



An Afghan National Army (ANA) soldier keeps watch at the site of a suicide attack near the main gate to a Nato military base in Kandahar province yesterday. A suicide car bomb exploded near the main gate of the military base in the southern city, killing two Afghans.

Taliban aim guns at US troops

Four Nato soldiers killed in attacks

AFP, Kandahar

Afghanistan's insurgent Taliban movement said Monday they had launched a guerrilla operation to thwart a major assault by newly deployed US Marines on their Helmand strongholds.

Operation Foliadi Jal, Pashtu for "iron net", would teach the Marines "a lesson". Taliban spokesman Yousuf Ahmadi told AFP by telephone from an unknown location.

Four Nato soldiers and two elderly Afghan men were killed in a bomb blast outside the northern town of Kunduz on Monday, police and the alliance said.

A senior Afghan intelligence official said the four

were Americans but the US military and Nato's International Security Assistance Force (Isaf) would not comment on their nationalities.

Their vehicles were hit by a blast as they crossed over a bridge while travelling by convoy in Kunduz province's Khan Abad district, provincial intelligence chief General Abdul Majid Azimi told AFP.

About 4,000 Marines poured into the southern province on the border with Pakistan on Thursday in an operation called Khanjar (dagger) that is the first test of a beefed-up US strategy to tackle extremist militants in the region.

24 Taliban killed in Pak tribal belt fighting

AFP, Peshawar

At least 24 suspected Taliban fighters have been killed in Pakistan's northwest, security officials said yesterday, with battles erupting in Swat valley and the lawless tribal belt.

Security forces launched an offensive against Islamists in northwest Swat in May under US pressure after militants violated a peace deal and thrust south towards Islamabad, and say they have almost secured the mountain region.

But the military has reported two dozen alleged militants killed in a recent upsurge in fighting in Swat, while air strikes continued in the tribal region ahead of a full-scale assault against Taliban chief Baitullah Mehsud.

"Security forces engaged terrorist hideouts at Tiligram," a military statement said, referring to a town about 15 kilometres (nine miles) northeast of Swat's main town Mingora.

"Fourteen terrorists were killed in an exchange of fire," it said, adding that explosives

and ammunition were seized in the area.

Four soldiers were also wounded in combat in Swat over the last 24 hours, it added, casting doubt on military assertions that swathes of the region were safe for many of the two million people displaced by the fighting to return.

Death tolls released by Pakistan are impossible to confirm independently because fighting takes place in closed military zones. Ten rebels had been reported killed in air strikes in Swat on Sunday.

In the tribal belt Monday -- where the military is carrying out near-daily air strikes ahead of a fresh offensive -- seven militants were killed and 12 wounded in attacks by fighter jets in North Waziristan.

"Seven militants were killed and 12 injured when jet fighter planes pounded Taliban hideouts at Madda Khel and Wuchhabibi," an intelligence official based in North Waziristan's main town Miranshah told AFP.

A military source in the region confirmed the attacks and death toll.

JCD's 3 units

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committee Sultan Salauddin Tuku confirmed to The Daily Star that three JCD units--DU, Dhaka City North and South had been dissolved and four leaders of DU unit expelled for "anti-organisational activities."

He said fresh committees to the dissolved units would soon be announced.

Senior Vice President of JCD central committee Shahidul Islam Babul said the decision came at a meeting at JCD central office. Top JCD leaders and BNP's Student Affairs Secretary Fazlul Haq Milon was present at the meeting.

In an immediate reaction, Saiful Islam Firoz said expulsion of the "dedicated" leaders of JCD is nothing but a part of the conspiracy to destroy BNP and JCD.

He said they would stage a demonstration today against the "illegal" expulsion of JCD leaders.

Hasan Mamun, president of the dissolved DU unit committee, also condemned the decision of expelling his colleagues.

Internal conflict has dented JCD seriously as a large section of leaders and activists of the organisation rejected the newly formed central committee leaders alleging that the top JCD leaders have link with militancy and were involved with conspiracy against BNP during its challenging period.

BNP announced names of five office-bearers of a 101-member JCD central committee Wednesday night.

Hundreds of aggrieved JCD activists immediately staged demonstration on DU campus and around the city demanding fresh leadership.

Several thousands agitating JCD leaders yesterday afternoon demonstrated in front of BNP's central office at Paltan in the city. Earlier in the morning, they formed human chain on DU campus.

France, Britain agree to stem the flow of migrants

AFP, Evian-les-bains

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown joins French President Nicolas Sarkozy in this Alpine town Monday to prepare for the G8 and agree on new efforts to stem the flow of migrants.

The 30th Franco-British summit in Evian-les-Bains follows up on Sarkozy's high-profile state visit to London in March last year when Brown proclaimed that relations were on the upswing.

It comes two days before the Group of Eight leading powers gather in the quake-stricken Italian town of L'Aquila to address a host of world problems, from the global slowdown to climate change and the Iran crisis.

Meeting on the shores of Lake Geneva, Sarkozy and Brown are to issue a joint call for G8 action to cut greenhouse gas emissions, halt erratic oil prices and closely monitor banks after the 2008 financial meltdown.

Feni BNP revolts

FROM PAGE 16

But district unit leaders and activists rejected the committee alleging that Iskandar had refrained from party activities for a long time, although Chairperson Khaleida Zia had appointed him the party's vice-president following the 11th regime change in 2007.

The local leaders alleged that Iskandar was absent in organisational activities before the announcement of convening committees on June 9, and he has no connection with the district level leaders.

Meanwhile talking to reporters, BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday claimed that the Awami League (AL)-led government has proven to be a failure in every sector in the first six months of being in power.

"We can't find a single success of the government except in extortion, tender manipulation, crime, extra-judicial killings and nepotism," he said when reporters sought his evaluation of the first six-months of the present government.

Delwar said the government is busy torturing opposition leaders and activists, and

the extent of their torture has 'dwarfed Hitler'.

He alleged the government has made the parliament a one party parliament, as 'they are not giving the opposition a chance to join it'.

He also said the country has become a market of foreign countries, the garment sector is being destroyed, and people who do not have the stamp of the ruling party are being terminated from jobs.

The BNP leader claimed that this party has been extending its hands of cooperation to the government since the very beginning of its rule, but the government has been declining to accept the gesture.

He also criticised the water resources minister for his comment that BNP has brought forward the issue of Tipaimukh Dam to shift the focus from the issue of BNP chief Khaleida Zia's Dhaka Cantonment house, from which she was asked to move out by the government.

"There is no relation between the people's demand for halting the construction of the dam and the house of Khaleida Zia," he said.

Pak Army more worried about threats from militants than India: Zardari

ANI, London

Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari, who has the backing of top military commanders for his goodwill gestures towards India, has said that the army is united in dealing with the threat emanating from militants and are no more worried about the Indian threat.

In Pakistan civil leaders always operate in the shadow of the military, but Zardari appears to have backing of the army high command for some controversial stances, a report in The Telegraph

states.

Gestures of goodwill towards India allied to a campaign to end militant influence have attracted criticism, but for the moment his opponents are at bay, it adds.

"It ruffles the small mind. It does not rattle the army, because after India and Pakistan became nuclear powers, that position of being able to take over another state is nullified," the paper quoted Zardari, as saying.

Zardari also has said he would like to be remembered in Pakistan for creating a country free of militancy.

Army blocks Zelaya from landing in Honduras

Violence turns deadly

AP, Tegucigalpa

Already volatile Honduras slid toward greater instability after soldiers 'blocked' an airport runway to keep ousted President Manuel Zelaya from returning, and protests that had remained largely peaceful yielded their first death.

Police and soldiers blanketed the streets of the capital overnight Monday enforcing a sunset-to-sunrise curfew with batons and metal poles.

The extended curfew added to the tension after a turbulent Sunday that saw soldiers clash with thousands of Zelaya backers who massed at the airport in hopes of welcoming home their deposed leader.

Zelaya's plane, on loan from Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, arrived to find the runway blocked by military vehicles and soldiers under the command of the government that has ruled this Central American country since Zelaya's ouster last

weekend.

His Venezuelan pilots circled around the airport and decided not to risk a crash.

Zelaya instead headed for El Salvador, and vowed to try again Monday of Tuesday in his high-stakes effort to return to power in a country where all branches of government have lined up against him.

"I call on the Armed Forces of Honduras to lower their rifles," he said late Sunday at a news conference, flanked by the presidents of El Salvador, Argentina, Paraguay and Ecuador, and the secretary-general of the Organisation of American States, Jose Miguel Insulza, who flew there from Washington.

"I am risking myself personally to resolve the problems without violence," said Zelaya, who planned to fly later to Nicaragua. He urged the United Nations, the OAS, the United States and European countries to "do something with this repressive regime."

Pakistan yet to respond to BSF protest after 'rocket' attack

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Attari

Amidst security concerns in Punjab's border belt following Saturday night's 'rocket' attack on Indian territory from the Pakistani side, the Border Security Force (BSF) is awaiting a response from Pakistan Rangers regarding the incident.

The BSF had lodged a 'strong protest' with the Pakistan Rangers, the border security agency of Pakistan, Sunday following three 'rockets' fired into Indian territory from the Pakistani side of the border.

India offers \$100m for Lankan Tamils

AFP, New Delhi

India on Monday offered 100 million dollars for the tens of thousands of Tamil civilians displaced by conflict in Sri Lanka.

"I propose to allocate five billion rupees for the rehabilitation of the internally displaced people and the reconstruction of the northern and eastern areas of Sri Lanka," Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee said in his budget speech to parliament.

Nearly 300,000 civilians fled their homes in the final stages of the Sri Lankan military's offensive against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam separatist force.

'Tropical zone expanding due to climate change'


AFP, Melbourne

Climate change is rapidly expanding the size of the world's tropical zone, threatening to bring disease and drought to heavily populated areas, an Australian study has found.

Researchers at James Cook University concluded the tropics had widened by up to 500 kilometres (310 miles) in the past 25 years after examining 70 peer-reviewed scientific articles.

They looked at findings from long-term satellite measurements, weather balloon data, climate models and sea temperature studies to determine how global warming was impacting on the tropical zone.

The findings showed it now extended well beyond the traditional definition of the tropics, the equatorial band circling the Earth between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.



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TENDER NOTICE

INVITATION FOR 11 KV/.415 KV SUB-STATION EQUIPMENT

For the IUB Campus @ Bashundhara

1. Sealed tenders are invited from bonafide contractors for **Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 11 KV/.415 KV Sub-station Equipment** for the under-construction Independent University, Bangladesh new campus at Bashundhara, Dhaka. This Invitation is for Technically-qualifying the contractors and accepting Bid for the scope of works, which includes 11 kV sub-station equipment.
2. 2.5% of the bid amount must be submitted as earnest money together with the tender in the form of Bank Guarantee from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh validated not less than 6 (six) months from the date of submission of tender in favour of the Independent University, Bangladesh without which the tender will be rejected.
3. The intending bidders shall apply in their letterheads to the undersigned along with the following documents in support of their eligibility to obtain tender documents.
 - i. Attested copies of documents evidencing several years of experience in supply, installation, testing and commissioning of sub-station equipment.
 - ii. Attested copies of satisfactory completion certificates from the Employer for supply, installation, testing and commissioning of 2.5 MVA sub-station equipment.
 - iii. Attested copies of the up-to-date Trade License, Income Tax Certificate and VAT Registration Certificate.
4. Tender document shall be available from the office of the undersigned on payment of non-refundable cash of **Tk.2,000/- (Taka Two Thousand)** between 06 July 2009 and 21 July 2009 during office hours.
5. The tenders will be received at the office of the undersigned up to 2:00 pm of 27 July 2009 and shall be opened at 3:00 pm on the same day at the same place in presence of the Tenderers who may like to attend the tender opening.
6. The Technical Offers will be opened 1st and evaluated based on the procedure adopted by the Authority. The Financial Offers of the technically qualified firms only will be opened in presence of Tenderers, if any.
7. The IUB reserves the right to accept only the technically responsive tender and not to accept the lowest bidder and can reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

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