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Tuesday, October 02, 2007

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Burqa bomber kills 16

* 29 people injured in Bannu blast
* 35 soldiers feared kidnapped

PESHAWAR: A suicide bomber disguised in a woman's burqa blew himself up at a busy police checkpoint in Bannu, NWFP on Monday, killing at least 16 people including four policemen, officials said.

"A man disguised in a burqa got out of an auto-rickshaw when police stopped the vehicle for a search at a checkpoint. He then blew himself up," police officer. Asar Islam told AFP.

Examination of the remains "confirmed that it was a male suicide bomber" wearing women's clothing, while initial reports of a possible female attacker had been discounted, Bannu police chief Ameer Hamza Mahsud said.



29 people injured: Interior Ministry spokesman Brig Javed Cheema said 16 people were killed and 29 were wounded and that authorities were investigating the blast.

Officials said four women were among those killed. Chief military spokesman Maj Gen Waheed Arshad confirmed that it was a suicide blast

NWFP Chief Minister Akram Khan Durrani announced compensation of Rs 100,000 for heirs of each deceased and Rs 50,000 for each injured in the suicide blast.

Separately, Islamic militants shot dead a paramilitary soldier before dawn in North Waziristan, security officials said.

The militants raided a checkpoint in the border town of Datta Khel and fled after shooting the trooper, an official said.

35 troops feared missing: Meanwhile, 35 troops went missing on Tuesday in Bakka Khail area of Bannu, feared kidnapped by militants after a gunfight.

Abdul Nawaz Khan, district officer of the Bannu frontier force, said more than 100 militants had surrounded a post, and communication with the troops had then been lost. afp

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