

Chronology of Events in Afghanistan, September 2003*

September 2

Civilian injured in grenade attack in Jalalabad. (Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press news agency / AIP)

Unidentified people have attacked the Jalalabad judicial department with two grenades in Jalalabad, Nangarhar Province. The department was not damaged, but a man who was going to a mosque to pray was wounded.

September 3

Two killed, 10 injured in attack on marriage ceremony in Nangarhar Province. (Radio Afghanistan)

Two people were killed and 14 injured in a bomb attack on a wedding ceremony in Dago Village in Chaparhar District of Nangarhar Province

Eight killed in clashes between tribes in Nangarhar Province. (Radio Afghanistan)

The commander of Military Corps No 1 of Nangarhar Haji Hazart Ali said eight people had been killed in a clash between two tribes in Hesarak District.

Two senior commanders killed in ambush in Logar Province. (Iranian radio Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran)

Two senior commanders of Logar Province, sons of a Logar-based commander named Golhayder, were killed in the ambush by unknown armed people and in the attack on a car.

September 4

UN criticises 'excessive force' in Kabul evictions. (Agence France Presse / AFP)

The United Nations criticised the "excessive use of force" by police in evicting 30 families and bulldozing their homes in Kabul on September 3. Some 30 families were evicted from their homes in Shir Pur village near the upmarket Wazir Akbar Khan district of central Kabul, UN spokesman Manoel de Almeida e Silva said. "According to the residents and witnesses the chief of police of Kabul (Basir Salangi) himself led the operation," de Almeida e Silva said. "Considering the significant deployment of

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police personnel and equipment it is our view that the police acted with excessive use of force. Such action also created a humanitarian emergency as the houses of these 30 families were bulldozed and many of their belongings destroyed," he said. UN and Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission appealed to authorities to suspend the clearance operation until a short-term alternative could be offered to the affected families, who said they had lived in their homes for 30 years. Evicted locals said they were beaten by police and given no advance notice and were not offered anywhere else to go. Others were still in their houses when the bulldozer moved in. The land is owned by the Ministry of Defence and most of the people evicted said they were former Ministry employees.

Operation against Afghan refugees in Pakistan. (Pakistan Press International Information Services / PPI)

Administration of Northern Areas has started detaining Afghan refugees in Gilgit. According to police 15 Afghan refugees were detained. Home Secretary Northern Areas Saeed Ahmad Khan said action against Afghan refugees was done at local level. He said cases were registered against those refugees who got married in Pakistan. He added that action will continue.

Afghan decree permits wives of men missing in action to seek separation. (Afghan news agency Bakhtar)

A ruling by the Afghan Council of Scholars and the decree office of the Supreme Court about the citizens of the country who went missing during past wars has been approved by the head of the government. The following ruling has been forwarded to all courts of the country:

"If men who went missing during the wars are most probably supposed to be dead and if their death be held to be demonstrated in the opinions of the judges of the appropriate courts, the wives of such men (being missing for four years) may seek a separation. The case has to be thoroughly studied by scholars and in the light of civilian law with all the necessary evidence. If all the evidence indicates the possible death of the missing person, a separation shall take place and the lady shall enter the period of Idat] [specified period before remarrying]. Cases should proceed with full attention and in accordance with civilian law."

September 7

Explosion injures security commander in Helmand Province. (Afghan news agency Bakhtar)

The spokesman of the Helmand security command stated that a rocket was fixed at the entrance of the residence of the security commander of Naway District, Mohammad Akbar, near the residence of the Helmand governor Mola Sher Mohammad Akhond. Mohammad Akbar and his bodyguard sustained serious injuries.

September 8

Four Afghan aid workers killed in Ghazni Province. (Reuters)

Four Afghan aid workers from the Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR) were killed in an ambush while travelling in an agency car in Moqur district of Ghazni province.

Afghan Cabinet approves law on political parties. (Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty RFE/RL *Afghanistan Report*)

Afghan ministers passed a law allowing for the formation of political parties. Under the 1964 Constitution currently in effect, political parties are not recognized. Government spokesman Ludin said the new law incorporates "all criteria of a democratic and pluralistic society" as well as "Islamic laws and values."

September 9

District chief killed in Uruzgan province. (Chinese Xinhua News Agency)

In an attack in Uruzgan province, a district chief was killed. Unidentified assailants targeted Abdul Qadus Khan, chief of the Uruzgan Khas district, in front of his office in central Uruzgan province and killed him on the spot.

September 10

Local commander injured in ambush in Balkh province. (Xinhua News Agency)

Unknown armed men ambushed the vehicle of a local commander, Abdur Rauf, in Balkh province and badly injured him. The commander belongs to Jamiat-e-Islami party. Rauf was going to Sholgara district to visit his family when the assailants shot at his vehicle. One of his bodyguards was also badly wounded. Both of them were sent to a nearby hospital for treatment.

Land dispute leaves four dead in Kandahar. (AFP)

Four people were killed when a land dispute turned violent, a local security official in Kandahar said. The clashes occurred in Shorabak district bordering Pakistan.

September 11

Afghan royalist faction opens branch in the city of Mazar. (Afghan Balkh Province television)

A branch of the Mahaz-e Melli faction [Mahaz-e Melli-e Eslami-e Afghanistan - National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, led by Pir Sayd Ahmad Gailani, a supporter of the former king], has been opened in Mazar-e Sharif. The function was attended by Ustad Atta Mohammad, the commander of Military Corps No 7; Mohammad Eshaq Rahgozar, the governor of Balkh Province; Lt-Gen Hallam Khan Azady, the commander of Army Division No 1; Lt-Gen Abdol Sabor, a head of department of the Military Corps No 7; Sayd Abdol Wahid Mosinee, the man responsible for the executive council of Harakat-e Eslami; Mohammad Nasim Mehdy; Wakil Abdol

Wahab, the head of elders' council of Mazar-e Sharif; Akhtar Mohammad Ibrahim Khil, the man responsible for Mahaz-e Melli faction in the north; elders and journalists. Ustad Atta Mohammad said: "Mahaz-e Melli is not a new faction but this faction cooperated with us during the jihad and resistance. They took active steps to crush the perpetrators of terrorism and communism."

September 14

Afghan warring tribes agree cease-fire. (AIP)

A cease-fire has been declared following two weeks of fighting over a mountain on the border of Nangarhar and Logar provinces. Wakil Mohammad Omar, an elder of the Babro tribe from the Azra area of Logar Province, said: "The cease-fire came about as a result of efforts by Mr Shahzada Masud, an advisor to the head of the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan, and a delegation accompanying him." He added: "The cease-fire has been implemented and the roads between Kabul and Jalalabad have been reopened." Wakil Mohammad Omar said: "It has been agreed to transfer ownership of that part the mountain over which fighting had been going on for nearly two weeks to the delegation. The yield of pine nuts from the disputed area will be handed over to Shahzada Masud. The final decision over the ownership of the mountain will be made in Kabul." Fighting has been going on for two weeks over the ownership of the mountain on the border of Hesarak-e Ghiljai, in Nangarhar Province, and Azra in Logar Province, in Spandokats and Gwakizi regions between the Naser and Babro tribes. Eight people have been killed and a number of people have been wounded from both sides.

Unidentified attackers torch the headquarters of the district in Paktika Province. (Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran)

Unknown armed people have destroyed the headquarters of the Jani Khel District of Paktika Province by setting it on fire. Confirming the report, the chief of Paktika police, Gen Dawlat Khan, said that following the attack and growing insecurity in Paktika Province a night curfew had been imposed throughout the province. About 15 motorcyclists, armed with RPGs, occupied the headquarters of Jani Khel District and then set it on fire. The Paktika police chief said that unknown armed people have recently been using motorcycles to carry out their attacks on this province, acts which have made it difficult for the police to pursue and apprehend them.

Afghan news agency Hindokosh report on the same news on September 17: It was reported that Taleban have captured Jani Khel District of Paktika Province. According to a Taleban commander, the district came under Taleban control after a short clash and it is under their control now. An official from the Security Command of Paktika Province said that Taleban had attacked district headquarters and set it on fire. However, the district is still under the government forces control. No independent source has confirmed the claims by the two sides.

Taleban threatens to mutilate shaved Afghans. (*Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran*)

The governor of southeastern Afghanistan's Paktia Province said that a 12-member Taleban group had stopped cars and warned passengers that if they shave their beards or listen to music in the future, their noses and ears would be cut off.

September 15

Girls harassed for going to school in Balkh Province. (*Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran*)

Unidentified armed men in Sholgara District of Balkh Province in northern Afghanistan have recently been preventing girls from going to school. It was reported that unidentified men stand on the roads threatening people, saying that girls have no right to continue their education. Two girls were harassed by a couple of young men on their way to school and the girls were asked to return to their homes. It was also reported that the young men had been arrested and handed over to the regional authorities, but they were set free after a few hours.

September 16

Afghan Chief of Justice says women may work, but must observe *hijab*. (*RFE/RL Afghanistan Report*)

Commenting on the Council of Ulama of Afghanistan's recent recommendation that Afghan women should not work with foreign NGOs, Chief Justice Mawlawi Fazl Hadi Shinwari said that women may work in these organizations but only if they observe Islamic *hijab* (dress code). "Only a woman's face may be left uncovered," Shinwari said, adding that Afghan women may not travel for more than three days without a *mahram* (a husband or male relative she cannot legally marry). Deputy Chief Justice Fazel Ahmad Manawi supported Shinwari, saying some religious rulings cannot be changed. He added that democracy can only function in Afghanistan within the framework of Islamic rulings, and he asserted that *mahram* does not violate women's rights. Until the ulama (religious scholars) can find another solution, Manawi said, Afghan women may not travel outside of the country without a *mahram*.

September 17

Afghan president orders removal of Kabul police chief. (*Reuters*)

Afghan President Hamid Karzai has ordered the sacking of Kabul's police chief amid rising crime and instability. Officials said Basir Salangi has been replaced by former communist General Baba Jan. Salangi's removal is seen as part of an effort by Karzai to push through reforms in the security sector. It follows a recent rise in crimes including theft, kidnapping and killing in the capital, where 5,000 foreign peacekeepers led by NATO are based to maintain security.

Gunmen ransack offices of Afghan women's rights group. (Associated Press / AP)

The heavily armed men dressed in camouflage clothing climbed through a window into the offices of the independent All Afghan Women's Union, which fights for greater participation of women in Afghan society, union leader Soraya Parlika said. The stolen paperwork included the group's membership list and information on projects. The intruders did not take telephones, computers or other items of value. "They were not ordinary burglars," she said, adding that police were investigating the matter.

Afghan leader approves religious council "to fight enemy propaganda". (Afghan newspaper *Nan*)

The head of the Supreme Court says that Head of the Transitional State has approved a 2,600-strong Ulema council "to contest enemy propaganda and preach Islam". This council will start work in all 32 country's provinces. The council will have 2,600 members. Eighty Ulema from each province will be given the membership of the council. Their work will aim at the prevention of "illegal work and enemy propaganda" in their provinces. He added that the duty of these scholars would be "directing others' act according to Islamic laws and ban what is prohibited in Islam" so that people can follow Islam.

September 18

Afghan government moves against illicit video distributors. (*Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran*)

An official in the Ministry of Information and Culture said that in order to fight the manifestations of immorality and the causes of the perversion of the youth a joint commission - composed of representatives from the Afghan Interior Ministry, the Supreme Court and the Ministry of Information and Culture - has been set up to study ways of fighting against actions aimed at corrupting the people in society, in particular young people, and to provide them with a legal fall-back. It was also reported that over 100 video cassettes, containing the marriage ceremonies of families and which had been put on the market by racketeers, were burnt in the presence of relevant officials in Kabul.

Blast kills four in Ghazni. (AFP)

Three bodyguards of police commander Ismael and a passerby were killed in the blast which occurred in Ghazni, capital of the province of Ghazni.

Bomb goes off in Jalalabad shopping centre. (*Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran*)

A bomb blast has once again shaken the city of Jalalabad, the capital of the southeastern Nangarhar Province. The bomb went off in front of a shop in Sharafi shopping centre, located at Talashi junction in Jalalabad city, while many shops were closed. The explosion did not cause any human losses.

Taliban fighters flee siege of religious school in Paktika province. (AFP)

Several dozen Taliban fighters escaped a siege by government troops in a religious school with the help of locals in Paktika province overnight. The heavily-armed fighters, whom security officials said were members of the Taliban militia, had taken shelter in the *madrassa* (religious school) after attacking government buildings in the district of Wazakhwa. Security chief of the province said up to five Taliban commanders had already fled on motorbikes before the siege of the *madrassa* in the nearby village of Karmadin.

September 19

Factional clashes in Kapisa province kill 13. (Reuters)

The private armies of two factional leaders in Afghanistan have clashed repeatedly in the Kohband district of Kapisa province in the past week and at least 13 people have been killed, residents said. A delegation sent to the scene of the latest fighting in the Kohband district of Kapisa province northeast of Kabul has failed to broker a truce between commanders Assadullah and Nazim. The men, who both owe allegiance to President Hamid Karzai's government, have resumed an old vendetta, the residents said. Several civilians were among the 13 dead, villagers said. Assadullah and Nazim are believed to command about 6,000 armed men. Both serve as military officials of President Hamid Karzai's government in the area.

Police chief killed in Kandahar Province. (AIP)

A police chief was killed reportedly by some unidentified people in Kandahar Province. Sardar Mohammad, who was the police chief of the Zari District of Kandahar Province, was killed by some unknown people at the Sungsar village. The assailants escaped from the scene in a motor car after committing the crime. The authorities in Kandahar blamed the Taleban for killing the police chief, saying that Mohammad had no enmity with anyone in the area.

September 20

Afghan town 'under Taliban control' since August. (AFP)

The Taliban have reportedly been in control of a southeast Afghan town near the Pakistan border since hundreds of them attacked government offices a month ago and sent officials fleeing, a provincial security head said. Barmal was seized by the militants after fighting in August, Paktika province security chief Dawlat Khan said. Government forces were "chased from Barmal in mid-August after an attack by hundreds of Taliban and al-Qaeda members coming from Pakistan," Khan said. "Barmal has been under Taliban control since then," deputy provincial governor Sado Khan said. At least 10 government militiamen were killed in August 2003 attack in Barmal. Some had their throats slit. The local administration building was destroyed by the attackers, who seized a large supply of weapons, according to soldiers who took part in the fighting. An official said the Taliban were "not militarily settled into the town." "But they come and go freely in the market," he said. Pro-government forces "withdrew north to the neighbouring district of Urgun and have not intervened

beyond" the district boundaries, Urgun police chief Jalil Zadra said. The area is currently totally inaccessible for government representatives and security forces. Former Barmal security commander Haji Zaher, who lost two sons in the August attack, abandoned his post and fled to neighbouring Khost province. With the retreat of government forces, the only military in the area are US troops based in Shkin, on the border 10 kilometres from Barmal.

Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran report on the same news: An Afghan military official in Paktika province said that Barmal District is under the control of government troops. Gen Zakim Khan, the commander of Military Division No 822 in Paktika Province, denied reports that Barmal District was under Taleban control. He added that government troops were present in the district, which is located 48 km from Khost the capital of Paktika Province and 4 km from the Pakistani border. He went on to say that the Afghan government troops had been pulled back from the district when US forces refused to assist Afghan troops in the area. The Taleban are moving about in the area as usual, he said. The regional authorities are awaiting the deployment of troops from the Afghan National Army to the area in order to take complete control the district, Zakim Khan said.

Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran report on the same news on September 21: Local officials have evacuated the district of Barmal, Paktika Province. The evacuation took place as a result of heavy clashes between the Afghan government troops and opposition forces. The officials of Barmal District left that region after a number of clashes and after a series of consecutive attacks were carried out by the opposition in southeastern Afghanistan. The security commander of Paktika, Gen Dawlat Khan, said that no one is in control in the Barmal District office. Hundreds of Taleban fighters are present in the mountainous areas near the district, he said. He added that due to the attacks carried out by the Taleban fighters, the administration offices had been totally destroyed and there is no building for officials to carry out their office work in the district. He said the officials would return to the area after the government had retaken complete control of the district and built offices in the area. He said that the government officials were compelled to leave the area because 15 people had been killed on both sides.

September 20

Afghan government announces defence reforms. (Reuters)

Afghanistan announced a reform of the powerful Defence Ministry and said it would allow the start next month of an ambitious plan to disarm factional militias threatening security and elections. The government said the restructuring of the ethnic Tajik-dominated Defence Ministry was aimed at making it more ethnically representative and efficient, but only 22 appointments were announced on state television. A decree signed by Karzai gave Afghanistan's largest ethnic group, the Pashtuns, the largest representation in the Ministry, but control remained in the hands of Tajik Defence Minister Mohammad Qasim Fahim, who retained his post. Tajik Bismillah Khan was replaced as first Deputy Defence Minister by General Abdul Rahim Wardak, a U.S.-trained ethnic Pashtun, but was moved to become chief of the army staff. The former chief of staff, General Asif Dilawar, a Tajik like Khan affiliated with the dominant

Northern Alliance faction in Karzai's government, was given no new post. The government named four other deputy defence ministers, all of them non-Tajiks. He said the government now planned to launch a mainly plan to disarm, demobilise and reintegrate an estimated 100,000 fighters loyal to regional warlords on October 15.

Iranian government imposes tuition for the enrolment of Afghan refugee children in schools. (Afghan newspaper *Etefaq-e Eslam*)

For the first time the Iranian government has made the enrolment of Afghan refugee children in schools in Iran conditional on payment for tuition. The Iranian Interior Ministry has announced that the children of Afghan refugees residing in Iran can enrol in schools on condition that they pay some money into the bank accounts of the Iranian Education Ministry in the current year. Every refugee family has to pay 15,000 to 20,000 Tomans for each student at a primary school, which is equal to 20 to 30 dollars. However, there is no fixed fee in some Iranian schools. It is said that the payment will be higher for elementary education and higher.

Afghan President reduces the power of his deputies. (RFE/RL *Afghanistan Report*)

In the wake of the scandal that erupted after homes were demolished in Kabul's Shayr Pur District to pave the way for new homes for government officials, Karzai has ordered that his deputies not issue land permits and that all land-distribution issues be handled only by Deputy Abdul Karim Khalili. In addition, Karzai has clarified that none of his deputies have the power to appoint or dismiss officials in his absence. Khalili was appointed by Karzai to head a commission tasked with investigating the Shayr Pur land-appropriation case.

September 21

Battling factions send villagers fleeing in Uruzgan province. (AP)

Battling factions have forced dozens of villagers to flee their homes in central Afghanistan, the U.N. refugee agency said. Two commanders in the Day Kundi district of Uruzgan province battled for four days at the end of August and the fighting recently broke out again, UNHCR said. Up to 60 families fled from three villages and were staying with relatives in a neighbouring district, UNHCR spokeswoman Maki Shinohara said. The fighting has currently died down as Shinohara said. Insecurity was also causing people to flee their homes in the neighbouring district of Shahrstan, the northern province of Faryab and the eastern province of Kapisa, she said.

Afghan women's organization office burgled. (Afghan news agency *Hindokosh*)

The house of the head of the Afghanistan Women's Union searched and burgled three times. The incident of burglary that happened in the Afghanistan Women's Union office recurred in the house of the union head, Sorayya Parluka. Mrs Parluka described the incident as follows: "At 8 o'clock on the evening of September 16, a group of four people clad in military clothes and armed with kalashnikov shotgun, stiletto and iron rods, threatened the security guard. They burst in and took away some documents on the Union's financial and official affairs, structural documents of the centre and provinces, cassettes and video cameras. In the midday the following day, the armed

group attacked my former apartment in Makrorayan [residential area in Kabul]. Some people were staying there. They took away with them some jewellery in a white Corolla car that did not have any number plate. The armed group was arrested next night and their identity has not been disclosed yet". Sorayya Parluka has become a member of the new party of Hezb-e Muttahed-e Melli [National United Party] which is accused of being Communist.

September 22

Afghan Human Rights Commission: Hundreds of Afghan children abducted every month. (*Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran*)

According to statistics released by Afghanistan's Human Rights Commission, 320 cases of children's disappearance have been registered in Kabul city since the beginning of 2003. On average, 20 children are kidnapped and smuggled in Kandahar city every month. Security officials have recently discovered two child smuggling networks in Badakhshan and Taloqan in the north of Afghanistan. They were planning to smuggle 80 children from Badakhshan and 14 children from Taloqan to the neighbouring countries. According to officials for Afghanistan's Human Rights Commission, the majority of those children, who are smuggled to the other side of the Afghan borders, are used to transfer narcotics from one point to another. The healthy organs of the children are transplanted to ill people, or they are abused. An official from the Interior Ministry said that the healthy organs of the children are used for transplantation and surgery in foreign countries. The smugglers kill the children and place illicit drugs, particularly heroin, in their stomachs and transfer them to their target areas disguised as dead bodies.

Commission set up in Balkh Province to fight crime amongst police. (*Afghan Balkh Province television*)

A special commission has been set up in Balkh Province to put an end to crimes being committed by people wearing police uniform. The commission will inspect police officers, check cars with police number plates and expel those who are not staffed by the security department. Whoever commits a crime among police officers will be arrested and handed over to the law.

September 23

Former Taliban leader holds meeting with top commanders. (*RFE/RL Afghanistan Report*)

Mullah Mohammad Omar has recently chaired a meeting of the Leadership Council of the former Taliban regime. It was reported that Hamed Agha was appointed during the meeting to serve as spokesman of the neo-Taliban -- the new face of the former regime that opposes the Afghan Transitional Administration and its supporters. Hamed Agha said that claims of defeats suffered by neo-Taliban forces in Kandahar and Zabul provinces are false, adding that his forces are continuing their militant activities in Zabul Province's Daichopan District and Kandahar Province's Maiwand and Maruf districts.

September 24

Taliban killed Afghan NGO worker in the province of Helmand. (Reuters)

An Afghan engineer working for a local non-government organisation was killed and another seriously wounded by suspected Taliban guerrillas in the province of Helmand. They attacked the worker with the Voluntary Association for Rehabilitation of Afghanistan, the latest in recent weeks on Afghans working for humanitarian organisations, took place on the road to the city of Kandahar in Girishk district of the province of Helmand, district military commander Haji Ghulam Sarwar said. Sarwar said two of the attackers had been arrested and were carrying documents and a satellite telephone. David Singh, a spokesman for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, said the driver of the vehicle had suffered serious injuries to his shoulders and legs. He said the U.N. had yet to determine who was responsible for the attack and added the area was well known for banditry. The highway was used for a lot of U.N. and NGO humanitarian operations.

Reuters report on the same news on September 26: Afghanistan's radical Taliban movement said it had killed an Afghan working for a local humanitarian agency and his driver, saying such workers were "American agents" who deserved to die. Mullah Abdul Samad, an intelligence official in the Taliban regime, said all aid agencies were involved in propagating Christianity and serving American interests. "All those working in Afghanistan for the interests of America and the Crusaders deserve to be killed," he said. Four Taliban guerrillas attacked the vehicle of a worker with the Voluntary Association for Rehabilitation of Afghanistan in southern Helmand province, killing him and injuring his driver. Haji Mohammad Ayub, a security official in Helmand, said that the driver died later of his wounds. "We take responsibility for all the attacks on NGOs (non-governmental organisations)...who are spoiling the Islamic faith of the Afghan people. They are preaching Christianity and distributing books on Christianity among the people," Samad said. Local aid workers were also acting as "informers" for the U.S.-led forces, he said.

September 27

Taleban claim attacks in Kandahar Province. (Pakistani newspaper *The News*)

The Taleban claimed to have killed a district administrator in Kandahar Province along with eight of his men after taking control of the road to Shah Wali Kot and Urozgan in southwestern Afghanistan. Taleban spokesman, Mohammad Hanif, said that their fighters intercepted four vehicles on the Shah Wali Kot road and put them on fire. "The occupants of one vehicle included the head of Dai Kundi District, his deputy and seven others. All were shot dead for collaborating with the US military and Hamed Karzai's regime despite the Taleban warnings," he explained. He added that the district administrator and his deputy refused to disclose their identity. According to Hanif, the Shah Wali Kot road was blockaded four days ago and was still in Taleban control. "The Taleban fighters have set up road blocks and are checking vehicles. There is no government authority in the area," he said. Shah Wali Kot is a Taleban stronghold in Kandahar. It has been the scene of frequent Taleban guerrilla attacks. An engineer from El Salvador working for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was also killed while driving on the Shah Wali

Kot road. Taliban military commander Mola Dadollah was accused of ordering his execution. The Taliban claim about the killing of the district administrator and his eight men could not be independently confirmed.

Militants burn down girls school in Nangarhar province. (AP)

Suspected Islamic insurgents burned down a girls' school in eastern Afghanistan because they oppose education for women, a government official said. No injuries were reported. The Shaga Primary School was left in ruins after the attack in Dara-e-Noor district in the eastern Nangarhar province. The attackers tied up the school's guard and set the building on fire before fleeing.

Taliban kill seven bodyguards of Afghan governor in Helmand province. (Reuters)

Taliban guerrillas killed seven bodyguards of the governor of the province of Helmand at the weekend. Haji Mohammad Ayoub, deputy chief of police in Helmand, said that Taliban fighters attacked a military vehicle carrying the soldiers about 130 km north of Helmand's capital Lashkargah. He said the governor, Sher Mohammad Akhundzada, was not travelling with them.

September 28

Eleven seriously injured in bomb attack in Ghazni Province. (Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran)

A total of 11 civilians have been seriously injured when an unidentified man threw a bomb at a US military vehicle. It was reported that 11 civilians, residents of Moqor, in Ghazni Province, were injured as a result of the bomb attack. Their condition was critical. The military vehicle was on patrol in Moqor town and the bomb thrown towards the vehicle missed the target.

Arson attacks on girls' schools in Balkh Province. (Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran)

It was reported that unidentified armed people set fire to three schools in Charbolak village of Balkh Province. The gunmen left a notice at the scene warning villagers not to send their daughters to school. The schools were also set on fire in Timorak and Buztapa villages of Balkh Province.

UN closes down its offices in Nimroz and Helmand provinces. (Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran)

The UN has closed down its representative offices in the southern provinces of Nimroz and Helmand following an increase in insecurity. A spokesman for the UN [Assistance Mission to Afghanistan, UNAMA] in Kabul, David Singh, said: "The UN has closed down its representative offices in Nimroz and Helmand Provinces as two local staff working for the organization have been killed in the provinces. The workers for the UN representative offices were engaged in reconstruction in the southern provinces. Two days ago, they were attacked by armed people and two of them were killed."

September 29

200 dismissed military officers stage protest in Kabul. (AIP).

Recently dismissed military officers staged a protest in Chaman-e Huzori park in central Kabul. Up to 200 military officers asked the government to treat them with due respect, and pay their pensions or give them other posts.

Seven killed in new fighting in the provinces of Sar-i-Pul, Faryab and Balkh. (Reuters)

At least seven people, including two commanders, were killed in fighting between rival pro-government factions in three provinces of northern Afghanistan, faction officials said. The fighting erupted on September 28 in the provinces of Sar-i-Pul, Faryab and Balkh between forces of Ustad Atta Mohammad and those of his rival, General Abdul Rashid Dostum, said one of Atta's commanders. A total of five fighters was killed and two wounded from both sides in Qala-i-Shar district of Sar-i-Pul, the Atta commander said, but he gave no breakdown of the casualties. "The fighting is still going on," the commander, General Abdul Saboor, said. Saboor also said Dostum's forces attacked the house of one of Atta's commanders in the district of Sholgara in Balkh province. The commander was killed in the attack along with the commander of the attacking forces, Mullah Dawod, he said. Fighting also broke out between the two factions in Faryab province, but the casualties there were unclear, he said. Dostum commander Majeed Rozi said commanders from Dostum's faction were meeting to find ways to end the fighting.

Government office attacked in Paktika Province. (AIP)

Unidentified men carried out a bomb attack on the district office building in Zerk, Paktika Province. The security commander of Paktika Province, Gen Dawlat Khan, confirmed the report and said that unidentified men had thrown at least two bombs into the courtyard of the district administration office. But the attack caused no casualties.

Afghan security post attacked in Wardag Province. (Afghan news agency Hindokosh)

Unidentified persons attacked a security post in the Salar area of Maydan/Wardak Province and faced resistance by the government forces. They retreated after half an hour of clashes. Eyewitnesses say that residents temporarily evacuated the area for their safety. There were no reports of casualties on either side during the clash.

September 30

Schoolgirls threatened in Kapisa province. (Afghan newspaper *Hewad*)

Alleged Taliban have warned girls not to go to school in Nawabad, Tagab and Alasay districts of Kapisa Province. It was reported that girls have been going to school very freely in Kapisa Province and this is the first threat to female students in the region. Moreover, 300 female students engaged in different basic literacy courses are also facing this ban.

*UNHCR Ankara
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