

North Korea-South Korea

Summit update. At 0730 on the morning of 27 April, North Korean radio broadcast the following report.

“Respected and beloved supreme leader Comrade Kim Jong Un departed Pyongyang for the historic North-South summit meeting and talks that will be held in the South's side of P'anmunjo'm.”

“Comrade Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers Party of Korea, chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and supreme leader of our party, state, and army, departed Pyongyang in the early morning of 27 April for the historic North-South summit meeting and talks that will be held in the South's side of P'anmunjo'm.”

“The North-South summit meeting and talks will be held in the South's side for the first time in the history of the nation's division.”

“The respected and beloved Comrade Supreme Leader will cross the demarcation line at P'anmunjo'm at 9:00 a.m. on 27 April to meet and hold historic talks with President Moon Jae-in.”

“Comrade Kim Jong Un will open-mindedly discuss with President Moon Chae-in all issues arising from improving North-South relations and achieving peace, prosperity, and unification of the Korean Peninsula.”

“The respected and beloved Comrade Supreme Leader, after completing the North-South summit meeting and talks schedule from the morning and afternoon, to the evening of 27 April, will return to Pyongyang.”

The North-South summit is in progress during this Watch. *USA Today* live streamed Kim Jung Un's arrival in South Korea. Aside from official pictures, his first act was to greet South Korean President Moon at the Military Demarcation Line (MDL). They shook hands warmly -- no hugging -- across the MDL

Kim's second official act was to step across the MDL boundary marker to become the first North Korea ruler to enter South Korea. Then Moon asked and did step into North Korea before returning to the approved program.

The two heads of state inspected the Guard of Honor, shook hands with the other delegation members, arranged a group photo and walked to the Peace House, which is in South Korea. After more pictures, Kim signed the guest book at the Peace House.

Kim's sister Kim Yo Jong acted as his personal assistant, always just behind him and next to him at the conference table.

Both leaders made short opening statements. Kim said he wanted to hold “frank” discussions on current issues and hoped the summit could lead to a “good outcome”.

“I hope to write a new chapter between us, this is the starting point for us. We will make a new beginning,” he said. “It has taken 11 years for this historic moment to happen. Walking here I wondered why it has taken so long.”

“Through today’s meeting, I hope we won’t go back to square one again and non-implementation of what we agree won’t happen again. I hope we can live up to the expectations that other have on us. I hope there can be agreements to fulfill those great expectations.”

Kim walked back to North Korea for lunch. An afternoon session of meetings and an evening banquet are scheduled.

Comment: This the third summit between North and South Korea and the first held in South Korea. It is a rare interlude when the threat of war is nearly zero for a few hours.

The summit will conclude at about 8:00 a.m. EDT on 27 April.

China-India

Chinese President Xi hosts Indian Prime Minister Modi in an “informal summit.” Indian Prime Minister Modi arrived in Wuhan on the 27th in preparation for an “informal summit” with Chinese President Xi Jinping. The summit meetings will be held on 27 and 28 April.

Comment: Modi is the first head of government that President Xi has hosted in a venue outside Beijing. The leaders hope to establish rapport that will help build trust.

India and China came close to armed clashes last year over a Chinese border deployment near Bhutan. China claims sovereignty to the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh. Both have steadily built up forces along their common border.

India’s sympathy for Tibetans and the Dalai Lama is a longstanding irritant to China. China’s Belt and Road Initiative beats almost every similar Indian initiative in the Indian Ocean region. Chinese naval ships poach in waters that India considers under its protection.

China has close ties with every nation that borders India. A serious irritant is that a section of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor transits territory that India claims as part of Kashmir. China also has built its first overseas military base at Djibouti.

Indian forces train with South Korea, Japan and the US. India follows a “Look East” strategy for economic and strategic cooperation with Southeast Asian states. India also continues to develop long range weapons systems that exceed the military requirements of any war with Pakistan.

The two leaders hope to update a “modus vivendi”, a framework for settling disputes without using force, which Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi negotiated in 1988. Since September, teams of negotiators have been working on a framework for the future.

Historically, India and China have not been competitors. They have become so because of the effects of modernity, the endless needs of their large populations and greater global connectivity that has enabled competition outside natural market areas.

Nevertheless, both nations need to cooperate to maintain regional stability, which is essential to achieving their development goals. They also need to cooperate in a mechanism for containing and suppressing Islamic extremism.

Pakistani leaders are concerned about any Chinese outreach to India. China sent high-level diplomats to reassure the Pakistanis. The Pakistanis do not yet appreciate that China is cultivating all the states in south and central Asia, including Afghanistan.

In terms of long-term, world impact, this informal summit is significant because it affects the destiny of more than one-third of the world’s population. A Chinese journalist said that Xi and Modi are creating the Century of Asia.

Pakistan

The High Court disqualified the Foreign Minister. On 26 April, the Islamabad High Court ruled that Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif was disqualified from serving in parliament.

Asif told *Geo TV* he would challenge the decision in the Supreme Court. It was not clear whether he would have to relinquish his position as Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Usman Dar, a rival politician from Asif’s constituency in the town of Sialkot, near the Indian border, filed a petition against Asif to have him disqualified because he possesses an “iqama”, a work permit for the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The court ruled Asif did not fully disclose his status as an employee of a UAE company and therefore was “not qualified” to be in parliament.

Comment: Asif is the fifth or sixth senior official in the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government who has been disqualified from holding office because of undisclosed foreign connections or holdings. The rulings are inhibiting the normal processes of policy formation and prolonging conditions of internal political uncertainty.

Open sources do not report all the facts, but the recent disqualifications appear to be part of a movement to unseat the PML-N government. Some Pakistani analysts have written that the courts and the Pakistan Army leadership want the PML-N defeated in the general elections in July.

Internal political instability is a chronic condition in Pakistan that encourages politicians to formulate escape plans in the event of a political setback to their party or a military takeover of the government. The UK, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States are favorite refuges.

Public disclosure of escape measures is a liability for Pakistani politicians running for office at election time. Failure to disclose foreign connections and holdings is the proximate cause of the disqualifications. Pakistan's chronic political instability is the cause-in-fact.

Syria

Along the Lebanon border. Lebanese Hizballah leaders declared they neutralized Islamic opposition in the Qalamoun region by arranging a ceasefire and the evacuation of 3,000 fighters and civilians. The opposition fighters and their families were first relocated to Idlib.

The Turkish Army disclosed on the 26th that the Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management President (AFAD) created a camp for resettled fighters from Qalamoun in the southwestern section of Afrin District. The Turkish Army posted to the web that the camp was under the direct protection of the Turkish Army. The Army posted photos of the new camp.

Comment: This is the latest report that clarifies comments by Turkish President Erdogan about returning Afrin to its rightful owners. His forces and proxies are repopulating parts of the mostly Kurdish district with Arab extremists and their families.

East of the Euphrates River. The French and the Americans are continuing to reinforce the Kurds and Arabs in the Syrian Democratic Forces. The US has called it a renewed push against the remnants of the Islamic State.

Comment: Pockets of Islamic State fighters remain an active threat in eastern Syria, including along the central Euphrates River Valley. The Syrians, Hizballah and their allies are encountering similar Islamic State resistance south of Damascus and near Homs.

Russia-Syria

The Russians presented chemical attack “victims” at the Organization for the Prevention of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). As expected, the Russian delegation to the OPCW held a press conference during which they presented Syrian witnesses from Douma who denied a chemical attack occurred. One Russian witness was a healthy child who had been featured in an opposition video as a victim of the attack.

Separately, the Russian Ministry of Defense presented an elaborate display of what it claimed was US missile parts. The Russians also said they captured unexploded US missiles.

The British and French have joined the US in calling the Russian display a stunt.

Comment: The Russians have now tripled down on their version of the 14 April US-led attack. They also have presented at least three versions of what happened.

The Russians are using propaganda techniques developed by the Nazis and the Bolsheviks to try to discredit the US and the Allies. The techniques are described in Alexander George's seminal book, *Propaganda Analysis*. In short, tell a big lie often enough and people will believe it.

In conjunction with the performance at the OPCW, the Russians appear to be trying to humiliate the US-led coalition. Their objective is to manipulate international sentiment to deter another attack against Syria. Disinformation is a component of every Russian military plan.

Libya

Field Marshal Hifter is back in Libya. Hifter greeted his generals and staff at Benina International Airport on the 26th. He told the press, "I want to assure you that I am in good health."

News services reported he flew from Paris to Cairo before returning to Benghazi.

Comment: There is more to this story than has been reported in open sources. The criticality of Hifter's condition clearly was a cover story. No sources have provided a satisfactory explanation for his absence.

End of NightWatch for 26 April 2018



NightWatch

This message was sent to eointreacy@gmail.com by NightWatch

To update your account details, visit [My Account](#).

To cancel your NightWatch subscription, contact Customer Service at 844-743-2187 (toll free).

NightWatch is brought to you by NightWatch, LLC.

Redistribution of NightWatch is prohibited.

Copyright (C) 2018 NightWatch, LLC All rights reserved.