Pak army

REUTERS, Washington

The Pentagon will not pay Pakistan \$300 million in military reimbursements after US secretary of defense Ash Carter decided not to tell Congress that Pakistan was taking adequate action against the Haqqani network, a US official said.

Relations between the two countries have been frayed over the past decade, with US officials frustrated by what they term Islamabad's unwillingness

to act against Islamist groups such as the Afghan Taliban and the Haqqani network.

"The funds could not be released to the government of Pakistan at this time because the secretary has not yet certified that Pakistan has taken sufficient action against the Haqqani network," Pentagon spokesman Adam Stump said on Wednesday.

The \$300 million comes under the Coalition Support Fund (CSF), a US Defense Department program to reimburse allies that have incurred costs in supporting counter-terrorist and counter-insurgency operations. Pakistan is the largest recipient.

"This decision does not reduce the significance of the sacrifices that the Pakistani military has undertaken over the last two years," Stump said. Meanwhile, The US has

added the Pakistani militant group Jamaat-ur-Ahrai to its list of global terrorists, triggering sanctions against a faction that has staged multiple attacks on civilians, religious minorities and soldiers. Pakistan welcomed the

decision. Jamaat-ur-Ahrar has claimed responsibility for at least five major attacks in Pakistan since December, including the Easter Sunday bombing in a public park that killed 70 people in the city of Lahore. The group is a splinter faction of the Pakistani Taliban movement that has also declared loyalty to Islamic State's leadership in the Middle East.

Terrorism biggest threat to Saarc

Says Rajnath Singh in Islamabad, slams glorification of terrorists as martyrs

AGENCIES

Indian Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh yesterday used the Saarc platform to take on Pakistan over terrorism saying it posses the biggest challenge to peace the region.

2nd Edition

Addressing the Saarc home ministers conference in Islamabad on Thursday, Rajnath Singh said no type of terrorism or support to it could be justified and called for immediate and effective action against all those who support or encourage international terrorism, "whether state actors or non-state actors".

Though Singh took care not to name Pakistan, he left little scope for doubt that it was indeed the country on his mind as he called for isolation of all those who provide support, encouragement, sanctuary, safe haven or any assistance to terrorism or terrorists.

"Strongest possible steps need to be taken not only against terrorists and terrorist organisations but also those individuals, institutions, organisations or nations that support them," he told the Saarc conference where the home ministers of Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka were absent.

"Only then justice will be ensured for the victims of terrorist attacks such as in Mumbai and Pathankot. We must have the approach of



Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif (5L) poses for a group photograph with delegates including India's Home Minister Rajnath Singh(4L) after the inauguration of the SAARC Minister's conference in Islamabad, yesterday. PHOTO: AFP 'zero tolerance' against any type of terrorism," in an encounter at Anantnag, Jammu & Kashmir,

he stated.

Making it a point to mention Pathankot terror strike alongside the "cowardly terrorist attacks" in Dhaka and Kabul, the home minister said terrorism poses the biggest challenge to peace in the Saarc region.

Singh also needled Pakistan on its decision to confer "martyr" status to Hizbul terrorist Burhan Wani, killed by the Indian security forces

last month. "

"It also needs to be ensured that terrorism is not glorified and is not patronized by any state. One country's terrorist cannot be a martyr or freedom fighter for anyone. I also speak for the entire humanity - not just for India or other Saarc members - in urging that in no circumstances should terrorists be eulogised as martyrs," he said.

The home minister said merely strong condemnation of such terrorist attacks was not enough and required hardened resolve and serious steps on part of the Saarc states to eradicate the menace.

Among other issues of regional importance raised by Rajnath Singh in his address at Islamabad were exploring avenues to fight cyber-crime and its linkages with the terrorist world. Pointing to online radicalisation, Singh called for efforts to ensure that social media and other modern technology is not misused to radicalise youth or promote terrorism. He appreciated support of all Saarc members

to New Delhi's proposal to host the second meeting of the high-level Group of Eminent Experts to Strengthen the Saarc Anti-Terrorism Mechanism on September 22 & 23 in New Delhi.

Singh also sought immediate ratification of Saarc Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.

Other issues taken up by Singh were measures to counter drug trafficking and circulation of fake Indian currency notes. "There is also a felt need to achieve the full potential of the Saarc Terrorist Offences Monitoring Desk and the Saarc Drug Offences Monitoring Desk," he ANTI-TERROR ALLIANCE China joins 3 neigbouring countries

REUTERS, Beijing

China is to set up an antiterrorism alliance with Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan, state media said yesterday, as it seeks to boost coordination with neighbours to tackle what it says is a growing domestic militant threat.

Fang Fenghui, a member of the powerful Central Military Commission which controls China's armed forces, hosted a meeting with his counterparts on Wednesday in Urumqi, capital of the western Xinjiang region, where officials say they

are battling Islamist militants. The four countries recognised the serious threat of terrorism and extremism to regional stability, the official Xinhua news agency said, and they agreed to set up a "fourcountry mechanism" for intelligence sharing and

training. "All parties reaffirmed they will cooperate to respond to these forces, and safeguard all member countries' peace and stability," Xinhua said.

Afghan army chief of general staff, General Qadam Shah Shaheem, Pakistani army chief General Raheel Sharit, and the Chief of General Staff of the Tajikistan armed forces, Major General E. A. Cobidrzoda, took part in the talks, the news agency said.

The meeting comes after China's defence minister this week thanked Afghanistan's Shaheem for support in fighting the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) an Islamist group that China says wants to set up a separate state in Xinjiang.

China did not elaborate on the help it got.

China has long been concerned that instability in Afghanistan will spill over into violence-prone Xinjiang, home to the Muslim Uighur people, where hundreds of people have died in recent years in unrest Beijing blames on extremists.

The United States and the United Nations have listed ETIM as a terrorist group, though some experts have questioned its cohesiveness and say China's policies in Xinjiang have contributed to

Director General

Taliban ambush foreign tourists in Afghanistan

7 injured; 6 taken hostage after Pak chopper crash lands

AFP, Heart

Taliban militants attacked a group of 12 American and European tourists escorted by an Afghan army convoy in western Herat province yesterday, leaving at least seven people wounded as the insurgents step up nationwide attacks.

The tourists -- eight British, three Americans and one German national -- were ambushed by Taliban gunmen in the restive district of Cheshte-Sharif, while en route from the neighbouring provinces of Bamiyan and Ghor.

It is unclear why they were travelling overland at a time when Western embassies typically warn their citizens against all travel in Afghanistan, citing threats of kidnapping and attacks.

"The foreign tourists -- three Americans, six Britons, two Scots and

one German -- were travelling with an Afghan on board had been taken hostage by the Taliban army convoy when they were ambushed by the Taliban in Chesht-e-Sharif," said Jilani Farhad, the spokesman for Herat's governor.

He said the insurgents had been repelled and the foreigners were being escorted to Herat city, adding that the attack left at least six foreigners and their Afghan driver wounded.

Local authorities released photographs of some of the foreigners being treated in a district

সংস্কৃতি বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়

hospital for apparently minor injuries.

The Taliban claimed the attack on "foreign invaders" as they intensify their annual summer offensive after a brief lull during the holy fasting month of Ramadan, which ended in early July.

Meanwhile, a Pakistani government helicopter crash-landed in eastern Afghanistan, officials said, without confirming reports six people on board were taken hostage by the Taliban. "Six people were boarding it, but we are

unaware of their fate," a senior government official based in Lahore told AFP on condition

> of anonymity. The helicopter was being sent to Uzbekistan for overhauling when it crashed in Azra district, in the restive Afghan province of Logar, the official added.

Earlier, local district governor Hamidullah Hamid said six people

and transported to an unknown location.

The insurgents have not so far commented on the incident.

Kabul has long accused Pakistan of supporting the Taliban and nurturing sanctuaries on its soil in the hope of maintaining influence in Afghanistan.

US, allies push UN to condemn North Korea

AFP, United Nations

The United States and its allies on Wednesday pressed the UN Security Council to condemn North Korea after it test-fired a missile into Japanesecontrolled waters for the first time, but they encountered resistance from China.

The 15-member council met behind closed doors for emergency talks called by the United States, Japan and South Korea over the ballistic missile launch, the latest provocation from Pyongyang.

US Ambassador Samantha Power called for

a "strong, swift response from the Security Council after the meeting, describing the missile test as "another grave threat to international peace and security."

BALLISTIC MISSILE TEST Prachanda sworn in as Nepal PM

Forms cabinet, urges reconciliation

PTI, Kathmandu

Maoist chief Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda" was sworn in as Nepal's new Prime Minister yesterday, a day after being elected by lawmakers for the top post for the second time. President Bidya Devi Bhandari administered oath of office to

the 61-year-old CPN-Maoist Centre chairman at Rastrapati Bhawan, formally making him the 39th Prime Minister of Nepal. Prachanda formed a six-member

cabinet that includes two deputy prime ministers. Maoist leader Krishna Bahadur

Mahara is the Deputy Prime Minister with the portfolio of Finance and Nepali Congress leader Bimalendra Nidhi is the Deputy Prime Minister with Home portfolio in the new cabinet. President Bhandari also adminis-

tered oath to both of them.

Prime Minister administered oath to the three other ministers - Ramesh Lekhak from Nepali Congress

(Physical Planning and Transport), Daljit Shripali (Youth and Sports) and Gauri Shanker Chaudhary (Agriculture) from Maoist. After being elected yesterday, Prachanda had promised to lead the nation toward economic development while working as a

bridge between communities. This is the second time the Maoist chief has become Prime Minister after his brief stint with premiership came to an end in 2009. He is also the only communist leader to become the prime

minister of the country twice.

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all working days (from 9-00 A.M. to 12-30 P.M). The price of each application form is Tk. 400/-. Age limit for Sl. # 7 is 45 years as on 30.06.2016. Applicants who are in service should apply through proper channel. Name of the applied post to be clearly written on the envelope. One copy of money receipt must be attached with the application form. For the post of SI. # 12 applicants should mention clearly the Specialty. Management reserves the right to cancel any or all application without assigning any reason whatsoever,

The application along with required papers (as per instruction on the application form) should reach on or before 22.08.2016 either dropped in the box placed in front of room # 230 or sent by post. Only short listed candidates will be called for Interview. Incomplete applications may be rejected.

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ইকরাম আহমেদ নির্বাহী পরিচালক (অতি. সচিব)

বিশেষ নির্দেশিকা : দরপত্তের সকল শর্তাবলী সিডিউলে বিশ্তারিত বর্ণিত আছে।

নজরুল ইসটিটিউট, ঢাকা ই-মেইল : nazrulinstitute@gmail.com

Pak terror suspect captained Italy cricket team!

AFP, Rome

from Italy for allegedly plotting an attack in the name of the Islamic State (IS) group used to captain the Italian youth cricket team, media reports said on Wednesday. Aftab Farook was caught

A Pakistani man expelled

on a wire-tap talking about using a Kalashnikov or bomb to attack targets such as a wine shop in Milan or the airport of Bergamo in northern Italy, saying the important thing was to scare Europeans, Italian newspapers reported.

Minister Angelino Alfano said the 26-year-old supported IS and was planning to go to Syria to join militants. The news stunned locals in Vaprio d'Adda near Milan, where Farook had lived with his family since he was 13 years old.

On Tuesday, Interior

Photos published in 2009 by Sportweek, a weekly insert in Italy's Gazzetta dello Sport daily, and re-issued in the media, show him as the captain of the under-19s national team, wearing the Italian colours in international competitions. "It hit us like lightning

out of the blue, I still don't believe it," Fabio Marabini, president of the Kingsgrove Milano cricket club and a close paternal figure to Farook, told La Stampa daily. Citing the investigative

report drawn up by antimafia police, however, La Stampa said Farook had changed over the past year or so, and had begun beating his wife and forcing her to wear a burga. Farook was expelled

from Italy on Tuesday but his family plan to challenge

the extradition at the European Court of Human Rights, the reports said.