

Chris, Katherine are living together

Actor Chris Pratt and girlfriend Katherine Schwarzenegger, daughter of veteran actor Arnold Schwarzenegger, are living in together. **P14**

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THE DAILY **tribune**



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Protracted shutdown



Long lines are seen at a Transportation Security Administration (TSA) security checkpoint at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport amid the partial federal government shutdown, in Atlanta, Georgia, yesterday. Nearly 90 per cent of Americans who oppose an expansion of the border wall say Congress should not pass a bill including Mr Trump's request for wall funding if it is the only way to end the shutdown. Of those who back the wall, nearly three-quarters find it equally unacceptable for a deal to exclude wall funding.

Palestine, Syria dominate Arab ministers' meeting

Beirut

The concerns of the people of Palestine, Syria, Iraq and Yemen were the main topic of the opening session of a meeting of Arab ministers held in preparation for the Arab development summit on Sunday in Beirut, Arab News reported last night.

The meeting in the Lebanese capital's Phoenicia Hotel saw unprecedented security measures covering a large area, including the summit's venues and the accommodation of guests and journalists.

Only three presidents have so far confirmed their attendance at the summit – those of Lebanon,

“We're waiting for states that requested amendments to the initiative.”

RAFIC CHLALA

Somalia and Mauritania.

However, the Arab League's Assistant Secretary-General Hossam Zaki called for “separating between the attendance and the summit itself, and the importance of its topics and the resolutions it will produce.”

During a media briefing, Zaki said: “The attendance of Arab leaders will undoubtedly increase the importance of the

summit, but their absence, which has spurred media commentary, does not diminish the importance of the topics addressed by the summit – and many summits are not attended by presidents.”

The summit's media spokesman Rafic Chlala told Arab News: “The presidents who decided not to attend the summit have sent their delegates, which means the summit hasn't failed, as some are trying to portray it.”

He said Lebanese President Michel Aoun will propose at the summit “a funding project for the reconstruction of all Arab countries devastated by war.”

Chlala added: “We're waiting for states that requested amendments to the initiative.”

Trump giving 'new life' to Daesh

Washington

President Donald Trump's decision to pull US troops from Syria was made without deliberation, left allies “bewildered” and has rejuvenated Daesh, the official formerly in charge of fighting the militants said Friday.

Brett McGurk warned a US withdrawal would shore up President Bashar Assad and lessen America's leverage with Russia and Iran.



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Second summit

Trump to meet Kim for a second summit by Feb end, says White House

● **Speculation is mounting that it could be held in Vietnam.**

● **President Trump said he was looking forward to the talks.**

New York

US President Donald Trump is to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong-un for a second summit by the end of February, the White House says.

The announcement came after Mr Trump met top North Korean negotiator Kim Yong-chol at the White House.

He had been expected to deliver a letter from Kim Jong-un to Mr Trump.

Little progress has been made on denuclearisation since their historic summit in Singapore last June.

No venue has been announced for the new summit.

Speculation is mounting that it could be held in Vietnam.

Kim Yong-chol's visit to Washington is the first sign of movement in nuclear diplomacy with North Korea for months, BBC state department correspondent Barbara Plett Usher reported.

It is not clear what the reported letter from Kim Jong-un contained. But it was expected to lay the groundwork for another summit, our correspondent adds.

President Trump said he was looking forward to the talks.

His press secretary Sarah Sanders said after the White House meeting that progress in the talks on denuclearisation continued, but added: “The United States is going to continue to keep pressure and sanctions on North Korea.”

Nuclear negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang have stalled, no detailed account of North Korea's nuclear facilities has been provided and sanctions are still firmly in place.

Mr Kim however, has been busy boosting his global image. He's improved relations with



Trump with Kim at the Singapore Summit.

“The United States is going to continue to keep pressure and sanctions on North Korea.”

SARAH SANDERS

multiple trips to Beijing to meet President Xi.

The summit was historic for the fact that it happened at all - but on paper, all it really achieved was a vaguely-phrased agreement in which both countries agreed to work towards denuclearisation.

It was never really made clear what denuclearisation would entail - the agreement did not include any timeline, details or mechanisms to verify this process.

If there is a second summit, many will be expecting something more concrete to come out of it. Both North Korea and the US are unlikely to get away with calling another vague agreement a success.

North Korea hasn't conducted a missile test since the summit. It's also dismantled a nuclear testing site and a key missile engine facility.

It did however test out a new “high-tech” tactical weapon last November - its first official report of a weapons test in a year. This however, was not taken to represent a huge threat.

neighbouring South Korea, and both countries have destroyed guard posts along the heavily guarded demilitarised zone - and paid trips to each other's countries.

Ties between North Korea and China also appear to have improved, with Mr Kim making

