

US Predator strikes hurt al-Qaeda

AFP, Los Angeles

A six-month campaign of Predator strikes in Pakistan has seriously damaged the al-Qaeda structure there, forcing militants to turn on one another as they search for culprits, The Los Angeles Times reported Saturday. Citing unnamed US intelligence and counter-terrorism officials, the newspaper said on its website that the pace of the attacks has increased dramatically after the administration of former president George W. Bush made last August a previously undisclosed decision to abandon the practice of obtaining permission from the Pakistani government before launching strikes from the unmanned aircraft.

Pope decries African wars at Mass

AP, Luanda

Pope Benedict XVI celebrated Mass Sunday with hundreds of thousands of Angolans and decried the "clouds of evil" over Africa that have spawned war, tribalism and ethnic rivalry that he said condemned poor people to virtual slavery. The biggest crowd of Benedict's first pilgrimage to Africa turned up in sweltering heat for the open-air service on the outskirts of Angola's seaside capital, Luanda. It was the last major event of his seven-day trip, which ends Monday.

"How true it is that war can destroy everything of value", said Benedict, wearing a pink cape and mopping his brow with a white handkerchief.

Evils in Africa have "reduced the poor to slavery and deprived future generations of the resources needed to create a more solid and just society," he said during the Mass under a pink altar in a tent on a huge vacant lot near a cement factory.



Anti-war demonstrators stage a protest to mark the sixth anniversary of the Iraq war in Hollywood on Saturday. The end of the war beckons, but six years after the US-led invasion, Iraqis are still struggling with daily hardship and the fear of deadly, indiscriminate attacks.

US mulls 'political role' for Taliban to end protracted stalemate

5 Afghan civilians killed in air raid

ANI, AFP, London/Kabul

To bring the Taliban into the Afghan political process in order to achieve a peaceful resolution to the war in Afghanistan, the United States has signalled a new initiative.

The US Ambassador to Kabul said that America would be prepared to discuss the establishment of a political party, or even election candidates representing the Taliban, as part of a political strategy that would sit alongside reinforced military efforts to end the increasingly intractable conflict.

William Wood, the outgoing US ambassador to Afghanistan, said that "insurgencies, like all wars... end when there is an agreement."

He said while the US saw "no way there could be power sharing or an enclave" for the Taliban, "there is room for discussion on the formation of political parties [or] running... for elections. That is very

different from shooting your way into power. The key requirement would be respect for the constitution," Wood added.

The move will cause concern among allies struggling to keep pace with rapidly evolving US policy, The Observer reports. Changing the Afghan Constitution as part of potential negotiations, taking senior Taliban figures off UN blacklists to establish dialogue and possible prisoner releases are other ideas being discussed.

European nations are currently weighing up US requests for more troops and resources for Afghanistan ahead of a series of forthcoming summits. Tough fighting is expected as America sends a surge of 17,000 troops into the country before the August elections.

Meanwhile, Afghan officials said five men killed in a US-led raid Sunday were all civilians, countering a statement from the military that

said they were militants from a "terrorist network."

The claim was the latest in a string of allegations of civilian casualties at the hands of foreign forces who are in Afghanistan to fight against insurgents, including Taliban and al-Qaeda extremists.

"Afghan and coalition forces killed five militants and detained four suspected militants early this morning in Kunduz province during an operation targeting a terrorist network in northern Afghanistan," the US military said.

The operation took place near the border with Tajikistan, it said. But provincial police chief Abdul Rehman Actash said the five men killed were civilians visiting a district mayor.

"They went into the mayor's house and killed his driver, two guards, his cook and a guest from Sari Pul province, and confiscated two weapons from the house," Actash told AFP.

Israel, Hamas talks on prisoner swap not dead

AP, AFP, Jerusalem/Rome

A spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert says attempts to win the release of a captured Israeli soldier have not stopped despite strong signals from Olmert that no deal was likely during his last days in office.

Mark Regev says Israel is still trying to strike a deal on a prisoner swap with Hamas. He provided no further details Sunday.

Olmert is set to leave office within two weeks. After a recent round of talks failed,

he indicated he was turning the matter over to his successor, Benjamin Netanyahu.

The head of Hamas' government in the Gaza Strip also says a deal is still possible. Ismail Haniyeh wrote in a Hamas newspaper Sunday that the group's representatives are "still trying" to renew the Egyptian-sponsored talks.

Meanwhile, the exiled leader of the Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas on Sunday hailed the "new lexicon" being used by US President Barack Obama towards foreign policy issues the Middle

East.

"The challenge for everyone is that (Obama's new language) is a prelude to a sincere change (of direction) in US and European foreign policy," Khaled Meshal said in an interview with Italian newspaper La Repubblica.

A senior US envoy said in Damascus earlier this month that Syria can be an important and constructive force in the Middle East, as Washington pursues a new policy of engaging with all countries in the region, even long-time foes.



Jade Goody

Reality TV star Jade Goody dies after cancer fight

AP, London

Jade Goody, a dental assistant turned reality-TV star whose whirlwind journey from poverty to celebrity to tragedy became a national soap opera and morality tale in Britain, has died.

The 27-year-old had cancer and died in her sleep early Sunday at her home in Essex, southeast England, her publicist Max Clifford said.

Goody gained fame at 21 in 2002, when she joined the reality television show "Big Brother," in which contestants live together for weeks and are constantly filmed. Loud and brash, she became a highly divisive star initially mocked as an ignorant slob, then celebrated as a forthright everywoman by a hungry tabloid press.

Mega malls

FROM PAGE 1

Complex, Humayun Ahmed. He however failed to show any when asked to show the equipment and said he couldn't do it without 'permission'.

Masum Bhuiyan, owner of Arka Limited, a mobile servicing centre on the fifth floor, said their lives and property are under threat for lack of safety measures.

The emergency alarm of the Plaza is out of order for the last six months, said senior electrician Mohammad Ali adding they will repair it very soon.

Supervisor of Eastern Plaza Abul Kashem said they conducted a fire drill on March 16 and trained all their security guards about using firefighting equipment.

"We are also considering drills with the help of professional firefighters," he added.

Like Eastern Plaza, Kamaphuli Garden City in Kakrail also lacks fire safety measures on the upper floors, which house apartments.

All the extinguishers, which were set up on different floors of the apartments, expired in August 2005, said general secretary of Kamaphuli Garden City apartment owners association Dr Md Nurul Amin.

The fire exit is very narrow and two persons cannot pass through it at a time, he said.

Although there is a pair of stairs including an emergency exit at the 22-storey Kamaphuli building, there is only one stair apart from the elevator from third to ground floor. But this stairway is always locked.

General manager of Kamaphuli Shamsuddin said they would refill all the extinguishers in a week's time.

As per the Bangladesh National Building Code fire chapter, hose pipe, fire alarm, hydrant system and fire lift are a must for a highrise, says Prof Mehdi Ahmed Ansari of Buet.

He adds, the highrises should conduct a fire drill in every three months for smooth functioning of all the equipment.

The scene is little different at the 22-storey Twin Tower shopping complex-cum apartment building in Shantinagar. Although the building has fire exit, extinguishers and hydrant points on every floor, it doesn't have enough trained peo-

ple. Alamgir Akhand, chief coordinator of security service and cleaning, said they will arrange a training programme including a fire drill shortly.

General Manager of Twin Tower Concord Apartment Md Nizam said they have started checking all the fire safety measures and consider receiving training from the Fire Service and Civil Defence.

The Rapa Plaza mall has extinguishers, hydrant points, emergency exits and alarm, but many of its staffs don't know how to operate the equipment, especially the extinguishers.

Moreover, the expiry date of most of the extinguishers set on different floors was over one month ago.

Wazed Ali, engineer of the Plaza, said, "We have planned to install smoke detectors and an overhead reservoir for hydrant system to ensure water during fire."

He said they have already refilled 50 percent of the extinguishers and rest of them will be refilled within one or two days.

He added that last year they arranged a fire drill for the market staffs and will arrange further training for the security guards and other staffs and a fire drill soon.

Some security guards of the mall admitted that they don't know how to operate the fire fighting equipment.

The Pink City Shopping Complex in Gulshan has firefighting equipment but the staffs are not well-trained for lack of fire drills.

Manager of Pink City Lutfar Rahman said after the Bashundhara fire they have started training for the security guards and will conduct a drill on March 26.

Director General of Fire Service and Civil Defence Brig Gen Abu Nayeem Md Shahidullah said mobile courts must oversee implementation of the Fire Prevention Act so that action can be taken against the violators. In that case neglect in using fire safety measures would decrease significantly.

He said every market needs to receive training on safety net from Fire Service and Civil Defence and should continue the training themselves in every month.

Take your career in the right direction.



As the powerhouse in the communications industry, we at Nokia Siemens Networks aim to become the global leader in fixed mobile convergence. We bring the latest thinking and pioneering technology to a portfolio of products, solutions and services focused on the needs of our customers. With a strong global presence in more than 150 countries, we are now putting together the projects that will put us firmly in the lead of a growing market.

Account Manager, Professional Services

Main role: Proactively sell Nokia Siemens Networks solutions and products – focus on Professional Services (PS) domain portfolio

Key responsibilities:

Create and manage sales:

- Identify, develop and win new PS sales opportunities
- Understand the Customer's commercial, operational, technology challenges and opportunities.
- Manage Professional Services sales within profitability targets.
- Negotiate and close deals.

Customer Relationship:

- Build and manage trust-based, long-term relationships with customer's organization with procurement, CTO office, customer marketing organization and CxO levels.

Account Management:

- Manage internal processes (e.g. win plan, pricing file, funnel, PS demand planning for services resources/skill sets linked to upcoming business, project execution).
- Optimize profitability for existing contracts and negotiate services contract related to legal aspects (Acceptance, payment terms, etc.)

Sales support:

- Handle handover of won services deal (together with solution creation team) over to project- and care teams (Project Manager, Care Program Manager, etc)

Competence requirements

- Sales Management
- Customer Business Understanding
- Relationship Management
- Consultative Selling
- Sales Negotiation
- Sales Contracting
- Internet Business & IP Knowledge
- NSN Products & Technologies

Personal attributes

- Credibility with the customer
- Energetic, proactive
- Communication and influencing skills
- Team work

Experience

- Min. 10 years sales/consulting experience
- Services business track record

We offer competitive total rewards and well planned career moves.

To apply please log on to www.bdjobs.com and submit your application by 30 March 2009.

Nokia Siemens Networks

