MAHMOOD RAQI - Three volleyball players were killed and three others were wounded when a claymore mine went off in the Khelrez district of Kandahar province.

Police spokesman Shaiq Shourish said the incident took place in Ka kar village on Friday evening. He said the Taliban had lost the high ground and kept control over highway 116.

The area residents closed the Ka kar-Kandahar road due to the casualties. The elevation of the Taliban militants, who launched an all-out offensive on Baghlan's provincial capital Pul-e-Khumri and kept the highway closed for about 10 days, has been reduced, police chief Abdul Wahid Wajid said on Friday evening. (Pajhwok)

Militants Defeated, Highway Reopened in Northern Baghlan: Official

3 Volleyball Players Killed in Kapisa Ground Blast

PUL-E-KHUMRI - Taliban militants who have blocked the highway area in Kabil region of the northern Baghlan province have been defeated and the road linking Kabil to the northern Marez-e-Sharif city was reopened Thursday night.

Baghlan provincial police chief Nayaz Mohammad Ahmadi said in a voice message Saturday that the military officials met with the Taliban and negotiated and finally the Taliban have agreed to withdraw from the area.

Taliban militants, who launched a massive offensive on Baghlan's provincial capital Pul-e-Khumri and kept the highway closed for about 10 days, have not commented on the situation. Meanwhile, the security forces launched cleanup operations on the main road linking Baghlan's neighboring Kunduz province to Talibak province Friday morning, and according to Kunduz police chief Qudratullah Safi the road would soon be reopened. (Tibshia)

US Forces Apologize for Wardak Civilian Deaths

KABUL - American forces commander in the southeast has apologized over civilian casualties resulting from a coalition air strike in central Wardak province, the Afghan military said Saturday. Last week, at least nine civilians were killed in an airstrike by an American drone in Sayedabad district. The drone targeted a civilian vehicle, killing a man Abdul Ra hid, his two sons and other civilians.

The area residents closed the Ka kar-Kandahar road against traffic in protest over the civilian deaths. (Image 69x1497 to 979x1540)

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