

# Taliban launch wave of attacks in Afghan, kill 74

## Kabul

The Taliban unleashed a wave of attacks across Afghanistan yesterday, targeting police compounds and government facilities with suicide bombers in the country's south, east and west, and killing at least 74 people, officials said.

Among those killed in one of the attacks was a provincial police chief. Scores were also wounded, both policemen and civilians.

Afghanistan's deputy interior minister, Murad Ali Murad, called the onslaught the "biggest terrorist attack this year."

Murad told a press conference in Kabul that attacks in Ghazni and Paktia provinces killed 71 people.

In southern Paktia province, 41 people — 21 policemen and 20 civilians — were killed when the Taliban

targeted a police compound in the provincial capital of Gardez with two suicide car bombs. Among the wounded were 48 policemen and 110 civilians.

The provincial police chief, Toryalai Abdyani, was killed in the Paktia attack, Murad said.

The Interior Ministry said in a statement earlier Tuesday that after the two cars blew up in Gardez, five attackers with suicide belts tried to storm the compound but were killed by Afghan security forces.

Health Ministry spokesman Waheed Majroo said the Gardez city hospital reported receiving at least 130 wounded in the attack.

Hamza Aqmal, a student at the Paktia University, told The Associated Press that he heard a very powerful

blast that shattered glass and broke all the windows at the building he was in. The university is about 2 kilometers (1.25 miles) from the training academy, said Aqmal, who was slightly injured by the glass.

A lawmaker from Paktia, Mujeeb Rahman Chamkani, said that along with the provincial police chief, several of his staff were killed. Most of the casualties were civilians who had come to the center, which also serves as a government passport department, Chamkani said.

In southern Ghazni province, the insurgents stormed a security compound in Andar district, using a suicide car bomb and killing 25 police and five civilians, Murad said. At least 15 people were wounded, including 10 policemen, he added. (AP)

## #PollToday



The Supreme Court of India has temporarily banned the sale of firecrackers in and around Delhi ahead of Diwali, citing severe air pollution. Do you support the move?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Can't Say



I would like to hear a clear declaration. If you want to accept Turkey, just do it. If you don't want to, just tell that."

-Recep Tayyip Erdogan  
Turkish President

## Rest in sight

Kurds abandon territory in the face of Iraq government advance



The Baghdad government recaptured territory from Kurds across the breadth of northern Iraq, making startlingly rapid gains in a sudden campaign

## Israel says no talks if Hamas in Palestinian government

Israel said it would not conduct diplomatic negotiations with a Palestinian government that includes a role for the militant Hamas group.

## 90pc of Raqqa retaken from Islamic State - U.S

The U.S. military said that it could only confirm that about 90 percent of the Syrian city of Raqqa had been retaken from IS.

## Ten arrested over suspected plot to target politicians

Ten people have been arrested in France over a suspected plot to target politicians and mosques, a source close to the investigation said.

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## Bell's V-280 tiltrotor to make first flight

Bell Helicopter's V-280 Valor tiltrotor prototype, developed to replace the U.S. Army's UH-60 Black Hawk and AH-64 Apache helicopters, is scheduled to make its maiden flight before the end of 2017

**V-280 VALOR:** Flight demonstrator builds on tiltrotor technology of Bell's V-22 Osprey, used by U.S. Air Force and Marines

**Tiltrotor:** Rotors and driveshafts tilt while engine nacelles remain in place — simpler than V-22, which tilts entire engine

**Plan view**

**Airframe**  
Carbon fibre-reinforced composites reduce weight and cost

**Engines:** Two 5,000shp GE T64 turboshafts

**Armoured cabin**

**Retractable undercarriage**

**V-tail and ruddervators**

**Side doors:** Allow troops to quickly enter and exit — unlike rear ramp on V-22 — and provide door gunners with wide field of fire

**Vertical flight**  
Takes off, lands and hovers like helicopter

**Forward flight**  
Speed, range and payload superior to helicopter

**Attack variant**

**Nose-mounted gun turret**

**Internal bay and outboard pylons for guided missiles and rockets**

Specifications	V-280	UH-60M
Speed	520km/h	280km/h
Combat radius	1,480km	600km
Payload	5,440kg	4,540kg
Crew	4	4
Troops	14	11

Sources: Aviation Week, Bell Helicopter, FlightGlobal, Sikorsky © GRAPHIC NEWS

## North says 'a nuke war may break out any moment'

### United Nations

North Korea's deputy U.N. ambassador warned Monday that the situation on the Korean peninsula "has reached the touch-and-go point and a nuclear war may break out any moment."

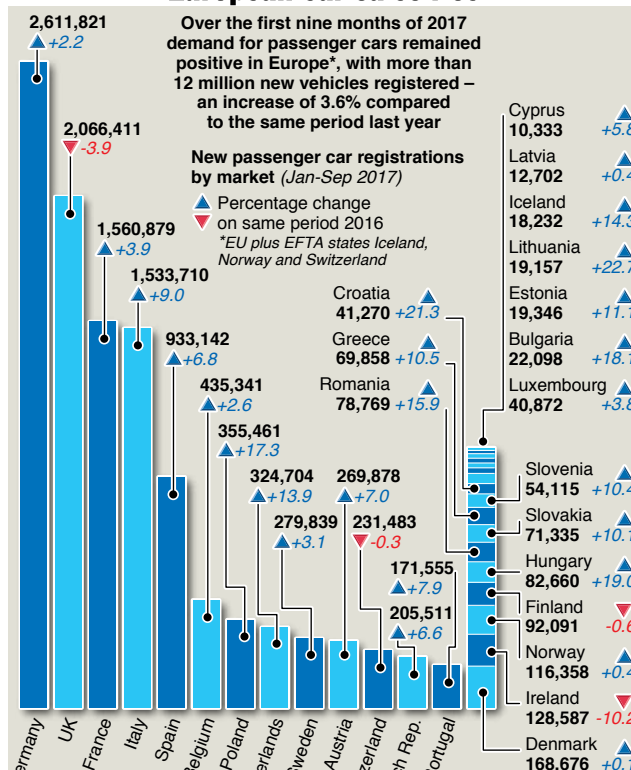
Kim In Ryong told the U.N. General Assembly's disarmament committee that North Korea is the only country in the world that has been subjected to "such an extreme and direct nuclear

threat" from the United States.

He pointed to large-scale military exercises every year using "nuclear assets" and said what is more dangerous is what he called a U.S. plan to stage a "secret operation aimed at the removal of our supreme leadership."

"If the U.S. dares to invade our sacred territory even an inch it will not escape our severe punishment in any part of the globe," he warned.

## European car sales rise



**Wanted: Zimbabwe hangman — 50 apply**

## Harare

At least 50 people want to become Zimbabwe's hangman, a job that fell vacant over a decade ago, officials said yesterday, stressing that applicants were "very interested" in the role.

The country, which has an unemployment rate of more than 90 percent by some measures, last executed a prisoner in 2005, after which the serving hangman retired.

"The response has been overwhelming and the applications have been from both men and women," justice ministry secretary Virginia

Mabhiza told the *NewsDay* newspaper.

"We have received over 50 applications in the past few months. People are very interested."

After a long search, a new hangman was reported to have been appointed in 2012 but the chosen candidate was never confirmed. Zimbabwe's new 2013 constitution exempts women from the hangman's noose. "All men between 18 and 69 years (who) have been convicted of murder in aggravated circumstances can receive capital punishment," Mabhiza was quoted as saying.