
**NATO-led forces under fire in Afghanistan**

Five soldiers from NATO-led forces and a civilian have been killed by two separate improvised explosive devices in Afghanistan on Friday. A young suicide bomber, about 15 years old, has also killed three civilians in the south of the country. Four soldiers of NATO’s International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and one civilian were killed by an IED in the northwestern province of Kunar on Friday, the ISAF said in a statement.

The International News, 2 August 2008

**Insurgent attacks hampering aid in Afghanistan**

Insurgent attacks in Afghanistan have hit record highs this year with hundreds of civilians killed, including 19 aid workers, and spreading insecurity cutting back relief work, aid groups said on Friday. Unrest had spread to once stable areas and welfare agencies were forced to scale back aid delivery even as drought and food price hikes put millions of people in difficulty, the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief said. There were 463 insurgent attacks in May and 569 in June, it said in a statement, citing figures from a range of sources, including the Afghanistan NGO Safety Office.


**Taliban militants killed planting bomb**

Three Taliban militants were killed when a roadside bomb they were planting exploded prematurely in eastern Afghanistan, officials said today. A doctor working for the Taliban was among those killed in yesterday's blast in the eastern Paktika province, the Interior Ministry said in a statement. The bomb was being placed on a main road in the province, it said. Militants regularly attack Afghan and foreign troops with roadside bombs. The number of insurgent attacks in eastern Afghanistan, which borders Pakistan, has risen by 40% this year compared to the same period in 2007.


**Afghan president on a state visit to India**

Afghanistan’s President Hamid Karzai will arrive New Delhi Sunday evening on a two-day state visit. Karzai, arriving here from Colombo after attending the two-day SAARC Summit from August 2, will hold talks with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on a wide range of issues, particularly focusing on India's reconstruction and developmental efforts in Afghanistan. Karzai will be accompanied by Dr. Rangin Dadfar Spanta, minister of foreign affairs and Dr. Zalmai Rassoul, national security advisor.

AfghanistannNews.Net, 4 August 2008

**Karzai accorded ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhawan**

Afghan President Hamid Karzai was accorded a ceremonial welcome by his Indian counterpart President Pratibha Patil at the forecourt of the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhawan today. Expressing his delight on visiting India, Karzai said, I'm extremely happy to be in India. The country of long deep friendly relations with Afghanistan, the country that has specially helped Afghanistan in past six years with generosity and affection, the country that has fortunately for all of us growing importance in the world. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh with whom Karzai is to hold talks on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern to both countries also greeted him.


**Colombia sends troops to Afghanistan**
Colombia will become the first Latin American country to participate in the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, the Spanish daily El Pais reported Thursday. The Colombian unit comprising about 100 soldiers will be integrated into a Spanish force based in Qal-i-Naw in northwestern Afghanistan, the report said. The Colombian soldiers, whose participation has been under negotiation for months, were expected to arrive in Afghanistan in the spring of 2009.


Afghan agents free German hostage
Information that a businessman who holds dual Afghan and German citizenship had been kidnapped in Kabul became public on Wednesday. Germany’s foreign office said they believed the abduction was criminally motivated. Security sources in Kabul said the businessman had been in Afghanistan for about six months and was kidnapped one evening after work about two weeks ago.

AfghanistannNews.Net, 10 August 2008

20 Taliban killed in Afghanistan
Twenty Taliban have been killed in combat with Afghan and international security forces while a bomb destroyed a police vehicle, killing five policemen, authorities have said. A convoy of Afghan police and international soldiers was ambushed in the western province of Farah on Friday (local time), provincial police chief Khalilullah Rahmani said. The forces hit back, including using air strikes. The US-led military coalition confirmed its soldiers had been involved but was not able to give a figure for rebel losses.

AfghanistannNews.Net, 10 August 2008

Troops kill women in Afghanistan
US-led coalition troops inadvertently killed four women and a child in a gun battle in central Afghanistan that also left several militants dead, the force said. Troops were threatened by militants during an operation in Ghazni province aimed at a Taliban militant alleged to be coordinating foreign rebels in Afghanistan, it said in a statement. As coalition forces approached a compound, they were threatened by several armed militants. The force responded with small-arms fire, killing the militants and inadvertently killing four women and a child located with them, it said.


5 Afghan civilians killed
U.S.-led coalition forces 'inadvertently' killed four women and a child during a clash with militants in central Afghanistan, the military said Friday. Meanwhile, a coalition service member died in a roadside blast in the nation's west. Civilian deaths are a sore point between the Afghan government and foreign troops here. Afghan President Hamid Karzai has pleaded with the U.S. and NATO to avoid killing innocents and undermining already tenuous popular support for his government. Military officials have pointed out that insurgents often hide in civilian-heavy areas.


Airstrikes kill eight civilians, 25 militants in Afghanistan
Eight civilians and at least 25 insurgents were killed in airstrikes by US-led coalition forces in southern Afghanistan, the military statement said Monday. According to the statement, the combined Afghan and coalition forces launched the offensive in Khas Uruzgan district in the restive Uruzgan province after a group of militants attacked them Sunday. The militants ambushed the coalition troops and then fled into a neighbouring compound where they held 11 civilians, including several children and
an infant, the statement said.


**Canada Afghan troop deaths mount**
A Canadian soldier has been killed in Afghanistan, the 90th soldier to die since Canada's mission there began in 2002, the Canadian military says. Master Cpl Erin Doyle died when militants attacked a post in the Panjwayi district in the southern province of Kandahar, officials said. He was the second Canadian to be killed in Afghanistan in the past three days.


**Three Red Cross workers killed in central Afghanistan**
Three aid workers with the International Committee for the Red Cross and their Afghan driver were shot to death Wednesday in central Afghanistan, police said. The aid workers, all women, were killed in the Qalah Rahmat area of Puli Alam, the capital of Logar province, Abdul Majeed Latifi, provincial security chief, told Deutsche Presse-Agentur dpa. The workers are citizens of Ireland, Canada and the United States, said Latifi, who moved the aid workers' bodies to the provincial hospital.


**An Afghan lifeline, plagued by insurgents**
Not far from here, just off the highway that was once the showpiece of the U.S. reconstruction effort in Afghanistan, three U.S. soldiers and their Afghan interpreter were ambushed and killed six weeks ago. The soldiers died as their vehicles were hit by mines and rocket-propelled grenades. At least one was dragged off and chopped to pieces, according to Afghan and Western officials, the body so badly mutilated that at first the military announced it had found the remains of two men, not one, in a field.


**Tribute paid to Afghan aid worker**
Tributes have been paid to University of Ulster research fellow Dr Jacqueline Kirk. She was one of three female aid workers with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) shot dead in an ambush, along with their Afghan driver, near Kabul.


**2 coalition troops killed in Afghanistan**
Two soldiers with the International Security Assistance Force died Friday after an attack in eastern Afghanistan, the ISAF said. The military said they were wounded by an improvised explosive device and small arms fire. The ISAF did not release their nationalities.


**Over 3 dozen militants killed in S Afghanistan**
The U.S.-led Coalition forces and Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) have eliminated more than three dozens of militants over two days of fierce fighting in southern Afghanistan, said a Coalition statement released on Friday. Several groups of militants engaged ANSF and Coalition forces reconnaissance patrol with machine guns, RPGs (Rocket Propelled Grenade) and small arms, the statement said.


**Suicide bombing near U.S. base kills 9 Afghan civilians**
U.S. and Afghan officials say a suicide bombing outside a U.S. military base in
eastern Afghanistan has killed nine Afghan civilians and wounded 13 others. Officials say the car bombing Monday in Khost province did not penetrate the military base. The governor of Khost province, Arsala Jamal, says the victims from the blast were Afghan laborers. He says a second attacker approached authorities investigating the first blast, but was shot dead before detonating explosives.


Police deployed in Kabul to guard against Taliban attacks
The Afghan police ordered 7,000 officers onto the streets of Kabul to guard against attacks on senior leaders during Independence Day celebrations Monday, responding to signs of the Taliban's growing strength near the capital. Even the location of the celebration of Afghanistan's 89th anniversary of independence from Britain was kept secret and was to be closed to the public to try to minimize the risk insurgents could again disrupt a national commemoration.


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Suicide attack kills nine civilian labourers in Afghanistan
A suicide car bomb blew up on Monday outside a US military base in eastern Afghanistan, killing nine civilian labourers, as the country marked Independence Day under the shadow of extremist attacks. The blast, claimed by the insurgent Taliban, did not penetrate the base in Khost and security forces were able to prevent a second suicide attack moments later, the US-led coalition and Afghan officials said. Kabul was locked down with 7,000 police on patrol and checkpoints at nearly every city centre intersection and main entry points into the capital.


3 Polish soldiers killed in Afghanistan
Three Polish soldiers were killed on Wednesday in a roadside blast in central Afghanistan, officials said. Polish Defence Ministry spokesman Jacek Poplawski said the blast occurred in the central Ghazni province. A fourth soldier was wounded. The attack comes days after 10 French NATO paratroopers were killed and 21 others were wounded in Kabul province.


Three Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan
Three Canadian soldiers were killed and another was wounded in a roadside bombing in south Afghanistan, officials said Friday. The soldiers, serving under the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), were in a vehicle when it was struck Wednesday by a bomb in Zhari district of Kandahar province, the Canadian military said. 'All four soldiers were evacuated to Kandahar airfield,' Brigadier General Denis Thompson, a Canadian military commander, told reporters at the base. 'Sadly, three of the soldiers were confirmed dead by medical authorities.'

30 militants killed in Afghan battle
US-led coalition troops killed more than 30 insurgents in a battle in eastern Afghanistan while three Polish soldiers serving with Nato forces died in a roadside blast elsewhere, officials said yesterday. Afghanistan is experiencing a surge in violence despite Western efforts to stabilise the country. French President Nicolas Sarkozy rushed to the country on Wednesday to reassure French troops and the world of its commitment after a massive Taliban ambush near Kabul this week killed 10 of his country’s paratroopers and wounded 21 others.


17 Taliban rebels killed in Afghanistan
At least 17 taliban rebels have been killed in an offensive mounted by the Afghan National Army (ANA) and police forces in the southern Afghan province of Helmand, an official said Saturday. Mohammad Hussein Andiwal, the provincial police chief told reporters that the operation was launched early Friday in Nad Ali district. 'The fire fight last for around three hours during which only one ANA soldier got injured,’ he said.


Afghan president condemns civilian killings
Afghan President Hamid Karzai on Saturday condemned a U.S.-led coalition air strike his government says killed 76 civilians, most of them women and children. Civilian casualties are an emotive issue for Afghans, many of whom feel foreign forces take too little care when launching air strikes. Support for the presence of international troops is waning and anti-U.S. demonstrations broke out on Saturday.


Danish Soldier Killed In Afghanistan
A Danish soldier serving with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization-led forces in Afghanistan was killed Monday when his tank drove over an improvised explosive device, the Danish military said in a statement. The death brings to 16 the number of Danish troops killed in Afghanistan since it deployed soldiers there for NATO’s International Security Assistance Force in 2001 - one of the highest per-capita death tolls among coalition forces.


US investigating civilian deaths in Afghanistan
The United States says it shares Afghan President Hamid Karzai’s concerns about civilian casualties caused during fighting in that country and that an investigation is under way. Karzai has fired two Afghan army officers following a joint Afghan-U.S.-led operation that he says killed at least 89 civilians. White House spokesman Tony Fratto told reporters Monday in Crawford, Texas, that NATO forces in Afghanistan take every precaution to try to avoid innocent civilian casualties.


Afghanistan more dangerous for British soldiers than Iraq has ever been
Afghanistan is now more dangerous for British troops than Iraq has ever been, a new report has revealed.
It shows eight out of every 1,000 UK servicemen are being killed in NATO’s mission to tame the Taliban in the Afghan badlands. That is more than the coalition death rate of 7.5 per 1,000 personnel during the worst of the fighting in Iraq. In newly pacified Baghdad and Basra, the rate is now down to less than three per 1,000, The Sun reported. Statistics revealed by the Medical Research Council also show that for
the first time, coalition soldiers are suffering more deaths in Afghanistan than Iraq - 136 compared to 134 since May.


**Afghan police find body of Japanese hostage**

Police and Afghan villagers Wednesday found the body of a Japanese aid worker who was abducted by four armed men Tuesday in the eastern province of Nangarhar, officials said. Kazuya Ito’s death was confirmed by the aid agency that he worked for and regional officials. Japanese officials would only confirm that a body of a Japanese man had been found. Noor Zaman, an official from Peshawar-Kai, the Japanese aid group Ito worked for, told DPA that 'the body has been seen and confirmed by our other colleagues in the area.'


**Thirty Taliban killed, wounded in Afghanistan**

Afghan and international forces killed or wounded more than 30 militants in fighting in the south and southeast of the country, the Defence Ministry and the US military said on Thursday. Violence has surged in Afghanistan with more than 2,500 people, including 1,000 civilians, killed in the conflict in the first six months of this year, according to aid agencies. Afghan and international soldiers killed and wounded 18 insurgents in clashes in the district of Arghandab in the southern province of Zabul, the Defence Ministry said in a statement on Thursday.


**More than 100 Taliban killed in Afghanistan fighting**

US-led coalition and Afghan forces killed more than 100 suspected Taliban militants in four days of fighting and airstrikes in the southern province of Helmand, the coalition said Thursday. The fighting occurred from Monday through Thursday when Afghan and coalition forces were attacked by insurgents 'multiple times', sparking several engagements, a coalition statement said. 'The patrols returned fire and called in close-air support against the insurgents,' it said, adding that no Afghan or coalition forces or civilian casualties were reported.


**Afghan president fast losing his popularity**

Afghan President Hamid Karzai is fast losing popularity in the streets of his capital, as he is being blamed for the absence of peace in the country, where the Taliban insurgency is gaining momentum despite the presence of over 8,000 soldiers of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). 'Since his appointment as president he has never thought about the people of Afghanistan. Rather he is bent upon appeasing his foreign masters,' says Mesi Ameri, who has lived in Kabul since his birth in 1957.


**Suicide bomber, dozens of Taliban killed in Afghanistan**

A suicide bomber attacked a convoy of international troops in Kabul, killing only himself, while dozens of Taliban militants were killed in clashes with Afghan and international forces elsewhere, officials said Saturday. A bomber detonated his explosives-laden vehicle near a convoy of international forces in Pajhman, on the western outskirts of Kabul Saturday morning, killing himself but causing no casualties among the NATO soldiers, provincial police chief Mohammad Ayoub Salangi said. Kabul has seen a spate of attacks by Taliban militants, who lost power in late 2001 in a US-led military invasion and have since waged a bloody insurgency
against the Afghan government and some 70,000 foreign forces stationed in the country.


30 Taliban militants killed in Afghanistan
At least 30 Taliban militants have been killed in clashes with security forces in the southern Afghan province the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) in the southern Afghan province of Helmand, the police said Sunday. Most of the clashes took place in the districts of Gereshk, Nawad and Nad Ali where the ANSF had been conducting operations since Friday to flush out the insurgents, provincial police chief Mohammad Hussein Andiwal told reporters.