

Pak Taliban kill 6 soldiers near Afghan border

Says Pak official

AFP, Peshawar

Pakistani Taliban militants stormed a security checkpoint in Pakistan's northwestern border area with Afghanistan, killing six soldiers and wounding four others, a government official said yesterday.

Pakistan has faced a surge in militant attacks along its border regions since the Taliban authorities retook control in Kabul in 2021.

It accuses Afghanistan of harbouring the insurgents.

Late Monday, more than a dozen armed men attacked the checkpoint, leading to a heavy exchange of fire in Kurram. "Six security personnel were martyred and four were injured, while two militants were also killed in the fighting," the government official posted in Kurram told AFP.



Young people throw stones at an Israeli army armoured vehicle during a military raid in the Al-Amari refugee camp near Ramallah in the Israeli-occupied West Bank yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Nepal okays 114 parties for post-uprising polls

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal's Election Commission said yesterday that 114 political parties, several new, have been approved to contest the first polls since a mass uprising ousted the government.

Commission spokesman Narayan Prasad Bhattarai told AFP the election in the Himalayan nation of 30 million people was on track for March 5, 2026.

"About 19 million eligible voters have registered their names," Bhattarai said. "We assure everyone that the election will take place in the given time," he added, saying officials were determined to ensure a "free, impartial and peaceful environment".

Around a fifth of the 114 parties are new, and include several registered by young activists who helped launch the anti-corruption protests that shook the country on September 8-9.

Those protests were triggered by a brief ban on social media, but fuelled by wider anger at economic hardship and corruption.

The World Bank estimates a "staggering" 82 percent of Nepal's workforce is in informal employment.

Thai-Cambodia clashes spread along border

Death toll rises to 10; over 140,000 civilians flee violence

AFP, Srei Snam

Fighting between Thailand and Cambodia yesterday spread to new parts of their contested border as the toll rose to 10 killed and more than 140,000 civilians fled the violence.

The two countries have blamed each other for the renewed clashes over their century-old border dispute, which saw Thailand launch air strikes and use tanks against its neighbour on Monday.

Cambodia's influential former leader Hun Sen said his country had retaliated against Thailand, after Phnom Penh denied firing back for two days.



Thai forces detect Cambodian troops in a disputed coastal area

Cambodia says Thai army resumed attacks in the morning

This week's clashes are the most deadly since the neighbouring nations engaged in five days of intense combat in July that killed dozens of people and displaced around 300,000 before a truce took effect.

Tens of thousands of people have evacuated from border regions since the fresh fighting began on Sunday, officials said. Cambodian Poan Hay, 55,

said she left her home in Oddar Meanchey province on Monday as soon as she heard gunfire -- the fourth time she evacuated this year due to on-and-off fighting on the frontier.

Seven Cambodian civilians have been killed in total and about 20 wounded this week, Cambodia's interior ministry said in a statement. More than 21,000 people have been displaced from three border provinces, the ministry added.

The defence ministry said the Thai army had resumed attacks around 5:00 am yesterday in border regions, including in the area of centuries-old temples, such as the Unesco world heritage site, the Preah Vihear temple.

The Thai army said three soldiers have been killed since Monday.

Tensions have simmered since Thailand last month suspended de-escalation measures that were agreed at a summit overseen by Trump on July, after a Thai soldier was maimed by a landmine that Bangkok said Cambodia had recently laid.

Thai navy spokesperson Parat Rattanachaiphon said in a press conference that Thai forces recently detected Cambodian troops, settlements and several weapon bases in a disputed coastal area of Trat province.

Parat accused Cambodia of escalating tensions by deploying unmanned drones to provoke Thai forces.

Australia bans under-16s from social media

AFP, Sydney

Australia banned young teenagers from social media yesterday, launching a world-first crackdown designed to unglue children from addictive scrolling on the likes of Facebook, Instagram and TikTok.

A raft of the world's most popular apps and websites face US\$33 million fines if they fail to purge Australia-based users younger than 16.

Australia becomes one of the first nations to so forcefully push back against tech titans wielding immense political power.

The government says unprecedented measures are needed to protect children from "predatory algorithms" filling phone screens with bullying, sex and violence. "Too often, social media isn't social at all," Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said ahead of the ban.

"Instead, it's used as a weapon for bullies, a platform for peer pressure, a driver of anxiety, a vehicle for scammers and, worst of all, a tool for online predators."

The laws came into effect after midnight local time across Australia.

Trump hints at walking away from Ukraine

Calls Europe 'weak', 'decaying'

AGENCIES

Donald Trump has suggested he could withdraw support for Ukraine as he escalated his administration's criticism of Europe, describing the continent as "weak" and "decaying" and claiming it was "destroying itself" through immigration.

In an often rambling interview with Politico, released in transcript form yesterday, the US president struggled to name any Ukrainian cities other than Kyiv, mischaracterised aspects of the war's trajectory, and repeated far-right narratives about European immigration that echoed the "great replacement" conspiracy theory.

Trump called for Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelensky, to accept his proposal to cede territory to Russia, arguing that Moscow retained the "upper hand" and that Zelensky's government must "play ball".

In his often halting remarks, Trump swerved from subject to subject while rehearsing familiar grudges and conspiracies. He also declined repeatedly to rule out sending American troops into Venezuela as part of his effort to bring down President Nicolás Maduro, reports The Guardian online.

"I don't want to rule in or out. I don't talk about it," Trump said, adding he did not want to talk about military strategy.

No Gaza truce second phase

Says Hamas as Israel 'continues violations'

AFP, Gaza City

Hamas said yesterday that the Gaza ceasefire plan cannot proceed to its second phase as long as Israeli "violations" persist and called on mediators to pressure Israel to respect the agreement.

The US-sponsored ceasefire, in effect since October 10, halted the war that began after Hamas's deadly attack on Israel on October 7, 2023. But it remains fragile as Israel and Hamas accuse each other almost daily of breaches.

Meanwhile, an Israeli official said that authorities would allow the Allenby crossing on the Israeli-controlled border between Jordan and the occupied West Bank to reopen today to aid trucks destined for Gaza for the first time since late September.

Hamas political bureau member Hossam Badran accused Israel of failing to respect the Gaza ceasefire deal, noting that under its terms, Israel should have reopened the Rafah crossing with Egypt and increased the volume of aid entering the territory.

He urged the mediators, who include Egypt, Qatar and the United States, to pressure Israel "to complete the implementation of the first phase of the ceasefire agreement".

Under the terms of the deal, Hamas committed to releasing the remaining 48 living and dead captives held in the territory. All of the hostages have so far been released except for one body.

In exchange, Israel has released nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners in its custody and returned the bodies of hundreds of dead Palestinians.

The first phase of the truce also stipulates that significantly more aid enter Gaza.



Government of the people's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Police
Rapid Action Battalion Forces Headquarters
Kurmitola, Dhaka-1229
www.rab.gov.bd

Invitation For e-Tender

For financial year 2025-2026, e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of :

SL	Tender ID No & Reference No	Description of goods	Last selling Date & Time	Closing/ Opening Date & Time
1.	1190642, RABHQ/CPS/2025-2026/4112316/1715 Date:04-12-2025	Backpack IMSI Catcher	31-Dec-2025 09.00	31-Dec-2025 12:00

This is an online tender, where only e-tender will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-tender, registration in the national e-GP system portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the national e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP system portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

Tenderer having clarity requirements are requested to contact at 01777-720118 (Senior Assistant Director, Central Procurement Section).

KAMRUL HASSAN
Commander BN
Director (Admin & Finance)
RAB Forces Headquarters, Dhaka.

GD-2701

ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED
395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area
Dhaka-1208

Local Press Tender Notice

Tender ref: EDCL (Gopalganj)/PUR/PT/2025/445 **Dated 09/12/2025**

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from Genuine Importers/Suppliers/ Authorised dealers for Supply of Spider Safety Equipment for outside and inside of Building Glass Cleaning and Painting works at EDCL,3rd Plant Gopalganj on urgent basis:

Name of the Item	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Schedule	Last date of Closing & opening
Petzel Rope, Stop lock Petzl, Shunt Lock Petzl, Petzl full body Harness etc for Spider of quoted Safety Equipment to clean the glasses outside and inside of Building at EDCL,3rd Plant Gopalganj. Delivery site: EDCL, 3rd Plant Gopalganj (Details as per Tender Schedule)	Tk. 2.5% of quoted amount	Tk. 750.00/set (Non-refundable)	Closing : 24/12/2025 At 11.00AM Opening : 24/12/2025 at 11.15 AM

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited (EDCL), Dhaka on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender. The Tender will be accompanied by a amount of Earnest Money mentioned above in the form of Bank Draft/ Pay order/ Bank Guarantee from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of " Essential Drugs Company Ltd" without which the Tender will be considered as non-responsive. EDCL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Deputy General Manager (CC)
Procurement Deptt.
For : Managing Director.

(6 x 4 col.)