

**It's 6 o'clock, I'm Samantha Stanley, and here are the top stories.**

---

**U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions says he will not participate in any investigations into Russian ties to the Trump campaign.**

**While Democratic leaders are calling for Sessions to resign, the announcement satisfies his Republican colleagues.**

**Sessions explained his decision during a press conference this morning.**

**==(SOT)==**

**TRT :20**

**OC: "... right and just."**

**During his confirmation hearing, Sessions said under oath that he did not communicate with any Russian officials during the campaign period.**

**Sessions joined Trump's inner circle early in the Presidential campaign.**

**The Washington Post reported that he met with a Russian diplomat at least two times during the race.**

**U.S. officials are investigating the extent of Moscow's influence on the outcome of the 2016 election and whether or not Trump's campaign was involved.**

**Malaysia's attorney-general says a North Korean man suspected in the death of Kim Jong Nam has been released due to a lack of evidence.**

**Four other North Korean men are now wanted for questioning, including a senior embassy official.**

**Kim Jong Nam died at Kuala Lumpur airport 20 minutes after two women wiped his face with what an autopsy confirms is liquid VX nerve agent.**

**Ri Tong Il, a former North Korean ambassador, questioned the finding during a press conference in Kuala Lumpur.**

**==(SOT)==**

**TRT :25 <SOT to begin at :37 end at :59>**

**OC:"...very toxic material?"**

**The murder and investigation have damaged relations between North Korea and Malaysia.**

**French police raided François Fillon's home in Paris today.**

**Officials say the raid is part of the criminal investigation into payments his wife and children received for a government position she didn't hold while he served as France's premier.**

**Fillon says he will continue his campaign for the presidency despite the advancement of the investigation and declining support from fellow conservatives and campaign staff.**

**Here's more from BBC's Hugh Schofield.**

**==(SOT)==**

**TRT :35**

**OT: "... run a campaign."**

**Fillon says that his base still supports him, although polls show him in third place.**

**He denies the allegations and says the investigation is an effort to prevent his presidential campaign from moving forward.**

**China is protesting the Dali Lama's planned visit to a Buddhist monastery in a disputed territory between its border and India.**

**The visit would also include a meeting with representatives of India's government.**

**During a press conference, China's Foreign Ministry expressed concerns that the Dali Lama's visit would include anti-China separatist activities.**

**He also said India's encouragement for the visit would damage both the relationship between the two nations and stability in the region.**

**In an interview with Reuters, an Indian official described the decision to meet publicly with the Dali Lama despite China's objections as "assertive."**

**In the past India has tried not to upset ties with Beijing by keeping communications with the Dali Lama out of public display.**

**The shift comes as China's relationship with neighbor and rival Pakistan is growing stronger.**

**The Dali Lama has been living in exile in India since 1959. His last visit to the region was in 2008.**

**(A little long, so if you need to trim time, you could do it here.)**

**China's government has approved plans for a new national park that will protect its giant pandas.**

**For more on the story, here's BBC's Celia Hatton from Beijing.**

==(SOT)==

TRT :31

OC: "... and Asian elephants."

**While the project aims to protect habitats for the animals, officials say the park will accommodate tourists, too.**

---

**And that's your news update from JMSC Radio.**