

5/9/07 World News Connection (Newswire) 16:02:41

World News Connection

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Highlights: Afghan Online Sources 5-7 May 07

The following is a selection of reports monitored from websites and online news sites reporting on Afghanistan on 5-7 May 2007

POLITICS Government Persuades Truckers To End Strike, Resume Supplies to NATO Forces -- Afghanistan News reported on 7 May that negotiations between the Afghan Government and the truckers who have been on strike for nine days have reached a successful re

POLITICS

Government Persuades Truckers To End Strike, Resume Supplies to NATO Forces -- Afghanistan News reported on 7 May that negotiations between the Afghan Government and the truckers who have been on strike for nine days have reached a successful resolution.00A0, However, the truckers have asked for a written assurance of the acceptance of their demands before they end their strike.00A0, Around 15,000 heavy trucks transporting petroleum, edible goods, construction materials, and other goods for NATO forces and Afghanistan halted on both sides of the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.00A0, The truckers' demands include a reduction in the taxes levied by the Afghan Government and the elimination of illegal taxes charged by Afghan warlords at various points on the highway leading from Torkham to Kabul.00A0, During the nine-day strike, the supply of goods to NATO forces and Afghanistan was halted completely.00A0, If their demands were not met, the truckers were determined to continue their **protest** for an indefinite period. [(Internet) Afghanistan News in Dari -- website that states it follows an independent line in reporting on the political and security situation inside Afghanistan and Iraq. Articles published on this site are critical of Western policy; root URL as of filing date: <http://www.afghanistannews.org/>]

SECURITY

Afghan, Coalition Forces Kill Taliban Commanders in Herat Operation -- On 5 May, Bakhtar News Agency reported that important Taliban commanders were among more than 130 people killed in a recent counterinsurgency operation in Herat Province. A key commander, who was released with four others in exchange for Italian journalist Danielle Mastrogiacomio recently, died in the raid in Zerkoh. The raid also left over 50 civilians dead, touched off furious **protests**, and prompted President Hamed Karzai to warn foreign troops against inflicting collateral damage. The much-criticized prisoner swap resulted in the release of Ustad Yasir, Mufti Latifullah Hakimi, Mansur Ahmad, Hamdullah, and Mullah Ghaf-

far. Tribal elders and the Taliban stated that three militant commanders, including one freed as a result of the prisoner exchange, were killed in the Herat operation that was conducted by Afghan and coalition forces jointly. Haji Abdul Hakim, a Taliban commander in the Greshk District of Helmand Province, revealed that Mullah Ghaffar, Mullah Jan, and Mullah Janan perished in the Herat clashes. Haji Muhammad Wazir, a tribal elder from Marja, confirmed that six dead bodies, including those of the commanders had been brought to Helmand Province from Shindand in Herat. Brigadier General Nabi Jan Mullahkhel, the police chief of Helmand Province, confirmed that the dead bodies had been brought to Helmand, but stopped short of providing more details. [Kabul Bakhtar News Agency in Dari and Pashto -- Official news agency of the Afghan Government; root URL as of filing date: <http://www.bakhtarnews.com.af>]

German Defense Ministry Rejects Afghan Request for Military Instructors -- Bakhtar News Agency reported on 6 May that Germany has turned down an Afghan request to send 19 military instructors to southern Afghanistan. A German Defense Ministry spokesman stated that the German Federal Armed Forces' mandate authorized German troops to venture beyond their area of operation in the north of the country only in exceptional circumstances. Germany has about 3,000 troops stationed in Afghanistan as part of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force. In addition, six German Tornado surveillance aircraft are also deployed, undertaking reconnaissance missions in support of NATO-led troops fighting against Taliban insurgents.

Hekmatyar Warns Militants Able To Maintain Bombing Campaign for Years -- On 7 May, Rah-e Nejat reported that Hezb-e Eslami leader Golboddin Hekmatyar, one of the government's main opponents, stated that each detonation of a bomb only cost \$100, which means that the tactic of bomb attacks can be sustained for years. He added: "Meanwhile, the foreign forces spend billions of dollars. Foreign forces know that we do not need their money or equipment." The report added that Hekmatyar is believed to be hiding in the east of Afghanistan or in Pakistan and is directing operations against foreign forces and the government from there. [Kabul Rah-e Nejat in Dari -- daily paper launched after the fall of the Taliban by MP Alemi Balkhi. It is generally supportive of the government and the presence of the NATO forces in Afghanistan, but can be critical of government policies. It publishes editorials and articles on corruption, foreign relations, politics, security, drugs, religion, and reconstruction; root URL as of filing date: <http://www.rahenejatdaily.com>]

NARCOTICS

Police Destroy 319 Hectares of Poppy Farms in Faryab Province-- On 7 May, Bakhtar News Agency reported that, as part of the continuing destruction of poppy farms in Faryab Province, 319 hectares of poppy farms were destroyed by police in the Quasar District of the province on 6 May. The operation took place with the cooperation of local people and police officials. Faryab Province Governor Abdul Latif Ibrahimi expressed gratitude at the destruction of the poppy farms and the cooperation of people with the government. He asked people to take part in the reconstruction of the province.

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NEWS SUBJECT: (NATO (1NA95); Government (1GO80); World Organizations (1IN77); Local

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OTHER INDEXING: (AFGHANISTAN; AFGHANISTAN NEWS; BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY; COALITION FORCES KILL TALIBAN; DEFENSE MINISTRY; FEDERAL ARMED FORCES; FORCES AFGHANISTAN NEWS; GERMAN DEFENSE MINISTRY REJECTS AFGHAN; INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE FORCE; KABUL BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY; KABUL RAH E NEJAT; MP ALEMI BALKHI; MULLAH GHAFAR; NARCOTICS; NATO; NATO FORCES; NEJAT; PAKISTAN; PAKISTAN AFGHANISTAN; POLICE DESTROY 319; POLITICS; POPPY FARMS; RAH; TALIBAN; USTAD YASIR MUFTI LATIFULLAH HAKIMI) (Abdul Latif Ibrahimi; Danielle Mastrogiacomo; Golboddin Hekmatyar; Haji Abdul Hakim; Hamed Karzai; Hekmatyar; Highlights; Internet; Mansur Ahmad; Militants; Muhammad Wazir; Mullah Ghaffar; Mullah Jan; Mullah Janan; Nabi Jan Mullahkhel; Persuades Truckers; Resume Supplies) (Afghanistan; Germany; AFG; DEU; Asia; Europe; South Asia; North Europe)

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