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Xinhua

Double blasts kill 5, wound 5 in Afghanistan in single day

by Abdul Haleem, Chen Xin

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Twin bomb blasts that shocked the northern Takhar and eastern Nangarhar provinces in a single day on Monday have claimed the lives of five people while injuring five others, officials confirmed.

The offensives apparently are targeted ones and all the victims are civilians and obviously the government servicemen.

In the latest attack, a roadside bomb struck the vehicle of the mayor of Ashkamish district in Takhar province 245 km north of Afghan capital Kabul, leaving five people dead.

"The deadly incident happened in Ashkamish district at 11:50 a. m. local time and as a result five people including the mayor of Ashkamish district along with four others were killed," spokesman for provincial administration Faizullah Tawhidi told Xinhua.

Meantime, an official who declined to give his name said that a member of the High Council for Peace in Takhar, a government- backed body convincing Taliban militants to give up fighting and resume normal life was also killed in the blast.

Tawhidi put the attack on the Taliban militants, saying the outfit by organizing such attacks wants to destabilize the province. However Taliban militants fighting the government are yet to comment.

In a similar incident which took place earlier in Jalalabad city, the capital of Nangarhar province 120 km east of Kabul, five civilians were injured.

"The blast occurred at around 8 a.m. local time Monday and five people including four government service members with the provincial justice department and a passer-by were injured," spokesman for provincial government Ahmad Zia Abdulzai told Xinhua.

He also stated that an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) was placed in a rickshaw parked on Masjedi Eidgah road and was detonated by a remote control device when the car of the victims was passing the area.

Violent incidents mostly in the shape of roadside bombings and suicide attacks have been on the rise since the Taliban outfit launched a spring offensive on May 3 this year.

The armed outfit has said anyone working for the government and the NATO-led troops are legitimate targets.

Conflict-related violence, according to a report of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan released last week, between Jan. 1 and June 30 this year, 1,145 civilians were killed and 1,954 injured, and IEDs accounted for 33 percent of all the civilian casualties - killing 327 and injuring 689.