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SHAH CEMENT

North Korea details Guam strike plans

Says it mulls over plan to fire 4 intermediate-range missiles over Japan to land near the US island

AFP, Seoul

Nuclear-armed North Korea yesterday announced a detailed plan to send a salvo of four missiles over Japan and towards the US territory of Guam, raising the stakes in a stand-off with President Donald Trump and mocking him as "breath of reason".

The scheme to target the island, a key US military stronghold, was intended to "signal a crucial warning" as "only absolute force" would have an effect on the US leader, the North said.

The declaration came after Trump boasted on Twitter that America's nuclear arsenal was "far stronger and more powerful than ever before".

Earlier, Trump stunned the world with a bold message to leader Kim Jong-Un that appeared to borrow from Pyongyang's own rhetorical arsenal, saying the North faced "fire and fury like the world has never seen".

The war of words over Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programmes is raising fears of a miscalculation that could lead to catastrophic consequences on the Korean peninsula and beyond.

Last month the North carried out two successful tests of

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This image obtained from the US Department of Defense shows the submarine tender USS Emory S Land and the Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS Topeka in their home port at Polar Point, Guam, on April 19. The US on Wednesday warned North Korea that the pursuit of its nuclear drive could lead to the collapse of Kim Jong-un's regime.

NBR seeks Khaleda's bank info

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Board of Revenue has asked the banks to turn in information on all accounts of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, according to a letter from Tax Zone-8.

The field office of tax on August 8, 2017 issued the letter giving permission to the respective tax circle to collect information on all accounts in Khaleda Zia's name in banks, other financial institutions and post office.

The NBR asked the banks to send the information in seven days of receiving the letter.

The Tax Zone-8 also empowered the tax circle to gather all transaction related statements of the accounts since July 1, 2010.

The letter, signed by Commissioner of Tax Zone-8 Abu Taher Chowdhury, directed the respective circle to send a set of copies of information and bank statements collected from the inquiry.

The commissioner

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Don't file cases without nod from centre

AL asks party ranks about section 57

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid allegations of gross misuse of the IGT Act's section 57, the ruling Awami League has directed the party men to obtain permission from its central unit before filing any case under the section.

AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader recently gave the directive to the grassroots leaders, according to party sources. If any AL man files a case under the section without permission, the party will take organisational actions against the plaintiff.

The ruling party made the move against the backdrop of huge criticism from different quarters over the filing of a case by Barisal city AL leader Obaidulhaz Sazu in June.

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Landing in jail!



PHOTO: COLLECTED

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

May be Kashimpur Central Jail complex in Gazipur does not look like a prison at all from the air, as a helicopter pilot of Meghna Aviation mistakenly landed there and put its passengers into some serious trouble.

Bilal Hossain, an affluent Bangladeshi expatriate in Malaysia, rented a chopper to attend a wedding in Gazipur with his family members. Everything was going fine until the pilot mistook the school playground inside the high security prison, and a relatively new one at that, for a school playground of Kuddus Nagar of Konabari where he was supposed to land. Apparently not noticing the high walls of the prison, the pilot landed inside it around 11:00am, dropped off Bilal, his Malaysian wife and three other family members and took off almost immediately.

Bilal's obvious expectation of being received by the host of the wedding ceremony was not met. Instead, several jail guards surrounded and detained them.

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Get rid of hajj visa chaos in a day

Religious affairs ministry to four agencies dealing with 800 pilgrims; Biman may seek Saudi permission to operate more extra flights

RASHIDUL HASAN

The religious affairs ministry yesterday issued a "red notice" for four hajj agencies for their failure to submit visa applications of around 800 pilgrims.

The agencies were given a one-day ultimatum to complete visa processing of all the pilgrims being dealt by them, Shahadat Hossain Taslim, secretary general of Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh, told The Daily Star.

The notice was issued as the deadline for all hajj agencies to submit visa papers for their clients ended yesterday.

Meanwhile, Biman Bangladesh Airlines was forced to cancel two more hajj flights yesterday due to shortage of passengers. Together, those can carry over 800 passengers at a time, Biman General Manager (Public Relations) Shakil Meraj said. With the two flights, the national flag

carrier has so far cancelled 21 hajj flights, casting doubt on the hajj of over 5,000 Bangladeshis, say officials concerned.

Talking to this correspondent at the Ashkona Hajj Camp in the capital, several pilgrims expressed anxiety about making the pilgrimage due to frequent cancellation of hajj flights.

"Our hajj guide took us to the hajj camp on Wednesday night and told us that our flight was today [yesterday]. In the morning, we, however, came to know that our flight has been cancelled," said Monira Khatun, who is expecting to perform hajj with her husband.

"I don't know whether we will be able to perform hajj this year," Sabbir Azim, another hajj aspirant, said.

Contacted last night, Civil Aviation Minister Rashid Khan Monon said Biman was planning for some "emergency

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Typewriting tests phased out in India



AFP, Mumbai

The unmistakable chatter of typewriters outside courthouses and government offices will soon fall silent in India's financial capital Mumbai as stenography colleges hold their final manual exams today.

The roughly 3,500 institutes teaching the antiquated ways of the typewriter across Maharashtra state will be phased out as an India push ahead with a drive to digitize the economy.

"It is absolutely the end of an era as typewriters bite the dust due to technological innovation," Ashok Abhyankar, who runs a shorthand and typewriting institute in Mumbai, told AFP.

Long relegated to the history books in the West, typewriters are still a ubiquitous feature at legal chambers, police stations and official offices in India.

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Madaripur monkeys vanishing

Lack of food, shelter and govt support is to blame

SUZZI KUMAR DAS with ANDREW EAGLE

In the 1950s there were as many as 50,000 rhesus macaques that called Madaripur town home. The rhesus macaque is one of the most common old world monkeys, with a large distribution range stretching from Afghanistan to Vietnam. But while numbers of the macaques remain healthy in general, the population in Madaripur town has faced serious

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PHOTO: COLLECTED

The population of rhesus macaques, the most common old world monkeys, has been in serious decline - from 50,000 in the 1950s to just 2,000 now - in Madaripur town, mainly because of lack of food, shelter and government support for their survival. The photo taken last month in Madaripur College Para area shows a few of them looking for food.

At least 56 dead in Yemen sea

Smugglers push African migrants into rough sea

AFP, Dabai

At least 56 people have drowned over the past 24 hours, and dozens remain missing, after human traffickers forced 300 African migrants off two Yemen-bound boats and into the sea.

Survivors - all Ethiopian and Somali migrants - managed to make their way to Shabwa, a southern province along Yemen's Arabian Sea coastline, the International Organization for Migration said.

The war in Yemen has left over 8,300 people dead and displaced millions since 2015, but the impoverished country continues to draw migrants from the Horn of Africa seeking work in prosperous Gulf countries further north.

At least six people drowned yesterday after human smugglers forced 180 Ethiopians off their boat and into the choppy waters of the Arabian Sea, an IOM spokesperson told AFP.

Thirteen people remained unaccounted for, the

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SISI Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 11
Fazr Juma Aar Maghrir Esha
AZAN 4:25-12:30 4:45 6:41 8:30
JAMAAT 5:00 1:15 5:00 6:44 8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION