

# US drones pound Pak tribal belt: 11 more militants killed

Taliban claim Mehsud safe, release his audio tape

ANI, Peshawar

Unmanned US Predator aircraft continued to pound Pakistan's lawless tribal region on Friday evening, with 11 extremists reportedly being killed in twin drones strikes in North Waziristan.

According to officials, at least five drones were seen hovering over the region and fired four missiles targeting a suspected militant hideout.

Local administrative officials also confirmed the missile hit. The Nation reports.

While the Pakistani security forces are still ascertaining reports about the death of the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) leader Hakimullah Mehsud in a US drone

strike, the TTP has released an audio tape of Mehsud claiming that their leader is safe.

Mehsud, in his audio message, claimed that he is unhurt, and that it is a conspiracy of the government to flash the news about his death.

"Sometimes they (the government) launch propaganda about my martyrdom through media and sometimes they say that the operation has been completed in South Waziristan. This can never happen," The Nation quoted Mehsud, as saying.

However, there was no mention of the day or date of the drone strike in which Mehsud is said to have been killed, which raises questions over whether the message was recorded after the said strike.

Meanwhile, the BBC quoted a Taliban leader, as saying that Mehsud has been injured in Thursday's attack.

It may be noted that 15 missile hit in the tribal controlled region between North and South Waziristan on Thursday. Security officials said Mehsud too may have been killed in the attack, but they have failed to substantiate the report.

The Pakistan government and the Army have clarified that they are uncertain over the TTP's top commander's death.

Sources said the US drones fired missiles close to the region where the TTP chief Hakimullah Mehsud was believed to have been killed in a similar strike earlier this week.



An Afghan Member of Parliament votes on President Hamid Karzai's cabinet nominees at parliament in Kabul yesterday. Afghan lawmakers have rejected 10 out of Karzai's 17 cabinet picks on Saturday in voting.

## I'll keep on trusting Sharifs whether they trust me or not: Zardari

ANI, Lahore

Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari is trying his best to safeguard his chair and seems to be following a policy of reconciliation, as he has said that he would keep on trusting his critics even if they do not.

"I trust them even if they do not trust me," Zardari said, what appears to be a clear reference to the Sharifs, who have been heard accusing the President in the recent past.

Speaking during an interaction with a group of journalists here, Zardari emphasised that protecting the democratic set up was his prime motive.

"Given our history, we cannot drop guard against forces which could be out to destabilise the system and derail democracy," The Dawn quoted Zardari, as saying.



Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki (L), Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Afghan Foreign Minister Rangin Dadfar Spanta (R) hold a joint agreement on regional security during a signing ceremony in Islamabad yesterday.

## Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran unite to fight extremism

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran said yesterday they had agreed to work together more closely to combat extremism, illegal weapons trading and drug trafficking.

The foreign ministers of the three nations met on Saturday in Islamabad and signed a joint declaration on tackling the region's security situation as well as terrorism and the reconstruction of

Afghanistan.

"The foreign ministers, as we have agreed today, will look at how to promote the regional approach to sum up the challenges that we are facing," Shah Mehmood Qureshi, the Pakistani foreign minister, said after the meeting.

"We feel that a regional, collective, comprehensive approach is required to deal with these challenges," Qureshi said.

The Iranian foreign minister

said the summit had aimed to bring positive change to the region.

"We are optimistic, not very far in the future, we will bring some constructive and positive change to the situation," Manouchehr Mottaki told reporters.

"Extremism, terrorism and instability have no geographical borders. That's why we should try united, every body, every body, all together," he said.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### India and Nepal sign 4 MoUs

ANI, Kathmandu

External Affairs Minister SM Krishna signed four agreements with his Nepalese counterpart Sujata Koirala to strengthen ties between the two countries.

These MoUs were signed in different fields like road construction, development of science and learning centres, electrification of five villages and investment in the stock market.

Krishna also called on the Nepal Prime Minister Madhav Kumar and discussed various bilateral issues.

#### 5 killed in Kenya mosque riots

AFP, Nairobi

At least five people were killed Friday when Kenyan police fired live rounds and tear gas to suppress a protest by Muslims demanding the release of a radical Jamaican cleric, police said.

"Five people have died, some of them have been shot and there are those with other injuries but we cannot really tell who shot them because some of the protesters were armed and were shooting at our officers," said a senior police officer who asked not to be named.

### Mayawati gets plot on moon as birthday gift

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Lucknow

To please 'Behenji', some Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) activists are willing to go to any lengths.

On her 54th birthday, BSP boss and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mayawati has been gifted a three-acre plot - on nothing less than the moon!

The special gift was made by BSP leader from Kanpur, Mahendra Singh Sengar.

He told reporters here Saturday that he purchased the lunar plot from US-based Lunar Republic Society.

## US, Norway deny funding Rajapakse ouster bid

AFP, Colombo

The United States and Norway yesterday denied funding Sri Lanka's main opposition to defeat President Mahinda Rajapakse's re-election bid later this month.

The US embassy in Colombo said it "strongly" rejected the charges made by a ruling party legislator that he was given 30 million rupees (265,000 dollars) that had come from the US and Norwegian embassies to defect to the opposition.

Legislator Mohamed Musammil told reporters in Colombo Friday that he was given a suitcase full of the cash to defect and support the main opposition presidential candidate, Sarath Fonseka.

"This is the money which had come from the US embassy, the Norwegian embassy," Musammil said.

The US and Norwegian embassies in

separate statements denied the allegation and said they were ready to work with whomever won the January 26 election. The two countries had backed Colombo's failed peace bid with Tamil separatists.

"The United States is neutral and we strongly condemn allegations that we are supporting one side over another," the US statement said.

Norway, which was the peace broker until the Rajapakse administration withdrew from a faltering truce and escalated a military campaign against the Tigers early last year, denied it was funding the opposition in Colombo.

"The accusation is untrue and totally unacceptable," the Norwegian embassy said in a statement. "Norway has never -- and will never -- interfere in an election in another country."

Rajapakse is seeking re-election after government troops in May wiped out the Tamil Tiger rebels and ended a 37-year separatist conflict that claimed up to 100,000 people, according to United Nations figures.



Indian onlookers stand by a train carriage damaged in a collision near Tundla, 25 km from the Taj Mahal town of Agra yesterday. Three people died and around a dozen injured when two express trains collided in thick fog.

## 3 dead in train collision in fog-bound N India

AFP, PTI, Agra New Delhi

Three people died and around a dozen were injured when two express trains collided in thick fog in India's northern state of Uttar Pradesh yesterday, a senior railway official said.

The accident happened near Tundla, 25km from the Taj Mahal town of Agra, when the driver of one of the trains apparently did not react to a signal, slamming his train into another on the same track.

"According to preliminary information, there are three deaths," Devesh Mishra, divisional railway manager at Agra told AFP.

Television footage showed two carriages of the Shram Shakti Express, travelling from New Delhi to the industrial hub of Kanpur, badly mangled after the collision.

### Request for Expression of Interest (Firm/Institution)

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

Ministry/Division	Ministry of Finance, Economic Relations Division (ERD)			
Agency	Economic Relations Division (ERD)			
Procuring Entity Name	Bangladesh National Coordinator of the Evaluation of the Implementation of the Paris Declaration at the Country Level-Phase II			
Procuring Entity District	Dhaka, Bangladesh			
Expression of Interest for Selection of	Consulting Firm/Institution (Lump-Sum)			
Title of Service	Selection and employment of a firm/institution to undertake the evaluation of the implementation of the Paris Declaration (Phase-II) in Bangladesh.			
EOI Ref No.	ERD/AEU/PDE-II/2010			
Date	January 17, 2010			
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>				
Procurement Method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS): Lump-Sum			
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>				
Budget and source of funds	Grant from the Government of Japan			
Participating Partner(s)	Dankin of Japan through JICA Bangladesh.			
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>				
Project/Programme Name	Evaluation of the Implementation of the Paris Declaration at the Country-level, Bangladesh, Phase 2 (Joint Venture of GoB and DPs)			
EOI Closing date and Time	January 31, 2010 Time: 3:00 p.m.			
<b>INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT</b>				
Brief Description of assignment	The aim of the evaluation is to document, analyze and assess the relevance and effectiveness of the Paris Declaration in the country and its contribution to aid effectiveness and ultimately to development results, including poverty reduction. Focus will be given to the three dimensions: 1. What are the important factors that have affected the relevance and implementation of the Paris Declaration and its potential effects on aid effectiveness and development results? (The Paris Declaration in context) 2. To what extent and how has the implementation of the Paris Declaration led to an improvement in the efficiency of aid delivery, the management and use of aid and better partnerships? (Process and intermediate outcomes) 3. Has the implementation of the Paris Declaration strengthened the contribution of aid to sustainable development results? How? (Development outcomes)			
Experience, resources and delivery capacity required	Bangladesh National Coordinator of Paris Declaration Evaluation now invites eligible Applicants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested Applicants are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, availability of similar assignments, experience in similar operating conditions, availability of appropriate professional qualification and experience among staff, financial capability, and experience of working with the international institutions (preferable), experience and knowledge of Government of Bangladesh etc.). Applicants may associate with other Applicants to enhance their qualifications.			
<b>Other details (if applicable)</b>				
A Firm/Institution will be selected using the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) procurement method in accordance with the Public Procurement Act, 2006, Public Procurement Rules, 2008 and subsequent amendments thereof issued by the GoB. Interested Applicants may obtain further information (including the TOR) by applying to the address below during normal office hours. Expression of Interest shall be submitted in sealed envelope delivered to Bangladesh National Coordinator of Paris Declaration Evaluation (Phase 2) and Joint Secretary (Coordination), and be clearly marked "Request for Expressions of Interest for Consulting Firm /Institution".				
<b>Association of foreign firms is</b> Only local firms/institutions				
Ref No.	Phasing of Services	Location	Indicative Start Date	Indicative completion Date
	Phasing of Services	Dhaka	March, 2010	December, 2010
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>				
Name of Official Inviting EOI		Bijon Kumar Baishya		
Designation of official inviting Joint Secretary (Coordination).		Bangladesh National Coordinator of Paris Declaration Evaluation (Phase 2) and EOI		
Address of official inviting EOI		Economic Relations Division (ERD), Room No. 12, Block No. 07, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh. Phone: 8112683 Fax: 8113088		
The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EOIs.				

**LR GLOBAL**  
Bangladesh Asset Management Company Ltd.  
LOGAN ROCKEFELLER

**DBH FIRST MUTUAL FUND**  
Asset Manager : LR Global Bangladesh Asset Management Company Limited

**DBH DELTA BRAC HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LTD.**

Registered Office: 121/B Gulshan Avenue (Ground Floor), Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh. Phone: +88 02 8819421-25 Fax: +88 02 8819427, Web site: www.lrglobalbd.com

**DISTRIBUTION OF REFUND WARRANTS & ALLOTMENT LETTERS**

**DISTRIBUTION TIME 9.00 A.M TO 4.00 P.M.**

This is to inform that Allotment Letters/Refund Warrants of valued IPO Applicants of **DBH FIRST MUTUAL FUND** are ready for distribution. The valued Investors may collect the same by submitting original Company/Bank acknowledgement slip from **9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.** as per following schedule:-

Date	Dhaka Zila Krira Sangstha Jheelpar, Motijheel, Dhaka	AGB Colony Community Centre, Dhaka (Opposite Motijheel Ideal School)
19.01.10 Tuesday	<b>BRAC Bank Limited</b> Asad Gate Br, Banani Br, Bashundhara Br, Dohar Br, Dakshinkhan Br, Donia Br, Eskaton Br, Graphic Bldg Br, Gulshan Br, Keranigonj Br, Manda Br, Mioghbazar Br, Mirpur Br, Motijheel Br, Nawabpur Br, Rampura Br, Uttara Br, Satmasjid Rd Br, Shaymoli Br, Ganakbari Br. & Savar Br. <b>Trust Bank Limited</b> nominated branches outside Dhaka.	<b>BRAC Bank Limited</b> nominated branches outside Dhaka. <b>Trust Bank Limited</b> Dhanmondi Br, Dilkusha Br, Gulshan Br, Principal Br, Kafrul Br, Kawran Bazar Br, Millenium Corp Br, Mirpur Br, SKB (Sena Kallyan Bhaban Br, & Uttara Corporate Br.
20.01.10 Wednesday	<b>Southeast Bank Limited</b> (All nominated branches) <b>The City Bank Limited</b> B.B. Avenue Br, Dhaka Chamber Br, F. Ex. Br. & Gulshan Br	<b>The City Bank Limited</b> Dhanmondi Br, Imamgonj Br, Islami Banking Br, Islampur Br, Johnson Rd Br, Kawran Bazar Br, Mirpur Br, Mouchak Br, New Market Br, Principal Br, Shaymoli Br, Uttara Br, VIP Rd Br. & nominated branches outside Dhaka.
21.01.10 Thursday	<b>NCC Bank Limited</b> (All nominated branches) <b>Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited</b> Imamgonj Br, Islampur Br, Joypara Br, Kawran Bazar Br. & Local Office Br.	<b>Shahjalal Islami Bank Limited</b> (All nominated branches) <b>Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited</b> Banani Br, Bandura Br, Bashundhara Br, Dania Br, Dhaka EPZ Br, Dhanmondi Br, Elephant Rd Br. & Gulshan Br.
22.01.10 Friday	<b>Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited</b> Mirpur Br, Mirpur Circle-10 Br, Mohakhali Br, Motijheel F. Ex. Br, Naya Bazar Br, Nababpur Br, Ring Rd Br, Satmjosjid Rd Br, Savar Bazar Br, Uttara Br, Shantinagar Br. & nominated branches outside Dhaka.	<b>N I L</b>
23.01.10 Saturday	<b>Eastern Bank Limited</b> (All nominated branches) <b>National Bank Limited</b> Babubazar Br, Banani Br, Bangshal Br, Dhanmondi Br, Dilkusha Br, Elephant Rd Br, F. Ex. Br, Gulshan Br, Imamgonj Br, Islampur Br, Jatrabari Br. & Kawran Bazar Br.	<b>National Bank Limited</b> Lake Circus Br, Malibagh Br, Mirpur Br, Mohakhali Br, Mohammadpur Br, Motijheel Br, New Eskaton Br, North Brook Hall Br, Pratati Sarani Br, Savar Bazar Br, Z.H. Sikder MC Br, Uttara Br. & nominated branches outside Dhaka.
24.01.10 Sunday	<b>Standard Chartered Bank</b> (All nominated branches) <b>Bank Asia Limited</b> Bashundhara Br, Corporate Br. & Dhanmondi Br. <b>Non Resident Bangladeshi (NRB) All Mutual Fund &amp; Portfolio A/C</b>	<b>Bank Asia Limited</b> Gulshan Br, MCB Banani Br, MCB Dilkusha Br, Mirpur Br, Mitford Br, North South Rd Br, Scotia Br, Mohakhali Br, Principal Br, Shantinagar Br, Uttara Br. & nominated branches outside Dhaka

N.B. No Refund warrants will be issued in favour of the applicants (except NRB) maintaining account with AB Bank Ltd., Bank Al-Falah Ltd., Bank Asia Ltd., Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha, BRAC Bank Ltd., Citibank N.A., Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC, Dhaka Bank Ltd., Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd., Eastern Bank Ltd., First Security Islami Bank Ltd., Habib Bank Ltd., HSBC Bank, IFC Bank Ltd., Jamuna Bank Ltd., Mercantile Bank Ltd., Mutual Trust Bank Ltd., National Bank Ltd., National Bank of Pakistan, NCC Bank Ltd., One Bank Ltd., Premier Bank Ltd., Shahjalal Islami Bank Ltd., State Bank of India, Southeast Bank Ltd., Social Islami Bank Ltd., Standard Chartered Bank, The City Bank Ltd., Trust Bank Ltd., United Commercial Bank Ltd. and Woori Bank The refund money shall be credited to the applicant's account by their respective bank.

N.B. If the Allotment Letters/Refund Warrants are not collected by hand from the distribution centre within scheduled time, the Allotment Letters/Refund Warrants will be sent by courier services at the respective mailing addresses at applicant's own risk and responsibility.