

FATAL AMBUSH



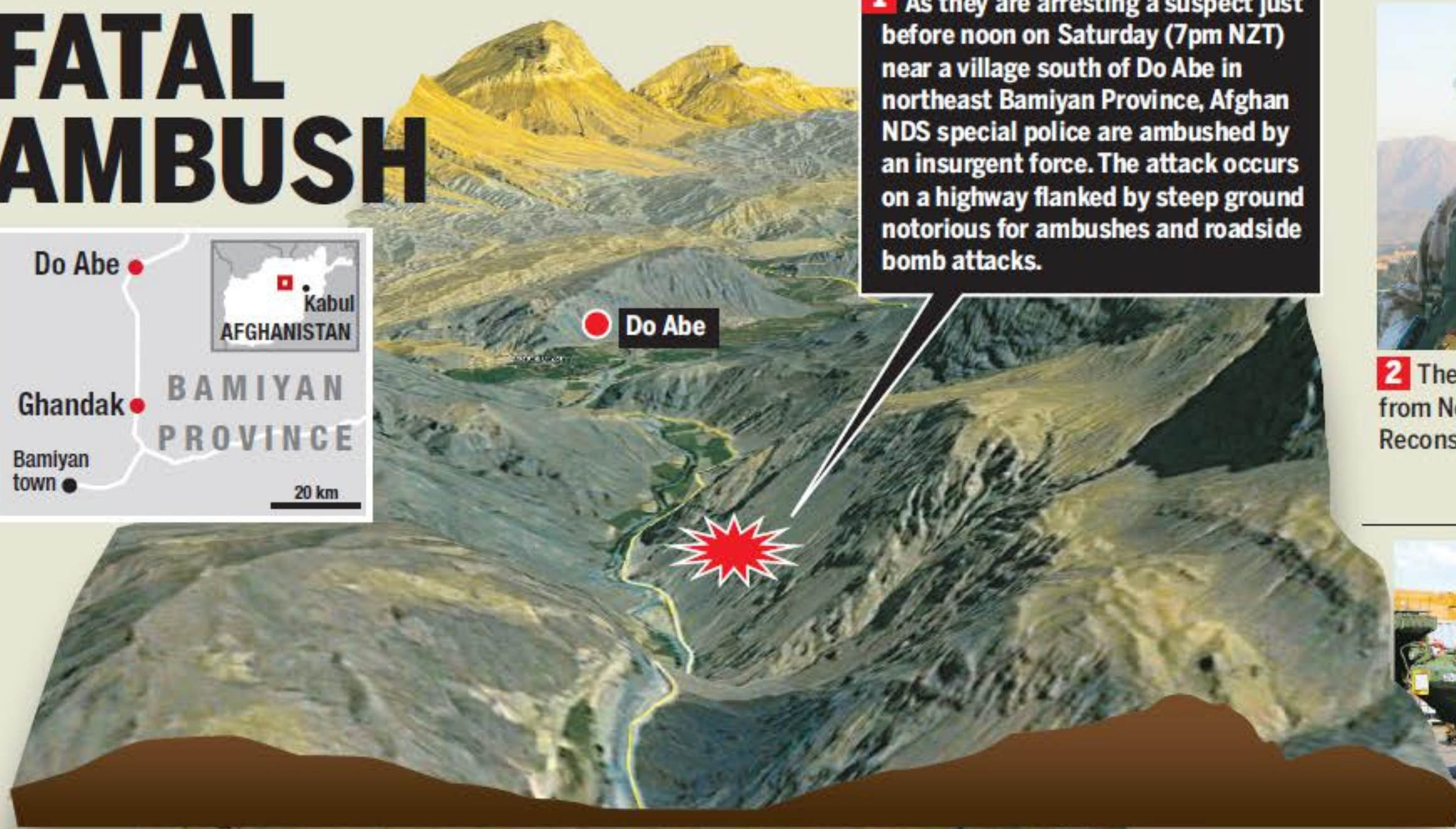
1 As they are arresting a suspect just before noon on Saturday (7pm NZT) near a village south of Do Abe in northeast Bamiyan Province, Afghan NDS special police are ambushed by an insurgent force. The attack occurs on a highway flanked by steep ground notorious for ambushes and roadside bomb attacks.



2 The NDS calls for assistance from New Zealand's Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT).



3 30 to 40 PRT soldiers fire on insurgent positions and call in air support including medical evacuation helicopters, fixed-wing aircraft and unmanned surveillance drones.



4 The NDS enter and clear a compound. As the NZ soldiers, some in light armoured vehicles (LAVs) move to secure nearby high ground, they are attacked by a second group of insurgents.

5 One soldier is killed when a rocket hits his LAV. Another is wounded by small arms fire or shrapnel and later dies as he is being choppered to hospital. Six other soldiers are wounded. Two NDS officers are also killed and seven wounded.

6 About 17 insurgents carrying dead and wounded are seen withdrawing from the scene of the attack. One is captured by the PRT.

