

## N Korea fires ICBM into sea off Japan

AFP, Seoul

North Korea yesterday fired an intercontinental ballistic missile in one of its most powerful tests ever, with Japan saying the weapon may have had the range to hit the United States mainland.

The missile was believed to have landed in Japan's exclusive economic zone (EEZ), Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said as he blasted the launch as "absolutely unacceptable".

The launch is Pyongyang's second in two days and part of a record-breaking blitz in recent weeks, which North Korea – and some allies including Moscow – blame on the US boosting regional security cooperation, including joint military exercises.

The missile flew 1,000 km at an altitude of 6,100 km, South's military said, only slightly less than the ICBM Pyongyang fired on March 24, which appeared to be North's most powerful such test yet.

## PROTESTS IN IRAN Khomeini's home set on fire

AFP, Paris

Protesters in Iran have set on fire the ancestral home of the Islamic republic's founder Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini two months into the anti-regime protest movement, images showed yesterday.

The house in the city of Khomein in the western Markazi province was shown ablaze late Thursday with crowds of jubilant protesters marching past, according to images posted on social media, verified by AFP.

Khomeini is said to have been born at the house in the town of Khomein – from where his surname derives – at the turn of the century.

He became a cleric deeply critical of the US-backed shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, moved into exile but then returned in triumph from France in 1979 to lead the Islamic revolution. Khomeini died in 1989 but remains subject of adulation by the clerical leadership under successor Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.



Nakeeyat Dramani Sam holds up a placard at an informal stocktaking session during the COP27 climate summit, in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## APEC SUMMIT IN BANGKOK France's Macron rejects 'confrontation' in Asia

VP Harris says US is 'here to stay' amid China tensions

AFP, Bangkok

French President Emmanuel Macron yesterday urged an end to "confrontation" as he relaunched his strategy for the Asia-Pacific region after a bitter row over a cancelled submarine contract with Australia.

In a speech on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit, Macron cast France as a balancing power in a region long dominated by the superpower tussle between China and the United States.

The APEC summit comes days after a high-stakes meeting between US President Joe Biden and Chinese leader Xi Jinping took some heat out of their escalating rivalry.

Tensions between Washington and Beijing have risen sharply in recent years over the future of self-governing Taiwan, human rights, trade and China's increasing assertiveness.

"We don't believe in hegemony, we don't believe in confrontation, we believe in stability," Macron said. Regional powers including Paris – which has overseas territories in the Indian and Pacific oceans, in-

cluding Reunion, New Caledonia and French Polynesia – should play a role, he said.

"We are in the jungle and we have two big elephants, trying to become more and more nervous," Macron said in his speech, which he gave in English.

"If they become very nervous and start war it will be a big problem for the rest of the jungle. You need co-



operation of a lot of other animals: tigers, monkeys, and so on."

Addressing the summit, Vice President Kamala Harris said that the United States is committed to the region for the long haul, rejecting doubts about its engagement as China expands its clout.

"The United States is here to stay," Harris said. "Our message is clear: The United States has an enduring economic commitment to the

Indo-Pacific, one that is measured not in years, but in decades and generations," she said, using the preferred US term for the Asia-Pacific region.

President Joe Biden's administration has focused on rallying behind allies and Harris will head from Thailand to the Philippines, where she will visit an island near waters increasingly contested by Beijing. While the United States has taken a firm tone on China, some Asian officials have questioned the level of US economic engagement.

Biden has largely followed his predecessor Donald Trump in turning the page on the era of free-trade agreements, seeing them as unpopular among working-class US voters.

Harris insisted that economic partnerships in Asia were "a top priority" for the Biden administration and pointed out that the US private sector invests around \$1 trillion a year in the region.

"America is a strong partner to the economies and companies of this region because America is and will remain a major engine of global growth, reinforced by our administration's approach," she said.

## RUSSIAN WAR G7 warns of growing 'hybrid threats'

AFP, Eltville am Rhein

Russia's war in Ukraine has a "significant impact" on the security of other countries, G7 interior ministers said yesterday, warning of attacks on key infrastructure and risks posed by returning foreign fighters.

German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser reaffirmed the Group of Seven's "unwavering solidarity" with Ukraine, after hosting two days of talks in the western town of Eltville.

"The war of aggression against Ukraine has had a significant impact on the internal security of G7 countries," the ministers from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States said in a joint communique.

Europe was stunned earlier this week when a missile blast struck a Polish village near the Ukrainian border, killing two people and raising fears of a dangerous escalation in the conflict.

## Fire at Gaza home kills 21: officials

AFP, Jabalia

Thousands of Palestinians turned out yesterday for the funeral of 21 people who died in a Gaza Strip apartment building fire, an AFP correspondent said.

At least seven children were among the dead in the blaze at Jabalia Palestinian refugee camp on Thursday night, said the head of the Indonesian Hospital there, Saleh Abu Lai.

Mourners carried the coffins, draped in Palestinian flags, through crowds in the camp toward Beit Lahia cemetery for burial.

While the cause of the fire remained unknown, a spokesman for the civil defence unit told AFP that supplies of fuel were stored in the three-storey building.

Jabalia is a refugee camp, but like many such Palestinians camps now includes large buildings and in many respects resembles a city.

With electricity supply sparse in the impoverished territory, domestic blazes are common, as Gazans seek alternative sources for cooking and light, including kerosene lamps.

Gaza, densely populated with 2.3 million people, has been under Israeli blockade since 2007 when the Islamist movement Hamas took power. Israeli Defence Minister Benny Gantz tweeted that his staff would assist with "humanitarian evacuations of the injured to (Israeli) hospitals".

He expressed sympathy for the "serious disaster" in Gaza. It was not immediately clear, however, if any of the roughly 15 people injured in the fire were transported out of Gaza. Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas, based in the Israeli-occupied West Bank – a separate Palestinian territory – considered the fire "a national tragedy", his spokesman said.

## Digital currencies being used to fund terror: Modi

AFP, New Delhi

Digital currencies need more regulation to stamp out funding for terror operations, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi said yesterday at a major international forum to combat financing of extremist groups. India has laboured to rein in cryptocurrency transactions after years of phenomenal growth, backed by burgeoning local trading platforms and glitzy celebrity endorsements.

Modi last year said that bitcoin presented a risk to younger generations and could "spoil our youth" if it ended up "in the wrong hands". Yesterday, he went further and told delegates at the Conference on Countering Financing of Terrorism that "private currencies" posed a grave security risk. "New kinds of technology are being used for terror funding and recruitment. Challenges from the dark net, private currencies and more are emerging," Modi said. "There is a need for a uniform understanding for new finance technologies," he added. "From a uniform understanding, a unified system of checks and balances and regulation can emerge," Modi said.



## Govt working for development

FROM PAGE 12

research in Dhaka University," she stated.

"The students of Dhaka University will make important contributions from their respective positions to building a hunger- and poverty-free 'Sonar Bangladesh' being imbued with the spirit of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by 2041 by applying their acquired knowledge, talent, and creativity with patriotism, honesty, and devotion," she said.

"I am happy to learn that Dhaka University, a 100-year-old educational institution known as the 'Oxford of the East', is celebrating its 53rd convocation," she said.

On this occasion, she also greeted all the graduating students, their parents, current and former students, respected faculties, and officials and staff of the university.

The premier wished the 53rd convocation of Dhaka University every success.

## Robbers kill man

FROM PAGE 12

daughter. He was the president of a local mosque committee.

His son, Sarwar Ahmed, said criminals tied his father's hands and feet and robbed him of his belongings. "He died of a head injury. Apart from the beating, he was also hit with a sharp weapon."

OC Abdul Kaiyum said the cause of death will be known after receiving the post-mortem report.

"We are collecting CCTV footage around the building to find the perpetrators," he added.

## India launches

FROM PAGE 12

completion of Mission Prarambh, the beginning," said Pawan Goenka, who chairs the Indian government agency that coordinates private-sector space activities.

Skyroot, which was started by Pawan Chandana and Bharath Daka, has set a target of cutting development costs by up to 90 percent versus existing platforms to launch small satellites.

It expects to achieve that cost savings by using a rocket architecture that can be assembled in less than 72 hours with composite materials. It plans launches capable of delivering satellites starting next year.

## France denies entry to 123 migrants

AFP, Paris

Most of the adult migrants rescued by the Ocean Viking NGO in the Mediterranean have been denied entry into France, which allowed the vessel to disembark after Italy blocked access to its ports, the interior ministry said yesterday.

The standoff has rekindled the EU immigration debate and heightened tensions between France and Italy's new far-right government under Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni.

After pleading for days to be allowed to dock in Italy, the Ocean Viking and its 234 rescued migrants disembarked at the French port of Toulon in what the French government called an "exceptional" decision.

Around 40 minors have been placed in social care, while 189

"Innovation and cost efficiency should be the two drivers for the industry. Cost efficiency has already been achieved, and now we should look at cutting edge technology," Chandana said.

India's unmanned Mars mission has been pushing to develop a private space industry to complement its state-run space programme known for its affordable launches and missions.

India's unmanned Mars mission in 2014 cost only \$74 million, and made headlines for costing less than the Academy Award winning film "Gravity".

Until now, the state-run ISRO has had a monopoly on launching rockets in India.

Of those, 123 people did not provide sufficient proof to back up their claims and were denied entry, the official said, without specifying if or when they might be deported.

The 66 others will be transferred to 11 other EU nations, including Germany, Finland and Portugal, that agreed to take them in under a voluntary scheme that Italy wants to be made compulsory for all EU members.

A French presidency official, requesting anonymity, called Italy's refusal a "dirty trick" ahead of a crisis meeting of EU interior ministers in Brussels next week.

## Blackouts

FROM PAGE 12

investigation said in a statement. Ljungqvist added that technical analyses were continuing in order to "draw more reliable conclusions regarding the incident."

Sweden's Prosecution Authority said that the "continued investigation will show if anyone can be formally suspected of a crime."

Four large gas leaks were discovered on Nord Stream's two pipelines off the Danish island of Bornholm at the end of September, with seismic institutes recording two underwater explosions just prior, reports AFP.

## Dhaka, Delhi

FROM PAGE 2

address emerging challenges".

On the first day of the conference, deliberations were held in the first and second sessions on 'Global Trends in Terrorism and Terrorist Financing' and 'Use of Formal and Informal Channels of Funds for Terrorism'.

The third and fourth sessions will be held tomorrow on 'Emerging Technologies and Terrorist Financing' and 'International Co-operation to Address Challenges in Combating Terrorist Financing'.

Bangladesh presented a paper on terror financing through MTSS, hawala/hundi networks in the second session yesterday. Joint Secretary Abu Hena Mostafa Zaman of the Public Safety Division presented the paper on behalf of Bangladesh.

## Tangail Hindu

FROM PAGE 12

Faridul Islam, officer-in-charge of Bhanpur Police Station, said a group of policemen was sent to the spot after receiving information about the clash.

Necessary action will be taken after filing of complaints in this regard, he added.

## Turkey jails 17 suspects over deadly Istanbul attack

AFP, Istanbul

A Turkish court yesterday ordered the detention of 17 suspects, including a Syrian woman, for alleged links to a bombing that killed six people in central Istanbul, local media reported.

The government has accused the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), designated as a terror group by Ankara and its Western allies, for last Sunday's attack.

The victims included two girls aged nine and 15.

The PKK and its Syrian offshoot YPG have denied involvement. No individual or group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Turkish police captured the chief suspect Alham Albashir – a Syrian woman who is said to have been working for Kurdish militants – in an Istanbul suburb.

Albashir has reportedly confessed to planting the bomb during her interrogation.

The Istanbul court remanded 17 suspects in pre-trial detention on charges of "destroying the state's unity", "deliberate killing" and "deliberately attempting to murder", the Anadolu news agency reported.

Albashir said she joined the PKK because of her boyfriend's influence and maintained her ties to the group after she broke up with him, the agency said.

The attack was the deadliest in five years and evoked bitter memories from a wave of nationwide bombings from 2015 to 2017 that were blamed mostly on Kurdish militants and Islamic State jihadists.

Turkish media revealed many details about the woman but questions still remain.

She reportedly crossed into Turkey illegally from Afrin near the border, which is controlled by Ankara-backed groups.

There have also been questions also how the woman rented her apartment in Istanbul.

Interior Minister Suleyman Soyulu said Ankara believed the order for the attack was given from Kobane, controlled by Syrian Kurdish militia forces in northern Syria.

## Chonpara drug

FROM PAGE 12

His body was recovered a few kilometres away from the slum at Barnali ghat of the Shitalakkhya in Narayanganj's Siddhirganj on November 7.

Khandaker Al Moin, Rab's legal and media wing director, recently claimed that analysing intelligence information and CCTV footage, they came to know that Fardin was murdered around the slum early November 5.

He also said Raihan Mahmud, a leader of the gang dealing with drugs in the slum, and some of his associates were involved in the killing.

Locals said there are over 100 drug dealers in the slum and all of them are controlled by Bazlur.

His associate Rashedul Islam Shaheen was killed in a "gunfight" during a Rab drive in the slum on November 10.

[A correspondent from Narayanganj contributed to this report.]