

Chronology of Events in Afghanistan, October 2003*

October 1

Afghan boys' escape from bonded labour to end in reunion with father. (Agence France Presse / AFP)

Two Afghan brothers who escaped harsh bonded labour in Pakistan will be reunited with their father after four years, the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) said. An uncle of the boys had taken them from their Wardak home four years ago and brought them to northwest Pakistan where they were put to work in a carpet factory. After a month of hard labour they escaped. "From the information given by the boys and their father in Afghanistan it is not clear if the boys were kidnapped or handed over by their father to their uncle to put them on work in Pakistan," Younis said. Thousands of Afghan refugee children work at carpet weaving looms hidden in shanty homes across Pakistan. The exact number is not known as no count has ever been carried out, said an Islamabad-based official of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The United Nations' refugee agency said the number was large. "We do not have any figure.... (but) it is clear that a large number of Afghan refugees including children work in brick kilns and other sectors in Pakistan," UNHCR spokesman Jack Redden said. After escaping from Attock they ended up in a shelter run by Pakistan's largest charity Edhi Trust in the nearby garrison town of Rawalpindi in August 2000. The boys were discovered in Peshawar last July by a Red Cross worker who forwarded a tracing request to ICRC Kabul, which was able to trace the boy's father in three weeks.

Commander loyal to former Afghan premier arrested in Ghowr province. (Iranian radio *Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran*)

A two-day conflict in the Taybara area of the central province of Ghowr in Afghanistan has reportedly ended with the arrest of some followers and a senior commander of the Islamic party of Afghanistan, led by Golboddin Hekmatyar. According to Ghowr Province's officials, Hakem is a commander loyal to Golboddin Hekmatyar. The head of Ghowr Province's security department, Mohammad Zaman Hazemi, said that the reason for the clashes was an assassination attempt against the governor of Ghowr Province, Dr Ibrahim. The plot was allegedly devised by the arrested man, who is also cooperating with the Taleban group.

* *Disclaimer: Reports contained in this document are selected from publicly available resources and edited by country experts. The information provided here is not, and does not purport to be, either exhaustive with regard to conditions in the country of origin surveyed, or conclusive as to the merits of any particular claim. Further information may be obtained from BO Ankara*

Kabul prison being overhauled. (Institute for War and Peace Reporting / IWPR)

Kabul's notorious Pul-e-Charkhi prison, which was used by former Afghan regimes to punish their rivals and suppress any dissent, is being overhauled, as part of a reform of the penal system, the authorities say. But human rights activists and some Pul-e-Charkhi inmates have cast doubts over the government's claims. The capital's prison, which has held more than 40,000 prisoners since opening in 1970, became known as a site of tortures and mass killings by the former communist regime. The Taliban also held more than a thousand of their political enemies there, in inhuman and degrading conditions. Much of the jail was destroyed after the latter regime fell in November 2001. But now two of the 11 derelict blocks have been rebuilt, housing 70 detainees and work is ongoing to repair other sections of the institution.

The general secretary of prisons at the Justice Ministry, Lieutenant General Abdul Salam Bakhshi, states that progress in prison system was being made. "Fundamental changes have taken place in our prisons for the protection of inmates," he said. "We now ask the courts and the attorney officers in the provinces to specify the imprisonment period for each prisoner – or we release them."

October 2

Afghan government bans foreigners from drinking alcohol in public. (*Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran*)

The Transitional Authority of Afghanistan has said that it banned the sale of alcoholic beverages to foreigners working in that country and their consumption in public places and restaurants. There is no official market for the sale of alcoholic beverages in Kabul city. But the sale and use of alcoholic beverages has been allowed in restaurants, particularly in those belonging to foreigners. Some mini-markets are secretly selling alcoholic drinks. The governor of Kabul, Mola Taj Mohammad Mojahed, said that drinking alcohol was forbidden for foreigners in restaurants, in public places and outside their homes.

Suspected Taliban kill 2 children, 10 police in Afghanistan. (US radio *Voice of America*)

An Afghan commander said suspected Taliban attacked the police officers and children who were travelling together on the outskirts of Nesh, a town on the border between the violence-racked Kandahar and Uruzgan provinces. The police had apparently been en route to their district headquarters in Nesh, on the Kandahar side of the provincial border, when the attack occurred. The commander had no explanation for the presence of the children.

October 4

Former Northern Alliance decides to challenge Karzai in next Afghan elections. (Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty RFE/RL *Afghanistan Report*)

At a meeting on October 4, about 70 leaders of former *mujahedin* parties agreed to form a joint political coalition to challenge Chairman Karzai. The meeting took place

in the home of former Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani and was attended by Defense Minister Mohammad Qasim Fahim; Education Minister Yunos Qanuni; Herat Governor Mohammad Ismail Khan; General Abdul Rashid Dostum, Karzai's special adviser on security and military affairs; and Dostum's rival, General Ata Mohammad. All of these individuals, except Dostum, are affiliated with the Jami'at-e Islami party. The meeting included several leaders of other former *mujahedin* parties and military commanders. Speakers at the meeting of the *mujahedin* leaders in Kabul emphasized that their actions are in opposition to Chairman Karzai's administration. Fahim indicated that it is the right of the former *mujahedin* to unite and make decisions regarding the future of their country. Fahim added that ignoring the right of the former *mujahedin* parties to participate in the Afghan political process would have unpleasant results for Afghanistan and for countries interested in Afghanistan.

Mohammad Sediq Chakari, a spokesman for Jami'at-e Islami, has said that former Afghan President Rabbani will run in the presidential election scheduled for June 2004. However, Defence Minister and Northern Alliance leader Marshall Mohammad Qasim Fahim has rejected reports that Rabbani has been selected as a presidential candidate. Both Fahim and Rabbani belong to the Jami'at-e Islami party, although Fahim is also a member of the smaller Shura-ye Nizar party, which was founded by slain Afghan commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud.

Transitional Administration Chairman Karzai responded on 6 October to report that former *mujahedin* parties are forming a coalition to challenge him in the upcoming Afghan presidential campaign. "Anyone can be a candidate against me, but no party can have military force, no military men can form a party, and no one can write on a tank or an artillery piece that it belongs to this or that party," Karzai said. He added that the former *mujahedin* parties have "destroyed the results" of their struggle against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. Karzai warned that if the leaders of the Northern Alliance attempt to disrupt order, he will act against them.

Taliban attack government office in Zabul province. (Associated Press / AP)

About 50 suspected Taliban fighters attacked a government office in southern Afghanistan, sparking a shootout that left two Taliban dead and three wounded, a deputy governor said. The shootout occurred at the office of the Khak-e-Afghan district chief, said Mullah Mohammed Umer, deputy governor of the Zabul province. No government officials were injured, he said, and did not provide other details of the clash.

Gunmen open fire on vehicle of Afghan Demining Agency. (AP)

Gunmen ambushed a vehicle belonging to an Afghan demining agency, wounding the driver, an agency spokesman said. The assailants opened fire on the Demining Agency for Afghanistan vehicle near a refugee camp at Jeri Dashat, 50 kilometers northwest of Kandahar, spokesman Haji Salathi Khan said. No other workers were inside.

Rival Afghan militia groups clash in Kabul. (Dow Jones International News)

Gunmen from rival militia groups clashed in Kabul because of a dispute over a plot of land, leaving one of the militants dead and six others wounded. Police arrested the

commander of each group after the fighting. The official report didn't name the two groups involved.

Herat provincial court chief survives assassination attempt. (*Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran*)

The Head of Herat Court, Mawlavi Khodadad, survived an attempt on his life. Mawlavi Khodadad was attacked by unidentified people from a car when he was coming back to his home after performing prayer. The attackers escaped immediately from the scene after the incident. Some local sources allege that the attack was politically motivated.

Reuters report on the same news on October 5: Mawlavi Khodadad, the Head of the Herat Appeal Court [*Mahkama-e Morafe'a*] and the mullah of Herat's blue mosque, was run down as he walked to his home from the mosque at night, Nasir Ahmad Alawy, spokesman for the governor of Herat, said. He said Khodadad was flown to Kabul for treatment to injuries to his head, leg and hand, but was able to talk on the morning of October 5. Alawy said the motive for the attack was not clear and no arrests had been made, but state-run *Kabul Television* later said that police had arrested two men but did not identify. Herat residents see Khodadad as a moderate cleric who declared an end to Afghanistan's holy war against Soviet occupation after Moscow withdrew its forces in 1989. Earlier in 2003, four members of a clerics' council in the southern province of Kandahar were shot dead after it declared Afghanistan's holy war over and called on Muslims to support the U.S.-backed government that replaced the Taliban in 2001.

Afghan security official killed in Khost province. (Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press news agency / AIP)

It was reported that a high-ranking official of the Khost security command, Colonel Sabeel, was killed last night when he was performing his prayers in a big mosque near the security command in Khost. The incident happened when an unidentified person took Sabeel's Kalashnikov which he put beside him while praying, and killed him immediately. The perpetrator managed to escape. Sabeel, who held an official post, was a member of the Khalq party during the communist regime.

October 5

Junbesh-e Melli accused of kidnapping 20 over missing commanders. (Reuters)

A pro-government armed faction in northern Afghanistan accused rivals of taking 20 civilians hostage and threatening to kill them unless two missing commanders were handed over. Jamiat commander Abdul Saboor said that two rival Junbish fighters were killed and four wounded in clashes near Mazar-i-Sharif between the Junbish and Jamiat factions morning after two Junbish commanders went missing. Saboor said Jamiat forces - led in the north by government official Ustad Atta Mohammad - did not know who had kidnapped the two men. Saboor said Junbish fighters, blaming Jamiat for abducting the two men, had set up checkpoints and stopped vehicles to take passengers hostage to demand the release of the commanders. He said a total of 20 hostages were taken. "They say these people are from Jamiat and if they don't find the two commanders by tomorrow, they will kill them."

Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran report on the same news on October 6:

Following the abduction of Haji Habibollah, a commander loyal to Jonbesh-e Melli Eslami led by Gen. Abdorrashid Dostum, deep military and political unrest has been sparked off in all government outposts from Baba Yadgar of Mazar-i Sharif to Po-e Imam Buqi, Chemtal and Charbolak Districts of Balkh Province. It was reported that armed people are still manning trenches in Qala-e Jangi [fort and scene of uprising in Mazar-i Sharif in 2001], Dehdadi and Kod-e Barq [fertilizer plant in Mazar-i Sharif]. A commander of Jamiat-e Eslami in Mazar-e Sharif and the governor of Balkh province have been mediating between the opposing sides. But no political party or armed groups in Mazar-i Sharif have so far taken responsibility for the abduction of Commander Habibollah.

Afghanistan starts registration of delegates to Grand Assembly. (*Radio Afghanistan*)

The process of registration for membership of the Loya Jirga [Grand Assembly] for the national Constitution and the public awareness campaign has started in the capitals of various provinces of the country and in a great number of districts as well as in the Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan and Iran. The first round of elections has been conducted and consultative committees have been formed for the election of special groups in a number of regions. According to reports, the registration of names and publicity for participants of the Loya Jirga for the Constitution has been undertaken in special arrangements in the provinces of Bamian, Ghazni, Badghis, Ghowr, Herat, Helmand, Zabol, Nimroz, Wardag, Takhar, Laghman, Logar, Khost, Paktia and Paktika. A nine-member committee has been set up for the election of women in Kandahar and Helmand.

Sacked Afghan military officers protest in Kabul. (AFP)

Some 400 sacked military officers gathered in front of the Presidential Palace in the Afghan capital to protest against their dismissal and demand wages they said had not been paid for months. The officers were dismissed as part of reforms at the Ministry of Defence intended to make it more representative of the country's ethnic and regional diversity.

October 6

Afghan commanders meet to discuss constitution. (AFP)

Afghan fighters and leaders of the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance have held a series of meetings in Kabul to discuss the new Constitution, the Defence Minister said. "Recently in order to discuss certain issues of the constitution, a number of the *jihadi* commanders and a number of prominent leaders across Afghanistan, mainly from the former Northern Alliance, had a gathering in Kabul," Defence Minister Marshal Mohammad Qasim Fahim said. "They were the people who made it possible for the interim administration (of Karzai) to come into existence and they are the people whose forces are making the military formations in the country and who are responsible for security of Afghanistan," he said. "The *mujahedin* have significantly contributed to stability and peace in Afghanistan and these are forces who are making

up part of our police, our national army, our existing military forces so they extended all possible cooperation for stability in Afghanistan," he said.

Afghan administration reportedly opens negotiation with Taliban. (RFE/RL Afghanistan Report)

Chief Justice Mawlawi Fazl Hadi Shinwari said that talks are under way between the Afghan Transitional Administration and "some Taliban groups". Shinwari said Transitional Administration Chairman Karzai's policy is "to hold talks with those Taliban whose hands are not covered with the blood of the nation," adding that this policy is "for the benefit of the country." Chief Justice Shinwari also mentioned that former Taliban Tribal Affairs Minister Mawlawi Jalaluddin Shinwari, who he claimed was a "key Taliban government leader," has already allied himself with the Transitional Administration in Kabul.

October 7

Afghans, NATO arrest Hizb-e-Islami commander in Kabul. (Reuters)

A commander of a Hizb-e-Islami faction was arrested in Kabul by Afghan authorities and NATO-led peacekeepers. Ghulam Rabbani Abu Bakr, from the Hizb-e-Islami faction of Afghanistan's one-time Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, was arrested in an early morning raid in the city centre. Authorities said the arrest was made peacefully and Abu Bakr was being questioned about "suspected terrorist/criminal activities". (Can we discuss later on Hizbi Islami later? I think NATO's approach gives some hints)

October 8

Taliban Foreign Minister released from US custody. (AFP).

Former Taliban Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil Mutawakil has been released by the US military after 18 months in custody. He is at home in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar. It was reported that the police provide security for him, some police forces guarding his house. President Hamid Karzai, however, denied Mutawakil had been released. Mutawakil, 32, was a key figure in the Taliban's Leadership Council but surrendered to US troops after two months of hiding in the tribal area along the Afghan-Pakistan border.

Hindokosh news agency report on the same news on October 25: The release of Wakil Ahmad Motawakkil, the former Taleban Foreign Minister, which had been a bit of a puzzle, has been confirmed by Khaled Pashtun, the spokesman of the Kandahar governor and the head of the foreign relations department of Kandahar Province. Besides confirming Motawakkil's release, Khaled Pashtun said that Motawakkil and those Taleban who are not involved in crimes against humanity can also nominate themselves for the elections too. Khaled Pashtun also added that Wakil Ahmad Motawakkil is living freely, and, contrary to media claims, is not under observation.

Attackers hurl grenade at Italian aid group's office in Helmand province. (AP)

Two men riding a motorcycle hurled a grenade at the office of an Italian aid group in Helmand province, damaging the building but causing no injuries, a U.N. official said. The attack on the office of Intersos in Lashkargarh, capital of Helmand province, occurred after most of the workers had left. Intersos assists Afghan refugees by giving them tents, food and water.

October 9

Factional fighting leaves nearly 80 dead and wounded in Balkh province. (AFP)

Clashes between Afghanistan's northern militia commanders have left nearly 80 militiamen dead and wounded, the warring camps said, as fighting entered its second day. Battles between militia forces loyal to Tajik General Atta Mohammad and his rival Uzbek General Abdul Rashid Dostam broke out 60 kilometers west of the main northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif on October 8. UN described the fighting as "very intense". Both sides were using tanks and mortars, UNAMA spokesman Manoel de Almeida e Silva said, as the fighting moved east and threatened to engulf Mazar-i-Sharif. Mohammad's deputy General Abdul Sabor said they have more than 70 soldiers killed and injured. Dostum's deputy Sayed Nurullah said three of his fighters had been killed and six wounded. Fighting was on the outskirts of Balkh, 20 kilometers west of Mazar-i-Sharif, both sides said. Tanks had been deployed to guard the city overnight, police chief General Isa Ifikhary said, amid fears the fighting would enter the city.

Reuters report on the same news on October 10: Rival fighters from pro-government factions in northern Afghanistan began pulling back from frontline positions. The mainly Uzbek Junbish faction and the mainly Tajik Jamiat group agreed to a truce in crisis talks involving the government, the British Ambassador and the United Nations after clashes in which over 60 fighters were reported killed or hurt. It was sparked after Dostum's Junbish complained that two of its commanders had been abducted by Atta's Jamiat forces. At Imam Bukry, 30 km west of Mazar, there were angry scenes before mediators persuaded each side to withdraw, with relatives of a missing Junbish general at one point threatening to beat one of Atta's deputies. Junbish only agreed to pull back its men after members of the ceasefire commission, comprising local officials from Mazar, the U.N. and a British civilian-military Provincial Reconstruction Team promised an answer on the whereabouts of the missing general within three days.

Associated Press Report on the same news on October 10: Skirmishes broke out between soldiers loyal to rival warlords in northern Afghanistan, hours after the two men had signed a cease-fire agreement, but the scope of the fighting wasn't clear and there was still hope the truce would hold. Gen. Majid Rozi, a commander loyal to northern Uzbek warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum said sporadic shooting had been reported in the region, but that there was "no fighting." He couldn't provide any other details. A commander loyal to Dostum's arch-rival, Atta Mohammed, said fighting had broken out at two locations west of Mazar-e-Sharif. Gen. Abdul Sabur accused Dostum's men of attacking his forces and said he had ordered his troops to fight back with tanks, machine guns and other weaponry.

October 10

Pashtu language newspaper banned in Nangarhar province. (AFP)

A newspaper published in the Pashtu language in the Pakistani border city of Peshawar has been banned in Nangarhar province because of its alleged pro-Taliban stance. The governing provincial council said the newspaper, named *Khabrona*, was publishing material designed to incite people to wage *jihad* against the government. The decision against the newspaper, which started its publication on September 27, was made in a special meeting of Nangarhar Shura.

October 11

Suspected Taliban capture district headquarters, execute five Afghan civilians in Zabul province. (AFP)

Suspected Taliban militants executed five Afghan civilians and killed three pro-government militias after attacking a government building in Zabul province. The deputy governor of Zabul province Mohammad Omer said that 150 Taliban guerrillas came from a village controlled by Taliban supporters to Zabul's Arghandab district and attacked the district headquarters at night. "They came from the Khak Afghan locality, an area which has expelled all government representatives, and is today under the control of Taliban sympathisers and leaders of local tribes," Omer said. During the attack about 50 pro-government militiamen defended the Arghandab administrative building, he said. The attackers were repelled but took with them five civilian hostages. As they retreated towards the mountainous Pashtun Ghar region, they set alight two vehicles, including one belonging to the government. The bodies of the five hostages were found later in the mountains, each with a single bullet wound to the head, Omer said. He said that most of the assailants were nomad Pashtuns called Kutchis. The resurgent Taliban have been in control of Barmal, a town 15 kilometers from the Pakistani border also in Afghanistan's southeast, since August 2003.

Radio Afghanistan report on the same news on October 13: Government forces successfully forced back the Taleban militants who had recently captured Arghandab District of Zabul Province. Immediately after the capture of the district, the national army personnel belonging to Brigade No 1 of the national army moved from the capital of the province towards Arghandab District, and completed a successful operation against Taleban forces. Five Taleban members were arrested during the operation.

October 12

41 Taliban escape from Afghan jail in Kandahar. (Reuters)

Afghan authorities said they had so far failed to recapture any of the 41 Taliban prisoners who made an audacious tunnel escape from the main prison in the southern city of Kandahar. Government officials said the night escape on October 10 could not have been carried out without the assistance of guards. A Taliban commander, Mullah Sabir, said the group paid bribes of 100,000 afghanis (\$2,000) to the prison authorities

for each of the escapees. Sabir said some had already reached their destinations, but he did not say where these were. They included Mawlavi Abdullah, the brother of former Taliban defence minister Obaidullah, and a commander named Aziz Agha. The prisoners had been kept in chains.

Associated Press report on the same news on October 13: Authorities in Kandahar have fired the head of a prison and other members of its staff after 41 Taliban prisoners escaped by digging a tunnel, the head of police said. The superintendent and between 25 to 30 staff were suspended because of negligence.

Afghan government closes newspaper after critical articles in latest crackdown in press. (AP)

The Afghan government has shut down the country's the second most-popular newspaper apparently after it ran a series of articles critical of President Hamid Karzai and his administration. The state-run newspaper, the *Arman-e Melli* (Nation's Desire) was told to stop publishing immediately, its chief editor Mirhaidar Motahar said. He said the government did not give a reason for canceling the paper's license, which left 15 journalists and 17 other staff unemployed. But Motahar said he believed it was because political leaders were fed up with articles that highlighted the public's frustrations with the U.S.-backed coalition government. Deputy Information Minister Abdul Hamid Mubarrez denied the government closed the newspaper to end the criticism. He said that scores of newspapers that have started publishing in the two years since the ouster of the Taliban meant there was no longer a need for four state-sponsored dailies and that the government had decided to cut one. "In a country where only 35 percent of the public can read, 265 newspapers are too many," Mubarrez said. "So, we decided to decrease the number." *Arman-e Melli* gets part of its funding from the Defense Ministry, which is headed by Mohammed Fahim. While the Dari-language *Arman-e Melli* is critical of Karzai, its regular readers say the paper rarely criticizes Fahim or others close to him.

New Afghan election law bans political parties from having private armies. (AP)

The government said it has passed a law that for the first time provides for the establishment of political parties, and bans militia leaders and armed forces members from taking part. "Nobody with armed forces behind them can continue their political activities," Justice Minister Abdulrahim Karimi said. The new law, approved by the government on October 11, also dictates that a political party must have at least 700 members before it can be registered.

Missile attacks in Afghan provinces indicate Taleban presence in Wardag Province. (Afghan news agency Hindokosh).

A missile was fired on Chak-e Wardag District on October 11. It did not cause any damage or casualties. The place where the missile was fired from has not been discovered. However, the firing of this missile indicates the existence of supporters of the Taleban and Al-Qa'idah in the region. In this series of attacks, two other missiles were fired on a foreign non-governmental organization in Adam Khel in Chak-e Wardag District on October 10. They did not cause any damage.

October 13

UN authorizes expansion of the International Security Assistance Force. (UN Security Council)

UN Security Council authorized expansion of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan to allow for maintenance of security outside the capital, Kabul, for international personnel engaged in reconstruction and humanitarian efforts. Determining that the situation in Afghanistan still constituted a threat to international peace and security, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1510 (2003) and, acting under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, authorized the Member States participating in the security assistance force to take all necessary measures to fulfil its mandate. That mandate (which was to expire on 20 December) was also extended for a period of 12 months. The Bonn Agreement provided for progressive expansion of the ISAF to other urban centres and other areas beyond Kabul. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) had assumed strategic command, control and coordination of the ISAF on August 11.

Taleban reportedly capture Afghan southern district in Zabol Province, replace governor. (*Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran*)

It was reported that Taleban militias captured Khak-e Afghan District in Zabol Province and have replaced the head of the district, Haji Mola Khel with a new head in consultation with the people. The governor of Zabol Province has dismissed reports about the fall of Khak-e Afghan District and clashes in that area. The governor said that there were disputes between the head of the district and a commander. He said “There are no Taleban in the area. There is a council, consisting of 11 people. They are in control of the district now.”

Afghan news agency Hindokosh report on the same news: A group of Taleban entered the Khak-e Afghan district on October 9. They forced Mr Mola Khel, the acting district governor, to resign and declared Malek Doriani as the new district governor. Confirming this report, Zabol deputy governor Mr Mohammad Omar said: “We do not recognize the new district governor because he is appointed by Taleban forces.”

Police chief assassinated in Farah province. (Chinese Xinhua News Agency)

Mohamed Mirwais, the police chief of Farah province was killed by unknown gunmen on his way to office. Three of his guards also died on the spot. No one had claimed responsibility for the attack. Some family members blamed the killing of Mirwais on his predecessor. He had replaced Zabit Jalil as police chief of Farah province in July.

October 14

Seven people shot dead by unidentified persons. (AP)

Unidentified persons opened fire on travellers along a highway in Farah province, killing seven people and injuring two others, an Afghan official said. The shooting occurred in Bakwa district of Farah, said Ghulam Mohammed, chief of highways security in Farah and neighboring Kandahar provinces. The victims were reportedly in

two cars traveling on the Farah-Kandahar highway when they were stopped by armed men wearing uniforms of government security forces. The travellers were killed after they resisted the robbers who began to loot them, he said. He said 20 people, including the seven shot dead on October 14, have been killed in apparent robbery attempts across Farah in less than a week. Mohammed said rogue government security troops may also be involved in those incidents. "People in government uniform are looting or killing innocent people," he said.

October 19

42 abducted Afghani children return from Saudi Arabia. (AFP)

Some 42 Afghan children allegedly trafficked to Saudi Arabia over the past several years have been repatriated to Kabul, Minister for Social Affairs Noor Mohammad Qarqeen said. The Saudi government arranged the return of the children - aged 4 to 10 years - who had been living illegally in the city of Mecca. Another 208 children, including some girls, are scheduled to arrive in Kabul in the coming days, the Minister said. Afghanistan's Human Rights Commission spokesman Nadir Nadiri said some of the children told the commission that they were living as slaves of Arab Sheikhs. Most of the children were from the northern Baghlan province. They are reportedly lodged in an orphanage run by the Social Affairs Ministry in Kabul. The commission has launched a search for their families in Baghlan and the Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan, Nadiri said. According to UNICEF, since early 2003, at least 80 children had been reportedly abducted, apparently to be trafficked to neighbouring countries such as Iran and Pakistan.

October 20

Eight killed in blasts intended for Afghan government officials. (Pakistan-based publication *Wahdat*)

Eight people, including five members of the same family, have been killed in two bomb blasts in two provinces of Afghanistan. It was reported that five people of the same family were killed when the double cabin pick-up they were travelling in exploded with a big bang in the suburbs of Bemar District in Konar Province. The bomb was planted in the pick-up, alleged the officials, and said that the rebels had distributed pamphlets in the area warning local residents not to travel in double-cabin pick-ups as these vehicles were mostly used by government forces. Three persons were killed in a similar bomb blast in a car in Khogiani District in eastern Nangarhar Province. The victims were on their way to the provincial capital Jalalabad when the explosion occurred at Kami village.

October 21

Taleban attack Zadran's forces in southeast for first time. (AIP)

A spokesman for Pacha Khan Zadran [a rebel commander in southern Afghanistan] says the Taleban attacked their positions at the night of October 21. Pacha Khan

Zadran's spokesman, Ghami Khan Mohammad Yar made a statement from their headquarters in Zadran, saying that the Taleban launched an hour-long attack on our three posts on the Gorbaz-Khost highway. Khan said their fighters, who are under the direct command of Haji Sahib Pacha Khan Zadran, used light and heavy weapons against the assailants.

Afghan Islamic Press news agency report on the same news on October 24: A spokesman for Pacha Khan Zadran said that the Taleban had once again closed the Khost-Gardez road, in an area between Sitikondaw and Gardi Selay, at night. "They gave drivers leaflets, calling on the USA and UN to treat prisoners in a humane way", he said. The area is located on the Zadran mountains, about 20-25 km from Gardez. The Taleban had closed this main road before for several times and smashed music cassettes.

October 22

Extra police deployed to calm Mazar-i Sharif. (IWPR).

In the wake of a fresh bout of fighting in the northern Balkh province, the Afghan Interior Ministry has sent 300 policemen from Kabul to bolster security in the regional centre, Mazar-i Sharif. The police, who will be stationed in Mazar-i Sharif for at least five months, will boost the numbers of men on patrol, as well as filling in for local police who are to undergo retraining at a new academy in Balkh province. Most of the factional fighting in and around Balkh province over the past 18 months has taken place outside Mazar-i Sharif itself. But control of the city - the region's economic and political hub - is the ultimate goal for the rival commanders. Police have blamed a wave of crime committed against civilians on soldiers from the two forces. Hamida Hamdard, chairwoman of a local organisation that holds literacy courses for women, said that about 50 of her 300 members now regularly missed classes due to security problems, after trouble from soldiers based nearby.

Zalmai Khan, an officer in the national police contingent sent to Mazar-i Sharif, said his colleagues are well-trained, ethnically diverse and do not have links with any political party. According to General Majid Rozi, a military advisor to Dostum, the existing force in Mazar-i Sharif is dominated by the Jamiat party. "I don't say all of them, but most of the current policemen are not neutral," he said. "We need to filter them so that we can establish a new force that is acceptable to all the parties, and to the people." Mazar-i Sharif police Chief General Esah Eftekhari countered this by saying only low-level policemen are recruited from Jamiat's 7th corps, while the officers are professionals. He said security has improved since the ceasefire.

Three bomb explosions rock Jalalabad. (AP)

Three bombs exploded in Jalalabad, tearing down walls at two government offices, police said. A witness said several people were injured by glass from windows shattered in the explosions. The first blast reportedly was near the Communication Department. Within 10 minutes, a second bomb went off outside the Electricity department about one kilometer away on the same street. A third bomb exploded harmlessly in a field near a residential district. Taliban spokesman Maulvi Abdur

Rahman Mansoor claimed responsibility for the attacks, saying "we will carry out more such operations against the oppressors."

600 militiamen surrender weapons in northern Afghanistan. (AFP)

More than 600 Afghan militiamen have surrendered their weapons in the early phase of an ambitious nationwide demilitarization program, an official said. The pilot phase of a UN-backed program to strip 100,000 combatants of their weapons and set them on the path to a new life is now in its third day in the northern city of Kunduz. Since Monday, 620 militiamen serving under two local commanders have handed in AK-47s, mortars, machine guns and anti-tank weapons. "We have collected 560 weapons from 620 soldiers," Paul Cruickshank, the operations manager of the UN-backed Afghan New Beginnings Programs (ANBP), said at the weapons collection site. Outside the gate in a dusty yard strewn with disused tanks left over from past wars, another 170 uniformed militiamen queued up to hand over their weapons.

October 23

Student rally in Herat, Afghan official denies use of force against students. (Afghan news agency Hindokosh)

About 100 Engineering Faculty students in Herat Province staged a rally after the Centre for Humanitarian Assistance had taken back some of the equipment from their department. Complaining about the lack of teachers and the equipment, the students gathered in front of the CHA office and demanded that the equipment should be returned to their department. The rally was dispersed after the Head of the Security Department had talked to the students and the national security forces of the province had interfered. The students claim that they were beaten and detained by the security forces. They claim that between 15 to 50 students have been detained. However, the Head of the Security Department has denied the allegations of beating and detaining the students and said they took some students for negotiations to the Security Department and that no student is currently in detention.

Kapisa delegates to Loya Jirga pressurised by the governor. (Radio Afghanistan)

A total of 25 people have been killed in Kapisa Province during the last two months, but no investigation has taken place. It was reported that the security and administrative situation in Kapisa Province is very poor, and the people in this province complain about pressure from the civilian and military authorities of the province. People's representatives of this province met the Deputy Head of State Hedayat Amin Arsala, and discussed the administrative and security problems, disregard to women's affairs and other problems in the province. After the mass media reported about the meeting of these representatives with the deputy head of state, they came under threat by Kapisa governor Sayd Ahmad Haqbin. The governor of Kapisa Province has ordered, by announcements made through various offices of this province, to revoke Dr Gholam Faroq and some other representatives, and has warned that they don't have the right to participate in the Loya Jirga for the approval of the constitution. The names of advocate Abdol Wahid, Qazi Mohammad Islam and Mohammad Qasim Sanjar are also mentioned among those representatives.

Baghlan locals complain of official's violence. (*Radio Afghanistan*)

Two reporters were beaten by the deputy governor of Baghlan Province. It was reported that Barat Ali Faeq, who was preparing a report about the narcotic commission's meeting, and was also representing the Department of Information and Culture of Baghlan Province in this meeting, was threatened by Gholam Sakhi, Deputy Governor of the province, and was badly beaten by his bodyguards in front of guests. Moreover, the Deputy Governor reportedly abused Gholam Ali Elmi, director of Bakhtar Information Agency in Baghlan, in a meeting with a constitution commission delegation sent by the central government. It was also reported that the regional workers of the ACTED organization, who were involved in reconstruction activities in Baghlan Province, were badly beaten by armed men of the deputy governor of this province; as a result, three of these workers were seriously injured and admitted to hospital. The armed men also seized their money. The deputy governor had worked as governor of this province during the Taleban regime.

UN special envoy accuses some Afghan officials of breaching law. (*Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran*)

The UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Afghanistan accused some Afghan military officials and officials from the country's judicial sector of breaching the law. Speaking at the 58th anniversary of the UN establishment held at Kabul University attended by some ministers and high-ranking Afghan authorities, Lakhdar Brahimi accused some judges, public prosecutors and provincial commanders of violating the law, saying it was unacceptable. He warned these people to redress their deeds otherwise the international community and the Afghan government would not remain indifferent.

October 24

Afghans conditionally agrees to talk with ex-Taliban official. (AP)

The Afghan government decided it might hold talks with a former top Taliban official, but only if it determines he has no complicity in terrorism or crimes against the Afghan people, the President's spokesman said. Former Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil Mutawakil recently offered to assist President Hamid Karzai's government in quelling tension inside the country in exchange for his freedom from U.S. custody. Karzai recently said he welcomed members of the Taliban rank-and-file not responsible for the hard-line movement's actions.

Taliban threaten to execute women working with NGOs. (AFP)

Taliban pamphlets threatening execution of Afghan women working with foreign non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Afghanistan have been circulated in eastern Laghman province. The unsigned and undated bill calls upon Afghans to intensify jihad against the US and allied forces under the leadership of the Taliban's in-hiding spiritual leader Mullah Mohammad Omar. "Those women who are working with foreign NGOs will be killed," the pamphlet said. It also warned the Laghman administration of serious consequences if it did not stop a campaign against religious leaders and the Taliban and if it continued supporting the US-led administration. The leaflets also warned drivers plying Laghman-Kabul-Nangarhar highways not to carry

foreigners . The pamphlet also recalled that dancing was banned by the Taliban and anyone violating the ban would be punished severely.

Ten civilians killed in ambush in Samangan province. (AFP)

Ten civilians, including five women and two children, have been killed in an ambush in northern Afghanistan. The ambush occurred at 9:30 pm when a vehicle carrying 12 people was attacked on a road in Samangan province, a local commander, Rahmatullah, said. The vehicle had been travelling from the village of Shirkar, 60 kilometres east of the provincial capital Aybak, when it was hit by three anti-tank rockets, then peppered with small arms fire. Ten civilians were killed, another person injured and a child left unhurt, according to the report. Nine attackers fled the scene.

Taliban resurgence undermining UN Afghan aid work. (Reuters)

A Taliban resurgence has forced U.N. aid workers to suspend their work in most of southern Afghanistan during a crucial period, a U.N. official told the Security Council. The suspension has undermined humanitarian work intended to shore up the shaky central government as Afghanistan elects delegates to a December 2003 national assembly meeting that will vote on a new draft constitution, said Jean-Marie Guehenno, the U.N. Undersecretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. Due to soaring Taliban attacks on Afghan civilians as well as aid workers in the south, all U.N. aid missions have been temporarily halted in Nimruz, Helmand, Uruzgan and Zabul provinces while armed escorts are required for all aid work in four districts of adjacent Kandahar province, Guehenno said. Following a series of killings by Taliban guerrillas in late September in volatile Helmand province, most humanitarian relief groups working in the region have banned all travel outside the nearby key southern city of Kandahar, he said.

Associated Press report on the same news on October 26: The Afghan government criticized a report by a senior U.N. official, rejecting his assertion that former Taliban officials have taken control of government administration in border areas. In a report to the U.N. Security Council, U.N. Undersecretary-General for Peacekeeping Jean-Marie Guehenno said deteriorating security in Afghanistan remained a significant obstacle to the country's reconstruction. In border districts near Kandahar and Paktika, he said "Taliban have been able to establish de facto control over district administration." In a statement, the Afghan government said Guehenno's assertions were "broadly valid," but that his analysis of the situation in the country "is essentially mistaken." The government acknowledged remnants of the Taliban and al-Qaida continue to create disturbances in border regions. "They are not, however, capable of posing any significant threat, either in military or political terms, to the administration of government in the relevant areas," the government said.

October 25

German peacekeepers arrive in Kunduz. (Reuters)

Twenty-seven German soldiers arrived in rural northern Afghanistan to launch an eagerly awaited expansion of a NATO-led peacekeeping force outside the capital Kabul. Up to 450 German soldiers are eventually expected to be deployed in Kunduz.

October 26

Explosion in school in Khost province damages classrooms. (AP)

A blast destroyed two classrooms at a high school near the southern city of Khost, and more explosives were later found in the building, a local commander said. No one was injured in the blast at the Durnami school in Mando Zayi, 18 kilometers west of the provincial capital Khost, said Khial Baz. After the blast, another small box containing explosives was found at the school, where 1,200 students – including 350 girls – attend class.

Balkh governor, police chief sacked. (AFP)

The governor and police chief of the province of Balkh have been sacked, the Interior Ministry announced, under a security reshuffle aimed at curbing repeated clashes between two rival commanders. "The changes have been made based on the suggestion of the Interior Minister and the decision of the Security Council and were approved by the cabinet," Gull Nabi Ahmadzai, Interior Minister Ali Ahmed Jalali's Chief of Staff, said. The reshuffle is the first of reforms promised by Jalali when he brokered a ceasefire in mid-October between General Atta Mohammad and General Abdul Rashid Dostum. Transferring Atta and Dostum to Kabul is also under consideration by the government. The changes see Mohammad Ishaq Rahgozar, an ally of Atta's from the same Jamiat faction, sacked as governor and replaced temporarily by the director of Balk's state university, Habibullah. The new security commander is Mohammed Akram Khakraiswall, who has held the same position in the province Kandahar, Deputy Interior Minister Hilaluddin Hilal said.

October 27

“Robbers” in military uniforms kill seven, loot 70 vehicles on the Herat-Kandahar road. (Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran)

Armed thieves have attacked a civilian passenger vehicle on the Herat-Kandahar road, killing at least seven people, injuring some others and looting their possessions. It was reported that armed groups have looted the passengers of more than 40 vehicles in the Shorab [presumably in Helmand Province] area, killing about seven people during a scuffle between armed robbers and travellers in the afternoon. A victim said: "Some armed people in military uniform stripped 60-70 vehicles of their possessions. One person who objected was killed."

Afghan Mojahedin leader calls for jihad against USA, foreign forces. (Qatari Al-Jazeera satellite TV)

Mowlawi Yonus Mohammad Khales, one of the most prominent seven *mojahedin* leaders who fought against Soviet forces during their invasion of Afghanistan, has called for jihad against the USA and foreign forces in Afghanistan. He said: "The war the US forces are waging against Muslims in the world and Afghanistan in particular is a crusade war, and the US forces should not be supported in any way. What the mojahedin are doing against the US forces in the world is a jihad and a religious war against a crusade campaign."

Afghan Islamic Press report on the same news on October 29: The leader of the Khales faction of Afghanistan's Hezb-e Eslami party, Mowlawi Mohammad Yonus Khales, has called for a holy war against "crusaders". In his jihad declaration, Khales says: "Muslims are asked to wage *jihad* against America and its allies because their countries have been invaded by the crusaders and their homes are savagely bombed and hit by rockets. Muslims are held in steel cages and their children are martyred." It adds, "All Muslims across the world must take part in jihad against the invading infidels the way they offer prayers and give *zakat* [Islamic taxes]. Islam does not allow friendship and cooperation with infidels, but every woman and old and young person is asked to wage jihad against the infidels," he declared. He said, "Disunity and disputes bring failure, the enemy takes advantage of infighting and the struggle for power; we, therefore, should remain united." Hezb-e Eslami's Khales faction was formed when the party split into two factions, one led by Khales and the other by Golboddin Hekmatyar. The Khales faction has traditionally enjoyed strong support in eastern Nangarhar Province and other eastern provinces of Afghanistan bordering Pakistan.

October 28

Demonstrators in Afghan province want violence to end. (*Radio Afghanistan*)

Over 3,000 people staged demonstrations in Samangan Province recently. It was reported from the town of Aybak, Samangan capital, that the main factor behind the demonstrations was the killing of 10 civilians in an ambush in Samangan Province. The demonstrators called on government officials to collect weapons from irresponsible people and find the culprits. The demonstrators chanted slogans "Down with terrorists", "We want peace and armed people should be disarmed". At the end, the Deputy Governor of Samangan spoke to the demonstrators and assured them to deliver their voice to the central government's authorities to arrest the killers.

First women's radio launched in Afghan city of Herat. (*BBC Monitoring*)

A new women's radio station called Radio Sahar was launched in the western Afghan city of Herat. *Radio Sahar* is the first women's radio station in Herat," said this radio station press release. "It is an independent radio the aim of which is to give more power to women by supporting their participation in the reconstruction process." The station started broadcasting on 28 October with the message: "This is *Radio Sahar*, the beginning of a new future for Afghanistan." *Radio Sahar*, which means Radio Dawn, is run by women and airs programmes in Dari language every afternoon from 1400 - 1500 hours (0930 - 1030 gmt) on the frequency of 88.7 FM. This radio project is the second in the network of independent women's community radio stations in Afghanistan.

October 29

Bomb explosions rock Jalalabad. (*AP*)

Two bombs damaged a United Nations guest house and a government building in Jalalabad in Nangarhar province, police said. There were no injuries in the blasts on

October 27 and 28. No one claimed responsibility for either attack. But Rooh-ul Amin, a police official in Jalalabad blamed Taliban and al-Qaida fighters. A pamphlet by the shadowy Fidayeen-e-Islam found on October 29 in Nangarhar province, of which Jalalabad is the capital, warned Afghans not to cooperate with "crusading aggressors led by America." "How long will you give protection to the infidels at the cost of your own heads?" the pamphlet said. One bomb October 28 night in Pakhtunistan square shattered windows at a nearby restaurant and broke a hole in the wall of a government building, Amin said. The other explosion occurred late October 27 near a U.N. guest house and damaged one of its perimeter walls. A week ago, three bombs exploded in Jalalabad that destroyed walls at two government buildings. No injuries were reported in those incidents.

UN warns Afghanistan it faces failure under drugs cartels. (AFP)

Afghanistan, the world's leading producer of opium, risks becoming a failed state in the hands of drugs cartels and "narco-terrorists", the United Nations warned. Opium cultivation was virtually eradicated in 2001 by the hardline Taliban regime, but since it was forced from power two years ago, Afghanistan has massively resumed harvesting and now accounts for 77 percent of global opium production, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime said in its latest annual report. "The country is clearly at a crossroads. Either major surgical drug-control measures are taken now, or the drug cancer in Afghanistan will keep spreading and metastasise into corruption, violence and terrorism," UN anti-drugs chief Antonio Maria Costa said in the report. "There is a palpable risk that Afghanistan will again turn into a failed state, this time in the hands of drugs cartels and narco-terrorists," he added. In the war-ravaged country, this year the area under opium poppy cultivation increased by eight percent, from 74,000 hectares in 2002 to 80,000 in 2003, the Vienna-based body said in the report. Even more alarmingly, 28 out of 32 provinces in Afghanistan now harvest the drug crop, up from 18 provinces in 1999, as cultivation spreads outside the traditional eastern and southern producing areas. The total revenues earned by poppy farmers and traffickers amounted to more than half of Afghanistan's gross domestic product of 4.4 billion dollars. "Out of this drug chest, some provincial administrators and military commanders take a considerable share: the more they get used to this, the less likely it becomes that they will respect the law, be loyal to Kabul and support the legal economy. Terrorists take a cut as well, the longer this happens, the greater the threat to security within the country and on its borders," Costa said. "At the moment, because the government is weak, there is no penalty" for traffickers, he noted, welcoming a UN Security Council vote to allow international peacekeepers to expand their work beyond the capital Kabul. With up to 90 percent of heroin on the streets of Europe derived from Afghan opium, the international trafficking chain from Afghanistan to Western Europe has an estimated annual turnover of 30 billion dollars and involves half a million people. The UN report also called on the international community to step up reconstruction of Afghanistan and provide more aid to reduce poverty and hunger in the country, where poppy harvests provides a livelihood for many farmers. Costa told reporters that aid to Afghanistan was only 100 dollars per capita per year, compared with 250 dollars per capita in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo in the Balkans. Opium poppy cultivation plays a direct role in the livelihood of about 1.7 million rural people, or about seven percent of the Afghan population of

24 million, the UN report underlined. The average income per opium-growing family was 3,900 dollars in 2003.

Chairman of Afghan Teachers' Union reports threats on his life. (Afghan newspaper *The Kabul Times* and RFE/RL *Afghanistan Report*)

Abdul Jabar Paikar, chairman of the Teachers Union in Afghanistan, claimed that his life has been threatened several times in recent days. Paikar said unidentified callers have told him to terminate the activities of his union and stop the publication of the union's paper, "Amuzgar," or be killed. Paikar said he legally established the union and registered it with the Justice Ministry. The Education Ministry has set up an official government union in an apparent effort to neutralize the influence of Paikar's union.

October 30

New human rights NGO set up in Kabul. (*Radio Afghanistan*)

A society under the name of Human Rights Activists announced its existence in Kabul. This society which will work on human rights, education and literacy is funded by a German organization. In the meantime a number of other human rights organizations are also operating in Kabul. However, these organizations have not had visible achievements and activities.

Turkish road engineer abducted in Afghanistan. (AFP)

A Turkish engineer working on a road project in Afghanistan has been kidnapped and his suspected Taliban and al-Qaeda abductors are demanding the release of six Taliban prisoners, officials and company sources said. Hasan Ornal was abducted in southeastern Zabul province where the Kabul-Kandahar road is under construction, they said. Habibullah, a military official in neighbouring Ghazni province said that the abductors also took away Ornal's Afghan driver during the incident in the town of Tazi. Sources in Ornal's Gulsan Reconstruction Company said that the abductors had released the Afghan driver with a letter containing their demand. "The driver was given a letter in which they are asking for the release of six Taliban who are in Jail in Ghazni province," a company official said.

October 31

Afghan government investigating militia working with U.S. forces for beating, robbing local residents. (AP)

The Afghan government is investigating militia working with U.S. forces who allegedly beat and robbed residents in a southern province after the Americans left the area, the President's Spokesman said. The village of Dai Chopan in Zabul province residents had complained beatings and robberies during a search operation, but said the U.S. forces didn't witness the atrocities. Jawid Luddin, President Hamid Karzai's spokesman, said the Interior Ministry had sent investigators to the area who confirmed some of the allegations made by villagers. Regional authorities have been asked to

further determine who was to blame and the amount of damage for potential compensation.

Five killed in fresh faction clash in Sar-i-Pul province. (Reuters)

At least five soldiers have been killed in the latest outbreak of fighting between factions loyal to President Hamid Karzai in, a faction official said. The fighting between forces of ethnic-Uzbek General Abdul Rashid Dostum and the mostly ethnic-Tajik faction of Ustad Atta Mohammed broke out in the afternoon in Sar-i-Pul province. Three of the dead were Dostum loyalists while two were Atta's fighters, a faction official said. "Fierce fighting is going on. We are engaged in heavy exchanges of fire," Malim Abdul Aziz, a commander from the Atta faction, said. A Dostum deputy, General Abdul Majid Roozi, said he was not aware of the fighting but a Dostum commander had gone to the area where Aziz said the fighting had erupted "to visit his troops".

10 killed in Afghan army-police clash in Geriesh district, Helmand. (AP)

Fighting between Afghan soldiers and police in a tense province in southern Afghanistan killed two military commanders and up to eight policemen before U.S. troops and helicopters intervened, officials said. A local Afghan army official also said three women and six male shop owners were killed when rockets slammed into their homes and businesses. "So far we only know that the fighting began over a minor dispute," Haji Pir Mohammed, a deputy provincial governor, said. During the five-hour battle, dozens of men fired rockets and heavy weapons in a residential area of Geriesh district, 90 miles west of Kandahar, the former stronghold of Afghanistan's ousted Taliban regime, Mohammed said. However, police chief Haji Abdul Qadoos said that rockets fired by local soldiers during the clash slammed into a police headquarters, killing six policemen. He said a total of eight policemen died in the fighting, but gave no other details. Seventeen officers were taken away by soldiers, he added. The local Afghan army official said the situation in Geriesh was still tense and that authorities were negotiating with the local army and police bosses to prevent any further clash. One of the dead Afghan army commanders was identified by Mohammed as Commander Idrees. He has been closely working with U.S.-led coalition forces in the Helmand province to track down Taliban and al-Qaida fugitives. Mohammed said he could not confirm any civilian casualties. Police and army officials said that they expected to resolve the situation over the next two days. Meanwhile, they imposed a curfew on the market area of Geriesh district.

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