

CIA chief visits India to discuss security

AFP, New Delhi

US Central Intelligence Agency chief Leon Panetta made a stopover in New Delhi to discuss security threats in the South Asian region after visiting Pakistan, a report said yesterday.

Panetta came from Islamabad where he held talks with Pakistani leaders in the wake of reports that Western intelligence agencies uncovered an al-Qaeda plot hatched in Pakistan to carry out attacks in Britain, France and Germany.

The CIA chief met India's Home Secretary GK Pillai and senior intelligence officials to discuss regional intelligence worries and security for the Commonwealth Games which open in New Delhi on Sunday, the Press Trust of India reported, quoting unnamed official sources.

Panetta's visit marked the first high-level visit by a US official since a team of the Indian National Investigation Agency (NIA) had questioned David Headley, who plotted the 2008 Mumbai attacks in which 166 people died, in May in Chicago, the Indian news agency said.



Britain's Prince of Wales, Prince Charles (L) talks with Indian President Pratibha Patil (C) as Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall (R) looks on after a meeting at the Presidential Palace in New Delhi yesterday. Prince Charles is in India to attend the 2010 Commonwealth Games, which is to take place in the Indian capital from October 3-14.

AYODHYA VERDICT

Focus now on two other cases

THE INDIAN EXPRESS ONLINE

Now that the Allahabad High Court has delivered its verdict on the Ayodhya title suits, the immediate focus shifts to two other important cases arising out of the demolition of the Babri Masjid on December 6, 1992.

Both cases are still under trial in Lucknow and Rae Bareilly. One case involves top BJP and VHP leaders, including former deputy prime minister LK Advani and Ashok Singhal. In both cases, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has conducted investigation, charges have been framed and recording of evidence in under way.

One case deals mainly with the conspiracy behind the demolition. The prosecution produced its first witness PN Shukla, then station officer of the Ram Janmabhoomi Police station of Ayodhya, before Sessions Judge (Ayodhya Prakaran) in Lucknow last month. Among the 23 accused in the case are Shiv Sena leader Pawan Kumar Pandey, BJP leader Laloo Singh and former SSP of Faizabad DB Rai.

In the second case, LK Advani and seven others are facing trial on charges of creating enmity among different groups on grounds of religion, doing acts prejudicial to harmony and national integration, rioting, joining an unlawful assembly and making statements that cause public mischief.

They include Sadhvi Ritambhara, Vinay Katiyar, Acharya Giriraj Kishore, former union minister MM Joshi, Vishnu Mohan Dalmia and Ashok Singhal. The trial is being conducted in a special CBI court in Rae Bareilly.

Proceedings came to a halt in June after the magistrate was transferred. "We are waiting for the notification regarding the appointment of a new special magistrate for this court," said CBI lawyer KP Singh.

In the second case, the prosecution has presented nine witnesses. "We will produce a few more witnesses to ensure logical end of this case," said Singh.

Among those whose evidence has been recorded are IPS officer Anju Gupta, CRPF officer RK Swami, journalists CK Mishra and Sanjay Khare, a priest Awadhesh Upadhyaya and constable Hanuman Prasad, who had recorded the FIR.

"There are independent witnesses who have supported the FIR in their statement before the court," the CBI advocate said. Initially, this case was investigated by CB-CID of the UP police. The state government, in consultation with the Allahabad High Court, had set up a special court at Lalitpur for the trial, and CB-CID filed the final report.

Later, it was transferred to the CBI with the consent of the UP government on August 8, 1993. Advani was discharged by the Rae Bareilly court, but the decision was later overturned by the high court.

Police accused of beating AP reporters in Kashmir

AP, Srinagar

Two Associated Press journalists were assaulted by police Friday at a roadblock in Indian-controlled Kashmir, and one was knocked out by blows from rifle butts and batons.

Local journalists have repeatedly complained of harassment and assaults by police during turmoil in the Himalayan territory that has killed more than 100 people since June, most of them demonstrators and bystanders.

With a curfew in place, AP Television News journalists Meraj Uddin Dar and his son, Umar Dar, were stopped at a checkpoint as they drove to work Friday.

Police inspected their identification cards and curfew passes which are given out by Indian authorities to journalists allowing them to work and initially refused to let them pass. Officers relented after the reporters protested.

As they began to drive away, police yelled for them to stop. Umar Dar said he got out of the car to complain and a police officer slapped him. After Meraj Uddin Dar left the vehicle, officers beat him unconscious with fists, rifle butts and batons, Umar Dar said.

Another journalist at the scene called a police commander, who took the men to a hospital.

Meraj Uddin Dar was admitted with neck injuries and underwent neurological tests.

Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the incident was being investigated.

US missiles kill 16 Pakistani

In border row, Karachi shows US vulnerability

AP, AFP, Peshawar/Washington

Two suspected American missile strikes killed 16 alleged militants in a northwestern Pakistani tribal region yesterday, intelligence officials said, a sign the US is unwilling to stop using the tactic despite heightened tensions between the two countries over Nato's recent border incursions.

The missile strikes Saturday struck two separate houses in Datta Khel village in the North Waziristan tribal region, killing eight suspected militants at each site, three Pakistani intelligence officials said.

Though Pakistan quietly accepts the drone strikes, even reportedly providing intelligence for some, it made clear in recent days that it would not allow foreign troops or manned aircraft to pursue militants on its territory. After a Nato helicopter mistakenly killed three Pakistani border guards Thursday, Islamabad cut off a key coalition supply line on its soil.

The United States and Pakistan have never had an easy partnership, but despite heated feuds on everything from drone attacks to terror plots, the two governments have found a way to work together.

Now, Pakistan has played what some experts consider the ultimate trump card -- closing its main border crossing with Afghanistan to US-led forces who depend on the route for oil, ammunition and other war supplies.

Islamabad took action after accusing Nato helicopters of killing three Pakistani soldiers on their own territory, a stark reminder of Pakistan's sovereignty concerns as it cooperates with the United States. Gunmen torched more than two dozen Nato supply trucks Friday in southern Pakistan.

Former State Department official Marvin Weinbaum said Pakistan felt obliged to act tough at a time when the civilian government is under growing pressure, including from the powerful military, after its response to major floods.

"They have to show their trump card because it's for domestic political reasons, especially with a weak government. But it is serious and it points out our vulnerability," said Weinbaum, a scholar-in-residence at the Middle East Institute.

A prolonged closure of the border would mean "a fundamental change in our relationship with Pakistan. For the US, Pakistan can be reluctant to do this or reluctant to do that, and that is all ultimately tolerable as long as the supply routes remain largely open and protected," he added.

Husain Haqqani, the Pakistani ambassador to the United States, said Islamabad would reopen the Torkham crossing once it ensured convoys would be safe.

CIA steps up drone attack in Pakistan: Report

AFP, Washington

The US military is secretly diverting aerial drones from Afghanistan to escalate a CIA-led campaign against militants in neighbouring Pakistan, the Wall Street Journal reported yesterday.

The military has lent Predator and Reaper drones to Central Intelligence Agency operatives to target and bomb militants on the Afghan border, the report said, citing unnamed US officials.

Pakistan said Thursday that it was closing the Torkham border crossing -- vital to supply US troops in Afghanistan -- after Nato helicopters killed three Pakistani troops on their own side of the border.

"I think as soon as we can ensure the security

of the convoys moving through the Khyber Pass, we will have them moving again," Husain Haqqani, the Pakistani ambassador in Washington, said on CNN.

Haqqani said that Pakistan ordered the closure for security reasons due to public outrage over the killing of the troops.

CIA drone strikes in September in Pakistan rose to an average of five per week, up from an average of two or three per week, the Journal said.

Increased strikes in September were partially aimed at disrupting a suspected terror plot against European targets, which was believed to target multiple countries, including Britain, France and Germany.



Georgia's President Saakashvili (R) gathers grapes at a village of Gulgula some 170km outside Tbilisi yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

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'Extra-judicial killing' video faked: Pak army

BBC ONLINE

Pakistani military officials have dismissed as fabricated a video purporting to show a firing squad of uniformed soldiers shooting dead young men who were blindfolded and bound.

The video's authenticity cannot be verified, and it is unclear when or where it was filmed.

Human rights groups say they have previously documented extra-judicial killings by Pakistani troops, but they cannot vouch for the video.

The individual who sent it to the BBC said many people in the Swat valley had the clip on their phones. However, journalists in Swat have told the BBC that the first they heard of the video was when it was reported in the New York Times two days ago.

It shows men in military clothing pushing a group of young men one by one through a forest.

Eventually, six men - all in traditional civilian clothing - are lined up, blindfolded and with their hands tied behind their backs.

At least seven of the men in military clothing then form a line and raise their weapons. After what sounds like a sustained burst of gunfire, the men in civilian clothing then crumple to the forest floor.

In 2009, the Pakistani military mounted an offensive to drive Taliban militants out of the Swat valley.

IGUB CONGRATULATES GERMANY ON THE OCCASION OF GERMAN NATIONAL DAY AND THE CELEBRATION OF UNIFICATION ON 3RD OCTOBER 2010



German University Bangladesh

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- Establish a Fully residential German Model private University in Bangladesh [GUB]
- Implementing modernized German Higher Education Concept in GUB Curriculum
- Establishing a strong faculty (both teaching and research) of scientists and professors from both Bangladesh and Germany
- Ensuring Bangladeshi Students' convenient access to German Universities
- Establishing strong tie between GER and BD

On 23rd August 2010,

IGUB members had a meeting with the German Ambassador H.E. Michael Holger (3rd from the right), in Dhaka Bangladesh, who strongly supports our project.



At this very implementation phase of our project, we show deep gratitude to those, who are equally committed with us to develop quality education in Bangladesh by providing valuable expertise and financial support, in a partnership basis.

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