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The Frontier Post

Three ISAF troops killed

April 5, 2012

Two ISAF troops were killed in a bomb attack on Wednesday in northern Afghanistan, ISAF said Wednesday.

Three International Security Assistance Force service members died following an improvised explosive device attack in northern Afghanistan today, the NATO-led force announced in an updated statement.

ISAF had earlier announced the death of their two troops in northern Afghanistan where a suicide bomber targeted NATO-led forces Faryab province.

ISAF did not give exact location of the incident, nationality of the fallen troops and details of the even. But spokesman of Faryab police, Said Masood, told Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) that it was a suicide attack targeting foreign troops in Sabzi Mandi area of Maymana, capital of Faryab province.

He said that four civilians were killed while 20 civilians and six foreign troops were wounded when a suicide bomber struck dismounted foreign troops.

Taliban spokesman Qari Muhammad Yousaf Ahmadi claimed responsibility for the attack. A suicide attack was mounted on foreign forces in Maymana in which eight foreigners were killed and six others wounded, he told AIP.

Though ISAF and Afghan officials did not disclose nationalities of the deceased foreign troops but Norwegian troops are serving under ISAF command in this comparatively peaceful northern province.

Meanwhile, the U.S. and Afghanistan are close to signing a landmark agreement that would give Afghans effective control over nighttime raids and clear the way for the two countries to sign a strategic-partnership agreement next month in Chicago, according to officials from both countries.

Under terms of the proposed accord, night operations by special forces would be subject to review by Afghan judges.

The deal, which people familiar with it said could be signed later this week, would also give Afghan forces the lead in all the operations. Currently, a majority of night raids are led by Afghans, U.S. officials said.

"We believe we're making progress in heading toward an agreement on this," Pentagon press secretary George Little told a news conference Tuesday. He declined to offer specifics, citing the sensitivity of the continuing negotiations.

The proposed deal would settle an issue that has long dogged U.S. relations with Afghanistan and its president, Hamid Karzai, who has repeatedly called for an end to night raids.