



A picture of the 'Indian spy drone' claimed to be shot down by the Pakistani military.

PHOTO: DAWN ONLINE

Pakistan says it shot down Indian drone

REUTERS, Islamabad

The Pakistani military said it shot down an Indian spy drone yesterday in Kashmir, in a new sign of the decades-old tension between the nuclear-armed rivals in the disputed region.

Industry experts said the small, unarmed model was sold commercially for aerial filming and would contain no secret military technology.

"An Indian spy drone was shot down by Pakistani troops which intruded into Pakistan along (the Line of Control) near Bhimber today. The spy drone is used for aerial photography," a statement from the Pakistani military said.

The Indian military was not available for comment. Bhimber is in Kashmir, the Himalayan region claimed by both Pakistan and India. The two sides regularly exchange fire along Kashmir's heavily-militarised Line of Control.

A photo supplied by the Pakistani military appeared to show a Chinese-made DJI Phantom 3, said Huw Williams, the Unmanned Systems Editor at IHS Jane's International Defence Review.

"Due to its limited operating range - about two km - if the Indian military is using the system it would most likely be for close reconnaissance or security work," Williams said. "Our Middle East editor believes that Islamic State are using similar systems."

Pakistan is plagued by a Taliban insurgency that has killed hundreds of thousands of civilians. It has fought three wars against India since the two nations became separate in 1947.

End of 'manufactured crisis'

Says Iran after nuke deal; UN likely to vote next week to ratify agreement

AFP, Tehran

A deal with world powers ended a "manufactured crisis" over Iran's nuclear programme, its foreign minister said yesterday after negotiating the accord, which drew furious objections from US lawmakers.

President Barack Obama faced a bruising battle to sell the deal in Washington as Congressional leaders queued up to denounce it.

In return for curbs on its nuclear programme for at least 10 years, Iran will be freed from Western and UN sanctions that have crippled its economy.

Obama is to hold a news conference yesterday to try to convince Americans of the benefits of an agreement that has drawn opposition from US allies in the region, including Israel.

Obama said the accord meant "every pathway to a nuclear weapon is cut off".

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, who led Iran's negotiating team in the final 18 straight days of talks that culminated in Tuesday's deal, said on his return home that common ground had been found with the six powers led by the United States.

"We will take measures, and they will do their part," he told reporters at Tehran's Mehrabad airport.

"It will happen in around four months from now," he said of the deal's formal implementation.

Zarif's comments came after a night of celebrations in Tehran, where his own name was chanted in the streets by joyous Iranians.

Many festooned their cars with balloons and danced in the street to celebrate the prospect of an end to long years of economic



hardship caused by Western sanctions. In Washington, however, the deal came under intense scrutiny.

The speaker of the Republican-led US House of Representatives, John Boehner, said it was "likely to fuel a nuclear arms race around the world".

But Zarif hit back at the deal's biggest critic, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, head of the region's sole if

undeclared nuclear state, who branded the agreement a "historic mistake".

"Netanyahu kicked up a fuss, as he is upset that Iran managed to get sanctions lifted and prevent a manufactured crisis," Zarif said.

British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond headed to Israel yesterday to explain the deal in person. He also voiced hope London could reopen its embassy in Tehran, which was closed in 2011 after being stormed by a mob.

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said he had accepted an invitation to visit Tehran soon.

US lawmakers have 60 days to review the agreement but Obama has vowed to use his veto over any attempt to block it.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Security Council is likely to vote next week on a resolution to endorse the Iran nuclear deal and terminate targeted sanctions, but retain an arms embargo and ballistic missile technology ban, diplomats said.

The United States will circulate the draft resolution to the 15-member Security Council on Wednesday, UN diplomats said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Under the deal, Iran will cut by about two-thirds the number of centrifuges -- which can make fuel for nuclear power stations but also the core of a nuclear bomb -- from around 19,000 to just over 6,000.



Mullah Omar backs Afghan peace talks

BBC ONLINE

The leader of the Afghan Taliban, Mullah Mohammed Omar, has backed peace talks with the Afghan government, in a statement released to the media.

A message, marking the festival of Eid al-Fitr, made no direct reference to the talks but said Islam did not bar "peaceful interaction" with enemies.

Afghan government officials last week met Taliban representatives in negotiations brokered by Pakistan.

The Taliban have stepped up attacks on Afghan security forces.

Nato concluded its combat mission in Afghanistan last December, replacing it with a smaller deployment intended to train Afghan security forces until 2016.

Pakistan last week hosted the first formal face-to-face negotiations between Taliban representatives and the Afghan government.

The statement by Mullah Omar ends speculation that the reclusive Taliban leader had not authorised the latest talks.

The text, published on a Taliban website, suggested that negotiations were a "legitimate" way of achieving the objective of ending occupation by foreign forces.

The statement said political means to achieve "sacred goals" could be pursued "concurrently with armed jihad", under Islamic principles.

The statement also made an apparent reference to the Islamic State militant group, whose Afghan affiliate has gained ground in Afghanistan.

"We have...directed all our mujahideen to preserve

'Bookkeeper of Auschwitz' guilty

Gets 4 years in prison over being an accessory to the murder of 300,000 people

REUTERS, Lueneburg

A 94-year-old German man who worked as a bookkeeper at the Auschwitz death camp was convicted yesterday of being an accessory to the murder of 300,000 people and sentenced to four years in prison, in what could be one of the last big Holocaust trials.

Oskar Groening did not kill anyone himself while working at the camp in Nazi-occupied Poland, but prosecutors argued that by sorting the bank notes from trainloads of arriving Jews he helped support the regime responsible for mass murder.

White-haired Groening, who has been on trial since April, has admitted moral guilt but said it was up to the court to decide whether he was legally guilty.

He said earlier this month he could only ask God to forgive him as he was not entitled to ask this of victims of the Holocaust.

The trial went to the heart of the

question of whether people who were small cogs in the Nazi machinery, but did not actively participate in the killing of 6 million Jews during the Holocaust, were guilty of crimes. Until recently, the answer from the German justice system was no.

During his time at Auschwitz,



Groening's job was to collect the belongings of the deportees after they arrived at the camp by train and had been put through a selection process that resulted in many being sent directly to the gas chambers.

Groening, who was 21 and by his

own admission an enthusiastic Nazi when he was sent to work at the camp in 1942, inspected people's luggage, removing and counting any bank notes that were inside and sending them on to SS offices in Berlin, where they helped to fund the Nazi war effort.

The charges against him related to the period between May and July 1944 when 137 trains carrying roughly 425,000 Jews from Hungary arrived in Auschwitz. At least 300,000 of them were sent straight to the gas chambers, the indictment says.

Many Germans are keen to draw a line under the Holocaust and seal the post-war democratic identity of their nation. Some find distasteful the pursuit of old men, often in poor health, for crimes committed nearly 70 years ago.

Groening, who uses a walking frame, is frail and in May the court decided to limit the time he spent in court to three hours a day in view of his health problems, which had led to

'Too many Blacks, Latinos are in jails'

Obama questions US's criminal justice system

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

President Barack Obama has acknowledged the problems with the US's criminal justice system - saying that prisons were too full, that young black men were overly represented and vowing to carry out a review of the use of solitary confinement.

In his annual speech to annual convention of the National Association for Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP) Obama called for voting rights to be restored to prisoners who have served their sentences, and said employers should stop the practice of asking job candidates about their past convictions.

He said long mandatory minimum sentences now in place should be reduced or discarded entirely, according to the Associated Press. "In far too many cases, the punishment simply doesn't fit the crime," Mr Obama told a crowd of 3,300 in Philadelphia.

With his speech to the prominent African-American advocacy group, Obama sought to put a spotlight on the need for new legislation as he mounted a week-long

push on criminal justice reform.

A day earlier, he had commuted the sentences of 46 nonviolent drug offenders, the most commutations a president has issued on a single day in at least four decades.

Obama said many of the people in US jails needed to be there - "murderers, predators, rapists, gang leaders" - yet he said that in too many instances, law enforcement was treating young black and Latino men differently than their white peers.

"This is not just anecdotal. This is not just barbershop talk," he said. "The statistics cannot be ignored. We cannot close our eyes anymore."

The speech comes as the US continues to grapple with the issues of race and inequality and the treatment of black suspects at the hands of the police, prosecutors and parole boards.

Since Congress enacted mandatory minimum sentences for drug crimes, the federal prison population has multiplied, from just 24,000 in the 1980s to more than 214,000, according to Families Against

NEWS IN brief

Sirisen against Rajapaksa's PM bid

THE HINDU ONLINE

Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena on Tuesday expressed his opposition to his predecessor Mahinda Rajapaksa being nominated as the prime ministerial candidate of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP)-led United People's Freedom Alliance. Sirisena is the head of both the party and the alliance.

Floods kill 10 Asiatic lions in Gujarat

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

There are only 523 Asiatic lions left in the wild. Following intense flooding in India following the country's monsoon last month, that number has dropped further after 10 lions were drowned. The lions were killed near to the lion sanctuary in Gir

Maoist rebels kill four abducted Indian cops

AFP, Raipur

India's Maoist rebels have killed four cops they abducted from a bus in the remote central state of Chhattisgarh, a senior officer said yesterday. The guerrillas stopped the bus as it was passing through a Maoist-dominated village late Monday.

8 soldiers killed in past 24 hours: Kiev

AFP, Kiev

Eight Ukrainian troops have been killed and 16 wounded in the war-torn east as pro-Russian rebels launched one of their fiercest attacks since the signing of a shaky ceasefire deal. Kiev security officials said yesterday. The figure is the highest one-day toll in some five weeks.

Qatar has the most efficient govt in the world: study

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

It is an autocracy where women are discriminated against, migrant workers are exploited and free speech is curtailed. But according to the World Economic Forum (WEF), Qatar is a model of efficient government.

The oil-rich Gulf state, which is currently at the centre of a major Swiss corruption investigation into Fifa's decision to award it the 2022 football World Cup, finished top of a league table compiled by the organisation which compared the "efficiency" of governments in 144 countries.

The WEF is best known for its annual winter meeting in Davos. To reach their surprising finding, WEF researchers used data taken from the group's most recent Global Competitiveness Report. Measures such as wasteful spending, the burden of regulation on business and the transparency of policymaking were considered to calculate

the overall efficiency of each country's rulers.

Qatar was ranked just ahead of Singapore, followed by Finland, Hong Kong, the United Arab Emirates and New Zealand. Rwanda had the seventh most efficient government in the world, with the blog explaining that this "strong showing" was thanks to the country's "low level of waste in government spending". The UK came 14th.

Dr David Roberts, an expert in Gulf international relations and security at King's College London who lived in Qatar for more than four years, said the country's strong showing in the table was "hard to fathom" even if its questionable human rights record was set aside.

"I don't know what they were trying to measure, but in no meaningful sense have they derived a sensible conclusion that Qatar is the most efficient government in the world. I don't care how solid their methodology is, most people who work in Qatar would not recognise this study's findings."



Another photo on the wall

Palestinian family mourns third son killed by Israel army

AFP, Qalandia Refugee Camp

For more than a decade, the Kasba family has displayed a banner depicting brothers Samer and Yasser, shot dead by Israeli troops during the second Palestinian intifada aged 15 and 11.

Ten days ago, Fatima and Sami Kasba added the picture of a new "martyr" -- 17-year-old Mohammed, their third son to die by Israeli army gunfire.

The incident that led to his death has sparked controversy in Israel and anger among Palestinians, with video footage made public challenging the army's initial version of events.

An officer shot Kasba dead on July 3 after he threw stones at an army vehicle close to the Qalandia checkpoint in the occupied West Bank, on the third Friday of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

The army, which has opened an investigation, said after the shooting that Kasba posed an "imminent danger" to soldiers.

But Israeli rights group B'Tselem challenged the military's version, drawing on CCTV footage, witness testimony and forensic evidence to conclude that he was shot in the back at close range after throwing a stone then running away from troops.

Colonel Israel Shomer shot Kasba twice in the back and once in the side of the face, B'Tselem said, calling the killing "unjustified and unlawful".

Colonel Shomer quickly received the support of senior Israeli army officials and the approval of cabinet ministers, who said he acted proportionally and in self-defence.

There are conflicting accounts, but for the family the result is still the same -- a third dead son.

"Every day there is a martyr, not just in our family, but for all Palestinian families," Sami Kasba said.

"Someone is hurt, someone is killed, someone is arrested. This is what happens,



A protester holds a banner during a protest march in central Athens, marking a 24-hours public sector and pharmacists strike yesterday against the new package of austerity measures. Inset, Greek Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos attends a parliament session in Athens.

Greece to vote on bailout after explosive IMF report

AFP, Athens

Greece yesterday geared up for a parliamentary vote on tough reforms demanded by eurozone creditors in exchange for a huge new bailout, just hours after a bombshell IMF report criticised the deal.

The outcome was unclear after the International Monetary Fund issued a stark warning that Greece's creditors will have to go "far beyond" existing estimates for debt relief to stabilise the country's finances.

The last-ditch deal struck Monday to prevent the country crashing out of the euro saw Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras agree to sweeping reforms. They include changing labour laws, pensions, VAT and other taxes -- all conditions that had been rejected by voters in a July 5 referendum.

The parliament in Athens must approve the deal before the 18 other eurozone leaders start negotiations

over what Greece is to get in return: a three-year bailout worth up to 86 billion euros (\$95 billion), its third rescue programme in five years.

Under the plan, eurozone governments will contribute between 40 and 50 billion euros, the IMF will contribute another chunk and the rest will come from selling off state assets and from financial markets, a European official said.

Tsipras has admitted he "cannot say with certainty" that it will be enough to prevent a so-called "Grexit" until the final bailout agreement is signed.

An IMF official said the fund would only participate in a third bailout if EU creditors produce a clear plan. The current deal "is by no means a comprehensive, detailed agreement," the official said.

It was not the first time the IMF has urged greater debt relief. But political analysts questioned why the strongly-worded report appeared not to have been

taken into account in the agreement.

The revelations put greater strain on Tsipras, who has been forced to turn to pro-European opposition parties to get the reform measures through parliament after a rebellion by some 30 rebel lawmakers in his own radical left Syriza party.

The embattled premier said he took "full responsibility" for signing an accord he did "not believe in." He said he agreed to it "to avoid disaster" as the country teetered on the brink of economic collapse.

Parliamentary speaker Zoe Konstantopoulou urged defiance against the creditors, saying MPs "have the right" to base their vote on the IMF report.

Polls published late Tuesday by Kapa Research found 72 percent of Greeks surveyed thought the deal was necessary if tough, but many nevertheless saw it as a humiliating climbdown for a country still reeling from years of painful austerity.