

NEWS IN
brief

EU increases sanctions on North Korea

AFP, Brussels
The European Union yesterday beefed up sanctions against North Korea over nuclear and ballistic missile tests carried out in defiance of United Nations resolutions. The 28-nation bloc said it was adding 18 persons and one entity to its asset freeze and travel ban blacklist. The European Council said the decision means sanctions are now in place against 66 individuals and 42 entities in North Korea.

Pope to receive top Sunni imam at Vatican

AFP, Vatican City
Pope Francis will meet the spiritual leader of the world's Sunni Muslims in an unprecedented encounter at the Vatican on Monday, the pontiff's spokesman said yesterday. Sheikh Ahmed al-Tayeb, the grand imam of Cairo's Al-Azhar, the most prestigious institution in Sunni Islam, will have an audience with the leader of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics at St Peter's.

France extends state of emergency

AFP, Paris
France's parliament yesterday confirmed a two-month extension of the state of emergency that has been in place since November's jihadist attacks to cover the Euro 2016 football tournament and Tour de France. Already approved by a large majority in the upper house Senate last week, the lower house National Assembly confirmed the measure on Thursday by 46 votes to 20.

Malaysia to impose travel bans on critics

REUTERS, Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia is able to impose a three-year travel ban on its citizens who discredit or ridicule the government, the Star newspaper reported on Wednesday, as criticism against the scandal-tainted Prime Minister Najib Razak grows. Malaysia's immigration department enforced this ruling several months ago in a move to safeguard the country's image, the newspaper said, quoting an unnamed source.

Myanmar climbers win Everest for first time

AFP, Yangon
Two Myanmar mountaineers reached the summit of Mount Everest, their climbing team said yesterday, hailing them as the first from their impoverished Southeast Asian nation to scale the world's highest peak. The mountaineers, Pyae Phyo Aung and Win Ko Ko, planted a Myanmar flag on Everest's peak after climbing overnight to reach the top early Thursday.



Families of passengers who were flying on board an EgyptAir plane that vanished from radar en route from Paris to Cairo react as they wait outside a services hall at Cairo international airport, yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

COUNTERING 'AGGRESSIVE RUSSIA' IN EASTERN EUROPE
Nato in biggest military build-up since WWII

AFP, Brussels
Nato foreign ministers yesterday were finalising the alliance's biggest military build-up since the end of the Cold War to counter what they see as a more aggressive and unpredictable Russia. Nato chief Jens Stoltenberg said the two-day meeting would address "all the important issues" to prepare for a "landmark" summit in Poland in July. There, Nato leaders will formally endorse the revamp which puts more troops into eastern European member states as part of a "deter and dialogue" strategy, meant to reassure allies they will not be left in the lurch in any repeat of the Ukraine crisis. "We will discuss how Nato can do more to project stability... and at the same time address how Nato can continue to adapt to a more assertive Russia to find the right balance between defence and dialogue," Stoltenberg told reporters. While the focus has been on the eastern flank, there are also growing challenges to the south, with conflict in Syria and Iraq, and instability across North Africa. But rather than Nato taking a leading role there, Stoltenberg said it was better for the alliance to help struggling countries help themselves to cope with terrorist threats such as Islamic State (IS). In March, IS jihadists killed 32 people in Brussels -- home to Nato HQ, the European Union and a host of diplomatic and corporate offices. The EU meanwhile is grappling with the worst migrant crisis since the end of World

War II and the bloc wants increased cooperation with Nato to tackle the problem, notably in bolstering the UN-backed government in Libya where IS has recently gained ground. Russia's intervention in Ukraine and its 2014 annexation of Crimea stung Nato into action after years of complacency and defence cuts following the fall of the Soviet Union. Moscow says Nato's response is just a cover for encroaching on its borders, while Washington builds a European missile defence shield which undercuts Russia's



nuclear deterrent. "I think you have to remember where this started," said a senior US official. "Nato took these measures because Russia chose to invade and occupy Crimea and then move into eastern Ukraine. The concern ... was to ensure that this was not the beginning of a broader move that might threaten Nato territory." In another move likely to infuriate Moscow, Nato signed an accession accord with the tiny Balkan state of Montenegro yesterday.

SYRIA WAR
Regime retakes key town outside capital

AFP, Beirut
Syrian troops backed by fighters from the Lebanese Shia movement Hezbollah retook a key town and nine surrounding villages outside Damascus from rebels yesterday, a monitor said. Pro-regime fighters used clashes between rival rebel factions Jaish al-Islam and Faylaq al-Rahman as an opportunity to retake the town of Deir al-Assafir, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. As rebels summoned their fighters from Deir al-Assafir to the frontline, regime forces launched "a violent attack and heavy air campaign resulting in them controlling the town" in the opposition bastion of Eastern Ghouta, the Observatory's head said. They were then able to "advance rapidly in the south of Eastern Ghouta after rebel fighters retreated after losing Deir al-Assafir, fearing they would be besieged," Rami Abdel Rahman said. In April fighting erupted opposing Jaish al-Islam against Faylaq al-Rahman and another rebel group, Jaish al-Fustat -- both allied to Al-Nusra Front, Syria's Al-Qaeda affiliate.

EgyptAir plane crash into the Mediterranean
Terror attack likely scenario: experts

AFP, Paris
Several scenarios could explain the mysterious crash of the EgyptAir flight into the Mediterranean en route from Paris to Cairo early yesterday, but aviation experts say a terror attack is the most probable. Both France and Egypt have been leading targets for Islamist extremists in recent months. In October, the Islamic State group claimed responsibility for bombing an Airbus A321 plane belonging to Russian charter company Metrojet that crashed into the Sinai desert on its way from the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh to St Petersburg, killing 224 passengers and crew. Egypt's aviation minister Sherif Fathy said the chances of an attack were "higher than the possibility of a technical (failure)" for the downing of the EgyptAir plane on Thursday. Aviation experts agreed there is little chance that a mechanical fault was responsible. The plane was only put into service in 2003, making it relatively new for an aircraft that tends to operate for 30 to 40 years.



"A major technical fault -- the explosion of an engine, for instance -- seems improbable," said aeronautics expert Gerard Feldzer. In addition, the A320 has an excellent safety record as the best-selling medium-range airliner in the world. An A320 takes off or lands every 30 seconds around the world, Feldzer said. "It's a modern plane, the incident happened in mid-flight in extremely stable conditions. The quality of the maintenance and the quality of the plane are not in question in this incident," Jean-Paul Troadec, former director of France's aviation Bureau of Investigation and Analysis, told Europe 1 radio. EgyptAir "is a company with authorisation to operate in Europe, so it is not on any (security) blacklist," he added. Experts also say it is unlikely the plane was shot down from the ground, as was the case with the Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 that went down over Ukraine in July 2014, or from the sea as occurred in July 1988 when the US Navy blew up an Iran Air passenger flight by mistake. The EgyptAir plane was flying at 37,000 feet (11,000 metres) and disappeared about 130 nautical miles off the Greek island of Karpathos. The plane fell 22,000 feet and swerved sharply before it disappeared from radar screens, Greece's Defence Minister Panos Kammenos said. Its position would put it out of reach of the portable rocket launchers used by several militant groups in the Middle East. "We cannot exclude the possibility that it was shot down by another aircraft by mistake, but it is likely we would already know," said Feldzer. The region around northern Egypt, including the coastlines of Israel and Gaza, is "one of the most monitored regions in the world, including by satellite. It would be very difficult to hide this kind of information," he added.



Trump beats Clinton in new poll

PTI, Washington
Presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has for the first time edged out his Democratic rival Hillary Clinton in a latest poll even as majority of respondents have an high unfavorable opinion of both the aspirants. This is for the first time in a poll that Trump is seen ahead of Clinton, albeit within a margin of error. Fox News, in its latest national polls, found that Trump has the support of 45 per cent of the potential general election votes, while Clinton has the support of 42 per cent. Trump emerged as the presumptive nominee of the Republican party after winning the Indiana elections early this month. He is the only GOP candidate left in the race, which early this year was crowded with 16 more White House aspirants including well established Senators and Governors. Clinton, however, is yet to clinch the nomination as her sole rival Senator Bernie Sanders from Vermont is giving a tough fight by winning a number of States and preventing her from acquiring enough delegate to become the presumptive nominee. Sanders, according to the Fox News, is still ahead of Trump. In a hypothetical match up, Sanders has support of 46 per cent of the respondents as against 42 per cent for Trump, Fox News said. However, a key highlight of the latest poll is the high unfavorable view of both Trump (56 per cent) and Clinton (61 per cent). Earlier Clinton's negative rating was 58 per cent and Trump's was at 65 per cent. Trump leads Clinton by 55 to 31 percent among whites.



This handout photo from KUAM News taken yesterday shows a US B-52 bomber just after it crashed at Andersen Air Force Base on the Pacific island of Guam. The B52 bomber crashed at the US airbase on Guam but all seven crew escaped unharmed, officials said. PHOTO: AFP

Life expectancy up five years worldwide: WHO

AFP, Geneva
Global life expectancy increased by five years between 2000 and 2015, the World Health Organization said yesterday, crediting progress in Africa against HIV, AIDS and malaria. The gains made over the last 15 years are the largest since the 1960s, when the world -- especially Europe and Japan -- saw broad socio-economic improvements linked to the recovery from World War II, WHO said. On average, a child born in 2015 can expect to live 71.4 years -- with females (73.8 years) having better prospects than males (69.1 years), according to data published in WHO's annual World Health Statistics report. Director-general of the UN agency, Margaret Chan, said major strides had been made against "preventable and treatable diseases", especially through widened access to antiretroviral therapy for HIV. The last 15 years have helped reverse the regressions seen through 1990s, when the AIDS epidemic ravaged much of Africa sparking declining health indicators across the continent. Despite progress in the world's poorer countries, WHO stressed that there remain significant life expectancy gaps between developed and developing nations. The data indicates that a female child born in Japan currently has the longest average lifespan at 86.8 years. For men, Switzerland offers the most promising outlook, with a life expectancy of 81.3 years.

Chinese jets 'intercept' US spy plane: Pentagon

Beijing rejects claim; US B-52 bomber crashes on Guam
AFP, Beijing
Beijing yesterday rejected Pentagon accusations that a Chinese aircraft made an "unsafe" intercept of a spy plane in international air space, as tensions rise in the strategically vital South China Sea. Rivalry between China and the United States is mounting in the disputed waterway, an important shipping route thought to be home to vast energy deposits, and which Beijing claims almost in its entirety. The US Department of Defense (DoD) told reporters Wednesday that two Chinese tactical aircraft intercepted an American reconnaissance plane in an "unsafe" manner, without giving details. China's foreign ministry spokesman Hong Lei said yesterday the description was "untrue". Two Chinese aircraft tailed a US EP-3 reconnaissance plane as it "flew close" to the island province of Hainan, he said, but kept "a safe distance" and did not make "dangerous moves". Such US flights were a "severe threat" to Chinese security, he added, calling for Washington to stop them immediately. The incident comes more than a decade after a collision between a Chinese fighter jet and a US Navy EP-3 which killed the Chinese pilot and forced the US aircraft to make an emergency landing on Hainan. Meanwhile, a B-52 bomber was left a fiery wreck after crashing at a US airbase on the Pacific island of Guam yesterday but all seven crew escaped unharmed, officials said. The giant B-52H Stratofortress went down at Andersen Air Force Base at 8:30 am with photos showing flames and thick black smoke billowing from the plane, which was completely destroyed. "All seven aircrew members have safely egressed the aircraft," the US Air Force said in a statement issued from the base.

“বিনা টিকেটে রেল ভ্রমণ থেকে বিরত থাকুন”
“দুর্ঘটনা এড়াতে রেলের ক্রিপ ও যন্ত্রাংশ চুরি রোধে এগিয়ে আসুন”

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Chief Engineer (East)
Bangladesh Railway, CRB, Chittagong
Invitation for Tenders

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Railways.
2	Agency	Bangladesh Railway.
3	Procuring entity name	Chief Engineer (East), Bangladesh Railway.
4	Procuring entity district	Chittagong.
5		Supplying and installation of water pump at Dhaka, Sylhet, Kewatkhali and Laksham turn table for drain out rain water with laying out necessary Upvc pipe line.
6	Invitation Ref No.	CE/E/Rev-95/2015-2016/W(2)
7	Date	12/05/2016
KEY INFORMATION		
8	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).
FUNDING INFORMATION		
9	Budget and source of funds	GoB (Revenue).
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
10	Tender publication date	19.05.2016
11	Tender last selling date	05.06.2016
12	Tender submission date and time	Date: 06.06.2016 Time: 12:00 hrs
13	Tender opening date and time	06.06.2016 12.30 hrs
14	Tender validity period	120 (one hundred twenty) days.
15	Name & address of the office(s)	Address: Office of the Chief Engineer (East), Bangladesh Railway, CRB, Chittagong.
	-Selling tender document (principal)	Office of the Chief Engineer (East), Bangladesh Railway, Kamalapur, Dhaka.
	-Selling tender document (others)	(i) Office of the Divisional Engineer/3, Bangladesh Railway, Chittagong. (ii) Office of the Bridge Engineer (East), Bangladesh Railway, Chittagong.
	-Receiving tender document	Chamber of the Executive Engineer/P&D/East, Office of the Chief Engineer (East), Bangladesh Railway, CRB, Chittagong.
	-Opening tender document	Chamber of the Executive Engineer/P&D/East, Office of the Chief Engineer (East), Bangladesh Railway, CRB, Chittagong.
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
16	Eligibility of tenderer	As stated in the tender document.
17		Supplying and installation of water pump at Dhaka, Sylhet, Kewatkhali and Laksham turn table for drain out rain water with laying out necessary Upvc pipe line.
18	Price of tender document	Tk. 1000/- (one thousand) only for each package (non-refundable).
19		Tk. 25,000.00 (twenty-five thousand) only In the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft with MICR shall be submitted in favour of FA&CAO/East, Bangladesh Railway, Chittagong.
20	Time for completion of the works	90 (ninety) days for each package as stated in the tender document.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
21	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Shahidul Islam.
22	Designation of official inviting tender	Chief Engineer (East), Bangladesh Railway.
23	Address of official inviting tender	Central Railway Building (CRB), Chittagong.
24	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel. No- 031-2863162 email-cee@railway.gov.bd
25	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the tenders or annul the tender proceedings.	

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Md. Shahidul Islam
Chief Engineer (East)
Bangladesh Railway
CRB, Chittagong