VOA NEWS

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From Washington, this is VOA news. I'm Christopher Cruise reporting.

President Trump and North Korea's dictator Kim Jong Un have now arrived in Singapore. They're scheduled to meet on Tuesday in the first ever meeting of a North Korean leader and a sitting U.S. president.

Associated Press correspondent Ben Thomas reports.

On his arrival, Kim met with Singapore's prime minister. He says denuclearization of the Korean peninsula is of global importance.

"... not just Northeast Asia, but actually the whole of Asia and in fact, if we look at it more broadly, the whole world."

It's not clear what will be on the agenda when the two men meet.

This is believed to be the farthest Kim has been from North Korea since taking power in 2011.

Mr. Trump has said he told his representatives not to sign the communiqué; that was written by the six other G-7 leaders who had gathered along with the American president for a meeting over the weekend in Canada.

Trump was unhappy about statements made by Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at a [close] closing news conference. Trudeau criticized Trump about new U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminum. He promised that Canada will retaliate as early as July 1.

"We do not want to harm American workers. We do not want to harm trade between Canada and the United States. But the administration's choice to impose illegal and unacceptable tariffs, illegitimate and unacceptable tariffs to Canadian steel workers and auto workers and on the Canadian economy, must be met with an equivalent response."

Like Trudeau, British Prime Minister Theresa May promised to retaliate for tariffs placed on EU goods.

White House trade adviser Peter Navarro said Trump did Trudeau a favor by attending the summit.

This is VOA news.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is holding its first summit since India and Pakistan joined the bloc. The organization is widely seen as a way to block American influence in Central Asia.

Italy is refusing to let a humanitarian ship carrying more than 600 migrants dock at any of its ports. Most of them are from sub-Saharan Africa.

The International Labor Organization reports 152 million children are victims of child labor, with nearly half of them forced to work in hazardous, unhealthy conditions that can result in death and injury.

Correspondent Lisa Schlein reports for VOA from Geneva in advance of the world day against child labor on June 12.

The ILO reports nearly half of the child laborers are found in Africa and in the Asia and Pacific regions. Sub-Saharan Africa has the largest proportion with one in five children working.

It notes children typically enter the work force at the age of six or seven, getting involved in hazardous work as they get older. About 70 percent of hazardous work is concentrated in agriculture. Other forms include mining, construction and domestic service.

Lisa Schlein, for VOA news, Geneva.

Thousands of women turned British cities into rivers of green, white and violet to mark 100 years since the first women in the U.K. won the right to vote.

AP correspondent Karen Chammas reports.

Mass processions of women marched through London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast wearing scarfs and the colors of the suffragette movement that fought for female empowerment.

In 1918, British Parliament enacted the Representation of the People Act, which granted property-owning British women over 30 the right to vote. It will be another decade before women won the same voting rights as men.

Women came from across England and even further afield to take part.

The mood was celebratory, but organizers said the event aimed to draw attention to what remains to be done to achieve the quality, from closing the gender pay gap to ending workplace sexual harassment.

Karen Chammas, London.

Leo Sarkisian, the founder of VOA's long-running "Music Time in Africa" program has died at the age of 97.

He died Friday. He will be buried with full military honors.

He was known by his fans as the "Music Man of Africa," founded the English language radio program in 1965 and traveled to every African country recording music.

Leo Sarkisian retired from VOA in 2012 after 47 years on the air. When he retired, he said, "I feel like I'm just beginning."

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That's the latest world news from VOA.