

# Two Koreas to destroy 22 frontline guard posts this month

By Kim Tong-Hyung  
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — The North and South Korean militaries have agreed to completely destroy 22 frontline guard posts by the end of November while discussing their next steps in implementing a wide-ranging military agreement signed to reduce tension.

They also agreed to conduct a joint survey soon of a 43-mile-long waterway near their western border where civilian vessels from both countries eventually will be allowed to pass freely, according to a statement released after general-level talks at the border village of Panmunjom.

The plans to remove the guard posts and jointly use the Han River estuary were among the commitments spelled out in a military agreement reached on the sidelines of a summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in.

The talks came a day after the Koreas and the U.S.-led U.N. Command completed removing firearms and troops from a jointly controlled area at the border



village. The Koreas have also been clearing mines from frontline areas and plan to start their first-ever joint search for remains of soldiers killed during the 1950-1953 Korean War in April.

South Korea confirmed its soldiers had found war remains in a different frontline area.

According to the statement provided by South Korea's Defense Ministry, the Koreas agreed to complete the withdrawal of personnel, firearms, and equipment and the destruction of the 11 guard posts from each side by the end of November. They plan to jointly verify the results in December.

In the September agreement, the Koreas pledged to eventually withdraw all guard posts within the heavily armed

**GUARD POSTS GONE SOON.** Buddhist believers attend the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) World Peace Meditation Event at Imjingak Pavilion in Paju near the demilitarized zone of Panmunjom, South Korea. Thousands of Buddhists believers prayed for peace and denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula. The North and South Korean militaries have agreed to completely destroy 22 frontline guard posts by the end of November while discussing their next steps in implementing a wide-ranging military agreement signed to reduce tension. (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

Demilitarized Zone between them.

The Koreas did not produce a timetable yet for setting up a joint military committee to maintain communication and avoid crises and accidental clashes, but agreed it should be established "soon."

The Koreas also agreed to create buffer zones along their land and sea boundaries, as well as a no-fly zone above the border.

Moon has described the military agreement as an important trust-building step that will reduce border tension and create more space for larger U.S.-led negotiations on denuclearizing North Korea.

Some experts say South Korea risks conceding its conventional military strength before North Korea takes any concrete steps toward relinquishing its nuclear weapons.

## China building boom uncovers buried dinosaurs

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media, Xu has refrained from signing up for WeChat, the dominant messaging platform in China, because "I don't think I could find time for all the new messages."

Back at the site in Yanji, a colleague brings him a large rock with an exposed sauropod vertebrae to examine.

The bone has a spongy texture, which Xu says is a result of the animal's respiratory system. Like modern birds, he believes sauropods breathed using both lungs and

distributed air sacs, which can leave an impression in the bones.

Xu uses a brush to flick away dirt to inspect the fossil more closely.

"Basically we are reconstructing the evolutionary tree of life," he said. "If you have more species to study, you have more branches on that tree, more information about the history of life on Earth."

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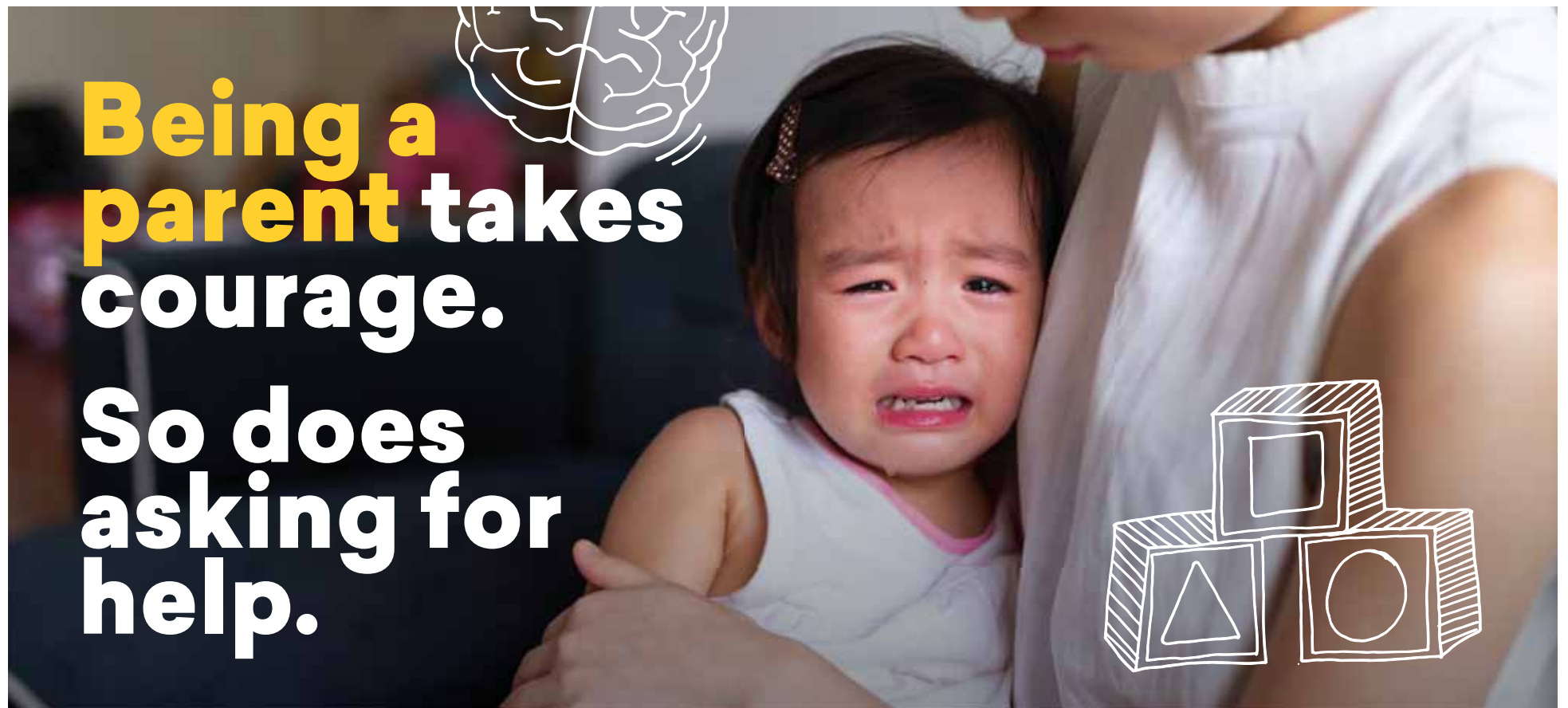
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