US drone kills eight in Pakistan

AFP, *Miranshah*

US drones fired a salvo of missiles into a compound in Pakistan's tribal district of North Waziristan yesterday, killing eight suspected militants including al-Qaeda members, officials said.

The attack came just four days after US Special Forces commandos shot dead al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden in the garrison city of Abbottabad, hundreds of kilometres from the tribal belt and just two hours' drive from the capital.

"A compound and a vehicle were targeted by US drones in the Datta Khel area of North Waziristan killing eight militants," a Pakistani security official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

"Eight missiles were fired on the targets located close to each other," he said, adding that four other suspected militants were wounded.

Laden was 'cash strapped' in final days: ISI

Zawahri was the de facto leader, no resistance

AP, *Islamabad*

Pakistan's intelligence agency has concluded that bin Laden was "cash strapped" in his final days and that al-Qaeda had split into two factions, with the larger one controlled by the group's No. 2, Ayman al-Zawahri, according to a briefing given by a senior officer in the agency.

The officer spoke to a small group of Pakistani reporters late Thursday. A top military officer also present at the briefing told The Associated Press what was said, as did two of the journalists.

The officer didn't provide details or elaborate how his agency made the conclusions about bin Laden's financial situation or the split with his deputy, al-Zawahri.

The al-Qaeda chief had apparently lived without any guards at the Abbottabad compound or loyalists nearby to take up arms in his defences.

Late Thursday, two Pakistani officials cited bin Laden's wives and children as saying he and his associates had not offered any "significant resistance" when the American commandos entered the compound, in part because the assailants had thrown "stun bombs" that disorientated them.

One official said Pakistani authorities found an AK-47 and a pistol in the house belonging to those in the house, with evidence that one bullet had been fired from the rifle.

"That was the level of resistance" they put up, said the official, who also spoke on condition of anonymity.

His account is roughly consistent with the most recent one given by US officials, who now say one of the five people, killed in the raid was armed and fired any shots, a striking departure from the intense and prolonged firefight described earlier by the White House and others in the administration.

US officials say four men were killed alongside bin Laden, including one of his sons.

The raid has exacerbated tensions between America and Pakistan. The army here is angry that it was not told about the unilateral raid on a target within its territory, while there are suspicions in Washington that bin Laden may have been protected by Pakistani security forces while on the run.

Indian Kashmiri women (top) shout anti-US and pro-freedom slogans after funeral prayers in absentia for al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden in Srinagar and Pakistani policemen (bottom) remove burning tyres in Abbottabad as hundreds protested there yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Key US lawmaker backs Pak aid

AFP, *Washington*

A key leader of the US Congress voiced support Thursday for preserving aid to Pakistan, calling for a clear-eyed view despite outrage that Osama bin Laden lived for years in the allied nation.

House Speaker John Boehner, the third highest-ranking US leader and top Republican, said that the United States and Pakistan needed to maintain cooperation, striking a rare note of agreement with President Barack Obama.

"It's not a time to back away from Pakistan: It's time for more engagement with them, not less," Boehner told reporters. "Frankly, I believe our aid should continue to Pakistan."

The United States has given some $18 billion to Pakistan since the September 11, 2001 attacks.

US NAVY SEAL'S 'TEAM SIX'

Elite among elites

AFP, *Washington*

The US Navy commandos who swooped on Osama bin Laden's compound reportedly came from a renowned squad known as "Team Six," an elite unit drawn from the already elite ranks of the SEALs.

The unit is so secret that the military does not openly acknowledge its existence, but its reputation has taken on near mythic proportions and features in numerous books, films and video games.

Since it was created in 1980 in the aftermath of the failed attempt to rescue American hostages in Iran, Team Six has been credited with the rescue of the governor of Grenada in the 1983 US invasion, helping hunt down war criminals in the Balkans and liberating the American captain of the Maersk Alabama after shooting three Somali pirates in 2009.

In the 1980s, the squad had about 90 members, but it expanded to about 200 to 300 members, according to various media reports and defence websites.

The team's members are recruited from the 2,300 men in the Navy SEALs, an acronym for Sea, Air and Land -- famous for its brutal selection and training that push the limits of human endurance.

It takes about five years of training to earn the right to wear the trident badge of the SEALs, including underwater demolition, parachuting at high altitude and submarine operations.

Unarmed Laden fuses European awe

REUTERS, *Madrid/berlin*

European happiness with the death of Osama bin Laden was tempered by details showing he was unarmed when shot dead and qualms about whether torture of prisoners helped US forces track him down.

Al-Qaeda leader bin Laden -- the world's most wanted man -- was shot in the head in a US special forces raid on his walled villa hideout in Pakistan on Monday.

In Germany and Spain, legislators questioned Chancellor Angela Merkel and Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero over their enthusiastic praise of US President Barack Obama.

"It's likely that bin Laden sought his own destiny," Zapatero told parliament on Wednesday after Gaspar Llamazares, deputy from the small leftist party Izquierda Unida, questioned his congratulating Obama.

Zapatero said "any democrat" would have preferred bin Laden stood trial.

Islamist militants set off bombs simultaneously in four packed commuter trains in Madrid in March 2004, killing 191 people and wounding more than 2,000, in attacks they said were inspired but not ordered by al Qaeda.

In Germany a senior member of parliament from Merkel's conservative Christian Democratic Union, Siegfried Kauder, criticised her statement on Monday which said she was "glad that killing bin Laden was successful".

"I wouldn't have used those words. That is a vengeful way of thinking that one shouldn't have. That's mediaeval," he said.

"A random killing is not permitted according to international agreements. If one concludes that bin Laden was no longer active (running al Qaeda operations around the world), the killing could be seen as random."

Speakers on a Spanish talk show questioned the official version of the burial at sea of bin Laden's body and said Obama's image would suffer among Europeans who would rather have seen a capture and trial.

Europeans also jumped into the renewed debate over torture and so-called enhanced interrogation technique after US officials said key sources of initial information that led to bin Laden came from at least one prisoner that was tortured.

Many Europeans struggled to understand the open celebrations in the streets of New York and Washington earlier this week.

Who gets $25 million bounty?

CNN ONLINE

The photograph of Osama bin Laden on the FBI's Most Wanted Terrorists list has a new caption: Deceased.

But it was unclear how much, if any, of the up to $25 million in reward money offered on the terrorist leader has been granted.

The man behind the worst terrorist attack in US history was killed Sunday by American forces in Pakistan, in what President Barack Obama called "the most significant achievement to date in our nation's effort to defeat al-Qaeda."

The use of reward money has become an important asset in the government's fight against global terrorism.

The Rewards for Justice programme, run by the US State Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security, has paid out more than $100 million to over 60 people since it was created in 1984.

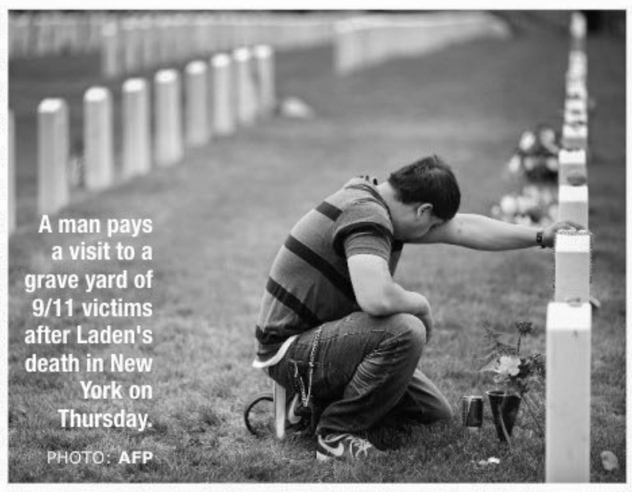
"The department does not generally discuss nominations for awards," said Harry Edwards, a spokesman for the State Department. The offer, he added, is for a maximum of $25 million. "If it were paid, it could be less."

It is possible that no reward money will be granted. According to Obama administration officials, unidentified detainees provided a key piece of information that helped investigators locate bin Laden.

But rewards have been granted for the capture of other international terrorists, including Ramzi Yousef, who was convicted in the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Centre.

The largest reward ever paid under the program was $30 million to one person who provided information on Uday and Qusay Hussein, the sons of Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.

The government is currently offering up to $25 million for information on Ayman Al-Zawahiri, al Qaeda's second-in-command, and an heir apparent to bin Laden.



A man pays a visit to a grave yard of 9/11 victims after Laden's death in New York on Thursday.

PHOTO: AFP

Gaddafi regime hits out over rebel war chest

AFP, *Tripoli*

Muammar Gaddafi's regime reacted angrily yesterday to a Nato-led decision to provide funding to the three-month-old rebellion against his rule in Libya, describing as "piracy" plans to tap its assets frozen abroad.

The fund, set up at a meeting of the International Contact Group on Libya in Rome on Thursday, is intended to provide an emergency lifeline to the rebels, whose provisional administration has no source of financing to replace receipts from oil exports which have come to a virtual halt.

It will initially receive international donations, while blocked assets -- estimated to be worth $60 billion in Europe and the United States -- will be used to finance it at a later date.

Wealthy Gulf states Kuwait and Qatar have pledged to be major donors.

But the prospect of seeing funds it regards as its own used to finance the rebellion against it infuriated Gaddafi's government.

"Libya still, according to the international law, is one sovereign state and any use of the frozen assets, it's like piracy on the high seas," deputy foreign minister Khaled Kaim told a Tripoli news conference.

Kaim said there would no let-up in the government's attempts to block off the maritime lifeline to the besieged city of Misrata -- the rebels' last bastion in the west.

France announced it ordered 14 people who served as Libyan diplomats under Gaddafi's regime to leave the country within two days.

"France has declared persona non grata 14 Libyan ex-diplomats posted in France," the foreign ministry said.

LADEN KILLING AFTERMATH

Bin Laden's killing 'abhorrent'

AFP, HAVANA

Fidel Castro

Cuban leader Fidel Castro called the death of Osama bin Laden an "abhorrent" assassination, warning in an article Thursday that it would reap "hatred and vengeance" against the United States.

"Whatever actions may have been attributed to bin Laden, the assassination of an unarmed human being surrounded by his family constitutes an abhorrent act," he said, writing in the Cuban press.

US president to meet elite team

AFP, *Washington*

US President Barack Obama was yesterday to meet members of the elite commando team that shot dead America's top terror target Osama bin Laden in Pakistan, as Islamists held protests against the killing.

Obama's meeting was to take place at the Fort Campbell army base in Kentucky, an official said, and comes a day after he paid homage to the victims of al-Qaeda's September 11, 2001, attacks at the site of the World Trade Centre in New York.

Obama defends sea burial

REUTERS, *Washington*

President Barack Obama said US forces were "respectful of the body" of Osama bin Laden when they buried his remains at sea, despite criticism from some Muslim clerics that it violated Islamic practice.

"We took more care on this than, obviously, bin Laden took when he killed 3,000 people. He didn't have much regard for how they were treated and desecrated," Obama told CBS's " 60 Minutes" program, referring to the September 11, 2001, attacks.

NEWS IN *brief*

Main suspect, two others held in connection with Morocco attack

AFP, *Rabat*

Morocco arrested the main suspect and two other Moroccans for their role in a bomb attack in the city of Marrakesh that killed 16 people, many of them foreigners, last month, an interior ministry officials told AFP.

The main suspect "is linked to al-Qaeda and made the bomb" that ripped through a cafe in Djemaa El-Fna Square, the tourist heart of Marrakesh, the official said.

The three Moroccans were arrested at Safi, 350 kilometres south of Casablanca, a security official said adding that they had a police record and were known

Gbagbo grilled over I Coast unrest as lawyers turned back

AFP, *Korhogo*

Investigators grilled fallen leader Laurent Gbagbo for the first time yesterday about post-election violence which engulfed Ivory Coast, as his rival prepared to be sworn in as president.

Nearly a month after his arrest in his presidential residence in Abidjan, Gbagbo was being questioned by the state prosecutor in the northern city of Korhogo where he is now being kept under house arrest -- but without the help of a team of French lawyers who were

Japan to shut two reactors at plant near faultline

AFP, *Tokyo*

Japan's government will ask a nuclear plant operator to shut two reactors at the Hamaoka plant southwest of Tokyo, in a region close to a major tectonic faultline, Kyodo News and NHK said yesterday.

Prime Minister Naoto Kan, who has scheduled a press conference, was due to announce that his government would ask Chubu Electric to stop reactors number four and five at the plant in Shizuoka prefecture, the reports

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২০১১ সালে আন্তর্জাতিক নারী দিবস ঘোষণার শতবর্ষে **নারী এবং মেয়েশিশুর শিক্ষা**-র দাবিতে বিশ্বব্যাপী উদযাপিত হচ্ছে **গ্লোবাল অ্যাকশন সপ্তাহ**। এবারের অন্যতম কর্মসূচি **গল্প বলা** (Big Story)। এসব গল্পে শোনা যাবে নারী ও মেয়েশিশুর জীবনে শিক্ষা কিভাবে পরিবর্তন এনেছে। অংশ নেবেন শিশু-কিশোর, দেশের বিশিষ্ট ব্যক্তিবর্গ, নারীসহ সর্বস্তরের জনগোষ্ঠী। **সারা দেশ জুড়ে অনুষ্ঠিত এ কর্মসূচিতে সবার আমন্ত্রণ।**

সমাজের উন্নয়নে চাই **সবার জন্য শিক্ষা। পিছিয়ে-পড়া নারী ও মেয়েদের** জন্য এর প্রয়োজন আরো বেশি। এই সপ্তাহে সারা দুনিয়ার মানুষের সঙ্গে আমাদেরও দাবি–**নারী ও মেয়েশিশুর শিক্ষা, এখনই।** চাই শিক্ষায় আরো বেশি অর্থায়ন, চাই জেন্ডার সমতা। সরকারকে এজন্য এখনই ব্যবস্থা নিতে হবে।

নারী ও মেয়েশিশুর শিক্ষা নিশ্চিত করতে যা যা অবশ্যই চাই

- শিক্ষার সকল ক্ষেত্রে কোন বৈষম্য থাকবে না
- নারী ও মেয়েশিশুর শিক্ষায় পর্যাপ্ত অর্থায়ন
- পাঠ্যক্রমে জেন্ডার সংবেদনশীলতা
- জেন্ডার সংক্রান্ত বিশেষ প্রশিক্ষণ
- জেন্ডার অডিট-এর ব্যবস্থা
- শিক্ষক, শিক্ষা-কর্মকর্তা, অভিভাবক ও এসএমসি সদস্যদের সচেতনতা বৃদ্ধি
- শিক্ষকতা পেশার প্রতি নারী শিক্ষকদের অধিকতর আগ্রহী করে তুলতে প্রণোদনা
- ইভ টিজিং রোধে যথাযথ সামাজিক ও প্রশাসনিক ব্যবস্থা
- প্রধান শিক্ষক পদে ও বিদ্যালয় ব্যবস্থাপনা কমিটিতে নারীর সংখ্যাবৃদ্ধি
- প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা উন্নয়ন প্রকল্পের তৃতীয় পর্যায়ে জেন্ডার সংবেদনশীলতাকে যথাযথ গুরুত্ব দান

আসুন, যার যার অবস্থান থেকে নারী ও মেয়েশিশুর শিক্ষা নিশ্চিত করে গড়ে তুলি একটি আলোকিত সাক্ষর সমাজ।

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