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Afghanistan: Indian consulate in Mazar-i-Sharif Attcked

1/3/2015

The Indian consulate in Afghan city of Mazar-i-Sharif was attacked on Sunday night by unidentified gunmen when they tried to storm the building. An Indian official said all consulate personnel at the are safe, as explosions and gunfire rang out at the compound. “Everybody is safe,” B Sarkar, Consul General at the consulate said.

The mission in the northern Afghan city is manned by three Indian personnel. googletag.cmd.push(function() { googletag.display('div-gpt-ad-1429260192255-0'); }); Sarkar said the shooting lasted for 20 minutes. “They shot from some adjacent building but nobody could enter the consulate. An unidentified Indian consulate official was quoted by AFP as saying, “We are being attacked. Fighting is going on.” There was no immediate comment from the Ministry of External Affairs in Delhi, which said further details are awaited. Sunday’s strike is yet another attack over Indian assets in war-torn Afghanistan.

The attack took place even as the encounter by the security forces with Pakistani terrorists who attacked IAF base in Pathankot in Punjab on Saturday continued for the second day. No group claimed responsibility for the attack which came just days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi was in Afghan capital of Kabul on a brief visit on December 25 during which he inaugurated the new building for Afghan Parliament built by India at a cost of 90 million USD. The worst strike was a suicide bomb terror attack on the Indian embassy in capital Kabul on July 7, 2008, killing

58 people and injuring 141. The suicide car bombing took place near the gates of the embassy during morning hours when officials enter the mission building. On August 3, 2013, the Indian embassy in Jalalabad was attacked by three suicide bombers. The attack caused the deaths of nine Afghans with the majority of those killed being children.

The Indian consulate in Herat, Afghanistan was attacked on May 23, 2014 by four heavily-armed militants. All the attackers were killed during a lengthy gun battle, one by the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and three by the Afghan security forces. The Afghan National Directorate of Security recently said troops arrested a suicide bomber, thwarting his plans to attack the Indian consulate in Jalalabad, the capital of eastern Nangarhar province, ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Kabul on December 25. -