

9 kids, woman killed in Pak air strikes

Says Afghanistan, vows to respond; Islamabad denies claims

REUTERS

Afghanistan's Taliban administration said yesterday that nine children and a woman were killed in Pakistani air strikes and vowed to respond, ratcheting up tensions between the South Asian neighbours.

The bombardment overnight reported by Kabul followed a series of attacks in Pakistan that Islamabad blames on militants based in Afghanistan.

Pakistan denied carrying out any attack. According to state broadcaster PTV, military spokesman Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said: "Pakistan has not attacked Afghanistan."

"Whenever we conduct a strike, it is announced openly and properly," he said. "Pakistan never attacks civilian populations. The allegations of the interim Afghan government are baseless."



A ceasefire had held in recent weeks between Afghanistan and Pakistan after the outbreak of deadly border clashes in October, although the two sides failed to come to an agreement in peace negotiations.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said Islamabad struck three eastern provinces that border Pakistan, calling it a "violation of Afghanistan's sovereignty and a clear breach of all internationally accepted norms by the Pakistani authorities".

"Defending our air space, territory, and people is our legitimate right," Mujahid said in a statement. "At an appropriate time, a necessary response will be given."

Islamabad says that militants based in Afghanistan stage attacks in Pakistan and that Kabul has not responded to repeated calls to take action against them. The Taliban denies that its soil is used by Pakistani militants.

On Monday, suicide bombings killed three paramilitary personnel in Peshawar in Pakistan, with security officials saying that they tackled the assailants and averted greater casualties.

A suicide bomber killed 12 people in Islamabad earlier this month, the first time civilians had been targeted in the Pakistani capital for a decade. A day previously, another bomber rammed an explosive-laden vehicle into the main gate of a military school in South Waziristan district, near the Afghan border, killing three people.

Islamabad says that it has traced all three attacks to Afghanistan. Last month's clashes between Pakistani and Afghan militaries killing dozens of people in the worst violence since the Taliban returned to power in Afghanistan in 2021.



People protest in al-Azhar Square yesterday after recent attacks on the Alawite minority, an offshoot of Shia Islam, in Latakia, a coastal city in Syria's Alawite heartland.

PHOTO: AFP

HIV prevention programme hit hard by funding cuts: UNAIDS

REUTERS, Geneva

People living with HIV have died due to service disruptions caused by major funding cuts, while millions of people at risk of contracting HIV have lost access to prevention tools, a new report from UNAIDS said yesterday.

"Persistent funding shortfalls and the perilous risks facing the global HIV response are having profound, lasting effects on the health and well-being of millions of people throughout the world," the report by the United Nations agency focusing on the HIV/AIDS pandemic stated.

UNAIDS' community partners have reported deaths of people living with HIV due to the shuttering of local

clinics and treatment, although the exact number remains unclear as data collection is ongoing.

The global AIDS response entered "crisis mode" when the largest donor, the United States - which accounted for 75 percent of international HIV funding - temporarily halted all HIV-related funding earlier in the year, UNAIDS said.

Though some HIV programmes have since resumed with funds from the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), overall funding continues to decline, jeopardizing 2030 targets to end AIDS as a public health threat, UNAIDS said.

Currently, 40.8 million people are living with HIV, with 1.3 million new infections reported in 2024, according to the UN agency.



Displaced Palestinians gather beside tents in a flooded area during heavy rain in Gaza City yesterday. Cold weather has worsened the plight of children and the elderly amid severe shortages of blankets, winter clothing, and heating.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Israeli strikes killed 127 Lebanese since ceasefire: UN

REUTERS, Geneva

The UN human rights office said yesterday that at least 127 civilians had been killed in Lebanon in strikes by the Israel military since a ceasefire nearly a year ago, and called for an investigation and for the truce to be respected.

"Almost a year since the ceasefire between Lebanon and Israel was agreed, we continue to witness increasing attacks by the Israeli military, resulting in the killing of civilians and destruction of civilian objects in Lebanon, coupled with alarming threats of a wider, intensified offensive," said Thameen Al Kheetan, spokesperson for the UN human rights office, at a Geneva press briefing.

He said the number included deaths it had verified based on its own strict methodology but that the real level could be higher.

But Kheetan told reporters in Geneva "all the fatalities we have documented as a result of this strike were civilians, raising serious concerns that the Israeli military's

attack may have violated international humanitarian law principles on the conduct of hostilities".

"There must be prompt and impartial investigations into the Ain El-Hilweh strike, as well as all other incidents involving possible violations of international humanitarian law by all parties, both before and after the ceasefire," he insisted.

"Those responsible must be brought to justice." Asked who should carry out the investigations, he said: "When we're talking about strikes conducted by the Israeli military, the Israeli military should investigate its own actions.

"Of course, the Lebanese state has the responsibility to investigate similar violations that can occur from its side."

Kheetan highlighted that continuing Israeli attacks in Lebanon had also destroyed and damaged civilian infrastructure. "They have also severely hampered reconstruction efforts and attempts by internally displaced people to go back to their homes in southern Lebanon," he said.



Sudan warring factions not yet accepted peace plan
Says US envoy

REUTERS, Abu Dhabi

The United States presented the warring Sudanese army and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) with a strong text for a peace plan but neither side has accepted it, senior US envoy Massaad Boulos said yesterday.

Trump said last week he would intervene to stop the devastating conflict, which broke out in April 2023 and has spread famine and ethnic killings across the country and threatened a split, the second in its history.

Previous efforts led by the United States, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates have failed to bear fruit. The group submitted a proposal to the two forces in early November.

Boulos, U.S. President Donald Trump's advisor for African and Arab affairs, said both Sudan's warring factions had welcomed the U.S. plan but neither had formally accepted the text.

AI BREAKTHROUGHS

Trump launches 'Genesis Mission' to speed research

AFP, Washington

President Donald Trump signed an executive order Monday establishing the "Genesis Mission," a national initiative to harness AI for scientific breakthroughs, comparing its scope to the Manhattan Project that produced the atomic bomb during World War II.

The plan is part of the Trump administration's aggressive, low-regulation strategy to boost big tech's race to stay ahead of China on artificial intelligence and cement US dominance in the fast-expanding field.

The White House is also seeking ways to legally stop US states from implementing their own AI regulations and has threatened to rescind federal aid to states that do so.

The order on Monday tasked the Department of Energy with building an integrated AI platform that will combine the nation's supercomputers, federal scientific datasets and research facilities to accelerate discovery in fields ranging from nuclear fusion to semiconductor manufacturing.

'2029 will be a dangerous time, BJP won't stay in power': Mamata

THE INDIAN EXPRESS ONLINE

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee yesterday predicted that the BJP will not stay in power in 2029, when the next Lok Sabha elections are scheduled, and said that after Bengal's Assembly elections in 2026, she would "tour the nation".



Addressing a rally in Bongaon, a border district with a sizeable Matua population in North 24 Parganas, Banerjee accused the BJP of trying to win Bengal using the Election Commission and the

Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, claiming that, unlike in Bihar, she "understands the game being played".

"2029 will be a dangerous time for you (BJP). Your government will not stay in 2029. Hurting the people of Bengal is hurting me. If you hurt me, I will shake the nation. After the elections, I will tour the nation. Remember, an injured tiger is more dangerous," Banerjee said. She also held a

padayatra in the area.

"In the Bihar elections too, you highlighted ghuspaaythiyan (infiltrators). In Bihar, they (Opposition parties) could not catch your game. But we will catch your game here. The BJP will also lose in Gujarat in the next elections," she said.

Banerjee said that the state government would have fully assisted the Election Commission if they "had done SIR properly".

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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e-Tender Notice: OTM

Ref No. 35.03.0000.000.004.07.0019.25-870;

Date: 25 November 2025

An e-Tender has been invited in e-GP System National Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following goods and related services by Director (Operation), Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), BRTA HQ, Chairmanbari, Banani, Dhaka-1212.

SL No.	Tender ID	Description	Tender publication date & time	Tender document last selling date & time	Tender closing/ opening date & time
01	1181170	Procurement of online meeting system and support service for BRTA HQ	25-Nov-2025 09:00 Hours (BST)	09-Dec-2025 16:00 Hours (BST)	10-Dec-2025 15:00 Hours (BST)

This is an online tender where only e-Tenders will be accepted in National e-GP Portal System (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). No offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender please register on e-GP Portal. Informations and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

For further information, visit: <https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>

Tasneem Omar
 25.11.2025

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GD-2555