

North Korea launches ballistic missile; draws flak from US, UN

WASHINGTON, NOV 29 /-/- North Korea today fired an intercontinental ballistic missile which flew about 1,000 km before splashing down in the Sea of Japan, the US said today, drawing criticism from the United States of America, United Nations and Japan.

This is the first such launch in two months which comes just a week after the US slapped fresh sanctions on the reclusive nation and declared it a state sponsor of terrorism. The US Department of Defence detected and tracked a North Korea missile launch today at about 1:17 pm EDT. Initial assessment indicates that this missile was an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), Pentagon Spokesman Col Rob Manning said in a statement.

The missile was launched from Sain Ni, North Korea, and travelled about 1000 km before splashing down in the Sea of Japan, within Japan's Economic Exclusion zone (EEZ), Manning said, adding that the Pentagon is

working with its interagency partners on a more detailed assessment of the launch. He, however, said that the missile launch did not pose any threat to the US or its allies. US President Donald Trump today spoke over phone with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and reaffirmed their commitment to combat the North Korea threat after a ballistic missile fired by the reclusive nation apparently landed in Japan's exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Barely a week after the US slapped fresh sanctions on North Korea and declared it a state sponsor

of terrorism, Pyongyang launched an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) which travelled about 1000 km before splashing down in the Sea of Japan. The unprecedented launch with Prime Minister Abe of Japan to address North Korea's launch of an ICBM that "can never be tolerated" and called for an emergency UN Security Council meeting. "We will never yield to any provocative act. We will maximise our pressure," on Pyongyang, Shinzo Abe told reporters, adding that the missile was thought to be an ICBM. Japan's defence minister said earlier the missile was thought to have landed within Japan's exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Meanwhile, top American lawmakers

condemned the North Korean missile test. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has strongly condemned North Korea's latest missile test and urged Pyongyang to "desist taking any further destabilising steps." This is a clear violation of Security Council resolutions and shows complete disregard for the united view of the international community," Guterres said in a statement on Tuesday. North Korea earlier fired an intercontinental ballistic missile that the Japanese defence ministry said landed in Japan's exclusive economic zone.

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A woman walks past a street monitor showing North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un in a news report about North Korea's missile launch, in Tokyo.—REUTERS

Missile test 'provocative action', says Kremlin

MOSCOW, NOV 29 /-/- North Korea's latest missile test today is a "provocative action" that will lead to further tensions, the Kremlin said, appealing for calm on all sides.

"Undoubtedly, another missile launch is a provocative action that provokes a further increase of tensions," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. "We condemn this launch and hope that all relevant sides remain calm, which is necessary to keep the situation on the Korean peninsula from following the worst scenario," he said. Pyongyang's launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) today snapped a two-month pause in testing and was, according to North Korea's state media, more so-

phisticated than any previously tested. It was the North's third successful ICBM test and poses a new challenge to US President Donald Trump who has vowed such a capability "won't happen." Russia and China have pushed for a road map to end the tensions over North Korea's weapons development, which would involve the US freezing its military drills in South Korea while Pyongyang would halt its programme. The Kremlin on Wednesday admitted there was no political solution on the horizon. "So far there are no occasions for significant optimism," Peskov said when asked whether Russia was discussing the road map with North Korea. (AFP)

Prince Harry to wed American actress Markle in May 2018

LONDON, NOV 28 /-/- Britain's Prince Harry will marry his American actress girlfriend Meghan Markle at St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle in May next year, Kensington Palace announced today.

The Royal Family will pay for the wedding, including the service, music, flowers and the reception. The 36-year-old Markle, a Protestant Christian, will be baptised and confirmed into the Anglican faith before the wedding, the palace said. The 'Suits' actress also intends to become a British citizen and will work towards it in the coming years. Prince Harry's communications secretary Jason Knaut described Windsor as a "very special place" for the couple, saying they had spent time there together since meeting in July 2016.

The announcement has confirmed the speculation that the couple was due to get married in May next year after Prince William and Kate Middleton's third child was born in April. The 33-year-old Harry, fifth in line to Britain's throne, in his first interview to the BBC after announcing his engagement on Monday said that he proposed to Markle over a "standard" dinner at their Nottingham Cottage home in Kensington Palace in London. Harry, one of the world's most eligible bachelors, said he and Markle got engaged earlier this month. The couple said that they had met on a blind date set up by a mutual friend in London last July and got to know each other while camping in Botswana. South Africa.

"He went down on one knee. It was just an amazing surprise," Markle said, adding that the experience was "so sweet and natural and very romantic." "The fact that I fell in love with Meghan so incredibly quickly was confirmation to me that all the stars were aligned, everything was just perfect," Harry said. Markle, daughter of an African-American mother and white American father, is already involved with humanitarian work and is a women's advocate with the UN.

Unprecedented power consolidation by Chinese Prez 'triggering anxiety': Hillary

BEIJING, NOV 29 /-/- The unprecedented consolidation of power by Chinese President Xi Jinping has triggered "anxiety" about "bullying" by a more assertive China among its neighbours, according to former US secretary of state Hillary Clinton.

The Democratic Party candidate in the last year's US presidential election also attacked President Donald Trump in dealing with China. Xi, regarded as the most powerful leader of modern China, heads the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC), the presidency and the military. The National Congress of the CPC last month has endorsed a second five-year term to him. "The path to legitimacy of leadership run through responsible cooperation, not through military build-up, contest in islands or bullying small neighbours," Clinton said while addressing a conference

of the Chinese news magazine 'Caixin' through a video link.

Clinton's speech was broadcast to hundreds of Chinese business executives and government researchers, the Hong Kong-based 'South China Morning Post' reported today. The 70-year-old Democratic Party candidate, who lost to Trump, took a tough stance in dealing with Beijing over issues such as sovereignty disputes in the South China Sea and human rights when she served as US secretary of state from 2009 to 2013.

China claims sovereignty over all of the South China Sea, Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Brunei and Taiwan have counter claims. China is also in dispute with Japan in the East China Sea. Beijing has built up and militarised many of the islands and reefs it controls in the South China Sea. Both areas are stated to be

rich in minerals, oil and other natural resources. They are also vital to global trade. Clinton also reiterated her concerns over human rights abuses in China.

The US leader also touched on a number of issues in Sino-US relations, including North Korea and fair treatment of US businesses in China.

"I said clearly that I want a peaceful rise of China," she was quoted as saying by the Post. Clinton said China and the US must work together to bring North Korea back to the negotiating table over its nuclear weapons programme. She said the US also wants to see "an end to discrimination against US companies and better protection for their intellectual properties, and preference for Chinese domestic firms and more opportunities for US goods, products and services to enter Chinese markets".

Australian Senate passes gay marriage bill in key step

SYDNEY, NOV 29 /-/- Australia's upper house senate today passed a bill paving the way for the legalisation of gay marriage, rejecting a conservative push to broaden religious freedom protections.

The law is expected to pass through the lower house of parliament comfortably before Christmas after most lawmakers agreed to honour "the will of Australians" who voted in favour of same-sex marriage in a recent nationwide postal vote. "We are a part of an act of acceptance, an act of inclusion, an act of respect, an act of celebration, a day when this Senate declares our acceptance of our LGBTIQ (lesbian, gay, bi, trans, intersex, queer) brothers and our sisters," said Australia's highest profile gay politician, Labor's Penny Wong.

"(The bill) says to so many Australians, this parliament, this country, accepts you for who you are. Your love is not lesser, and nor are you," Wong added. Senators voted 43-12 in favour of the bill after rejecting calls to extend protections that allow religious ministers to refuse to conduct gay weddings to other services providers, such as bakers and florists. After more than a decade of divisive debate, Australians have emphatically endorsed same-sex marriage with 60 per cent of the 12.7 million people who participated in the nationwide postal poll voting "yes" this month to gay unions.

Obama re-emerges on global stage with trip to Asia, France

WASHINGTON, NOV 29 /-/- Now a private citizen, former President Barack Obama has re-emerged on the global stage as he opened a three-country tour that includes meetings with the leaders of China and India, just as President Donald Trump courts those same world powers.

During a five-day trip, Obama will mix paid speeches with foreign leader meetings and even a town hall event for young people, the signature event that Obama became known for around the world during his eight years in office. He'll finish the trip in France, where he'll give one of several speeches planned during the trip. The tour continues a longstanding tradition of former US Presidents traveling overseas after leaving office, especially as they work to attract donations and other support for their foundations, libraries and presidential centers. But Obama's trip may garner particular attention, given that many foreign countries are still uncertain about Trump's foreign policy and may look to his predecessor to help explain America's current direction.

"Barack Obama is the great explainer to the rest of the world of what the heck is going on in America," said Douglas Brinkley, a presidential historian at Rice University. "He's a calming influence in a world that's teetering on frenzy right now. Obama arrives and it reminds them of old-style diplomacy and the dignity of statesmanship." Obama arrived in Shanghai on Tuesday, where he was to speak at a business conference before traveling to Beijing to speak at an education event. He also planned to meet there with Chinese President Xi Jinping, who hosted Trump for a high-profile visit only a few weeks earlier. Obama's office said they planned to discuss the global economy, climate change and other issues. Then the former President is off to India, where he'll meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi, give another speech and hold a town hall meeting hosted by Obama's foundation. Throughout his presidency, Obama often used the popular events in foreign countries to take questions about everything from politics and policy to his personal story and pop culture. Obama's office said roughly 280 young leaders planned to attend. Obama will give a final speech Saturday in Paris before returning to the United States. Aides didn't rule out the possibility that he could also see President Emmanuel Macron, whose

Facebook, Twitter to share details of Russia's meddling during Brexit

LONDON, NOV 29 /-/- Facebook and Twitter have agreed to share details with British authorities on Russia's interference in the Brexit referendum by using their platforms.

According to the Guardian on Wednesday, Facebook and Twitter will share those posts with the House of Commons media watchdog. "Facebook said it would respond with information by early December, while Twitter said it intends to share findings in the coming weeks," the report added. The information would give the UK a better idea of whether Russia tried to influence the vote on leaving the EU. Damian Collins, Chair of Parliament's Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee was quoted as saying:

Earlier in November, a group of data scientists found 156,252 Russian accounts on Twitter which shared those posts with the House of Commons media watchdog. "Facebook said it would respond with information by early December, while Twitter said it intends to share findings in the coming weeks," the report added. The information would give the UK a better idea of whether Russia tried to influence the vote on leaving the EU. Damian Collins, Chair of Parliament's Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee was quoted as saying:



Pham, one of the report authors, confirmed to TechCrunch that the majority of those Brexit tweets were posted on June 24, 2016, the day after the vote. Political events like the Brexit referendum and the US presidential election have observed the use of social bots in spreading fake news and misinformation, the data scientists observed. "From posting fewer than 1,000 tweets a day before June 13, the accounts - many of which are virulently pro-Putin - posted 39,000 tweets on June 23-24," the report said. The 126 million of its users in the US might have seen ads produced and circulated by Russian operatives. According to Facebook

GOOD LUCK

GaneshaSpeaks.com - Your daily horoscope and more. Includes sections for Sagittarius, Scorpio, Capricorn, Aquarius, Gemini, Libra, Cancer, and Virgo. Each section provides a brief daily forecast.

KIDS CORNER

IT'S RAINING HARD, FRED? WE DON'T WANT TO GO OUT IN THAT, DO WE, FRED? THE FOOTBALL CHANNEL IT IS THEN, FRED? Includes a cartoon illustration of a boy and a girl talking.

WordWheel

Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or anticlockwise. Solution No. 49: HIGHLAND.

5x5 SAIS

Insert the missing letters to complete ten words - five across the grid and five down. Solution No. 48: SWAPS, PILOT, AROSE, TENSE, EDGED.

WORD-BUILDER

How many words of three or more letters, including plurals, can you make from the five letters, using each letter only once? Solution: 48 words.