

As Afghan official warned, bombers attack; 22 killed

NORTH OF KABUL

Latest of several attacks in a formerly peaceful province

BY ABDUL WAHEED WAFI

AND ROD NORDLAND

The New York Times

CHARJUKAR, Afghanistan — The governor of Parwan province, Abdul Basir Salangi, convened a meeting Sunday morning with his top aides to find out why security had not been improved around his offices, 10 days after reports that a group of suicide bombers was planning an attack.

A former jihad command-

er from the war against the

Soviets, Salangi is an impos-

ing figure, and his anger was

evident as he dressed down

the aides, including the pro-

vincial police chief. The intel-

ligence was very specific, he

told his aides: The bombers

might arrive in a Toyota Co-

rolla.

Just then, as he later re-

called the moment, there

were two explosions as a

group of six suicide bombers

blew their way into the gov-

ernor's compound. In the

three-hour firefight that fol-

lowed, the attackers killed 22

officers, and the rest a mix-

ture of government staff and

civilian visitors, before they

were subdued.

Afterward, Salangi, who

was unhurt, said, "I believe

the security forces in Parwan

fell short in preventing this

thing."

The episode in Parwan

province, in central Afghan-

istan 35 miles north of the

capital, was the latest in a se-

ries of insurgent attacks in

what had been the quiet

provinces neighboring the

capital. It comes as U.S. mil-

tary officials are weighing

where to withdraw the first

of 10,000 troops that had

been part of last year's surge.



American and Afghan soldiers inspect the site of a car bomb attack outside the governor's compound in Parwan province after a suicide attack that killed at least 22 people Monday.

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Parwan and nearby prov-

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But military commanders are

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losing some of the gains

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In addition, Parwan is

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the transition from NATO to

Afghan control, scheduled

for next month.

"This will have no effect on

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