

# Car wars begin

**Taormina**

**US President** Donald Trump has launched a salvo against German car exports to the United States, officials confirmed yesterday, in the latest sign of simmering transatlantic trade tensions.

Speaking after German media reported the US president as having described the Germans as "bad, very bad", European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker tried to play down the latest spat

to erupt since Trump came to power pursuing a protectionist agenda.

Suggesting the comment attributed to Trump had been mistranslated, Juncker confirmed that Trump had raised Germany's large trade surplus with the US in the automobile sector during trade talks in Brussels on Thursday.

"I don't want to

comment but I have to," said the head of the EU executive, who is in overall charge of the giant economic bloc's trading relationship with the rest of the world.

"It is not true the president was aggressive in his approach. This a translation problem," he said in Italy at a G7 summit attended by Trump, German Chancellor Angela Merkel

and other leaders.

"He did not say the Germans were behaving bad. He said we have a problem. It was not aggressive."

Trump's economic advisor Gary Cohn also insisted the exchanges had been amicable but that an important issue for the new administration had been put on the table.

"He said they're very bad on trade but he doesn't have a

problem with Germany," Cohn told reporters, saying Trump had highlighted his father's German heritage.

"He (Trump) said: 'I don't have a problem with Germany, I have a problem with German trade,'" Cohn insisted.

According to the German media reports Trump had complained bitterly about the likes of Volkswagen, BMW and Mercedes selling millions of vehicles to the US and vowed to stop it. (AFP)

## ArcelorMittal tipped to take over Italy's Ilva



**Milan**

**A consortium** led by global steel giant ArcelorMittal is tipped to take over Italy's troubled Ilva steelworks, one of the most polluting industrial sites in Europe, a source said yesterday. The choice made by the administrators in charge of Ilva must still be approved by the government's economic development ministry.

Ilva was nationalised and placed under special administration in 2015 after the Riva family, which owned it, was accused of failing to prevent toxic emissions from spewing out across the southern city of Taranto.

ArcelorMittal, allied with Italian steelmaker Marcegaglia, was up against a consortium made up of the Indian group Jindal South West Steel, Italian specialist steelmaker Arvedi, the Italian state's CDP investment bank and Delfin, the holding company of Italian businessman Leonardo Del Vecchio.

The ArcelorMittal-led offer was nearly 2 billion euros (\$2.2 billion), according to Italian media. (AFP)



**Trump-Germany salvo raises EU-US trade fears**

From left : Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, U.S. President Donald Trump, Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni, French President Emmanuel Macron, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May, European Council President Donald Tusk and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker sit around a table during the G7 Summit of the Heads of State and of Government in Taormina, Sicily

## Cool Trends

### South Korea tests Olympic bullet train

A new high-speed rail line linking South Korea's capital Seoul and the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympic venues has been completed and is in its "testing phase", according to Olympic organisers

**KOREA TRAIN EXPRESS (KTX) SANCHEON**  
Built by Hyundai Rotem, based on French TGV Réseau



Maximum operating speed: **300km/h** Passenger capacity: **410 seats**  
Total length of train: **201m (15 cars)** Weight: **406 tonnes**

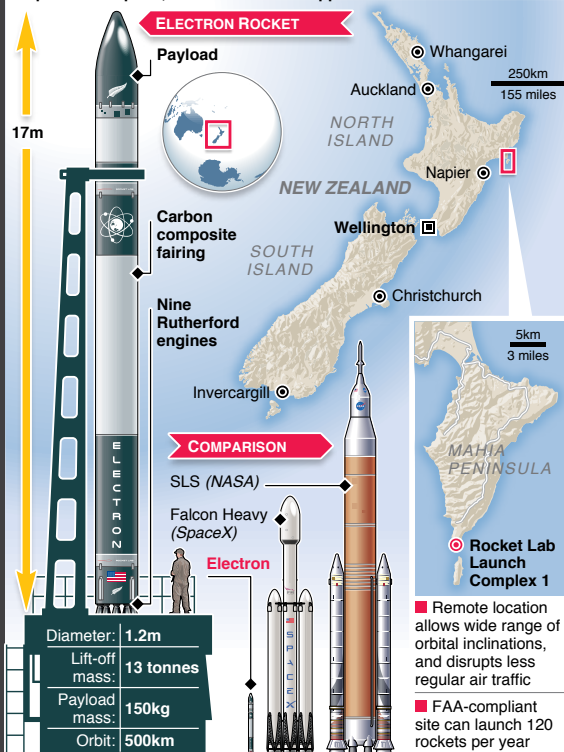


Sources: Inside The Games, PyeongChang 2018

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### New Zealand hosts first private space launch

U.S. company **Rocket Lab** has launched a rocket from New Zealand, the world's first from a private facility, showing it is possible to provide frequent, affordable launch opportunities to low Earth orbit



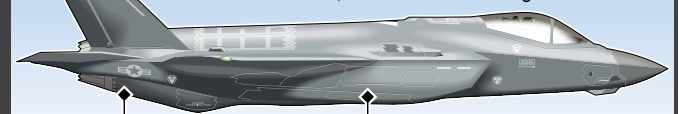
Sources: Rocket Lab, Twitter, wire agencies

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### F-35 to make Paris Air Show debut

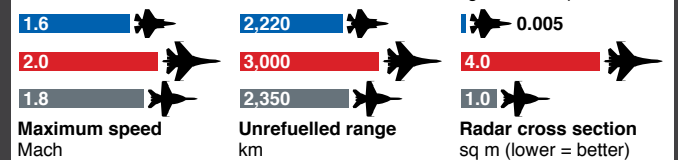
The U.S. Air Force's F-35 stealth fighter is scheduled to appear at this year's Paris Air Show, with Lockheed Martin pilots performing the first aerial demonstration in the skies above Le Bourget

**LOCKHEED MARTIN F-35A LIGHTNING II**  
U.S. Air Force variant, entered service in August 2016



**Powerplant:** Pratt & Whitney F135 turbofan, up to 191kN thrust  
**Internal weapons:** Two 900kg bombs, two air-to-air missiles, 25mm cannon

**Performance** ■ F-35A ■ Sukhoi Su-30 ■ Boeing F/A-18 Super Hornet



**POSSIBLE AEROBATIC MANOEUVRES**  
**Aileron roll:** Full 360° rotation about plane's longitudinal axis

**Cobra:** Pilot momentarily raises nose of plane to vertical position or slightly beyond before recovering  
Speed slows to about 150km/h

**High alpha:** Pilot pitches nose upwards while maintaining slow, level flight

Sources: Aviation Week, Global Security, Kable, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy

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