WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

Trump promises decision 'very quickly' on Syria response

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Monday he will decide on a U.S. response to the apparent chemical weapons attack on Syrian civilians "probably by the end of today"

Speaking during a Cabinet meeting, Trump condemned the "heinous attack" Saturday that killed at least 40 people, including children. "It was an atrocious attack," he said. "It was horrible." He said he will be huddling with military advisers to consider U.S. options and "nothing's off the table."

Trump said the U.S. is still investigating the possible involvement of the Iranian and Russian governments in the strike.

"If it's Russia, if it's Syria, if it's Iran, if it's all of them together, we'll figure it out," he said. He added of Russian President Vladimir Putin, "everybody's going to pay a price — he will, everybody will."

Israel blamed for missile strike in Syria; 14 reported dead

BEIRUT — Russia and the Syrian military blamed Israel for a pre-dawn missile attack Monday on an air base in central Syria, saying Israeli fighter jets launched the missiles from Lebanon's air space. A war-monitoring group said the airstrikes killed 14 people, including Iranians active in Syria.

Russia's Defense Ministry said two Israeli aircraft targeted the T4 air base in Homs province, firing eight missiles. It said Syria shot down five of them while the other three landed in the western part of the base. Syrian state TV quoted an unnamed military official as saying that Israeli F-15 warplanes fired several missiles at T4. It gave no further details.

Israel's foreign ministry had no comment



AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg will testify in Congress Tuesday about the use of Facebook data to target American voters in the 2016 election.

when asked about the accusations.

Since 2012, Israel has struck inside Syria some 100 times, hitting suspected weapons' convoys destined for the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, which has been fighting alongside Syrian government forces.

Most recently, Israel hit the same T4 base in February, after it said an Iranian drone that had violated Israeli airspace took off from the base.

US official says North Korean leader ready to discuss nukes

WASHINGTON — North Korea's government has communicated with the United States to say that leader Kim Jong Un is ready to discuss his nuclear weapons program with President Donald Trump, officials said Sun-

day, increasing the likelihood that the unprecedented summit will actually occur.

The confirmation from Pyongyang directly, rather than from third countries like South Korea, has created more confidence within Trump's administration about the wisdom of holding such a meeting, as U.S. officials make secretive preparations. The Trump administration has long said that if the North Koreans weren't ready to discuss giving up their nuclear program, there was no reason for the two countries to hold negotiations.

Trump took his own administration and other countries by surprise last month when he accepted an unusual offer from Kim to hold a meeting. The North had conveyed the invitation to a visiting delegation from South Korea, which in turn traveled to Washington and relayed the message to Trump.

The president said yes to the meeting on the spot, even though the U.S. had not yet heard

directly from North Korea about Kim's intentions. The U.S. later heard from other countries including China, where Kim paid a rare visit, that the North was serious about the offer.

Still, North Korea's government has not said anything publicly at all about a meeting with Trump, and the lack of known contact between Pyongyang and Washington about the meeting has fueled further speculation about the seriousness of Kim's offer.

Facebook to send Cambridge Analytica data-use notices today

NEW YORK — Get ready to find out if your Facebook data has been swept up in the Cambridge Analytica scandal.

Starting Monday, the 87 million users who might have had their data shared with Cambridge Analytica will get a detailed message on their news feeds. Facebook says most of the affected users (more than 70 million) are in the U.S., though there are over a million each in the Philippines, Indonesia and the U.K.

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In addition, all 2.2 billion Facebook users will receive a notice titled "Protecting Your Information" with a link to see what apps they use and what information they have shared with those apps. If they want, they can shut off apps individually or turn off third-party access to their apps completely.

Reeling from its worst privacy crisis in history — allegations that this Trump-affiliated data mining firm may have used ill-gotten user data to try to influence elections — Facebook is in full damage-control mode. CEO Mark Zuckerberg acknowledged that he made a "huge mistake" in failing to take a broad enough view of what Facebook's responsibility is in the world. He's set to testify before Congress

Cambridge Analytica whistleblower Christopher Wylie previously estimated that more than 50 million people were compromised by a personality quiz that collected data from users and their friends. In an interview aired Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press," Wylie said the true number could be even larger than 87 million.

Elk: Pilot program 'advocacy opportunity'

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"In this case, it's designed to have the cities have their own agents kill the deer in their own way or manner to have the deer salvaged for charity so they don't go to waste," Cottam said.

City Attorney Peter Watts said the pilot program could be an "advocacy opportunity" for opponents or proponents of culling elk.

Department of Fish and Wildlife officials came to Gearhart last week at the city's request amid growing concerns about elk.

"We want to get as much specific information as possible to continue to educate and mitigate some of these safety issues," Mayor Matt Brown said.

Herman Biederbeck, a state wildlife biologist who manages the elk herds within the Saddle Mountain Wildlife Management Unit, said about 5,500 elk populate Clatsop County.

In Gearhart, there are

about 75 animals, he added, a number that fluctuates as the herd ranges from the city limit with Seaside to Sunset Beach State Recreation Site.

Biederbeck urged a no-feeding policy for the elk and signs to alert residents and tourists of elk concerns. He suggested having law enforcement or city employees intervene when people are improperly interacting with elk

"Even a dog on a leash—if you get too close with a dog—elk do not like dogs," he said. "Dogs are a lightning rod for elk."

Hazing elk is permissible within city limits, after a homeowner acquires a permit from the state. Using a leaf blower, pots and pans or a broom to shoo away animals does not require a permit.

"That's a totally different matter if you own a farm or golf course and you try to drive them off," Biederbeck said. "That's a classic situation where you would need a permit."

Relocation of the herd was generally rejected by wild-life officials at the meeting. "Tracking and relocating elk has several challenges," Biederbeck said.

Some of the challenges involve a lack of places to move the animals and the potential spread of disease. After trapping some elk, the remaining elk become "trap shy," he said. Trapping efforts are also often sabotaged by residents who oppose the idea.

A disease called elk hoof rot has emerged in northern Oregon, Cottam said. "We do not want to move and spread this disease," he said. "If there was any time to move elk, I believe that time is past."

With a town hall meeting scheduled for Warrenton on Thursday, concerns about elk are moving well beyond Gearhart.

"Maybe it's time to look at Clatsop Plains in general," Biederbeck said. "Do we take them on each individually? Or do we maybe look beyond those municipalities?"



John Dudley

Gearhart and other cities are concerned about elk.

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