KABUL - Religious affairs experts say that the insurgents contributed about 750 troops.

The incident happened last evening in Mirza Olang village after the insurgents seized control of the area, said Sayed-Mohammad Afzal Bebiashvili, the 32nd Georgian Armed Forces’ serviceman who was killed while on duty.

The insurgents, after capturing the village, took dozens of civilians hostage. So far no contact has been established with the hostages, we call on the central government and security institutions to launch an operation to free hostages from the insurgents without being harmed, added Waheedi.

This comes few days after the insurgents infiltrated the village following days of fierce fighting with the security forces.

"Alongside the military personnel, up to 50 to 40 civilians including the women and children and old men have been killed by the insurgents after they captured the Mirza Olang village," said Waheedi.

The Ministry of Interior (MoI) has confirmed battles between Afghan security forces and the insurgents in Sayyad district of Sar-e-Pul where the village is located, but it did not confirm the number of casualties.

"Fierce fighting continued in Sar-e-Pul over the past two days, unfortunately civilians and military personnel have sustained casualties during the battles," said MoI spokesman Majid Shahnaz.

Three other Georgian soldiers were shot dead last week. Bebiashvili is the 32nd Georgian serviceman to be killed in Afghanistan. Three other Georgian soldiers were also killed in the recent fighting.

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KABUL - The Chabahar port, a trilateral project involving Afghanistan, India and Iran, will be operational by 2018, hopes India's transport minister, highway and shipping, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said during his visit to Tehran on Saturday. “We are keen on developing the Chabahar port and are hopeful of starting operations in 12 to 18 months.”

Situated in the Sistan-Baluchestan province on Iran’s southern coast, the port can be easily accessed from India's west coast, bypassing Pakistan. It will lessen Afghanistan’s reliance on using Pakistan ports.

Gadkari was quoted as saying by The Times of India: “Civil construction work has started. We have finalised tenders worth Rs 4.6 billion for equipment. Once the port becomes operational, it will become a growth engine.” (Pajhwok)

KABUL - According to the officials, Kabul has eight official crossings for trucks and other vehicles. At four of these points scanners have been installed. The four main entry points will be equipped with improved scanners in the near future.

In all 80 routes connect Kabul to nearby provinces but scanners will be installed at eight entrances to check the trucks and big vehicles that enter the city. Out of the 80 routes, 44 of them are for trucks and vehicles which the security forces do not control.

These entry points include Pul-e-Charkhi, Sang-e-Nabbiha, Arghandab, Sar-e-Kotal, Dam Pertab, Gud Beg, Bob Khil and Tangi Tarakhel.

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