

Table of Contents

<u>German female aid worker abducted in Afghanistan.....</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Harper praises Canadian military's humanitarian work in Afghanistan.....</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Afghan–German Kidnapped–Update (adds victim's background).....</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Ammunition–Shortage.....</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>INDEX:Politics, Defence, International.....</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>KANDAHAR -- At least 15 people, including women and children, are dead in a suicide car bomb attack today in southern Afghanistan.....</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>On Afghanistan's road of death; Days before leaving the war–torn country, a Canadian journalist travelled along a treacherous route that was a favourite Taliban killing ground. The surface ranged from new pavement to shifting desert sands.....</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Shared ethos holds key to Indo–Pakistani peace.....</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Remembering Dieppe.....</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Crime gang blamed for snatching German woman off Kabul street; Christian aid worker abducted for ransom, police say.....</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Cabinet does not equal power Prime Minister Stephen Harper's shuffle won't add new ideas, just new 'salespeople'.....</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Arctic hot air awaits Bush Harper seems determined to make Canada's sovereignty of the North part of the discussion.....</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>Honouring all warriors Parade at the Ex in its 86th year pays tribute to Vimy Ridge soldiers, Afghanistan veterans.....</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>Arctic hot air awaits Bush Harper seems determined to make Canada's sovereignty of the North part of the discussion.....</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>Security partnership puts Canada in cross hairs: Protesters.....</u>	<u>25</u>
<u>Canadians take great pride in selfless military: PM.....</u>	<u>26</u>
<u>Arctic junkyard poses danger.....</u>	<u>27</u>
<u>Afghan hostage hell.....</u>	<u>28</u>
<u>PM salutes humble heroes.....</u>	<u>30</u>

Table of Contents

<u>Suicide attack in Afghanistan leaves 15 dead.....</u>	31
<u>Suicide bomber targets U.S. security workers; At least 15 killed as car explodes in Kandahar.....</u>	32
<u>City lags at helping reserve soldiers; Workers lose benefits, pay during tours of duty.....</u>	34
<u>German aid worker abducted in Afghanistan.....</u>	37
<u>Are Korean victims true martyrs?.....</u>	39
<u>What the ribbon means It's not about the war; it's about the soldiers.....</u>	41
<u>Correspondent 'wired to crave risk'.....</u>	44
<u>The new face of terrorism; Women, no longer content with supporting roles, are increasingly joining the ranks of Islamic suicide bombers.....</u>	46
<u>Aid worker abduction fuels hostage crisis; Suicide car bomb kills 15 in Kandahar.....</u>	49

German female aid worker abducted in Afghanistan

PUBLICATION: The Sunday Herald

DATE: 2007.08.19

SECTION: World

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SOURCE: The Associated Press

BYLINE: Rahim Faiez

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KABUL – Four armed assailants kidnapped a German aid worker dining with her husband at a restaurant in Kabul in a bold midday attack on Saturday, while the Taliban said negotiations for the release of 19 remaining South Korean hostages had failed.

Meanwhile, a suicide car bomb attack killed 15 people and wounded 26, including several women and children, in Afghanistan's southern city of Kandahar.

The abduction of the 31-year-old German woman, who works for a small Christian aid organization along with her husband, prompted police in Kabul to shoot at the speeding getaway car, killing a nearby taxi driver.

The assailants pulled up to the barbecue and fast food restaurant in a dark grey Toyota Corolla, and one of the men went inside and pretended to order a pizza, said intelligence officials investigating the abduction.

They said two other men waited outside, while another remained in the car.

The man in the restaurant pulled out a pistol, walked up to a table where the German couple was sitting, and took the woman outside, the officials said on condition of anonymity.

Ahmad Fahim, who works in a nearby bakery, said the husband called for help as his wife was taken away.

"The man was shouting, 'Police! Police!' " and was frantically making calls on his mobile phone, Fahim said.

The woman works for the Ora International aid group, based in the central German town of Korbach, said Ulf Baumann, a spokesman for the organization.

Baumann did not further identify the woman, but said she spoke fluent Dari and had worked for the group in Kabul since September 2006, along with her husband, who is also German.

According to the organization's website, Ora International concentrates its efforts in Afghanistan on health issues and HIV/AIDS awareness.

The latest kidnapping comes amid heightened fears of abductions, after 23 South Koreans and two Germans were taken hostage in separate incidents last month in central Afghanistan.

Violence in Afghanistan has risen sharply in the last two months.

This year more than 3,700 people – most of them insurgents – have died, according to an Associated Press tally of casualty figures provided by western and Afghan officials.

Harper praises Canadian military's humanitarian work in Afghanistan

DATE: 2007.08.18

KEYWORDS: POLITICS DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 92

LEVIS, Que. (CP) _ Prime Minister Stephen Harper continued his campaign to drum up support for Canada's mission in Afghanistan at a concert on Saturday night near Quebec City.

Harper said ``Quebecers, in particular, can be very proud of the women and men of the Royal 22nd who are writing another glorious page in the history of this regiment."

He made his comments at an annual concert and pyromusical show at the Levis Forts National Historic Site of Canada.

Harper lauded the Canadian military's humanitarian efforts in Afghanistan, highlighting the construction of bridges, roads, schools and medical centres in the country.

Afghan–German Kidnapped–Update (adds victim's background)

DATE: 2007.08.18

KEYWORDS: INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE POLITICS

PUBLICATION: bnw

WORD COUNT: 84

KABUL, Afghanistan — Armed assailants abducted a German woman from a restaurant in Kabul today.

Investigators say the attackers pulled up to the restaurant in a car, and one of the men went inside.

Two other men waited outside, while another remained in the car.

The man in the restaurant pulled out a pistol, walked up to where the woman was sitting with her boyfriend, and took her from the restaurant.

It was not immediately clear what happened to the boyfriend.

The woman works for a small, non–affiliated Christian organization called Ora International.

A man affiliated with the group says it's active in 30 countries and concentrates its efforts in Afghanistan on health issues and H–I–V/AIDS awareness.

(AP)

RMo

Ammunition–Shortage

DATE: 2007.08.18
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PUBLICATION: bnw
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The war on terror abroad is causing an ammunition squeeze for police at home in the U–S.

Troops training for and fighting the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are firing more than one (b) billion bullets a year.

Ammunition shortages are hitting police departments across the United States and preventing some officers from training with the weapons they carry on patrol.

An Associated Press review of dozens of police and sheriff's departments finds that many are struggling with delays of as long as a year for both handgun and rifle ammunition.

The shortages are resulting in prices as much as double what departments were paying just a year ago.

Departments in all parts of the U–S reported delays or reductions in training.

And, in at least one case, there was a proposal to use paint–ball guns in firing drills as a way to conserve real ammo.

(AP)

PTH

INDEX:Politics, Defence, International

DATE: 2007.08.18

KEYWORDS: POLITICS DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL

PUBLICATION: bnw

WORD COUNT: 93

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(BN)

KANDAHAR — At least 15 people, including women and children, are dead in a suicide car bomb attack today in southern Afghanistan.

DATE: 2007.08.18

KEYWORDS: INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE

PUBLICATION: bnw

WORD COUNT: 82

KANDAHAR — At least 15 people, including women and children, are dead in a suicide car bomb attack today in southern Afghanistan.

The apparent target was a private security convoy, but two minivans happened to be passing by when the bomb went off.

Eleven civilians are among the dead and 20 other civilians were injured.

The area west of Kandahar city was left littered with shoes — a stuffed toy animal was in one of the burned-out minivans.

Afghan violence has risen sharply over the past two months.

An Associated Press tally shows more than 37-hundred people have died, most of them militants.

Sixty-six Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have been killed in Afghanistan since 2002.

(AP, CP)

RMo

On Afghanistan's road of death; Days before leaving the war-torn country, a Canadian journalist travelled along a treacherous route that was a favourite Taliban killing ground. The surface ranged from new pavement to shifting desert sands

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ILLUSTRATION: paul watson photo Working with their bare hands and a few sticks of dynamite, Afghan emerald miners search for the motherlode high above the Panjshir Valley in 2003. PAUL WATSON photo At 64, Khudai Nazar, the head cook for a U.S.-funded development agency, was "old enough to remember what is possible with peace." PAUL WATSON photo At 64, Khudai Nazar, the head cook for a U.S.-funded development agency, was "old enough to remember what is possible with peace." ;

SOURCE: Special to the Star

COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation

WORD COUNT: 1831

In this second of two excerpts from his book *Where War Lives*, former Star foreign correspondent Paul Watson reflects on his final, 1,400-mile journey through Afghanistan.

In early December, we drove east to the Afghan border, where well-armed Taliban fighters were stepping up cross-border attacks on Afghan police posts after Musharraf agreed to pull back his security forces from areas dominated by pro-Taliban Pashtun chieftans.

A group of 100 militants had attacked an Afghan border post at Lizha, which lay at the mouth of a narrow valley, where a dirt road used by smugglers, guerrillas and other cross-border traffic led to Pakistan, just a few miles away. The attackers fired at least 27 rocket-propelled grenades during the almost four-hour assault. The 25 Afghan border police had only four RPGs and their assault rifles to defend the base, but managed to kill five militants as they crawled and fired along the camp's perimeter. The others retreated down the valley on foot, got back into their vehicles, and then drove past Pakistani border troops to their safe haven.

The Afghan police made repeated but fruitless calls to U.S. forces for air strikes. At least one aircraft flew over the area, the U.S. military spokesman told me later. It couldn't find a target and left. Other Afghan posts had suffered similar attacks as the border conflict heated up, but this was the third one on the Lizha camp in as many months. With each one, the guerrillas were getting closer to their apparent goal, overrunning the post and killing or capturing its defenders. The Afghan police manning it were left to beg for the proper weapons to fight a determined enemy.

We drove to see the shot-up outpost and to interview the poorly armed and demoralized Afghan unit trying to hold the line in a region thick with Taliban, Al Qaeda and allied fighters. First we had to spend the night in the closest city, Khost, once bin Laden's fiefdom under Taliban rule. His supporters were making a comeback in

On Afghanistan's road of death; Days before leaving the war-torn country, a Canadian journalist travelled al

the area. I shared a room with Wesal and woke him up sometime after midnight, repeatedly shouting in my sleep, "F---, we're all going to die!" and gasping for breath, as if choking on smoke, or drowning. The next morning, I didn't remember whatever terror had come in the darkness. I never do. I only woke up with a sense of dread, feeling exhausted for reasons I couldn't understand.

When I was a teenager learning how to ski, I was warned repeatedly that most injuries occur during the last run of the day. That lesson later morphed into a war zone superstition: the most dangerous time is when you're preparing to – even just idly dreaming about – get out and go home. So I feared the worst when, just days before I was due to end my almost six-year tour in South Asia and take a new posting in Jakarta, we set out on a 1,373-mile journey along the Ring Road, which passes through some of Afghanistan's most treacherous terrain to connect its main cities. Canadian troops had only recently finished fighting the biggest land battle in NATO's history to secure a portion of the Ring Road west of Kandahar, in southern Afghanistan. It wasn't long before the suicide bombers were back. The road, which ranged from new pavement to shifting desert sands, was a favourite Taliban killing ground.

Just a few hours into the week-long Ring Road journey, Wesal and I came across a unit of Afghan soldiers standing over the corpses of three Taliban guerrillas. The dead Talibs were lying on the side of the two-lane highway from Kabul to Kandahar, built with a \$237-million gift from U.S. taxpayers. Four Taliban fighters on two motorbikes had tried to ambush a civilian truck carrying supplies to a military base, a common tactic on the rebuilt road. Normally, they get away with it and melt back into the population. This time, a pickup truck carrying half a dozen Afghan National Army troops happened by just in time to kill three of the attackers. The fourth escaped. It was dusk when we arrived, around half an hour after the battle had ended.

I got close for a picture and noticed straightaway that the dead men didn't have the untamed look of young, illiterate Talibs I'd seen along the same road a decade earlier. These men had short beards that would have had trouble passing the former regime's fist test. They had the look of men more sophisticated than I was used to seeing in the Taliban. The corpse next to my feet, a young man whose shalwar kameez tunic had been pulled off, had a bullet hole in his shoulder. His baggy pants were soaked in blood, but my eyes went straight to his shoes, black ones with grey socks, like any man in town might wear – not the black high tops that Taliban fighters had favoured in the past.

His knees were bent, as if he might jump up at any moment. The bullet hole in his neck left no doubt that this Talib's war was over.

The next day, we reached Lashkar Gah, capital of Helmand province, the world's largest producer of opium for heroin and a stronghold of the Taliban and a few hundred Al Qaeda fighters, many of them recruits from the Middle East. On a previous trip, we had bunked at a U.S.-funded development agency's unguarded compound in the city. The Afghans who ran it were experts at working the insurgent network, explaining the benefits of their projects and meeting any other concerns, to ensure that they were left off the target list. They were perplexed, and saddened, that other NGOs and the foreign military weren't negotiating the same way. Without negotiation, there could be no development, the Afghans told us, and without development, the drug lords and insurgents would never be defeated.

I knew I was tempting fate too much by not letting Zyarat drive as fast as he could through Helmand, but I wanted to chat with the aid agency's head cook, Khudai Nazar. At 64, he was old enough to remember what is possible with peace, and still young enough to believe he might live to see it again.

Back in the 1960s, when American workers and their families lived peacefully in Helmand while working on large infrastructure projects, including a power plant and irrigation canals, Nazar was a 12-year-old houseboy for Rose and Don Wonderly, of Portland, Ore. The glowing reference letter they wrote on returning to the United States is wrapped in an opaque plastic sandwich bag with the rest of Nazar's yellowing collection of letters and old photographs, which he pressed into my hands, with an almost desperate smile that

On Afghanistan's road of death; Days before leaving the war-torn country, a Canadian journalist travelled al

challenged me to believe in a different world.

In one snapshot, Nazar is standing on the Wonderly's lush lawn, an oasis in the Helmand desert, surrounded by a white picket fence. Nazar is proudly showing off his new bicycle, a gift from Rose. "The first time I met with her, I didn't understand English," he told me with an American accent. "American people always like children, and they didn't have any, so she said, 'Come every day to my house and I'm gonna teach you English.'" By the time the Soviets invaded in 1979, Nazar had worked for a string of American families as a houseboy and cook. Like others, JoAnn and Ronald Thompson of Sacramento, Calif., praised his bread-baking skills. Jack and Maxine Smith loved his pastries and good humour. Their time in Afghanistan was cut short by the Soviet invasion, and as she packed to flee, Maxine urged Nazar to take his wife and their 10 children and join the exodus of Afghan refugees fleeing to Pakistan.

"She said, 'Just send me a message and I'll have a house waiting for you – everything,'" Nazar said wistfully. But he stayed and struggled to keep his family alive as endless war destroyed his country. I asked him why he stayed in a place so many others had abandoned, whether love for his country had anything to do with his choice. He laughed and then stared at the creases criss-crossing his hands: "If you pluck a bird's feathers out, how can it fly?" he asked. "If you don't have money or anything, then how can you move your whole family?" As we got up to leave, eager not to give anyone plotting an ambush or kidnapping too much time to organize, Nazar repeated how much he hoped some of his long-lost American friends might try to reach him, maybe even risk a visit. Three hours after we wished him well and left Lashkar Gah, reality spoke loud and clear: a suicide bomber walked into the guarded compound of the provincial governor and blew himself up in the parking lot, killing eight.

Someone had to be watching over us on the Ring Road.

We were shot at, managed to escape a nasty roadblock on a stretch of road notorious for kidnapping, got stuck several times in blinding mountain blizzards, and almost went spinning off into oblivion over a few icy cliffs. Yet we made it back to Kabul in one piece. Still, I was far from whole. Hour after hour, bumping along the rutted dirt tracks that pass for the Ring Road in western Afghanistan, I stared out the window at bare mountains. Reading their multitude of rolling, rock layers, endless lines in a history of the eons, I knew that no matter how mighty humans become, we are motes of dust under the unstoppable wheels of time. With so much space to ponder as a barren world bounced past in the window, thoughts were coming like bursts from a gun barrel. One moment I was hugging my wife and son by the ocean, the next imagining my own death, bleeding out on the side of the road, or thinking that just as video had killed the radio star, free news on the Internet is now killing the newspaper foreign correspondent. I wondered which would be the first to do away with me: war or obsolescence. Excerpted from *Where War Lives*, published by McClelland & Stewart Ltd. Reprinted by permission.

Shared ethos holds key to Indo–Pakistani peace

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It's a sign of Canada's growing economic and demographic globalization that the 60th anniversary of the independence of India and Pakistan was marked here with fanfare, both by the media and the politicians.

Stephen Harper, Dalton McGuinty and mayors of urban centres are keen on developing trade with India and keener on trolling for votes in Canada's burgeoning South Asian community, nearly 1 million–strong, of whom 650,000 are in the Toronto area.

India, Indians and Indo–Canadians – and to a lesser degree, Pakistan, Pakistanis and Pakistani–Canadians – are becoming part of the Canadian consciousness. Interest in the second group has been augmented by Pakistan's impact on Afghanistan and, therefore, on the Canadian military and civilian deployment there.

The anniversary served as a reminder that the end of British colonial rule in India in 1947 was royally mismanaged by Lord Louis Mountbatten, the last viceroy, according to most historians.

Partitioning the country in haste, along an artificial border drawn in secret, he became a mute spectator; first, to a stampede of 12 million people criss–crossing it, and, then, the massacre of up to 1 million Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs, people who had lived in peace for centuries.

A modern parallel – not of colonization, but illegal invasion and occupation – is that of the Americans, British and other allies in Iraq helplessly presiding over Shiite–Sunni killings, the like of which has not been seen since the creation of the country in the 1920s.

The bitter legacy of India's partition led to three wars between India and Pakistan, but of late the two have been inching toward peace.

India's economic boom and Pakistan's steady growth have helped focus political minds on the right priorities.

Political maturity is also allowing an examination of sensitive issues – for example, why India has emerged as the world's largest functioning democracy (650 million voters), while Pakistan has floundered between military dictatorships and corrupt/incompetent democratic regimes.

Pakistan is, yet again, teetering on the edge of just such a cyclical change.

President Pervez Musharraf, facing widespread unrest, is negotiating a deal with Benazir Bhutto, the discredited former prime minister.

The unholy alliance is reportedly blessed by the U.S., which appreciates Gen. Musharraf's post-9/11 role in the war on terrorism.

Overshadowing all of the above is something that is rarely understood in the West

how, despite their tragedy-laden history and the tribulations of the present, the people of India and Pakistan have triumphed over adversity, stayed intact and kept their hopes and humanity alive. Nothing has broken their spirit.

"Even the destitute have an energy that refuses to accept defeat," wrote Pavan Varma, a former Indian diplomat, in his book, *Being Indian* (Penguin, 2004).

"The Indian is so prepared for the worst that when things are just bad, he considers himself lucky. For so long has he been used to surviving in less than ideal circumstance that an inventive fortitude has become a part of his personality. A springy hardiness lies coiled within him. Nothing fazes him easily. The obstacles of the world are par for the course."

This unique DNA partly explains the entrepreneurship of the Indian, which, among other things, makes him a successful immigrant.

The 19th-century migration to the Far East and the Caribbean, East and South Africa and, lately, to the Persian Gulf and the West has created an Indian diaspora of nearly 30 million with an estimated net worth of \$400 billion.

The resiliency is also explained by venerable traditions and unwritten rules that govern daily conduct, of helping each other and maintaining an orderly rhythm of life amid chaos, spirituality amid material crassness, and morality within a sea of immoral conduct.

The ethos applies equally across borders to Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists, Christians and Zoroastrians alike. It anchors them in a common identity that also holds the key to a future of peace and prosperity that, at last, seems possible.

Haroon Siddiqui, the Star's editorial page editor emeritus, appears Thursday in World and Sunday in the A-section. Email: [hsiddiq @ thestar.ca](mailto:hsiddiq@thestar.ca)

Remembering Dieppe

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Canadians understandably worry about their troops serving in Afghanistan on a mission that has cost 66 lives over the past five years. Every one of those losses has been tragic. But, to their credit, the men and women of this country's military willingly risk such sacrifice in the best tradition of Canada's armed forces.

They have sacrificed far more in the past – especially on this date.

Exactly 65 years ago, more than 900 Canadians were killed in action in a single day, fighting against Nazi Germany. Almost 2,500 were wounded on that grim day and 1,874 were taken prisoner.

Today marks the 65th anniversary of the heartbreaking Dieppe raid. It wasn't a breakthrough victory, like the battle of Vimy Ridge in the previous war. Quite the opposite, Dieppe was a military disaster in terms of lives and equipment lost. But it was also an important building block toward ultimate victory against Adolf Hitler.

The abortive raid tested tactics and equipment needed for a full-scale amphibious assault on Hitler's Fortress Europe. Lessons learned here, in the bitter laboratory of defeat, were put to good use in the successful Normandy landings that came later. Even in defeat, Canadian soldiers gave an outstanding account of themselves, with three Victoria Crosses won over the course of the day by Allied participants along with countless other episodes of courage and self-sacrifice.

Sadly, that legacy was insulted by vandals who desecrated a lakeside monument to Dieppe in Hamilton just days before a commemorative ceremony was to be held. A sign showing the way to the monument was spray-painted and a bronze plaque, depicting a regimental badge, was pried from the granite cairn itself. The desecration was particularly shocking in Hamilton because local troops were at the forefront of the battle on Aug. 19, 1942. The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry was virtually destroyed, with more than 80 per cent of its men who went ashore suffering death, wounding or imprisonment.

There was speculation that the stolen bronze badge will likely be sold for its value as scrap metal. It will be replaced. But shock remains over the fact that there are some in the community who so little value the sacrifice of this country's war dead.

Canadian veterans of Dieppe are gathering this weekend at cenotaphs, and on the battlefield in France where they landed, to mark the anniversary of their sacrifice. Each year there are fewer.

As memories fade and witnesses gradually fall away, it becomes ever more important for Canadians to remember this day and honour it. We must do so because of what Dieppe cost this country and in gratitude to those who paid the ultimate price for the freedom of others.

Crime gang blamed for snatching German woman off Kabul street; Christian aid worker abducted for ransom, police say

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ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Reuters / Afghan policemen prepare to search the area where a German national was abducted in Kabul on Saturday. ;
KEYWORDS: WAR
DATELINE: KABUL, afghanistan
SOURCE: Agence France–Presse
WORD COUNT: 312

KABUL, afghanistan – Afghan authorities were grappling with a third hostage crisis involving foreigners Saturday after a German woman was abducted by armed men in the capital Kabul, officials and witnesses said.

No one claimed responsibility for the woman's abduction, which one police source said was the work of a criminal gang, not the Taliban militants holding 19 South Korean aid workers and a German engineer.

In Kabul, officials confirmed the abduction of the German woman, but gave few details.

Police had cordoned off the area and were searching for the gunmen and their captive, interior ministry spokesman Zemarai Bashary and police said.

A police official who asked not to be named said the woman was having lunch with a male companion at a pizza parlour on a quiet road in western Kabul when four men with pistols entered and forced her into their vehicle at gunpoint.

Christian aid organization Ora International said the kidnapped woman had worked in its Kabul office for the past year.

Ulf Baumann, Ora's spokesman, said the 31-year-old woman, whom he did not name, had been abducted while in a restaurant with her husband, who escaped.

Earlier, a 12-year-old boy told AFP he had witnessed the abduction, which took place as the couple crossed a road.

Another police official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said police had pinpointed several areas where the kidnappers could be hiding.

"This is not the work of Taliban; this is a criminal case and abduction for ransom," he said.

The official said a taxi driver caught in crossfire between a police officer and the kidnappers as they sped from the scene had been killed. The Taliban usually claim immediate responsibility for abductions, but have so far made no comment on the German woman's disappearance.

FOUR MORE TAKEN

Taliban militants also kidnapped four Afghan engineers working on a bridge in the south under a rural development program, a provincial police chief said Saturday. The militants opened fire on the construction site, killing a labourer and kidnapping the four engineers on Friday in Shah Wali Kot district, Kandahar province, police chief Sayed Aqa Saqib said.

Cabinet does not equal power Prime Minister Stephen Harper's shuffle won't add new ideas, just new 'salespeople'

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Reading comments from members of the media and politicians about the government's cabinet shuffles is very revealing. In listening to these comments, one can learn a great deal, not just about the shuffles, but about the authors of the comments as well.

However, this time I didn't learn much about either of them.

For example the main criticism from Liberal Leader Stephane Dion was that Prime Minister Stephen Harper put in cabinet only ministers in agreement with his vision. Imagine that!

I would assume Dion would like us to go back to the days when the "democratic deficit" was removed from Canadian politics and then Finance Minister Paul Martin denounced Jean Chretien's style of governance as prime minister.

Yes, when Martin became leader of the party and prime minister, he put in his cabinet people from across the spectrum, many who did not agree with his vision. The only difference is he did not pay any attention to their different opinion and ran his ship straight from Langevin Block.

A minister that served in his and Chretien's cabinet once told me Martin was calling the ministers "...not to ask opinions, but to give us marching orders." And, maybe, he was right in doing it.

The other criticism I've heard, and read about in some newspapers, is about the discrimination against women: Not enough in cabinet. Of course it's true, just look at the numbers. But it's also true some media and politicians use these issues selectively for political reasons, not because they really want to solve the problem.

Politics, they say, is about issues. Of course it is, but it is politics that should be used to debate and solve issues, not the other way around. It is this selective exploitation of issues that will prevent an issue from being solved.

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Am I saying that disagreement should not be allowed in cabinet? Of course not. But only if and when issues arise suddenly and were not part of a pre-established election platform. And even in these occasions, the disagreement and debating should take place within the closed doors of a cabinet meeting, not in the pages of newspapers or on the airwaves as televised debate.

Cabinet does not equal power Prime Minister Stephen Harper's shuffle won't add new ideas, just new 'salespeople'

When this debate is made public, it is not touted as democracy at work in the media; it only raises questions about the leadership of the prime minister. It only leads to journalists asking, and rightly so, "Who is in charge here, prime minister?"

Well, now they've got the answer: Harper is. Because ministers are not those who shape the government, they are simply "salespeople."

ELECTORAL PLAN

The program of a government is the result of a long process within the political party, the caucus and many other individuals pulling together their expertise and presenting an electoral plan to the voters.

Do we believe that any policy reforms and new directions for health care, the economy and social issues, are really the work of a minister? Let's look at them: We have a lawyer as minister of health. We've had an economist as our minister of defence and some ministers of foreign affairs who can't even pinpoint Afghanistan on a map.

I remember a Liberal MP once telling me that the new environment minister "can't even spell the name of his ministry, never mind solving the global warming problem."

Do we really believe that former president of United States, Ronald Reagan, won two terms at the White House because he understood the "trickle down" economic theory? And what about Bill Clinton? Like the Republican Reagan failed in his economic issue, the Democrat Clinton failed in his social programs but both of them were loved by Americans because they were great communicators.

Ministers are promoted or demoted according to their ability to sell a "package" that has been prepared, rightly or wrongly, elsewhere. Politicians know that and so do the media.

This week Prime Minister Harper presented his team of salespeople. They will sell the "package" he still has to present to the Canadian people before the next election.

Arctic hot air awaits Bush Harper seems determined to make Canada's sovereignty of the North part of the discussion

SOURCETAG: 0708190245

PUBLICATION: The Toronto Sun

DATE: 2007.08.19

EDITION: Final

SECTION: Comment

PAGE: C3

ILLUSTRATION: file photo by CP A Canadian flag flies from a snowmobile as military personnel gather during a Canadian Ranger sovereignty patrol in Eureka, on Ellesmere Island, during an Arctic sovereignty patrol.

BYLINE: GREG WESTON

DATELINE: MONTEBELLO, Que.

COLUMN: National Affairs

WORD COUNT: 746

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No matter. Harper now seems determined to make the issue a big deal during this week's trilateral confab being held here in the backwoods of Quebec.

"The Arctic issue is very important to Canada, so it would surprise me if they didn't spend some time talking about the Arctic," a senior official pointedly told Canadian reporters last week.

The Americans might be equally surprised if the leaders do discuss it.

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THREE AMIGOS

It remains to be seen how so much ado about not much plays out when the most powerful prez on Earth and his newly elected Mexican counterpart check into the magnificent log Chateau Montebello east of the capital early tomorrow afternoon for the latest so-called "three amigos summit."

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Perhaps best of all (certainly for those of us who cover this stuff), for the first time in almost 30 years, the leaders can actually talk about something other than softwood lumber, the marathon trade dispute having finally been struck from the list of perennial issues dominating Canada-U.S. relations.

So much harmony between Canada and the U.S. may help to explain why Harper is trying to pick a fight over Arctic sovereignty. It's called domestic politics.

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But with Bush now referring to Harper as his friend "Steve," polls suggest the Canadian electorate is feeling increasingly queasy about just how close the PM has become to the unpopular prez.

With no huge dispute between the two countries over Arctic sovereignty, Harper and his strategists hope he will be seen by voters as bravely "standing up to Bush" on the issue with no risk of drawing blood.

How Canadian.

Honouring all warriors Parade at the Ex in its 86th year pays tribute to Vimy Ridge soldiers, Afghanistan veterans

SOURCETAG: 0708190200

PUBLICATION: The Toronto Sun

DATE: 2007.08.19

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 5

ILLUSTRATION: photo by Ernest Doroszuk, Sun Media D-Day veteran Charles Clie marches proudly with his peers in memory of their fallen comrades in the 86th annual Warriors' Day Parade at the CNE yesterday.

BYLINE: JAMIE NGO, SUN MEDIA

WORD COUNT: 258

Salutes and cheers greeted vets from past wars and current conflicts as they marched through the Princes' Gates at the CNE to celebrate the 86th annual Warriors' Day parade yesterday morning.

Over 10,000 onlookers lined the sidewalks to watch 2,500 in the parade that commemorated the 90th anniversary of the battle of Vimy Ridge and paid tribute to wounded heroes of the Sept. 18, 2006, bicycle suicide bombing in Afghanistan — Master Cpl. Dwayne Orvis, Cpl. Denver Williams and Sapper Mike McTeague who marched, too.

"It's a chance to honour our fallen comrades," said Bob Fraser, 83, who has been marching in the parade for three years.

"If we hadn't done what we did, life would be a lot more different today," said the 48th Highlanders vet who served from 1943 to 1945.

Veterans have marched proudly at the Ex since 1921 — the longest running parade of its kind to support Canadian troops.

"If it wasn't for the veterans, we might not be here today," said Sgt. Solamon Ross, who served two tours in Afghanistan — returning this past March with a new found respect for life.

"It's not a very nice place over there," he said.

The parade was initially held to recognize veterans of the Great War of 1914–1918, but has evolved to honour all servicemen and women.

"It brings back memories — a lot of it you don't want to talk about," said Bruce Porter, 75, who was a drummer in the Irish Regiment of Canada Pipe Band. Although he was not on the frontline, he carried stretchers of his fallen comrades.

"We were stretcher barriers," he said. "To pick up the wounded is a pretty dirty job."

Spectator Kevin Galbraith, 51, of Toronto, attends the parade yearly and said it's an opportunity to show his appreciation for the gift of freedom given to us by our veterans.

"Here's these guys who fought in the war and they're still here marching today."

Galbraith's father was in the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry and attending the parade brings back memories.
KEYWORDS=TORONTO AND GTA

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SOURCETAG: 0708181317

PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Sun

DATE: 2007.08.19

EDITION: Final

SECTION: Editorial/Opinion

PAGE: 20

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How Canadian.

Security partnership puts Canada in cross hairs: Protesters

SOURCETAG: 0708181294

PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Sun

DATE: 2007.08.19

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 6

ILLUSTRATION: photo by Sean Kilpatrick Genevieve Gilbert, 22, prepares signs during a press conference at the Canadian Peace Alliance yesterday, to protest the Security and Prosperity Partnership summit.

BYLINE: ALEX HEBERT, SUN MEDIA

WORD COUNT: 230

If anything, the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) meetings will place a bull's-eye on Canada, not force alliances to help protect it, one prominent protester said yesterday.

"Canadians view (U.S. President) George Bush as being as big a threat to Canada's security as Osama bin Laden," said author, activist and mother of a Canadian soldier who served in Afghanistan, Andria Hill-Lehr.

"As far as the SPP is concerned, security for whom? Prosperity for whom? We might as well put bull's-eyes on ourselves."

Hill-Lehr was one of a handful of figures with the Canadian Peace Alliance who briefed media yesterday regarding a vast array of concerns centred around the SPP summit in Montebello tomorrow and Tuesday.

Deborah Bourque, president of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, opposes Canada's presence in Afghanistan and the lack of transparency in the SPP talks.

Peter Liebovich represents the United Steelworkers. He says more than 200,000 Canadian manufacturing jobs have already been lost because of free trade and closer ties to the U.S. and Mexico will only worsen the problem.

Canadian Peace Alliance co-chair Christine Jones can't understand why representatives of civil society aren't allowed at the summit table.

"The government said they're not allowed because social groups aren't elected," she said. "Neither were the heads of corporations who will be speaking there."

Police announced late last night they will close Daly Avenue to vehicles and pedestrians from Colonel By Dr. to Nicholas St., Aug. 19-21.

Police say the road will close at 7 a.m. and reopen each day when police determine that the closure is no longer required. The reopening times will vary from one day to the next depending on the events.

KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

Canadians take great pride in selfless military: PM

SOURCETAG: 0708181290
PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Sun
DATE: 2007.08.19
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 3
BYLINE: KATHLEEN
HARRIS
DATELINE: DIEPPE,
FRANCE
WORD COUNT: 258

The Dieppe raid was a "singularly heroic effort against impossible odds," Prime Minister Stephen Harper said in a special tribute to the soldiers who fought the World War II battle.

In a statement to mark the 65th anniversary of the botched raid on the occupied French port town, Harper said the Dieppe troops are part of Canada's long, honourable military history. While Canadians are not "warlike people," our nation has always responded when the cause is just, he said.

"To this day there is controversy among historians about whether the raid was properly planned and executed, and about how useful it was in helping the Allies prepare for the successful D-Day invasion two years later, but one thing is undisputed: The soldiers who fought and died at Dieppe displayed extraordinary courage in catastrophic circumstances," he said. "So today we remember the sacrifices made by the Canadians who stormed the beaches in defence of freedom and democracy. We thank our humble heroes, the veterans of Dieppe. We owe them so much."

Harper said the Canadian Forces now serving in Afghanistan and other hotspots in the world uphold Canada's tradition of confronting tyranny and oppression and building peace and security around the world.

Minister of Veterans Affairs Greg Thompson, who is leading the delegation of veterans, youth ambassadors and government officials on the pilgrimage to France, praised Dieppe soldiers for their bravery.

"Obviously it was very tragic and it came with a very high cost. But it's another example of Canadian soldiers being the best in the world, doing what they were asked to do against all odds," he said.

KEYWORDS=WORLD

Arctic junkyard poses danger

SOURCETAG 0708190135
PUBLICATION: The London Free Press
DATE: 2007.08.19
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 12
BYLINE: JORGE BARRERA, CP
DATELINE: OTTAWA
WORD COUNT: 219

Canada's increased military presence in the Arctic poses environmental dangers as bullets, shells, shell-casings and other war-game detritus winds up in ecologically sensitive waters and tundra, say critics.

The Canadian Forces mounted four operations in the Arctic this year, one more than in 2006, and Prime Minister Stephen Harper has promised to build a deep-sea port and military training centre to bolster Canada's claim over the region.

Russia recently made its own move to assert its sovereignty over the top of the world by placing a flag beneath the North Pole.

The federal government has carefully documented its stepped-up Arctic presence with official photographs on the National Defence website showing soldiers firing ammunition rounds.

The photographs of the firing exercise are from last year's Operation Lancaster in and around Lancaster Sound, a body of water between Nunavut's Devon and Baffin islands (www.combatcamera.forces.gc.ca).

One depicts camouflage-clad soldiers from Quebec's Van Doos regiment, now fighting in Afghanistan, firing MP5 9-mm machine guns. Another shows a gun crew firing a .50-calibre machine-gun.

The Van Doos also fired shotguns, C7s and 9-mm Sig Sauer pistols, but were not photographed.

"The last thing we need is for the military to turn the area into a target practice zone," said Jamie Kirkpatrick, spokesperson for the Sierra Club of Canada.

"It is already a fragile ecosystem under pressure from around the world."

Once a frontline during the Cold War, the Arctic has again become an international playing field. Climate change has lengthened the season of open water along the Northwest Passage, putting pressure on Canada's claim over the channel.

Locals and environmental groups worry the environment could suffer from the renewed global attention.
KEYWORDS=CANADA

Afghan hostage hell

SOURCETAG 0708190507

PUBLICATION: The Edmonton Sun

DATE: 2007.08.19

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 45

ILLUSTRATION: photo by Allauddin Khan, AP Afghan firefighters extinguish flames at the site of a suicide attack in Kandahar province, yesterday. A suicide car bomber detonated near a convoy of security forces, killing four Afghan guards and 11 civilians, including women and children, police said.

BYLINE: RAHIM FAIEZ, AP

DATELINE: KABUL

WORD COUNT: 333

Four armed assailants kidnapped a German aid worker dining with her husband at a restaurant in Kabul in a bold midday attack yesterday, while the Taliban said negotiations for the release of 19 remaining South Korean hostages had failed.

Meanwhile, a suicide car bomb attack killed 15 people and wounded 26, including several women and children, in Afghanistan's southern city of Kandahar.

The abduction of the 31-year-old German woman, who works for a small Christian aid organization along with her husband, prompted police in Kabul to shoot at the speeding getaway car, killing a nearby taxi driver.

The assailants pulled up to the barbecue and fast food restaurant in a dark grey Toyota Corolla, and one of the men went inside and pretended to order a pizza, said intelligence officials investigating the abduction.

They said two other men waited outside, while another remained in the car.

The man in the restaurant pulled out a pistol, walked up to a table where the German couple was sitting, and took the woman outside, the officials said on condition of anonymity.

The woman works for the Ora International aid group, based in the central German town of Korbach, said Ulf Baumann, a spokesman for the organization.

Baumann did not further identify the woman, but said she spoke fluent Dari and had worked for the group in Kabul since September 2006, along with her husband, who is also German.

United Nations staff in Kabul were told to restrict their movements Saturday as authorities investigated the abduction, a UN official said on condition of anonymity.

Germany's Foreign Ministry confirmed the kidnapping and said they were working with Afghan officials toward a resolution.

The latest kidnapping comes amid heightened fears of abductions, after 23 South Koreans and two Germans were taken hostage in separate incidents last month in central Afghanistan.

One of the German men has been shot to death. The other remains in captivity.

Taliban insurgents killed two of the South Koreans and released two others after face-to-face talks with South Korean officials.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi said the group's demands for the release of the remaining 19 South Koreans remains the same -- a swap for Taliban prisoners, which the Afghan government has ruled out.

"We're still ready for more negotiations if the Korean side is willing to meet our demands, which is the exchange of prisoners," he said.

The Afghan and Italian governments were heavily criticized after swapping five Taliban prisoners for the release of an Italian journalist in March.

The Afghan government, worried that hostage-taking will become an industry, said the prisoner swap was a one-time deal. KEYWORDS=WORLD

PM salutes humble heroes

SOURCETAG 0708190467
PUBLICATION: The Edmonton
Sun
DATE: 2007.08.19
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 7
BYLINE: KATHLEEN
HARRIS
DATELINE: DIEPPE, France
WORD COUNT: 236

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KEYWORDS=WORLD

Suicide attack in Afghanistan leaves 15 dead

IDNUMBER 200708190031
PUBLICATION: Times Colonist (Victoria)
DATE: 2007.08.19
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A9
DATELINE: KABUL, Afghanistan
SOURCE: The New York Times
WORD COUNT: 279

KABUL, Afghanistan — A suicide car bomb attack killed 13 civilians and two Afghan security guards on the outskirts of Kandahar yesterday morning, Afghan officials said. The attack was one of the deadliest in southern Afghanistan this year, and two women and a child were among the dead.

In Kabul, armed men walked into a restaurant in an affluent neighbourhood yesterday afternoon and kidnapped a woman who was a German aid worker, Afghan and Western officials said. The woman, who works for a group that helps Afghan orphans, is the latest of several foreigners who have been kidnapped in Afghanistan.

The suicide bombing occurred around 9 a.m. local time when a man rammed a bomb-laden car into a convoy of vehicles driven by Afghan employees of U.S. Protection & Investigations, a private American security company that guards foreign contractors.

The explosion destroyed a security company vehicle and killed two security guards, according to the police, but the bulk of its impact was on a van carrying civilians.

"The van passing nearby the incident was completely destroyed, along with the passengers," Muhammad Nader, a driver who had seen the attack, said in a telephone interview. "I saw pieces of human bodies scattered around."

Sayed Agha Saqib, the Kandahar province police chief, said 20 people had been wounded in the car-bomb attack and taken to hospitals for treatment.

The attack was the second in Kandahar in two days. On Friday, a suicide attack in the city killed the top government official from the Zhari district, a rural area west of Kandahar where the Taliban have recently carried out a series of attacks. The Taliban have carried out a rash of abductions in Afghanistan in recent weeks.

Canada has 2,500 troops in the country.

Suicide bomber targets U.S. security workers; At least 15 killed as car explodes in Kandahar

IDNUMBER 200708190022
PUBLICATION: Calgary Herald
DATE: 2007.08.19
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A6
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Ismail Sameem, Reuters / Afghan policemen stand next to the wreckage of a car used in a deadly suicide bomb attack in Kandahar. ;
KEYWORDS: BOMBINGS; TERRORISM; WAR; SUICIDE; EXPLOSIONS
DATELINE: KANDAHAR, Afghanistan
BYLINE: Mirwais Afghan
SOURCE: Reuters
WORD COUNT: 255

A suicide car bomb attack outside a base of a U.S. security firm on Saturday killed 15 people in Afghanistan's southern province of Kandahar, witnesses and police said.

Violence has surged in the past 19 months in Afghanistan, the bloodiest period since U.S.-led troops overthrew the Taliban's government in 2001.

The blast happened close to a highway on the western outskirts of Kandahar City, they said.

Police said it was a suicide car bomber. Witnesses said it was aimed at a U.S. security firm called USPI.

A police vehicle and a passenger car were also hit by the explosion, witnesses said, adding three police were amongst the victims.

"We saw 12 dead bodies being dragged away. They were civilians and also Afghan employees of the company," said one witness who refused to give his name.

Kandahar's police chief, Sayed Agha Saqib, said 15 people had been killed in the attack.

A Reuters reporter saw 15 bodies in the morgue of a hospital in Kandahar city.

They included five police, three women and a child, he said, adding 18 more people were wounded in the blast.

The attack came a day after a suicide bomber inside the city killed a district chief and three of his children at the gate of their home. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Saturday's attack.

The Taliban movement has claimed many previous suicide attacks.

The group largely relies on suicide raids and roadside bombs as part of its campaign against the Afghan government and Western troops based in the country.

Some 7,000 people have been killed in the past 19 months in Afghanistan by violence which is rising despite the presence of some 50,000 Western troops led by NATO and the U.S.-led coalition as well as more than 100,000 Afghan forces.

The violence has hit hardest in southern and eastern areas, where the Taliban and their allies such as al-Qaeda are most active.

It has hampered reconstruction projects in the wartorn country and forced dozens of aid groups to halt their activities.

City lags at helping reserve soldiers; Workers lose benefits, pay during tours of duty

IDNUMBER	200708190001
PUBLICATION:	Calgary Herald
DATE:	2007.08.19
EDITION:	Final
SECTION:	News
PAGE:	A1 / FRONT
ILLUSTRATION:	Colour Photo: Mikael Kjellström, Calgary Herald / ReservistJeff Taylor, with his wife Shawna and children Kenedee and Nathan, had to take a one-year leave of absence from the city's waterworks department to cover training and a six-month deployment to Afghanistan, which ended last week. ;
BYLINE:	Sean Myers and Colette Derworiz
SOURCE:	Calgary Herald
WORD COUNT:	844

With close to 70 Calgary reservists heading to the war in Afghanistan in a few months, the City of Calgary trails behind other Canadian centres in providing benefits, salaries and help to the families of soldiers risking their lives.

Next month, council will consider upgrading a leave policy one alderman calls "skimpy."

In Calgary, about 100 city employees work as part-time reservists. But they are not entitled to full salary or benefits when they are training or serving abroad.

Jeff Taylor, who works in the city's waterworks department, had to take a year leave of absence to cover training and a six-month deployment to Afghanistan.

Because his benefits were cut off by the city, his wife had to apply to the military for health and dental coverage and waited two months for it to go through.

Meanwhile, her daughter needed prescription medication that wasn't covered until the military benefits kicked in.

Having an employer fill the gaps would be helpful, said Jeff's wife Shawna Taylor.

"I'm so happy to hear they're doing that," she said. "Having a leave with benefits would be huge. I don't think we necessarily would've needed a salary top up, but I wouldn't have said no."

Ald. Diane Colley-Urquhart called Calgary's existing policy "really, really skimpy."

She said both Vancouver and Toronto provide paid military leave for their reservists' training periods.

Colley-Urquhart, who sits on the Canadian Forces Liaison Council in Alberta, said city officials are working on a policy expected to be ready by the Sept. 10 council meeting, which could include paid leave for training and a top up of salaries while the reservist is serving in a military mission.

But the city still needs to consult with the reservists before finalizing the policy, she added.

"We can do a lot better here," she said, noting reservists currently have to take vacation time to complete their military training.

"They go away for two weeks every year, a lot of reservists, and this is really sophisticated training in their area of expertise with the Canadian forces," she said. "We don't want them to have to take their vacation time to go away to do this training."

About 125 Canadian municipalities have military leave policies, with varying content from city to city, said Leo Desmarteau, executive director of the liaison council in Ottawa.

Desmarteau added that Calgary would be at the leading edge if it approved the kind of policy Urquhart described.

"From what I can tell, Calgary — the new policy they are proposing — would be very, very much at the forefront in terms of support for reserves."

The liaison council has also been encouraging private employers in Calgary to get involved in developing a military leave policy.

Michael Ervin, a commander in the naval reserve and the council's Southern Alberta liaison officer, said many big corporations have been co-operative, but convincing small- and medium-sized companies can be challenging because losing one key person could really hurt business.

"With the labour shortage it can be a double-edged sword," said Ervin. "When an employee asks for time off, it can be tough to find a replacement, but on the other hand, companies don't want to alienate employees who might come back."

Evan Hu, founder of information technology services company Ideaca and a former reservist, said he can't understand why more companies don't have policies to make it easier for employees who want to serve.

"I've always assumed other companies had generous policies for this, after all, we have a volunteer army," said Hu, whose company employs 160 staff in Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto and Vancouver including local reservist Maj. Chris Coupal.

"In Calgary, it's hard to find good people and reservists are pretty dedicated people. Why wouldn't you try to accommodate them?"

David Watt, president of D.A. Watt Consulting Group, employs a few reservists and said he gets better employees back when they return from training and deployments.

"These guys come to us with quite a lot of leadership, organizational and logistics training," said Watt, who employs civil engineers and land surveyors. "They're disciplined people and good employees."

"And they're serving our country. I feel I should support that."

This spring, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced the Calgary Highlanders will send 64 reservists to Afghanistan early next year where they're expected to serve for up to six months.

There are about 30,000 reservists in Canada, with 45 to 50 per cent having full-time employment and another 45 to 50 per cent being students.

"The ones who are employed, who have a job, they need time off to take courses, to improve their skills — their trade skills — and also to learn about leadership and all of these other qualities that you need as a leader or a manager in the Canadian Forces so they can progress in their career from one rank to another," Desmarteau said. "And now there are operations where we are using reservists now more so than ever."

The list of companies that offer some sort of policy for reservists to at least guarantee their job when they come back is growing, but there is still a long way to go.

Up to 25 per cent of those serving in Afghanistan are reservists, according to the liaison council, and many have had to use up vacation time or quit their jobs in order to complete their duties.

The council also works with reservists to teach them how to approach their employers, advising them to give a lot of notice and give the employer a chance to understand what they're doing.

Cpl. Alex Matthew was working as a mechanic at a local car dealership when he found out he was to be deployed to Afghanistan. He began training full time on April 1 and will be deployed early next year.

In total, Matthew was going to need about 18 months leave and, believing that would be too much to ask, simply quit his job.

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German aid worker abducted in Afghanistan

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PAGE: A8

SECTION: World Wire

WORD COUNT: 376

CP Wire Rahim Faiez KABUL — Four armed assailants kidnapped a German aid worker dining with her husband at a restaurant in a bold midday attack on Saturday, while the Taliban said negotiations for the release of 19 remaining South Korean hostages had failed.

Meanwhile, a suicide-car-bomb attack killed 15 people and wounded 26, including several women and children, in Afghanistan's southern city of Kandahar.

The abduction of the 31-year-old German woman, who works for a small Christian aid organization along with her husband, prompted police in Kabul to shoot at the speeding getaway car, killing a nearby taxi driver.

The assailants pulled up to the barbecue and fast-food restaurant in a dark grey Toyota Corolla, and one of the men went inside and pretended to order a pizza, intelligence officials said.

They said two other men waited outside, while another remained in the car.

The man in the restaurant pulled out a pistol, walked up to a table where the German couple was sitting, and took the woman outside, the officials said on condition of anonymity.

Ahmad Fahim, who works in a nearby bakery, said the German man called for help as his wife was taken away.

"The man was shouting 'Police! Police!'" and was frantically making calls on his cellphone, Fahim said.

The woman works for the Ora International aid group, based in the central German town of Korbach, said Ulf Baumann, a spokesman for the organization.

Baumann did not further identify the woman, but said she had worked for the group in Kabul since September 2006, along with her husband.

Germany's Foreign Ministry confirmed the kidnapping and said it was working with Afghan officials toward a resolution.

The latest kidnapping comes amid heightened fears of abductions, after 23 South Koreans and two Germans were taken hostage in separate incidents last month in central Afghanistan.

One of the German men has been shot to death.

Taliban insurgents killed two of the South Koreans and released two others after face-to-face talks with South Korean officials.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi said the group's demands for the release of the remaining 19 South Koreans remains the same — a swap for Taliban prisoners, which the Afghan government has ruled out.

Separately on Saturday, a suicide bomber attacked a convoy of private security forces west of Kandahar, killing 15 people including three women and two children, police said.

Four security guards were among the dead, while the attack wounded six guards and 20 civilians who were riding in two minivans also hit by the blast, said Kandahar's provincial police chief, Syed Agha Saqib.

Violence in Afghanistan has risen sharply in the last two months.

This year more than 3,700 people — mostly of them insurgents — have died.

— Associated Press

Are Korean victims true martyrs?

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DATE: 2007.08.19

PAGE: B8

SECTION: Faith

WORD COUNT: 869

Freelance Writer John Longhurst The missionaries were warned about the dangers. They knew the people they wanted to help were violent and dangerous. They were aware that this part of the country was unstable and unpredictable. Yet they went anyway, keeping their plan secret so nobody could prevent them from accomplishing their mission.

The result? They were attacked and killed.

The South Koreans kidnapped in Afghanistan last month? No. The year was 1956. The country was Ecuador. The missionaries were Nate Saint, Jim Elliot, Ed McCully, Peter Fleming and Roger Youderian — names well-known to many North American evangelicals. The five young men flew into a remote and dangerous part of the Ecuadorian jungle to share the Gospel with Huaorani, also known as Aucas, a fierce and warlike tribe that was extremely hostile to outsiders.

Their initial contacts with the tribe were promising. But on January 8, 1956, the entire team was killed by a group of Huaorani, who speared them to death. The shocking murders made headlines around the world.

After the killing, Nate Saint's sister, Rachel, returned to make peaceful contact with the Huaorani. Many members of the tribe became Christians. Nate's son, Steve, was baptized by one of the men who helped kill his father.

Due to the nature of their deaths, Nate Saint and his friends are considered by many to be martyrs. According to the highly respected World Christian Encyclopedia, they were just a few of the estimated 40 million people who were killed for being Christians over the last 20 centuries — 26 million in the 20th century alone. The encyclopedia goes on to estimate that a further 173,000 will die this year for their faith in Jesus.

Among this number, unfortunately, are Shim Sung Min and Bae Hyung Kyu, the South Korean Christians killed last month in Afghanistan.

They were among 23 Christians from South Korea who went to Afghanistan to do relief work, defying a ban by their own government against travel to that country. Despite the danger and the travel ban, thousands of South Korean Christians have either gone or tried to go to Afghanistan in the past few years, including 2,000 who tried to go to a conference in that country. The South Korean government tried to stop them, but about 900 went anyway, causing an uproar in the staunchly Muslim country.

Even some other South Korean Christians question their tactics.

"We should reflect on where we are and reconsider where we are heading to in our missionary work," said Park Jong-Soon, former president of the Christian Council of Korea. "Korean missionaries have strong emotional fervour, but they are weak in strategy." Tragic situation The tragic situation makes me wonder: Are the two dead South Korean Christians martyrs, or just people who should have known better? To be considered a martyr by the church, a person must not seek death or provoke it — something the South Koreans could be accused of. They knew the country was dangerous, they knew the Taliban were violent, and

they likely were aware they weren't welcome. But how different is that from what Nate Saint and his friends did 51 years ago? If they can be martyrs, why not the two South Koreans? The sad truth is that the world is dangerous place for relief workers, even without taking chances. The group that sent the South Koreans may not have used the best judgment, but all aid agencies — religious and non-religious alike — have to send workers into danger zones to help people in need. The better ones have developed policies for travel to those countries. World Vision, for example, requires all staff going to dangerous countries to sign a release form acknowledging they could be kidnapped or killed. "It reminds people that the work can be dangerous and helps them count the cost," says World Vision staffer Philip Maher.

If workers are kidnapped, the agency will work as hard as possible to free them, he said. But it will not pay ransom.

Dangers Did the organization that sent the 23 South Koreans to Afghanistan prepare them for the dangers they might face? Does it have a policy for what to do in this kind of emergency? For that matter, do the many Canadian churches, groups and schools that send people overseas know what they would do in a similar situation? Suffering and dying because you are a Christian is one thing.

But nobody wants to die for foolish or avoidable reasons. Yet history has turned on such experiences. The deaths of the missionaries in Ecuador proved a turning point in relations with the Huaorani. Could something similar happen in Afghanistan because of the deaths of the South Korean Christians? In the end, only God knows.

You can learn more about Nate Saint and his friends at the Missionary Aviation Fellowship website at http://www.maf.org/nate_sain jdl562000@yahoo.com You can learn more about Nate Saint and his friends at the Missionary Aviation Fellowship website at http://www.maf.org/nate_sain

What the ribbon means It's not about the war; it's about the soldiers

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SECTION: Sunday

WORD COUNT: 1088

None Nisha Tuli DAWN Day was on the ferry between Victoria and the B.C. mainland when she got word that Master Cpl. Timothy Wilson, her son's friend, had been killed in a road accident in Afghanistan.

Day stood next to her car, crying over the hood, as other passengers watched her, confused by her tears.

Day pointed to a sticker on the back of her car.

It was a yellow Support Our Troops ribbon and it told a story Day didn't need to put into words.

"I don't know what it meant to them," she said of that day in March 2006. "But it saved me from having to say anything at a difficult moment." The proud mother of two boys in the military, Day said the yellow ribbon gives her a warm feeling.

"I love my boys like any mom does, but I dislike the fact they are so far away and are called on potentially dangerous jobs," she said. "I like to show other people on the highway I support the troops, and I want them to know how important it is to me." Over on the other side of Canada, Eva LeFurgey of Mirimichi, N.B., displays a yellow ribbon for her son-in-law, Cpl. Allan Stewart, who was killed in Afghanistan last April.

She said her whole family has yellow ribbon magnets on their vehicles and she has yellow ribbons tied to the trees in her yard.

"Putting on those magnets shows our support," she said. "The soldiers know, and I think every little bit helps them feel like we're here for them." LeFurgey says she doesn't understand many of the reasons for the war in Afghanistan, but learned from her son-in-law that the Canadian troops are doing good work for the Afghan people.

"Knowing they are making a difference makes me want to stand behind them even more," she said.

In Lac du Bonnet, Melvin Holmes displays a yellow ribbon on the back of his truck proudly.

"I am not pleased they are in Afghanistan, but I understand why they are," he said. "I know there have been a lot of deaths, but there are also injuries and loss of limbs and that kind of thing is not reported." A member of the military for nine years, Holmes believes his demonstration of support is not an empty sentiment, because even if the soldiers can't see the ribbon, their families can.

"No one likes to see their son or daughter in a war zone," he said. "We need them to know that we support them." Here in Winnipeg, Bob Smart said he believes in military families and the work the Armed Forces are doing.

"They are our reps abroad," he said.

Smart's son-in-law was injured in Afghanistan and he has a yellow ribbon attached to the back of his tiny hatchback.

"I believe in the mission," he said. "But I don't believe in the sacrifice — and that's why I have my ribbon." Amid the debate about the war in Afghanistan, the yellow Support our Troops ribbon has become an individual form of expression. For some, it may or may not mean supporting the war, but for almost everyone, it means backing each man and woman risking or sacrificing their lives overseas.

Brian Muntz believes so strongly in a show of support for Canada's troops he founded Red Fridays. The Internet-based group asks Canadians to wear red on Fridays as a show of solidarity for the military.

He also sells yellow ribbon merchandise like stickers, magnets and pins, including a camouflage ribbon he created himself.

Muntz's goal is to draw attention to the dangers the troops face fighting overseas — not just in Afghanistan, but around the world.

"It's sad to know there are a lot of men and women who get hurt and don't get a lot of news coverage," he said. "There is a desire to show public support for these men and women in Canada." Using Afghanistan as a way to draw attention, Muntz has amassed a following for Red Fridays. Rallies held throughout the country have drawn both positive and negative reactions.

"Some people tell me I shouldn't be doing this and that I have no business being there," he said. "Some say they can't support the troops because they are Muslim, and others wave signs saying thank you for what I'm doing." Muntz said he's been accused of profiting from the blood of dead men and women, but he said he is not making any money.

"It goes towards buying more merchandise, making banners, printing press releases and other administrative things" he said. "Any money left over goes to the Canadian Forces Personnel Assistance Fund." The CFPAP provides financial assistance to members of the Canadian Forces and their families. He estimates he has donated over \$20,000 so far.

But someone is making money off Support Our Troops products.

"Yeah, it's the web designers I pay and the people who make the products that are making the money," said Muntz.

For many, it's the question of who is profiting that makes them wonder about the merit of the yellow ribbon.

Some merchandise is sold on eBay or through independent online sellers. In some cases, the money is donated to the troops, but several e-mails sent to yellow ribbon purveyors, asking where their proceeds go, were unanswered.

In contrast, much of the Support Our Troops merchandise is bought at military bases across the country.

At CFB Shilo, ribbons are sold through CANEX supermart, an all-purpose store on the base. Store manager Rick Kehler said in one way or another, the money from the sale of Support Our Troops merchandise goes back into the military.

"The profits, if any, go to the Canadian Forces Central Fund," he said. The CFCF provides financial assistance to Forces members and their families. "Some is retained at the base level to directly support morale and welfare for military families on the base." Kehler said the number of magnets they sell is astounding and

keeps growing.

"People come from all over to buy them," he said.

However, despite the many supporters of Canada's military, there are some who feel yellow ribbons are a fad and an empty sentiment that accomplishes nothing.

A quick Internet search reveals an anti-ribbon movement. Mock sticker and magnet products are popping up like the "I support Chinese ribbon manufacturers" ribbon and the "I support whatever's trendy" ribbon.

On the social networking website Facebook, numerous anti-ribbon groups such as "Americans Against the Magnetic Ribbon Monopoly" and the "Anti Magnetic Ribbon Group" lament the ineffectiveness of putting a sticker on a car as any way to support men and women who are dying overseas.

A message left by a Canadian soldier on the wall of a group called "Magnetic Ribbons Annoy the Crap out of me!" illustrates the frustration some feel with the ribbons.

"I'm in the military and I can't stand those bloody magnetic ribbons, or any ribbons for that matter," wrote Dustin Donovan of Kingston, Ont.

"Support your troops, buy a magnetic sticker, and line some other dude's pocket with your cash. If you genuinely, honestly want to support the soldiers, the next time you see one, offer to buy them a coffee. Believe me, that guy will never forget you for the rest of his life." nisha.tuli@freepress.mb.ca

Correspondent 'wired to crave risk'

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PAGE: D0

SECTION: Books

WORD COUNT: 354

None Where War Lives By Paul Watson McClelland & Stewart, 367 pages, \$35 Reviewed by Graeme Voyer
IN the spring of 2003, Canadian-born foreign correspondent Paul Watson was in northern Iraq, covering the U.S. invasion.

He was in a car with his translator, heading toward combat, when he was stopped at a checkpoint and told that it was too dangerous to proceed.

"I know that," Watson said. "That's why we're going." This incident epitomizes Watson's career, which he relates in this raw, wrenching memoir.

Watson has reported on more than a dozen conflicts during the past two decades. He began as a reporter for the Toronto Star, then joined the foreign staff of the Los Angeles Times.

He describes his experiences in Iraq, Somalia, Rwanda, Kosovo and Afghanistan.

Watson seems to gravitate toward conflict and thrive in dangerous situations. He speculates that he must be "wired to crave risk." Indeed, he takes extraordinary risks while covering the various wars of the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

But Watson does not recount his adventures in a spirit of braggadocio or self-congratulation.

Rather, he is a tormented man. Witnessing so much killing has left him with psychic scars.

In particular, he is haunted by the memory of the corpse of an American soldier being desecrated by a mob in Somalia in 1993.

Watson took a picture of the scene; his photograph won a U.S.

Pulitzer Prize.

But today he is still racked with guilt for having given the mob a world stage.

Working in combat zones has given him some insights into human nature and human conduct in times of war.

For example, he has learned that "bravado often hides cowardice, while the meek prove to be the most courageous." Watson also comments on issues in combat journalism. He notes that the Iraq war in 2003 was the first American conflict since Vietnam in which reporters travelled with the American military.

He criticizes this practice of "embedding" journalists, arguing that it compromises the independence of reporters.

"I'd always been a loner in war zones," he writes, "and I wanted to keep it that way." The role of the journalist, Watson maintains, is to question and challenge those in power, regardless of what side they are on.

He says that his loyalty in war is not to a particular country, but to the truth, which people in power often seek to conceal.

Finally, it should be pointed out that Watson was born with one hand, a fact that makes his exploits all the more remarkable.

Graeme Voyer is a Winnipeg writer.

The new face of terrorism; Women, no longer content with supporting roles, are increasingly joining the ranks of Islamic suicide bombers

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ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: REUTERS / Fatima al-Nejar, a 57-year-old suicide bomber and a mother of nine, blew herself up in the Gaza Strip in November 2006, also killing three Israeli soldiers. She is part of a disturbing trend. ;

KEYWORDS: TERRORISM; WAR; CONSPIRACY; NUCLEAR WEAPONS

BYLINE: PETER BERGEN AND PAUL CRUICKSHANK

SOURCE: Washington Post

WORD COUNT: 1241

The last thing seven Iraqi policemen saw at a checkpoint in Ramadi in July was a woman approaching them. Seconds later, she detonated her explosives vest, killing herself and everybody else at the site.

Two weeks earlier in Pakistan, some would-be female suicide bombers were less successful: When government forces stormed Islamabad's Red Mosque, several women were among the fanatics hoping to make a stand. "We wanted to carry out suicide attacks ... but we didn't have sufficient explosives," one woman later regretfully told the BBC.

Surprised? Don't be. Female participation in jihadist groups and operations has grown alarmingly in recent years. And unless we come to terms with the phenomenon, female Islamist militants might be an important part of our future.

Islamic puritans once upheld a strong taboo against women's active participation in the holy struggle. In Al-Qa'ida's Afghan training camps, wives were segregated from men, their primary role being to groom sons to follow their fathers. Many Al-Qa'ida members are rabid misogynists; just recall the will of the lead 9/11 hijacker, Muhammad Atta, which insisted no women attend his funeral or visit his grave.

But since September 2001, women have become increasingly involved in Islamist terrorism. The most important underlying factor is the jihadists' deepening sense they are engaged in a total war against the United States and the Muslim regimes it supports. Remember, Osama bin Laden used to be a relatively lonely voice, arguing Islam was facing an existential struggle to defend itself from U.S. aggression.

But the U.S. occupation of Iraq has convinced many more militants worldwide that bin Laden's paradigm is the best way of explaining their world. All's fair in total war, many jihadists have concluded, so many objections to a more active female role in the struggle have been dropped. Meanwhile, women from Pakistan to Iraq to Belgium have been galvanized by images of Muslims being victimized by U.S. forces (images shrewdly amplified by Al-Qa'ida's propaganda machine) and have felt drawn to fight.

The key here is the deeply held belief in the Islamic world that Muslim lands are under attack, which lets clerics bless extraordinary actions in the name of self-defence against a rapacious West. This concept was

The new face of terrorism; Women, no longer content with supporting roles, are increasingly joining the ranks

central to a 2003 fatwa by the influential Egyptian scholar Yusuf al-Qaradawi that sanctioned female suicide bombings, arguing "when the enemy assaults a given Muslim territory, it becomes incumbent upon all its residents to fight against them to the extent that a woman should go out even without the consent of her husband." Al-Qa'ida's ideologues have issued their own online injunctions urging women to martyr themselves for the "global jihad."

Perhaps most troubling is the use of female bombers. As a tactic, this makes good sense: Women are less likely to be searched at checkpoints or borders and can hide explosives under their Islamic dress. But it is the shock value of such attacks that is attractive to the militants' leaders, who seek maximum publicity.

And a rising number of Muslim women brought up in the West are participating in terrorist operations – ironically, it seems, as a result of their greater expectations of gender equality in all spheres. Al-Qa'ida's second female suicide bomber was Muriel Degauque, 38, a Belgian convert to Islam who in 2005 triggered her suicide vest as a U.S. patrol passed her in Baqouba, Iraq, killing only herself. The wives of the members of the so-called Hofstad group, which has been linked to the 2004 assassination of the controversial Dutch filmmaker Theo van Gogh in Amsterdam, engaged in target practice; one accompanied her husband on an unsuccessful mission to kill the feminist parliamentarian Ayaan Hirsi Ali.

And Al-Qa'ida's only alleged senior female operative is Aafia Siddiqui, a Pakistani American who studied neuroscience at MIT and worked in the United States before disappearing in Pakistan in 2003.

Beyond Europe, some women have launched terrorist attacks simply to seek revenge, such as many of the so-called black widow suicide bombers in Chechnya and some female recruits to Al-Qa'ida in Iraq. Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the late leader of Al-Qa'ida in Iraq, explicitly sanctioned female suicide bombings.

In September 2005, in the Iraqi town of Tall Afar, the Zarqawi network used a woman in a suicide attack for the first time. Two months later, Zarqawi launched an attack against three American hotels in Amman, Jordan, killing about 60 people. One of Zarqawi's bombers was Sajida al-Rishawi, an Iraqi who had seen three of her brothers die in Iraq. (She was captured by Jordanian authorities after her explosives belt failed to detonate.)

Farhana Ali, a researcher at the Rand Corp., has documented about 10 female terrorist attacks in Iraq and adds websites and forums suggest many more women are fighting alongside the insurgents. Keen to bulk up his ranks quickly, Zarqawi calculated that using female operatives could shame men into volunteering for suicide missions, and his replacements seem to agree. By being willing to use women, Al-Qa'ida in Iraq instantly doubled its potential number of recruits.

Kashmiri terrorist groups, such as Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba, have given women more military tasks, including suicide attacks, in recent years. In Somalia, female suicide bombers have been deployed twice in the past year. Two women blew themselves up in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in March 2004. And in May 2005, two veiled women drove up behind a tourist bus in central Cairo and fired shots into its back window before turning their guns on themselves.

Women still account for only a handful of the hundreds of suicide attacks conducted by radical Islamic groups each year. The main way women have played a greater role in such operations is in auxiliary functions: running websites, handling finances and logistics, urging on their husbands. Last summer, Cossor Ali, a British woman of Pakistani descent, was charged with withholding knowledge of her husband Abdullah's involvement in a plot to blow up as many as 10 U.S. airliners – demonstrating women can play important support roles even as "stay-at-home" wives.

Malika el-Aroud is a case in point. She is the Belgian-Moroccan widow of the Al-Qa'ida operative who assassinated Ahmed Shah Massoud, the leader of the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance, just hours before 9/11. Aroud travelled to Switzerland after the Taliban fell. Although she had played the traditional wife's role in

The new face of terrorism; Women, no longer content with supporting roles, are increasingly joining the rank

Afghanistan, segregated from her husband's colleagues and unaware of her husband's impending mission, she took on a much more assertive role back in the West, visiting Al-Qa'ida prisoners in European jails and running a pro-Al-Qa'ida website.

When one of us met with Aroud in her Swiss chalet last year, she did not disguise her violent views, which outlined a neofeminist militant jihadism. Because of the war in Iraq, she told us, "even us sisters should all rise up and go to the airports and clearly declare we are going to fight."

Aroud was convicted last month of terrorism offenses in Switzerland. But there are plenty more like her.

Peter Bergen and Paul Cruickshank are fellows at the New York University Centre on Law and Security. Bergen, also a senior fellow at the New America Foundation, is the author of *The Osama bin Laden I Know*.

Aid worker abduction fuels hostage crisis; Suicide car bomb kills 15 in Kandahar

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ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: PAULA BRONSTEIN, GETTY IMAGES / Afghan police search a section of Kabul yesterday after a German aid worker was kidnapped from a restaurant where she was eating lunch with her husband. A Taliban spokesperson said yesterday negotiations over 19 South Korean hostages have broken down. ;
KEYWORDS: WAR; TERRORISM
DATELINE: KABUL
BYLINE: DAVID ROHDE and TAIMOOR SHAH
SOURCE: New York Times
WORD COUNT: 514

A suicide car bomb killed 13 civilians and two Afghan security guards on the outskirts of Kandahar yesterday morning, Afghan officials said. The attack was one of the deadliest in southern Afghanistan this year, and two women and a child were among the dead.

In Kabul, armed men walked into a restaurant in an affluent neighbourhood yesterday afternoon and kidnapped a woman who was a German aid worker, Afghan and Western officials said. The woman, who works for a group that helps Afghan orphans, is the latest of several foreigners who have been kidnapped in Afghanistan.

The suicide bombing yesterday occurred around 9 a.m. when a man rammed a bomb-laden car into a convoy of vehicles driven by Afghan employees of U.S. Protection & Investigations, a private U.S. security company that guards foreign contractors.

The explosion destroyed a security company vehicle and killed two security guards, according to the police, but the bulk of its impact was on a van carrying civilians.

"The van passing nearby the incident was completely destroyed, along with the passengers," Muhammad Nader, a driver who had seen the attack, said in a telephone interview. "I saw pieces of human bodies scattered around."

Sayed Agha Saqib, the Kandahar province police chief, said 20 people had been wounded in the car bomb attack and taken to hospitals for treatment.

The attack was the second in Kandahar in two days. On Friday, a suicide attack in the city killed the top government official from the Zhari district, a rural area west of Kandahar where the Taliban have recently carried out a series of attacks.

In the kidnapping in Kabul, two armed men walked into the restaurant the Karta Chahar neighbourhood as the German woman and her husband were eating at 1:30 p.m., said a Western official who spoke on condition of

anonymity. The woman's husband fought with the kidnappers but was unable to prevent them from forcing her into a car outside, where two other men were waiting.

It was not immediately clear who was responsible for the kidnapping. The Taliban have carried out a rash of abductions in Afghanistan in recent weeks. But in a telephone interview, a spokesperson for the Taliban, Zabiullah Mujahed, said he did not know whether the Taliban were involved yesterday.

There has been a rise in kidnappings, killings and robberies by criminal gangs in Kabul. On Wednesday, a British national was shot dead in Kabul in an apparent robbery.

"From our perspective, it's not looking like it's political," said the Western official, referring to the German woman's kidnapping. "This is looking like a criminal abduction."

The Taliban are holding hostage 19 Korean Christian aid workers, who were abducted as they rode on a public bus driving from Kabul to Kandahar. The Taliban have killed two of the male hostages and released two women.

In that case, a Taliban spokesperson, Qari Yousef Ahmadi, said negotiations between the Taliban and Korean officials had broken down.

"They did not meet our demands that they should release our prisoners in exchange for the Korean hostages," he said. "We don't know what the Taliban Shura will decide about the fate of the 19 hostages."

The Taliban also are still holding a German hostage from a previous kidnapping in Wardak province just south of Kabul.