Seven dead in fresh Maoist violence in Nepal

Four security force personnel died in a landmine explosion.

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KATHMANDU: Seven people have been killed in fresh Maoist rebel violence in Nepal, including four security force personnel who died in a landmine explosion, an official said. The blast, which also seriously injured seven security men, occurred Sunday in the far west of Nepal, a stronghold of the rebels who have been waging an increasingly deadly struggle for a communist republic since 1996. "The landmine exploded near Hagulte on the Dhangadh-Dadeldhura highway in far western Nepal Sunday," said the security official who did not want to be named. In other violence, a woman was killed and three people seriously injured when a landmine exploded Monday in western Nepal, the official said. The Maoists have been laying landmines in western Nepal where the army is constructing a road, the official said. Security officials temporarily halted transport services in some areas because of the threat of landmines.

Meanwhile, another rebel blew himself up accidentally in southeastern Nepal late Sunday when a bomb strapped to his back exploded, the official said. In a similar incident, a Maoist trying to plant a bomb in the office of mayor of Itahari town in southeastern Nepal was killed when the explosive device went off accidentally, police said. Meanwhile, rebels destroyed the family home of army headquarters spokesman Colonel Dipak Gurung, a military official said, adding no one was injured.

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