

# Boko Haram militants kill 60 in attack in Nigeria

MAIDUGURI (Nigeria), Sept 7 (AP)

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BOKO Haram militants killed dozens of people in a nighttime assault on a village in north-eastern Nigeria that is home to residents who recently returned from a closed camp for internally displaced persons, residents and authorities said.

The attack on Darul Jamal in the Bama local government area took place late on Friday and killed at least 60 people, a resident of the village, Mohammed Babagana, told The Associated Press.

Borno state Governor Babagana Zulum, who visited the attacked community late Saturday evening, confirmed to reporters that over 60 died in

the attack.

“We sympathise with the people and have pleaded with them not to abandon their homes as we have made arrangements to improve security and provide food and other lifesaving items that they have lost,” Zulum said.

The chairman of Bama’s local government, Modu Gujja, said over a dozen houses were burnt and more than 100 people were forced to flee their homes.

Taiwo Adebayo, a researcher specialising in Boko Haram at the Institute for Security Studies, spoke to local residents of Darual Jamal and said the killings on Friday night were carried out by a faction of Boko Haram known as Jama’atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda’awati wal-Jihad.

# India backs WTO-centred fair trade system at SCO Trade Ministers' meeting

NEW DELHI, Sept 7 (IANS)

INDIA emphasised the need for an open, fair, inclusive and non-discriminatory multi-lateral trading system centred around WTO norms, at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Trade Ministers' Meeting in Vladivostok, Russia,

Commerce and Industry Ministry announced on Sunday.

India highlighted the scope to leverage the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's (SCO) collective strengths for shared prosperity and the need for export diversification, reducing dependency, and building

Secretary, Department of Commerce, who represented the Commerce Minister on behalf of India, came out strongly for coordinated action to enhance trade flows, address vulnerabilities, and support inclusive growth across the region, which accounts for 42 per cent of the world's population and 17.2 per

cent of global trade.

He highlighted the importance of a development-centred agenda that includes a permanent solution on Public Stockholding (PSH) for food security purposes, effective Special & Differential Treatment (S&DT) for developing countries, and restoration of a fully func-

tional two-tier WTO dispute settlement system.

He also underlined the role of services trade and the temporary movement of skilled professionals, in line with national laws and transparency, to strengthen economic growth and support greater participation of MSMEs in global value chains.



amid the ongoing uncertainty in global trade triggered by the US tariff turmoil, the

resilient supply chains at the meeting held on Saturday.

Amitabh Kumar, Additional

## India cautions against misuse of export measures at SCO Trade Ministers meet

NEW DELHI, Sept 7 (PTI)

INDIA has cautioned against weaponising export-related measures or misusing them to create artificial scarcity, distort markets, or disrupt supply chains at an SCO meeting, an official statement said on Sunday.

At the SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation)

Trade Ministers' Meeting in Vladivostok on September 6, India said that calibrated and transparent use of these steps is essential to maintain trust in international commerce.

India has also called for addressing persistent trade deficits by ensuring greater market access and simplifying processes for trade facilitation.

These remarks are important as India's auto and electronics sector faced issues due to export restrictions on rare earth magnets and fertiliser by China.

China is a member of the organisation.

India also warned that trade-linked climate measures should not result in arbitrary or unjustified discrimination.

# Baloch Insurgent Groups claim series of deadly attacks on Pak security forces

BALUCHISTAN, Sept 7 (ANI)

ARMED Baloch separatist factions have claimed responsibility for a series of coordinated attacks on Pakistani security forces and related targets across several districts of Balochistan, according to a report by The Balochistan Post (TBP).

The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) stated that its fighters carried out operations between 13 and 15 August in Mastung, Kalat, Quetta, and Mand.

The group claimed two Pakistani soldiers were killed in Mand's Koh Pusht Giab area after its fighters ambushed them while they were patrolling on a motorcycle. The BLA also alleged that its members seized the soldiers'

weapons after the incident, TBP reported.

The BLA's spokesperson, Jeeyand Baloch, added that its fighters launched a grenade attack on a police station in Quetta's New Sariab area, reportedly causing casualties and damage.

On August 15, the group said it targeted a convoy of military vehicles and motorcycles in Kalat's Manguchar area. Additionally, on August 13, the BLA claimed responsibility for torching the office of a transport company in Mastung, accusing it of supplying resources to Pakistani forces.

Meanwhile, the Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF) claimed its fighters clashed with securi-

ty forces in Mastung district on the night of 3 September.

According to the group, fighters established a blockade on the Quetta-Karachi highway near Khadkucha, triggering a two-hour exchange of gunfire. The BLF alleged that Pakistani troops deployed drones and artillery during the confrontation but suffered casualties, while its fighters retreated unharmed, TBP reported.

The BLF further accused Pakistani forces of shelling civilian areas following the clash, which it said injured a guard at a health facility in Mastung's Umar Dor area. Pakistani authorities have not issued any official response regarding these incidents, according to TBP.

## Undersea cables cut in Red Sea, Internet access in Asia, West Asia disrupted

in a Red Sea campaign by Yemen's Houthi rebels, which the rebels describe as an effort to pressure Israel to end its war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip. But the Houthis have denied attacking the lines in the past.

NetBlocks, which monitors Internet access, said "a series of subsea cable outages in the Red Sea has degraded Internet connectivity in multiple countries," which it said included India and Pakistan. It blamed "failures

affecting the SMW4 and IMEWE cable systems near Jeddah, Saudi Arabia." The South East Asia-Middle East-Western Europe 4 cable is run by Tata Communications, part of the Indian conglomerate. The India-

Middle East-Western Europe cable is run by another consortium overseen by Alcatel-Lucent. Both firms did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Saudi Arabia did not immediately acknowledge the disruption

and authorities there did not respond to a request for comment. In the United Arab Emirates, home to Dubai and Abu Dhabi, Internet users on the country's state-owned Du and Etisalat networks complained of

# Russia hits Ukraine with over 800 drones, decoys

■ The attack was the largest Russian drone strike since full-scale invasion of Ukraine began. Two killed, smoke rises from the roof of Kyiv's Cabinet of Ministers building.

KYIV, Sept 7 (AP)

RUSSIA hit Ukraine's capital with drone and missiles Sunday in the largest aerial attack on the country since the war began, killing at least two people and leaving smoke rising from the roof of a key government building.

Russia attacked Ukraine with 805 drones and decoys, officials said. Yuriy Ihnat, a spokesperson



Smoke rises from the Cabinet of Ministers building after a Russian strike in Kyiv, Ukraine. (AP/PTI)

for Ukraine's Air Force, confirmed to 'The Associated Press' that Sunday's attack was the largest Russian drone strike since the

full-scale invasion of Ukraine began. Russia also launched 13 missiles of various types.

Ukraine shot down and neu-

tralised 747 drones and 4 missiles, according to a statement from the Air Force.

There were nine missile hits and 56 drone strikes in 37 locations across Ukraine. Debris from shot-down drones and missiles fell on 8 locations.

'Associated Press' reporters saw a plume of smoke rising from the roof of Kyiv's Cabinet of Ministers building, but it was not immediately clear if the smoke was the result of a direct hit or debris, which would mark an escalation in Russia's air campaign. Russia has so far avoided targeting Government buildings in the city centre.

The building is the home of Ukraine's Cabinet, housing the offices of its Ministers. Police blocked access to the building

as fire trucks and ambulances arrived. Ukrainian officials said two people were killed and 15 injured in the attack.

"For the first time, the Government building was damaged by an enemy attack, including the roof and upper floors," said Ukraine's Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko. "We will restore the buildings, but lost lives cannot be returned."

"The world must respond to this destruction not only with words, but with actions. There is a need to strengthen sanctions pressure — primarily against Russian oil and gas," she said.

Among the dead was a 1-year-old child, whose body was dug out of the rubble by rescuers, said Tymur Tkachenko, the head of Kyiv's city administration.

# JAPAN'S PM ISHIBA TO STEP DOWN



TOKYO, Sept 7 (AP)

**JAPAN'S** Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba announced on Sunday he will step down following growing calls from his party to take responsibility for a historic defeat in July's parliamentary election.

Ishiba, who took office in October, had resisted demands from mostly right-wing opponents within his own party for more than a month, saying such a step would cause a political vacuum when Japan faces key challenges in and outside the country. The resignation came one day before his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) was

to decide whether to hold an early leadership election, a virtual no-confidence motion against him if approved.

Ishiba said during a televised press conference he would start a process to hold a party leadership vote to choose his replacement and that there was no need for Monday's decision.

If the Prime Minister had stayed on, he would have inevitably struggled to manage his divided party and minority Government.

In July, Ishiba's ruling coalition failed to secure a majority in the 248-seat Upper

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