Unification should be a peace movement that seeks to direct attention towards social issues, environmental issues and other concerns that are shared by all, and away from militarism and great power competition. (Emanuel Pastreich, Korea Times)
- North and South Korea will hold a ceremony Wednesday for the launch of a project that will reconnect railways and roads, Seoul's unification ministry said Monday. The ceremony will take place at Panmun station located in the North Korean city of Kaesong. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- North Korean media has launched an attack on South Korea for what it described as its neighbour's "double-faced" participation in a United Nations resolution condemning the country's violations of human rights. (Saman Javed, Independent)

International:

- 2018 has been an unprecedented year of North Korean engagement with the world. Here is a summary of the major events that transformed North Korea's relations in 2018. (Elizabeth Shim, UPI)
- Sunday marked the 50th anniversary of the release of the crew of the USS Pueblo from North Korean captivity, one of a series of crises in 1968 that threatened to turn the Cold War into a full blown third world war. (Zack Hoopes, The Sentinel)
- As it is, 2018 ends with a stalemate in progress toward denuclearisation and uncertainty over whether the stunning diplomacy between the United States, South and North Korea can continue to move forward. (Steven Borowiec, Channel NewsAsia)
- As 2018 comes to a close, tensions on the Korean Peninsula remain significantly lower than at the end of 2017, when the prospect of a U.S. limited strike on North Korea — or worse — was a fixture of the debate. (Ankit Panda, Vipin Narang, War on the Rocks)
- Given the topsy-turvy year that was 2018, it would be folly to try to predict developments on the Korean Peninsula in 2019. But that will not deter me from trying, though I offer these

with only moderate confidence. So here are seven predictions for 2019. (Michael Green, Korea JoongAng Daily)

- Since late last year, President Moon Jae-in has tried hard to pitch his ambitious "sanctions-easing" agenda to break the impasse in talks aimed at denuclearizing North Korea. The efforts brought mixed results. (Kim Yoo-chul, Korea Times)
- Yesterday's blitz of stories about the North Korean statement on denuclearization was the latest example of how the media and instant pundits are quick to cherry-pick statements by Pyongyang, highlight what they think will get attention, and stampede to the wrong conclusions. (38 North)
- The bellicose rhetoric between the U.S. and North Korea has certainly cooled, with no more threats of nuclear annihilation or personal insults. But months after Donald Trump shared an historic handshake with Kim Jong Un in June, nuclear talks have gone nowhere. (David Tweed, Bloomberg)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821222743/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsfamine-to-feast-nk-defectors-awestruck-by-food-choices-in-southkoreas-to-discuss-seouls-provision-of-tamiflu-to-n-korea

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Tuesday, December 25, 2018

Judge orders NK to pay Warmbier family $500M for wrongful death; Moon administration 'evolves' from Roh's on N. Korean human rights

In North Korea:
N.K. leader likely to use New Year's address to call for implementation of summit deal with Trump (Yonhap, 12/25/2018)
North Korean newspaper builds paywall for PDF files (Korea Times, 12/25/2018)

In South Korea:
Kim Jong-un supporters slam subway ads rejection (Korea Times, 12/24/2018)
Moon administration 'evolves' from Roh's on N. Korean human rights (Korea Times, 12/25/2018)
Pyongyang supermarket offers Seoul's younger generation a taste of mysterious North Korea (ABC, 12/24/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Korea to hold ceremony for joint railway Wednesday (Korea Times, 12/25/2018)
Koreas set to hold railway ceremony in Kaesong (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/25/2018)
(LEAD) U.N. grants sanctions exemption for inter-Korean project's groundbreaking ceremony (Yonhap, 12/25/2018)

International:
A Perilous Journey to Escape Kim Jong Un's North Korea (Wall Street Journal, 12/20/2018)
Cause for Christmas cheer (Korea Times, 12/24/2018)
Excessive demands (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/25/2018)
Judge orders North Korea to pay $500M for wrongful death of Otto Warmbier (UPI, 12/24/2018)
Judge orders North Korea to pay more than $500 million in damages for Otto Warmbier's death (Washington Post, 12/24/2018)
Judge orders North Korea to pay Warmbier family $500 million for wrongful death (CNN, 12/24/2018)
North Korea Is Ordered to Pay Otto Warmbier's Family Over $501 Million in Damages (New York Times, 12/24/2018)
North Korea ordered to pay parents, estate of student $500M (Associated Press, 12/25/2018)
Trump counting on summit with Kim Jong-un (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/25/2018)
Trump says progress being made on N. Korea (Yonhap, 12/25/2018)
U.S. court orders North Korea to pay $501 million in U.S. student's death (Reuters, 12/24/2018)
U.S. court rules N. Korea must pay Otto Warmbier's parents US$500 million (Yonhap, 12/25/2018)
US judge orders North Korea to pay $500M in student's death (The Telegraph, 12/25/2018)
Warmbier's parents awarded $501 million by U.S. court (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/25/2018)
When Donald met Kim: What happened next? (BBC, 12/24/2018)

In North Korea:

- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un is expected to reaffirm his denuclearization commitment and call for the sincere implementation of June's summit agreement with U.S. President Donald Trump when he delivers his New Year's Day address next week, experts said Tuesday. (Yonhap)
- A North Korean newspaper published by the ruling Workers' Party started charging for its PDF files, in an unprecedented free-to-paid service transition for a rare source of domestic-made political news of the reclusive state. (Jung Da-min, Park Si-soo, Korea Times)

In South Korea:

- A student group has denounced Seoul subway operator's rejection of its request to place ads on subway stations to welcome North Korean leader Kim Jong-un during his anticipated visit, claiming the rejection came from negative public opinion caused by conservative civic groups and media. (Jung Hae-myoung, Korea Times)
- The Moon Jae-in administration is getting tough with North Korea over the regime's human rights abuses, although South Korea is on track for building confidence to help the stalled U.S.-North Korea nuclear disarmament talks move forward. (Yi Whan-woo, Korea Times)

- The Pyongyang supermarket opened over the weekend, but not in North Korea -- in a college town in Seoul. Citizens are given a chance to experience North Korean-style cookies and candies, baked by North Korean defectors with the recipes they brought from back home. (Hakyung Kate Lee, ABC)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- The two Koreas will jointly hold a groundbreaking ceremony, Wednesday, for a project aimed at modernizing and connecting roads and railways across the Demilitarized Zone. (Yi Whan-woo, Korea Times)
- South and North Korea are set to hold a joint groundbreaking ceremony in the border town of Kaesong today for a project to modernize the North's railways and connect them to the South's. (Shim Kyu-seok, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- The United Nations Security Council has granted a sanctions waiver to enable the Koreas to hold a symbolic groundbreaking ceremony for their project to modernize and reconnect roads and railways across the border this week, a Seoul official said Tuesday. (Yonhap)

International:

- North Korea's recent diplomatic steps, including leader Kim Jong Un's historic summit meetings with President Trump and South Korean President Moon Jae-in, have had little effect on the lives of ordinary residents. Some still risk everything to flee. (Jeong Eun-young, Tim Franco, Wall Street Journal)
- Stephen Biegun, the U.S. Special Representative for North Korea, last week appeared to offer a holiday gift to Pyongyang when he promised the U.S. will try to expedite humanitarian aid to North Korea. (John Burton, Korea Times)
- South Korea and the United States have been in a war of nerves over a new accord to determine each side's share in the defense costs for 2019. (Korea JoongAng Daily)
- U.S. District Judge Beryl Howell issued a default judgement Monday ordering North Korea to pay $450 million in punitive damages to the estate of Otto Warmbier and his parents Fred Warmbier and Cynthia. (Daniel Uria, UPI)
- A federal court judge on Monday ordered North Korea to pay the parents of Otto Warmbier more than $500 million, holding the country accountable for the "barbaric mistreatment" and death of the University of Virginia student. (Susan Svrluga, Rachel Weiner, Washington Post)
- A federal judge in Washington awarded the parents of Otto Warmbier more than half a billion dollars in a wrongful death suit against the North Korean government, which detained and allegedly tortured the college student over 17 months before returning him to the US last year, where he died days later. (David Shortell, CNN)
- A federal judge on Monday awarded over $501 million in damages to the parents of Otto Warmbier, the American college student who died last year after suffering a severe brain injury while detained in North Korea, in a lawsuit they had filed against the autocratic regime. (Matthew Haag, New York Times)
- A federal judge ordered North Korea to pay more than $500 million in a wrongful death suit filed by the parents of Otto Warmbier, an American college student who died shortly after being released from that country. (Eric Tucker, Associated Press)

- U.S. President Donald Trump said in a Christmas Eve tweet that he looks forward to a second summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, noting "progress" is being made in denuclearization negotiations. (Sarah Kim, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- U.S. President Donald Trump said Monday that progress is being made on the issue of North Korea and he looks forward to a second summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. (Yonhap)
- A U.S. court on Monday ordered Pyongyang to pay $501 million in damages for the torture and death of U.S. college student Otto Warmbier, who died in 2017 shortly after being released from a North Korea prison. (Lesley Wroughton, Reuters)
- A U.S. court ordered North Korea on Monday to pay US$500 million in damages to the parents of Otto Warmbier, who died last year shortly after being transferred from North Korea, according to media reports. (Yonhap)
- AUS federal judge on Monday ordered North Korea to pay more than $500 million in a wrongful death suit filed by the parents of Otto Warmbier, an American college student who died shortly after being released from that country. (The Telegraph)
- A U.S. court ruled Monday that the North Korean government must pay over $501 million in damages to the parents of Otto Warmbier, the American college student who died after being detained by the North last year. (Sarah Kim, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- I've lost track of the number of firsts on the Korean peninsula this year. The most obvious was the first US-North Korean summit in Singapore in June. Historic was the word most of us used on the day Donald Trump became the first sitting US president to shake the hand of a North Korean leader. (Laura Bicker, BBC)

Prepared by Susannah Pearl-Katz, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821222747/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-judge-orders-nk-to-pay-warmbier-family-500m-for-wrongful-death-moon-administration-evolves-from-rohs-on-n-korean-human-rights

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Wednesday, December 26, 2018

North Korea sends Christmas greeting in video; Koreas determined to push for joint railway project

In North Korea:
North Korea sends Christmas greeting in video (UPI, 12/26/2018)
The sacrifices of North Korea's fishermen: What drives them out to sea? (Daily NK, 12/26/2018)

In South Korea:
Woman guilty of praising North (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/26/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
(4th LD) Koreas hold symbolic groundbreaking ceremony for inter-Korean railway and road project (Yonhap, 12/26/2018)
Ecologists call for rare animals to be protected as secluded Korean border zone opens up (The Telegraph, 12/25/2018)
Ground broken on railway, road project (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/26/2018)
Koreas' bid to reconnect rail, road links clouded by sanctions issue (Reuters, 12/25/2018)
Koreas Celebrate Joint Railway (VOA, 12/26/2018)
Koreas determined to push for joint railway project (Korea Times, 12/26/2018)
Koreas to Pledge Road, Rail Links on Divided Peninsula (VOA, 12/26/2018)
North and South Korea hold ceremony to link railways, but sanctions block way (Washington Post, 12/26/2018)
Rail plan puts North and South Korea on track for closer ties (The Guardian, 12/26/2018)

International:
Kim's last chance (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/26/2018)
Koreas inaugurate rail, road project, but sanctions delay construction (Reuters, 12/26/2018)
Pro-North Korean paper paints rosy outlook for relations with U.S. (Yonhap, 12/26/2018)
Trump may affect U.S.-Korea cost-sharing talks (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/26/2018)

In North Korea:

- A North Korean religious group has sent a rare Christmas greeting to South Korea in a video. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- According to the Japanese Coast Guard, a total of 104 North Korean 'ghost ships' washed up on Japanese shores in 2017, the highest number since record keeping began in 2013. (Daily NK)

In South Korea:

- The Daegu District Court said Wednesday that it ruled a woman in her 60s violated South Korea's National Security Act for praising North Korea's regime online. (Kim Jung-seok, Korea JoongAng Daily)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- A senior North Korean official called on the two Koreas on Wednesday to go their own way without being swayed by outside influence in pushing for an ambitious inter-Korean project to modernize and reconnect railways and roads over their border. (Yonhap)
- North and South Korean soldiers exchanged cigarettes and chatted as they inspected 22 newly dismantled guard posts along the world's most heavily armed border in mid-December, in friendly scenes that would have been unthinkable a year ago. (Nicola Smith, Junho Lee, The Telegraph)
- South and North Korea held a joint ceremony in the border city of Kaesong on Wednesday to break ground on a project to reconnect their railways and roads - inaugurating a new era of

exchanges across the heavily fortified border between the two countries. (Shim Kyu-seok, Korea JoongAng Daily)

- The two Koreas on Wednesday launched a project to reconnect rail and road links severed since the 1950-53 Korean War, but actual construction cannot start while sanctions remain in place against North Korea, officials said. (Hyonhee Shin, Joyce Lee, Reuters)
- North and South Korea held a groundbreaking ceremony Wednesday to mark the start of a joint project to connect railways throughout the divided peninsula. (Steve Miller, VOA)
- The two Koreas held a rather symbolic groundbreaking ceremony Wednesday with the aim of early resumption of road and railway links across the heavily fortified border separating the North and South. (Kim Yoo-chul, Korea Times)
- A South Korean delegation left for North Korea on Wednesday to attend a groundbreaking ceremony for reconnecting roads and railways across the divided peninsula despite stalled denuclearization talks. (Agence France-Presse, VOA)
- North and South Korea held a groundbreaking ceremony Wednesday for an ambitious project to link their railway and road networks, but until sanctions are lifted the plans appear unlikely to progress much further. (Min Joo-kim, Simon Denyer, Washington Post)
- North and South Korea have held a symbolic groundbreaking ceremony they hope will lead to the resumption of road and rail links across their heavily armed border. (Justin McCurry, The Guardian)

International:

- On Wednesday, South and North Korea held a groundbreaking ceremony at Panmun Station in Kaesong, North Korea, to reconnect inter-Korean railways and roads. (Korea JoongAng Daily)
- The two Koreas held a ceremony on Wednesday for a project to reconnect rail and road links, although construction cannot begin while sanctions over North Korea's nuclear and missile programmes remain in place, officials said. (Hyonhee Shin, Joyce Lee, Reuters)
- A pro-North Korean newspaper in Japan predicted Wednesday that the "new history" of relations between the North and the United States will move steadily forward in the new year, even though there could be ups and downs during the process. (Yonhap)
- U.S. President Donald Trump is pressuring allied countries to pay more in defense burden-sharing, which may impact ongoing negotiations with Seoul to renew a bilateral deal on the costs of stationing U.S. troops in South Korea. (Sarah Kim, Korea JoongAng Daily)

Prepared by Cassandra Wood, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821222817/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-north-korea-sends-christmas-greeting-in-video-koreas-determined-to-push-for-joint-railway-project

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Thursday, December 27, 2018

Seoul to send Tamiflu drug to NK in January; Fans of English soccer club bewildered by ad urging them to visit North Korea

In North Korea:
Amid nationwide construction spree, North Korean factory workers pay for mobilization exemption (Daily NK, 12/27/2018)
(LEAD) Han Kwang-sang returns as handler of N.K. ruling party's finances (Yonhap, 12/27/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korea faces serious humanitarian challenges as sanctions hamper medical supplies: Pyongyang official (Yonhap, 12/27/2018)
N.K. official misquoted as calling for unification under Pyongyang's terms (Yonhap, 12/27/2018)
N. Korea's media report on groundbreaking ceremony for road, railway project (Yonhap, 12/27/2018)
'North Korea is everything Jesus dreamt of' (Korea Times, 12/27/2018)
North Korean border patrol smuggling ring uncovered (Daily NK, 12/27/2018)
Outcome of joint inspections on N. Korea's roads, railways to come out early next year: official (Yonhap, 12/27/2018)
Samjiyon resettlers expelled back to original areas of residence in North Korea (Daily NK, 12/27/2018)
(Yonhap Feature) N.K. defectors expand presence on YouTube amid inter-Korean thaw (Yonhap, 12/27/2018)

In South Korea:
S. Korea to extend period for N.K. defectors' settlement application (Yonhap, 12/27/2018)
Seoul to send Tamiflu drug to NK in January (Korea Times, 12/27/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
S. Korea to provide N. Korea with Tamiflu soon: unification minister (Yonhap, 12/27/2018)
Sports minister talks plan for inter-Korean 2032 Olympics (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/27/2018)

International:
Analysts Look Ahead at Uncertain North Korean Talks (VOA, 12/27/2018)
Fans of English soccer club bewildered by ad urging them to visit North Korea (Washington Post, 12/27/2018)
From CVID to CRID: A Russian Perspective (38 North, 12/26/2018)

In North Korea:

- As large construction projects in North Korea increase the demand for labor from the general public, factory workers subject to the mobilization draft are opting to pay for exemption. (Kang Mi-jin, Daily NK)
- A former North Korean military official was confirmed to have returned as the handler of the ruling party's finances, personnel data on North Korea provided by the unification ministry showed Thursday. (Yonhap)

- Health situations in North Korea are "extremely worrying" as multilayered global sanctions on its regime are taking a toll on the country's medical supplies, a North Korean Red Cross official has said. (Yonhap)
- North Korean Vice Railway Minister Kim Yun-hyok briefly raised the eyebrows of conservatives in South Korea as he was misquoted as saying the Koreas should seek unification through a "federation," a formula long considered part of Pyongyang's attempt to communize the Korean Peninsula. (Yonhap)
- North Korea's state media on Thursday reported on the groundbreaking ceremony the Koreas jointly held a day earlier to mark the launch of a project to modernize and reconnect roads and railways over their border. (Yonhap)
- A pro-North Korea website named "Jajusibo" has been under fire for spreading articles praising the totalitarian regime by linking it with Jesus Christ over the Christmas holiday. (Kim Hyun-bin, Korea Times)
- Although border control measures are being ratcheted up to prevent defections and smuggling by civilians, the North Korean authorities have ordered some foreign-currency earning entities to smuggle more textiles and minerals out of the country in exchange for items including vehicles to offset the effects of international sanctions. (Kim Yoo-jin, Daily NK)
- South Korea will push to draw up an overall timetable on how to modernize and connect roads and railways over the border with North Korea after the outcome of joint inspections come out early next year, a unification ministry official said Thursday. (Yonhap)
- The North Korean authorities have turned to focus their attention and resources on development projects in specific regions including the Samjiyon area, where Kim Jong Un has conducted site visits several times this year. (Kim Yoo-jin, Daily NK)
- Dressed in a Santa Claus costume, Kang Na-ra appeared no different from other YouTubers as she stood in front of a video camera for a Christmas special clip, except that she was going to talk about Christmas in her former communist homeland: North Korea. (Yonhap)

In South Korea:

- South Korea on Thursday decided to extend the period in which North Korean defectors can apply for settlement here from the current one year to three years to provide them with more support, the unification ministry said. (Yonhap)
- South Korea will send flu medication to North Korea, aiming to complete the delivery of packages by the end of January next year, an official at the Ministry of Unification said, Thursday. (Kim Yoo-chul, Korea Times)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- South Korea will provide North Korea with the antiviral medication Tamiflu in the near future, Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon said Thursday. (Yonhap)
- After North and South Korean athletes took part together in the PyeongChang Winter Olympics in February and the Jakarta-Palembang Asian Games in August, the two Koreas plan to once again team up for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. (Chung Jeh-won, Korea JoongAng Daily)

International:

- North Korea announced last week it would not pursue denuclearization unless the United States removes what it calls its "nuclear threat." (Steve Miller, VOA)
- Blyth Spartans FC, located in the far northeast of England, toils in the National League North, the sixth tier of pro soccer in that country. Advertising boards ring the team's pitch, including a curious banner that showed up just this week urging fans to "VISIT NORTH KOREA." (Matt Bonesteel, Washington Post)
- The US has allowed an unrealistic goal—complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization (CVID-or, in Trump era parlance FFVD[1])—to drive its diplomatic engagement with North Korea. (Georgy Toloraya, 38 North)

Prepared by Cassandra Wood, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821222822/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-seoul-to-send-tamiflu-drug-to-nk-in-january-fans-of-english-soccer-club-bewildered-by-ad-urging-them-to-visit-north-korea

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Friday, December 28, 2018

Greg Scarlatoiu on Voice of America; Re-defectors to North Korea give internal lectures on defection regret

Top News:
Greg Scarlatoiu on Voice of America (VOA,12/28/2018)

In North Korea:
N. Korea's newspaper calls Samjiyon development fight against hostile forces (Yonhap, 12/28/2018)
North Korean Military Officers Resort to Drug Running to Make Ends Meet (Radio Free Asia, 12/28/2018)
North Korean Media: KCTV's Coverage of Kim Jong Un's Diplomatic Push in 2018 (38 North, 12/27/2018)
North Korea's 'Singapore shops' expose gap in sanctions push (Associated Press, 12/28/2018)
[Photo] North Korea marks one-year anniversary of alleged nuclear weapons program completion (Daily NK, 12/28/2018)
Re-defectors to North Korea give internal lectures on defection regret (Daily NK, 12/28/2018)
Structural restoration stalled at mining complex refinery in North Korea (Daily NK, 12/28/2018)

In South Korea:
Defectors' private info hacked from Hana Center computer (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/28/2018)
Government confirms basic facts on N. Korea leadership at last (Korea Times, 12/28/2018)
Hackers steal defectors' personal info (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/28/2018)
Hackers stole personal data on 1,000 North Korean defectors (Telegraph, 12/28/2018)
(LEAD) Personal info of about 1,000 North Korean defectors leaked (Yonhap, 12/28/2018)
Mystery hacker steals data on 1,000 North Korean defectors in South (Reuters, 12/28/2018)
North Korea defector hack: Personal data of almost 1,000 leaked (BBC, 12/28/2018)
Personal details of North Korean defectors stolen after hackers target resettling agency (CNN, 12/28/2018)
Personal info of 1,000 North Korean defectors leaked from resettlement centres (Telegraph, 12/28/2018)
Seoul says personal info of 1,000 NKorean defectors stolen (Associated Press, 12/28/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
2018 summits challenge N. Koreans' view toward Seoul (Korea Times, 12/28/2018)
Ground broken on railway, road project (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/28/2018)
(LEAD) Koreas hold meeting of liaison office co-chiefs to discuss cross-border issues (Yonhap, 12/28/2018)
S. Korea shares info on infectious diseases with N. Korea (Yonhap, 12/28/2018)

International:
Archbishop of Gwangju says Pope likely to visit N. Korea if formally invited (Yonhap, 12/28/2018)
Archbishop says pope ready to visit North Korea if invited (UPI, 12/28/2018)
Can Trump revive his deal with North Korea? (Washington Post, 12/28/2018)
North Korea tour company sponsors English football club (CNN, 12/28/2018)
Pyongyang is reaching out to various D.C. figures (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/28/2018)
Shared goals: Blyth Spartans football team partners with Visit North Korea (The Guardian, 12/28/2018)
Video surveillance network expanded on China-North Korea border (Daily NK, 12/28/2018)

Top News:

- Greg Scarlatoiu is the Executive Director of the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea. He discussed the religious persecution with Connie Kim of VOA in response to the Christmas message that had supposedly been sent by North Korean churches. (Greg Scarlatoiu, Connie Kim, VOA)

In North Korea:

- North Korea's official newspaper on Friday called for stepped-up efforts to develop the northern county of Samjiyon, known as the birthplace of late leader Kim Jong-il, into the "wealthiest" region in the country, calling it a fight against hostile forces bent on sanctions. (Yonhap)
- As North Korea's economic system changes with the introduction of market forces to the state-led economy, it is becoming increasingly necessary for citizens to find alternate

sources of income, as government salaries are not enough to live on. (Myungchul Lee, Eugene Whong, Radio Free Asia)

- North Korea's state broadcaster, Korean Central Television (KCTV), has had to tread a fine line covering this year's international summits and diplomatic events. (Martyn Williams, 38 North)
- Despite the unwanted publicity of a criminal trial for one of their main suppliers, business is booming at Pyongyang's 'Singapore shops,' which sell everything from Ukrainian vodka to brand-name knock-offs from China. (Eric Talmadge, Associated Press)
- Nationwide lectures have been held throughout North Korea to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the purported completion of its nuclear weapons program, according to documents obtained by Daily NK and sources inside the country. (Mun Dong-hui, Daily NK)
- To influence the population living in its border areas, the North Korean authorities have publicly paraded a number of the country's re-defectors (those who have previously fled the country but ultimately returned), sending them to visit different areas to deliver lectures on the ills of capitalism and their regret for ever having left the country. (Kim Yoo-jin, Daily NK)
- Reinforcement work on a building within the Tanchon Refinery in South Hamgyong Province following structural integrity concerns has stalled due to insufficient labor and materials required to complete the job. (Kim Yoo-jin, Daily NK)

In South Korea:

- Private information about nearly a thousand North Korean defectors was hacked from a computer at a government-affiliated defector settlement organization earlier this month, the Unification Ministry said Friday. (Shin Kyu-seok, Korea JoogAng Daily)
- Lack of access to North Korea means it often takes years for Seoul to confirm simple facts concerning the leadership, such as dates of birth or the reshuffle of top officials. (Yi Whan-woo, Korea Times)
- Private information about nearly a thousand North Korean defectors was hacked from a computer at a government-affiliated defector settlement organization earlier this month, the Unification Ministry said Friday. (Shim Kyu-seok, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- Hackers have stolen the personal data of almost 1,000 North Koreans who defected to South Korea, officials said on Friday after "malicious code" was found implanted on a computer at a resettlement centre. (Hannah Boland, Telegraph)
- The personal information of nearly 1,000 North Koreans who defected to South Korea has been leaked after unknown hackers got access to a resettlement agency's database, the South Korean Unification Ministry said on Friday. (Hyonhee Shin, Reuters)
- The personal information of nearly 1,000 North Korean defectors in South Korea has been leaked as a computer at a state-run resettlement center was hacked, the unification ministry said Friday. (Yonhap)
- A personal computer at the state-run centre was found to have been "infected with a malicious code". (BBC)
- The personal information of almost 1,000 North Korean defectors has been stolen after hackers targeted an agency which helped them resettle in South Korea. (Jake Kwon, CNN)

- Personal details of nearly 1,000 North Korean defectors living in the South have been leaked in a hacking case, officials said Friday, exposing them to potential threats from the North. (Telegraph)
- South Korea said Friday it's responding to a hacking attack that stole the names and addresses of nearly 1,000 North Korean defectors who resettled in the South. (Associated Press, 12/28/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- For North Koreans, a series of summits between leaders of the two Koreas this year certainly challenged and reshaped what they previously thought of the South. (Yi Whan-woo, Korea Times)
- South and North Korea held a joint ceremony in the border city of Kaesong on Wednesday to break ground on a project to reconnect their railways and roads - inaugurating a new era of exchanges across the heavily fortified border between the two countries. (Korea JoongAng Daily)
- The South and North Korean co-chiefs of a joint liaison office agreed Friday to continue to work closely together in the new year to further move inter-Korean relations forward, the unification ministry said. (Yonhap)
- South Korea shared information about infectious diseases on its soil with North Korea on Friday following the two sides' agreement on health care. (Yonhap)

International:

- Archbishop of Gwangju Kim Hee-joong said Friday that a visit by Pope Francis to North Korea was still a possibility when and if the North's leader Kim Jong-un sends the Pope a formal invitation. (Yonhap)
- South Korean Archbishop Kim Hee-jung said Friday Pope Francis is ready to visit North Korea if leader Kim Jong Un sends an official invitation. (Wooyoung Lee, UPI)
- Here's one New Year's resolution that should be easy: The United States and North Korea should resume the diplomatic progress they began in 2018 toward peace and denuclearization. (David Ignatius, Washington Post)
- If all publicity is good publicity, a club in the sixth tier of English football and a North Korea travel promoter might have just stumbled on a gold mine. (Brad Lendon, CNN)
- Despite the apparent impasse in denuclearization negotiations, North Korea has been reaching out behind the scenes through various channels to U.S. lawmakers and people involved in shaping policy toward Pyongyang, sources confirmed Thursday. (Chun Su-jin, Lee Yu-jeong, Sarah Kim, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- A firm that organises tours to North Korea has signed a sponsorship deal with Blyth Spartans, in one of English football's more unlikely commercial tie-ups. (Justin McCurry, The Guardian)
- The North Korean authorities are expanding video surveillance in the border areas to deter defectors and illegal border crossings. (Jo Hyon, Daily NK)

Prepared by Cassandra Wood, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821222957/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-items-greg-scarlatoiu-on-voice-of-america-re-defectors-to-north-korea-give-internal-lectures-on-defection-regret

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Saturday, December 29, 2018

N. Korea bashes U.S. for 'extreme pressure' on human rights; In South Korea, resentment of refugees from the North

In North Korea:
N.K. highlights its leader's military accomplishments ahead of anniversary (Yonhap, 12/29/2018)
N. Korea bashes U.S. for 'extreme pressure' on human rights (Yonhap, 12/29/2018)
North Korea Acknowledges Agricultural Failures in Rare Admission (RFA, 12/28/2018)
North Korea Built an Alternative Financial System Using a Shadowy Network of Traders (The Wall Street Journal, 12/28/2018)
Returned North Korean defectors paraded to lecture on miseries of capitalism they saw in China (Telegraph, 12/29/2018)

In South Korea:
In South Korea, resentment of refugees from the North (South China Morning Post, 12/29/2018)
Nearly 1000 North Korean Defectors in South Korea at Risk After Hackers Leak Their Personal Information (RFA, 12/28/2018)

International:
For North Korea, Verifying Requires Reconciling: The Lesson from A Troubled Past—Part II (38 North, 12/28/2018)
U.S. increases pressure on cost-sharing (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/28/2018)
In North Korea:

- North Korea on Saturday highlighted its leader Kim Jong-un's accomplishments of taking a tight grip on the military and eradicating corruption in the armed forces ahead of a key anniversary. (Yonhap)
- A North Korean state propaganda outlet slammed the United States on Saturday for its "extreme pressure" over its human rights issues throughout the year, calling for "mutual respect." (Yonhap)
- North Korea has recently admitted that its agricultural sector has faced drawbacks over the past year, a rare public acknowledgement of failure that is further confirmation that Kim Jong Un's approach to leading the country is very different from that of his late father or grandfather, experts say. (Eugene Whong, RFA)
- It was a familiar problem for North Korea. A timber company it controlled in Africa had earned $100,000 by selling wood to a Chinese firm. Pyongyang needed the money to pay its

foreign suppliers of oil and other critical products. (Niharika Mandhana, Aruna Viswanatha, The Wall Street Journal)

- North Koreans who defected but later changed their minds and returned to the North are giving lectures in towns and cities on the Chinese border extolling the pleasures of life under Kim Jong-un and the misery of being on the run in China and struggling to survive in a capitalist state. (Julian Ryall, Telegraph)

In South Korea:

- While many South Koreans have an emotional longing for the unification of the peninsula, there are also many who worry that formally reuniting with the North would be a drag on the economy, and that integrating millions of North Koreans would be a costly process that would disrupt life in the South. (Steven Borowiec, South China Morning Post)
- A South Korean resettlement center for North Korean defectors was hacked into and information about 997 of them has been leaked, Seoul's Ministry of Unification said on Friday. (Eugene Whong, RFA)

International:

- During the Bush years, as it had done previously, Pyongyang showed some willingness to accept verification when it saw Washington moving away from enmity but balked when it did not. (Leon V. Sigal, 38 North)
- Stephen Biegun, the U.S. special representative for North Korea, conveyed multiple times to Seoul that the issue of cost-sharing for the stationing of U.S. Forces in Korea is linked to the Pyongyang nuclear issue during his visit here last week, according to multiple diplomatic sources Friday. (Cha Se-hyeon, Chun Su-jin, Sarah Kim, Korea JoongAng Daily)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821222904/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsn-korea-bashes-us-for-extreme-pressure-on-human-rightsin-south-korea-resentment-of-refugees-from-the-north

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Sunday, December 30, 2018

No damage reported following hacking incident involving N. Korean defectors; North Korean leader vows to visit Seoul: Cheong Wa Dae

Top News:

[Washington Talk] 2018 End of Year - US-North Korean Relations, Problems? ... ROK/US Alliance Current Issues (VOA, 12/29/2018)

In North Korea:
Kim Jong-un likely to appeal directly to Trump in New Year's address (Telegraph, 12/30/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korean leader likely to tamp down rhetoric in New Year's speech to revive stalemated nuke talks (Yonhap, 12/30/2018)
N. Korea holds national meeting to mark anniv. of Kim's assumption of supreme commander (Yonhap, 12/30/2018)
N. Korea's tourism agency appeals to foreigners to visit N. Korea for New Year's celebration (Yonhap, 12/30/2018)
North Korea Offers South a Year-End Message of Peace (The Wall Street Journal, 12/30/2018)
World's tallest empty hotel lit up with North Korean propaganda (Korea Times, 12/30/2018)

In South Korea:
(4th LD) Moon welcomes N. Korean leader's commitment to denuclearization (Yonhap, 12/30/2018)
No damage reported following hacking incident involving N. Korean defectors (Yonhap, 12/30/2018)
South Korea's Kim Jong-un fan clubs prepare welcome as North Korean leader vows visit to Seoul (Telegraph, 12/30/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
For Koreas, Will 2019 be 'Fire and Fury' or New Era of Peace? (VOA, 12/29/2018)
In Letter to Moon, Kim Seeks More Inter-Korea Summits (AP, 12/30/2018)
Kim Jong-un letter to Seoul asks for more summits in 2019 (BBC, 12/30/2018)
Kim Jong Un sends rare letter to South Korean leader after extraordinary year (CNN, 12/30/2018)
(LEAD) N. Korean leader sends letter to Moon: presidential office (Yonhap, 12/30/2018)
Moon gets chummy letter from Kim Jong-un (Korea JoongAng Daily, 12/30/2018)
North Korean leader vows to visit Seoul: Cheong Wa Dae (Korea Times, 12/30/2018)
North Korea's Kim wants more summits with Moon next year: Blue House (Reuters, 12/30/2018)

International:
Wang Yi voices support for progress in inter-Korean ties, calls for implementation of Singapore summit (Yonhap, 12/30/2018)
Top News:

- HRNK Board Member David Maxwell was featured on the VOA Washington Talk show. He discussed North Korea-US nuclear negotiations and ROK/US Alliance issues for the end of the year show. (Jo Eun-jung, David Maxwell, Thomas Countryman, VOA)

In North Korea:

- Exactly one year after a speech that offered an olive branch to North Korea's traditional enemies and triggered a flurry of diplomatic activity, Kim Jong-un has another decision to make. And the sense is that he may opt for magnanimity. (Julian Ryall, Telegraph)

- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un will likely tamp down his rhetoric in his New Year's Day message in order to not provoke the United States and try to revive the hope for their long-stalemated denuclearization talks, experts said Sunday. (Yonhap)
- North Korea held a national meeting last week to mark the seventh anniversary of leader Kim Jong-un taking the post of supreme commander of the country's armed forces, the state-run media reported Sunday. (Yonhap)
- North Korea has unveiled tour programs allowing foreigners to visit the reclusive state and celebrate the New Year's holiday, according to the country's state-run tourism agency Sunday. (Yonhap)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un expressed hope for a peaceful 2019 in a personal letter sent to South Korean President Moon Jae-in, a Seoul government spokesman said, in a goodwill gesture that appears aimed at reviving stalled inter-Korean economic projects. (Andrew Jeong, The Wall Street Journal)
- The 105-story Ryugyong Hotel has long been a blot on the Pyongyang skyline. The world's tallest unoccupied building has towered over North Korea's capital since 1987, a grand but empty pyramid entirely dark except for the lone aircraft warning light at its top. (AP)

In South Korea:

- South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Sunday hailed North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's renewed commitment to denuclearization, a development that may give fresh momentum to the stalled talks with the United States on ending Pyongyang's nuclear programs. (Yonhap)
- South Korea's unification ministry said Sunday that there has been no damage reported in connection with a recent hacking of personal information of around 1,000 North Korean defectors. (Yonhap)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has written a rare letter to Seoul vowing to “frequently” meet Moon Jae-in, South Korea’s president, to discuss nuclear disarmament. (Nicola Smith, Telegraph)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- From “fire and fury” to talks of a new era of peace on the Korean Peninsula, 2018 was a significant year of engagement for the once reclusive North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, including multiple meetings with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and a summit with U.S. President Donald Trump in Singapore. (VOA)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un sent a letter to South Korean President Moon Jae-in Sunday calling for more peace talks between the leaders in the new year following their active engagement in 2018, South Korea’s presidential office said. (AP)
- North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un has vowed to "frequently" meet South Korea's President Moon Jae-in next year to discuss denuclearisation. (BBC)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has sent a rare personal letter to his South Korean counterpart, President Moon Jae-in, expressing his willingness to meet again in 2019 and discuss denuclearization on the divided peninsula. (Jake Kwok, Sheena McKenzie, CNN)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un sent a letter to South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Sunday to call for continued efforts to build peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula next year, Seoul's presidential office said. (Yonhap)

- South Korean President Moon Jae-in received on Sunday a New Year's greetings letter from North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in which Kim conveyed his regrets for not making it to Seoul within the year and his hopes to continue peaceful cooperation between the two Koreas next year. (Esther Chung, Korea JoongAng Daily)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un expressed his willingness to visit Seoul in the unspecified future in a letter sent to President Moon Jae-in, according to the presidential office Sunday. (Park Ji-won, Korea Times)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said he wants to hold more summits with South Korea's Moon Jae-in next year to achieve the goal of denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, Moon's office said on Sunday. (Hyonhee Shin, Reuters)

International:

- Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has expressed his support for the recent progress in inter-Korean relations, and urged North Korea and the United States to swiftly enforce the agreement reached at the June summit. (Yonhap)

Prepared by Woohyeon Kim, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821222909/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/hrnk-news-itemsno-damage-reported-following-hacking-incident-involving-n-korean-defectorsnorth-korean-leader-vows-to-visit-seoul-cheong-wa-dae

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Monday, December 31, 2018

Kim Jong-un vows to meet South Korea's leader frequently in 2019; Moon welcomes N. Korean leader's commitment to denuclearization sent

In North Korea:

Kim Jong Un Expected to Ring In 2019 With Big Policy Speech (AP, 12/30/2018)
Kim Jong-un vows to meet South Korea's leader frequently in 2019 (AFP, 12/30/2018)
N. Korea calls itself 'utopia,' 'flower garden of human love' (Yonhap, 12/31/2018)
N. Korea downplays deadlock in peace process as 'temporary phenomenon' (Yonhap, 12/31/2018)
N. Korea lectures on the adverse effects of smartphones (Korea Times, 12/31/2018)
N. Korea propagandizes religious freedom (Korea Times, 12/31/2018)

N. Korea rails against Japan for clinging to sanctions and pressure (Yonhap, 12/31/2018)
North Korea's Kim sent message to Trump on nuclear talks: Chosun Ilbo (Reuters, 12/30/2018)
Pyongyang media emphasizes inter-Korean peace and prosperity (Korea Times, 12/31/2018)

In South Korea:
Moon says N. Korean leader's letter has 'positive' message on denuclearization, inter-Korean relations: source (Yonhap, 12/31/2018)
(5th LD) Moon welcomes N. Korean leader's commitment to denuclearization (Yonhap, 12/31/2018)
No time for pullout (Joongang Ilbo, 12/31/2018)

Inter-Korean Relationship:
Provision of $8 mln in South Korean aid to N.K. postponed again (Yonhap, 12/31/2018)
Seoul expects N.K. leader to keep inter-Korean peace process in New Year's address (Yonhap, 12/31/2018)

International:
China to toughen N. Korea border control with 'state-of-the-art' scanners (Korea Times, 12/31/2018)
Chinese travel agents promote N. Korea ski tour (Korea Times, 12/31/2018)
More N. Korean workers deported from Russia (Korea Times, 12/31/2018)

In North Korea:

- Kim Jong Un will be keeping North Korea watchers busy on New Year's Day, when he is expected to give his annual address laying out the country's top priorities for the year ahead. (AP)
- North Korea's leader, Kim Jong-un, has vowed in a rare letter to meet the South's president, Moon Jae-in, "frequently" next year to discuss denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula, Moon's office said on Sunday. (AFP)
- North Korea has called itself a "utopia" and a "flower garden of human love" as it rejected U.S. criticism of human rights violations as an attempt to topple the communist regime. (Yonhap)
- A North Korean state media outlet downplayed the deadlock in its negotiating process with the United States as a "temporary phenomenon" that typically happens at times of great changes. (Yonhap)
- Rodong Sinmun, the official newspaper of North Korea's ruling Workers' Party, published an article recently on the adverse effects of smartphones. (Yi Whan-woo, Korea Times)
- North Korea has shown photos and footage of its people joining Christmas church services, in a rare move seen as an effort to speed up inter-Korean reconciliation. (Yi Whan-woo, Korea Times)
- North Korea's state media blasted Japan on Monday for clinging to sanctions and pressure on Pyongyang, saying that Tokyo is ignorant of change underway on the Korean Peninsula and actions the North has taken for peace and prosperity. (Yonhap)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has sent a "conciliatory message" to U.S. President Donald Trump amid stalled nuclear negotiations, South Korea's Chosun Ilbo newspaper reported on Monday. (Hyonhee Shin, Reuters)

- North Korea's propaganda media Monday emphasized that 2018 has been a new era of peace and prosperity on the Korean peninsula. (Jung Da-min, Korea Times)

In South Korea:

- President Moon Jae-in said Monday that North Korea leader Kim Jong-un's personal letter sent to him on Sunday contains a "positive" message that could give hints as to what direction North Korea could be headed in denuclearization and inter-Korean relations, a source said. (Yonhap)
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Sunday hailed North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's renewed commitment to denuclearization, a development that may give fresh momentum to the stalled talks with the United States on ending Pyongyang's nuclear programs. (Yonhap)
- What are the U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) to us? We must have a clear answer to this question to save our country from possible chaos. (Lee Ha-kyung, Joongang Ilbo)

Inter-Korean Relationship:

- A US$8 million humanitarian aid package South Korea set aside for North Korea is set to be scrapped as the plan failed to materialize for the second year in a row amid international sanctions on Pyongyang. (Yonhap)
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un is expected to state his position on keeping the inter-Korean peace process moving forward when he delivers a New Year's address this week, the unification ministry said Monday. (Yonhap)

International:

- China will be using "state-of-the-art" scanners to better crack down on smuggling along its border with North Korea, according to sources familiar with the matter. (Yi Whan-woo, Korea Times)
- Chinese travel agents are pushing a sales campaign for Masikryong Ski Resort, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's luxury tourist project in the eastern coastal city of Wonsan. (Yi Whan-woo, Korea Times)
- More North Korean workers in Vladivostok, Russia face the risk of being deported, as Russia observes the U.N. Security Council (UNSC) sanctions aimed at cutting off the flow of foreign currency to the North. (Yi Whan-woo, Korea Times)

Prepared by Grace Warwick, HRNK Research Intern

Original newsletter archived and available here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20250821222917/https://mailchi.mp/hrnk/kim-jong-un-vows-to-meet-south-koreas-leader-frequently-in-2019-moon-welcomes-n-korean-leaders-commitment-to-denuclearization

RESEARCH NOTES

STATEMENT ON ACCURACY

This compilation of daily news digests is designed to faithfully reproduce the content of the original email newsletters. We have sparingly made minor corrections for accuracy and clarity, leaving in place most of the original editorial choices. The original versions remain accessible through the urls listed under each daily digest (with exceptions as noted in the Online Access and URL Archival here below).

NOTE ON MISSING NEWSLETTERS

This project aims to provide a complete collection of all newsletters from 2018. It should therefore be noted that occasionally, a newsletter was never issued and is thus not contained in this report. One such date is Sunday, May 20, 2018. Additionally, our archives show the existence of a newsletter dated December 9, 2018; however, it is unclear whether it was ever published. Internal records suggest it was drafted but possibly never sent. We have included it here in the interest of providing the most complete record possible.

ONLINE ACCESS AND URL ARCHIVAL

For newsletters from July 2018 onwards, we have utilized the Wayback Machine (http://web.archive.org/), the web page archival service of the Internet Archive, to ensure long-term preservation and accessibility to the original newsletters as well as to most of the news linked within them. Through the Wayback Machine, users of this report can view the original newsletters, verify information, and conduct further research.

Newsletters from June 2018 and earlier include already-defunct URLs that cannot be archived. At that time, a different email distribution platform was used that generated long, custom redirect links through a now-discontinued service. Although many of the original news websites may remain active, the embedded links in these newsletters no longer resolve. Independent internet searches using the titles or keywords of the cited articles may instead yield access to the underlying sources.

ADDITIONAL OUTSIDE RESOURCES

For researchers interested in other publications that offer annual summaries of events in North Korea, the *Asian Survey* journal may be of interest to them. This report was prepared independently from the *Asian Survey*.

GUIDE TO MORE HRNK RESOURCES

HRNK's flagship long-form reports form the foundation of its research and advocacy. They cover political prison camps, satellite imagery analysis, forced labor, broader human rights abuses, the structure of North Korea's state and society, and the implications for the international community. These publications, widely cited by policymakers, scholars, and international bodies, are available on HRNK's website under the Documentation section: https://www.hrnk.org/documentation/.

HRNK's full collection of reports is also freely available at the Internet Archive's Open Library:
https://openlibrary.org/publishers/Committee_for_Human_Rights_in_North_Korea,
and indexed in Wikidata: https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q136028079.

For shorter, accessible commentary, HRNK publishes HRNK Insider:
https://www.hrnkinsider.org/, a blog featuring reflections on policy debates, updates on human rights issues, and submissions to bodies such as the United Nations and the U.S. Congress.

HRNK also runs *North Korea's Hidden Gulags*: https://www.nkhiddengulag.org/, a platform developed for its Young Professionals Writing Program. It features essays by interns that combine academic research with humanitarian perspectives on North Korea's prison camp system and related abuses.

In addition, U.S Congressional testimony by HRNK experts is available in Wikisource: https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Category:Works_by_the_Committee_for_Human_Rights_in_North_Korea and indexed in Wikidata: https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q136168156.

Together, these resources provide both in-depth research and accessible insights, reflecting HRNK's commitment to engaging a wide audience on North Korean human rights.

THE COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN
RIGHTS IN NORTH KOREA