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BORJOMI FOREST FIRE RE-SPONSE EFFORTS: DAY 6

Firefighters and emergency workers continued battling the forest fire in Borjomi Municipality, which flared up on August 20 near village Daba and quickly spread into the surrounding areas devastating reportedly around 100 hectares of woodland.

Georgian Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili who leads the firefighting operations, said on August 25 that "despite periodic deterioration of the situation, in general, we have positive dynamics."



According to Kvirikashvili, flames intensified during the night in the area of village Ardagani, but "with the support of the aviation and the manpower it is possible to bring the fire under control and avoid further worsening of the situation."

Over 1,000 military servicemen joined the firefighting efforts from early morning. Rescue helicopters continued dumping waters onto the affected areas.

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BORJOMI FOREST FIRE RE-SPONSE EFFORTS: DAY 5



Around 1500 firefighters, emergency workers and police personnel continued battling the forest fire in Borjomi Municipality, which flared up on August 20 near village Daba and quickly spread into the surrounding areas devastating reportedly around 100 hectares of woodland.

The command staff led by Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili said in a statement on August 24 that during the last four days roads totaling 12 kilometers in length were cut through the forest,



paving way for fire engines and firefighters to the main fire sites. "Main fire sites are surrounded by trenches, which rules out the possibility of fire spreading [into other areas]," the command staff also noted, adding that six rescue helicopters resumed dumping waters onto the affected areas early morning on August 24.

The command staff also stated that the air pollution level in the area "is within permitted norms" and that the Healthcare Ministry withdrew its previous recommendations for people who may have been at risk from smoke exposure.

Speaking to journalists on August 24 in Borjomi, Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili expressed his gratitude to Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus and Turkey for helping in the operation and added that a

number of other countries, including Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Iran, Israel, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States, offered their assistance as well.



He also touched upon the offer of assistance made by the Russian Federation, saying that it "became a matter of active discussion." "Russia expressed its readiness to help and we believe it needs to be welcomed: we have a high responsibility towards our citizens and our country and exactly because of this responsibility and considering the very difficult relations with Russia, such a proposal needs to be welcomed," he said.

The command staff also said in its statement that several small forest fires that broke out in other areas of the country in the last few days were either entirely or partially brought under control.

Another forest fire in Ateni gorge of Gori Municipality, which started on August 22 evening, was fully contained late-night the same day. To coordinate the forest fire relief efforts in Borjomi and Gori Municipalities, President Giorgi Margvelashvili had to issue a decree on August 22 authorizing the use of armed forces upon the Prime Minister's request. The soldiers remain in the area to prevent the blaze from re-igniting.

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FOREST FIRE RESPONSE EFFORTS UNDERWAY IN BORJOMI



Hundreds of firefighters and emergency workers continue efforts to contain forest fire in Borjomi Municipality, which erupted on August 20 near village Daba and quickly spread into the surrounding areas burning tens of hectares of forested territory.

The government's office said in a statement on August 23 that firefighters, who continued to battle the blaze throughout the night, managed to "significantly reduce" the forest fire area but some fire pockets are still remaining.

The command staff led by Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili was on spot throughout the night, the office also reported. President Giorgi Margvelashvili visited the area as well.

Two Georgian, two Turkish, one Azerbaijani and one Belarusian rescue helicopters, as well as a Turkish firefighting plane, joined the firefighting activities over the last two days. Around 95 Azerbaijani and 70 Armenian firefighters were dispatched to the area as well.

Another forest fire in Ateni gorge of Gori Municipality, which started yesterday evening, was fully contained late-night the same day.

To coordinate the forest fire relief efforts in the two locations, President Giorgi Margvelashvili had to issue a decree on August 22 authorizing the use of armed forces upon the Prime Minister's request.

Around 250 soldiers were deployed to the area to fight the fire along with emergency workers and local volunteers. Defense Minister Levan Izoria and Chief of General Staff Vladimir Chachibaia were present as well.

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FOREST FIRE RAGES IN BORJOMI MUNICIPALITY

Hundreds of firefighters, emergency workers and volunteers continue efforts to contain forest fire in Borjomi Municipality, which erupted on August 20 and destroyed over ten hectares of forest areas.

The fire broke out close to the village of Daba and mountain landscape and wind made it difficult to fight the fire, according to Georgian officials. No casualties have been reported so far. But residents of nearby villages stayed outdoors overnight fearing further intensification of fire.

An emergency headquarters set up by Georgian Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili held its session in the village of Daba late on August 21. Interior Minister Giorgi Mgebrishvili, who leads the headquarters; Head of the State Security and Crisis Management Council Mindia Janelidze; Head of the State Security Service Vakhtang Gomelauri, as well as Minister for Infrastructure Development, Governor of the Samtskhe-Javakheti Region and other officials gathered at the session to discuss fire containment measures.

The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia said in a statement on August 21 that the fire broke out in the same location as the 2008 Borjomi wildfire, which was caused by incendiary devices dropped by Russian helicopters



over the Borjomi forests. The fire was also spread to the areas restored in 2014-2017.

The government's office said in a statement released on August 22 that about 400 rescuers and 100 forest rangers have been involved in the fire containment measures, adding that two Georgian and one Azerbaijani helicopters also joined the firefighting activities early this morning.

"The situation will improve by this evening. We are doing our utmost to contain the fire," PM Kvirikashvili said early on August 22.

Reportedly, two Turkish helicopters and one plane will also join firefighting activities.

The exact cause of the fire has yet to be determined.

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Georgia Palace Hotel to host Mexican food festival in Kobuleti



The event is organized by Mr. Temur Tchkonია, Honorary Consul of Mexico in Georgia. The Festival will last 6 days.

Restaurant “Adjara” will officially unveil the Festival at the Hotel at 7 o’clock on September 1. This is the second time The Georgia Palace Hotel & Spa is the official place where hotel guests have an exclusive chance to taste traditional delicious dishes prepared by Mexican chefs.

The event’s objective is to make a contribution to the development of trade and economic relations between Georgia and Mexico.



EIGHT CANDIDATES SHORTLISTED FOR FILLING TWO ECHR JUDGE NOMINEE POSITIONS

The 13-member selection commission under the Ministry of Justice of Georgia shortlisted eight candidates for replacing the two rejected nominees for a Georgia-nominated judge to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), the Ministry of Justice reported on August 25.

The following candidates have been shortlisted by the commission from the pool of 28 candidates:

Irakli Adeishvili – senior lawyer at Geocell LLC, lecturer at the High School of Justice, former judge at Tbilisi City and Appeal courts;

Tamar Alania – judge at the Tbilisi Court of Appeal, trainer at the High School of Justice;

Nino Bakakuri – Supreme Court judge, trainer at the High School of Justice;

Ioseb Bachiashvili – legal scholar, former Chair of the Supreme Arbitration Court;

Konstantine Vardzelashvili – professor at Ilia State University's Law School, former Constitutional Court judge;

Konstantine Korkelia – legal scholar, full professor at Tbilisi State University's Law Faculty;

Otar Sichinava – judge at the Tbilisi Court of Appeal, former Constitutional Court judge;

Lali Papiashvili – deputy Chair of the Constitutional Court, full professor at Tbilisi State University's Law Faculty.

The shortlisted candidates will go through the interview process on August 26.

CSO Boycott

The Coalition for Independent and Transparent Judiciary, the representative of which sits at the selection commission, said in its letter on August 25 that it would no longer participate in the selection process, citing the Commission's failure two times to choose the candidates through "strict, just and transparent selection process."

"We do not expect that that a new selection process with similar composition and procedures will be held objectively and we believe that at this moment our involvement in the work of the Commission is pointless," reads the letter addressed to the selection Commission.

Zaza Khatiasvili, who represents the Georgian Bar Association (GBA) at the selection commission, said on August 25 as well that he would boycott tomorrow's interviews, citing the government's failure to change the composition of the commission.

Repeat Selection Process

The nationwide procedures for selecting three candidates for vacant ECHR judge position have been underway since December 2015.

In January 2017, the Committee on the Election of Judges to ECHR, special committee of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly, rejected all three Georgia-nominated candidates to ECHR, citing lack of qualifications, prompting the Government of Georgia to re-announce the call for applications in February.

In May 2017, the 13-member selection commission under the Justice Ministry shortlisted five new candidates, three of whom were later approved by the government and presented to an international Advisory Panel of Council of Europe experts, which offers nominating governments confidential advice on potential candidates before the final list of three is sent to the Assembly.

The Advisory Panel said in its July conclusion that only one (Lado Chanturia, former chairman of Georgia's Supreme Court) out of three candidates met the criteria set by the European Convention, prompting the Government of Georgia to announce on July 26 a new call for applications to replace the two rejected candidates.

The Strasbourg-based European Court of Human Rights rules on individual or state applications alleging violations of the civil and political rights set out in the European Convention on Human Rights.

The tenure of Nona Tsotsoria, current Georgia-nominated ECHR judge, expired in January 2017, but was prolonged due to the PACE committee rejection of Georgia-nominated candidates.

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GOVERNOR APPOINTED IN RACHA-LECHKHUMI AND KVEMO SVANETI REGION

Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili appointed Archil Japaridze as the new governor of Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti region in western Georgia.

Japaridze, who was the deputy Governor of the region in 2014-2017, replaced Parmen Margvelidze, who served at the post from December, 2013 until August 10, 2017.

Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili spoke of gubernatorial changes in Guria and Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti regions at the government session on August 10.

Kvirikashvili said then that the staff reshuffles were "natural," and that they were needed to address "new challenges" and the government's "ambitious" spatial development plan.

The prime ministerial decree appointing Achil Japaridze to the post was issued on August 14.

Unlike heads (Gamblebi) of municipalities, who are directly elected since 2014, provincial governors are appointed by prime minister.

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HEAD OF EU MONITORING MISSION LEAVES HIS POST

Kestutis Jankauskas, head of the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM), is leaving his post to assume a new role as the Head of Delegation of the European Union to Azerbaijan, EUMM announced in its August 25 press release.

Jankauskas, a Lithuanian career diplomat, was appointed as the Head of EUMM in December 2014, after serving as Lithuania's ambassador to NATO since 2011. He will assume his new post in Azerbaijan on September 1.

On August 22, Jankauskas met Georgian President Giorgi Margvelashvili, who awarded him with the Order of Honor of Georgia "in recognition of his personal contribution and efforts in providing peace and safety in Georgia," reads the EUMM press release.

Danish diplomat Erik Hoeg will serve as the Acting Head of Mission until the new permanent Head is appointed.

The EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM), which was mandated to oversee the implementation of the 2008 Russian-Georgian ceasefire agreement, has unarmed monitors on the ground, but was never allowed access to either Abkhazia or South Ossetia/Tskhinvali Region.

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AMNESTY: CHARGES AGAINST S.OSSETIA CIVIC ACTIVIST 'BLATANT VIOLATION' OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Detention and defamation charges against Tamar Merakishvili by "the de facto authorities in Georgia's disputed region of South Ossetia" is "a move that constitutes a blatant violation of freedom of expression," the Amnesty International, London-based international human rights organization, said in its brief report on August 21.

Tamar Mearakishvili, a civic activist in the small town of Akhagori in Georgia's Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia, was briefly detained on 16 August and charged for defaming the region's ruling United Ossetia party. Mearakishvili was released the same day, but the charge of criminal defamation is still pending.

In a comment for Civil.ge on August 25, the Amnesty International's representative on South Caucasus Levan Asatiani said: "Using a criminal charge of defamation to punish an activist because of her expression is against everything that freedom of expression stands for. Tamar Mearakishvili has the right to criticize those in power without fear of reprisals. De facto authorities must stop her prosecution immediately."

The August 21 report, headlined "De Facto Authorities in a Disputed Region Stifle Freedom of Expression," called for dropping the criminal charges against Tamar Mearakishvili and ending her harassment, adding that "defamation, if proven, should only be treated as a matter for civil litigation by the injured party."

"Tamar Mearakishvili has often been harassed due to her social media activism. Before her recent detention, she had been summoned to the Prosecutor's Office six times since 2008 and threatened because of her critical comments in social media and news outlets," reads the report.

Detention of Mearakishvili was condemned as "illegal deprivation of liberty" and "restriction on freedom of expression" by officials in Tbilisi, with representatives of the Russian-backed Tskhinvali authorities responding with accusations of Tbilisi's "interference into the republic's internal affairs."

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GEORGIAN SOLDIERS MARCH AT UKRAINE INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

A platoon from the Georgian National Guard took part in the military parade held in Kyiv on Ukraine's Independence Day on August 24.



Georgian First Deputy Minister of Defense Lela Chikovani, who attended the parade, said that participation of Georgian soldiers was "an expression of our support to the Ukrainian people and the Ukrainian government, and of our unity."

Defense Minister Levan Izoria was to attend the parade himself, but cancelled his visit to Ukraine due to the Georgian military's participation in quelling the wildfires raging in Georgia.

Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko thanked Georgia for its participation, according to the Georgian Defense Ministry.

Georgian Defense Ministry delegation held meeting with the U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis, also on a visit to Kyiv. Secretary Mattis expressed his support for the Georgian govern-

ment and its ongoing defense reforms, the Defense Ministry reported.

Military servicemen from Canada, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, United Kingdom and United States also participated in the parade.

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PM APPOINTS NEW GOVERNOR OF GURIA REGION

Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili appointed on August 21 Merab Chanukvadze as the new governor of Guria region in western Georgia.

Chanukvadze, who was the head of Ozurgeti Municipality before promotion, replaced Gia Salukvadze, who served at the post from May, 2015 until August 10, 2017.

Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili spoke of gubernatorial changes in Guria and Racha-Lechkhumi-Kvemo Svaneti regions at the government session on August 10. Kvirikashvili said then that the staff reshuffles were "natural," and that they were needed to address "new challenges" and the government's "ambitious" spatial development plan.

Unlike heads (Gamblebi) of municipalities, who are directly elected since 2014, provincial governors are appointed by prime minister.

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TBILISI PROTESTS THE ABKHAZ VISIT TO SYRIA

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia issued a statement on August 22, expressing protest over the recent visit of the representatives of the Russian-backed Abkhaz authorities to Syria.

The Ministry called the visit "a continuation of the policy of provocation towards Georgia by Russia and its occupation regimes," adding that with such actions "Russia is unsuccessfully trying to legitimize the occupation regimes and legalize forceful changes of a sovereign nation's borders."

"We call on all sovereign states to respect the territorial integrity of Georgia and its sovereign rights, and to avoid participating in [such pre-planned] provocative actions," reads the statement.

The Ministry also noted that it had already communicated regarding this issue with "diplomatic representatives of Syria," as well as Georgia's foreign partners.

The Abkhaz authorities travelled to Syria on August 16-22, meeting several high-level officials, including Syrian Prime Minister Imad Khamis, Foreign Minister Walid Muallem, Economy Minister Samer al-Khalil and Chairman of the People's Council (parliament) Najdat Anzour.

Sokhumi representatives reported in their press releases of the meetings that the region's Moscow-backed authorities expressed their wish for further development of relations with Damascus and invited Syrians to send a delegation of their own to Abkhazia.

In Syria, the Abkhaz visitors also attended the Damascus International Fair, where the materials demonstrating the region's culture and economy were presented in a separate booth.

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OPPOSITION SETS CONDITIONS FOR RESUMING DIALOGUE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

In response to the Georgian Dream's proposal for resuming dialogue on constitutional amendments, the opposition parties urged the government to return to the discussion of those draft constitutional amendments, which envisaged movement to the proportional system in 2020.

11 opposition parties also deemed important to maintain the rule of direct presidential elections and offered the government to hold a plebiscite for making a final decision on this issue.

"If Georgian Dream shares our position, we are ready to enter into dialogue on other issues of constitutional reform," the opposition parties said in a joint statement released on August 22.

The opposition parties also claimed that the ruling party "tries to imitate achieving consensus with the opposition," adding that "reaching an agreement with some parties with small political weight on the issues of election threshold or blocs will fail to meet the minimum standard necessary for achieving consensus on constitutional amendments."

The opposition parties also called on the ruling party "to address the issue of constitutional reform more responsibly."

The letter addressed to Archil Talakvadze, leader of the Georgian Dream parliamentary majority, has been signed by New Georgia, European Georgia – Movement for Freedom, United National Movement, National Democratic Party, Free Democrats, State for the People Movement, Republican Party, Civil Alliance for Freedom, Georgian Democratic Party, Georgian Christian-Democratic Party and Georgian Christian-Conservative Party.

The representatives of both parliamentary and non-parliamentary opposition parties participated in the meeting organized by Georgian Dream on August 18 to discuss "all important issues of constitutional reform."

The Parliament of Georgia adopted the constitutional amendments with its second reading on June 23. The third and the final hearing will be held in autumn 2017.

The opposition slams the ruling party for its decision to postpone the introduction of proportional electoral system to 2024, as well as the decision to ban the creation of political party blocs ahead of elections.

Civil.ge

თსკალტუბო
TSKALTUBO



თბილი წყაროები
HOT SPRINGS

Tskaltubo is an ancient resort. It was known even from 12-13th century. In the 70^s of 18th century health and spa resort was an active hub for holiday-makers.

On August 14, 1772, Tskaltubo was visited by Academician Guldenschedt who describes one of the springs in Tskaltubo. In 1820, Sherer speaks about the hot sulfur springs of Tskaltubo in the vicinity of the City Kutaisi.

In 1849, pharmacist Willems conducted the first chemical analysis of Tskaltubo water. In the months of April-May of 1913, R. Kuptsis discovered radium emanation in Tskaltubo waters.

Tskaltubo's very first bath buildings were built in the 70s of the 19th century.

Tskaltubo is a very peculiar balneology resort. It is situated on the lowland of Kolkheti at 100 m above the sea level.

The main mineral resource of Tskaltubo is its well-known thermal water which is unique for its physical-chemical properties. The water contains noble gas, radon emanation, a large amount of nitrogen and helium, which is why it is categorized to the class

of gas-nitrogen waters or mineral springs belonging to weakly hydrochloric (1-2.7 ng / l or 3; 7.5 maize units or 40-100 b.) chloride-hydrocarbonate-sulfate, sodium-magnesium-calcium waters. The natural temperature of the water (34-35°C) makes it possible to use it without pre-heating and cooling. The water is running in the bathrooms right from the springs without using pumps.

The highest quality of Tskaltubo waters is expressed by:

- 1) Permanency of natural optimal temperature which supports easy tolerability of baths.
- 2) The water runs directly from the springs preserving its course without using their pumps.
- 3) Treatment is carried out under continuously running water i.e. water is inflowing and outflowing in the bathroom before the mineral water procedure is completed, which is why the water preserves the physical-chemical and medicinal properties, its uniformity and temperature. As a result, a person is in constantly renewable water.
- 4) It does not contain toxic substances, and is not of aggressive nature. Accordingly, the age of holiday-makers is unlimited (including 3 years old children and elderly people).

Tskaltubo is non-seasonal resort and it is open throughout the whole year (including holidays).

Tskaltubo thermal-mineral waters are used for treatment of the following diseases:

Locomotors system (Osteochondrosis, Osteoarthritis, Bechterew (Strumpell-Marie) disease etc).

Stature disorders (Kyphosis, scoliosis, Kyphoscoliosis) rheumatoid poly-arthritis, spondyloarthritis (podagric, psoriatic, Reiter's arthritis and others).

Cardiovascular diseases (in-



cluding post stenting and shunt rehabilitation).

Nervous system diseases (Polydiscopathia, Discogenic radiculitis, post-stroke care, brain traumatic brain injuries, post rehabilitation of neurosurgical post-operative care, further rehabilitation of posttraumatic conditions: orthopedic, spinal posttraumatic period and post recovery of spine surgery.

Gynecological diseases- including infertility.

Skin diseases (Dermatitis, eczema, keratosis etc).

Urological diseases.

The buildings of springs No 6 and No 1 of "BalneoService JSC" are directly built on the springs (mineral water griffons). The entire course of treatment amounts to 10-14-21 days. The flow capacity of waters is 1200 people per hour.

Spring No 6 has two luxurious rooms for VIP guests with

individual packages and high class comfort. Each procedural service is being rendered individually offering individual entrance and support of high class medical personal.

The following procedures are used for treatment of the above-mentioned diseases:

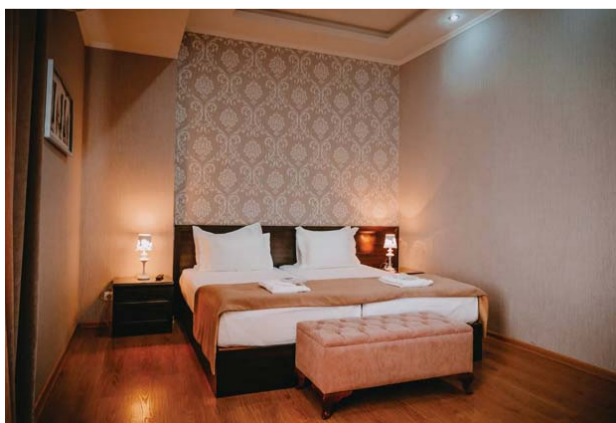
1. Mineral water baths
2. Underwater (hydro-massage)
3. Healing physical exercise in the pool
4. Classic medical massage
5. Spinal horizontal extension in mineral water
6. Physiotherapy
7. Gynecologic irrigation
8. Shower "Sharko"
9. Circular shower
10. Mechano-therapy in mineral water
11. Peloido-therapy (mud application)
12. Pressotherapy
13. Colon hydrotherapy.



“Tskaltubo Hotel Promethus“



Is the Best Place for Relax and Recovery



When you live in an air polluted city it is desirable to avoid the invisible threat and choose the environment rich with oxygen: green, calm, sunny days – an ideal place for relax and recovery. In Tskaltubo, Hotel “Promethus” gives you an opportunity to take care of your health, take a wide range of wellness procedures including: physio-therapy, massage, mineral water bath, hydro-massage and so forth. Our professional team will provide you a full course of treatment. Mineral waters are even more efficient that the strong medicines.

In Hotel Promethus, you will find 49 different category of rooms. The hotel is distinguished for its nice location, coziness, beautiful yard, cleanliness. The hotel menu offers you three meals per day. A variety of Georgian traditional and European food, prepared from natural products, will meet the taste of any gourmet. The menu includes meals for young children and Lenten food.

On the fourth floor of the Hotel, a bar of distinguished design is arranged with an open terrace, where you can taste different drinks and cocktails. From the terrace you can enjoy a beautiful landscape of Tskaltubo coniferous and deciduous forest accompanied by sun rays and life-giving greenery.

Tskaltubo has been a symbol of healthy life style for a long time by its healthy mineral waters.

Make your best choice and visit “Tskaltubo Hotel Promethus”.





North Korea launches trio of missiles amidst US-South Korea military drills

North Korea launched a barrage of missiles Saturday, less than one week after being praised by US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson for showing 'restraint' in its weapons program.

Pyongyang fired three short-range ballistic missiles from the Kangwon province, according to US Pacific Command. The launches occurred in the midst of the US and South Korea's annual Ulchi Freedom Guardian military exercises.

North Korea's missile tests

US Pacific Command, in its initial assessment of the launch on Saturday, said North Korea's first and third missiles failed in flight. They later amended their statement to say the missiles flew "approximately 250 kilometers in a northeastern direction".

The second missile blew up almost immediately at launch.

"We will continue to work with our interagency partners on a more detailed assessment of this latest launch and we will provide a public update if warranted," Pacom spokesman Cmdr. David Benham said in a statement.

Though North Korea says it now has the ability to send missiles to the US mainland, US defense officials said these

short-range missiles did not pose a threat to North America or Guam.

Tough talk amidst military exercises

The missile test capped yet another eventful week on the Korean peninsula, which began with the annual military exercises between the US and South Korea.

Both parties say the training is defensive in nature, but North Korea sees it as provocative and hostile, perhaps even preparation for an invasion.

A day before the exercises began Monday, Pyongyang warned the US was risking an "uncontrollable phase of a nuclear war." North Korean state-run media said the country's military could strike the US at any time and that neither Guam, Hawaii nor the US mainland could avoid the "merciless strike."

"The Korean People's Army is keeping a high alert, fully ready to contain the enemies. It will take resolute steps the moment even a slight sign of the preventive war is spotted," North Korean state-run newspaper Rodong Sinmun said.

However, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson on Tuesday attempted to dial down tensions by noting that there had been no missile tests or "provocative acts" from North Korea since a United Nations Security Council resolution sanc-



tioning Pyongyang was passed earlier this month.

Tillerson: Pyongyang has shown restraint 00:55

Tillerson called North Korea's "restraint" pleasing and said it could open a pathway for dialogue in the near future.

Barely a day later, photographs emerged showing North Korean leader Kim Jong Un inspecting missile and missile-fuel components. State media arm, KCNA, said Kim had visited the country's Chemical Material Institute of the Academy of Defense Sciences and instructed the institute to produce more solid-fuel rocket engines and rocket warhead tips.

Analysts said the photos were a sign from North Korea to the world, to show their solid fuel missile program is improving at a steady rate.

Solid fuel missiles are faster

and easier to deploy, and harder to catch before they launch because there's a lot less to be done in terms of launch preparation. All US and Russian ballistic missiles are solid-fuel models.

Tensions rise as Pyongyang shoots more missiles

North Korea has conducted a series of ballistic missile tests this year, increasing tensions with the United States, South Korea and Japan.

It has fired more than 20 missiles since February, further perfecting its technology with each launch. In July, it launched an intercontinental ballistic missile, which North Korea claims could reach "anywhere in the world."

Earlier this month, President Donald Trump issued an extraordinary ultimatum to North Korea, warning Pyongyang not to make any more threats against the United States or it will "face

fire and fury like the world has never seen."

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson quickly tried to allay fears of a military confrontation, saying there was no sign that the threat level from North Korea had changed and that Americans should "sleep well at night."

In a conciliatory move before that, Tillerson said the United States was willing to sit down for talks with North Korea, but only if it relinquishes its pursuit of nuclear weapons.

South Korea, Japan, Guam react to latest launch

The South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff issued a statement after the Saturday's test, saying "the projectiles" were launched around 6:49 a.m. Saturday and flew about 250 kilometers (155 miles) into the Sea of Japan, or East Sea.

South Korea planned to con-

vene its national security council several hours after the missile launches, the presidential office said in a statement.

North Korea threatens US with 'final doom' 01:11

"Our military is closely monitoring for North Korean additional provocation and strengthened surveillance and security postures and maintaining readiness postures," the South Korean release said.

Guam's governor's office in a statement said the missile launches pose "no immediate threat" to Guam.

"Although the launches were no threat to Guam, it reminds us that we cannot be complacent," said George Charfauros, the homeland security adviser on the US territory. "We place confidence in our US Department of Defense capabilities and continue open communications with our federal and military partners."

Japan's chief cabinet secretary, Yoshihide Suga, told reporters Saturday morning the launches would not directly affect Japan's security, and that no missiles have reached Japan's territorial waters and exclusive economic zone.

CNN's Joshua Berlinger and Best Westcott in Hong Kong, Paula Hancocks and KJ Kwon in Seoul, South Korea, and Nicole Gaouette and Laura Koran in Washington D.C. contributed to this report.

Psychiatrists tell Congress Donald Trump is 'a clear and present danger' to the world

'It no longer takes a psychiatrist to recognise the alarming patterns of impulsive, reckless, and narcissistic behaviour,' group claims

A group of psychiatrists has written to Congress to warn Donald Trump poses a "clear and present danger" to the world.

Among them is Dr Bandy Lee, of Yale University, who is also reportedly consulting with Democratic members of Congress on setting up an expert panel to give advice on the President's mental health.

She is concerned by Mr Trump's "dangerousness", Dr Lee told USA Today.

Trump accused of 'ruinous' sellout over plan to shrink national parks

The group's letter, sent to members of both parties, said: "It no longer takes a psychiatrist to recognise the alarming patterns of impulsive, reckless, and narcissistic behaviour — regardless of diagnosis — that, in the person of President Trump, put the world at risk.

"We now find ourselves in a clear and present danger, especially concerning North Korea and the President's command of the US nuclear arsenal."

Trump calls for unity one day after 75-minute rant at Arizona rally

It comes after Democrats

proposed creating an 11-member, cross-party Oversight Commission on Presidential Capacity which would be responsible for examining the US president's mental and physical health.

First tabled by Maryland congressman Jamie Raskin, and now backed by more than two dozen members of the House, the bill would see Mr Trump or any other US president forced from the Oval Office if he or she is deemed to be mentally or physically unfit for the role.

The Independent



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The 12 most high-tech concept cars unveiled in 2017 so far

1. Airbus got creative with its latest concept car: an electric two-seater that can be airlifted by a drone. Called the Pop.Up System, the car has a range of 100 kilometers (62 miles).



2. Volkswagen unveiled a self-driving concept car that's more of a personal robotic assistant at the Geneva Motor Show this year. Called Seduc, the car's artificial intelligence will allow it to find its own parking spot, drop kids off at an extracurricular activity, and pick up packages



3. Toyota's i-TRIL concept made its debut at the Geneva Motor Show. The two-seater is meant as an alternative to motorcycles and public transit for those looking to zip around in something smaller.



4. Fiat Chrysler unveiled a concept car geared for high-tech millennials at CES this year. The car isn't all that eye-catching purely from an aesthetic perspective. It's large, boxy, and heavy looking...



5. As for an even crazier concept car, Rinspeed showed off its Oasis car at CES. The vehicle has an actual garden, complete with Bonsai trees and radishes.



6. Honda first showed teaser images of its NeuV concept car in December, but it officially made its debut at CES.



7. Volkswagen unveiled a high-tech version of its classic microbus. The electric, revamped Hippiemobile can drive 270 miles on a single charge.



8. Toyota showed off a concept car at CES that wants to be your best friend (sort of like Honda's NeuV). The vehicle has an AI assistant named Yui that's designed to engage you in tasks, like a conversation, so you stay aware while driving.



9. BMW's latest concept car is solely meant to display the automaker's vision for car interiors of the future. The idea is with fully self-driving cars, you can have spacious and homey interiors.



10. Nissan showed off its VMotion concept at the Detroit Auto Show. It has a stunning, geometrical design.



11. Citroen unveiled its C-Aircross concept SUV earlier in February. Citroen said it purposefully went for a "modern" body style with curved lines and strong splashes of color.



12. Volkswagen unveiled a concept of its large SUV the Atlas in February. The concept comes with a cargo box that can expand into a 17.7 cubic-foot container.





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