

WHAT'S LIKELY TO HAPPEN TODAY

8am

• Mr Trump's motorcade is expected to leave the Shangri-La Hotel for the Capella hotel in Sentosa where the talks will be held. Mr Kim is staying at St Regis hotel, a stone's throw away. His convoy is expected to make its way to the resort island around this time too.

8.20am

• According to a White House schedule released last night, Mr Trump is expected to arrive at Capella at this time.

9am

• The two leaders officially begin the summit with a historic handshake. This will be captured by the world's media cameras at the TV prime-time of 9pm in some parts of the US.

9.15am

• The two leaders will have a one-on-one meeting with only translators present.

10am

• They will then have an expanded meeting with their delegations.

11.30am

• Both leaders will sit down for a working lunch, with the meeting expected to end some time after.

2pm

• Mr Kim is reportedly scheduled to depart at this time. Given the expanded meetings between the two delegations, he may postpone his departure.

4pm

• Mr Trump is expected to take part "in a media availability" with White House reporters after the summit.

6.30pm

• Mr Trump leaves Capella for Paya Lebar Airbase.

7pm

• Mr Trump will depart for the US at this time.

KEY ISSUES ON THE AGENDA

1. DENUCLEARISATION

• The US wants the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation of North Korea. North Korea has said it is committed to the "denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula", but it is unclear what concessions Mr Kim is prepared to offer in return.

2. END TO KOREAN WAR

• Mr Trump has said the two Koreas have his "blessing" to discuss an agreement to formally end the Korean War, which resulted in a truce and not a peace treaty, if North Korea agrees to give up its nuclear arsenal. Declaring an end to the war is thought to be a precursor to ending hostilities and establishing a peace regime on the Korean peninsula, which is key to

guaranteeing the North Korean regime's survival.

3. NORMALISATION

• To persuade Mr Kim to denuclearise, Mr Trump has offered a normalisation of diplomatic ties between the former foes and even a White House visit for Mr Kim. The other carrot for Mr Kim is a possible loosening of the punishing United Nations Security Council sanctions. But Washington has said the sanctions can end only when denuclearisation is complete, while Pyongyang wants "phased" relief as it makes progress towards that goal.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS

• Another question is whether Mr Trump will take up the issue of human rights. North Korea has been

accused of a host of state-sanctioned rights abuse including its forced labour camps, extrajudicial killings, torture and kidnapping.

5. SECURITY

• The key to the North's willingness to scale back its nuclear programme will be the Trump administration's ability to provide the Kim regime with a sense of security, in addition to economic and political incentives.

• The Trump administration has promised not to seek to bring about regime change and Mr Pompeo has even floated the possibility of issuing security guarantees to the North.

Key players behind the summit

At 9am today, US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will meet in a historic summit at the Capella hotel in Sentosa. Both men will be accompanied by a team of deal-makers, but observers say how the summit turns out will depend on the two leaders' gut instincts and chemistry.



UNITED STATES

MIKE POMPEO, 54, Secretary of State

He made his reputation in the US House of Representatives as a hard-right "Tea Party" conservative with hawkish world views.

The former CIA director flew to Pyongyang on May 9 to meet Mr Kim Jong Un, in part to discuss the planned summit between Mr Kim and Mr Trump. He returned to the US with three Americans who were detained in North Korea.



NORTH KOREA

KIM YONG CHOL, 73, Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee

The former intelligence chief is a four-star general and a trusted aide to his leader. Despite having been accused by Seoul of planning deadly attacks on a South Korean navy ship and an island in 2010, Mr Kim has, more recently, played a role in the easing of tensions between the two Koreas.



KIM JONG UN, 34, Chairman of the State Affairs Commission

The young leader has embraced his grandfather Kim Il Sung's dual-track policy of military development with economic growth since taking power in 2011. With last November's firing of the Hwasong-15 missile, he declared his country's nuclear programme complete. But in a dramatic departure from its previous stance, Pyongyang said in early March it is willing to denuclearise if the US provides it with reliable security assurances and other benefits.



JOHN KELLY, 68, White House Chief of Staff

A retired four-star US Marine Corps general, he had previously served as secretary of homeland security in Mr Trump's administration.

When he was appointed Chief of Staff last July, many Trump watchers believed Mr Kelly would prove a voice of reason in the administration. But recent media reports hinted that his influence has been severely diminished following clashes with Mr Trump.



JOSEPH HAGIN, 62, White House Deputy Chief of Staff

Mr Hagin, a former deputy chief of staff to then President George W. Bush, was brought into the Trump White House for his operational know-how as most Trump aides had little White House experience.

Mr Trump has come to trust Mr Hagin's operational capabilities, seeing him as a steady hand who can execute complicated tasks, such as arranging the logistics for the Singapore summit.



MATTHEW POTTINGER, 44, Senior Director for Asian Affairs in the National Security Council

A former journalist who reported for the Reuters news agency and The Wall Street Journal from China. He made a name for himself investigating alleged illicit Chinese dealings with North Korea.

He then joined the US Marines and served as an intelligence officer in Afghanistan.

As a North Asia expert who has helped coordinate North Korea policy, he is seen by Korea watchers as a pragmatic voice.



KIM YO JONG, 30, Deputy Director of Propaganda and Agitation Department

The younger sister of Mr Kim Jong Un, and youngest daughter of late leader Kim Jong Il, emerged as an influential figure in Pyongyang's leadership in February, when she led a North Korean delegation to the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics. She is said to share a close relationship with her brother and was seen closely assisting the leader during the inter-Korean summit held on April 27 in South Korea.



KIM CHANG SON, 74, Director of the State Affairs Commission Secretariat

As de facto chief of staff, he is sometimes called the chief butler to the family of Mr Kim Jong Un and has looked after him since Mr Kim was a child. Both Mr Kim Chang Son and White House Deputy Chief of Staff Joseph Hagin arrived in Singapore on May 28 to work out security measures for today's summit.



RI SU YONG, 78, Vice-Chairman for International Affairs

A former foreign minister and well-travelled career diplomat, Mr Ri was named a member of the Politburo during a 2016 congress of the ruling Workers' Party. The French-speaking Mr Ri, who acted as Mr Kim Jong Un's surrogate father when he was at a Swiss school, is known as a powerful and close family confidant.



JOHN BOLTON, 69, National Security Adviser

Mr Bolton was US undersecretary of state for arms control and international security when North Korea was named part of an "axis of evil" with Iraq and Iran by then President George W. Bush in 2002.

Known for his hawkish views, he was a strong proponent in the Bush administration of regime change in North Korea.

Despite his hardline rhetoric which infuriated North Korea and nearly derailed the summit, US officials have said he remains a key player.



SUNG KIM, 58, US Ambassador to the Philippines

The veteran diplomat was called in to lead a small delegation that met North Korean officials in the DMZ recently to discuss the summit agenda.

He is an ex-ambassador to Seoul and a former nuclear negotiator with Pyongyang.

Yesterday, he led the US delegation for a working-level meeting with North Korean Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Choe Son Hui and her team.



ALLISON HOOKER, National Security Council's point person on Korea

She was a former East Asia and Pacific affairs analyst with the US State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research.

She was in the delegation that went to South Korea for the closing ceremony of the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics.



RI YONG HO, 61, Foreign Minister

A former ambassador to Britain, he was appointed to the ministerial post in 2016, replacing Mr Ri Su Yong. Proficient in English, he is described as a skilled negotiator and represented North Korea at six-party talks on the North's nuclear programme, which fell apart after their last round in 2008.



NO KWANG CHOL, 62, Defence Minister

A former vice-minister of the People's Armed Forces, he is known as a "moderate" in the military. He previously headed the Second Economic Committee, which oversees defence production including the nuclear and missile programmes.



CHOE SON HUI, 54, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs

A statement from Ms Choe, in which she criticised US Vice-President Mike Pence for his "ignorant and stupid" remarks comparing North Korea and Libya, was considered a likely trigger for Mr Trump's initial cancellation of the summit on May 24. She has been representing the North in talks with a US delegation led by Mr Sung Kim, a veteran diplomat and Ambassador to the Philippines.

A conference table that was once used by Singapore's chief justices may well play a part in today's historic summit between United States President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. The table – which was in official use from 1939 to 2005 – is part of a suite of bespoke furniture designed in 1939 by local craftsmen for the

former Supreme Court building, which is now part of the art museum, National Gallery Singapore.

The Straits Times understands that the 4.3m-long teak table is on loan from the Gallery to the US Embassy for the summit at the Capella hotel in Sentosa.