



North Korea's Kim Jong-un during a phone call (file photo)

Kim changes NKorean phone numbers

Seoul
Paranoid Kim Jong-un has changed every phone number in North Korea - after a telephone directory was smuggled abroad.

The jumpy dictator has ordered engineers to bring in new numbers for everyone listed in the book - which included Kim's security services.

During the summer, an internal directory containing numbers for government departments, as well as other private lines was smuggled out, causing a headache for the authorities.

It ended up in China and later pages were published on news website *Daily NK*. Several people have since been arrested on suspicion of treason.

Now the outlet has reported that secretive Kim has shut down all the landline telephone services - causing havoc for merchants.

And it could take six months to make the changes.

A source told *Daily NK*: "The directory is about 500 pages long and was published in 2003. It contains the phone numbers of all department offices and security desks across the country."

"There are numbers for various companies and their managers, Workers' Party offices, judicial offices and criminal hotlines, prosecutors' offices, and many other offices and government departments."

According to another source, traders are facing difficulties with the outage as they can no longer easily coordinate business with partners in other regions. They are now being forced to use costly mobile phones.

Another source in North Hamgyong Province added: "Many are feeling uneasy now, because in the markets in South Pyongan Province,

we have not been able to contact other merchants in the Pyongsong market.

"Landline phone services are preferred among merchants due to their cheaper usage fees over mobile services, so this has really caused us a lot of problems."

Even workers in state-owned companies are complaining, demanding a speedy return of landline services as they fear the increased costs associated with mobile phone usage.

Workers away on business trips must also now use personal mobile phones in order to keep their managers updated on their trade activities.

People have been heard complaining about the country's "turtle pace" compared to the rest of the world, suspecting that it may be six months before service is restored. (*thesun.co.uk*)

Ancient Biblical city found intact underwater

Athens
Archaeologists have uncovered "mind-blowing" architecture almost perfectly intact from the ancient Biblical city of Corinth - despite being wiped out by a devastating earthquake 1,400 years ago.

The Greek city, which was rebuilt in 44BC by Roman Emperor Julius Caesar, holds major significance for Christians.

Jesus's disciple Paul is said to have visited there and wrote two letters about his time in



Baiae was an ancient Roman town on the northwest shore of the Gulf of Naples

Corinth - featured in the New Testament.

Just days ago, another group of archaeologists

in Italy were amazed to discover the historic resort of Baiae in perfect condition. (*dailystar.co.uk*)

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North Korea's UN ambassador says US must be held accountable if anyone is to be blamed for possession of nuclear weapons by his country. Do you agree?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Cant Say



"Our possession of nuclear weapons was an individual self-defensive means of defending our sovereignty and rights of resistance and development from the US nuclear threat and if anyone is to be blamed for it, the US must be held accountable."

Ja Song-nam
North Korea's UN ambassador

Rest in sight

Philippines tropical Storm kills 3



A tropical storm barrelled into central Philippines, killing at least three people and injuring at least six

US woman charged using Bitcoin to fund IS

US prosecutors have charged a New York woman with using Bitcoin and other crypto-currencies to send funds to the Islamic State group.

Strong quake hits Indonesia's Java, kills 3

A powerful magnitude 6.5 earthquake struck the island of Java in Indonesia, with authorities reporting three deaths and damage to hundreds of buildings.

'Youthquake' named Oxford's word of 2017

"Youthquake" was crowned as Oxford Dictionaries' word of the year 2017, following a five-fold increase in usage.

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Billionaire founder of drug firm's death 'suspicious'



Honey and Barry Sherman

Toronto

Canada's global pharmaceutical giant Apotex has confirmed the death of its billionaire founder Barry Sherman, after police reported two "suspicious" deaths at the couple's upscale Toronto home.

Police did not identify the victims, who were found on Friday, but Canadian media named them as Sherman and his wife Honey, prominent Canadians whose deaths

sparked an outpouring of grief among the country's political elite.

"We've been informed of the tragic news that Barry and Honey Sherman have unexpectedly passed away," said the Twitter account of Apotex, which Sherman founded in 1974.

The company, which made its name producing generic drugs, grew to employ more than 11,000 people worldwide. (AFP)

Say cheetah!



Some 'Kodak moments' are down to unintentional perfect timing. This picture of a cheetah appears to show the animal grinning from ear to ear. The photograph was shot by Saeed Al Jafar, 48, from Kuwait, in the Masai Mara, Kenya. (Source: Caters News Agency)

Rahul Gandhi extends family grip on Congress

New Delhi

India's Rahul Gandhi took over yesterday as president of the main opposition Congress, becoming the sixth member of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty to head the party that has ruled the country for much of its independent history.

Fireworks erupted over the party headquarters in New Delhi drowning out the voice of his mother Sonia Gandhi as she handed over the reins of power to her 47-year-old son, who now faces the tough task of ousting the right-wing

government of premier Narendra Modi.

Rahul, wearing a long flowing white kurta, smiled and waved from the dais adorned with posters of his late grandmother and father, former prime ministers Indira and Rajiv Gandhi.

"I accept this position with the deepest humility, with the knowledge that I will always be walking in the shadow of giants," Gandhi said in his acceptance speech which quickly became an attack on Modi and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). (AFP)