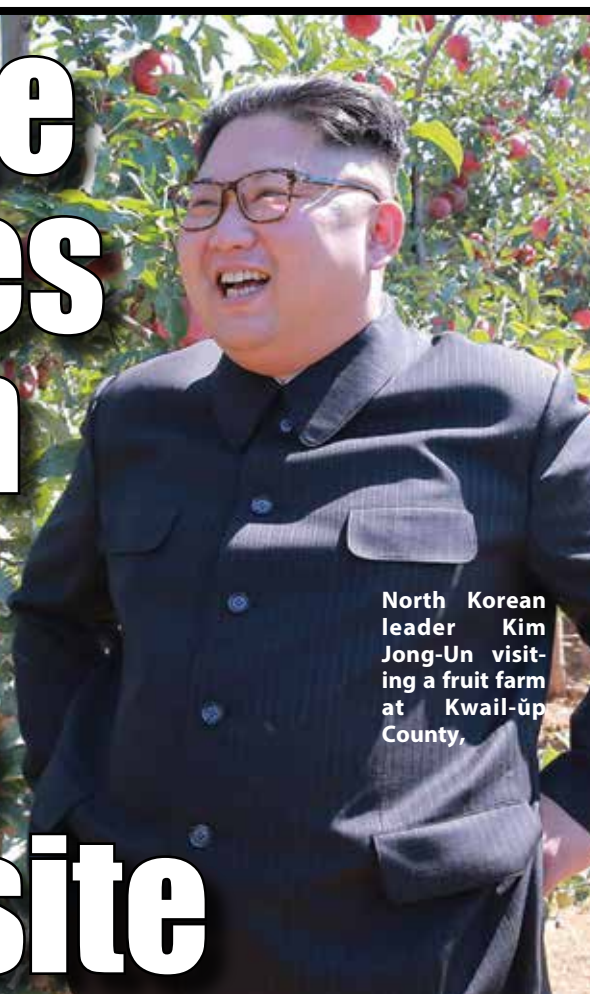


Quake rattles North near nuke test site



North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un visiting a fruit farm at Kwail-ŭp County.

Beijing
A shallow 3.5-magnitude earthquake hit North Korea near the country's nuclear test site Saturday, US seismologists said, in what Chinese experts said was a "suspected explosion", but Seoul deemed a "natural earthquake".

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) said the quake struck around 20 kilometres (12 miles) away from the North's nuclear test site, where earlier this month Pyongyang detonated its sixth and largest device, which it claimed to be a hydrogen

bomb capable of being launched onto a missile.

"This event occurred in the area of the previous North Korean Nuclear tests. We cannot conclusively confirm at this time the nature (natural or human-made) of the event. The depth is poorly constrained and has been held to 5 km by the seismologist," USGS said in a statement.

Regional experts differed on their analysis of the tremor, with the China Earthquake Network Centre (CENC) service calling it a "suspected explosion" while

Seoul's Korea Meteorological Agency (KMA) judged it a "natural quake".

"There is no possibility that this could be an artificial quake," Yonhap news agency quoted a KMA official as saying.

The North's last test, on September 3, was the country's most powerful detonation, triggering a much stronger 6.3-magnitude quake that was felt across the border in China.

A second tremor soon after that test was possibly caused by a "cave-in", CENC said at the time. (AFP)

Pyongyang mounts show of support for Kim Jong-Un



Students march during a mass rally on Kim Il-Sung square in Pyongyang

Pyongyang
Tens of thousands of Pyongyang residents were gathered in the capital's Kim Il-Sung Square yesterday to laud leader Kim Jong-Un's denunciation of US President Donald Trump.

Such set-piece rallies, organised by the authorities, are a regular feature of political life

in Pyongyang, and are intended as a physical demonstration of popular support for the leadership.

Students in white shirts and red ties held up the red flag of the ruling Workers' Party, with a yellow ink brush representing intellectuals, a hammer for the workers, and a sickle for the peasantry.

Ranks of workers and

residents listened, their fists clenched, as speakers repeated Kim's denigration of Trump as "mentally deranged" and a "dotard".

The US president dubbed Kim "Rocket Man" in a speech at the United Nations last week in which he threatened to "totally destroy" the North if it attacked the US or its allies.

#PollToday



Despite opposition from Turkey, Iraq and Iran as well as the United States, Iraqi Kurdish leader Massud Barzani insisted that the referendum would go ahead. Do you think the vote, as claimed by Turkey, will produce "civil war" and will "have a cost".
 Yes No Cant Say



"It would be sensible, reasonable and democratic to stop and say, there won't be a referendum, which they know won't happen,"

Mariano Rajoy, Spain's Prime Minister told Catalan separatist leaders

Rest in sight

Puerto Rico rushes to evacuate thousands



Authorities in Puerto Rico rushed Saturday to evacuate tens of thousands of people living downriver from a dam said to be in danger of collapsing because of flooding from Hurricane Maria.

US to notify refugees of acceptance in Australia deal

The United States will notify a first batch of 54 refugees of their acceptance to be resettled under a deal with Australia within days, a US official said Friday.

Rio favela back under control

Security officials said the giant Rocinha favela in Rio de Janeiro was back under control yesterday after hundreds of soldiers and police were sent to battle heavily armed drug traffickers.

Bangladesh says Rohingya influx grinds to a halt

The flood of Rohingya refugees into Bangladesh has come to a virtual halt, Dhaka officials said yesterday.

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Prince Harry visits hospital ahead of Invictus Games



Prince Harry poses with U.S. first lady Melania Trump for the first time as she leads the USA team delegation ahead of the Invictus Games 2017

Toronto

Prince Harry met with staff and patients at a Toronto mental health facility also visited by Princess Diana, hours before the opening ceremony of the third Invictus Games yesterday.

The British royal was scheduled to officially open the games -- for disabled or wounded soldiers and veterans -- alongside US First Lady Melania Trump and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau Saturday night.

As on Friday, Prince Harry -- dressed in a blue blazer and beige pants -- spent time with athletes Saturday, following

a tour of Toronto's Center for Addiction and Mental Health, where his mother Diana visited 26 years ago.

The prince, who was not joined by girlfriend Meghan Markle, met hospital staff and young patients before greeting fans and posing for pictures outside.

Hours before the opening ceremony, speculation mounted over whether the British royal would arrive at the event with Markle.

Since the "Suits" actress, 36, told Vanity Fair the couple are "in love" last month, fans and the press have been eagerly awaiting an official appearance.



Prince Harry greets children as he leaves The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

At least 3 killed by pirates in Nigeria's oil region

Warri

Sea pirates shot dead at least three people, including a policeman, in an ambush in southern Nigeria's restive oil region, police said Saturday.

Bayelsa state police spokesman Asinim Butswat said the incident happened on Friday.

"A tugboat, towing a barge with a combined team of policemen from the Nigerian Inland Waterways, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corp (NSCDC), and civilians on board was attacked by suspected sea pirates at Ekebiri Waterways," he said.

"A reinforced team arrived shortly and rescued one policeman, three NSCDC

personnel and four civilians," he said.

"However, a policeman, one NSCDC personnel and a civilian were shot dead by the sea pirates, one policeman is still missing," he said.

Other groups gave different reports on those killed in the ambush.

Area NSCDC head Desmond Agu told AFP two police and one paramilitary officer were killed while three other security personnel were injured in the attack.

An official of the Nigerian secret police who did not want to be named, said four security personnel were killed.