

Kashmir terror attack kills 6

AFP, Srinagar

Two suspected rebels stormed a police station in Indian Kashmir on Friday, killing three officers and a civilian before being shot dead by government forces, police said.

The heavily armed militants hijacked a private jeep and killed the driver before lobbing grenades into the station, triggering a gun battle with government forces, inspector general of police for the region Danish Rana told AFP.

"Both the militants were killed in the following gun battle," Rana said, adding that one police officer and two paramilitary troops were also left dead after the shoot-out.

Two other troops were wounded in the attack, the first to hit India's only Muslim-majority state since the ruling Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) took power this month in a coalition government.

Kashmir has been divided between India and Pakistan since independence from Britain in 1947. Both claim the Himalayan territory in its entirety.

Several rebel groups have been fighting Indian forces since 1989 for independence or a merger of the territory with Pakistan.

The fighting has left tens of thousands dead, mostly civilians. Armed encounters between rebels and government forces occur regularly, though violence in the region has substantially declined during the last decade.

India blames Pakistan for arming the rebels -- a charge Islamabad denies.

No rebel group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack on the police station near Kathua, 350 kilometres (220 miles) south of the state capital Srinagar.

Kashmir has seen an armed insurgency against Indian rule since 1989, and although violence has gone down considerably in the past few years, there have been occasional attacks by militants.



Indian security personnel stand around the body of a militant killed by Indian forces during an encounter at Raj Bagh police station in Kathua district, some 60 kms from Jammu, yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN brief

Elderly Thai man jailed for 'royal insult' graffiti

AFP, Bangkok

An elderly Thai man was jailed by a military court yesterday for scrawling graffiti in a shopping mall toilet critical of the country's junta leaders and its revered king. hOphas Chansuksei, a 67-year-old pin-badge vendor, received a year and a half sentence for writing anti-monarchy and anti-government messages in an eastern Bangkok mall last October.

Bike blast kills two outside Karachi mosque

AFP, Karachi

At least two people were killed and seven others wounded after a bomb planted on a motorcycle exploded outside a mosque in Karachi yesterday, police said. The blast took place in congested Aram Bagh area of Pakistan's biggest city, outside a mosque belonging to a sub-sect of the minority Shiite Muslim community.

Reuters websites blocked in China

AFP, Beijing

Reuters news websites were inaccessible in China yesterday, the latest Western news organisation to be blocked in a country where censors keep a tight grip over information. Attempts by AFP in China to open the agency's English- and Chinese-language websites returned only an error message saying that the page "can't be displayed".

Violence cost Mexico \$233 billion: study

AFP, Mexico City

Violence in Mexico cost the country \$233 billion last year, equivalent to 17.3 percent of gross domestic product, or three times the government's spending on health, according to a study. The Institute for Economics and Peace, a global think tank, said in its 2015 Mexico Peace Index Report that the impact amounted to \$1,946 per Mexican citizen in the country of 118 million people.

Nepal extends Everest climbing permits

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal yesterday said it will allow hundreds of mountaineers forced to abandon Everest expeditions last year to use their \$10,000 climbing permits until 2019, ending months of uncertainty. Hundreds of climbers had to abandon their attempts last year due to an unprecedented shutdown after 16 Nepalese guides died in an avalanche, the worst accident ever to strike the world's highest peak.

The Himalayan nation's government, which earned \$3.6 million from Everest permits issued to 334 climbers last year, has decided to allow those mountaineers to return to the peak at any time until 2019.

US probes alleged new Syrian gas attack

AFP, Washington

The United States is looking into allegations that the Syrian regime unleashed chlorine gas in an attack in the northwest of the war-ravaged country earlier this week, John Kerry said Thursday. A monitoring group and opposition activists said six people, including three young children, were killed in the alleged regime gas attack in the village of Sarmin, in Idlib province.

MUMBAI ATTACK Court reserves judgment on Lakhvi's plea

PTI, Lahore

A Pakistani court yesterday reserved its judgment on the plea of LeT operations commander and 2008 Mumbai attack mastermind Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi against his detention under a security act.

A lawyer said the verdict is likely to be announced anytime. Lakhvi on Thursday challenged his detention in the Lahore HC and prayed to it to set aside the Punjab home department's order for being "illegal and a violation of Islamabad high court order".

The Punjab government on March 14 detained Lakhvi for another 30 days under the maintenance of public order before his release from Adiala Jail Rawalpindi on the IHC order.

32 killed as train derails in India

AFP, Lucknow

At least 32 people, including children, were killed and dozens more injured when an express train derailed in northern India, authorities said yesterday.

Television images showed two mangled carriages lying beside the track after the accident, which occurred around 50 kilometres from Lucknow, capital of the northern state of Uttar Pradesh.

Neeraj Sharma, chief public relations officer for Northern Railway, told AFP that the rescue work had been completed by early afternoon and a total of 32 bodies had been found.

Another 50 people received injuries in the crash.

An official at the scene said one of the coaches was vacant at the time of the accident, limiting the number of deaths.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said the train apparently overshot a signal before crashing into a barrier and coming off the rails. Sharma said there would be an official

investigation into the cause of the accident, which could have been down to driver negligence or the brake system failing.

India's Railways minister expressed his grief at the loss of life and promised to expedite the process of modernising the country's rail infrastructure.

"This budget I focused on safety as I feel saddened by loss of life and injuries to our valued passengers. We must modernise crumbling infra," Prabhu said on Twitter.

"We are prioritising safety as thrust area."

The minister said that the "neglect of past or limited budget resource can't be the reason for accidents."

"...it takes some time to neutralise past inaction. We will," Prabhu added.

The railways minister said last month that decades of underinvestment had taken their toll on the rail network and promised to restore it to its former glory.

Deadly accidents are common on India's railways, whose vast and rundown network carries tens of millions of people daily.



Army to keep key role in transition

Says Myanmar leader AFP, Yangon

Myanmar's president has rejected criticism that his government has stalled on crucial reforms and has defended the powerful army's hold over politics.

Thein Sein, a former general who has run Myanmar since 2011 when the junta ceded power to a quasi-civilian government after decades of brutal rule, insisted his country was on the path towards genuine democracy.

"Our reform process is going step by step. There is no backsliding. We are now on the track towards democracy, but going at a steady pace," he said in a BBC interview broadcast Friday.

He also said the army needed to be "involved in national politics" and refused to commit himself to any specific timetable on when that political role might be reduced.

Under the country's constitution, the armed forces still retain a quarter of the seats in parliament and some key cabinet posts, giving the country's generals an effective veto on policy.

"It would be rather difficult to give a timeframe for reducing this role," Thein Sein said.

"But I can assure you that as we mature in democracy in our country the role of the military in parliament will reduce gradually," he added.

DRIVE AGAINST BLACK MONEY Indian bill proposes 10 years jail, fine

IANS, New Delhi

Giving concrete shape to Indian Finance Minister Arun Jaitley's budget announcement last month on recovering black money stashed away abroad, the cabinet-approved anti-black money law provides a short window to income tax assesses to declare assets, pay tax and penalty and avoid imprisonment.

The Foreign Income and Undisclosed Assets (Imposition of New Tax) Bill, 2015, to be tabled in the Lok Sabha, provides for a maximum of 10 years rigorous imprisonment for offenders who evade taxes in relation to foreign assets.

Under its provisions, the concealment of foreign income and assets will be non-compoundable and offenders will not be permitted to approach the Settlement Commission for resolving disputes.

There will also be a penalty at the rate of 300 percent of taxes on the concealed income and assets.

The new legislation will provide that income in relation to any undisclosed foreign asset or undisclosed income from any foreign asset will be taxable at the maximum marginal rate. Beneficial owner or beneficiary of foreign assets will be mandatorily required to file return, even if there is no taxable income.



A Tunisian woman waving her national flag walks past police during a demonstration on Bourguiba Avenue in Tunis on March 20, 2015, two days after gunmen attacked the National Bardo Museum. PHOTO: AFP

TUNISIA MUSEUM ATTACK Gunmen trained in Libya Says govt as country rallies against terrorism

AFP, Tunis

Tunisia said two gunmen who killed 21 people at its national museum trained at a militant camp in Libya, as the country marked its Independence Day in sombre fashion yesterday.

The Islamic State jihadist group has claimed Wednesday's attack on foreign tourists in Tunis, the deadliest since Tunisia's 2011 revolution which sparked the Arab Spring regional uprisings.

The two assailants "left the country illegally last December for Libya and they were able to train with weapons there," Secretary of State for Security Rafik Chelly told Tunisian television.

ISIS, which has hundreds of Tunisians among its ranks, threatened more attacks in an audio message posted online Thursday claiming responsibility for the museum massacre.

Authorities say as many as 3,000 Tunisians have gone to Iraq, Syria and Libya to fight in jihadist ranks, raising fears of battle-hardened militants returning home to plot attacks.

Chelly named locations of several suspected training camps for Tunisians in violence-wracked Libya, including the second city Benghazi and the coastal town of Derna, which has become a stronghold for jihadists.

The president's office said security forces arrested nine suspects -- "four people directly linked to the (terrorist) operation and five suspected of having ties to the cell".

And a presidential source said soldiers were to be deployed in major cities following the assault, while insisting "we are not under siege".

As international outrage grew over the attack on Tunisia -- hailed as a rare success story of the Arab Spring -- President Beji Caid Essebsi said his country would not be cowed by extremism.

UIU UNITED INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
www.uiu.ac.bd f /uiuinfor

Admission Requirements:

- Must have a bachelor degree.
- Must have 2 years of experience at the executive level.
- Must appear at viva voce.

Key Features:

- Senior teachers from renowned universities & from professionals
- Need based curricula.
- Case method and unique teaching pedagogy for the executives.
- Classes only on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Special Opportunity:

- 25% Scholarship for admission in groups of at least three from the same organization.
- 25% to 100% Tuition scholarship based on trimester results.

www.uiu.ac.bd

UIU Bhaban: House # 80, Road # 8/A (Old-15), Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209
Phone: 9125913-6, Mob: 01914-001470, Fax: 9118170.

ADMISSION

Viva Voce on March 27, 2015

UIU EMBA

Other Programs

Regular MBA

MS in Economics || MDS || MSc in CSE
BBA || BBA in AIS || BS in Economics
BSc in CSE || BSc in EEE

Summer 2015