



2016 - 2017 Academic Junior High Decathlon

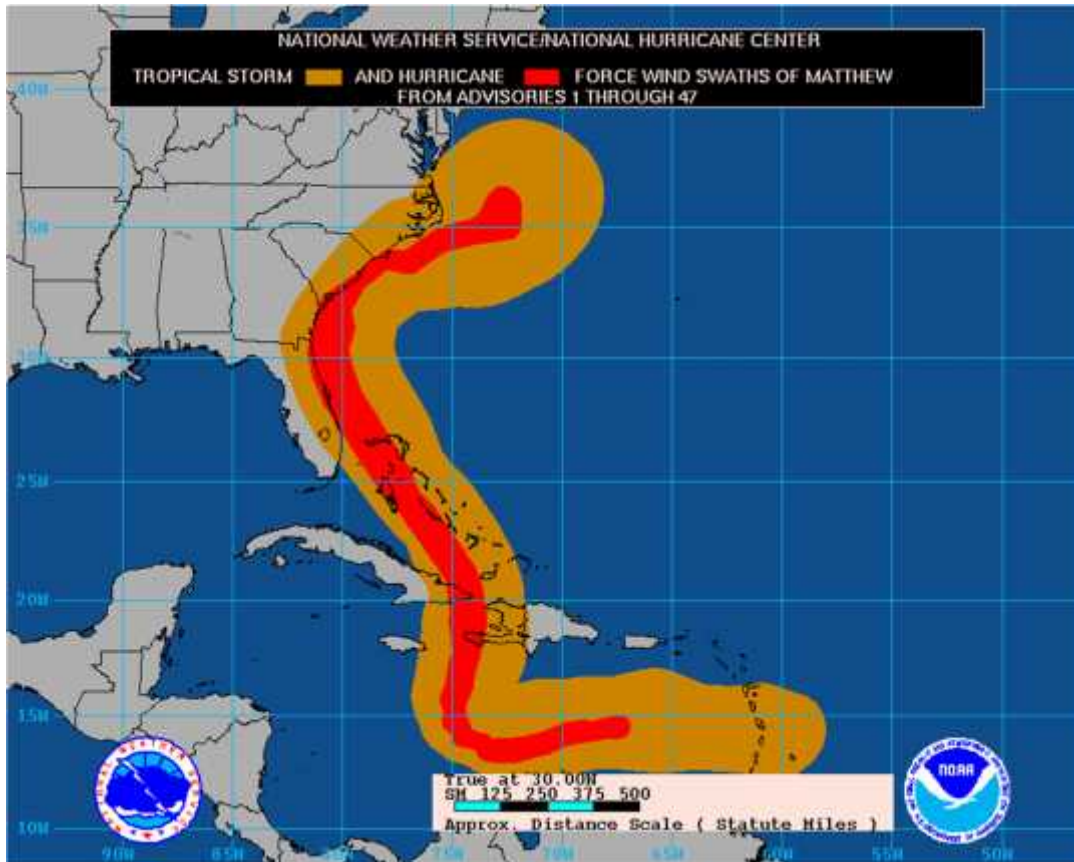
Current Events Individual Subject Test

News Articles #2

October 7th through October 23, 2016

Hurricane Matthew Travels Path of Destruction through Caribbean before Approaching United States by Sally Sylva

Hurricane Matthew began as a tropical storm off the coast of Africa in September. By early October, it had strengthened to a category 4 hurricane. Taking a path through the Caribbean Sea, it left a path of destruction in its wake.



Hurricane Matthew reached its peak intensity on September 30th and October 1st as a category 5 hurricane with sustained wind speeds of 160 mph.

It weakened slightly before making land, slamming into the western peninsula of the island of Haiti on Tuesday, October 4th with sustained wind speeds of 145 mph and torrential rains. A category 4 hurricane, Matthew left an estimated death toll of close to 900, as rescue workers searched for survivors in places isolated by the storm. The U.S. Navy dispatched the U.S.S. Mesa Verde, an amphibious transport dock ship, to aid relief efforts in Haiti. The ship is equipped with heavy-lift helicopters, bulldozers, two surgical operating rooms, and food supplies.

The hurricane continued on to the Bahamas, making landfall as a category 3 and category 4 hurricane. Radar indicates that Matthew made landfall along the western tip of Grand Bahama Island prior to 8 p.m. (Eastern Daylight Time) on October 6th with extremely high winds. Around 9 p.m. (EDT) on October 6th, Grand Bahama reported sustained winds of 64 mph. The town of Freeport, in the northwest Bahamas, reported sustained winds of 100 mph with gusts up to 121 mph. The storm disrupted communications on the islands for several days. Widespread damage was reported.

Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale			
Category	Sustained Wind Speeds (mph)	Damage Potential	Storm Surge
1	74-95	Minimal	4 – 5 ft.
2	96-110	Moderate	6 - 8 ft.
3	111-130	Extensive	9 – 12 ft.
4	131-155	Extreme	13 – 18 ft.
5	over 155	Catastrophic	Greater than 18 ft.

As Hurricane Matthew approached the eastern coast of the United States, President Obama urged residents of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina to heed the requests of emergency personnel to evacuate areas along the coastline. "The potential for storm surge, loss of life and severe property damage exists," Obama told reporters.

On October 7th in Florida, a peak storm surge of 9.88 feet above normal was measured at an NOS tide gauge at Fernandina Beach, Florida. Storm surge flooding affected Saint Augustine, including major flooding on Anastasia Island, where water was reported to be 2.5 feet above ground level. To the south in nearby Flagler Beach, Florida, parts of highway A1A were washed out by the storm surge.

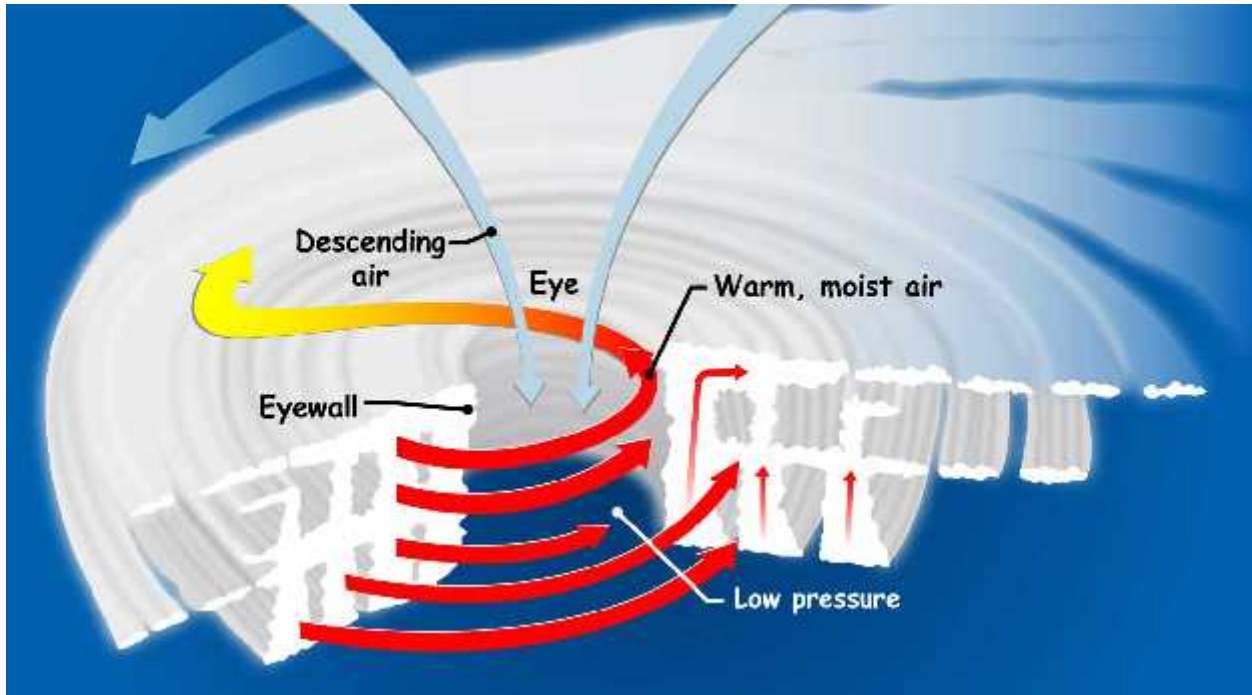
Governor Nikki Haley of North Carolina ordered mandatory evacuations of coastal areas in the state. Hurricane Matthew made landfall on U.S. soil on October 8th southeast of McClellanville, South Carolina, as a Category 1 hurricane with 75 mph winds. The storm brought widespread flash flooding and record river flooding to eastern North Carolina, with hourly rainfall estimates measured as high as 7 inches per hour. Buildings were flooded, roads washed out, and sections of Interstates 95 and 40 were flooded. Twenty-two people were killed in North Carolina as a result of the storm. President Barack Obama declared a federal emergency in 35 North Carolina counties, where some 2,300 people were rescued in more than 600 rescue operations.

The storm moved away from the eastern border of the United States on October 9th, losing strength. It was classified as post-tropical on the same day.

A hurricane is a powerful tropical cyclone with sustained winds of at least 74 miles per hour that rotate in a counterclockwise direction. Hurricanes form over warm waters (at least 80° F)

near the equator in the North Atlantic and Northeast Pacific Oceans. Cyclones form over the South Pacific and Indian Ocean. Typhoons form over the Northwest Pacific Ocean. Cyclones that form south of the equator rotate in a clockwise direction.

Diagram of a hurricane:



Courtesy of NASA.gov

The eye of a hurricane is the center of the storm, characterized by low air pressure, clear skies, and low wind speeds. As warm air rises from the ocean waters, cold air moves down through the eye of the hurricane to take its place. In turn, the cold air becomes warm and rises. The movement of air creates the rotation of the storm.

The eyewall is the area immediately outside the eye of a hurricane or cyclone, associated with tall clouds, heavy rainfall, and high winds. It is the most damaging part of a hurricane, with the highest wind speeds and precipitation.

Spiral rainbands radiate out from the eyewall of the hurricane. The spiral rainbands may extend for hundreds of miles from the eye of the hurricane.

Storm surge is a rise in sea levels caused by atmospheric pressure changes and winds associated with a storm.

bio.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Penny
Marshall



VIDEO
Oscar Wilde



Bob Dylan

Songwriter, Singer (1941–)

Bob Dylan is one of the most influential singer-songwriters of the 20th century whose career began in the early 1960s with songs that chronicled social issues like war and civil rights.

Synopsis

Folk rock singer-songwriter Bob Dylan was born Robert Allen Zimmerman on May 24, 1941, in Duluth, Minnesota. While attending college, he began performing folk and country songs, taking the name "Bob Dylan." In 1961 Dylan signed his first recording contract and emerged as one of the most original and influential voices in the history of American popular music. Showing no signs of slowing down, Dylan has continued to tour in recent years, and released studio albums including *Together Through Life* (2009), *Tempest* (2012), *Shadows in the Night* (2015) and *Fallen Angels* (2016). The legendary singer-songwriter has received Grammy, Academy and Golden Globe awards, as well as the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Nobel Prize for Literature.

NAME
Bob Dylan

OCCUPATION
Songwriter, Singer

BIRTH DATE
May 24, 1941 (age 75)

EDUCATION
University of Minnesota

PLACE OF BIRTH
Duluth, Minnesota

ZODIAC SIGN
Gemini

Early Life

Folk rock singer-songwriter Bob Dylan was born Robert Allen Zimmerman on May 24, 1941, in Duluth, Minnesota. Driven by the influences of early rock stars like [Elvis Presley](#), [Jerry Lee Lewis](#) and [Little Richard](#) (whom he used to imitate on the piano at high school dances), the young Dylan formed his own bands, including the Golden Chords, as well as a group he fronted under the pseudonym Elston Gunn. While attending the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, he began performing folk and country songs at local cafés, taking the name "Bob Dillon." (Despite a popular myth to the contrary, the pseudonym was not inspired by Welsh poet Dylan Thomas—who he later professed to dislike—but by the main character from the popular Western television series *Gunsmoke*.)

Folk Singing

In 1960, Bob dropped out of college and moved to New York, where his idol, the legendary folk singer [Woody Guthrie](#) was hospitalized with a rare hereditary disease of the nervous system. He visited with Guthrie regularly in his hospital room; became a regular in the folk clubs and coffeehouses of Greenwich Village; met a host of other musicians; and began writing songs at an astonishing pace, including "Song to Woody," a tribute to his ailing hero. In the fall of 1961, after one of his performances received a rave review in *The New York Times*, he signed a recording contract with Columbia Records, at which point he legally changed his surname to Dylan. Released early in 1962, *Bob Dylan* contained only two original songs, but showcased Dylan's gravelly-voiced singing style in a number of traditional folk songs and covers of blues songs.

The 1963 release of *The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan* marked Dylan's emergence as one of the most original and poetic voices in the history of American popular music. The album included two of the most memorable 1960s folk songs, "Blowin' in the Wind" (which later became a huge hit for the folk trio [Peter, Paul, and Mary](#)) and "A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall." His next album, *The Times They Are A-Changin'*, firmly established Dylan as the definitive songwriter of the 60s protest movement, a reputation that only increased after he became involved with one of the movement's established icons, [Joan Baez](#), in 1963. While his romantic relationship with Baez lasted only two years, it benefited both performers immensely in terms of their music careers—Dylan wrote some of Baez's best-known material, and Baez introduced him to thousands of fans through her concerts. By 1964 Dylan was playing 200 concerts annually, but had become tired of his role as "the" folk singer-songwriter of the protest movement. *Another Side of Bob Dylan*, recorded in 1964, was a much more personal, introspective collection of songs, far less politically charged than Dylan's previous efforts.

Reinventing His Image

In 1965, Dylan scandalized many of his folkie fans by recording the half-acoustic, half-electric album *Bringing It All Back Home*, backed by a nine-piece band. On July 25, 1965, he was famously booed at the Newport Folk Festival when he performed electrically for the first time. The albums that followed, *Highway 61 Revisited* (1965)—which included the seminal rock song "Like a Rolling Stone"—and the two-record set *Blonde on Blonde* (1966) represented Dylan at his most innovative. With his unmistakable voice and unforgettable lyrics, Dylan brought the worlds of music and literature together as no one else had.

Over the course of the next three decades, Dylan continued to reinvent himself. Following a near-fatal motorcycle accident in July 1966, Dylan spent almost a year recovering in seclusion. His next two albums, *John Wesley Harding* (1968)—including "All Along the Watchtower," later recorded by guitar great [Jimi Hendrix](#)—and the unabashedly country-ish *Nashville Skyline* (1969) were far more mellow than his earlier works. Critics blasted the two-record set *Self-Portrait* (1970) and *Tarantula*, a long-awaited collection of writings Dylan published in 1971, also met with a poor reception. In 1973, Dylan appeared in *Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid*, a feature film directed by [Sam Peckinpah](#). He also wrote the film's soundtrack, which became a hit and included the now-classic song, "Knockin' on Heaven's Door."

Touring and Religion

In 1974, Dylan began his first full-scale tour since his accident, embarking on a sold-out nationwide tour with his longtime backup band, the Band. An album he recorded with the Band, *Planet Waves*, became his first No. 1 album ever. He followed these successes with the celebrated 1975 album *Blood on the Tracks* and *Desire* (1976), each of which hit No. 1 as well. *Desire* included the song "Hurricane," written by Dylan about the boxer [Rubin "Hurricane" Carter](#), then serving life in prison after what many felt was an wrongful conviction of triple homicide in 1967. Dylan was one of many prominent public figures who helped popularize Carter's cause, leading to a retrial in 1976, when he was again convicted.

After a painful split with his wife, Sara Lowndes—the song "Sara" on *Desire* was Dylan's plaintive but unsuccessful attempt to win Lowndes back—Dylan again reinvented himself, declaring in 1979 that he was a born-again Christian. The evangelical *Slow Train Coming* was a commercial hit, and won Dylan his first Grammy Award. The tour and albums that followed were less successful, however, and Dylan's religious leanings soon became less overt in his music. In 1982, he was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

Rock Star Status

Beginning in the 1980s, Dylan began touring full time, sometimes with fellow legends [Tom Petty](#) and the Heartbreakers and the Grateful Dead. Notable albums during this period included *Infidels* (1983); the five-disc retrospective *Biograph* (1985); *Knocked Out Loaded* (1986); and *Oh Mercy* (1989), which became his best-received album in years. He recorded two albums with the all-star band the Traveling Wilburys, also featuring [George Harrison](#), [Roy Orbison](#), Tom Petty and Jeff Lynne. In 1994, Dylan returned to his folk roots, winning the Grammy Award for Best Traditional Folk Album for *World Gone Wrong*.

In 1989, when Dylan was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, [Bruce Springsteen](#) spoke at the ceremony, declaring that "Bob freed the mind the way Elvis freed the body ... He invented a new way a pop singer could sound, broke through the limitations of what a recording artist could achieve, and changed the face of rock and roll forever." In 1997, Dylan became the first rock star ever to receive Kennedy Center Honors, considered the nation's highest award for artistic excellence.

Dylan's 1997 album *Time Out of Mind* re-established this one-time folk icon as one of the preeminent of rock's wise men, winning three Grammy Awards. He continued his vigorous touring schedule, including a memorable performance in 1997 for Pope John Paul II in which he played "Knockin' on Heaven's Door," and a 1999 tour with [Paul Simon](#). In 2000, he recorded the single "Things Have Changed" for the soundtrack of the film *Wonder Boys*, starring [Michael Douglas](#). The song won Dylan a Golden Globe and an Academy Award for Best Original Song.

Dylan then took time out from his music to tell the story of his life. The singer released *Chronicles: Volume One*, the first in a three-book memoir series, in the Fall of 2004. Dylan gave his first full interview in 20 years for a documentary released in 2005. Entitled *No Direction Home: Bob Dylan*, the film was directed by [Martin Scorsese](#).

Recent Work & Honors

In 2006, Dylan released the studio album *Modern Times*. After hitting stores in late August, it reached the top of the album charts the next month. A mixture of blues, country, and folk, the album was praised for its rich sound and imagery. Several critics also remarked the album had a playful, knowing quality. Showing no signs of slowing down, Dylan continued to tour throughout the first decade of the 21st century, and released the studio album *Together Through Life* in April 2009.

In 2010, he released a bootleg album called *The Witmark Demos*, followed by a new boxed set entitled *Bob Dylan: The Original Mono Recordings*. In addition, he exhibited 40 of his original paintings for a solo show at the National Gallery of Denmark. In 2011, he released yet another live album, *Bob Dylan in Concert - Brandeis University 1963*, and in September 2012, released his newest studio album, *Tempest*. *Shadows in the Night*, a cover album of American standards, followed in 2015. A year later, Dylan released *Fallen Angels*, his thirty-seventh studio album which features more classic songs from the Great American Songbook.

In addition to winning Grammy, Academy and Golden Globe awards, Dylan received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President [Barack Obama](#) in 2012. On October 13, 2016, the legendary singer-songwriter also received the [Nobel Prize in Literature](#), the first time the honor was bestowed on a musician. He became the first American to receive the honor since novelist [Toni Morrison](#) in 1993, and was lauded by the Swedish Academy "for having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition."

When he is not making music, Dylan has explored his talents as a visual artist. His paintings appear on the covers of his albums, *Self Portrait* (1970) and *Planet Waves* (1974), and he has published six books of his paintings and drawings, as well as exhibited his artwork around the world.

Personal Life

In addition to Baez, Dylan was at one point romantically linked to another singer, gospel icon [Mavis Staples](#), and wished to marry her, though the two never took the trip down the aisle. Dylan and Lowndes, who married in 1965 and divorced in 1977, had four children together: Jesse, Anna, Samuel and [Jakob](#). Dylan also adopted Lowndes's daughter, Maria, from a previous marriage. Jakob Dylan is now the lead singer of a popular rock band the Wallflowers.

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Bob Dylan Biography

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Last Updated

Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej dies at 88

By **Angela Dewan and Kocha Olarn, CNN**

Updated 1:24 AM ET, Fri October 14, 2016

Thailand has heightened security amid funeral preparations for King Bhumibol Adulyadej, a revered figure who helped unify the nation in his 70-year reign. He was 88.



Photos: Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej

News of the 88-year-old's death was announced Thursday, October 13, via a statement from the Royal Palace read on state TV. King Bhumibol Adulyadej ascended to the throne 70 years ago, making him the world's longest-reigning monarch before his death.

King Ananda was 20 when he died of a gunshot wound under mysterious circumstances. His 18-year-old brother, known then as Prince Phumiphon Aduldet, later assumed the throne to become King Bhumibol Adulyadej. He was crowned king on May 5, 1950.

Bhumibol and his future wife, Princess Sirikit Kityakara married in 1950 at Srapathum Palace in Bangkok, Thailand. The King and Queen had four children, Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn, Princess Ubol Ratana, Princesses Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, and Princess Chulabhorn Walailak.

The King convened the first meeting of his country's National Reform Assembly during a ceremony held in Bangkok in 1976. The King put the monarchy at the center of Thai society, acting as a force for community and tradition even as the country flipped between political crises and military coups.

The king died at 3:52 p.m. in a "peaceful manner," the Royal Palace said, as thousands waited outside Siriraj Hospital in nervous anticipation of the news. The king's health had been in slow decline for some time. The palace said a team of royal physicians had tried its best and provided the closest care.



Thai King Bumibhol Adulyadej at a ceremony performed by monks in 2007.

Toward the end of his reign, his presence in public life waned. Doctors at the Siriraj Hospital had earlier said he was having problems with his kidneys, blood flow to the left side of his heart and blood pressure. Last month, he was treated for a severe infection, reduced kidney function and fluid in his lung. He had surgery to remove his gallbladder last year.

Exactly when Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn will ascend to the throne is unknown. Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha said "he needs time to jointly mourn with Thai people."

The prime minister urged people to be vigilant about national security. "Everyone will need to be alert in every region and throughout the country to ensure safety," he said. He further urged citizens to remain calm, for the sake of the country's stability, and said soldiers would be stationed in "every area throughout the kingdom" to boost security. "Do not let anyone seek an advantage during this time of crisis," Prayut said.

A people shattered

Hundreds of people had for days gathered at Bangkok's Siriraj Hospital where the king was being treated, and as the sun began to set, the crowd swelled into the thousands. Some outside the hospital said they didn't know where else to go for comfort, and many said they had hoped he would live to 120. Many in the crowd prayed, sang the royal anthem and repeatedly shouted, "Long live the king." They were dressed predominantly in pink -- an auspicious color believed to restore health -- and yellow, which is the color of the king, based on the fact he was born on a Monday.

The announcement, around 7 p.m., cut through the crowd and gave way to devastated wailing and long embraces. Others stared at their phones, sharing messages from friends and family on social media.

Ovartvoraporn Bhakchuda, a Thai woman outside the hospital, was unable to hold back tears, saying she hoped the news was not true. "We lost our father today," she said. "He is a father ... that wanted to do everything, the best thing, for his kids."

While many cried upon hearing of the Thai king's death, others stared silently in shock. "With all my heart I hope that miracle will happen. I want to believe in miracles ... I still believe up until now that this is a lie."

Period of mourning

According to the palace statement, all government buildings will fly the Thai flag at half-staff for 30 days starting October 14, and all civil servants have been ordered to wear black clothing for a year as a sign of mourning, the palace said.

"I would like to ask all Thais to listen to the credible source of news and invite all Thais to dress in a way to mourn his passing for one year to offer our condolences," the prime minister said in a television address.

Tributes from around the world

Condolences began pouring in from world leaders. Obama said the king was a man of "grace and warmth," and recalled his "deep affection and compassion for the Thai people," when he visited the monarch in 2012.

"As the revered leader and only monarch that most Thais have ever known, His Majesty was a tireless champion of his country's development and demonstrated unflagging devotion to improving the standard of living of the Thai people," Obama said.



Thailand mourns King's death: 'He is our father'

British Prime Minister Theresa May said: "His Majesty guided the kingdom of Thailand with dignity, dedication and vision throughout his life. He will be greatly missed."

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the king as "one of the tallest leaders of our times."

Russian President Vladimir Putin said the king had "won the sincere love of his people and high authority abroad for the decades of his reign," Russia's state-run news agency TASS reported.

Singaporean Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean, in a Facebook post, described the king as a "wise and much-loved monarch who did much for the people of Thailand."

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, in a statement released by a spokesman, praised the king's "long dedication to his country and his legacy as a unifying national leader."

The government of Indonesia called the king's death "a great loss" to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations -- a 10-member bloc dedicated to economic, political and security cooperation -- as well as the world.

The Philippines said the king was "a Father of the Nation, whom the Thai people revered and loved dearly. He will surely be missed. We are one with the royal family, the Thai government, and the Thai nation during this period of deep mourning.

A 70-year reign of 'respect'

The king appealed to the rich urban elite as well as to the poor agricultural workers. During his reign, he skillfully charted a course that put the monarchy at the center of Thai society, acting as a force for community and tradition even as the country lurched between political crises and more than a dozen military coups, both attempted and successful.

He acceded to the throne in 1946 in the aftermath of Thailand's occupation by Japan during World War II. Until his death, he reigned over more than 20 prime ministers and many constitutional changes. He also helped the country navigate the disruptive effects of the Vietnam War during the 1960s and '70s.

For most Thais, he is the only monarch they have ever known, and before his death, analysts expressed concern that his passing will remove a vital point of unity in an increasingly divided country.

Also known as Rama IX -- a reference to his lineage stretching from Rama I, the founder of the Chakri dynasty -- Bhumibol commanded great love and respect within Thailand. An energetic public relations machine promoted his popularity, which led to his portrait being adorned with marigolds from Bangkok office lobbies to the poorest of rural homes.

CNN's Karla Cripps, Will Ripley and Kocha Olarn reported from Bangkok. Emiko Jozuka and Katie Hunt reported from Hong Kong, while Angela Dewan reported from London

North Korean Missile Reportedly Explodes Soon After Liftoff

North Korea failed in attempt to launch a midrange Musudan missile, U.S. and South Korea Say

By [HYUNG-JIN KIM](#)

Oct. 15, 2016 11:43 PM EDT



SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea and the U.S. said Sunday that the latest missile launch by North Korea ended in a failure after the projectile reportedly exploded soon after liftoff.

The South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement that the military believes the North unsuccessfully attempted to fire a mid-range Musudan missile. It said the failed launch was made near an airport in the North's North Pyongan province.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency said that the missile was believed to have exploded soon after liftoff. Yonhap cited no source for this information.

South Korea strongly condemns the launch because it violates U.N. Security Council resolutions that bans any ballistic activities by North Korea, the statement said.

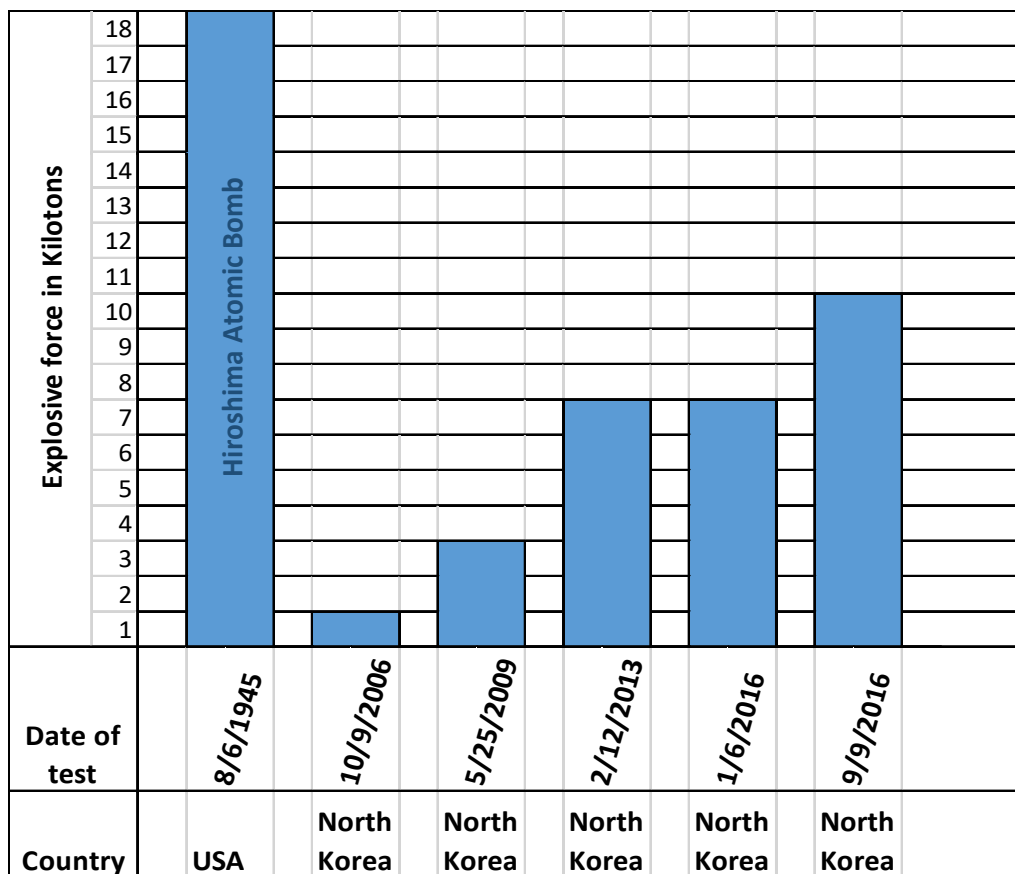
The U.S. military first reported the launch was attempted at 11:33 p.m. EDT Friday (12:03 p.m. Saturday local time) and that the missile didn't pose a threat to North America. The action brought harsh criticism from the U.S.

"We strongly condemn this and North Korea's other recent missile tests, which violate U.N. Security Council Resolutions explicitly prohibiting North Korea's launches using ballistic missile technology," said Cmdr. Gary Ross, a Pentagon spokesman. He said the U.S. would raise concerns at the U.N.

"Our commitment to the defense of our allies, including the Republic of Korea and Japan, in the face of these threats, is ironclad," Ross said. "We remain prepared to defend ourselves and our allies from any attack or provocation."

Japan has expressed concern over the launches, and Defense Minister Tomomi Inada said Sunday that she wants to work in cooperation with the U.S. and South Korea to assure her country's security.

North Korea has claimed technical breakthroughs in its goal of developing a long-range nuclear missile capable of reaching the continental United States. South Korean defense officials have said the North doesn't yet have such a weapon.



It's the latest in a series of moves by North Korea aimed apparently at displaying a show of force. As recently as last month, it fired three ballistic missiles off its east coast, timed to get the attention of world leaders including President Barack Obama who were visiting the region for a series of summits. The U.N. Security Council subsequently condemned those North Korean launches and threatened "further significant measures" if it refused to stop its nuclear and missile tests.

North Korea also conducted its fifth nuclear test last month and in all has launched more than 20 ballistic missiles this year, part of its program aimed at improving the delivery system for nuclear weapons. Earlier this year, North Korea successfully launched a Musudan missile in June after several failed attempts.

Musudan has a range of 3,500 kilometers (2,180 miles) — enough to reach U.S. military installments in Japan and Guam.

Obama has vowed to work with the United Nations to tighten sanctions against North Korea, but has also said that the U.S. was still open to dialogue if the government changes course.

The U.S. strategy has largely centered on trying to get China, North Korea's traditional ally, to use its influence to persuade the North to change course. North Korea is continuing missile test launches even as the U.N. Security Council is deliberating a further tightening of sanctions after the September nuclear test.

Previously in August, Japanese and South Korean officials said a medium-range ballistic missile flew about 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) and landed near Japan's territorial waters.

—

Associated Press writers Josh Lederman in Washington and Ken Moritsugu in Tokyo contributed to this report

Global progress for children is stalled by war, Holy See tells UN



12-year-old twins from the old city of Homs stand near garbage outside a dilapidated building. Credit: UNICEF.

New York City, N.Y., Oct 19, 2016 / 10:04 pm ([CNA/EWTN News](#)).- Progress for the world's children has left out the young victims of war, conflict, and poverty, the Holy See has told the United Nations.

"The dramatic progress made in the reductions in child mortality and increased access to schooling and safe drinking water must strengthen our resolve to bring similar progress to areas in which millions of children still suffer extraordinary indignities each day," Archbishop Bernardito Auza, the apostolic nuncio leading the Holy See's permanent observer mission to the U.N., said Oct. 13.

"Millions more children are caught in situations of conflict, trapped in situations of extreme poverty or live in areas of extreme environmental vulnerability. These harrowing situations of children remind us to commit ourselves to fighting the root causes of their sufferings," the nuncio said in an intervention before a committee of the U.N. General Assembly on the promotion and protection of the rights of children.

"The Holy See notes with particular sadness that the primary cause of today's mass displacements of populations is man-made: namely, wars and conflicts," he continued.

Of the 50 million children who have been displaced from their homes, 28 million have been displaced by conflict. Children make up as much as 40 percent of some conflicts' victims.

“Never in recent memory have so many children been subjected to such violent brutality: children used as soldiers, suicide bombers, sex slaves, and disposable intelligence-gatherers in the most dangerous military operations,” Archbishop Auza said. “The deliberate destruction of their schools and hospitals in total disregard of international humanitarian law has become a strategy of war.”

The nuncio stressed the global responsibility to help these children: “Since human choices provoke conflicts and wars, it is well within our power and responsibility to address the conflicts and wars that drive millions to become refugees, forced migrants and internally displaced persons, including millions of children.”

The archbishop said the Holy See has made pleas for a common commitment from individual governments and the international community to bring an end to violence, conflict, and hatred.

“While we wait for an end to these conflicts, it is nevertheless urgent to collaborate to alleviate the sufferings of children caught in the snares,” he said.

At the same time, Archbishop Auza found encouragement in research that showed a more than 50 percent reduction in the rate of child mortality under five.

“In the last 15 years, all regions in the world registered major progress in child survival rates. These improvements were particularly significant in sub-Saharan Africa,” he said.

Maternal mortality has also undergone significant reduction, decreasing by 43 percent.

“School enrollment, access to safe water and a number of other vital and social indicators also showed steady progress. While these advances happened in a variety of contexts, indicating that progress can be achieved in highly differentiated economic, social and political environments, they were even more impressive in some of the world’s poorest countries,” he said.

At the same time, 16,000 children die every day, often from preventable or treatable causes. Half of the deaths of children under five years old are due to malnutrition and under-nourishment. The existence of about 33 percent of the world’s children are not officially recorded, depriving them of an official nationality and name. Millions of children are infected with HIV; about one third of women aged 20-24 were child brides; and violence against girls is a major problem, according to the archbishop.

“The grave humanitarian crises in many regions of the world have exacerbated this already disheartening picture,” Archbishop Auza said. “Fifty million children around the world are on the move. They are running from conflict, extreme poverty and various forms of abuse and exploitation.”

The numbers of child refugees have increased dramatically. As many as 90,000 unaccompanied children were detained at the U.S.-Mexico border in 2014, a major jump over previous years.

The migrant and refugee crisis in the Mediterranean Sea was shown in one two-day period this year when 10,000 people were rescued from sinking boats. Of these, 20-40 percent were unaccompanied children.

Refugee and migrant children, especially when unaccompanied, face dangers like human traffickers and other forms of exploitation.

“When a boat sinks, they are the most likely to drown. They are the first ones to suffer hunger and thirst. They are the most vulnerable to extreme weather as they move through deserts and forests,” said the archbishop.

These children need protection and are entitled to the rights guaranteed by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, he added, stressing the urgent need to ensure measures and policies are in place wherever these children may be found.

The nuncio also spoke of other the violations of children's rights, like child labor. He cited Pope Francis' appeal to the world to renew its efforts “to remove this cause of modern slavery, which deprives millions of children of some fundamental rights and exposes them to serious dangers.”

Tags: [United Nations](#), [Vatican diplomacy](#), [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)



Pope Francis meets with the grand imam Sheik Ahmed Muhammad Al-Tayyib at the Vatican May 23, 2016. Credit: L'Osservatore Romano.

Vatican, Al-Azhar to officially resume dialogue

by [Elise Harris](#)

Vatican City, Oct 21, 2016 / 06:17 am ([CNA/EWTN News](#)).- On Friday, the Vatican announced it will be sending a representative to Egypt to set plans for the official re-launching of dialogue between the Holy See and the Al-Azhar Mosque and adjunct University, marking a seismic step in Catholic-Muslim relations.

In an Oct. 21 communique, the Vatican said the secretary of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, Bishop Miguel Ángel Ayuso Guixot, will be heading back to Cairo for an Oct. 23 meeting with a delegation from Al-Azhar.

He will be accompanied by Msgr. Khaled Akasheh, head of the council's Office for Islam; Bishop Emmanuel Ayad Bishop of Luxor, Egypt; Professor Joseph Maila, an expert in Islamic Studies and Fr. Jean Druel, O.P., Director of the Dominican Institute of Oriental Studies.

According to the communique, the meeting in Cairo is to prepare for an encounter that will take place in Rome, "probably toward the end of April 2017, and which marks the official resumption of dialogue between the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue and Al-Azhar."

The visit to Cairo will also serve as an opportunity to evaluate, together with Archbishop Bruno Musarò, nuncio to Egypt, and the Deputy of the Great Imam of Al-Azhar, Sheik Abbas Shouman, "the possibility to promote concrete initiatives for peace."

Bishop Ayuso made a similar visit to Al-Azhar in July, where he met with Sunni academic and politician Mahmoud Hamdi Zakzouk that to discuss the formal resumption of dialogue between the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue and Al-Azhar University. The current Oct. 23 meeting, then, can be seen as a fruit of that encounter.

The Imam of al Azhar, currently Ahmed al Tayyeb, is considered by some Muslims to be the highest authority the 1.5-billion strong Sunni Muslim world and oversees Egypt's al-Azhar Mosque and the prestigious al-Azhar University attached to it.

Founded in the Fatimid dynasty in the late 10th century together with the adjoining mosque, the university is one of the most renowned study centers for the legal principals of Sunni Islam.

Al Tayyeb paid a visit to the Vatican May 23 for a meeting with Pope Francis, which marked a major step in thawing relations between the al-Azhar institution and the Holy See, which were strained in 2011 with claims that Pope Benedict XVI had "interfered" in Egypt's internal affairs by condemning a bomb attack on a church in Alexandria during the time of Coptic Christmas.

In an interview with Vatican Radio published May 24, Al Tayyeb spoke out harshly against terrorism carried out by extremist Islamic groups such as ISIS, saying that "those who kill Muslims, and who also kill Christians, have misunderstood the texts of Islam either intentionally or by negligence."

"We must not blame religions because of the deviations of some of their followers," he said, and issued a global appeal asking that the entire world to "close ranks to confront and put an end to terrorism."

If the growing problem of terrorism is neglected, it's not just the east that will pay the price, but "both east and west could suffer together, as we have seen."

Tags: [Catholic News](#), [Pope Francis](#), [Catholic-Muslim Relations](#), [Al-Azhar Mosque](#)

World Series 2016: Schedule Details, Format and Predictions

By Alec Nathan, *Featured Columnist*
Oct 22, 2016



The first game of the 112th Major League Baseball championship series will begin on Tuesday, October 25th at Progressive Field in Cleveland. The best-of-seven championship series will pit the Cleveland Indians against the Chicago Cubs. The Cleveland Indians earned home-field advantage for the 2016 *World Series* by virtue of the American League's All-Star Game triumph over the National League. The Cleveland Indians beat the Toronto Blue Jays to clinch the American League Pennant. The Chicago Cubs beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 5-0 in Game 6 on Saturday at Wrigley Field to clinch the National League Pennant. The Cubs have not played in a World Series since 1945.

2016 World Series Schedule			
Game #	Date	Time (PDT)	Location
Game 1	Tuesday, October 25	5 p.m.	Cleveland
Game 2	Wednesday, October 26	5 p.m.	Cleveland
Game 3	Friday, October 28	5 p.m.	Chicago
Game 4	Saturday, October 29	5 p.m.	Chicago
Game 5	Sunday, October 30	5 p.m.	Chicago
Game 6	Tuesday, November 1	5 p.m.	Cleveland
Game 7	Wednesday, November 2	5 p.m.	Cleveland

Source: FoxSports.com

From a pitching standpoint, Cleveland has been head and shoulders above the rest of its postseason peers. The Indians **boast** a 1.77 ERA through eight playoff games, which compares favorably to the Cubs' mark of 3.25. Cleveland has also posted three shutouts—one less than all other playoff qualifiers *combined*. Perhaps more frightening is the way Cleveland's bullpen has performed. To date, Indians relievers have posted a 1.67 ERA, 41 strikeouts and seven walks while holding opponents to a .212 average through 32.1 innings.

Conversely, the Cubs have a bullpen ERAs of 3.71 in the playoffs, with opponents batting better than .240 against. Their strength comes at the plate, with 135 total bases, 21 doubles, and a slugging percentage of .395. The Cubs finished the season with 103 wins and 58 losses, the best record in baseball in 2016.

The Indians and the Cubs have never met in postseason play.

2016 Presidential Election
Candidate Biographical Information Sheet



Name: Hillary Rodham Clinton

Political Party Affiliation: Democrat

Date of Birth: October 26, 1947

Birthplace: Park Ridge, Illinois

Education: Wellesley College, Yale Law School

Family: spouse – Former President Bill Clinton

child – Chelsea Clinton Mezvinsky

Religious Affiliation: Methodist

Government Positions Held: U.S. Secretary of State, U.S. Senator from New York

Position on Issues:

Healthcare (Obamacare) –

Defend and expand Affordable Care Act.

Bring down out-of-pocket expenses and prescription drug costs.

Incentivize Medicaid and make enrollment easier.

Expand access to healthcare regardless of immigration status.

Provide access for women to preventive care, affordable contraception, and safe and legal abortions.

Tax Reform –

Add surcharge to rich, close corporate tax loopholes, and restore the 2009 Estate Tax.

Establish a federal tax rate of at least 30% for those making more than \$1,000,000 per year.

Charge an exit tax on companies leaving the United States.

Provide tax relief for small businesses and working families.

Child-Care Reform –

Guarantee up to twelve weeks of paid family and medical leave.

Make quality, affordable child care more accessible.

2016 Presidential Election Candidate Biographical Information Sheet

Position on Issues:

Immigration –

Enforce immigration reform that supports DACA and DAPA Acts.

Provide healthcare regardless of immigration status.

Expand naturalization fee waivers.

Education –

Provide computer science in elementary and high schools.

Provide \$2 billion in federal grants to schools to reform school disturbance laws and implement social and emotional support intervention.

Make preschool universal for every 4-year-old in America by doubling the investment in Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership Program.

Make college free for families making less than \$125,000 and make community college free for all.

Economy (Jobs, trade, fiscal policy) –

Reform bank laws to close loopholes that allow banks to invest in risky hedge funds.

Impose a tax on high-frequency stock trading to help stabilize the stock market.

Energy and Climate Change -

Defend and implement the Clean Power Plan.

Invest in clean energy infrastructure.

Cut tax subsidies for oil and gas companies.

Set national goals for eliminating lead poisoning within 5 years, clean up toxic brownfields, and expand solar energy in low-income communities.

Increase access to public lands.

2016 Presidential Election
Candidate Biographical Information Sheet



Name: Donald John Trump

Political Party Affiliation: Republican

Date of Birth: June 14, 1946

Birthplace: Queens, New York

Education: Wharton School of Business

Family: spouse – Melania Trump

children – Donald, Jr., Ivanka, Eric, Tiffany, and Barron

Religious Affiliation: Protestant

Government Positions Held: None

Position on Issues:

Healthcare (Obamacare) –

Repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Allow people to purchase healthcare plans from other states to create competition between insurance plans.

Create patient-centered health care system.

Establish pools of high-risk patients to ensure access to healthcare plans.

Tax Reform –

Reduce taxes, repeal death tax, and ensure rich pay their share.

Eliminate special interest loopholes, make business tax rates more competitive at 15%.

Reduce federal tax rate brackets to three, with the maximum tax rate at 33%.

Retain current capital gains tax of maximum of 20%.

Repeal 3.8% Obamacare tax on investment income.

Increase standard deduction to \$30,000 for joint filers and \$15,000 for single filer, cap itemized deductions at \$200,000 for joint filers and \$100,000 for single filer.

Child-Care Reform –

Reduce cost of childcare by allowing deduction of cost from taxes for families making less than \$500,000.

Supply rebate for child care costs of low-income taxpayers.

Establish Dependent Care Savings Accounts.

Increase business tax credit for providing on-site childcare.

2016 Presidential Election Candidate Biographical Information Sheet

Position on Issues:

Immigration –

Build a wall along the U.S. and Mexican border to stop illegal immigration.

Deport illegal immigrants and end sanctuary cities.

Vet applicants and enforce immigration laws.

Suspend issuance of visas to places where adequate screening cannot occur.

Education –

Add \$20 billion toward school choice.

Work to ensure opportunity to attend two and four-year colleges.

Increase vocational training.

Economy (Jobs, trade, fiscal policy) –

Create 25 million jobs over next 10 years.

Boost growth to 3.5% per year.

Reform policies with pro-growth tax plan, America-first trade policies, and energy plan.

Energy and Climate Change -

Make the United States energy independent.

Allow exploration and mining of shale, oil, gas, and coal reserves.

Open federal lands to energy exploration, eliminate the moratorium on coal leasing, and open shale deposits.

2016 Presidential Election
Candidate Biographical Information Sheet



Name: Gary Johnson

Political Party Affiliation: Libertarian

Date of Birth: January 1, 1953

Birthplace: Minot, North Dakota

Education: University of New Mexico

Family: fiancée – Kate Prusack

children – Seah and Erik

Religious Affiliation: Lutheran

Government Positions Held: Governor of New Mexico

Position on Issues:

Healthcare (Obamacare) –

Turn over management of Medicaid and Medicare to the states.

Let the free market system reduce health care costs through competition between providers.

Eliminate Obamacare and federal subsidies of healthcare.

Tax Reform –

Eliminate special interest loopholes.

Eliminate double-taxation on small businesses.

Replace federal income tax with sales tax.

Child-Care Reform –

Would allow school vouchers to be used for child-care and pre-school programs.

2016 Presidential Election Candidate Biographical Information Sheet

Position on Issues:

Immigration –

Provide more efficient system for work visas. Allow two-year grace period for illegal immigrants to obtain work permits.

Conduct background checks.

Have non-citizens pay taxes, obtain proof of employment, and assimilate into society.

Take our share of Syrian refugees, not too many, but also not zero.

Education –

Eliminate the federal Department of Education, Common Core, and national education standards.

Restore oversight for education to the state and local governments.

Believes in school voucher/free choice program.

Economy (Jobs, trade, fiscal policy) –

Regulations should not be used to manipulate the economy.

Get rid of unnecessary laws and taxes.

Increase job growth.

Cut national debt by reducing military spending by 43%, and reform entitlements.

Maintain NAFTA treaty.

Energy and Climate Change -

Protect resources and the environment using a balance method.

No cap-and-trade on carbon emissions. No tax on carbon emissions.