

Bomb kills six at Pak Islamic seminary Son of late Taliban doyen injured

REUTERS, Peshawar

A bomb blast at an Islamic seminary in northwestern Pakistan known as a historic training ground for the Afghan Taliban killed six worshippers during Friday prayers, police said yesterday.

Several others were wounded including the head of the religious school, Maulana Hamid-ul-Haq, son of the late Maulana Sami-ul-Haq, considered the father of the Taliban. Regional police officer Najeebur Rahman said Haq was in critical condition.

Tucked away in a Pakistani town off the main motorway to the Afghan border, Darul Uloom Haqqania university was the launch pad for the Taliban movement in the 1990s and is still often described as an incubator for radical Islamists.



In this handout photo taken and released yesterday by the Indian State Disaster Response Force, rescuers carry Border Roads Organisation workers after an avalanche near Mana village in the Chamoli district of Uttarakhand state. Over 40 construction workers were missing, while 15 others were rescued after the avalanche in the Himalayan state following heavy snowfall.

PHOTO: AFP

IMPACT OF US AID CUTS Millions of children already affected: UN

AFP, Geneva

The UN children's agency Unicef said yesterday that it was studying the impact of drastic US aid cuts, with millions of children already affected by the funding freeze imposed last month.

US President Donald Trump, on his first day back in office last month, demanded a 90-day freeze on all US foreign aid to give his administration time to review overseas spending, with an eye to gutting programmes not aligned with his "America First" agenda.

The State Department announced Wednesday that multi-year aid contracts were being slashed by 92 percent, in a bid to make around \$60 billion in savings in development and overseas

humanitarian programmes.

"We have received termination notices for Unicef grants, and they include humanitarian as well as development programming," the agency's spokesman James Elder said at a press conference in Geneva.

Multi-year aid contracts were being slashed by 92 percent: state dept

"We continue to assess the impact of those termination notices on our programmes for children. But we already know that the initial pause has impacted programming for millions of children in roughly

half the countries that we work. "Without urgent action, without funding, more children are going to suffer malnutrition. Fewer will have access to education, and preventable illnesses will claim more lives," he said.

"So it's very clear that reduction in any funding during these exceedingly difficult times for children is putting child lives at risk at a time when they need support more than ever."

The US has, until now, been by far the world's largest donor of humanitarian and development aid.

Geetanjali Narayan, Unicef's representative in Haiti, told the briefing that US aid was crucial to children's lives in the poorest country in the Caribbean.

World agrees nature funding plan at UN talks

AFP, Rome

Nations cheered a last-gasp deal to map out funding to protect nature Thursday, breaking a deadlock at UN talks seen as a test for international cooperation in the face of geopolitical tensions.

Rich and developing countries hammered out a delicate compromise on raising and delivering the billions of dollars needed to protect species.

Delegates stood and clapped in an emotionally charged final meeting that saw key decisions adopted in the last day of negotiations at the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization headquarters in Rome.

Militia fighters surrender looted weapons in Manipur

AFP, New Delhi

Militia fighters from rival ethnic groups in India's conflict torn Manipur have surrendered scores of guns and other gear looted from security forces, police said yesterday, days after the state was placed under New Delhi's direct rule.

The Manipur police, in a series of posts on X yesterday, shared photos of hand grenades, pistols, rifles, helmets, bulletproof jackets and ammunition surrendered by ethnic militias from across the state.

At least 307 weapons were handed over in the last week, police said in a statement.

The "request for the surrender of looted and illegally held weapons and ammunition has yielded a positive response", it added.

"Such voluntary surrender of weapons

TRUMP TARIFF THREATS India, EU commit to yr-end deadline for free trade pact

REUTERS, New Delhi

India and the European Union yesterday agreed to conclude a free trade deal by the end of the year, their first commitment to a deadline on talks that have been going for years, as they look to soften the effect of tariff increases from the United States.

The announcement was made by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, on a two day visit to India, and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a joint press conference.

Both sides have for years been trying to strike a free trade pact, which would involve major concessions by India - one of the world's most protected markets. Talks for an India-EU free trade deal resumed in 2021 after having been stalled for eight years.

"We have prepared a blueprint for collaboration in the areas of trade, technology, investment, innovation, green growth, security, skilling and mobility," Modi said, adding officials have been asked to conclude the deal by the end of the year.

<p>Microcredit Regulatory Authority (MRA) MRA Bhaban, F-14-D/1, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207</p>			
Date: 25/02/2025			
Ref: 53.04.0000.002.07.05.25-370			
Invitation for Tenders			
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH			
1	Ministry/Division	Financial Institution Division, Ministry of Finance,	
2	Agency	Microcredit Regulatory Authority	
3	Procuring Entity Name	Executive Vice Chairman, Microcredit Regulatory Authority	
4	Procuring Entity Code	Not used at present	
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka	
6	Invitation for	Supply of Printer and Photocopier Toner and related other services for MRA	
7	Invitation Ref No & Date	53.04.0000.002.07.05.25-370, Date: 25/02/2025	
KEY INFORMATION			
8	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)	
FUNDING INFORMATION			
9	Budget and Source of Funds	MRA Own Fund	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
10	Tender Lot:	Single	
11	Pre-Tender Meeting	Not held.	
12	Tender Purchase & Submit Place / Date / Time of	Microcredit Regulatory Authority MRA Bhaban, F-14-D/1, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.	Tender Last Selling Date & Time : 16/03/2025, Time: 03.00P.M
		Tender Closing Date & Time: 17/03/2025, Time: 12.00P.M	Tender Opening Date & Time: 17/03/2025, Time: 12.15 P.M
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER			
13	Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer	1) The minimum of years of general experience of the Tenderer in the supply of Toner and similar Goods and related services as Supplier shall be 03 (Three) years. 2) The minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of Toner or similar Goods and related service of at least 02 (Two) contract(s) successfully completed within the last 03 (Three) years, with contract value of each contract at least BDT 15,00,000.00 (Fifteen Lac) Only for Government/ Semi-Government/ Autonomous organizations / Govt. controlled corporation/office/factory. Must submitted certificate against accomplishment the delivery from purchaser's/buyer's entitled officer. 3) The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e working capital or credit line(s) of the Tenderer shall be 25 (Twenty five) Lacs.	
14	Brief Description of Goods & Related Services	The bidder has to complete the Tender as per the technical specifications mentioned in: Supply of Printer and Photocopier Toner and related other services for MRA	
	Item No.	Description of Item	Unit
	1	HP 76A Original LaserJet Black Toner	Nos
	2	HP 26A Original LaserJet Black Toner	Nos
	3	HP 79A Original LaserJet Black Toner	Nos
	4	HP 87A Original LaserJet Black Toner	Nos
	5	HP 215A Original LaserJet Black Toner	Nos
	6	HP 201A Original LaserJet Toner	Set (full)
	7	HP 415A Original LaserJet Black Toner	Nos
	8	HP 415A Original LaserJet Toner	Set (full)
	9	Toshiba T-2323c	Nos
	10	Toshiba T-5018c	Nos
15	Tender Security	The Tender Security: BDT 50,000.00 (Fifty thousand) only	
16	Price of Tender Document (Tk)	1,000/- (One Thousand) Only (Application to be submitted for procurement of tender documents)	
17	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Professor Dr. Mohammed Helal Uddin Executive Vice-Chairman Microcredit Regulatory Authority MRA Bhaban, F-14-D/1 Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207. Fax No: 8333257, e-mail: evc@mra.gov.bd	
18	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings		

UYGHUR DEPORTATIONS US issues Thailand security alert

AFP, Bangkok

The United States issued a security alert to its citizens in Thailand yesterday, warning of the possible risk of reprisal attacks after the kingdom deported dozens of Uyghurs to China.

The Thai government has suffered intense criticism from around the world for its decision to hand over at least 40 Uyghurs, who were flown by special plane to China's northwestern Xinjiang region on Thursday.

Beijing is accused of committing human rights abuses in Xinjiang, including the incarceration of around one million Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities. It denies the allegations.



LATEST TARIFF THREAT China accuses US of fentanyl 'blackmail'

REUTERS, Beijing

Beijing yesterday accused the United States of exerting "tariff pressure and blackmail" after President Donald Trump's latest threat to slap an extra duty of 10 percent on imports from China, citing a continued flow of fentanyl into the country.

The fresh China tariffs, in addition to a tariff of 10 percent levied on February 4, coincide with Wednesday's start of China's annual parliamentary meet.

Washington had "used the fentanyl issue to insist on tariff pressure and blackmail," foreign ministry spokesperson Lin Jian told a daily briefing.

"It has created a serious impact, pressure, coercion and threat to the dialogue and cooperation between the two sides in the field of drug control," Lin said of the tariffs, warning that they would backfire.

"Remarkable results have been achieved," he added, from China's anti-drug cooperation with the United States, saying China was the world's first country to officially control fentanyl-like substances.



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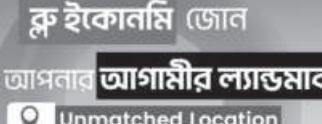
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২০ বিদ্যা

৩০০ ফিট
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২০ বিদ্যা

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কর্তৃবাজার
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স্লেট)

৬০ বিদ্যা

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