

Israeli military strikes Iranian targets in Syria

Agency
Beirut, Jan. 21

Israeli fighter jets struck Iranian Quds targets inside Syria on Monday and, after coming under fire from anti-aircraft missiles, struck Syrian defense batteries as well, the Israeli military said. Syrian state media cited a Syrian military source as saying Israel launched an "intense attack through consecutive waves of guided missiles", but that Syrian air defenses destroyed most of the "hostile targets".

Witnesses in Damascus said loud explosions rang out in the night sky for nearly an hour.

Israel's military said its aerial bombardment targeted "Iranian Quds military sites in Syria", including munition storage sites and a site located in the Damascus

International Airport, along with an Iranian intelligence site and an Iranian military training camp. "During the strike, dozens of Syrian surface-to-air missiles were launched, despite clear warnings to avoid such fire. In response, several of the Syrian Armed Forces' aerial defense batteries were targeted," the military said in a statement. The Quds Force is in charge of Iran's Revolutionary Guards' overseas operations.

Monday's overnight strikes followed cross-border attacks on Sunday in which Syria said it repelled an Israeli air attack. Israel said it intercepted a rocket fired at the Golan Heights.

"We have a permanent policy, to strike at the Iranian entrenchment in Syria and hurt whoever tries to hurt us," Israeli Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu said earlier.

The Israeli army said a popular ski site on Mount Hermon in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights would be shut for the day. It added that otherwise things remained "routine" along the frontier with Syria.

Netanyahu last week acknowledged an Israeli attack on what he called an Iranian arms cache in Syria, where Tehran provides Damascus with vital support. He told his cabinet Israel had carried out "hundreds" of attacks over the past years of Syria's war to curtail Iran and its ally, Lebanon's Hezbollah. Usually silent about its attacks on Iranian targets near its frontier, Israel has lifted the veil this month, a sign of confidence in a campaign waged amid occasional tensions with Syria's big-power backer, Russia.

We have the talents, only need focus to shine in any sports discipline: Biswajit

DIPR
Imphal, Jan. 21

Information and Public Relations Minister Thongam Biswajit Singh, yesterday, said that our people has talents in every sports discipline, however, we only need focus to shine in any sports.

Biswajit was speaking at the prize distribution ceremony of the 1st State Level South East Youth Organisation, SEYO Tennis Tournament, 2019 at Akampat yesterday.

The minister who is also the local MLA, said that the construction of a Mini Hockey stadium at the ground is under process. He added that there is also a plan to develop a water body for water sports in the area.

Regarding the lack of the sport's development in the State, the Minister said that we can develop tennis if we focus on the sports. The youths of the State only need encouragement and motivation, he said, adding that, if we want to develop a sports, we should provide the same equipments and facilities as provided outside. He continued that that our



talented youth only need encouragement to shine in any field.

Biswajit also said that if we want to dominate in sports, we should ensure that our talented sportspersons play for the State.

Information and Public Relations Director H. Balkrishna Singh who attended the function as the guest of honour, described himself as an ardent fan of the sport and further expressed

the need to promote the sport more in the State.

He called for a concerted effort from all to promote the sports in the State.

Balkrishna also attracted the interest of the government to improve and promote the sports in the State by improving the infrastructure and facilities in the State.

Urging the government to install tennis facilities in all districts, the IPR Director said that it will go a long way in

producing more achievers in the sports from the State which is known as a sports power house in the country.

Meanwhile, prizes were also distributed to the winners and participants of the tournament today. According to organisers, around 40 players participated in three categories at the tournament. The tournament held at the SEYO Tennis Court, Akampat, Imphal East had commenced from January 17, 2019.

Eastern Army Commander to Visit Manipur

IT News
Imphal, Jan. 21

General Officer Commanding-in-Chief the Eastern Army Command, Lieutenant General MM Naravane, AVSM, SM, VSM will arrive in the state on a three day visit from 21st to 23 Jan 2019. The Army Commander will be briefed on the security situation in the state and will review the operational preparedness of the formation. The Army Commander is responsible for security of borders with China along Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh in the north, with Bangladesh along West Bengal, Meghalaya, Tripura and Assam and with Myanmar along Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram in the east. The Army Commander holds wide operational and administrative experience and took over his present appointment on 01st Oct 2018. He has in depth



knowledge of issues in the North East having been the formation commander of IGAR (North) as well.

Lt Gen Naravane was commissioned into the 7th Battalion Sikh Light Infantry in June 1980. An alumnus of the National Defence Academy in Pune and the Indian Military Academy in Dehradun, he has tenanted critical command and staff appointments in peace, field

and active Counter Insurgency environment both in the North East, Jammu and Kashmir and as part of Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka. The officer also commanded a Rashtriya Rifles Battalion in Jammu and Kashmir, an Infantry Brigade on the Eastern Front, Inspector General Assam Rifles (North) in the North East and a Strike Corps of the Indian Army. He also served as the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Army Training Command before taking up his current assignment. He also served as an instructor at the Army War College and was the Indian Defence Attache to Myanmar. Lt Gen Naravane also holds a Masters degree in Defence Studies from Chennai University and has acquired M.Phil in Defence and Management Studies from DAVV, Indore.

BJP ally JD(U) to oppose Citizenship Bill in Rajya Sabha, send team to Assam to back protest

Agency
Guwahati, Jan. 21

After abstaining from voting on the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016, in the Lok Sabha, the BJP's ally JD (U) Sunday said it would oppose the Bill in the Rajya Sabha and send a team to Guwahati to support the agitation against it.

The decision was taken at a meeting of JD (U) office-bearers in Patna, with party president and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar present, and comes weeks after the NDA ally took a stand against the triple talaq Bill. The JD (U) has also decided to hold a meeting of its national executive in the last week of February.

JD (U) national spokesperson K C Tyagi told The Indian Express, "We have decided to oppose the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016, because it is against the spirit of Assamese 'asmita'. The party has decided to send me and party national vice-president Prashant Kishor to Guwahati on January 27." Asked whether the party has taken the stand with the coming elections in mind,

Tyagi said, "Though we have not yet decided to field any candidate in Assam or any other part of the Northeast, we are an independent party and can take our stand."

Passed by the Lok Sabha on January 8, the Bill is yet to be introduced in the Rajya Sabha. It proposes to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955, by relaxing the eligibility rules for an immigrant to get Indian citizenship. The Bill seeks to

relax the minimum period of residence in India criteria for certain sections of immigrants — Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians — from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Political parties and the civil society in Assam are protesting against the Bill, claiming it will change the region's demography and violates the 1985 Accord.

Meghalaya mine collapse: Body disintegrates with 'every pull', suspending operations, says Navy

Agency
New Delhi, Jan. 21

Days after spotting the body of one of the 15 missing miners in Meghalaya, the Indian Navy Sunday suspended operations to retrieve it citing "too much disintegration."

The body was detected at a depth of 160 feet and at a lateral distance of 210 feet in a rat-hole tunnel with the help of footage from an underwater remotely operated vehicle (ROV), officials said. Meanwhile, the Meghalaya government is likely to apprise the Supreme Court of the problems in continuing with the search-and-rescue operations. The Navy will now put forward its observations before the apex court and then act according to the suggestions. "The Navy today suspended the pulling of the remains, which they had been trying since yesterday evening, as too much disintegration (of the body) took place with every pull by the ROV jaw," operation spokesperson R Susngi told news agency PTI. The Navy had earlier said that there is a probability of the body breaking into pieces and disintegrating if attempts are

made to retrieve it. However, the families of those trapped inside since December 13, 2018, now at least want their bodies recovered — even if it's just a finger, a hand or a leg.

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma said the retrieval is difficult because of two reasons — the Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) which detected it cannot pull it out because the body is too heavy for it and it is not possible for rescue divers to go inside the mine because of the water level. Also, Sangma said the body was decomposing. "The body is soft. Every time they are trying to pull it's coming off some pieces," Sangma had said.

The 15 miners are trapped inside an illegal rat-hole mine in Meghalaya's East Jaintia Hills for over a month now. Sangma said since December 26, about 2 crore litres of water had been pumped out, but "the water level has not gone down".

In the last 46 hours, the Coal India had pumped out over 52 lakh litres of water from the nearby abandoned mines, but it was not enough to bring

down the water level that was causing hindrances in the rescue work, Susngi said. The Kiriolkar Brothers Limited, which has also joined the rescue efforts, had managed to pump out over 45 lakh litres of water, he said, adding that the Odisha Fire Services had pumped out approximately 4.5 lakh litres.

Afghan Taliban kill 12 in car bomb attack on military base: officials

Agency
Kabul, Jan. 21

The Afghan Taliban killed at least 12 security force members in a car bomb attack on a military base in the southern province of Maidan Wardak on Monday, officials said. More than 28 security officials were wounded in the attack at the sprawling military base when the militants detonated the car bomb and two gunmen entered the compound, government officials said. The Taliban claimed responsibility.

Assam Rifles Installs Solar Street Light

IT News
Churachandpur, Jan. 21

As part of the continued endeavor of the Assam Rifles towards improving standard of living and providing basic facilities, Sajik Battalion of 28 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South)

installed two Solar Street Lights at Saisom Village, Churachandpur District on 17th January 2019 under OP SADBHAVANA Project 2018-19.

To alleviate the problems faced by the villagers due to the prevalent socio-economic conditions and remoteness of

the location and no access to electricity connectivity, Sajik battalion installed two solar street lights in this village. Solar lights distribution were well received by the local populace and expressed their heart felt gratitude for the efforts taken by Assam Rifles to improve their lives.

IGAR (South) Greets on Manipur Statehood Day

IT News
Imphal, Jan. 21

Major General K P Singh, YSM, Inspector General Assam Rifles (South) and all ranks of Assam Rifles extend warm greetings and goodwill to the people of Manipur on the occasion of Statehood Day.

IG Assam Rifles (South) conveys his earnest message of peace, harmony, unity and understanding on this auspicious occasion and appeals to the citizens of Manipur to join hands to make Manipur a great and prosperous state. The wheels of development can move faster only when there is peace in the region. May Manipur continue to scale new heights of growth in the times to come.

Moreh Battalion Assam Rifles & Police Apprehend Kcp (N) Cadre

IT News
Moreh, Jan. 21

In a series of apprehensions, Moreh battalion of 26 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (S) has apprehended a total of three active cadres of different banned outfits in last 24 hours.

On 20 Jan 2019 based on specific information and relentless joint patrolling by Moreh battalion and Moreh police, an active cadre of KCP (N) was apprehended from area near Sun Rise Ground, Moreh.

On preliminary questioning, the individual identified himself as Private Laishram Suni Singh aged 25 years, son of L. Angoutang Singh, resident of Yairipok Bishnu Naha Mayai Leikai. He was enrolled into the outfit in July 2018. The apprehendee has been handed over to Moreh police.

Ahead of Republic Day, Moreh Battalion is carrying out intense patrolling along Indo Myanmar Border and also joint patrolling with Moreh Police to curb nefarious design of anti national elements in the sensitive town.

Encounter underway in Kashmir Valley

Agency
Srinagar, Jan 21

An encounter broke out on Monday between security forces and militants in Budgam district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said. Security forces launched a cordon and search operation in Hapatnaar area of Budgam District following information about presence of militants in the area, a police official said. He said the search operation turned into a gunbattle after militants opened fire on security forces. No casualties have been reported so far in the encounter, he added.