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The Frontier Post

Two NATO soldiers killed in E. Afghanistan

April 24, 2012

Four landmine planters killed

Two NATO soldiers were killed on Sunday in a blast in eastern Afghanistan, the military alliance confirmed on Monday.

"Two International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) service members died following an improvised explosive device (IED) attack in eastern Afghanistan yesterday," the NATO-led ISAF said in a press releases issued here.

However, the brief statement did not provide more details and the nationalities of the victims, only saying "it is ISAF policy to defer casualty identification procedures to the relevant national authorities."

Taliban insurgents, whose regime was toppled in a U.S.-led incursion in late 2001, have intensified their activities against Afghan forces and some 130,000 ISAF troops recently as spring and summer, known as "fighting season", are drawing near in insurgency- hit country.

A total of 120 NATO soldiers with majority of them Americans have been killed in Afghanistan so far this year.

Meanwhile, four alleged landmine planters were killed and another wounded in an airstrike in Gurbaz district of Khost province last night, police said Monday.

Foreign aircrafts targeted a five-member group of landmine planters in Borikhel area of Gurbaz district last night, killing four of them, said Sardar Muhammad Zazai, police chief of Khost province.

He told Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) that a mine planter was also injured in the airstrike and detained by security forces, adding the suspects were emplacing mine in an area between Khost City and Ghulam Khan Port.

The provincial police chief said security forces also recovered four Ak-47 rifles and a rocket from the alleged mine planters.

Elsewhere, combined forces seized several weapons during operation in Nadar Shah Kot district last night, he said.

There was no word by Taliban and ISAF in this regard.