

WORLD

world

Japan to buy \$146 million island for US military drills



The US provides security for Japan

Tokyo

Japan said yesterday it had agreed to buy an uninhabited island off its southwest coast for \$146 million, eyeing it for US military drills.

Tokyo and Washington agreed in 2011 to relocate a training site for US fighter jets to Mageshima island, around 30 kilometres off the southwestern Japanese coast.

Japan's chief cabinet secretary Yoshihide Suga said an agreement to purchase Mageshima was reached on Friday

"after discussions between the defence ministry and the developer who owns the majority of the island".

American flight training operations are currently conducted at Iwo Jima, some 1,200 kilometres (750 miles) south of Tokyo.

Washington had requested

a move, saying Iwo Jima -- a key World War II battlefield -- was too far away from an American military base in the western Japanese city of Iwakuni, where their fighters are stationed.

Suga said a facility would be built on the island for landing practice "at an early date", adding that he could not reveal further details as the acquisition was not complete.

Japan's military has long been restricted to self-defence and the country relies heavily on the US under a bilateral security alliance.

President Donald Trump has repeatedly insisted that Japan and other US allies should contribute more to the costs of their own defence.

Some residents who live on islands close to Mageshima have said they are concerned about the noise of a potential flight training base.

Choose hope or climate surrender, says UN chief



Guterres worked through a long list of climate data to reinforce his message

Madrid

Confronted with a climate crisis threatening civilisation itself, humanity must choose between hope and surrender, UN chief Antonio Guterres told the opening plenary of the UN COP25 climate conference Tuesday.

"One is the path of surrender, where we have sleep-walked past the point of no return, jeopardising the health and safety of everyone on this planet," Guterres said.

"Do we really want to be remembered as the generation that buried its head in the sand, that fiddled while the planet burned?"

In an impassioned appeal, the UN chief worked through a long list of worrying signs, including new figures released Tuesday by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).

The last five years have been

the hottest ever recorded, the WMO said, and the concentration of planet warming CO₂ in the atmosphere has reached levels not seen in three to five million years.

"The last time there was a comparable concentration," Guterres said, "the temperature was two to three degrees Celsius warmer, and sea levels were 10 to 20 metres higher than today."

The 2015 Paris Agreement calls for capping global warming at "well under" 2C, and 1.5C if possible.

A major UN science report reset the threshold for a climate-safe world from 2C to 1.5C.

"Permafrost in the Arctic is thawing 70 years ahead of projections," Guterres continued. "Antarctica is melting three times as fast as a decade ago. Ocean levels are rising quicker than expected."

"More than two-thirds of the world's megacities are located by the sea."

More than 150 million people will find themselves in coastal flood zones by 2050, according to recent research.

To prevent temperatures from rising more than 1.5 degrees, the global economy must be carbon neutral by mid-century, a landmark UN report said last year.

AFP | Manila

Typhoon Kammuri barreled towards the Philippines yesterday, pushing tens of thousands of people into evacuation centres and prompting authorities to order a temporary closure of Manila's international airport as a safety precaution.

Kammuri was expected to make landfall late Monday or early Tuesday and then pass to the south of the capital, which is home to some 13 million people and is hosting thousands of athletes for the regional Southeast Asian Games.

Airport officials said they made the call based on the potency of the storm, which was forecast to come ashore with intense rains and sustained winds of up to 165 kilometres (100 miles) per hour as well as gusts of up to 230 kilometres per hour, forecasters said.

"Based on our estimate, it will be closed from 11 am (0300 GMT) to 11 pm tomorrow, December 3," said Ed Monreal, general manager of Manila's airport authority.

Nearly 70,000 people had already fled their homes in the Bicol region, disaster officials said, which is where the typhoon is expected to strike first.

However, some residents opted to stay put even as the storm's power began to hit.

"The wind is howling. Roofs



The storm is on track to then pass close to Manila, which is home to some 13 million people and the site for many of the SEA Games events

Typhoon Kammuri



are being torn off and I saw one roof flying," local Gladys Castillo Vidal told AFP.

"We decided to stay because our house is a two-storey made of concrete... Hopefully it can withstand the storm."

The weather bureau also warned of rain-induced landslides and possible storm surges of up to three metres (10 feet) which could hit coastal areas in the nation's east.

The Philippines is hit by an average of 20 storms and typhoons each year, killing hundreds and putting people in disaster-prone areas in a state of constant poverty.

The country's deadliest cyclone on record was Super Typhoon Haiyan, which left more than 7,300 people dead or missing in 2013.

Games plagued by build-up woes

Kammuri already snarled some plans for the SEA Games, which opened Saturday for thousands of athletes from the region and is set to run through

to December 11 in and around Manila.

Windsurfing was halted as a precaution and triathlon events were held earlier than scheduled.

Ramon Suzara, the chief operating officer of the organising committee, said contingency plans were in place for bad weather, but the duration of the Games would not be extended.

"Everything is set," Suzara told reporters. "For contingency, all venues, all competition managers, technical delegates are ready."

The storm is the latest trouble for the Games, which saw a series of transport hiccups and a rush of last-minute construction ahead of the opening.

This year's Games in Clark, Manila and Subic are already particularly complex, with a record 56 sports across dozens of venues that are in some cases hours apart by car.

Around 8,750 athletes and team officials are expected at this year's 30th edition -- the biggest ever -- along with another 12,000 volunteers. Organisers hope more than 500 million viewers will tune in on TV by the end of the competition on December 11.

The Philippines have made a strong start to the Games, rising to the top of the medal table with over 70 in total, ahead of Vietnam in second place and Malaysia in third.



Tender Invitation

Seq.	Tender Title	Tender No.	Initial Bond (Refundable)	Tender Document Fee	Last date of accepting bids		
					Day	Date	Time
1	Purchasing of Infant Kit	19-10-2052-BTB	BD 2500	BD 100	Wednesday	25/12/2019	13:30

NOTE: Tender documents can be purchased online using e-Tendering system starting on 3rd December 2019

- Tenderers who are eligible to supply/provide the goods/ services/ works specified above are kindly requested to purchase the tender document online through the e-Tendering portal <http://www.tenderboard.gov.bh> (for assistance please contact the Tender Board help desk on Tel: +973 17566617).
- An Initial Bond should be enclosed for the amount specified above or at a rate of 1% of the quotation value whichever of the amount is lesser, provided that no initial bond's value shall be less than BD 100/. Ensure that the Initial bond is in a form of Certified Cheque, Cash, Bank Guarantee or Insurance Policy, valid for the duration specified in the tender documents.
- Quotation should be deposited in the tender box provided at the Tender Submission Office, Tender Board Arcapita Building 551, Ground Floor Road 4612, Block 346 Bahrain Bay Manama, Bahrain, before 1:30 After Noon on the tender closing date.
- All tenders/Auction are in compliance with the government tendering & purchasing regulations issued in Decrees Nos. 36 & 37 of 2002 and its executive regulations.
- The following conditions should be complied with:
 - Enclose a copy of the Commercial Registration Certificate valid for the current year, and related to the subject tender.
 - Submit the quotations on Form No. TB 02 - tender submission.
 - Enclose a copy of Certificate of Compliance with the Employment Percentage for Bahraini Manpower issued by Ministry of Labour.
 - Ensure to stamp with the official seal on all the original documents and copies thereof, which form part of the offer.
- This announcement is to be read as part of the Tender Documents.
- All public tenders related to Gulf Air Company are published on the Tender Board website: <http://www.tenderboard.gov.bh>
- For any enquiry on the Tender Documents, please contact procurement and logistics department on Telephone: +973 17338101/+973 17338790/+973 17338545, Fax: +973 17327999

Important Note: All participants are invited to attend the opening of the tender at the Tender Submission Office, Ground Floor, Tender Board Office at Al Arcapita Building on the next day of the closing date.