

Car bomb blast outside Kandahar Nato base

KANDAHAR (Reuters) - A powerful car bomb exploded outside a Nato base in Afghanistan's southern Kandahar city on Wednesday, destroying scores of vehicles but causing no casualties, officials said.

The blast was the latest in a string of attacks in Kandahar in recent months as militants step up their campaign of violence ahead of a major US-led offensive due to begin in the coming weeks aimed at driving the Taliban from their spiritual home.

The bomb, which had been placed inside a parked vehicle, exploded on Wednesday.

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India, Iran mull undersea gasline bypassing Pak

MOSCOW (Online) - India and Iran are holding talks on building a gas pipeline between the two countries along the bed of the Arabian Sea to bypass Pakistan.

The carrying capacity of the gas pipeline's first leg will total 31 billion cum annually, with the cost of construction estimated at 4 billion dollar." T H

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Poster competition held to discourage tobacco use

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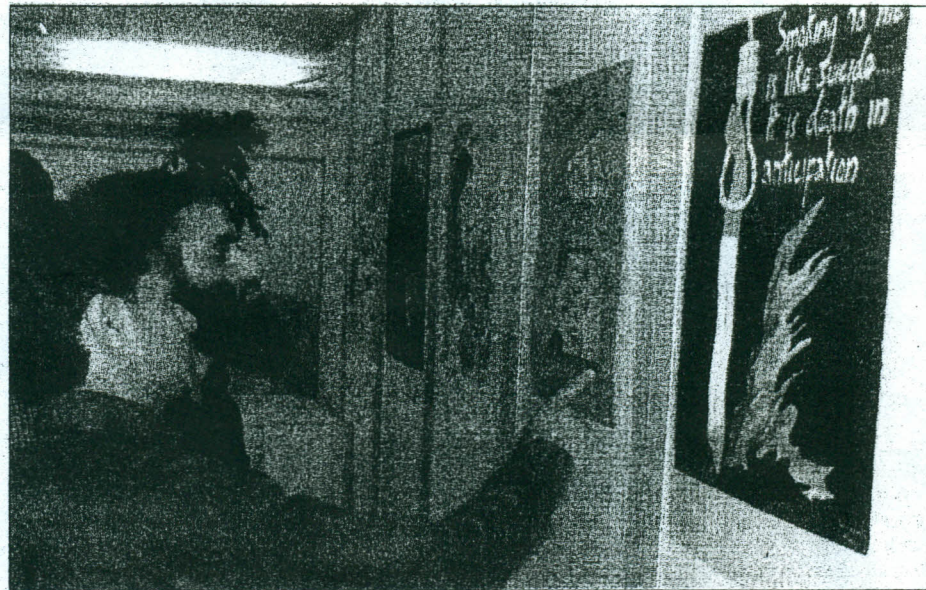
ISLAMABAD - A poster competition on the theme "Tobacco Control" aimed at encouraging students to better understand harmful effects of tobacco use. It was organised by the Network for Consumer Protection here on Wednesday.

In this regard the posters from various universities were invited. Large number of the university students participated in the competition and displayed colourful posters, showing various health hazards of the tobacco and smoking.

Amateur artists brought the dark side of smoking by skilfully drawing them on the canvas, informing the common viewers that the tobacco is enemy of health of the people and it only enhances the causes of death.

The young artists, through their work, tried to convince the people that the use of tobacco was extremely dangerous for the consumers, as it causes thousands of deaths every year across the globe and the only key to avoid this death trap was to strictly avoid use of tobacco.

The initiative was as a part of advocacy and awareness campaign aimed at achieving the



goal of tobacco-free Pakistan.

A jury reviewed the posters and students were awarded cash prizes and appreciation certificate in prize giving ceremony.

A group of students from Bahira Medical and Dental College, Karachi was awarded the first prize along with cash Rs 15000/-, Sarah Hussain, MBBS 2nd Year got the second prize and cash award of Rs. 12000/- while Attifa Muhk-

tar Chaudary, 3rd Year, D.pharmacy, Hamdard University - Islamabad bagged the third prize and cash prize of Rs. 10,000/- and the consolation prize of Rs. 5000/- was awarded to the student of Islamabad Medical and Dental College.

Speaking on the occasion TheNetwork Executive Coordinator Dr Arif Azad said it was healthy sign that Pakistani youth and students were

conscious of the negative impacts of tobacco. "These posters are a proof of commitment of Pakistani youth that they will lead any campaign aimed at highlighting the importance of tobacco control," he said.

The poster competition was part of a series of events being organized by the TheNetwork in the run up to the grand 'World No Tobacco Day' activities planned for May 31.