

INTERNATIONAL THE NEWS

TTP financiers held in Karachi

KARACHI: The Crime Investigation Department (CID) on Friday held three financiers of the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan from Mauripur and recovered arms and vehicles from their possession.

Intelligence sources said the TTP in order to accelerate the funding process has hired youngsters from Karachi, belonging to Jaish-i-Mohammed, Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, Harkat ul-Jihad-i-Islami and other militant outfits.

The TTP was facing a shortage of funds in its ongoing war with the Army in the tribal areas and to overcome the problem they had sent some of their members to Karachi to raise funds. It was further learnt that the TTP-affiliated outfits were involved in bank robberies, robbing people who had withdrawn cash from banks and money changers, besides kidnapping for ransom in the city.

These organisations had links with Baitullah Mehsud, who had sent trained people to Karachi and other big cities of the country and directed them to get jobs in security firms or similar professions. Many were deployed at banks or money changers. Once they were appointed there they were asked to commit robberies.

A striking example was a recent robbery in the H&H Exchange Company in which the criminals belonged to Wana, and were reportedly sent by Baitullah Mehsud. Sources maintained after this disclosure, the CID had asked security firms for their record. The CID then started a strict vigil on security guards and the criminal activities reported in recent days and apprehended the financiers of the TTP from Karachi.

SSP Fayyaz Khan of CID said during the course of the investigation they got a tip-off that some criminals having links to the TTP were present in Mauripur. The SSP along with his staff raided the site and after a brief gun battle arrested Tariq alias Junaid, Wasim alias Gadda and Muddasir from Wazir Mansion.

Two vehicles, AEX-682 and a Toyota Corolla car APV-290 were recovered, besides arms. He added that during the course of the investigation the accused disclosed that they worked for the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan and were assigned to arrange funds.

They further disclosed that they had also kidnapped persons from Karachi for ransom and the ransom amount was taken by their leaders in Dara Adam Khel. Recently, they had kidnapped a Christian, Lister Lobo, from the Cantt area of Karachi and asked his family to go to Dara Adam Khel and pay the ransom money. After getting Rs 0.9 million as ransom, they released Lobo. Further investigations are under way.