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Lake Austin mansion breaks records with \$12.3 million sale



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# Southern DAILY

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## China says North Korea's Kim pledged commitment to denuclearization

BEIJING/SEOUL (Reuters) - North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un pledged his commitment to denuclearization and to meet U.S. officials, China said on Wednesday after his meeting with President Xi Jinping, who promised China would uphold friendship with its isolated neighbor.

After two days of speculation, China and North Korea both confirmed that Kim had traveled to Beijing and met Xi during what China called an unofficial visit from Sunday to Wednesday.

The visit was Kim's first known trip outside North Korea since he assumed power in 2011 and is believed by analysts to serve as preparation for upcoming summits with South Korea and the United States.

U.S. President Donald Trump wrote on Twitter he had received a message from Xi on Tuesday night that his meeting with Kim "went very well" and that Kim looked forward to meeting the U.S. president.

"Look forward to our meeting!" Trump wrote, while adding: "In the meantime, and unfortunately, maximum sanctions and pressure must be maintained at all cost!"

The White House said on Tuesday that North Korea's denuclearization pledge was evidence that the U.S.-led pressure campaign to force North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons was working.

"For years and through many administrations, everyone said that peace and the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula was not even a small possibility," Trump tweeted on Wednesday. "Now there is a good chance that Kim Jong Un will do what is right for his people and for humanity."

Earlier this month, Trump, who has exchanged bellicose threats with Kim in the past year, surprised the world by agreeing to meet the North Korean leader to discuss the crisis over Pyongyang's development of nuclear weapons capable of hitting the United States.

North Korea's official media has made no mention of Kim's pledge to denuclearize or the anticipated meeting with Trump, which is planned for some time in May.

China has traditionally been secretive North Korea's closest ally but ties have been frayed by Kim's nuclear weapons program and Beijing's backing of tough U.N. sanctions in response.

China's Foreign Ministry cited Kim in a lengthy statement as telling Xi the situation on the Korean peninsula was starting to improve because North Korea had taken the initiative to ease tensions and put forward proposals for talks.

"It is our consistent stand to be committed to denuclearization on the peninsula, in accordance with the will of late President Kim Il Sung and late General Secretary Kim Jong Il," Kim Jong Un said, according to the ministry. North Korea was willing to talk with the

United States and hold a summit between the countries, it quoted him as saying.

"The issue of denuclearization of the Korean peninsula can be resolved, if South Korea and the United States respond to our efforts with goodwill, create an atmosphere of peace and stability while taking progressive and synchronous measures for the realization of peace," Kim said.

'NUCLEAR UMBRELLA' Kim Jong Un's predecessors, grandfather Kim Il Sung and father Kim Jong Il, both promised not to pursue nuclear weapons but secretly maintained programs to develop them, culminating in the North's first nuclear test in 2006 under Kim Jong Il.

North Korea has said in previous, failed talks aimed at dismantling its nuclear program it could consider giving up its arsenal if the United States removed its troops from South Korea and withdrew its so-called nuclear umbrella of deterrence from South Korea and Japan.

Many analysts and former negotiators believe this still constitutes North Korea's stance and remain deeply skeptical Kim is willing to give up the weapons his family has been developing for decades.

"Kim Jong Un has finally echoed the unconvincing line of his father that denuclearization is the 'will' of Kim Il Sung," said Daniel Russel, who served as the top U.S. diplomat for Asia until last April.

"While that's better than his outright rejection of denuclearization to date, it's not very persuasive in light of his actions and his caveats about the need for the U.S. to first create the right 'atmosphere,'" Russel said in an email.

Widely read Chinese state-run newspaper the Global Times said the Kim-Xi meeting proved naysayers wrong about Beijing-Pyongyang relations.

"China and North Korea maintaining their friendly relations provides a positive force for the whole region and promotes strategic stability in northeast Asia," it said in an editorial.

Kim's appearance in Beijing involved almost



Still image of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and his wife Ri Sol Ju posing for a photo with Chinese President Xi and his wife

all the trappings of a state visit, complete with an honor guard and banquet at Beijing's Great Hall of the People. Kim and Xi also met at the Diaoyutai State Guest House, where Kim Il Sung planted a tree in 1959 that still stands.

State television showed pictures of the two men chatting and Kim's wife, Ri Sol Ju, getting a warm welcome from Xi's wife, Peng

Liyuan. Analysts said the meeting strengthened North Korea's position ahead of any meeting with Trump by aligning Beijing and

Pyongyang while reassuring China it was not being sidelined in any negotiations. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Chinese President Xi Jinping shake hands at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China, in this picture released to Reuters on March 28, 2018. Ju Peng/Xinhua via REUTERS "It seems that North Korea is not ready to deal with the United States without support and help from its longtime ally China," said



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## Lake Austin mansion breaks records with \$12.3 million sale

A mansion on Lake Austin is turning heads after it broke records with its \$12.3-million price tag when it sold last Wednesday.

The 7,663-square-foot mansion at 3901 Watersedge had been listed for \$12.95 million, but its final sell at \$12.3 million made the home the highest-ever price tag for an Austin area residential listing, according to the home's listing broker, DMTX Realty's Dave Murray.

The home was originally constructed in 1987 and features six-bedrooms and seven-bathrooms. The home was renovated top-to-bottom in 2011 by Austin architect Michal Hsu, who is most notable for his work on the recent South Congress Hotel project. Three other past sales in the top five were classified as ranch properties with acreage starting at 128 acres. This home sits on an acre and a half of land, which is flanked by water and has its own gated peninsula.

Interior designer Jennifer Houghton

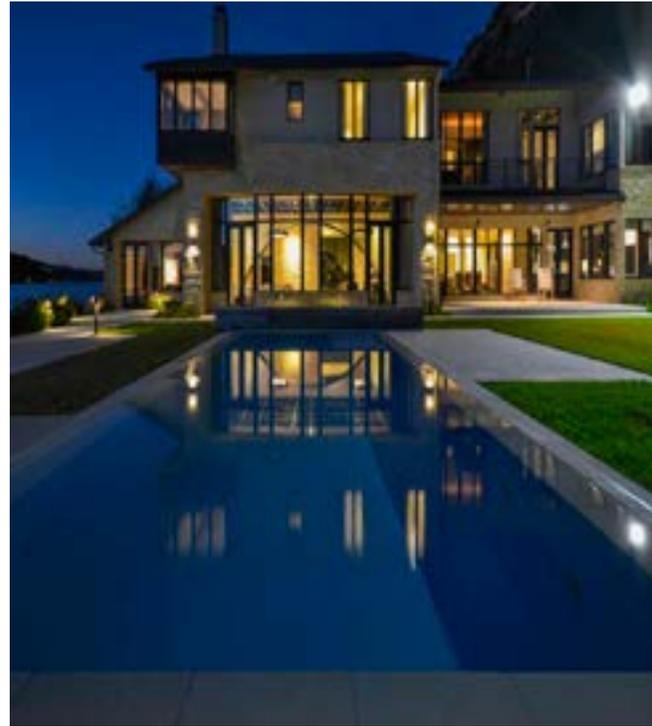
used thousands of rabbits, eggs, and chicks in her Dallas home to bring Easter to life.

"A sale of this magnitude is thrilling for Austin," Murray said. "It shows that ultra-luxury home buyers consider Central Texas to be an in-demand location to invest."

To see into the immaculate mansion, go through the photos in the gallery above.

The marketing director of DMTX Realty, Jonathan Berry, said of the home, "We have seen home values rise the last several years, and with the influx of tech people and the prominence of startups in the city, there is a growing market for high-value estates.

"On the luxury side of things, we are not quite to Malibu or San Francisco level prices, but this represents that the ceiling is still to come for upper echelon luxury. People want to be in Austin."



3901 Watersedge off of Lake Austin has broken records of being the highest-ever price tag for an Austin MLS residential listing after being sold for \$12.3 million. Past record-breakers were ranches with acreage starting at 128 acres.

## Two ex-cops among 22 arrested in gambling investigation

By Samantha Ketterer

Harris County authorities have charged 22 people, including two former Houston police officers, with money laundering, capping a year-long investigation into illegal gambling operations in the Chinatown area.

More than \$2.3 million in illegal proceeds were seized, Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg said in a Wednesday morning news conference.

"This is an ongoing issue for

people in Houston," Ogg said. "We know that Chinatown and that the Asian community in general have suffered a series of robberies and violent crimes in their area. And we hope by investing resources in investigations like this that we can make a measurable difference."

Former Houston Police Department Officers Larry Nguyen and Huy Ly were on the force when they were accused of buying cars, appliances and furniture on behalf of a game room owner, Ogg said. Among the purchases was a \$210,000 2016 Lamborgh-

ini Huracan that Ly is accused of financing through the Houston Police Federal Credit Union. Nguyen and Ly resigned in February and have been charged with money laundering, which carries a five-year to life sentence if they are found guilty.

In addition to Nguyen and Ly, those charged include owners and employees of game rooms, most of which are located in shopping centers along Bellaire boulevard in the Chinatown area, according to a news release from the district attorney's office.



Former Houston Police Officer H. Ly was one of 22 people charged, including two former Houston police officers, with money laundering, capping a year-long investigation into illegal gambling operations in the Chinatown area.



Former Houston Senior Police Officer L. Nguyen was one of 22 people charged, including two former Houston police officers, with money laundering, capping a year-long investigation into illegal gambling operations in the Chinatown area.

# A Snapshot Of The World



An activist holds up a banner that reads "No more femicides" during a march to mark International Women's Day in Managua



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Chinese President Xi Jinping inspect honor guards as he paid an unofficial visit to China



Police officers keep watch next to a train at the Beijing Railway Station in Beijing



People watch a TV broadcasting a news report in Seoul on a meeting between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing



People visit a makeshift memorial on the day of national mourning for the victims of a Kemerovo shopping mall fire in Krasnoyarsk



Local company head Nadezhda Suddenok attends a court hearing in the shopping mall fire case in Kemerovo



People mourn victims of the shopping mall fire in Kemerovo near a makeshift memorial in central Moscow



People hold placards during a rally demanding safety after the shopping mall fire in Kemerovo, in central Moscow



Flags are lowered at half-mast on the day of national mourning for the victims of a shopping mall fire in Kemerovo in St. Petersburg



In 2009, the FDA ordered Zicam to stop marketing three products that contained zinc gluconate after more than

100 users reported losing their sense of smell.

WASHINGTON — U.S. health officials plan to crack down on a growing number of unproven alternative remedies, focusing on products containing dangerous ingredients that have occasionally been linked to serious injury and death.

The Food and Drug Administration on Monday issued a new proposal for regulating homeopathic medicines that have long been on the fringe of mainstream medicine. The agency plans to target products that pose the biggest safety risks, including those marketed for children or for serious diseases.

But under the government's framework, the vast majority of low-risk products would remain on the market.

Long regarded by scientists as a form of modern-day snake oil, homeopathic products are treated as drugs under law, but not supported by modern science. Most remedies contain heavily diluted drugs, vitamins, and minerals. Popular homeopathic brands include Zicam Allergy Relief and Cold-Eeze.

"We respect that some individuals want to use alternative treatments, but the FDA has a responsibility to protect the public from products that may not deliver any benefit and have the potential to cause harm," FDA Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb said in a statement.

Homeopathic products are similar to dietary supplements, in that the FDA does not review their safety or effectiveness before they are sold. But unlike supplements, homeopathic medicines can state that they are intended for specific medical symptoms and conditions, similar to drugs.

A handful of products in recent years have been subject to major safety problems, usually involving potentially toxic ingredients.

Last year, the FDA warned consumers about the risks of teething tablets marketed by Hyland's Homeopathic after they were tied to seizures and deaths in infants and children. FDA testing later confirmed the products contained high levels of belladonna, also called nightshade, a poisonous herb that has long been used at low dosages in homeopathic medicine. The products were recalled in April.

In 2009, the FDA ordered Zicam to stop marketing three products that contained zinc gluconate after more than 100 users reported losing their sense of smell.

The FDA said its proposal also targets products that claim to treat serious diseases like cancer, or are administered via unconventional routes such as ear drops. The agency will take comments on its proposal for 90 days before beginning to finalize the plan.

Consumer advocates said the FDA plan makes sense for products that are mostly harmless, but can be dangerous if manufacturers stray from traditional ingredients, dosing and manufacturing. "I think the rules do a good job of going after the things that are most problematic," said Dr. Adriane Fugh-Berman, an associate professor at George-

## FDA Officials To Target High-Risk Alternative Remedies

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

town University Medical Center.

The FDA hasn't updated its regulations for homeopathic medicine since 1988, when it essentially exempted the industry from basic production standards that are mandatory for traditional drugs, like listing ingredients on product labels.



Since then the once-niche market has grown into a \$3 billion industry, according to FDA figures. Hundreds of homeopathic remedies today are sold alongside over-the-counter drugs like Tylenol and aspirin at pharmacies across the U.S. The National Institutes of Health has said there's little evidence that homeopathic medicine is effective for treating any specific condition. (Courtesy <https://www.statnews.com>)

### Related

### Homeopathic Remedies Harmed Hundreds Of Babies, Families Say, As FDA Investigated For Years



Blaine Talbott, now 3, began twitching in his limbs after taking homeopathic teething

products. A neurologist later suggested he may have responded poorly to the tablets.

WASHINGTON — Case 7682299: Aug. 1, 2010. A mother gives her toddler three homeopathic pills to relieve her teething pain. Within minutes, the baby stops breathing.

"My daughter had a seizure, lost consciousness, and stopped breathing about 30 minutes after I gave her three Hyland's Teething Tablets," the mother later told the Food and Drug Administration. "She had to receive mouth-to-mouth CPR to resume breathing and was brought to the hospital." The company, Hyland's, promotes "safe, effective, and natural health solutions" that appeal to parents seeking alternative treatments. But the agency would soon hear much more about Hyland's teething products. Staff at the FDA would come to consider Case 7682299 one of the luckier outcomes.



A review of FDA records obtained by STAT under the Freedom of Information Act paint a far grimmer picture: Babies who were given Hyland's teething products turned blue and died. Babies had repeated seizures. Babies became delirious. Babies were airlifted to the hospital, where emergency room staff tried to figure out what had caused their legs and arms to start twitching.

Over a 10-year period, from 2006 and 2016, the FDA collected reports of "adverse events" in more than 370 children who had used Hyland's homeopathic teething tablets or gel, a similar product that is applied directly to a baby's gums. Agency records show eight cases in which babies were reported to have died after taking Hyland's products, though the FDA says the question of whether those products caused the deaths is still under review.

(The agency is also investigating two other deaths tied to teething remedies but declined to confirm the manufacturer of the products or provide the case reports.)

Following an FDA warning in September, Hyland's said that it would no longer manufacture the teething products. But they remained on some store shelves for months, and are still available on the Internet. They likely continue to be used in homes nationwide.

Hyland's, a 114-year-old private company based in Los Angeles, is the nation's largest homeopathic business. It insists its products are safe and says the FDA has failed to show there is a scientific link between them and infant seizures or other complications.

"That doesn't mean that children don't have a sensitivity to a product. There is a lot of sensitivity on kids' parts and we have to watch carefully," said a spokeswoman, Mary Borneman. "It's not something that condemns the entire product line."



Behind each of the FDA case numbers are anxiety and, in some cases, heartbroken parents. But a STAT examination — and the first detailed look at the case reports — also raises questions over the response of regulators.

It took four years until the FDA pushed Hyland's to reformulate its remedies, in 2010. In the seven years since then, there has been a steady stream of reports of adverse events tied to Hyland's homeopathic teething products.

"The FDA could bring the hammer down on them," said Sarah Sorscher, an attorney for the nonprofit Public Citizen Health Research Group. "But it doesn't. At the point where you have infants being hospitalized and deaths reported, it's simply not acceptable for the agency to delay in taking action."

An FDA spokeswoman defended the agency's handling of the matter.

"It is important to note that while adverse event reports give us some information about a product and serious injuries or deaths related to use of a particular product, they often indicate situations that require additional analysis and do not constitute conclusive evidence of a problem with the product," the spokeswoman, Lyndsay Meyer, said in a statement.

Despite the FDA's difficulty in proving Hyland's products harmed children, some doctors had no doubt.

In case 462749, dated Sept. 15, 2011, a physician sent Hyland's a handwritten note, stating his patient, a 5-month-old girl, was unresponsive for 45 minutes after taking its teething tablets.

"I am sure this was not an allergic reaction," he wrote. "I would like you to report it, find a contact at the FDA, so we can start an investigation and pull this dangerous, unregulated product from the shelves."

One mother wrote the company to say her son's pupils dilated "like marbles with big black eyes." Another described seizures her daughter continued to have after taking the tablets and told the company, "I hate hate u for this."

An industry giant in a giant industry Hyland's and its parent company, Standard Homeopathy Co., are considered major players in the homeopathic market. CEO John P. Borneman comes from a family that has been in the business for gen-

erations, and is president of the industry group that publishes the Homeopathic Pharmacopeia, a compendium that serves as the bible of the industry. Homeopathy has become a multibillion-dollar industry. Its products are big sellers around the world, and popular with adherents from Cher to Prince Charles. The industry also has political clout: It has been able to exempt itself from many rules proposed by Congress and the FDA over the years.

Unlike pharmaceutical company-produced drugs, homeopathic products don't have to prove that they are effective at treating anything in particular before going on the market. It is left to the FDA's drug division to determine whether they are unsafe after they are on the market — a difficult task since the adverse event reports are generally considered to represent only a fraction of the actual incidents and may lack sufficient information to allow for thorough investigations.

"If I'm working in the emergency room and I have a family that comes in with a seizing infant, I may not have the wherewithal to get the history of homeopathic use," said Dr. Edward W. Boyer, a toxicologist in Harvard Medical School's emergency medicine department.

In some cases, parents assume that products described as natural remedies, as is the case with Hyland's tablets and gels, could not possibly result in complications, and never mention their use to a doctor. Without sufficient evidence of a problem, the FDA lacks what it needs to use the enforcement tools it does have.

'Deadly nightshade' In investigating Hyland's teething products, the FDA focused on an ingredient known as atropa belladonna, an herb known colloquially as "deadly nightshade."

In diluted form, the substance is not expected to pose any health risk. In 2010, however, FDA inspectors who examined Hyland's facilities criticized the company for substandard manufacturing practices and found inconsistent levels of atropa belladonna in its products.

The agency issued a public warning, noting "reports of serious adverse events in children taking this product that are consistent with belladonna toxicity."

It also noted that "infants are very susceptible to the neurotoxicity of drugs" because of how the body distributes and responds to drugs, and noted that "absorption of belladonna from the skin and mouth was fairly rapid."

The company voluntarily took the products off shelves and agreed to reformulate them, although it insisted they were safe.

"We felt it was the right thing to do so that parents didn't have to be concerned about the product," said Borneman, the spokeswoman.

But the number of serious adverse events tied by the FDA to the products kept climbing. Some pediatricians and neurologists concluded the tablets and gels were the cause. Many parents wrote to the FDA, accusingly, asking why the pills were still on the market.

In September 2016, the FDA announced that it was investigating more adverse events reports and recommended that consumers stop using Hyland's

and other homeopathic teething products and dispose of any in their possession. Some stores, including Target and CVS, which sold Hyland's and other homeopathic teething products, pulled them in response.

"Homeopathic medicine has a very large margin of safety," she said. "Our testing ensures there's not too much belladonna in any bottle" of tablets.

Several weeks ago, on Jan. 27, the FDA issued another warning, saying that laboratory analysis of Hyland's teething tablets found levels of belladonna "sometimes far exceeding the amount claimed on the label." The agency warned consumers not to use the products and to seek medical care immediately if their child has seizures, difficulty breathing, lethargy, muscle weakness, or other problems after using homeopathic teething products.

The FDA also said there was no evidence that they actually worked.

Critics say the fact that homeopathic products are generally highly diluted has kept them on the FDA's back burner.

"It's low on their priority list," said Dr. Aaron S. Kesselheim, who co-authored a paper in the New England Journal of Medicine last year on the subject. "FDA for a long time just kind of deferred on homeopathic products because they are mostly inert and so diluted. The harm comes from people wasting their money, or diverting them from things that do work."

One problem the FDA has in doing so is a matter of staffing: The agency has a medical officer review each report from manufacturers, but it doesn't have someone who can routinely follow up with the patient, the patient's family, or physician for missing records necessary to take a serious enforcement action.

Outraged by the standoff between FDA and Hyland's, Connecticut Democratic Rep. Rosa DeLauro introduced a bill last week called the Recall Unsafe Drugs Act. The proposal would give the FDA mandatory recall authority over homeopathic products and drugs.

"Hyland's refusal to recall its teething tablets, despite numerous health and safety warnings from the FDA, is downright shameful," DeLauro said, adding that the company "is choosing instead to prioritize the company's profits and reputation before the safety of our children."

"As it stands the FDA would have to go through an arduous legal process to take action against manufacturers such as Hyland's. "This is unacceptable and threatens the health and safety of American families."



For the parents of Case 10723317, any action would come too late. A mother reported that on July 9, 2014, her 9-month-old daughter died after being given two teething tablets, crushed, for the first time. She gave her infant the tablets, then a bottle, and then left her to sleep. When she checked on her 45 minutes later, she was dead in her crib, beside a puddle of vomit.

Five months later, after reading online reports suggesting babies may experience seizures after taking belladonna, she contacted Hyland's.

"Customer did not request a refund or replacement," noted the Hyland's staffer who filed the report with the FDA. Hyland's also noted that it was not able to test the bottle, because the customer threw it away.

"Due to the limited information provided by the reporter no further investigation is possible at this time of this incident," the company concluded. (Courtesy <http://www.foxnews.com/health>)





At the invitation of Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and Chinese president, Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) and chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), paid an unofficial visit to China from March 25 to 28. During the visit, Xi held talks with Kim at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. Xi held a welcoming ceremony for Kim before their talks. (Xinhua/Ju Peng)

BEIJING, March 28 (Xinhua) -- At the invitation of Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and Chinese president, Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) and chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), paid an unofficial visit to China from Sunday to Wednesday.

During the visit, Xi held talks with Kim at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. Xi and his wife Peng Liyuan held a welcoming banquet for Kim and his wife Ri Sol Ju and watched an art performance together.

Li Keqiang, Chinese premier and member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, Wang Huning, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and member of the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee, and Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan attended related activities, respectively. During the talks, Xi expressed warm welcome on behalf of the CPC Central Committee to Kim for his first visit to China.



Xi Jinping (2nd R), general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and Chinese president, and his wife Peng Liyuan (1st R) meet with Kim Jong Un (2nd L), chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) and chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), and his wife Ri Sol Ju at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China. At the invitation of Xi, Kim paid an unofficial visit to China from March 25 to 28. During the visit, Xi held talks with Kim. (Xinhua/Ju Peng)

Xi said he appreciated that Kim sent him a congratulatory message after the 19th CPC National Congress on his re-election as general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and the assumption of office of chairman of the CPC Central Military Commission (CMC).

Xi was also grateful to Kim for congratulating him again several days ago immediately after he was re-elected China's president and chair-

## North Korean Leader Kim Jong-un Has Pledged To China's President Xi Jinping That He Is 'Committed To Denuclearisation' Of The Korean Peninsula

### China's Xi Jinping And North Korea's Kim Jong Un Hold Talks In Beijing

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

man of the CMC of the country.

Xi said Kim's current visit to China, which came at a special time and was of great significance, fully embodied the great importance that Comrade Chairman and the WPK Central Committee have attached to the relations between the two countries and the two parties.

"We speak highly of this visit," Xi told Kim.

Kim said Comrade Xi Jinping enjoyed the support of the CPC and the people of the whole country, became the core of the leadership and was re-elected Chinese president and CMC chairman. He said it is his obligation to come to congratulate Xi in person, in line with the DPRK-China friendly tradition.

At present, the Korean Peninsula situation is developing rapidly and many important changes have taken place, Kim said, adding that he felt he should come in time to inform Comrade General Secretary Xi Jinping in person the situation out of comradeship and moral responsibility.

Xi said the China-DPRK traditional friendship, established and cultivated meticulously by the elder generations of leaders of both parties and both countries, was the precious wealth of both sides.



Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and Chinese president, holds talks with Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) and chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China. At the invitation of Xi, Kim paid an unofficial visit to China from March 25 to 28. (Xinhua/Yao Dawei)

Sharing common ideals and beliefs as well as profound revolutionary friendship, the elder generations of leaders of the two countries trusted and supported each other, and wrote a fine story in the history of international relations, said Xi.

He said several generations of the leaders of China and the DPRK have maintained close exchanges and paid frequent calls on each other like relatives.

The two parties and countries have supported each other and coordinated with each other during long-term practices, making great contributions to the development of the socialist cause.

"Both Comrade Chairman and I have personally experienced and witnessed the development of China-DPRK relationship," said Xi, adding that both sides have stated repeatedly that traditional China-DPRK friendship should be passed on continuously and developed better.

"This is a strategic choice and the only right choice both sides have made based on history and reality, the international and regional struc-

ture and the general situation of China-DPRK ties. This should not and will not change because of any single event at a particular time," Xi said.

The CPC and the Chinese government highly value China-DPRK friendly cooperative ties, Xi stressed. It is an unswerving principle of the CPC and the Chinese government to maintain, consolidate and develop good relations with the DPRK, he said.

"We are willing to work together with DPRK comrades, remain true to our original aspiration and jointly move forward, to promote long-term healthy and stable development of China-DPRK relations, benefit the two countries and two peoples, and make new contribution to regional peace, stability and development," Xi said.



Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) and chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), visits an exhibition showcasing the innovation achievements of the Chinese Academy of Sciences since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC). At the invitation of Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Central Committee of the CPC and Chinese president, Kim paid an unofficial visit to China from March 25 to 28. During the visit, Xi held talks with Kim at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. (Xinhua/Yao Dawei)

#### Four Proposals

Xi made four proposals concerning the development of China-DPRK relations.

Firstly, continue giving play to the guiding role of high-level exchanges. High-level exchanges have always played the most important guiding and promoting role in the history of China-DPRK relations. Under the new circumstances, I am willing to keep frequent contacts with Comrade Chairman through various forms such as exchange of visits, and sending special envoys and letters to each other.

Secondly, make full play of the time-tested valuable practices of strategic communication. It is the splendid tradition of the two parties to have frequent in-depth exchange of views on major issues. Both sides should maximize the important role of party-to-party exchanges, promote exchanges and cooperation between the two countries in various areas, and strengthen communication and mutual trust.



Thirdly, actively advance peaceful development. Socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era, and the DPRK's socialist construction has also ushered in a new historical period. We are ready to make joint efforts with the DPRK side, conform to the trend of the times, hold high the banner of peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit, continuously improve the wellbeing of the two peoples, and make positive contribution to regional peace, stability and development.

Fourthly, cement the popular will foundation for China-DPRK friendship. The two sides should, through various forms, enhance people-to-people exchanges, consolidate the foundation of popular will for bilateral friendly relations, especially enhance youth exchanges, inherit and carry forward the fine tradition of China-DPRK friendship.

Kim said he was greatly encouraged and inspired by General Secretary Xi's important views on DPRK-China friendship and the development of relations between the two parties and countries.

The DPRK-China friendship, which was founded and nurtured by the elder generations of leaders of both countries, is unshakable, he said. It is a strategic choice of the DPRK to pass on and develop friendship with China under the new situation, and it will remain unchanged under any circumstances.

Kim said his current visit aims to meet Chinese comrades, enhance strategic communication, and deepen traditional friendship, hoping to have opportunities to meet with Comrade General Secretary Xi Jinping often, and keep close contacts through such forms as sending special envoys and personal letters to each other, so as to promote to a new level the guidance of high-level meetings to the relations between the two parties and countries.

"It is our consistent stand to be committed to denuclearization on the peninsula, in accordance with the will of late President Kim Il Sung and late General Secretary Kim Jong Il," he said.

Kim said that the DPRK is determined to transform the inter-Korean ties into a relationship of reconciliation and cooperation and hold summit between the heads of the two sides.

The DPRK is willing to have dialogue with the United States and hold a summit of the two countries, he said.

"The issue of denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula can be resolved, if south Korea and the United States respond to our efforts with goodwill, create an atmosphere of peace and stability while taking progressive and synchronous measures for the realization of peace," said Kim.

The DPRK hopes to enhance strategic communication with China during the process, jointly safeguard the trend of consultation and dialogue as well as peace and stability on the peninsula, said Kim.

Before the talks, Xi held a welcoming ceremony for Kim at the North Hall of the Great Hall

of the People.



The Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing where President Xi and his wife Peng held a luncheon for North Korea's Kim and his wife Ri.

Xi said he had candid and friendly talks with Chairman Kim Jong Un. "We agreed that carrying forward the traditional friendship between China and the DPRK accords with the common interests of both sides, and is the common strategic choice of both sides."

"No matter how the international and regional situation changes, we will both firmly grasp the global development trend and the overall situation of the China-DPRK relationship, strengthen our high-level exchanges, deepen our strategic communication, expand our exchanges and cooperation, and benefit the people of both countries and the people of all countries," he said.

He said the fact that he chose China as the destination of his first overseas visit showed his will to carry forward the tradition of DPRK-China friendship, and how he valued the friendship between the two countries.

"I have had successful talks with General Secretary Xi Jinping on developing relations between the two parties and the two countries, our respective domestic situation, maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, and other issues," he said.



A train believed to be carrying a senior North Korean delegation left the Chinese capital on Tuesday following a dramatic whirlwind visit that some reports said included the country's leader, Kim Jong Un. The conservative South Korea Chosun Ilbo newspaper, citing an unnamed senior intelligence official, said the delegation had included Kim and that he had since left to return to North Korea.

"In this spring full of happiness and hopes, I believe my first meeting with General Secretary Xi Jinping will yield abundant fruits of DPRK-China friendship, and facilitate peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula," he said. During the visit, Xi and Peng held a luncheon for Kim and Ri in the Yangyuanzhai Room of the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse. Xi said that the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse has witnessed the development of the traditional friendship between the two countries, and the close relations between leaders of the elder generations of the two parties and two countries "have set an example for us."

We welcome Chairman Kim Jong Un and Lady Ri Sol Ju to visit China now and again," Xi said. Kim said that the DPRK-China friendship is especially precious, adding he would like to join hands with Xi to follow the noble will of leaders of the elder generations, carry on and develop the DPRK-China friendship that remains unchanged despite winds and rains, and elevate it to a new high under new circumstances. (Courtesy ww.xinhuanet.com/english)