



# N Korea condemns flag, Kim photo burning

Members of conservative groups burn an image of North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un during a rally

**Seoul**  
**N**orth Korea Tuesday strongly criticized the burning of its national flag and photos of its leader Kim Jong-un during a protest rally against its planned participation in the upcoming Winter Olympic Games in PyeongChang in South Korea.

In an article published by the *Korean Central News Agency (KCNA)*, Pyongyang accused South Korean conservatives of unscrupulously "letting out reckless remarks chilling the hardly-won atmosphere of improved inter-Korean relations."

The article also accused leaders of the Korean Patriots Party, a far-right party that burned North Korean flags

and leader Kim Jong-un's photos during Monday's rally, of leading these acts that they described as unforgivable atrocities.

The article also dismissed claims by these groups that the North agreed to participate in the games to buy itself time to complete its nuclear program, disrupt the South Korea-U.S. alliance and find a way out of United Nations imposed economic sanctions.

South Korea's presidential office on Tuesday also released a statement seeking public support for North Korea's participation in the PyeongChang Games, and reiterated president Moon Jae-in's position that it will bring about stability and peace on the Korean

peninsula. The statement urged that the North's delegation for the Games, which are scheduled to begin on Feb. 9, be welcomed warmly into the country.

Tension between North and South Korea - which have technically remained at war for more than 65 years - have escalated over the last two years owing to repeated weapons tests by North Korea.

After two years of suspended talks and no diplomatic contact, the two countries earlier this month agreed to march under the same flag for the winter Olympics and to hold military dialogues in the future to avoid border friction. (EFE)

## Japan's latest overtime example: Xiang Xiang

**Tokyo**  
**B**y popular demand, Tokyo's new panda cub Xiang Xiang is working extra hours from yesterday, the latest example of overtime in a country famous for its hard-working "salarymen."

Ueno zoo's first baby panda since 1988 will be on display for an extra two hours every day until the end of January and working a full seven-hour day from February to cater to the thousands of fans of the cuddly celebrity.

Munching on bamboo shoots and nuzzling her mother, the bright-eyed seven-month-old has been the object of major media attention, with visitors clad in panda paraphernalia



Xiang Xiang the panda

flocking to see her since her first public appearance in December. More than a quarter of a million fans entered a lottery to get a first glimpse but zoo officials initially limited visitors to 400 per day during a

three-hour window.

Until the end of January however, panda fans can get a first-come, first-served ticket to see Xiang Xiang, who will be on display for five hours a day. (AFP)

### #PollToday



**Do you think Pakistan knows about Taliban leaders living in the country, but are resisting to take action against them?**

Yes  No  Cant Say



"The violence in Afrin disrupts what was a relatively stable area in Syria and distracts from the international effort to defeat ISIS. We are calling all parties to remain focused on defeating ISIS."

Jim Mattis  
 US Defense Secretary

### Rest in sight

**Indian court rejects bid to ban film**



India's top court rejected a final bid by two states to ban a Bollywood film about a mythical Hindu queen which sparked violent protests by radical groups.

**Bus, truck collision kills 5 in Pakistan**

At least five people were killed and 15 others injured in a collision between a bus and a truck in Pakistan's port city Karachi.

**US urges Pakistan to act against Taliban**

The US has urged Pakistan to immediately take action against the Taliban, after the militant group claimed last week's attack on a landmark hotel in Kabul that claimed 22 lives.

**German pupil 'killed by classmate'**

A pupil at a school in western Germany was killed in a stabbing attack by a classmate

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## Hotel, nightclub evacuated after London gas leak

**London**

**A**most 1,500 people were evacuated from a hotel and nightclub in central London overnight and two train stations were closed following a gas leak, authorities said yesterday.

The area was cordoned off throughout the morning and staff in some nearby offices who arrived for work were later evacuated, an AFP photographer said.

"A ruptured gas main was discovered using detection

equipment and high levels of natural gas were detected in the atmosphere," a London Fire Brigade spokesman said.

"As a precaution, approximately 1,450 people have been evacuated. They are from a hotel and a nightclub."

Charing Cross and Waterloo East train stations, which bring commuters into the capital, were also closed, while Underground trains were not stopping at Charing Cross. (AFP)

## Swollen Seine halts trains as France braces for floods



A man stands by the flooded banks of the river Seine in Paris near the Eiffel tower as the Seine level has risen

**Paris**

**F**rance braced for floods yesterday as the Rhine threatened to overflow and the rapidly rising Seine forced Paris authorities to halt trains on a busy commuter line.

Heavy rains have lashed France for days, leaving 30 departments across the country on flood alert. Some towns and villages in the east are already inundated, leaving homes and shops filled with muddy water.

The Seine, running through the centre of the French capital, had already burst its banks in some places Monday, growing

into a powerful muddy torrent that has submerged riverside parks and footpaths.

It was set to reach 6.10 metres (20 feet) Friday -- a peak last reached in 2016 when floods sent riverside museums scrambling to move artworks from their basements, which was the highest level since 1982.

The height of the Seine is measured not from the riverbed but from a point located at the Austerlitz bridge -- but 6.10 metres is five or six times the normal level of one to two metres. (AFP)

## Hawaii governor: Lost login delayed missile correction

**Honolulu**

**H**awaii's governor did not correct a false missile alert sent earlier this month for 15 minutes because he forgot his Twitter username and password.

David Ige admitted on Monday he knew within two minutes of the alert being sent to phones at 8.07am on January 13 that it was a false alarm. But it took him 15 more minutes to convey this to the public, leaving millions

fearing they were about to be incinerated by a nuclear warhead.

Ige told the Honolulu Star Advertiser this was because he does not know the username and password to his own Twitter account.

So instead of being able to reassure the public himself, he was forced to contact the staff who usually run the account and have them do it instead, causing the delay. (MailOnline)