

Trump 'will quit Kim talks if not fruitful'



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, left, listens as President Donald Trump speaks during a news conference at Trump's private Mar-a-Lago club

Washington

President Donald Trump said that although he's looking ahead optimistically to a historic summit meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un he could still pull out if he feels it's "not going to be fruitful."

Trump said that CIA Director Mike Pompeo and Kim "got along really well" in their recent secret meeting, and he declared, "We've never been in a position like this" to address worldwide concerns over North Korea's nuclear weapons.

But speaking alongside Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Wednesday, after the allies met at Trump's Florida resort, he made clear that he'd still be ready to pull the plug on what is being

called an extraordinary meeting between the leaders of longtime adversaries.

"If I think that if it's a meeting that is not going to be fruitful we're not going to go. If the meeting when I'm there is not fruitful I will respectfully leave the meeting," Trump told a news conference. He also said that a U.S.-led "maximum pressure" campaign of tough economic sanctions on North Korea would continue until the isolated nation "denuclearizes."

Abe echoed the sentiment. "Just because North Korea is responding to dialogue, there should be no reward. Maximum pressure should be maintained," he said.

Trump has said his summit with Kim, with

whom he traded bitter insults and threats last year as North Korea conducted nuclear and missile tests, could take place by early June, although the venue has yet to be decided. It would be the first such leadership summit between the two nations after six decades of hostility following the Korean War.

Other than the threat posed to by North Korea's weapons of mass destruction, another issue overhanging the summit plans is the fate of three Americans detained there. Trump said that was under negotiation and there was a "good chance" of winning their release, but he wouldn't say whether that was a precondition for sitting down with Kim. (AP)

Fuzzy crab, shiny-eyed shrimp discovered on Java expedition

Singapore

A hermit crab, a shiny-eyed shrimp and a crab with fuzzy spines are among over a dozen new species discovered in a deep-sea expedition off the Indonesian island of Java, scientists said.

The team from the National University of Singapore (NUS) and the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) carried out the expedition for 14 days between March and early April.

The area covered included a long stretch of the Indian Ocean off Java's southern coast as well as the Sunda Strait that separates the island from Sumatra.



Three new species of spider crabs were discovered during the expedition

"This is a part of the Indian Ocean that has been never been sampled for deep-sea animals so we really didn't know what

to find," said Peter Ng, a crab expert and head of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum at NUS. (AFP)

#PollToday



Do you think the talk between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un will be fruitful?

Yes No Cant Say



"The armistice that has dragged on for 65 years must come to an end. The signing of a peace treaty must be pursued after an end to the war is declared."

Moon Jae-in
South Korean President

Rest in sight

Japanese volcano erupts after 250 years



A volcano in southern Japan erupted for the first time in 250 years, spewing steam and ash hundreds of metres into the air, as authorities warned locals not to approach the mountain.

US Senate allows babies in chamber

In a rare move, the US Senate has voted unanimously to allow the babies of its members into the chamber.

Ex-911 operator jailed in US for hanging up

A former 911 operator in Houston, who hung up on people calling for emergency services, was sentenced to 10 days in jail and 18 months of probation.

Nigerian police recover stolen mace

Nigeria's police have recovered a ceremonial mace stolen from the country's parliament when at least three men burst onto the Senate floor and grabbed it while lawmakers looked on.

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Queen Elizabeth II wants son Charles to lead Commonwealth

London

Britain's Queen Elizabeth II said yesterday she hoped her son and heir Prince Charles would take on leadership of the Commonwealth, answering some who argue the position should be rotated around member states.

"It is my sincere wish that the Commonwealth will continue to offer stability and continuity for future generations and will decide

that one day the Prince of Wales should carry on the important work started by my father in 1949," the queen said at the formal opening of the Commonwealth heads of Government Meeting.

The meeting, taking place in Britain for the first time in 20 years, is seen as a chance to reconnect with former British colonies and revitalize the loose alliance of 53 Commonwealth countries ahead of Brexit. (Reuters)

Britain's Queen heartbroken over death of her last corgi



Queen Elizabeth is seen walking in the grounds of Windsor Castle, in England with four of her dogs- clockwise from top left corgi Willow, dorgis Vulcan and Candy, and Holly

London

The last of Queen Elizabeth's beloved corgi dogs has died at the age of 14, the Daily Mail newspaper reported.

Willow, who was the 14th generation descended from the first corgi, Susan, owned by the 91-year-old queen since her 18th birthday, was put to sleep at Windsor Castle on Sunday, the paper said, leaving the queen heartbroken.

"The queen has mourned

every one of her corgis over the years, but she has been more upset about Willow's death than any of them," a Buckingham Palace source told the Mail.

"It is probably because Willow was the last link to her parents and a pastime that goes back to her own childhood. It really does feel like the end of an era."

Buckingham Palace declined to comment, saying it was a private matter. (Reuters)

China air force again circles Taiwan in 'sacred mission'

Beijing

Chinese aircraft have again flown around self-ruled Taiwan in what China's air force yesterday called a "sacred mission", as Taiwan denounced its big neighbour over what it called a policy of military intimidation.

Taiwan, claimed by Beijing as Chinese territory, is one of China's most sensitive issues and a potential military flashpoint.

China has ramped up

military exercises around Taiwan in the past year, including flying bombers and other military aircraft around the island.

More recently, China has been incensed by comments by Taiwan Premier William Lai that it deemed were in support of Taiwan independence, though Taipei says Lai's position remains that the status quo between Taiwan and the mainland should be maintained. (Reuters)