

Afghan attacks kill 5 as vote nears

APP, Kandahar

Suicide and rocket attacks killed five people and wounded more than 20 others across Afghanistan yesterday, fanning security fears just over two weeks before elections.

A provincial governor survived an assassination attempt just 10 kilometres (six miles) outside the Afghan capital Kabul and eight rockets slammed into the city, wounding a child and adult, authorities said.

In the southern province of Zabul, a suicide attacker walked up to an intelligence agency vehicle in a busy bazaar and blew himself up, killing one of the agency's staff and four civilian passers-by, police said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility but the attack was similar to scores carried out by the Taliban, which routinely bombs security services in a bloody insurgency that reached record levels this year.

Sixteen civilians, including three children, two agency staffers and a policeman were wounded, deputy provincial police chief Ghulam Jilani Khan told AFP.

Zabul is one of Afghanistan's most troubled

provinces, part of the southern belt where the insurgency is strongest and where thousands of Western soldiers are pressing major battles to root out the Islamist hardliners.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for a volley of rockets fired into Kabul at about dawn, saying they were aimed at an Afghan military base and the international airport.

The interior ministry said eight slammed into the city, including one several hundred metres (feet) from the US embassy and others near the airport, in strikes that left a child wounded by shattered glass and also hurt a man.

Police found and defused a ninth rocket, interior ministry spokesman Zemra Bashay told AFP.

There are periodic rocket attacks on Kabul but they rarely cause casualties or significant damage.

Just outside the capital early Tuesday, the governor of the neighbouring province of Wardak escaped with his life when four mines placed under a bridge exploded as his vehicle crossed the ministry said.

Governor Hammad Haleem Fidye and his guards were unharmed, it said in a statement. Four suspects were

arrested.

A recent spike in violence that has seen increasing out of traditional southern and eastern strongholds has fanned fears about security in the countdown to the August 20 presidential and provincial council elections.

The vote marks only the second time in history that Afghans will vote for a head of state and has been billed as a landmark on Western efforts to build democracy since the 2001 US-led invasion forced the Taliban out of government.

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There are more than 100,000 foreign troops in Afghanistan mainly deployed under NATO and a separate US-led coalition that is trying to support Karzai's government in defeating the Taliban-led insurgency.

Amid speculation the top US command in Afghanistan may be seeking more American forces for the war, the Pentagon revealed overnight that Defence Secretary Robert Gates flew to Belgium for a secret meeting with the general.

Hope rises on hills

FROM PAGE 1

Directorate of Land Records to complete the survey within the shortest possible time.

"I will talk to the government, the land ministry, and other related authorities to assist us in verifying the claims on the spot for finding solutions," he said.

Referring to the manpower crisis in the commission office, he said there is only one staff in the office while the total number of posts is 13, and that it is running without its secretary. He urged the government to appoint the required manpower.

Our Khangrachhari correspondent reported that Additional Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong Md Nurul Islam, Khangrachhari Hill District Council Chairman Ruhity Karbari, and Mong Circle King Saching Prue attended the meeting among others.

After the meeting in Rangamati circuit house in the afternoon, Justice Khademul Islam Chowdhury said considering the real situation in CHT, if necessary, the existing Land Act will be amended to resolve the land disputes in the region.

"It's the first meeting and more such meetings will be arranged after forming the full commission. We're not being able to start our work due to a shortage of staff in the commission," he added.

Our Rangamati correspondent reported that the Chakma king, who was present at that meeting as well, said some contradictions are prevailing in the commission. The CHT Regional Council already sent recommendations to the land ministry for reforming the commission, he added.

Implementation of the accord however lost momentum after the last BNP-Jamaat alliance government assumed state power in 2001. The alliance opposed the commission, he added.

The Rangamati meeting was also attended by Additional Divisional Commissioner Nurul Islam, Rangamati Deputy Commissioner Sourendranath Chakrabarty, ADC (revenue) SM Selim Reza, ADC (general) Biswajit Bhattacharya, Executive Officer of CHT Regional Council Krishnachandra Chakma, and Councillor of Rangamati Hill District Council Aungsoi Prue Chowdhury.

Meanwhile, leaders of Bandarban Engine Boat Owners' Association said they had postponed all types of transportation in Bandarban-Roangchari, Bandarban-Ruma and Bandarban river routes due to a continuous threat posed by some vested interest groups.

Bandarban Tribal Boat owners Association also called a transport strike in all the routes on Sunday evening.

An armed group had looted 20 sacks of rice from a boat at Pantola area near Ruma police camp on the same day, sources in the association informed.

Faruque pay extortion.

The group may be involved in the abduction as Faruque had denied paying any, they added.

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Meanwhile, during a meeting with a delegation of diplomats representing seven European countries in the capital yesterday, Deputy Leader of the House Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, who is also the chairperson of the National Committee for Implementation of the CHT Peace Accord, reassured the incumbent government's commitment to implementing the accord, saying a meeting of the national committee will be held in Rangamati on August 19.

Our Bandarban correspondent reported that the Land Commission will also have another meeting in Bandarban DC office this morning.

On July 20, the parliamentary committee on CHT affairs recommended cancellation of leases of 45,000 acres of land in the three hill districts, as those had not been used according to the terms of the leases in the last 10 years.

The move is seen as complying with the 1997 peace

agreement.

The RHD sources say if the second highway is constructed, it will be the first expressway in the country with facilities like adequate parking space, refuelling stations, food courts and rest houses at regular intervals.

This expressway would cut the journey time between the two major cities to three hours from existing seven to eight hours. It would also help improve the economic corridor between the capital and the port city.

The second highway will not only ensure safe journey in a smooth traffic environment but also cut operation costs saving fuel. The proposed highway would also provide higher level of service with uninterrupted traffic flow," says an RHD official.

A three-route option has been kept open from which one would be selected for the highway.

The first one runs parallel to the existing highway, while the second route starts from Jatrabari towards Narayanganj and then moves to the south to cross the Dhaleshwari river, Munshiganj, the Meghna and finally reaches Chittagong through Chandpur and Noakhali.

The third probable route begins from Jatrabari to reach Chittagong by crossing Laksham and Feni and will be the shortest and most direct one.

The country's busiest highway linking the prime port city and the capital has become a death trap due to its narrowness. Traffic cannot move uninterrupted on it which causes extra fuel consumption and eats up valuable time of the passengers.

Communications Minister Syed Abdul Hossain said upgrading the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway is one of the priority projects of his ministry.

Don's accomplices managed to escape the scene leaving him bullet hit in his leg, he added.

The injured policeman OC Shamim Hossain, SI Quamruzzaman, SI KM Aziz and SI Mozaaffar were rushed to Narisingdi Sadar Hospital and Don to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The team arrested Don and recovered a pistol and two bullets from the spot.

Don, an accused in nine cases filed with Narisingdi Sadar police station, has long been involved in drug peddling and arms trafficking in the area, police said.

"I hope there will be no trouble regarding tender of the project," he told The Daily Star.

KOKO'S WRIT HC adjourns hearing till today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday again adjourned the hearing on the writ petition filed by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's son Rafatul Rahman Koko till today.

A time prayer by Attorney General Mahbubey Alam lead the HC bench to question former president Pervez Musharraf next month contrary to the mixed signals coming from the ruling PPP-P.

The attorney general yesterday sought time to file an application with this court challenging the process of filing the petition by Koko.

Earlier on Monday, the HC bench adjourned the hearing till yesterday, as the attorney general sought time for placing arguments.

Barrister Mahbubuddin Khokon on Sunday filed the writ petition on behalf of Koko challenging the legality of a money laundering case against him. Moreover, he prayed to the HC to quash the case.

The Anti-Corruption Commission on March 17 this year filed the case with Kafrul Police Station in Dhaka against Koko on charge of laundering money he had taken illegally from a Chinese company, Siemens and other sources in exchange for helping them to get government contracts.

BENAZIR'S DEATH

UN investigator to grill Musharraf next month

ANI, Islamabad

A UN Commission investigating the assassination of former Pakistan premier Benazir Bhutto will question former president Pervez

Musharraf next month contrary to the mixed signals

coming from the ruling PPP-P.

The commission, headed by Chile's Permanent Representative to the UN and former Chilean Deputy Foreign Minister, Ambassador Heraldo Munoz, is known to be quite determined about conducting the inquiry in a credible manner.

The other two members of the commission are: Marzuki Darusman, a former attorney-general of Indonesia and Peter Fitzgerald, a veteran of the Irish National Police.

Interviewing Musharraf, observers believe, should not be a problem since the mandate of the commission does include interviews with key players of the Musharraf era.

The commission, which commenced its six-month mandate on July 1, 2009, visited Pakistan in mid-July.

The commission will submit a report to the UN secretary-general within six months of its actual starting of work. He will then share the report with Government of Pakistan and submit it to the Security Council for information.

5 bodies

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Bharani canals Monday evening.

Sources in the coastguard confirmed that the five pirates were among those killed in a fierce gunfight between Raju Bahini and Zulfiqar Bahini at Dudmukhi canal under Sharankhola upazila. No one has so far claimed the bodies, police said.

Meanwhile, coastguards recovered two trawlers from Lathimara canal during a special operation on Monday. The pirates of Raju Bahini used the trawlers, sources said.

Besides, coastguards and forest guards in another joint operation rescued 25 fishermen and recovered eight fishing boats from Dudmukhi canal on July 31.

The fishermen, hailing from Sharankhola upazila, were kidnapped by pirates to realise Tk one lakh each from them, said Lieutenant Lokman Hakim of coastguards west zone.

Businessman

FROM PAGE 16

ransom calling his relative Omar Faruque on mobile phone.

Witnesses said Faruque Ahmed, sensing the presence of the miscreants, jumped into the pond but had to come back to the abductors at gunpoint.

Admitting the incident, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Roangchari police station told reporters that his force has already been taken measures to rescue Faruque.

While contacted relatives of the abducted informed that a group claiming themselves Chittagong Hill Tracts Nationalist Forum (CHTNF), a new insurgent group in Bandarban, repeatedly demanded

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Directorate General of Health Services

MBDC, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212

Request for Open-Tender

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOH&FW).
2. Agency	TB & Leprosy Control Programme, DGHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka.
3. Procuring entity name	Director, MBDC & Line Director, TB-Leprosy Control, MBDC, DGHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka.
4. Procuring entity code	Not used at present.
5. Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
6. Invitation for	Open tender for goods.
7. Invitation Ref. No.	MBDC-14/TB-Lep/MSR/2008/1490
8. Date	29.07.2009

KEY INFORMATION

9. Procurement method	OTM, contractor/tenderers/suppliers will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the guide lines of Public Procurement Regulations-2008 of the Govt of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
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FUNDING INFORMATION

10. Budget and source of fund	GOB.
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PARTICULAR INFORMATION

12. Project/programme code (if applicable)	NA
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13. Project/programme name (if applicable)	TB & Leprosy Control Programme, DGHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka.
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14. Tender package No.	GR-02
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15. Tender package name	Procurement of MSR (Laboratory Chemicals and Re