

TRUMP-KIM SUMMIT: WHO WON, AND WHO LOST

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's summit with US President Donald Trump had several winners and losers, and some who won as well as lost. Here's a look at them:

PEOPLE

WIN



KIM JONG UN

- The 34-year-old leader has scored an extraordinary diplomatic coup, meeting and negotiating with the 72-year-old US President on an equal footing despite years of being regarded as a pariah. All this at no cost to Mr Kim, say experts.
- The omission of the words "verifiable" and "irreversible" from the phrasing on denuclearisation in the Trump-Kim joint statement suggested North Korean resistance to US requests.
- Mr Kim also won an offer by Mr Trump to halt US-South Korea joint military exercises, which the North had regarded as a threat.



XI JINPING

- The Chinese President's presence hung over Tuesday's talks: Mr Xi met Mr Kim twice in recent weeks and an Air China jet ferried the North Korean ruler to Singapore from Pyongyang.
- Even Mr Trump, whose administration has been embroiled in tense trade talks with Mr Xi's, called Mr Xi a friend and thanked him for China's role in strengthening sanctions against North Korea.



MOON JAE IN

- The South Korean President played a critical part in bringing about the Singapore summit, patching things up when the meeting threatened to founder amid a return to mutual mudslinging.
- Seoul and Pyongyang have already vowed to hold more regular meetings and the legitimisation of Mr Kim on the world stage makes a Moon trip to Pyongyang more likely.



KIM YONG CHOL

- The right-hand man to Mr Kim Jong Un was the most senior official from that country to visit the US in almost 20 years in the run-up to the summit, meeting with Mr Trump.
- The North Korean vice-chairman played a key role in getting the US to temper its demands for the summit to take place without North Korea making similar concessions.

WIN-LOSE



DONALD TRUMP

- The US President won general praise for meeting Mr Kim and engaging him in dialogue. But even supporters in his Republican Party were sounding cautious.
- The statement Mr Trump signed with Mr Kim committed them to the "complete denuclearisation" of the Korean Peninsula, as well as to a new relationship, a peace regime and security guarantees, none of them defined.
- Analysts note that there are no benchmarks for progress, follow-up meetings scheduled or even agreement on what success would look like.



MIKE POMPEO

- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met Mr Kim twice in Pyongyang, paving the way to the summit. However, when it came to securing Mr Kim's commitment to complete, verifiable, irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula, the summit declaration fell short of Mr Pompeo's goal.
- He now has a lot of hard work ahead of him to ensure that North Korea keeps to its side of the agreement.



SHINZO ABE

- The Japanese Premier has invested much political capital on the issue of Japanese citizens kidnapped by North Korea decades ago, which still rankles deeply among Japanese. Mr Abe welcomed that Mr Trump had apparently brought it up with Mr Kim, but there was no tangible progress.
- Officials in Tokyo are reportedly seeking an Abe-Kim summit to thrash out the issue head-to-head.

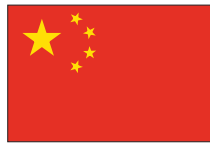
COUNTRIES

WINNERS



SINGAPORE

- Facilitating the summit has benefited Singapore's reputation and boosted the country's profile on the world stage. Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong has said that the cost of the summit for Singapore was about S\$20 million, but underlined that the country's contribution to an international endeavour for world peace was well worth the cost.



CHINA

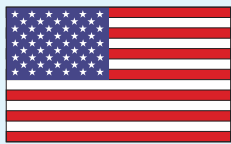
- Given that North Korea has halted missile and nuclear tests, for now, Mr Trump's offer to suspend US-South Korea drills amounts to the very dialogue and "suspension for suspension" model that China has advocated for years.
- A stop to US war games with Seoul is an added bonus, as Beijing has always eyed the military exercises in its backyard warily.
- Any reduction in tensions on its doorstep is welcome for China, North Korea's closest ally, which accounts for around 90 per cent of Pyongyang's trade.



NORTH KOREA

- The isolated country enjoyed a coming-out party of sorts, with its leader received on an equal footing by the US President. With China hinting that the United Nations could consider lifting punishing sanctions on North Korea, Pyongyang may soon be able to secure much-needed goods and foreign currency.
- The failure to set a denuclearisation deadline and the US agreement to stop war games with South Korea was also in the country's favour.

WIN-LOSE



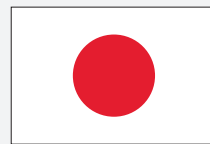
UNITED STATES

- One of the key points in a document signed by Mr Trump and Mr Kim was a commitment from Pyongyang to return the mortal remains of US prisoners of war or servicemen missing in action after the Korean War. Mr Trump has also portrayed the cessation of war games with South Korea as a huge cost saving.
- However, by meeting Mr Kim on an equal footing, Mr Trump has given legitimacy to the regime in North Korea. The US also did not secure a commitment to complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation, despite Mr Trump saying that this was a non-negotiable demand.



SOUTH KOREA

- North and South Korea are likely to renew their push towards a formal declaration that the 1950-53 Korean War, which ceased with an armistice rather than a peace treaty, is over.
- But like everyone else, military chiefs in South Korea were caught off-guard by Mr Trump's unilateral declaration of an end to joint exercises, which is likely to embolden conservatives calling for Seoul to develop nuclear weapons of its own.



JAPAN

- With Tokyo under direct threat from North Korean missiles and reliant on the US for its defence, the cancellation of the US-South Korea war games grated. Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera stressed yesterday that they were "vital" to regional security.