

Pakistani tribesmen killed in Afghanistan

BBC ONLINE

Gunmen in eastern Afghanistan have attacked a bus carrying Pakistan Shia tribesmen killing 11 people.

The tribesmen were travelling from Kurram to Peshawar in Pakistan, but had taken a detour into Afghanistan to avoid a dangerous direct route.

Buses often take the long detours to avoid the area which has witnessed increased Sunni-Shia violence recently.

It is unclear who carried out the attack. Sunni militants linked to the Afghan Taliban are the main suspects.

A spokesman for the governor of Paktia province said the gunmen had opened fire on the bus carrying the travellers in Samkani district.

Pak suicide blasts toll jumps to 102

BBC ONLINE

The death toll in a double suicide bombing in a Pakistani tribal village on the border with Afghanistan has risen to more than 100, officials said.

Two bombers struck seconds apart in Yakaghund village in the Mohmand tribal region, devastating government buildings, shops and houses.

Mohmand is part of Pakistan's tribal regions where the Taliban and al-Qaeda have a strong presence.

A Taliban spokesman said they claimed responsibility for the attack.

Ikramullah Mohmand said their target was a meeting of local officials and anti-Taliban elders from the Anbar Utmanakel tribe.

Officials said that at least 102 had died and more than 115 were wounded. More bodies were recovered from wrecked buildings and others had died from their injuries in hospital.

One of the bombers was on a motorcycle and it is believed the other was driving a vehicle

laden with explosives.

The blasts happened near the office of local administrator Rasool Khan, who escaped unharm.

Tribal elders were in the building but were unhurt, according to Mohmand chief administrator Amjad Ali Khan.

He said the attack signified "increasing desperation" on the part of the Taliban, whose "space is being restricted by security forces".

One of the explosions also damaged the wall of a prison allowing some inmates to escape, although none of them were militants, said Rasool Khan.

Witnesses said the dead and injured included women and children.

Abdul Wadood, 19, had been sitting in a vehicle when the bombs exploded and suffered head and arm injuries.

"I only heard the deafening blast and lost consciousness," he said.

"I found myself on a hospital bed after opening my eyes. I think those who planned or carried out this attack are not humans."



A Bosnian woman cries as she visits the grave of a relative at the Memorial Cemetery near Srebrenica yesterday. More than 775 bodies found in mass grave sites in eastern Bosnia will be reburied today on 15th anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre.

After Lanka, UN under fire in Nepal

IANS, Kathmandu

After Sri Lanka, where a minister is leading protests against alleged UN interference, the world body is now under fire in Nepal, where the prime minister has accused it of trying to derail the Himalayan republic's fragile peace process.

An unusually strong outburst came from Nepal's caretaker Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal, who objected to an unsolicited plan drawn up by the UN political unit in Nepal.

The plan deals with the contentious issue of what to do with over 19,000 combatants of the Maoist party's guerrilla army who are currently under the supervision of the UN unit, known as the UN Mission in Nepal (UNMIN).

UNMIN has formulated an ambitious plan to decide the fate of the fighters within 60 weeks and reportedly put its plan before the ruling parties and the opposition last month.

The 60-week period comes ahead of the Maoists formulating their own plan for the People's Liberation Army (PLA) soldiers that will be tabled at a meeting of the three major parties yesterday.

The PLA remains the main hurdle to Nepal's peace process.

While the ruling parties want the parallel army to be disbanded, the Maoists are seeking to stall the process, demanding the en masse induction of the guerrillas in the army despite Maoist chief Prachanda having agreed before the political leaders that about 5,000 to 7,000 fighters should be hired in the state army.

The protracted stalemate over the PLA has derailed the promulgation of a new constitution and is now obstructing the formation of a new government even 10 days after the premier's resignation.

When only 11 months are left to write the new constitution, UNMIN has suggested a 14-month time-table for the integration and rehabilitation of the Maoist combatants, a fuming Nepal said, according to the official media yesterday.

Reaction to UN war crimes probe unwarranted

Says Ban Ki-moon

IANS, Colombo

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, after ordering the resident UN coordinator back to New York for consultations, called on the Sri Lankan government to 'take urgent action to normalise conditions' around the UN office so that the organisation could continue its work.

"The secretary general believes the strong reaction to his establishment of a panel of experts on accountability in Sri Lanka is not warranted," his spokesman said.

Ban appointed a three-member panel last month to advise him on Sri Lanka's accountability for its actions in the last few months of the civil war against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

The NFF claims the panel is the first step towards opening a war crimes probe against the commander in chief of the armed forces, President Mahinda Rajapaksa, his brother Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, the defence minister, and other senior officers.

Israel steps up bid to block aid ship bound for Gaza

BBC ONLINE

Israel has stepped up its attempts to stop an aid ship breaking its blockade of Gaza, sending a letter to the UN and engaging Greece and Moldova in talks.

The Moldovan-flagged ship, Amalthea, chartered by a charity run by the son of Libyan leader Col Muammar Gaddafi, was due to leave the Greek port of Lavrio yesterday.

Israel said it now believed the ship would not reach Gaza.

An Israeli raid on a Gaza-bound ship in May killed nine Turkish activists.

Israel insisted its troops were defending themselves but the raid sparked international condemnation. Israel recently eased its blockade, allowing in almost all consumer goods but maintaining a "blacklist" of some items.

Israel says its blockade of the Palestinian territory is needed to prevent the supply of weapons to the Hamas militant group which controls Gaza.

Israel has been engaged in intense diplomatic activity to prevent the Amalthea, renamed Hope for the mission, reaching Gaza.

A foreign ministry statement said that Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman had spoken with his Greek and Moldovan counterparts on the issue.

The statement said: "The foreign ministry believes that due to these talks, the ship will not reach Gaza."

Ministry officials quoted by the Israeli news source Haaretz said that if the ship did sail it would travel instead to the Egyptian port of el-Arish.

Israel also lobbied the UN to take action.

Israel's UN ambassador Gabriela Shalev said in a letter: "Israel calls upon the international community to exert its influence on the government of Libya to demonstrate responsibility and prevent the ship from departing to the Gaza Strip."

Painting of dead Mandela draws outrage in South Africa

AFP, Johannesburg

A painting that depicts a dead Nelson Mandela undergoing an autopsy provoked outrage yesterday in South Africa, but the artist who created the work has said it is a tribute to the iconic leader.

The painting by local artist Yuill Damaso depicts South Africa's first black president's dead body on an operating table, undergoing an autopsy as prominent South African political figures look on.

The work, which is on display in an upmarket Johannesburg shopping centre, has drawn outrage from South Africa's ruling African National Congress (ANC).

"The ANC is appalled and strongly condemns in the strongest possible terms the 'Dead Mandela' painting," the party said in a statement.

"It is in bad taste, disrespectful, and it is an insult and an affront to values of our society."

The ANC called the painting "racist" and criticised the artist for depicting Mandela as dead, saying it was considered an act of witchcraft in African society.

But Damaso said he meant no disrespect to the hero of South Africa's anti-apartheid struggle.

"It shows Mandela's flesh and bones, which shows that he was a man, just like



Nelson Mandela

every one of us," the artist told the yesterday Star.

"He achieved great things by working hard, and he has so much influence on the country and the world, but the painting shows that he is just an ordinary man."

The painting, a modern take on Rembrandt's 17th-century work The Anatomy Lesson of Dr Nicolaes Tulp, shows Mandela lying on an autopsy table as the late Nkosi Johnson, a child AIDS activist who died at 12, cuts

into his flesh.

A group of South African leaders crowds around the table, including Nobel Peace Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu, President Jacob Zuma, former president Thabo Mbeki and opposition leader Helen Zille.

Mandela, who turns 92 on July 18, has limited his public appearances in recent months as his health has become increasingly frail.

South Africans hope he will attend Sunday's World Cup final, but his foundation has said he and his family will only make a decision the day of the game.

He was due to attend the tournament's opening ceremony on June 11, but cancelled after his great-granddaughter was tragically killed in a car crash on the eve of the tournament.



PHOTO: AFP

An Iranian woman takes part in a demonstration against the Iranian regime outside the Iranian embassy in central London yesterday.

BP in new bid to plug Mexican Gulf oil leak

BBC ONLINE

BP will start replacing the cap over the blown-out oil well in the Gulf of Mexico over the weekend, reports said.

It is hoped the new cap will significantly increase the amount of oil being captured from the seabed.

However while it is being replaced oil will flow unimpeded into the sea.

BP's submersible robots could start removing the current containment cap from the ocean floor as early as yesterday, the Coast Guard commander overseeing the response said.

Admiral Thad Allen said the flow of leaking oil could be shut off by Monday. But in that time hundreds of thousands of barrels of oil could flow unabated into the ocean.

"We have a significant chance to dramatically reduce the oil that's being released into the environment and maybe shut the well in altogether in the next week," he said.

"I use the word 'contained'," said Admiral Allen. "Stop" is when we put the plug in down below."

BP is continuing work on what it hopes will be the ultimate solution - drilling two wells to intercept and block the leak, under the seabed.


BP is hopeful the new cap will enable it to capture almost all the escaping crude, said BBC correspondent Madeleine Morris in Washington.

Now it is believed that BP is siphoning off only around half the leaking oil.

Current US government estimates of the spill range from between 35,000 to 60,000 barrels a day.


The company is taking advantage of a predicted weeklong lull in the storm season to make the changes to its operation.

It also plans to connect a third containment ship to capture more oil.



NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY

The first private university in Bangladesh
Center of Excellence in Higher Education



Master of Public Health (MPH) Admission Fall' 2010

**Weekend Program (Friday & Saturday Classes 7:30 AM – 9:00 PM)
& Regular Evening Program (6:00 PM – 9:00 PM)**

Application Deadline: August 25 (Wednesday), 2010	Admission Test: August 27 (Friday), 2010
---	--

Majors in: ■ Epidemiology ■ HIV/AIDS & Infectious Disease Control ■ Reproductive & Child Health ■ Behaviour Change Communication ■ Hospital & Health Service Management ■ Disaster Management ■ Environmental Health ■ Public Health Dentistry etc.

Why MPH at NSU:

- Most of the NSU MPH graduates have already secured job at UNO, international & national organizations
- Internationally reputed faculty members having PhD & Post Doctorate from reputable foreign universities
- Internship in UN organizations (UNAIDS, UNFPA, WHO) & International organizations (Save the Children, ICDDR,B, FHI) for career development opportunities
- Credit transfer facility to reputed international universities
- Part-time job opportunity only for NSU MPH students
- 50% tuition waiver for candidate with highest score in admission test
- Financial-aid for deserving students
- Course Waiver for experienced & deserving students
- Fully automated & digital library with rich collections
- Exclusive research & computer labs with 24 hours internet facilities
- International & National study tour
- Research & teaching assistantship opportunity for NSU MPH graduates

For More Information: North South University, Office of the Dept. of Public Health (SAC, 8th floor), Plot # 15, Block - B, Bashundhara, Dhaka -1229. Cell: 01670023192, 01715622850, 01924732939, 01914444604, 01819022642, 01814756154, 01712279681, 01196248446. Phone: 880-2-8852000 Ext: 1914, 1905, 1913 & 1901. E-mail: dr.arif@northsouth.edu; nakhan@northsouth.edu; dr_salim2777@yahoo.com; Web: www.northsouth.edu