

Airstrikes kill 19 militants across NW Pakistan

Close aide of Maulana Fazlullah killed in fighting

AFP, Peshawar

Pakistani airstrikes killed 19 suspected militants yesterday, police and security officials said, in an ongoing bombardment aimed at shattering Taliban strongholds across the northwest.

Army officials, meanwhile, said a close aide of Maulana Fazlullah -- the Taliban commander in northwest Swat valley -- was killed as a 10-week-long operation against militants in the scenic region rumbled on.

Military and government officials claim to have almost cleared Swat valley of insurgents and are now targeting the tribal region bordering Afghanistan, but fresh shelling erupted on Sunday just north of Swat's main town Mingora.

"Gunship helicopters shelled militant hideouts at Mangaltan area of Charbagh town. At least ten militants were killed in the shelling," Major Nasir Khan, a military spokesman in Mingora, told AFP by telephone.

Khan said the air attacks were called in after fresh reports of militant movement in the area. An intelligence official in Mingora confirmed the strikes and the death toll.

Security forces have vowed to follow up the Swat campaign with an offensive against Taliban warlord Baitullah Mehsud and his network in the lawless tribal belt, where Washington alleges al-Qaeda fighters are also hiding out.

At least six alleged rebels linked to the hardline Taliban were killed Sunday in the tribal North Waziristan region near the Afghan border.

"Six or seven militants were killed and four were injured when jet fighters bombed Taliban hideouts in different parts of Datta Khel," Aziz Khan, a tribal police official, told AFP by telephone.

The air strikes hit about 20 kilometres (10 miles) west of Miranshah, the main district town in the semi-autonomous mountain region.

Residents said they saw six dead bodies, but added that civilians were also hurt.

"We were in our houses when war planes bombed the area," local resident Mahmood Gul told AFP from Miranshah's main hospital, where he had taken his young son for treatment for shrapnel wounds.

In the Orakzai region on Sunday, gunship helicopters shelled militant positions in two areas.

"At least three militants were killed and many injured in the shelling," a military official told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The bombardment hit close to the site of a military helicopter crash Friday, which killed 26 security personnel.

The military have blamed a technical fault for the crash, but the Taliban claim to have shot down the MI-17 in retaliation for the start of military operations in Waziristan.

Also Sunday, army spokes-

man Major General Athar Abbas told AFP that the military had killed a commander loyal to Fazlullah on the outskirts of Mingora.

"Ehsan, alias Abu Jandal, was killed two days earlier in Qambar area. He was a mid-level commander," said Abbas. Security sources in the area confirmed the death and said Jandal was a close aide of the firebrand cleric.

China calls for calm after N Korean missile tests

AFP, Beijing

China urged calm yesterday after North Korea test-fired seven missiles off its east coast in an act of defiance apparently timed for the US Independence Day holiday.

"China... hopes that all sides will maintain calm and restraint, and jointly safeguard peace and stability in the region," foreign ministry spokesman Qin Gang said in an online statement.

The launch of the ballistic missiles -- which the North is banned from firing under UN resolutions -- on Saturday further fuelled tensions after the exclusive state conducted a nuclear test in May.

On Thursday the North test-fired four short-range missiles with a range of 120 km (75 miles) into the Sea of Japan.

Dhaka Zoo

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crore. With the death of animals, the government has suffered a loss of around Tk 60 lakh so far. The mountain zebra alone cost around Tk 10 lakh.

According to the curator deaths up to 30 per cent of a new lot is normal.

"It is absolutely normal to expect a few deaths when animals are introduced to a new environment," Rahman said.

"These animals underwent a long journey that was traumatic as well as hazardous. Some of them also sustained injuries during the voyage. The weather here is also completely different to what they have lived in so far. That's why they take time to adapt."

Meanwhile, the animals most popular with visitors -- the herd of giraffe -- are suffering from FMD.

Rahman said, "It is a season that favours FMD. There is an outbreak of the disease outside

the zoo premises. Several divided hoofed animals, especially the spotted deer, are suffering from it but the situation is under control."

"A medical board has already been formed to contain infestation. We have arranged footbaths around the food area where animals tend to concentrate helping spread of the infection," he said.

Located on about 186-acres of land in Mirpur, the Dhaka zoo is currently home to around 2,161 animals from 157 species. Of them, 57 are mammals including elephant, Royal Bengal tiger, lion, cheetah, rhinoceros, zebras, different species of monkeys and chimpanzees, hippos and more.

There are 61 species of birds, 11 species of reptiles including snakes and crocodiles and 28 species of fish in the zoo.

The zoo attracts about 10,000 visitors every day.

Beximco top defaulter

FROM PAGE 1

supervisions to recover defaulted loans of different banks.

Assuming the office, the finance minister said on February 1 that the government would take stern action against loan defaulters.

Talking to reporters on that day, Muhith, who was the finance minister in dictator HM Ershad's government, said, "I do not like loan defaulters at all. In the early 1980s, I was the first to identify them and take action against them. This time more stringent actions will be taken."

TOP 50 DEFAULTERS

Beximco Textiles Ltd defaulted on Tk 353.89 crore, Padma Textile Mills Ltd Tk 292.91 crore, Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation Tk 267.44 crore, Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation Tk 176.95 crore, SDS International Ltd Tk 139.95 crore, Shinepukur Holdings Ltd Tk 134.35 crore, Magura Paper Mills Ltd Tk 126.05 crore, Adamjee Jute Mills Ltd Tk 124.75 crore, Fair Expo Weaving Mills Ltd Tk 96.53 crore, Beximco Knitting Ltd Tk 81.06 crore, Riverside Leather & Footwear Industries Ltd Tk 78.06 crore, Arch Ltd Tk 77.80 crore, Bangladesh Auto-rickshaw Chalak SF Tk 77.56 crore, Shamsul Al Amin Cotton Mills Ltd Tk 74.42 crore, Khulna Newsprint Mills Ltd Tk 71.11 crore, Qaumi Jute Mills Tk 65.95 crore, Desh Beverage Company Ltd Tk 61.17 crore, Samina Tannery Pvt Ltd Tk 60.98 crore, Star Cement Industries Tk 60.89 crore, Bikkampur Potato Flakes Industries Tk 60.18 crore, Beximco Engineering Ltd Tk 59.80 crore, Desma Shoe Industries Ltd Tk 59.37 crore, RM Super Steels Ltd Tk 58.92

crore, One Spinning Mills Ltd Tk 58.75 crore, Lexco Ltd Tk 54.72 crore, National Cement Mills Ltd Tk 53.91 crore, Namnam Bangladesh Associates Ltd Tk 53.54 crore, Fahim Marble Corporation Ltd Tk 53.38 crore, Nirman International Contracting Company Tk 51.95 crore, Ismail Carpet Industries Tk 51.92 crore, Rahman Ahsan Cotton Spinning Mills Ltd Tk 51.52 crore, Protein Foods Ltd Tk 50.48 crore, Musk Sweater Composite Ltd Tk 49.95 crore, Chowdhury Leather and Company Ltd Tk 49.33 crore, Globe Metal Complex Tk 47.99 crore, Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation Tk 47.69 crore, Mizan & Suman Tannery Pvt Ltd Tk 47.28 crore, Bright Textile Industries Ltd Tk 46.96 crore, AG Textile Mills Ltd Tk 46.82 crore, Imperial Dyeing & Hosiery Mills Ltd Tk 46.68 crore, Priyanka Spinning Ltd Tk 45.73 crore, Ashraf Textile Mills Ltd Tk 45.41 crore, Alfa Tobacco Manufacturing Company Ltd Tk 45.04 crore, Classic Supplies Ltd Tk 43.72 crore, AB Vegetable Oil Industries Ltd Tk 43.20 crore, Sumis Sweater Ltd Tk 43.17 crore, Biswas Garment Ltd Tk 42.36 crore, Mita Textile Ltd Tk 41.90 crore, Shahil Fashions Ltd Tk 41.81 crore, and News Style Garments Ltd Tk 41.35 crore.

Of the media houses, Amar Desh Publications Ltd defaulted on Tk 38.24 crore, Dialogue Publications Tk 36.98 crore, One Entertainment Ltd Tk 35.22 crore, Boishakhi Media Ltd Tk 31.21 crore, Nationwide Communications Ltd Tk 27.73 crore, Focus Multi Media Company Ltd Tk 19.58 crore, Janakantha Ltd Tk 17.12 crore, WordTel Bangladesh Ltd Tk 12.44 crore and Ekushey Television Ltd Tk 12.35 crore.

Obama backs Medvedev's judicial reforms

AP, Moscow

President Barack Obama said strengthening human rights and the rule of law in Russia should be a part of the much-heralded "reset" in US-Russian relations, according to an interview with an embattled Russian opposition newspaper.

Obama also said he applauded President Dmitry Medvedev's efforts to reform Russia's creaky judicial system, according to excerpts released by Novaya Gazeta before Obama's arrival Monday in Moscow, when the full interview to be published.

"I agree with President Medvedev when he said that 'freedom is better than the absence of freedom,'" Obama was quoted as saying. "I see no reason why strengthening democracy, human rights and the rule of law cannot be included as part of our reset" in relations.

The term "reset" refers to the pledge by officials in both countries to improve relations that had chilled markedly in recent years.

It was unclear whether Obama's comments were a signal that he intends to press Medvedev or the man considered his co-ruler, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin on judicial reforms or human rights issues during his two-day summit in Moscow.

Rights groups, US lawmakers, and Russian and US foreign policy experts have urged Obama not to ignore those

issues in order to reach agreement with Medvedev on broader disputes such as a new arms control treaty or Nato expansion.

A newspaper spokeswoman said the interview was conducted in writing, with the newspaper receiving answers to its questions at the end of last week.

Obama declined to answer the newspaper's question about Russia's most prominent prisoner the former oil tycoon and billionaire Mikhail Khodorkovsky. The businessman's supporters say the criminal trial that convicted Khodorkovsky on tax evasion and fraud charges was designed to punish him for his political aspiration.

But Obama said he supported Medvedev's efforts to strengthen the rule of law in Russia, "which naturally includes making sure that all those accused of crimes have the right to a fair trial and that the courts are not used for political purposes," he was quoted as saying.

"I also believe that Americans and Russians have a common interest in the development of rule of law, the strengthening of democracy, and the protection of human rights," he told the newspaper. "As I said in my inaugural address: 'To those who cling to power through corruption and deceit and the silencing of dissent, know that you are on the wrong side of history, but that we will extend a hand if you are willing to

unclench your fist."

US and Russian officials have been trying to reach agreement on a successor agreement to the 1991 arms control treaty known as START. The treaty expires in December and negotiators have struggling to have a framework deal ready for Obama and Medvedev to sign.

Among the biggest sticking points is the issue of US plans for a missile defense system in eastern Europe. Russia vociferously opposes those plans and has sought to include that issue as part of any new arms control deal.

In the interview, Obama repeated US assurances that the missile defense system isn't aimed at Russia.

"We are not building and will not build a system that is aimed to respond to an attack from Russia. Such thinking is simply a legacy of the Cold War," he was quoted as saying.

Novaya Gazeta is Russia's most prominent opposition newspaper and its most embattled, known for investigative articles and acid commentary about Kremlin policies. Four of its reporters have died in the past eight years one beaten to death, one allegedly poisoned, two shot the most recent on Jan. 19.

Medvedev himself gave his first newspaper interview to the publication, something Putin never did during his eight years as president.

Violence erupts in China's restive Xinjiang

AFP, Beijing

Violence broke out yesterday in the capital of China's mainly Muslim northwest region of Xinjiang where an unknown number of people attacked passers-by and torched vehicles, state media reported.

The state news agency Xinhua said police were rushing to restore order in Urumqi, capital of the restive Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region.

Activist groups said thousands of protesters from the Uighur ethnic group had clashed with police and that two people had died.

The information could not be independently verified.

The head of the Japan Uighur Association, Iham Mahmut, told AFP in Tokyo, citing Internet communications from China, that he had heard that at least 300 people had been arrested.

He said the confrontation involved about 3,000 Uighur and 1,000 police who used electric cattle prods and fired gunshots into the air to try to disband the demonstration.

Dilxat Raxit, spokesman for the Germany-based World Uighur Congress, said sources told him that more than 100 had been detained.

Mahmut said demonstrators were regrouping to continue the protest. "About 400 people are trying to resume the demonstration," he headed.

He said it was sparked by a recent dispute at a toy factory between Chinese and Uighurs over a rumour that Uighurs had abused a Chinese woman.

Xinjiang is home to some eight million Uighurs, a Turkic ethnic group, and many of its members say they have suffered political and religious persecution for decades.

Red Cross hits out at 'complacency' on poor nation epidemics

AFP, GENEVA

A Red Cross official has sharply criticised "complacency" towards the impact of communicable diseases on poor countries, contrasting it with responses to flu or heart disease in rich nations.

A report released by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies on Monday warned that the crippling and growing burden of epidemics like dengue fever, polio, or meningitis was not being sufficiently

addressed.

"We do not see interest, we only see vague, uncoordinated interest in high-profile issues such as influenza -- which is in itself a great risk, but not the only one," said Tammam Aloudat, the federation's senior officer for health in emergencies.

Swine flu has "killed so far about 150 people, the potential for risk is massive, but what we have today is 14 million people dying mostly unnecessarily from easily preventable diseases that require little resources," he

told journalists.

Titled "The Epidemic Divide", the Red Cross report said a focus on death rates had helped increase attention and resources to tackle non-communicable diseases such as heart attacks and cancers, now the leading killers worldwide.

But the dominant threat in developing countries remains preventable infectious disease, and their societies were not only ailing due to the huge mortality but also the debilitating impact of ill

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Post (Designation)	Required Technical Skills and Experience
Network Security Specialist (DM)	Candidates must have valid CCNA certification as well as professional certification/ training in Cisco Security with SNPA/SNRS/ISCW. Candidates must also <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Have thorough understanding of TCP/IP internetworking, WAN and network security policies and measures including access control management. ● Have advanced level knowledge on LAN, WAN, VLAN, system load balancing, VPN/DmVPN, intrusion detection/prevention, firewall etc. and must be able to manage the same independently. ● Have practical knowledge on network security, intrusion detection/prevention, P2MP VPN (IPsec, GRE, SSL), IAS/ISA, traffic profiling, anomaly detection etc. ● Be capable to handle over 70 VPN links with proper security ● Have at least 3 years' direct experience in implementing and maintaining large, complex, IP/MPLS-based networks covering more than 30 branches.
Network Support Engineer (DM)	Candidates must have valid CCNA certification. Professional certification/training in Cisco routing/switching (BSCI/BCMSN) will be treated as an added advantage. Candidates must also <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Have thorough understanding of TCP/IP internetworking, WAN, OSPF/EIGRP/BGP as well as Internet transit and policies. ● Be able to configure VLAN, WAN, VPN/DmVPN etc. individually ● Have excellent diagnostic/ troubleshooting skills and expertise in IOS/firmware installation/upgrade/downgrade ● Have practical knowledge on Cisco router/switch/PIX/ASA, frame-relay, HDLC, PPP, IP/MPLS and policy based routing, traffic shaping etc. ● Be capable to handle over 70 WAN links. ● Have at least 3 years' direct experience in implementing and maintaining large, complex, IP/MPLS-based networks covering more than 30 branches.

Post (Designation)	Required Technical Skills and Experience
Database Administrator (DM)	Candidates must be an OCP in Database Administration. Candidates must also have strong practical knowledge of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Real Application Cluster (RAC) of Oracle 9i/10g or latest version, Oracle Data Guard ● Database migration from lower version to upper version and one server to another server ● Creating and handling Oracle Metalink and Service Request ● Backup and recovery (import/export, SQL*Loader, RMAN etc.) ● Backup and recovery management using third party software like Ligato/Tivoli/other ● Programming in SQL, PL/SQL ● Fine tuning of Oracle 9i/10g or latest version database ● Working in different OS platforms such as Unix, Linux, Microsoft Windows 2003/2008 Server or latest version etc. (practical knowledge of AIX will be considered as an added advantage). Candidates must have at least 3 years' experience of working in IT field including at least 2 years' experience in database administration of Oracle 9i/10g or latest version and at least 1 year's experience of maintaining database in 24X7 mission critical environment
Software Engineer (AM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Candidates must have at least 1 year's experience in database programming with report building ● Candidates possessing professional qualification will be given preference
EOD Specialist (AM/ Officer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● For AM, candidates must have at least 1 year's experience in performing EOD and related operations of any core banking software deployed in centralized mode. ● For Officer, candidates must have at least 2 years' experience of working in IT field (software) including at least 1 year's experience in performing EOD and related operations of any core banking software deployed in centralized mode. ● Candidates possessing professional qualification will be given preference

General Requirements

- Age limit: **For DM**, maximum 33; **for AM**, maximum 30; **for Officer**, maximum 35
- Education: **For DM**, Masters in any subject or Masters/ B.Sc. in Engineering and/ or Computer Science/ Engineering with minimum 2nd division/ class in all the examinations. However, preference will be given to candidates having Masters/ B. Sc. in Engineering and/ or Computer Science/ Engineering. **For AM**, candidates must have Masters/ B. Sc. in Computer Science/ Engineering with 1st class either in B. Sc. or in Masters and minimum 2nd class/ division in all other examinations. **For Officer**, candidates must have Masters in any subject with at least one 1st class/ division and minimum 2nd class/ division in all other examinations.
- Candidates must be willing to work in night shift and during holidays, as and when required.
- Candidates must be willing to travel to branches in and outside Dhaka, as and when required.

Interested and qualified Bangladeshi nationals should send application addressed to the General Manager, Human Resource Division, BASIC Bank Limited, Head Office, Sena Kalyan Bhaban (5th Floor), 195, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka - 1000 along with detailed resume attaching 3 (three) copies of recent passport size color photograph by 19 July 2009. Name of the post must be marked on top of the envelope. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for evaluation.