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Taliban claim killing 15 ANA troops in Badakhshan

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The Taliban claimed to have killed 15 Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers and captured 12 more in Warduj district of Badakhshan province on Saturday.

Eight vehicles of ANA were also destroyed when the Taliban attacked their motorcade in Ghani area of Warduj district, the Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told the AIP. The Taliban seized two vehicles and several weapons in the attack, he claimed.

A Taliban fighter was killed and two more sustained injuries in the gunfight, Mujahid said. Meanwhile, the Badakhshan governor's spokesman Abdul Maroof Rasikh told the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) the Taliban attacked a convoy of Afghan forces in Warduj district, killing three ANA troops and injuring three Afghan National Civil Order Police personnel. He said two vehicles were also destroyed in the attack, adding six Taliban fighters were killed and eight more injured in the gunfight. He, however, said none of the Afghan security personnel had been captured by the Taliban.

The security forces launched search operation in the area after the attack, he said. Suicide bomber killed in botched attack: KANDAHAR (AIP): A would-be suicide bomber was killed near Kandahar Airport today, an official said Saturday.

The bomber wanted to enter a base of Afghan National Army (ANA) near Kandahar Airport, Kandahar province, but the ANA troops opened fire at him, said Javed Faisal, spokesman for Kandahar governor.

He said the suicide bomber was killed while an ANA soldier wounded when the explosives carrying by the bomber detonated after the firing.

The gubernatorial spokesman said no ANA soldier was killed or equipment damaged in the explosion.

There was no word by Taliban in this regard.

5 Taliban said killed in drone attack: ASADABAD (AIP): Authorities in Afghanistan's eastern Kunar province Saturday claimed five Taliban were killed in a drone strike in Ghaziabad district this morning.

Said Fazlullah Wahidi, governor of Kunar province, told Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) that unmanned aircrafts of foreign forces killed five Taliban after an attack in Dareen area of Ghaziabad district at approximately 8:00 a.m..

He did not give further details. Local residents, however, said two commanders among 10 Taliban were killed in the air strike.

More than 10 Taliban including their two commanders , Maulvi Dost Muhammad and Maulvi Akhtar Muhammad, were killed in drone attack, a local resident told AIP by phone. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid confirmed the attack to AIP but said only two fighters were killed while two Taliban and as many civilians were also wounded.

He said no key Taliban official were among the dead.

There was no word by foreign forces in this regard.

ISAF troops kill 2 Afghan minors: KABUL: (AIP): The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Saturday (March 02) accepted the responsibility for "unintended death" of two Afghan children in Shahid-e Hasas district of Uruzgan province with its commander extending apology to the bereaved family.

"It is with deep regret that the International Security Assistance Force announces that its forces were responsible for the unintended death of two young Afghan civilians during an operation Feb. 28 in Shahid-e Hasas District, Uruzgan Province," an ISAF press release available with the AIP stated.

"I offer my personal apology and condolences to the family of the boys who were killed," said Gen. Joseph Dunford, commander of ISAF. "I am committed to ensuring we do the right thing for the families of those we harmed, as well as for the community in which they lived. We take full responsibility for this tragedy."

"The boys were killed when Coalition forces fired at what they thought were insurgent forces. A joint Afghan-ISAF investigation team visited the location today and met with local leaders," the press release stated.