



People attend a "United for Gaza" demonstration in support of Palestinians, in Berlin, Germany, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Pak Taliban claim attacks that killed 23

AFP, Peshawar

The Pakistani Taliban yesterday claimed responsibility for deadly attacks in several northwestern districts that killed 20 security officials and three civilians.

The attacks, which included a suicide bombing on a police training school, were carried out on Friday in several districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province that borders Afghanistan.

Militancy has surged in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa since the withdrawal of US-led troops from neighbouring Afghanistan in 2021 and the return of the Taliban government in Kabul.

Eleven paramilitary troops were killed in the border Khyber district, while seven policemen were killed after a suicide bomber rammed an explosives-laden car into the gate of a police training school in Dera Ismail Khan district, which was followed by a gun attack.

"Seven police personnel were martyred and 13 were injured in the attack, while six terrorists were also killed," Muhammad Hussain, a senior local police official, told AFP.

Five people, including three civilians, were killed in a separate clash between militants and paramilitary troops in Bajaur district, security officials told AFP on Saturday.

The Pakistani Taliban, the Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP), claimed responsibility for the attacks in messages on social media. The group is separate to but closely linked with the Afghan Taliban.

FIRST PHASE OF GAZA DEAL Trump wins, but will it stand test of time?

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump has undeniably scored a diplomatic victory by helping to broker a truce for Gaza, but the path to the lasting peace he says he wants for the Middle East is littered with obstacles.

And it remains to be seen whether the 79-year-old Trump - who is not exactly known for his attention to the fine print - will devote the same level of energy to the conflict over the long term, once his victory lap in the region is over next week.

"Any agreement between Israelis and Palestinians, but especially one indirectly brokered between Israel and Hamas is an extraordinary achievement," Aaron David Miller, who worked for multiple US administrations of both parties, told AFP.

"Trump decided to do something that no American president... of either party has ever done, which is to pressure and squeeze an Israeli prime minister on an issue that that prime minister considered vital to his politics," said Miller, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

But Miller, who has participated in Middle East peace talks over the years, warned of the "universe of complexity and detail" that remains to be hashed out with respect to the implementation of phase two of the deal.

The Israeli army said its troops had ceased fire at 0900 GMT Friday in the Gaza Strip, in anticipation of the release of all Israeli hostages, dead and alive, in the subsequent 72 hours, in compliance with the deal it reached with Palestinian armed group Hamas.

Trump has said he expects to head to the Middle East today, with stops in Egypt, where the talks took place, and Israel.

Given that every US president over the past 20 years has been unsuccessful in resolving crises between Israel and the Palestinians,

Trump's accomplishment is already remarkable.

But the president has broader aspirations - to revive the Abraham Accords reached during his first White House term, under which the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Morocco offered Israel diplomatic recognition.

Officials and foreign policy observers agree that Trump deftly used a mix of carrot and stick - publicly and privately, and especially with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu - to get the deal done.

He also leveraged his strong ties with Arab and Muslim leaders including Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

For Miller, Trump clearly played a "decisive" role. But while the

for Gaza that will not include the Palestinian militant group.

Trump insisted Thursday that "there will be disarming" by Hamas and "pullbacks" by Israeli forces.

Then on Friday, he added: "I think there is consensus on most of it, and some of the details, like anything else, will be worked out."

But his administration will need to work hard to finalise the deal, and ensure that Arab countries in the region are invested in helping rebuild a devastated Gaza.

A team of 200 US military personnel will "oversee" the Gaza truce, senior US officials said Thursday.

Miller said there are "operational" holes in the plan as it stands, including "no detailed planning for



agreement's first phase appears to be on track, much remains undefined, including how - and if - Hamas will agree to disarm after two years of devastating conflict in the Palestinian territory.

Steven Cook, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, wrote: "Whether this leads to an end to the war remains an open question."

Cook says the challenge now is to fully implement Trump's 20-point plan, which calls for Hamas to surrender its weapons, the creation of an international stabilisation force and new governing structures

either how to decommission and/or demilitarise Gaza, even if you had Hamas's assent, which you don't."

The plan also calls for the creation of a so-called "Board of Peace," a transitional body to be chaired by Trump himself - a proposal Hamas rejected on Thursday.

"Despite coming to office eager to shed America's Middle East commitments, Trump just took on a huge one: responsibility for a peace plan that will forever bear his name," wrote Robert Satloff, executive director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

RSF attack kills 60 in Sudan

AFP, Port Sudan

A drone and artillery attack killed at least 60 people at a displacement camp in Sudan's El-Fasher yesterday, activists said, as the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces intensifies its assault on the western city.

The resistance committee for El-Fasher, the North Darfur state capital, said the RSF hit the Dar al-Arqam displacement centre on the grounds of a university.

"Children, women and the elderly were killed in cold blood, and many were completely burned," it said.

"The situation has gone beyond disaster and genocide inside the city, and the world remains silent."

The committee had initially put the toll at 30 dead, but said bodies remained trapped underground.

It later said 60 were killed in the attack involving two drones and eight artillery shells. The local resistance committees are activists who coordinate aid and document atrocities in the Sudan conflict.

The RSF has been at war with the regular army since April 2023. The conflict has killed tens of thousands of people, displaced millions and pushed nearly 25 million into acute hunger.

El-Fasher, the last state capital in the vast region of Darfur to elude the RSF's grasp, has become the latest strategic front in the war.

CRISIS IN FRANCE

Lecornu again appointed PM

Tasked with forming govt

AFP, Paris

Pressure mounted yesterday on France's newly reappointed premier Sebastian Lecornu to get an austerity budget approved, as more parties threatened to topple a man whose first term lasted a mere 27 days.

President Emmanuel Macron reinstated Lecornu late Friday, just four days after Lecornu's resignation and the collapse of his just-announced government.

The reappointment provoked outrage across the political spectrum and pledges to vote it down at the first chance.

In order to create a longer-lasting government, Lecornu pledged Saturday to work with all the mainstream political movements and that he would select cabinet members who are not "imprisoned by the parties."

His reappointment comes as France faces political deadlock and a parliamentary impasse over a cost-cutting budget against a backdrop of climbing public debt.

Lecornu, 39, must form a cabinet to present a 2026 draft budget on Monday. Outgoing Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau told members of his right-wing Republicans (LR) party that they should "not take part" in Lecornu's next government, though he did not call to vote it out of office.

Meanwhile the leftist Socialists, a swing group in parliament, said they had "no deal" with Lecornu and would oust his government if he did not agree to suspend a 2023 pensions reform that increased retirement age from 62 to 64.

The country faces EU pressure to curb its deficit and debt, and it was the fight over cost-cutting measures that toppled Lecornu's two predecessors.

Survival of bees, butterflies at risk in Europe: IUCN

AFP, Abu Dhabi

The survival of Europe's wild pollinators is increasingly at risk, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) said Saturday as it declared dozens of bee and butterfly species as threatened.

Almost all flowering plants in Europe depend on wild pollinators, particularly bees, but habitat loss and climate change were driving many vital species to the brink of extinction.

Nearly 100 additional types of wild bees have been classified as threatened in the most comprehensive evaluation of their status to date by the global authority on the state of the natural world.

At least 172 out of 1,928 assessed species of wild bees faced extinction in Europe compared to 77 in 2014, the latest update of the IUCN's authoritative "Red List of Threatened Species" showed.

"Wild bee populations are in drastic decline and cannot be easily replaced by managed colonies," said Denis Michez from the University of Mons, who led the wild bees research.

"If wild bees disappear, many wild plants might be at risk too - of which flower-rich meadows and beautiful orchid species are just a few examples."

The assessment also revealed that the number of threatened European butterfly species increased by 76 percent over the last decade.

More than 40 percent of butterfly species unique to the continent, and found nowhere else in the world, were classified as threatened or close to being so.

Up to 90 percent of flowering plants in Europe rely on insect pollination, including four out of five crop and wildflower species.

Habitat loss remains the primary threat to European wild bees and butterflies, with farming and forestry damaging the landscapes crucial to pollinator survival like flower-rich meadows, the IUCN said. The widespread use of fertilisers and pesticides was also reducing flower diversity and negatively impacting the viability of pollinating species, it added.

Climate change now affects just over half of all threatened species of butterflies in Europe.



Activists of the Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) party shout slogans near their party headquarters, as authorities blocked the road with shipping containers, in Lahore yesterday. Several thousand members of a hard-right Pakistan Islamist party began marching towards the capital yesterday, after violent clashes with police during anti-Israel protests in Lahore they plan to march to the US embassy to voice its opposition to the US-brokered ceasefire between Israel and Hamas.

PHOTO: AFP

Mexico flood kills 28

AFP, Tulancingo

Floods caused by torrential rains have killed at least 28 people in Mexico this week and left behind a trail of destruction, local authorities across the country said Friday.

Mexico's civil defense authorities reported intense rainfall in 31 of 32 states, causing rivers to overflow, flooding entire villages, triggering landslides and collapsing roads and bridges.

The central state of Hidalgo has been among the worst-affected areas, with authorities there reporting at least 16 dead, 1,000 homes damaged and 90 communities inaccessible to rescuers.

প্রেস ইনস্টিটিউট বাংলাদেশ (পিআইবি)

গণমাধ্যম বিষয়ে ৩ মাসের

ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি সার্টিফিকেট কোর্স ২০২৫

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