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# 'Region will be set on fire'

Iran warns US against attacks as Trump eyes more sanctions; US military action still on table

AGENCIES

Tehran yesterday warned Washington that any attack would see its interests across the Middle East go up in flames as US President Donald Trump said he will impose additional sanctions against Iran in an effort to prevent it from obtaining nuclear weapons, adding that military action was still a possibility.

Trump, who was speaking to reporters at the White House, made his comments after recently calling off military action against Iran. The aborted military action was to have been in response to Iran's downing of a US reconnaissance drone, which has seen tensions between the two countries soar after a series of attacks on oil tankers the US has blamed on Iran.

"Firing one bullet towards Iran will set fire to the interests of America and its allies" in the region, armed forces general staff spokesman Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi told the Tasnim news agency.

"If the enemy -- especially America and its allies in the region -- make the military mistake of shooting the powder keg on which America's interests lie, the region will be set on fire," Shekarchi warned.

Trump said Friday that the United States was "cocked & loaded" to strike Iran but pulled back at the last minute as it would not have been a "proportionate" response to

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Rover Scouts giving Vitamin-A to a child at Binodoni Poura Databba Chikitshalaya in Sylhet city. Thousands of children received Vitamin-A capsules yesterday as part of a government campaign.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

# Man dies by suicide in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

A man died by suicide in Brahmanbaria yesterday, police said. The incident comes two days after his son allegedly raped one of their teenage relatives.

Basu Mia's body was found hanging from a tree in Gosaipur village under Nabinagar upazila of the district around 10:00am.

"He told us a few times that he was so ashamed of his son's misdeed. But we did not think he was really going to kill himself," said Mobarak Hossain, a cousin of Basu Mia.

Talking to The Daily Star, Raju Ahmed, inspector (investigation) of Nabinagar Police Station, said Basu Mia took shelter at Mobarok's house in Gosaipur village after the rape incident.

He died by suicide near his relatives' house in the early hours, Raju said.

Later, on information, police recovered the body from the spot and sent it

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# Local workers asked to leave plant site

Payra power plant authorities ask Bangladeshi workers not to return till further notice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The authorities of Payra power plant have directed the Bangladeshi workers to leave the construction site and not return until further notice.

The directive came four days after a clash broke out between the Bangladeshi and the Chinese workers at the power plant.

According to Moni Shah Jico, junior assistant manager at Payra power plant, only Chinese workers will stay in the power plant area to repair their quarters and take other preparations to resume the construction work.

During that time, Bangladeshi workers will not stay in the construction area, he added.

Meanwhile, most of the Bangladeshi workers left their quarters before the direction came. According to sources,

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# MILITANTS' BACKGROUND 56pc come from general schools

Finds police HQ survey; 22pc from madrasas, rest from English medium or uneducated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifty-six percent of those involved in militant activities have "general education" background, according to a survey by the police headquarters.

"We conducted the survey on 250 people, arrested between 2015 and 2017 for their involvement in militancy, and found that most of them have come from general schools," said Md Moniruzzaman, additional deputy inspector general (intelligence) of police's Anti-Terrorism Unit (ATU).

The initiative, taken recently, revealed that 22 percent of those surveyed had madrasa background, said the additional DIG, also the supervisor of the study.

Moniruzzaman disclosed the findings at a seminar titled "Preventing Terrorism and Extremism Through Community Engagement" at the capital's Brac University auditorium yesterday. The ATU organised the programme in collaboration with the Community Development for Peace and Brac University.

Among the 250 arrestees, the remaining 22 percent are either uneducated or were students of English-medium schools, he said.

Talking to The Daily Star, the police official said 80 percent of those with religious extremism and terrorism links were radicalised online through various social media platforms, while the rest 20 percent were influenced by their accomplices.

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# BUDGET DISCUSSION Lawmakers blast 'poor' allocation for health, edu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawmakers from the treasury and opposition benches criticised Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal in parliament yesterday for keeping "insufficient" allocation for education, health and culture sectors in the proposed budget for fiscal 2019-20.

Taking part in a discussion on the budget, they demanded more allocation for the sectors for ensuring quality education, lowering people's health expenditure and promoting culture.

"You cannot ensure universal health care with allocation of less than one percent of the GDP [gross

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# Mysterious light captured on Mars



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A photograph taken by Nasa's Curiosity rover on Mars has captured a mysterious bright glow on a distant Martian hillside.

The black and white photograph shows the desert landscape with high rocky hills in the background.

In front of the larger rock formations, a tiny elongated white blob appears to be streaking past.

Nasa has previously admitted to similar anomalies in pictures taken by the probe. This image was taken on 16 June, and while conspiracy theorists have said the photograph is evidence of extra-terrestrials on the Red Planet, it appears more likely to have been a cosmic ray, some kind of

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# UZ chairman 'threatens' UNO in Juri upazila

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The chairman of Moulvibazar's Juri upazila allegedly threatened the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) on Friday night.

According to UNO Ashim Chandra Banik, upazila chairman MA Moid Fa-ruk threatened him in front of Banik's residence.

"I submitted a written complaint with the district administration. The matter has been taken care of after

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**PRAYER TIMING JUNE 23**

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-05	12-45	5-00	6-52	8-17
JAMAAT 4-40	1-15	5-15	6-55	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# Ex-UN chief Ban Ki-moon arrives in July

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will be visiting Bangladesh from July 8 to 11, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen has said.

He will attend an international conference on climate adaptation in Dhaka, said the minister while addressing the Bangladesh Taekwondo Federation Hanmadang Championship 2019 at the National Sports Council in the capital yesterday.

Besides, South Korean Prime Minister Lee Nak-yeon will also visit Bangladesh on July 13-15, Momen said.

However, details of the

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Large hilsa being sold at a market on Barishal Port Road yesterday. The sellers said some of the fish was netted in the sea and the rest in rivers around the divisional city. Currently, there is a 65-day ban on fishing at sea.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

# US ON ROHINGYA CRISIS Congress moves to slap sanctions on Myanmar military

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The US House Committee on Foreign Affairs has approved a bipartisan legislation to impose sanctions on Myanmar military in response to the genocide against Rohingyas.

The bill -- The Burma United through Rigorous Military Accountability (BURMA) Act -- will be placed before the full House of Representatives for consideration, said the Committee Chairman Eliot L Engel in a statement on Thursday.

The bill, if passed by the House of Representatives and Senate, would prohibit the expansion of American military assistance to Burma until re-forms take place, and require reporting on crimes against humanity, including war crimes and genocide.

The act would also impose visa and financial restrictions on those re-sponsible for these crimes, support investigations for the prosecution of war criminals, and promote reforms to limit the Burmese military's

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