

# NKorea crash kills 32 tourists



A section of the Pyongyang to Kaesong highway is shown in 2016.

## Beijing

**T**hirty-two Chinese tourists and four North Koreans died when a bus crashed off a bridge in North Korea, China's foreign ministry said yesterday, with two Chinese nationals in critical condition.

Chinese tourists make up about 80 per cent of all foreign visitors to North Korea, says a South Korean think-tank, the Korea Maritime Institute, which estimates that tourism generates revenue of about \$44 million each year for the isolated country.

Chinese diplomats visited the scene of Sunday's crash in North Hwanghae province, the foreign ministry said.

State television's main Chinese-language news channel showed images of a crashed blue bus with its wheels in the air, in footage taken in

pouring rain in the dark.

It also showed at least one person being treated in hospital.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang told reporters he could not give additional details of the accident as an investigation was under way.

Chinese President Xi Jinping had asked the Foreign Ministry and Chinese embassy to take "all necessary means" to handle the accident, the ministry said in a later statement.

In a separate statement, China's health ministry said it was sending a team of medical experts, along with equipment and drugs, to North Korea, to help treat survivors.

The North Hwanghae province that borders South Korea is home to Kaesong, an ancient Korean capital

thronged by tourists.

North Korea is a popular, if offbeat, tourist destination for Chinese, especially those from the country's northeast.

China said more than 237,000 Chinese visited in 2012, but stopped publishing the figures in 2013.

China is North Korea's most important economic and diplomatic backer, despite Beijing's anger at Pyongyang's repeated nuclear and missile tests and support for strong United Nations sanctions against North Korea.

North and South Korea are in the final stages of preparations for a summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-In at the border truce village of Panmunjom on Friday. (Reuters)

# Cambodia river dolphins makes historic rebound

## Phnom Penh

**T**he population of Cambodia's critically endangered river dolphin is growing for the first time in decades, conservations said yesterday, hailing a major turnaround for the freshwater species.

The Irrawaddy dolphins, known for their bulging foreheads and short beaks, once swam through much of the Mekong river but in recent decades have been limited to a 190 km (118 mile) stretch from central Cambodia to its



Conservationists have hope for the future of Irrawaddy dolphin northern border with Laos.

The population has been in steady decline since the first census was taken in 1997, dropping from 200 that year to 80 in 2015 due to habitat

loss and destructive fishing practices.

But new births, including three calves in 2018, and a decline in deaths has put the species on path to recovery. (AFP)

## #PollToday



If Kim agrees to abandon North Korea's nuclear programme, do you think that could be a threat for the country?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Cant Say



"We fully agreed that we will never accept a nuclear-armed North Korea. We shared the view that (the North's announcement) made no reference to the abandonment of (the North's) nuclear programme"

-Taro Kono

Japanese Foreign Minister

## Rest in sight

### US hunts semi nude gunman



US police hunted a semi-nude gunman who shot four people dead at a waffle restaurant after he fled from a "hero" who disarmed him.

### Former Malawi pres returns from exile

Former Malawi President Joyce Banda will return home after spending over three years in self-imposed exile because of graft allegations.

### Obama to deliver Mandela lecture

Former US president Barack Obama will deliver the annual Nelson Mandela memorial lecture at a 4,000-capacity arena in South Africa's Johannesburg in July.

### Paris attack suspect jailed in Belgium

A Belgian court sentenced Paris attacks suspect Salah Abdeslam and a co-accused to 20 years in prison for trying to kill police during a shootout in Brussels in 2016.

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## Underwater survey reveals secrets of Aussie WWI wreck

### Sydney

**R**esearchers yesterday voiced renewed hope of discovering why Australia's first submarine sank, after a detailed underwater survey of the long-lost wreck off Papua New Guinea led by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen.

HMAS AE1, the first of two E Class submarines built for the Royal Australian Navy, vanished on September 14, 1914 near the Duke of York Islands.

The disappearance of

the sub, carrying 35 crew members from Australia, Britain and New Zealand, was the nation's most enduring military mystery until the wreck was found in December following 12 previous expeditions.

The new survey, conducted earlier this month with Allen's research vessel the R/V Petrel, used a remotely-operated vehicle to inspect the sub and collect more than 8,500 high-resolution photos and several hours of video footage. (AFP)

## S.Korea halts broadcasts before summit with North



A South Korean soldier stands near the loudspeakers near the border area between South Korea and North Korea in Yeoncheon, South Korea.

### Seoul

**S**outh Korea halted anti-North Korea propaganda broadcasts across their tense border yesterday 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.

Seoul had been blasting propaganda messages and K-pop songs from border loudspeakers since the North's fourth nuclear test in early 2016. The North

quickly matched the South's action with its own border broadcasts and launches of balloons carrying anti-South Korea leaflets across the border.

South Korea turned off its broadcasts yesterday to ease military tensions and establish an environment for peaceful talks, Seoul's Defence Ministry said in a statement. It said Seoul hopes the decision will lead to both sides stopping slander and propaganda activities. (AP)

## Woman fined \$500 for free airline snack at customs

### Colorado

**U**S customs charged a Delta passenger US\$500 for an apple the airline gave out as a free snack on a flight from France.

Crystal Tadlock was given an apple sealed in a wrapper on her flight from Paris on Wednesday. She was not hungry at the time and figured it would be a good snack for her second leg back to Denver, she told a local media station in Colorado.

Tadlock likely passed by numerous signs and alerts from customs warning of items that must be declared

at her port of entry in Minneapolis. This includes fresh fruit, Customs and Border Patrol says.

A random search brought Tadlock in contact with a customs agent who found the contraband apple.

"He had asked me if my trip to France was expensive and I said, 'yeah.' I didn't really get why he was asking that question, and then he said 'It's about to get a lot more expensive after I charge you US\$500,'" Tadlock told the news station. (The Washington Post)