

33 rebels said killed in Afghanistan

Coalition soldier, 6 civilians slain

AFP, Kandahar/Kabul

Afghan authorities yesterday said 33 militants were killed in an air strike and other operations in the insurgency-hit southern province of Helmand.

Twenty-six Taliban were killed in an air strike conducted by foreign forces near the town of Lashkar Gah late Friday, said Daud Ahmadi, a spokesman for the local administration there.

"A group of Taliban were targeted from the air by coalition forces. Twenty-six enemy fighters were killed in that strike," Ahmadi told AFP. He said the rebels left their dead comrades behind as they fled the scene.

The US-led coalition denied involvement in the incident while Nato's International Security Assistance Force could not immediately provide information.

General Sher Mohammad Zazai, the commander of the Afghan army for southern Afghanistan, said seven other rebels were killed elsewhere in Helmand the same day.

The general said the rebels were killed during operations recently launched across southern Afghanistan to push back the militants from their strongholds ahead of presidential polls in August.

Earlier a soldier in the US-led coalition was

killed in an attack on his convoy in eastern Afghanistan on Saturday, the force said, a day after three other international troops lost their lives in the fight against the Taliban.

Afghan authorities meanwhile reported that six civilians were killed when a roadside bomb tore through their vehicle in the western province of Herat late Friday.

"A coalition service member was killed during an attack on a convoy in eastern Afghanistan... today," the coalition said in a statement.

It did not give further details including the exact location where the incident took place.

Hours earlier, the separate Nato-led International Security Assistance Force announced that one of its soldiers was killed by an improvised bomb in southern Afghanistan. A total of four foreign troops have been killed since Friday.

With the latest casualties, 146 foreign soldiers have died since the start of this year, the bloodiest since 2001.

There are close to 90,000 foreign, mainly Western, forces based in Afghanistan fighting an increasingly bloody insurgency being waged by the Taliban since they were ousted from power in a US-led offensive in late 2001.

Brown 'hurt' and could 'walk away tomorrow'

AFP, London

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown admitted he had been "hurt" by criticism aimed at him and said he could easily "walk away from all of this tomorrow", in an interview published yesterday.

Brown told The Guardian newspaper that he would not be worried if he never saw his Downing Street office again and accepted he was not the communicator he would like to be.

Brown's authority has been shaken by the resignation of several ministers -- some accompanied with sharp personal attacks -- the lawmakers' expenses scandal and a heavy drubbing for his governing Labour Party in recent European Parliament and English local elections.

Though Labour is well behind in the opinion polls with a general election due inside 12 months, Brown insisted he could lead Labour to victory.



Palestinian Hussein Shawish (R) and his grandson walk past the rubble of destroyed buildings near their new mobile house in Gaza City on June 17. Hamas distributed hundreds of mobile houses, donated by Turkey, to accommodate those who have lost their homes during the December-January Israeli offensive.



Supporters of the Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) chant slogans during a torch rally in protest against the government in Kathmandu on Friday. Maoist demonstrators have been protesting daily following the collapse of the ex-rebels' government after Nepalese president vetoed the Maoist government from sacking the head of the army.

Sanction to harden DPRK stance

AFP, Seoul

North Korea said Saturday UN sanctions would not work on the communist state but only harden its will to build up its military.

Rodong Sinmun, the official daily of the North's ruling communist party, said the sanctions would not hurt the country which has a "self-reliant economy," warning

the moves would meet unspecified retaliatory steps.

"It is ridiculous and contemptible for enemy forces to clamour for toughening sanctions and blockade against us," the daily said.

"This would not even hurt a hair of the people who have been living a self-sustaining life, living with their own means on their own land," it said.

North Korea would respond to "rifle shots with gun shots, gun shots with missiles and nuclear weapons with nuclear weapons."

"Our determination to strengthen our self-defensive military power hundreds of thousands of folds is becoming firmer day after day," it said in a lengthy commentary titled "The nature of the Korean people."

Truck bomb kills 25 near Iraqi mosque

AP, AFP, Baghdad

Police have raised the toll in a truck bombing near a Shia mosque in northern Iraq to at least 25 people killed and more than 100 wounded.

Brig. Gen. Sarhat Qader says Saturday's explosion occurred following noon prayers south of the disputed city of Kirkuk.

The attack struck near a mosque in Taza, a predominantly Turkmen Shia town, at around 1:00 pm (1000 GMT) and claimed women and children among its victims, the head of the morgue at Kirkuk hospital said.

The attack, which took place around 400 metres (yards) from the Shia Al-Rasoul mosque, also seriously damaged dozens of houses, with police saying that many victims could still be

under the rubble.

An AFP reporter at the scene said the bomb left a deep hole in the ground.

It is the bloodiest attack in Iraq since May 20, when a car bomb tore through a Baghdad street full of diners, killing 40 people and wounding 83.

The Taza bombing comes barely a week ahead of a deadline for US troops to withdraw from Iraq's cities, towns and villages as part of a landmark security accord signed between Washington and Baghdad in November.

Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki warned earlier this month that insurgents and militias would likely step up their attacks in the coming weeks in a bid to undermine confidence in Iraq's own security forces.

Carter offers new path to talks with US: Hamas

AFP, Gaza City

Former US President Jimmy Carter presented a "personal initiative" to open direct talks between Washington and Hamas during a recent visit to the region, a senior Hamas official said yesterday.

"We received a written letter from President Carter that presented a personal initiative to open direct dialogue with the Hamas movement," Mushir al-Masri, a senior Hamas leader and parliamentarian, told AFP.

Masri, who attended a meeting between Carter and Hamas prime minister Ismail Haniya in Gaza City last week, said the group would study the proposal though it would not accept the three conditions of the Mideast Quartet.

The Quartet, made up of the

United States, the United Nations, the European Union and Russia, has demanded that Hamas recognise Israel, renounce violence and accept past agreements signed between Israel and the Palestinians.

A source close to Hamas who spoke on condition of anonymity said Carter's initiative presented an alternative set of conditions -- that Hamas accept the vision of a two-state solution to the conflict embodied in the 2003 Roadmap agreement and accept the 2002 Arab League peace initiative.

The latter initiative offers full recognition of Israel by every Arab state in return for the Jewish state's withdrawal from all lands occupied in the 1967 Six Day war, including the West Bank and east Jerusalem.

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'World is watching', Obama warns Iranian govt

AFP, Washington

US President Barack Obama has warned Iran that the "world is watching" its actions, and said the United States stood with those seeking "peaceful" justice in the post-election tumult.

Obama appeared to send a nuanced message to opposition demonstrators hours after the Islamic Republic's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei demanded an end to street protests.

Despite assurances by top officials that Washington would not inject itself into the crisis, both houses of the US Congress voted to condemn violence against demonstrators by the government of Iran.

"I'm very concerned based on some of the tenor -- and tone

of the statements that have been made -- that the government of Iran recognise that the world is watching," Obama said Friday in an interview with CBS News.

"And how they approach and deal with people who are, through peaceful means, trying to be heard will, I think, send a pretty clear signal to the international community about what Iran is and -- and is not," he said.

Obama, who this month made a major address to the Muslim world from Cairo, said that the United States stood behind those in Iran who sought peaceful justice -- but took pains to stress he was not intervening in the crisis.

Asked whether he had a message to the demonstrators, who planned to hold a new rally Saturday, Obama replied, "I absolutely do."

"We stand behind those who are seeking justice in a peaceful way."

"We stand with those who would look to peaceful resolution of conflict and we believe that the voices of people have to be heard, that's a universal value that the American people stand for and this administration stands for."

The president also attempted to debunk claims by some in the Iranian leadership that the opposition demonstrators were acting at the behest of the United States, which has had a long history of antagonism with Iran.

"Let's understand that this notion that somehow these hundreds of thousands of people who are pouring into the streets in Iran are somehow responding to the West or the United States."

Bangladesh Bridge Authority

Setu Bhaban

New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka-1212

Website: www.bba.gov.bd

Invitation for Tenders

1	Ministry/Division	Bridges Division, Ministry of Communications (MoC),
2	Agency	Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA)
3	Procuring entity name	Md. Liaquat Ali, Deputy Director (Road), BBA, Dhaka.
4	Procuring entity code	Not available.
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
6	Invitation for	Construction of Flexible Pavement with Asphalt Wearing Course from Round About of Service Road to Guide Bund via Operator Office of East Bridge End Facility Area of Bangabandhu Bridge, Tangail.
7	Invitation Ref. No.	BBA/Sada/Tech-39/2009-415.
8	Date	June 11, 2009
KEY INFORMATION		
9	Procurement method	Open tendering method.
FUNDING INFORMATION		
10	Budget and source of funds	BBA/GoB.
11	Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
12	Project/programme code (if applicable)	Not applicable.
13	Project/programme name (if applicable)	Not applicable.
14	Tender package No.	1 (one).
15	Tender package name	Construction of Flexible Pavement with Asphalt Wearing Course from Round About of Service Road to Guide Bund via Operator Office of East Bridge End Facility Area of Bangabandhu Bridge, Tangail.
16	Tender publication date	Date: June 18, 2009
17	Tender last selling date	Date: July 09, 2009
18	Tender closing date and time	Date: July 12, 2009
19	Tender opening date and time	Date: July 12, 2009
20	Name & address of the office(s)	<p>- Selling tender document (principal)</p> <p>- Selling tender document (others)</p> <p>- Receiving tender document</p> <p>Opening tender document</p>
		Accounts Section, Bangladesh Bridge Authority, Setu Bhaban, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka.
		Not applicable.
		Conference Room (2nd Floor), Bangladesh Bridge Authority, Setu Bhaban, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka.
21	Pre-tender meeting	A pre-tender meeting shall be held.
	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	Chief Engineer, Room 405, BBA, Setu Bhaban, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka-1212 at July 01, 2009 at 11:00am.
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
22	Eligibility of tenderer	<p>i) The minimum period of general experience of the tenderer in the road construction/maintenance work shall be 10 (ten) years.</p> <p>ii) The required number of flexible pavement with asphalt wearing concrete work contracts completed shall be at least 3 (three) Nos. over a period of last 5 (five) years and the value not less than Tk 1 (one) crore of each contract.</p> <p>iii) The intending tenderer shall have to apply in their letterhead to the designated officer to obtain permission for the issuance of the tender documents.</p>
23	Brief description of works	Construction of Flexible Pavement with Asphalt Wearing Course from Round About of Service Road to Guide Bund via Operator Office of East Bridge End Facility Area of Bangabandhu Bridge, Tangail.
24	Brief description of related services	Not applicable.
25	Lot No.	1
	Identification of lot	
	Location	
	Price of tender document (Tk)	1000.00
	Tender security amount (Tk)	2,80,000.00
	Completion time in months	6 (six) months
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
26	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Liaquat Ali.
27	Designation of official inviting tender	Deputy Director (Road).
28	Address of official inviting tender	Bangladesh Bridge Authority, Setu Bhaban, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka-1212.
29	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel No: 9862014
		Fax No: 9888414
30	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.	

Md. Liaquat Ali
Deputy Director (Road)
Ph: 9862014

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No. of Vacancies: 20 (Twenty)

Educational Qualification: University Graduate

Education Stream: Any discipline.

Age Limit: 22 – 30 years.

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