

U.S. to Send Migrant Kids to Oklahoma Military Base



Migrant children file through a tent city in Tornillo, Texas, on June 18, 2018.

LAWTON, Okla. (AP) — The federal government has chosen a military base in Oklahoma as the location for a new temporary shelter to house migrant children and is considering a customs port in southern New Mexico as another option as existing shelters are overwhelmed. The Office of Refugee Resettlement said Tuesday it's dealing with a dramatic spike in the number of children crossing the border without parents. The agency already has received referrals for nearly 41,000 kids so far this fiscal year, marking an increase of almost 57% over the same period last year.

The facility at Fort Sill near Lawton, Oklahoma, would be capable of holding 1,400 kids. Fort Sill served as a temporary emergency shelter for unaccompanied children in 2014 as a result of a migration surge at that time. That's in addition to the shelter announced just last week in Carrizo Springs, Texas, where as many as 1,600 teens could be held in a complex on government leased land near the U.S.-Mexico border. Bases in Georgia and Montana were passed over, but officials also are weighing the possibility of establishing an emergency shelter at New Mexico's Santa Teresa port of entry

that could take in children if there was an urgent need for more bed space.

Federal officials said they were notifying state and local leaders in New Mexico that an assessment would be done. A final decision on whether that site would work was expected soon.

Under fire for the death of two children who went through the agency's network of shelters and facing lawsuits over the treatment of teens in its care, the Office of Refugee Resettlement has said it must set up new facilities to accommodate new arrivals or risk running out of beds.

Record numbers of unaccompanied children have been arriving at the border, largely from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. In May, border agents apprehended 11,507 children traveling alone.

The announcement of plans to expand bed space for the children follows the government's decision to scale back or cut paying for recreation, English-language courses and legal services for the more than 13,200 migrant toddlers, school-age children and teens in its custody.

The Health and Human Services department, which oversees the refugee office, recently notified shelters around the country that it was not going to reimburse them for teachers' pay, legal services or recreational equipment, saying budget cuts were needed.

Trump: Kim Has Kept His Word; Bolton: He Hasn't



U.S. President Donald Trump, left, shakes hands with John Bolton, national security advisor, during a meeting with senior military leadership in the Cabinet Room of the White House in Washington, D.C., April 9, 2018.

WASHINGTON (CNN) -- President Donald Trump said that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has "kept his word" when it comes to nuclear and missile testing, contradicting his own national security adviser, John Bolton, who just hours earlier had accused Pyongyang of failing to follow through on its commitments.

Speaking to reporters on the South Lawn of the White House, Trump said he had received a warm letter from Kim before again downplaying North Korea's latest test of a short-range ballistic missile -- a move Bolton and acting Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan have said violated UN resolutions.

"He kept his word. There's no nuclear testing. There's no long-range missiles going up. The only things he's set up were very short term, short range. That was just a test of short range. It's a whole different deal, but he's kept his word to me. That's very important," the President said.

Earlier Tuesday, Bolton had told the Wall Street Journal at a speaking event in Washington that North Korea is not complying with the terms agreed upon during Trump's

first summit with Kim, in Singapore last year.

"What they've said was that they're not going to test ballistic missiles, intercontinental range ballistic missiles, or have nuclear tests. That's continued. They're doing a lot of other things that still indicate that they have not made a strategic decision to give up the pursuit of deliverable weapons, which is why we continue the maximum pressure campaign," Bolton said.

In May, Bolton said that "there is no doubt" the tests violated the UN resolutions, something Shanahan has also said publicly.

But that conclusion is at odds with Trump's own assertions. "My people think it could have been a violation," Trump said in May. "I view it differently."

Trump also claimed Tuesday that the remains of U.S. soldiers in North Korea "keep coming back," despite the U.S. Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency telling CNN in May that the effort was suspended due to a lack of communication from North Korean officials following the second summit between the two leaders, in Hanoi, Vietnam, earlier this year.

With Brexit Pledge, Johnson Bids for UK Leadership



Pro-Brexit protesters hold placards outside the Houses of Parliament in London.

LONDON (Reuters) -- Boris Johnson kicked off his campaign to succeed Prime Minister Theresa May on Wednesday with a commitment to lead Britain out of the European Union on Oct. 31, warning his divided Conservative Party "delay means defeat".

To a packed room where some supportive lawmakers were forced to stand, Johnson drew on his past as a former London mayor to try to persuade Conservatives that only he could take the party to election victory, explaining away some of his well-documented gaffes as his desire to "speak as directly as I can".

"After three years and two missed deadlines, we must leave the EU on October 31," he said as a heckler repeatedly yelled "Bollocks to Boris" from outside the Royal Academy of Engineering, just off The Mall in central London.

"I am not aiming for a no-deal outcome," said Johnson, a 54-year-old former foreign minister.

"I don't think that we will end up with any such thing, but it is only responsible to prepare vigorously and seriously for no-deal. Indeed it is astonishing that anyone could suggest dispensing with that vital tool in the negotiation."

May's premiership crumbled after she repeatedly failed to convince par-

liament to ratify the divorce deal she negotiated with the EU. Supporters of Brexit said May's deal would have kept the United Kingdom far too closely tied to the bloc.

Johnson, whose unconventional style has helped him shrug off a series of scandals in the past, has won over many in his party by arguing that only he can rescue the Conservatives by delivering Brexit.

For many, the contest for prime minister is his to lose - he has the most declared Conservative supporters in parliament and is widely popular among the party's members, the people who will ultimately choose May's successor.

In a room full of Conservatives loyal to his campaign who groaned when journalists brought up lists of past indiscretions, including a report he had taken cocaine, Johnson repeatedly sidestepped questions, using his trademark colorful metaphors and language to change the subject.

The United Kingdom could be heading toward a constitutional crisis over Brexit as many of the candidates vying to succeed May are prepared to leave the EU on Oct. 31 without a deal but parliament has indicated it will try to thwart such a scenario, concerned about the potential economic and other disruptions.

Hong Kong Police Confront Violent Protesters



Protesters react to tear gas during a large protest near the Legislative Council in Hong Kong, June 12, 2019.

HONG KONG (AFP) -- Violent clashes broke out in Hong Kong on Wednesday as police tried to stop protesters storming the city's parliament, while tens of thousands of people blocked key arteries in a show of strength against government plans to allow extraditions to China.

Police used tear gas, rubber bullets and batons to disperse crowds of black-clad demonstrators -- most of them young people and students -- calling for authorities to scrap the Beijing-backed law.

Clashes broke out shortly after

3:00 pm (0700 GMT) -- the deadline protesters had given for the government to abandon the controversial bill -- and continued throughout the afternoon in the worst political violence the city has seen in years.

Rows of riot police battled protesters -- many wearing face masks, helmets or goggles and using umbrellas as shields -- who had gathered in the centre of the city ahead of a scheduled debate in the city's legislature.

Hong Kong's police chief Stephen Lo defended his officers, saying they had shown restraint until

"mobsters" tried to storm parliament.

"These violent protesters kept charging at our line of defense, and used very dangerous weapons, including... throwing metal barricades at us and throwing bricks," he said.

Organizers said more than a million people turned out on Sunday to oppose the proposed law, which would allow Hong Kong to send suspects to other jurisdictions around the world -- including China.

But the record numbers failed to sway Hong Kong's pro-Beijing leader Carrie Lam, who has rejected calls to withdraw the bill.

Matthew Cheung, the city's chief secretary, on Wednesday called on demonstrators to withdraw.

"I also urge citizens who have gathered to show restraint as much as possible, disperse peacefully and do not defy the law," he said in a video message.

Western nations have criticized the plans while Beijing has voiced support.

Hong Kong's leaders say the proposed law is needed to plug loopholes and to stop the city being a sanctuary for fugitives, and that safeguards are in place to ensure that political critics of Beijing will not be targeted.

India Plans to Land Rover on the Moon

BENGALURU (Reuters) -- India said on Wednesday it will launch its second lunar mission in mid-July, as it moves to consolidate its status as a leader in space technology by achieving a controlled landing on the moon.

The mission, if successful, would make India only the fourth country behind the United States, Russia and China to perform a "soft" landing on the moon and put a rover on it. China successfully landed a lunar rover in January.

The unmanned mission, called Chandrayaan-2, which means "moon vehicle" in Sanskrit, will involve an orbiter, a lander and a rover, which have been built by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).

The mission is scheduled to launch on July 15 aboard ISRO's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III. It will cost about 10 billion rupees (\$144 million), ISRO said. After a journey of more than 50 days, ISRO's lander will attempt a "soft", controlled landing on the lunar surface on around Sept. 6.

"The last 15 minutes to the landing are going to be the

most terrifying moments for us," ISRO Chairman K. Sivan told media on Wednesday. The agency said variations in lunar gravity, terrain and dust could all cause problems.

The Indian mission would be the third attempted lunar landing this year after China's successful Chang'e-4 lunar probe and Israeli spacecraft Beresheet, which failed and crashed onto the moon in April.

"It is the most complex mission ISRO has ever undertaken", Sivan said.

Chandrayaan-1, India's first lunar mission in 2008, cost \$79 million and helped confirm the presence of water on the moon.

The Chandrayaan-2 was originally planned as a collaboration with Russia's Roscosmos space agency, but in 2013 India scrapped the tie-up due to technical differences with the Russian program.

In 2014, India launched an unmanned Mars mission at a cost of \$74 million, or less than the budget of the Hollywood space blockbuster "Gravity" and a fraction of the \$671 million the U.S. space agency NASA spent on its MAVEN Mars mission.

Prime Minister Modi, who recently won his second term in office, has been aggressive with its space policy. In March, India said it shot down one of its own satellites, making it one of only four countries in the world to possess this technology.

Correction

Our Wednesday, June 12 story on page 5 must read, "North Korean Leader's Brother Was CIA Informant", and not as printed. The error is regretted. Editor



WASHINGTON (Reuters) -- U.S. President Donald Trump took a public stance against the use of CIA informants to spy on North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Tuesday, saying it would not happen on his watch and possibly taking away a valuable tool of the U.S. intelligence community. Trump spoke a day after the Wall Street Journal reported that Kim's slain half-brother, Kim Jong Nam, was a source for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. Kim Jong Nam was killed at the airport in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 2017. "I saw the information about the CIA, with respect to his brother, or half-brother. And I would tell him that would not happen under my auspices, that's for sure. I wouldn't let that happen under my auspices," Trump said. His comments represented the latest in a series of instances in which he has appeared to be at odds with the U.S. intelligence community.

NEW DELHI (Reuters) -- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will avoid flying over Pakistan during an official trip to central Asia on Thursday, the foreign ministry said, even though Pakistan has granted overflight access. Pakistan closed its airspace in February after a suicide attack by a Pakistan-based militant group in Indian-controlled Kashmir led to aerial bombing missions on each other's soil and a fighter dogfight over Kashmir. Commercial and cargo airlines using Indian airspace have been forced to take costly and time-consuming detours because they cannot fly over Pakistan. But Pakistan had cleared Modi's flight to Bishkek in Kyrgyzstan to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit beginning on Thursday, Indian and Pakistan sources said. The Indian foreign ministry said the government had considered the routes for Modi's travel and decided he would take the longer passage to Central Asia instead of the direct route over Pakistan.

BERCELONA (AFP) -- The trial of Catalan separatists accused of trying to prise their region from Spain was scheduled to end on Wednesday after four months of intense hearings which impacted national politics. In proceedings broadcast live on television, 12 defendants have been in the dock every week, their role in organizing an illegal referendum on secession and a short-lived declaration of independence in October 2017 under meticulous scrutiny. For some, they are "political prisoners" repressed by the Spanish state -- and a protest by independence supporters was planned in Barcelona to mark the end of the trial. For others, they broke the law and risked Spain's unity in the country's worst political crisis since its transition to democracy in the 1970s. Nine are charged with rebellion, including Catalonia's former vice-president Oriol Junqueras who risks 25 years in jail, the heaviest sentence, and three face lesser charges of disobedience and misuse of public funds. All 12 were expected to take the stand one last time on Wednesday.

KHARTOUM (AFP) -- Shops began to reopen in Sudan's capital on Wednesday after demonstrators called off a nationwide civil disobedience campaign and agreed to new talks, though many residents remained indoors following last week's deadly crackdown. The breakthrough in the standoff between the military rulers who toppled veteran leader Omar al-Bashir and protesters demanding civilian rule followed mediation led by Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. The United Nations Security Council called on the generals and protest leaders to resolve the crisis triggered by the June 3 crackdown on a sit-in outside the military headquarters in Khartoum that killed dozens. The slow return to normalcy came after an Ethiopian envoy of Abiy announced that the protest leaders and the ruling military council had agreed to resume talks and that a three-day civil disobedience campaign was ending. The negotiations collapsed last month because the two sides disagreed about whether a civilian or soldier should head a new governing body.

NUR-SULTAN (Reuters) -- Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev invited critics on Wednesday to join a new public council after days of protests over his election, while state prosecutors warned against further rallies and police were on high alert. Hundreds-strong protests, otherwise rare in the oil-exporting nation, broke out during the election last Sunday in which career diplomat Tokayev, 66, won 71 percent of the vote and secured a five-year term. Activists have called for fresh protests later on Wednesday. Critics called the vote rigged as Tokayev, nominated for the post by his veteran predecessor Nursultan Nazarbayev, faced little meaningful competition and the integrity of ballot counting was questioned. Nazarbayev, 78, who resigned in March after running the former Soviet republic of 18 million for almost three decades, retains sweeping powers as Yelbasy, or national leader, and critics accuse him of installing a puppet.

SHANGHAI (Reuters) -- Thousands of people have been stranded and at least five killed amid torrential rain throughout central and southern China, with authorities bracing themselves for at least another four days of downpours, state media reported on Tuesday. The official China Daily said floods had wiped out 10,800 hectares of crops and destroyed hundreds of houses in the Jiangxi province by Monday, with a total of 1.4 million people affected and direct economic losses amounting to 2.65 billion yuan (\$382.41 million). In the region of Guangxi in the southwest, 20,000 households had their power cut and roads, bridges and other infrastructure were severely damaged, the China Daily said. The administration said rainstorms were expected to spread to Guangdong, Fujian, Jiangxi, Yunnan, Sichuan and Taiwan by Thursday.