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Explosion and gunfire rocks Afghan capital Kabul

January 21, 2013

Heavy explosions rocked capital Kabul early Monday morning. The incident took place in Deh-Mazang area at the 3rd district of Kabul city around 5:30 am local time.

Kabul security chief Gen. Ayoub Salangi confirmed the report however he did not disclose further information regarding the casualties.

He said investigations have been started in this regard. In the meantime reports suggest that the explosion was followed by gunfire and least 3 suicide bombers entered the Kabul traffic department.

At least two suicide bombers have reportedly been killed by Afghan security forces and the last bomber is resisting Afghan forces from inside the building.

Meanwhile Taliban group in Afghanistan claimed responsibility behind the incident. A spokesman for the group Zabiullah Mujahid told AFP in an SMS message, "Today at around 5:00 am a large number of fedayee (suicide bombers) entered a building in Dehmazang and are attacking an American training centre, a police centre and other military centres and have caused heavy casualties on the enemy."

Eyewitnesses and local residents in the area are saying at least 8 explosions have been heard and clashes between security forces and the assailant militants are still going on.

In the meantime Afghan interior ministry officials said at least 16 people were killed or injured following the attack which ended around 2:30 pm.

Gen. Abdul Rahman deputy security chief for the Afghan interior ministry said at least three members of the traffic department were killed and 13 others including 7 civilians were injured.