

Pak militants surrender after hostage drama

AFP, Peshawar
Islamic militants who overpowered their guards and took them hostage during interrogation at an army building in northwest Pakistan yesterday have surrendered, the army said.

"The situation has been brought under complete control, the two sentries taken hostages have been recovered. The terrorists involved or surrendered," military spokesman Major General Athar Abbas told AFP.

Abbas said the militants had been taken into custody following the incident in Peshawar but did not say how many were involved or give further details.

He earlier told a private TV channel that some captured militants being held in an army building had overpowered their sentries during interrogation.

Peshawar police chief Liaqat Ali told reporters that four rebels had seized their guards' weapons and started shooting.

"They were four terrorists, they overpowered the guards and started firing. One guard was also injured in this case," he said.

An AFP reporter at the scene said army and police had blocked all the roads into the area while helicopters patrolled the skies.

The incident started early morning and intermittent gunfire was still heard hours later.

Police had initially said a number of insurgents tried to get into a secure area close to the US consulate and army build-

ings in Peshawar but the military said there had been no attack from outside.

Bashir Bilour, a provincial cabinet minister whose home is nearby, told AFP that the first round of firing continued for 30 minutes.

"Soldiers have also entered my hujra (visitors' compound). I cannot go outside," he added.

The attempted escape by the militants came just hours after security officials said a US drone strike killed four Pakistani Taliban in a rugged tribal area near the Afghan border southwest of Peshawar.

US forces have been waging a drone war against Taliban and al-Qaeda-linked commanders in Pakistan's northwestern tribal belt, where militants have carved out havens in mountains outside direct government control.

Washington has branded the rugged tribal area on the Afghan border -- part of which has now been hit by Pakistan's catastrophic flooding -- a global headquarters of al-Qaeda and the most dangerous place on Earth.

The US military does not as a rule confirm drone attacks, but its armed forces and the Central Intelligence Agency operating in Afghanistan are the only forces that deploy pilotless drones in the region.

The United States has been increasing pressure on Pakistan to crack down on Islamist havens along the border.

Attacks blamed on Taliban and al-Qaeda-linked militants have killed more than 3,574 people across Pakistan in the past three years, concentrated largely in the northwest and border areas with Afghanistan, where US and Nato troops have been fighting the Taliban for nine years.

India military ties on track despite visa row: China

REUTERS, China

China said yesterday that military ties with India remained on track, despite a visa row that some reports said led to a freeze in defence contacts between the two big neighbours with sometimes testy relations.

An Indian defence source and some Indian news media said on Friday that defence ties with China were suspended after Beijing refused a visa to an Indian general from disputed Kashmir, where Pakistan and China also hold territory.

But the Indian Defence Minister AK Antony said "ties with China will continue", and now China's Ministry of Defence has also denied any freeze in ties with the Indian military.

"China has not suspended military exchanges with India, and nor has it received any notification from India of any such suspension," the press office of the Chinese ministry said in a statement faxed to Reuters.

India and China have limited military ties, focused on visits by military chiefs and defence officials and occasional, small joint exercises.

But the official Chinese statement indicated that Beijing did not want the quarrel to curtail those contacts or seriously damage the overall relationship.

"China takes seriously developing military ties with India, and we are confident that both sides will stay focused on the broader picture of bilateral ties between our two countries, acting in a spirit of consultation and unity to promote the healthy development of military ties," the statement said.

China is now India's biggest trade partner and the spat, one of several over the last few years, is unlikely to snowball.

Friction is, however, also unlikely to abate entirely. Border disputes and mutual wariness remain.

Heated nails hammered into Lankan maid

AFP, Colombo

A Sri Lankan maid recovering from surgery to remove 19 nails from her body told doctors her Saudi employer had heated the nails before hammering them into her body, an official said yesterday.

Surgeons at Sri Lanka's southern Kamburupitiya hospital carried out a three-hour operation to remove a needle and 19 of the 24 nails -- some two inches (five centimetres) long -- stuck in her arms, legs and forehead.

Hospital director Prabath Gajadeera said the 49-year-old woman, LT Ariyawathi, told them her Saudi employer inflicted the injuries as punishment for her difficulties in communicating with members of the household.

He said the woman, who had gone to Saudi Arabia work as a housemaid, could not have driven the nails herself.

"In some places it is clear that someone else had to drive the nails," he said. "We will in any case refer her to a psychiatrist for analysis before discharging her from hospital."

She was admitted to hospital at the weekend after she returned home complaining she was in great pain and unable to walk.

Surgeons at the hospital, 160 kilometres (100 miles) south of Colombo by road, removed 13 big nails, each about



two inches (five centimetres) long, and six smaller ones, Gajadeera said. He said the remaining nails were not removed immediately because the procedure might have resulted in serious nerve damage.



Pakistani flood survivors shift household items from a flooded area in Dera Allah Yar, a city of Baluchistan's Jaffarabad district yesterday. Hundreds of thousands of people were fleeing areas of southern Pakistan as rising floodwaters breached more defences and inundated towns.

Taliban attack Nato bases in Afghanistan

AFP, Kabul

About two dozen Taliban militants -- including suicide bombers -- were killed in a failed attempt to storm two US-run bases in a volatile town in eastern Afghanistan, Nato said yesterday.

The alliance said that its troops had "repelled two failed attacks at bases in Khost", killing a total of 24 insurgents with the help of Afghan security forces.

The attackers targeted US-run Forward Operating Bases (FOB) Salerno and Chapman, the International Security Assistance Force (Isaf), Nato's mission in Afghanistan, said in a statement.

"While the majority of the attacking fighters were killed outside of the FOBs, two insurgents managed to breach the perimeter and made it onto FOB Salerno," the statement said.

About 15 rebels were killed near Salerno,

six near Chapman and three others including a rebel commander in an air strike while retreating from battle in a vehicle, the statement added.

Seven suicide bomb vests were also seized along with bomb-laden vehicles that the Islamic rebels often use in suicide attacks, the statement added.

Local police chief Abdul Hakim Is'haqzai said the assault was foiled after militants attacked (FOB) Salerno before retreating to occupy a secondary school near Camp Chapman, both in the Khost city.

In December Camp Chapman became the scene of the worst attack on US intelligence officials since 1983, when seven CIA agents were killed.

Saturday's assault began in the early hours of the morning when insurgents launched rockets and fired guns at FOB Salerno, Is'haqzai said. He said the attackers then turned on Chapman, closer to the city.

"The attack has been foiled," Is'haqzai said. "We have recovered 14 bodies, those of Taliban who were killed fighting. Five Taliban have been captured alive."

Encephalitis kills 211 in India, toll likely to soar

AFP, New Delhi

At least 211 people, most of them children, have died in an outbreak of Japanese encephalitis in an impoverished region of northern India and the death toll is likely to soar, officials said yesterday.

"Most of the deaths have occurred in the Gorakhpur district of Uttar Pradesh state since the monsoon struck the region in July," regional health officer UK Srivastava said by telephone.

Eastern parts of the state have in the past been ravaged by Japanese encephalitis as malnourished children succumbed to the virus, which is transmitted by mosquitoes from pigs to humans.

The district health chief said the deaths of five more children on Friday pushed the toll to 211, with hundreds languishing, some two to a bed, in hospitals in Gorakhpur, a deeply neglected region of 14 million people.

"A total of 1,299 patients had been admitted in hospitals until Friday in Gorakhpur" which is the epicentre of the outbreak, Srivastava said.

Top Kashmir woman separatist leader arrested

IANs, Srinagar

Hardline woman separatist leader Asiya Andrabi, believed to be one of the masterminds of the current unrest in the Kashmir Valley, was arrested from a hideout here, police said yesterday.

Andrabi was arrested from Zakura on the city outskirts, a police officer told IANs.

The chief of the women's separatist outfit Dukhtarane-Millat, Andrabi was issuing shutdown calendars through emails to the media and was one of the brains behind the turmoil in the valley, police said.

Myanmar army reshuffle 'biggest change in decades'

AFP, Yangon

A major reshuffle by Myanmar's ruling junta marks the biggest shift within the military in decades, with changes to more than 70 senior army officers' positions, an officer said yesterday.

News emerged from the country Friday that some senior leaders, including army number three Thura Shwe Mann, had retired from their military posts to stand in the November 7 poll -- the first held in the country in two decades.

"More than 70 senior military officers' posts were changed. We can say that it's the biggest change within the military in decades," an army officer, who declined to be named, told AFP.

"Our leaders have been planning for a long time to keep the military active with the new generation," he added. Initial news reports on Friday said the junta chief Than Shwe -- who has ruled the country with an iron-fist since 1992 -- and his number two Maung Aye had stepped down from the army, but this was denied by a government official.

An unnamed government official close to the regime said on Saturday that the 77-year-old and his deputy were "likely to retire soon".

Lanka holds withdrawal of on-arrival visa

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka yesterday suspended plans to scrap on-arrival visas for most nationals, including visitors from the US, Europe, Australia and Japan.

The government had announced it was withdrawing the landing endorsements from September 30 in a move widely seen as potentially damaging to the island's tourism industry, which is recovering from 37 years of ethnic conflict.

"Notice is hereby given that the earlier public notice on 'Withdrawal of on-arrival visa facility' be treated as withdrawn until further notice," immigration controller W.A.C. Perera said in a statement posted on his website.

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| ১ | ফুড এ্যান্ড বেভারেজ সার্টিসি কোর্স ফি ২০,০০০/- টাকা। | সিখিত পরীক্ষা ২৮-০৯-২০১০, সকালঃ ১০:০০টা |
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| ৩ | ফ্রন্ট অফিস সেক্রেটারিয়াল অপারেশন কোর্স ফি ১৬,০০০/- টাকা। | সিখিত পরীক্ষা ২৯-০৯-২০১০, সকালঃ ১০:০০টা |
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| ৫ | ট্রাভেল এজেন্সি এ্যান্ড ট্যুর অপারেশন কোর্স ফি ২০,০০০/- (শিকা সফরের খরচসহ)। | সিখিত পরীক্ষা ৩০-০৯-২০১০, সকালঃ ১০:০০টা |
| ৬ | বেকারী এ্যান্ড পেস্ট্রি প্রোডাকশন কোর্স ফি ২০,০০০/- টাকা। | সিখিত পরীক্ষা ৩০-০৯-২০১০, দুপুরঃ ১২:০০টা |

৭ কোর্সের মেয়াদঃ প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক ও ইন্ডাস্ট্রিয়াল এ্যাট্রাচমেন্ট/এজেন্ট এসাইনমেন্টসহ ১৮ সপ্তাহ।
৮ ইন্সটিটিউট প্রশিক্ষণ প্রদানের আর্থনিক সরঞ্জামাদি দিয়ে সুসজ্জিত। উপরোক্ত কোর্স সমূহ UNDP/ILLO-এর প্রশিক্ষণের ৮ম স্তরীয় এবং দেশে ও বিদেশে প্রশিক্ষণপ্রাপ্ত দেশীয় প্রশিক্ষকদের দ্বারা পরিচালিত।

জাতব্য বিষয়ঃ
১। অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে (সকাল ৯:০০টা থেকে বিকাল ৪:০০টা পর্যন্ত) মহাখালীস্থ ইন্সটিটিউটের অফিস হতে ২০০.০০ (দুইশত) টাকা মূল্যে প্রসপেক্টাসহ ভর্তির ফর্ম জমা করা যাবে। পরবর্ত্ত ভর্তি ফর্মের সাথে শিক্ষণত যোগ্যতার সত্যায়িত সনদপত্র/প্রশাসনপত্র এবং ২ (দুই) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজ ছবি জমা দিতে হবে।
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৩। ট্রাভেল এজেন্সি এ্যান্ড ট্যুর অপারেশন এবং ফ্রন্ট অফিস সেক্রেটারিয়াল অপারেশন কোর্সের জন্যে ন্যূনতম শিক্ষণত যোগ্যতা এইচ, এস, সি বা সমমান এবং অন্যান্য কোর্সের জন্যে ন্যূনতম এস, এল, সি বা সমমানের।
৪। মহিলা প্রার্থীদের অগ্রাধিকার দেওয়া হবে।
৫। আবেদন পত্র দাখিল করার শেষ তারিখঃ ২৬-০৯-২০১০।
৬। কোর্স আরম্ভ হওয়ার তারিখঃ ২৪-১০-২০১০।

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