

4 soldiers killed in firefight with militants Says Pakistan army

REUTERS, Islamabad

The Pakistan army said on Thursday that four of its soldiers were killed in a firefight with militants near the northwestern border with Afghanistan.

Five Islamist militants were also killed, it said. The fire exchange took place in tribal region of South Waziristan, which sits next to the Afghan border - a region that has long been a safe haven for the militants who operate on both sides of the border.

Islamabad says the militants use the Afghan soil to train and plan attacks in Pakistan, a charge Kabul denies, saying the militancy has been a home grown problem for the South Asian nation.

An umbrella group of the militants called Tahreek-e-Taliban Pakistan have been attacking Pakistan and its forces for years in a bid to overthrow the government and replace it with their harsh Islamic system.

It has accelerated attacks since last year after it revoked a ceasefire with the government, accusing it of violating the truce.



Demonstrators carry signs during a protest in support of Gaza and Lebanon, in Amman, Jordan yesterday. Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan said yesterday that he hoped US President-elect Donald Trump will tell Israel to "stop" its war efforts, suggesting a good start would be halting US arms support to Israel.

PHOTO: REUTERS

F-15 fighters arrive in ME Says US military

AFP, Washington

American F-15 fighter planes arrived in the Middle East on Thursday, the US military said, after Washington announced the deployment of additional assets to the region in a warning to Iran.

"Today, US Air Force F-15E Strike Eagles from the 492nd Fighter Squadron, RAF Lakenheath, England, arrive in the US Central Command area of responsibility," the military command said on social media.

"Should Iran, its partners, or its proxies use this moment to target American personnel or interests in the region, the United States will take every measure necessary to defend our people," Pentagon spokesman Major General Pat Ryder said in a statement on the deployment.

Hezbollah fires missiles at Israeli naval base

Targets Ramat David airbase southeast of Haifa with missile salvo

AFP, Beirut

Hezbollah said it targeted a naval base near the Israeli city of Haifa with missiles yesterday, the second such attack in less than 24 hours.

The Iran-backed Lebanese group said it targeted the "Stella Maris" naval base northwest of Haifa with a missile barrage, "in response to the attacks and massacres committed by the Israeli enemy."

The group had on Thursday claimed another attack on the same area. In a separate statement, the group claimed that it had also targeted the Ramat David airbase, southeast of Haifa, with missiles yesterday.

Israel has been at war with Lebanon's Hezbollah since late September when it

broadened its focus from fighting Hamas in the Gaza Strip to securing its northern border.

It escalated its air campaign and later sent in ground forces into the country's south.

Meanwhile, Lebanon state media said the Israeli army yesterday detonated explosives planted inside houses in three border villages.

"Since this morning, the Israeli enemy's army has been carrying out bombing operations inside the villages of Yaroun, Aitaroun and Maroun al Ras in the Bint Jbeil area, with the aim of destroying residential homes there," the official National News Agency said, the latest in a string of similar incidents that have impacted the flashpoint border area.

The war has killed more than 2,600 people in Lebanon since September 23.

Four more militants killed in SE Iran: IRGC

AFP, Tehran

Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) killed four more militants during an operation in the country's southeast region where jihadists killed 10 police last month, state media said yesterday.

The deaths were part of an "ongoing operation" in Sistan-Baluchistan province, Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps General Ahmad Shafaei said, adding that a soldier was also killed, according to the official IRNA news agency.

IMMIGRANT SPOUSES

Judge rules against Biden legalisation programme

REUTERS, Washington

A US judge in Texas on Thursday ruled against President Joe Biden's program offering a path to citizenship for certain immigrant spouses of US citizens, a blow that could keep the program blocked through Biden's final months in office.

US District Judge J Campbell Barker found the program, which offers a path to citizenship to around 500,000 immigrants who entered the US illegally if they are married to US citizens, exceeded Biden's executive authority.

The initiative, known as Keeping Families Together, launched in August but was blocked days later by Barker, who left it frozen while he considered a legal challenge brought by Texas and a coalition of US states with Republican attorneys general.

Biden announced the program in June before dropping out of presidential race and paving the way for Vice President Kamala Harris to face Trump.

Trump defeated Harris in Tuesday's election and is expected to launch a wide-ranging immigration crackdown that would likely include rolling back Biden's initiative for immigrant spouses, which the Trump campaign called a "mass amnesty" that would encourage illegal immigration.

'Anti-govt' samosa theft prompts India police probe

AFP, Shimla



Missing samosas sparked a police probe in India with five officers facing disciplinary action for allegedly eating a plate of the savoury treats intended for a senior politician, media reports said yesterday.

Samosas - pockets of meat or vegetable filling cooked inside a blanket of deep-fried pastry - are a mainstay of Indian snack cuisine, served on train carriages and street corners around the country.

They are also a staple of government receptions, including one staged last month by police in Himachal Pradesh for an official visit by the northern state's chief minister, Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu.

A special helping of samosas specially intended for Sukhu's relish instead allegedly found their way into the mouths of five police officers. The resulting high-level enquiry culminated in a report by the state's Crime Investigation Department that dubbed the affair an "anti government act".

"The report added that all personnel involved acted according to their own agenda, raising concerns about intentional misconduct," the Economic Times reported.

The Indian Express newspaper said the five police personnel accused of feasting on the chief minister's samosas had been served notices demanding they explain their conduct.

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We are concerned about America because we don't know what they're going to do ... how (it) is going to approach COP.

Says South African Environment Minister Dion George ahead of COP29 summit

কুতুবদিয়া ফায়ারিং রেঞ্জ VGD-2 এ আকাশ হতে আকাশে এবং বান্দরবান ফায়ারিং রেঞ্জ VGD-28 এ আকাশ হতে ভূমিতে বাংলাদেশ বিমান বাহিনীর জংগী বিমান কর্তৃক বোমা বর্ষণের জন্য সতর্কবাণী

ফায়ারিং রেঞ্জের নকশা

বাংলাদেশ বিমান বাহিনীর বিভিন্ন প্রকার জংগী বিমান কর্তৃক আগামী ১০ হতে ১৪ নভেম্বর ২০২৪ পর্যন্ত প্রত্যহ সকাল ০৮০০ ঘটিকা হতে ১৭০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত কুতুবদিয়া ফায়ারিং রেঞ্জ VGD-2 (২১°৫১'০০" উঃ ০৯১°৪০'০০" পূঃ, ২১°২৫'০০" উঃ ০৯১°৪০'০০" পূঃ, ২১°২৫'০০" উঃ ০৯১°২৩'০০" পূঃ) এবং আগামী ১০ হতে ১৯ নভেম্বর ২০২৪ পর্যন্ত প্রত্যহ সকাল ০৮০০ ঘটিকা হতে ১৭০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত বান্দরবান ফায়ারিং রেঞ্জ VGD-28 (২২°১২'৫৪" উঃ ০৯২°০২'৫৮" পূঃ, ২২°১৩'১৭" উঃ ০৯২°০৩'২৪" পূঃ, ২২°০৬'৪৪" উঃ ০৯২°১৪'৩০" পূঃ, ২২°০১'০৮" উঃ ০৯২°১৪'৪৮" পূঃ, ২২°০১'৩৬" উঃ ০৯২°১২'২৩" পূঃ, ২২°০৩'২৫" উঃ ০৯২°০৭'৩৭" পূঃ এবং ২২°০৫'৫৮" উঃ ০৯২°০৭'০৩" পূঃ) এ আকাশ হতে ভূমিতে (বিপজ্জনক সীমা ভূপৃষ্ঠ হতে ১৪,০০০ ফুট) বোমা বর্ষণ প্রশিক্ষণ মহড়া পরিচালনা করবে। উক্ত মহড়া চলাকালীন সময় বিমান, জাহাজ, ছোট ছোট নৌযান ও জনসাধারণকে উপরোক্তিত এলাকা পরিহার করে নিরাপদ দূরত্ব বজায় রেখে চলাচলের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

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