

RAPID

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WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

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The RAPID Weekly News Update is a weekly collection of unclassified media and news bulletins focused on noteworthy improvised explosive attacks and trends in the EOD/C-IED community. To subscribe to this weekly publication and/or to receive additional IED-related reports, please request a RAPID login at <https://rapid.a-tolutions.com> using your government (.mil or .gov) email account.



Militant Training Camp Discovered in Poso

Police officials display home-made explosives, bomb-making components, ammunition and assorted weapons found in a major security operation.

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1. [Attack, Afghanistan] Bomb Explosion Kills One In Afghanistan

Saturday, November 10 2012

<http://newindianexpress.com/world/article1336006.ece>

A bomb planted on a bicycle exploded Saturday and killed one person in Khost city, the capital of Afghanistan's Khost province, Deputy to Provincial Policechief Mohammad Yaqub said.

"The bomb planted on a bicycle was detonated by a remote control around 2.30 p.m. local time and inflicted casualties," Yaqub told Xinhua.

The blast happened while police were on patrol in the area, he said, without giving the number of casualties or their identity.

Meanwhile, doctor Abdul Majid, head of a hospital in Khost city, 150 km southeast of Kabul, confirmed that a dead body and five injured people had been taken to the hospital and all were civilians.





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2. [Attack, Afghanistan] Eleven Killed In Separate Afghan Attacks

Sunday, November 11 2012

<http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/eleven-killed-separate-afghan-attacks>

A mother and her newborn baby were among six family members killed in a roadside bombing in eastern Afghanistan overnight, police and witnesses said Sunday.

The victims were heading home from the hospital after the mother had given birth when the bomb planted by Taliban insurgents tore through their vehicle in Khost province on the Pakistan border, police said.

"Six people – three women, two adult men and a newborn baby – were killed," deputy provincial police chief Mohammed Yaqoub told AFP.

Relatives said the family was returning home after the mother delivered her baby in hospital in the town of Sabari.

Five other civilians were killed in two separate roadside bomb blasts in the southern province of Kandahar Sunday, the president's office said in a statement.

The United Nations says 1,145 civilians were killed in the war in the first six months of this year, blaming 80 percent of the deaths on insurgents. More than half the deaths were caused by roadside bombs.



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3. [Attack, Pakistan] Bomb Goes Off Near JI Leader's House

Sunday, November 11 2012

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-142274-Bomb-goes-off-near-JI-leaders-house>

A bomb went off close to the house of a former lawmaker in Tarnab in the limits of Chamkani Police Station on Saturday night, police sources said.

The sources said that militants had planted explosives near the house of former Member of the National Assembly and Jamaat-e-Islami Peshawar chapter's chief Sabir Hussain Awan. The bomb went off at around 7pm, but did not cause any damage, the sources said.

Sabir Awan had sustained injuries in a suicide attack in Qissa Khwani bazaar in Peshawar in 2010.



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4. [Attack, Pakistan] Blast In Quetta Kills Two, Injures At Least Nine

Tuesday, November 13 2012

<http://dawn.com/2012/11/13/blast-and-firing-heard-in-quetta/>

A bicycle bomb apparently targeting security forces killed two people and injured at least nine others in Pakistan's troubled southwestern province of Balochistan on Tuesday, police said.

The device exploded on the road from Balochistan's provincial capital Quetta to the airport as a convoy of the government paramilitary Frontier Corps (FC) passed nearby.

Rescue teams rushed to the site as fear and panic gripped the area after the explosion.

All injured, including one Frontier Corps (FC) man, were shifted to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) Quetta and Civil Hospital Quetta.

"Two people passing by were killed in the blast and nine others wounded. The injured also included three FC soldiers," Wazir Khan Nasir, a senior police Official told AFP.

Another police official Zubair Mehmood told AFP that "the FC convoy was a target apparently. Around five kilograms (11 pounds) of explosive was installed in the bicycle parked roadside. It exploded when the FC convoy passed nearby."

Shops, houses and parked cars were also damaged in the vicinity.

Security forces cordoned off the site as investigations into the blast went underway.

According to initial reports, the blast was followed by gunfire.

Balochistan is plagued by Taliban militants, sectarian violence targeting minority Shia Muslims and a regional insurgency waged by separatists.

Violence has surged in the province this year and human rights activists have raised concerns about an increase in targeted killings.





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5. [Attack, Afghanistan] Insurgent Rockets Hit Three Targets In Kabul

Tuesday, November 13 2012

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/14/world/asia/afghanistan-insurgents.html>

Insurgents fired four rockets into the capital early on Tuesday, hitting a taxi, the grounds of a television studio and the international airport, the Afghan police and other officials said.

One passenger in the taxi was killed and three passengers were wounded, but there were no other casualties, according to the Kabul police spokesman, Hashmat Stanakzai.

Mr. Stanakzai said the rockets were fired about 6:40 a.m. by remote control, using cellphones, within the municipal boundaries of Kabul, from the Tara Khel area about two miles northeast of the airport. The area is semiagricultural, and the rockets were believed to have been fired from a vegetable garden, he said.

“Our security team found the area from where the rockets were fired, and they found another rocket round in the same place, which was set up and connected with a cellphone,” he said.

An official at the Kabul airport, speaking on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release information, said that two rockets landed in what he called “very sensitive parts” of the airport but that there was no damage or casualties, and flights were not disrupted.

Fazal Karim, the head of Shamshad Television, said that one of the rockets landed in his station’s compound, where the station maintains a museum of war artifacts, and did minor damage. “Thank God, no one was killed or injured,” he said.



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6. [Law Enforcement, Pakistan] Police Arrests 'LeJ Militants' After Karachi Violence Kills 40

Tuesday, November 13 2012

<http://dawn.com/2012/11/13/police-arrests-lej-militants-after-karachi-violence-kills-40/>

Police in Karachi has arrested four suspected militants they said were planning a wave of sectarian attacks in the city, following a bloody three days in which around 40 people were killed.

Mohammad Aslam Khan, the head of the police anti-extremism cell in southern Sindh province, said the four were members of Lashkar-i-Jhangvi (LeJ), a banned Sunni militant group blamed for many deadly attacks on Shias.

Khan said the men were planning strikes during Muharram, when Shias hold public processions, and police had seized at least 25 kilograms of explosives, along with grenades, automatic rifles and pistols.

Of the 40 or so killed in the city of 18 million people over the past three days, 24 were in sectarian or political violence, Khan said. More than half of the victims were Shias.

Weapons and grenades seized from suspected militants are shown to the media in Karachi on November 13, 2012. -AFP Photo

"The objective of this wave of target killings was to spread sectarian strife in the city as a prelude to Muharram," Khan told AFP.

Lashkar-i-Jhangvi is regarded as the most extreme Sunni terror group in Pakistan and is accused of killing hundreds of Shias since its emergence in the early 1990s.

It developed close ties to al Qaeda and the Taliban, which ruled in Afghanistan from 1996 until the 2001 US-led invasion.

Pakistan formally banned the group in 2001 and there have been numerous crackdowns with arrests and killings of known Jhangvi operatives over the last 20 years.

Chief of LeJ, Malik Ishaq, is implicated in dozens of cases, mostly murder. He was released on bail in July last year after serving a jail term of nearly 14 years.

Since his release he had been frequently put under house arrest as his sermons raised sectarian tensions, officials said.

A spokesman for the government paramilitary Rangers told AFP on Tuesday that troops arrested 23 other suspects across the city, including an alleged "notorious" target killer Shamim ur Rehman, in a bid to stop targeted killing.





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7. [Attack, Afghanistan] Roadside Bomb Attack Kills Four ANA Troops

Wednesday, November 14 2012

<http://paktribune.com/news/Roadside-bomb-attack-kills-4-ANA-troops-254876.html>

A roadside bomb attack left four Afghan National Army (ANA) troops dead and two wounded in Bala Murghab district of Badghis province last night, an army officer said Monday.

A landmine exploded on ANA patrol in Akazai village of Bala Murghab district, killing four troops and wounding two others, an army officer in western Badghis province, told Afghan Islamic Press (AIP).

He said a clash also took place between Taliban and Afghan army troops after the bomb attack but did not caused any casualties to troops, adding it was unclear if Taliban suffered any damage or not.

There was no claim of responsibility by Taliban.

Meanwhile, two landmine planters were killed in a bomb explosion in Chak district of Wardak province last night, governor's office said Monday.

A press release issued by media office of Wardak governor said three anti-government gunmen were emplacing a landmine in Madad village of Chak district to target security force when the landmine exploded prematurely.

He said all the three gunmen were killed in the explosion.



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8. [Attack, Pakistan] Bicycle Bomb Kills Two In Quetta

Wednesday, November 14 2012

<http://paktribune.com/news/Bicycle-bomb-kills-two-in-Quetta-254904.html>

A massive bomb blast in the Balochistan capital on Tuesday left two civilians dead and nine others, including three Frontier Corps (FC) personnel, wounded.

According to police, a remote-controlled bomb was attached to a bicycle which was parked at Allamo Chowk on Airport Road. It went off when an FC convoy was passing by, the police sources said, adding that as the FC convoy passed from the Allamo Chowk, a busy junction of the provincial capital, the bomb went off with a huge bang. As a result, two brothers who were passing through the area were killed on the spot. They were identified as Muhammad Rafiq and Sanallah. At least nine others, including three FC personnel, were wounded.

Police and other law enforcement agencies rushed to the site soon after the incident and moved the injured and dead bodies to the Combined Military Hospital and Civil Hospital Quetta. "The blast partially damaged FC's vehicle in which three personnel were wounded and whose condition is stable," sources said. The FC personnel injured in the blast were identified as Awaldar Saifullah, Qamar Riaz and Sepoy Saeed, while the injured civilians were identified as Sikandar, Muhammad Ishaq, Muhammad Naheem, Nisar Ahmed, Muhammad Umar, Ghulam Sarwar.

The blast was so intensive that it damaged several vehicles, shops and smashed the window panes of the nearby buildings. It was heard from a long distance and created panic and fear among the people. "Around 10 kilogramme explosive material was used in the blast and it was remote-controlled blast," the Bomb Disposal Squad said.



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9. [Law Enforcement, Pakistan] Five TTP-Linked Terrorists Arrested, Claims Punjab Police

Wednesday, November 14 2012

<http://dawn.com/2012/11/14/five-ttp-linked-terrorists-arrested-claims-punjab-police/>

Police on Wednesday claimed to have arrested five terrorists of banned outfit Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) allegedly involved in terrorism activities in Punjab province.

Addressing a news conference here at the Police Club, Inspector General of Punjab Police Haji Habibur Rehman said that the miscreants belonging to North Waziristan's Miranshah area were arrested in a joint operation by the Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) Police Multan and Makhdoom Rasheed Police.

He said that the terrorists were involved in several crimes including a bank robbery in Green Town area, an attack on Babu Sabu checkpost, an attack on District Police Officer (DPO) Dera Ismail Khan office, the murder of constable in DI Khan and multiple attacks on members of the Shia sect.

The outlaws were arrested on information obtained through five criminals earlier arrested by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police, he said, added that they had planned to carry out terrorism activities during the month of Moharram.



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10. [Attack, Pakistan] Twin Blasts In Kurram Agency Injure Five

Wednesday, November 14 2012

<http://dawn.com/2012/11/14/twin-blasts-in-kurram-agency-injure-five/>

Twin road side blasts in upper Kurram tribal region on Wednesday wounded five civilians, officials told Dawn.com.

Tribesmen travelling on foot were hit by the improvised explosive devices (IED) planted on the roadside in Kurram tribal agency, said an official, adding that three of the people were injured in Spina Shaga area while two were injured in Pekar Tangi area of upper Kurram agency.

The injured, who were shifted to Agency Headquarters Hospital Parachinar, were stated to be stable according to the hospital sources.

Kurram agency, which is close to the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, is one of the seven regions in Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), governed by tribal laws. An extremist insurgency led by the Pakistani Taliban plagues the region while the area is known to be infested with militants, including the al Qaeda, Taliban and several other armed extremist organisations.



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11. [Law Enforcement, Pakistan] Five Terrorists Arrested From Lahore

Wednesday, November 14 2012

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-75455-5-terrorists-arrested-from-Lahore:-IG-Punjab>

Inspector General Punjab Habib ur Rehman revealed on Wednesday that Multan police has arrested five terrorist who were involved in killing jail employees and other crimes, Geo News reported.

The IG Punjab was addressing a press conference here along with CTD Additional IG Mushtaq Ahmed Sukhera and CPO Multan Amir Zulfiqar. He told that Multan police had an encounter with the Punjabi Taliban Qari Yaseen alias Ustad Aslam group and arrested five members. A large cache of arms and ammunition was also recovered from their possession.

IG Punjab Habib ur Rehman further told that the accused admitted their involvement in several incidents including the Achra jail attack where they injured jail employees. They also took part in Babu Sabu check post attack, Green Town bank heist and suicide attack at DPO Ismail Khan's office.

The culprits also revealed about killing policemen and Shiites in Dera Ismail Khan.

The IG Punjab said that further investigations are underway.

The accused Habib ur Rehman, Imtiaz, Hafiz Muhammad Ramzan, Muhammad Imran and Amir Muawia hail from different areas of Dera Ismail Khan while their centre is in Miranshah from where countrywide terrorism is planned.



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12. [Law Enforcement, Pakistan] Four Al Qaeda Terrorists Held

Thursday, November 15 2012

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-75631-Wazirabad:-Four-al-Qaeda-terrorists-held>

Halting a major terror bid in its tracks, agencies apprehended four alleged al-Qaeda linked terrorists recovering loads of weapons, explosives, suicide-bombers' vests, bomb-making paraphernalia, etc, Geo News reported.

According to Geo News correspondent, Nadeem Alvi, the terror-mongers were planning to target government offices, law enforcing personnel, and minorities.

According to intelligence sources, the alleged culprits, who were armed to the teeth, put up resistance before downing their weapons.

“The terrorists gave in after a fierce twelve-hour long engagement of with the lawmen”.

Around 15 suicide-bomber vests, five landmines, 100 detonators, 800 kilos of explosives, 21 hand grenades, MP5 rifles, two Kalashnikovs, 26 magazines, 500 rounds, and 15 remote control devices were seized at the end of the whole ordeal.



AFPAK

13. [Attack, Pakistan] Blast In Zhob Kills Two FC Personnel

Friday, November 16 2012

<http://dawn.com/2012/11/16/blast-in-zhob-kills-two-fc-personnel/>

An explosion near the Frontier Corps (FC) headquarters in Balochistan's Zhob district killed two FC personnel and injured several others on Friday, DawnNews reported.

According to security sources, the explosive material was inside the belongings of two suspects, who were taken into custody near the Pak-Afghan border area and were being shifted to the FC Headquarters in Zhob when the blast occurred.

Two FC personnel died on the spot whereas several others were injured who were rushed to the District Hospital.



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14. [Attack, Afghanistan] Roadside Bomb Kills 17 After Wedding In Western Afghanistan

Friday, November 16 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/16/us-afghanistan-bomb-idUSBRE8AF0RE20121116>

A roadside bomb exploded under a van in western Afghanistan on Friday, killing at least 17 people and wounding nine, mostly women and children returning from a wedding, a local official said on Friday.

The bombing took place mid afternoon in the relatively peaceful province of Farah and was detonated as a procession of vehicles following the bride and groom passed along a rural road.

"Most of the victims are women and children," said Abdul Rahman Zwandai, a spokesman for the local government. "The Taliban are responsible for this. They want to create fear by staging such attacks."



AFPAK

15. [Security, Pakistan] Terror Plot Foiled As Police Arrest Two In Gujrat

Friday, November 16 2012

<http://dawn.com/2012/11/16/terror-plot-foiled-as-police-arrest-two-in-gujrat/>

Police foiled a terrorist plot arresting a father and son duo from Gujrat, DawnNews reported on Friday.

Police raided a house in the Tanda area of Gujrat and arrested a man named Shafiq.

Based on the information he provided, his son Rehman was also arrested.

According to Inspector General (IG) Punjab Police Haji Habibur Rehman, the arrested men were associated with the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan's Hakimullah Mehsud group.

The arrested men also allegedly admitted to carrying out attacks on an army check post and a police post in Gujrat.

IG Punjab added that the men had gunned down four constables in their attack on the police post and had killed seven troops stationed at a military check post on the banks of River Chenab.

He further said that one member of the group to which the men belonged was killed during the Karma airbase attack, whereas five other members remained at large.

Five jackets prepared for suicide bombings, material to make 60 more jackets, firearms and 75 kilograms of explosive material were recovered from the arrested men.

Intelligence agencies have issued warning over possible terrorist attacks in Punjab during Muharram.

Moreover, IG Punjab Police has claimed that the arrest of the men from Gujrat and the security arrangements would help in making Muharram peaceful.



AFRICOM

16. [Attack, South Africa] Petrol Bomb Leaves 30 Homeless

Saturday, November 10 2012

<http://www.timeslive.co.za/local/2012/11/10/petrol-bomb-leaves-30-homeless-cape-town-disaster-management-services>

Thirty people were displaced when their homes burnt down following a petrol bomb attack in Bonteheuwel on Saturday, the Cape Town disaster management services centre said.

"At approximately 09.45 on Saturday, a petrol bomb was thrown at a house. The blaze spread to other three council dwellings resulting in severe damages," said disaster management spokesman Wilfred Solomons-Johannes. The disaster management teams provided clothing, food parcels and blankets to the residents.

"The city has called on the police to open a case of malicious damage to these properties," said Solomons-Johannes.

He said although the perpetrators had not been identified, they suspected the attack was a "turf war over drugs".



AFRICOM

17. [Security, Libya] Libya Attack Linked To Qaeda In Maghreb

Wednesday, November 14 2012

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/us-commander-libya-attack-linked-to-qaeda-in-maghreb>

The U.S. military's commander in Africa said on Wednesday some militants involved in the attack in Benghazi that killed the U.S. ambassador to Libya were linked to al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM).

"There is a growing network of violent extremist organisations and it appears to me very likely that some of the terrorists who participated in the attack in Benghazi have at least some linkages to AQIM," General Carter Ham, head of Africa Command, told reporters in Paris.

"That is not to say that it was AQIM which planned or organised or led the activity but clearly some of the individuals had some linkages," he said.

Ham made the comments ahead of a congressional hearing on Thursday into the events surrounding the Benghazi attacks that killed four Americans including Ambassador Christopher Stevens on Sept. 11.

The commander was in Paris to meet French officials to talk about the crisis in Mali, including the prospect of a military intervention to oust al Qaeda-linked militants.

"If you ask me today does AQIM present an imminent threat to the United States, my answer would be that I don't think today they possess a credible and imminent threat to the U.S. homeland. But that network already killed four Americans," Ham said.

"If we in the international community don't find a way to address this, the threat will worsen and the network will become stronger and will gain capability to export violence."

Ham appeared cautious on calls for an immediate intervention in Mali, saying the United States wanted negotiations as a "starting point." That is also the position of regional powerhouse Algeria.

He added that while there were 800 to 1,200 hardcore and committed ideological fighters in the north that could not be reconciled, an intervention was not "certain".

It would take months rather than weeks to rebuild Mali's military capability following a coup earlier this year, Ham said. While European nations are sending military advisors to train Malian troops, Ham said the United States could not legally do so while the coup leaders were still in power.



AFRICOM

18. [Law Enforcement, Kenya] Police Interrogate Five Suspects Linked To Garissa Attacks

Wednesday, November 14 2012

<http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/?articleID=2000070619&pageNo=1>

Police in Garissa are interrogating five terror suspects believed to be behind series of terror attacks in the area. Detectives handling the case say the suspects are all Somalis from Somalia and who had arrived in the town posing as refugees.

They were arrested at a house where they were holding a meeting on Monday morning, following weeks of tracking.

A sixth suspect escaped by jumping over a wall when the anti-terror police attacked.

North Eastern deputy CID boss Iregi Ngatia told The Standard they have obtained a court order to continue holding them as they interrogate and get weapons from them.

Targeting churches

“Reports show they were behind attacks targeting churches and security agents. We are talking to them for now,” said Ngatia.

“They are jihadists and we believe they were planning more attacks,” said another officer.

The development came weeks after an Administration Police officer was killed in a church explosion that also left 13 others wounded.

In October, a CID officer was shot dead in a mosque as he read the Quran in Hagadera refugee camp in the larger Dadaab area near the Kenya-Somalia border.

Seventeen worshipers were early this year killed in an attack targeting two churches. No arrest has been made since then.

More anti-terror police officers have been dispatched to major towns in North Eastern Province to help tame sympathisers of Al Shabaab who are causing chaos in the area.

As a measure to curb the menace, the Government has ordered all refugees in the province to register with relevant authorities or risk arrest and deportation.

Officials say the presence of refugees in the province is a threat to local and national security.

The camps are hosting more than 500,000 refugees and officials say more are arriving on a daily basis.



AFRICOM

19. [Law Enforcement, Kenya] Police Arrest Nairobi Blast Suspect

Friday, November 16 2012

[http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/?articleID=2000070657&story_title=Kenya-Police-arrest-Nairobi-blast-suspect-](http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/?articleID=2000070657&story_title=Kenya-Police-arrest-Nairobi-blast-suspect)

Police are holding a suspected terrorist after an explosion he had planned to detonate inside a supermarket exploded and injured him in Nairobi's Eastleigh area.

Witnesses told police the suspect was in the company of two others and had arrived outside the Joster supermarket aboard a motorbike when the incident happened.

Nairobi Area police boss Moses Ombati says the explosion went off before the suspects walked into the supermarket.

"It was then that a crowd charged at the suspects and arrested one whom they beat with his injuries before police arrived and saved him. He is in custody and under interrogation," said Ombati of the 7pm incident.

It is believed many people were injured following the incident and they escaped. Some have been rushed to hospital.

Ombati says bomb experts have rushed there to establish the cause of the explosion.

"We believe they were targeting the supermarket but the suspect will tell us more," said Ombati on the phone.

Police say preliminary findings show it was a grenade and that the suspect is in a stable condition in hospital.

The incident happened in Biafra area, few kilometers away from where another one occurred on a bridge injuring two, a week ago.

No arrest has been made so far following the bridge blast.

Kenya has experienced a series of explosions after troops rolled into Somalia last year to hunt down Al-Shabaab militants who had been blamed for several insecurity incidents.

It is believed the attacks are being committed by remnants of the terror group.



CENTCOM

20. [Attack, Syria] Three Bomb Explosions Kill Seven In Syria's Southern Province

Sunday, November 11 2012

<http://en.trend.az/regions/met/arabicr/2086457.html>

Three car bombs went off in the southern province of Daraa early Saturday, killing at least seven people and causing huge material and building damage, Xinhua reported.

Quoting an official source, SANA said the first car bomb rocked the crowded al-Mubailat street, the second rattled the Panorama roundabout, and the third tore through the Finance Directorate in Daraa.

SANA said the third bomb was rigged with a large amount of anti-tank mines, some of which didn't go off during the blast.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights claimed the Daraa explosions killed scores of government soldiers. But such a claim was impossible to be verified.

Meanwhile, an explosive-laden car went off in Damascus' Tadamun district, injuring nine people, according to state media.

Tadamun has seen intense fighting between government troops and armed militias over the past several months.

Armed groups fired a hand-made rocket at the George Khouri square in Damascus, hitting a residential bloc and injuring two young girls, one of whom was in grave condition, state media said.

The George Khouri Square is located in al-Qassa district dwelled mostly by Christians.

Furthermore, armed men fired a mortar shell that landed on a private clinic at al-Tuliani area in central Damascus, leaving material damage, the pro-government al-Ekhbaria TV said.

As the blasts kept rattling the country, activists reported intense clashes between government troops and armed militias in a number of other areas.

The oppositional Local Coordination Committee's network placed the death toll of Saturday's violence at 107 nationwide. The figure couldn't be checked independently.

Explosions have become increasingly common and almost daily occurrences in Syria, particularly in Damascus.



RAPID

Realtime Analysis and Publishing of IED Data

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The United Nations has recently warned that the number of affected people who are in need of humanitarian aid could increase from 2.5 million to 4 million by early next year if violence continues unabatedly.



CENTCOM

21. [Attack, Yemen] Bombs Hit Yemen's Marib Oil Export Pipeline

Monday, November 12 2012

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2012-11/12/c_131969063.htm

Two successive bombings hit Yemen's main crude oil export pipeline late on Sunday, cutting flows through the Marib line to the Red Sea export terminal of Ras Isa, an interior ministry official said on Monday.

"The bombings struck two separate sections of the pipeline on Sunday night in a troubled desert area dominated by armed clansmen of Wadi Abida tribe in eastern Marib province," the official told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Repairing process on the damages were undergoing, as a full-scale investigation has been launched to track the perpetrators, said the official.

The 272-mile (about 438 kilometers) pipeline carries about 110,000 barrels oil a day from Marib, some 173 km northeast of the capital Sanaa, to the Ras Isa terminal in the Red Sea.

In August, the pipeline resumed full capacity operation after a nine-month closure due to repeated attacks during the uprising last year.

The country's transitional government, which depends on oil exports for up to 70 percent of its budget, has beefed up security measures to protect the pipeline and prevent further attacks.



CENTCOM

22. [Attack, Syria] Bomb Blasts Result In Casualties In Syria

Tuesday, November 13 2012

<http://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=2274002&Language=en>

A booby-trapped car exploded in Ain Al-Fija town, on the outskirts of Damascus on Monday, killing and wounding several people.

The blast, which took place in a popular resort, also resulted in an extensive material damage, the state-run Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) reported without specifying the number of victims.

Earlier today local media reported that governor of Al-Raqqah Hassan Saleh Jalali survived a car bomb attack which took place near the Church of Our Lady of Annunciation in Al-Raqqah, northeast Syria.

The blast injured a woman, besides heavy material damage, according to SANA.



CENTCOM

23. [Trend, Syria] Syrian Bomb Town Near Turkey Border Again

Wednesday, November 14 2012

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/world/middle-east/7945515/>

Syria's air force has bombed a rebel-held region near the border with Turkey for a second day, killing at least one person and wounding three others, an official said.

The aerial attack raised the two-day death toll in the region to an estimated 31 people. Nearly 10,000 Syrians have fled into Turkey since Friday, seeking safety from shelling and bombing.

An Associated Press journalist saw air strikes around the Syrian town of Ras al-Ayn, just across the border from the southeastern Turkish town of Ceylanpinar. Plumes of smoke rose into the sky and Turkish ambulances rushed to the border to ferry wounded Syrians to Turkish hospitals.

An official from the Ceylanpinar mayor's office reported four airstrikes. It was not clear whether one or several planes were involved. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to speak to reporters. The official said one of the four wounded Syrians brought into Turkey for medical treatment had died. He said an estimated 20 people died during Monday's air-raid in Ras al-Ayn and 10 others from the town died Monday in Turkey of their wounds.

The violence in Syria has killed more than 36,000 people since an uprising against President Bashar Assad's regime began in March 2011. Hundreds of thousands have fled into neighbouring Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq.

Syrian rebels wrested control of Ras al-Ayn from the Assad regime forces last week. The town is in the predominantly Kurdish oil-producing northeastern province of al-Hasaka.

The fighting in Ras al-Ayn touched off a massive flow of refugees on Friday, and more refugees fled into Ceylanpinar on Monday and Tuesday.

In Paris, French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian called the creation of the new Syrian opposition group in the Qatari capital of Doha "a significant step forward" — but said the group didn't yet merit international recognition as Syria's provisional government.

"It's not yet a sufficient step forward for it to constitute a provisional government that can be recognized at the international level, but it's on the right track. I would also say in military terms . so it's necessary to translate the Doha accord into military terms."

The deal was reached Sunday after more than a week of meetings, a move some hope could boost efforts to secure international support to oust Assad's regime.

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, speaking to journalists in Rome late Monday, said Turkey had formally protested the bombings close to its border to the Syrian government, saying the attacks were endangering Turkey's security. He said Turkey had also reported the incident to NATO allies and to the UN Security Council.

The Syrian jet did not infringe Turkey's border, he said, adding that Turkey would have responded if it had.

The UN refugee agency said the insecurity has forced it to withdraw five of its 12 staff from Syria's al-Hasaka province, where Ras al-Ayn is located, and led to aid losses in Damascus and Aleppo.

A Syrian Arab Red Crescent warehouse in Aleppo was apparently shelled and 13,000 blankets burned, UN refugee spokeswoman Melissa Fleming said Tuesday in Geneva.

She said "recent deliveries have been very difficult," particularly in Damascus, where aid operations were disrupted for two days and a truck carrying 600 blankets was hijacked outside the city.



CENTCOM

24. [Attack, Iraq] Many Killed In String Of Iraq Bomb Blasts

Wednesday, November 14 2012

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2012/11/2012111471627277785.html>

A series of car bombings and a roadside explosion have killed at least 26 people and injured more than 100 others across Iraq.

In Baghdad, a car bomb targeting an army general's convoy blew up near the Palestine hotel in an area frequented by foreigners, killing a guard in the convoy. General Qassim Nouri, in charge of security at the Baghdad municipality, was unhurt, according to police sources.

The explosion was in Firdos Square, famed for scenes of the toppling of the huge statue of Saddam Hussein shortly after the 2003 US-led invasion.

The deadliest blasts occurred in Kirkuk, a disputed ethnically mixed oil-rich governorate in northern Iraq that is frequently targeted by militants seeking to sow communal violence, where at least nine people were killed and 39 wounded.

South of Baghdad, in the village of Methatiya, near Hilla, a car bomb exploded in a marketplace, killing at least ten and injuring nine.

Al Jazeera's Jane Arraf, reporting from Baghdad, said the bombings were "a snapshot of the violence" still plaguing Iraq.

"In Kirkuk, a city disputed between Arabs, Kurds and Turkmen, there were at least three car bombs: one against the offices of a major Kurdish party, one targeted a Turkmen party office, and another that hit a major road. That was in addition to car bombs in the city of Hilla, a Shia town. And one here in Baghdad that targeted an army general," she said.

"All in all, these seem to be the major targets that have been frequent targets of violence: security forces, Shia and, increasingly, political parties in Kirkuk."

Another car bomb has detonated in the town of al-Hufriyah, in Wasit province, roughly 70km south of Baghdad.

Hospital sources there say two people were killed and eight injured in the explosion near a restaurant. Al-Hufriyah is a mainly Shia town, surrounded by a Sunni area which had reportedly been a stronghold of al-Qaeda in Iraq.

A car bomb also exploded in Baji, north of Baghdad, known for a major refinery, and yet another in Balad Rhuz, in Diyala province. A dozen people were wounded, but no fatalities have yet been reported.

Two bombs have also rocked Mosul, one at a police station and a second near an army patrol. At least five soldiers and two civilians were injured in the blast. Explosives experts also carried out controlled detonations of two further bombs found inside Mosul University.



The early morning violence comes a day before Muharram, which marks the Islamic new year on the lunar calendar.





CENTCOM

25. [Security, Yemen] Bomb Defused Near Gov't Compound In Yemen

Wednesday, November 14 2012

<http://www.nzweek.com/world/bomb-defused-near-govt-compound-in-yemen-24641/>

Yemeni police troops defused an explosive device planted near a government compound in the port city of Aden on Tuesday evening, a security official told Xinhua.

“The explosive device was found under a small tree near the main gate of Aden’s Local Council headquarters and was timed to go off overnight by way of remote operation,” the security source said on condition of anonymity.

“Experts of the anti-bomb unit deactivated the explosive device and foiled the planned terrorist operation,” he said.

Militants of the al-Qaida terrorist group believed to have planted the explosive device to target military and government officials there, according to local police officers.

The Yemen-based al-Qaida offshoot has exploited Yemen’s year- long unrest and controlled several southern cities for more than one year before they were driven out by a U.S. backed offensive.

On June 20, Yemen’s military officials announced seizing al- Qaida’s last bastion in the country’s troubled south following the offensive. However, local military and anti-terrorism experts said the Yemeni al-Qaida branch remained a major threat to the impoverished Arab country.



CENTCOM

26. [Trend, Syria] Syrian Rebels Go Shopping For Supplies And Bomb-Making Equipment On Trips To Turkey

Wednesday, November 14 2012

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/world/2012/1114/1224326573695.html>

As darkness fell on the bus depot, the doctor, the fighter and the law student stood in a corner, chain-smoking Gitanes and speaking rapidly into mobile phones. Minutes later, a black Mercedes saloon with tinted windows pulled up and all three got in.

The men, in their mid-to-late 20s, had been sent by the Free Syrian Army, which is operating under an EU and US embargo on weapons sales to Syria's rebels, on a mission to buy supplies and bomb-making equipment in Turkey.

They were to take their purchases across the border into Aleppo Province, where they would be used on the front line of the war to depose president Bashar al-Assad. One of dozens of well-organised logistics teams dispatched to Turkey each week by the FSA, the men form part of the rebels' attempts to keep improvised munitions flowing.

The driver, a young man with spiky hair and wearing a white and blue pin-striped shirt, announced to the others, "I'm Pizza Boy. I deliver everywhere and anywhere!" He pulled out his mobile phone and, chuckling as he scrolled through his contact list, asked, "What's it to be today? Explosions, communications, defence equipment?"

"We need various things," said the demure, understated fighter. He was a small man in skinny jeans, green jumper and a black and white keffiyeh scarf, his stature and quiet personality belying a skilled warrior. His colleagues claimed he single-handedly destroyed 15 tanks with rocket-propelled grenades in the last six months. "Then you need Big Uncle," replied Pizza Boy, after a moment's thought.

The Mercedes travelled a few blocks before coming to a busy market street. The doctor, bespectacled and earnest, got out. "I've arranged to meet a contact and buy antibiotics and blood. Tomorrow, I'll hide the supplies, wrapped in silk shawls, and take them across the nearest border crossing to one of our field hospitals in Aleppo," he explained before disappearing into the night.

The car sped off through the dark streets, and 10 minutes later the two remaining men got out at a dilapidated residential building and went up two flights of stairs, where they were greeted by a tall, thickset man in his 50s sporting a neat triangular moustache above an easy, confident grin.

Saudi support

Hassan "Big Uncle" Assaf greeted the men warmly and took them through to a sparsely furnished sitting room. On a table were samples of two of the main items they had come for: green phosphate powder and a bag of explosive pins, two essential ingredients used by the rebels to build artillery shells, rockets and bombs.

"Everything we buy here in Turkey is legal," Hassan claimed. "That's how we have to operate. The green powder is widely used as fertiliser for aubergines, the pins are extracted from the bullets for hunting rifles, and the aluminium powder we use is a common construction material.

"We have a Turkish contact with a warehouse where we stockpile everything, and then teams come through to



pick up supplies and take them over. Rich merchants from Saudi Arabia send us money every month, via Western Union, to keep the whole thing afloat.”

Sitting beside Hassan was the mechanical engineer, Emre Abu Isra, a key player who has designed many of the group’s improvised weapons.

The logistics team is to take the materials across the border to the town of Tal Rif’at, Emre said, where they will be delivered to “The Candy Factory”, a makeshift workshop in which 200 shells and 20 rockets are produced each day.

“We use a C8 Bulgarian moulding machine to produce the casings,” he said, “this yummy stuff here, combined with animal urine, as explosives”, indicating the fertiliser, “and then we fire the mortars and rockets out of specially adapted water pipes mounted on an aluminium base equipped with the explosive pins to provide propulsion”. It has taken time to perfect the improvised rockets . “The first soldier to fire one actually lost his leg when the rocket went full circle and came back on him!” said Emre. But the latest versions are “100 per cent accurate”, he claimed.

Hassan said, “Tonight we eat and sleep – tomorrow we’ll see about getting you everything you need.”

Early the next morning, the group gathered in the city centre, where they entered what seemed to be a convenience store. Women stood studying shelves of perfumes and shampoos, but through a narrow section at the back a larger room full of military supplies came into view: flak jackets, radios, rifle scopes and binoculars. The first order was for radios, or “fists” as the logistics team called them. They bought 20.

Vital component

Then the waiting game began for the main objective of the mission: a 50kg barrel of aluminium powder, a vital component for making explosive devices capable of piercing armour and even of crippling tanks.

In the end it took all day – the sun had set before the call came in. Pizza Boy took the team to a warehouse at the edge of the city. The barrel was slowly rolled out and placed in the boot of the car.

Throughout the day the atmosphere had been jovial. Now the men faced the long and dangerous journey back to Syria across a smuggling route. Cigarettes were popped into mouths and a mix tape of techno and hip-hop inserted into the stereo, as Pizza Boy set off from Antakya to the border town of Kilis, never driving below 90 miles per hour.

As they approached the border crossing of Bab Al-Salaam, the fighter called a contact. “We’ll be there in 20 minutes,” he said. “Yes we will”, said Pizza Boy with a wink, “because no one knows this route like I do”.



CENTCOM

27. [Security, Syria] Al Nusrah Front Claims Two Suicide Attacks, Joint Operations With Jihadist Groups In Syria

Thursday, November 15 2012

http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2012/11/al_nusrah_front_clai_7.php

The Al Nusrah Front for the People of the Levant, an al Qaeda-linked jihadist group that is fighting Bashar al Assad's regime in Syria, has claimed credit for two more suicide attacks and said it conducted joint operations with two other jihadist groups. In one of the joint operations, Al Nusrah claimed it shot down a Syrian Air Force MiG. The al Qaeda-linked terror group has now claimed credit for 34 of the 42 suicide attacks that have been reported in Syria since December 2011.

The terror group claimed the attacks and operations in a series of statements that were released yesterday on jihadist internet forums. The statements have been translated by the SITE Intelligence Group.

The two suicide attacks claimed by Al Nusrah have not been previously reported. The first attack was part of a complex operation and took place on Oct. 9 at "the Aswaq al Kheir barrier [outpost] ... monitored in the area of Ain Tarma in the countryside of Damascus," according to the statement translated by SITE. A suicide bomber identified as Abu Muhammad al Furati detonated a car bomb at the checkpoint to the outpost, "destroying two tanks and burning the third." The suicide attack allowed Al Nusrah fighters to enter the outpost. Al Nusrah claimed that 75 Syrian soldiers and one of its own fighters were killed during the attack.

The second suicide attack took place on Nov. 9 "in the countryside of Hama, east of the city of Soran and close to the Nusayri [Alawite] villages." A suicide bomber named Abu Humam al Shamali attacked "the Samrah checkpoint" and killed several military personnel, including "Abu Dinyal, a specialist in killing the Sunni people with a knife, and Captain Yunus, who committed the massacre of northern al-Fan in the countryside of Hama."

Joint operations with other Syrian jihadist groups

In addition to the two suicide attacks, Al Nusrah also claimed credit in the Nov. 14 statements for numerous ambushes and IED attacks, as well as two joint operations with two other al Qaeda-linked jihadist groups in Syria. Both of the joint operations took place on Nov. 1.

In the first operation, Al Nusrah said it "participated with Sukur al Sham," or the Hawks of Syria, to attack "the Hamisho barrier that is centered on the Saraqeb - al-Nayrab road."

"The Front participated with a brigade composed of five elements, and the barrier was destroyed after completing the attack operation," al Nusrah said.

In the second operation, Al Nusrah teamed up with the Ahrar al Sham Brigades, or Free Men of Syria, to attack "the ICARDA barrier, where a MiG plane was shot down." Several Syrian soldiers were killed and the groups seized weapons, ammunition, night vision goggles, and vehicles.

The Ahrar al Sham Brigades is a Salafist-jihadist group that operates in Idlib and the surrounding areas, and has numerous foreign fighters in its ranks. Sheik Adnan al Arour, a prominent Syrian cleric who has often appeared in the media, backs the Ahrar al Sham Brigades. According to The New York Times, Arour said the group buys



"weapons from the donations and savings of the Wahhabi children and not from the Americans like the Shiites of Iraq did." Wahhabism is the radical branch of Islam promoted by the Saudi government.

Sukur al Sham is another radical jihadist group that operates in Idlib and elsewhere. Abu Zein, a spokesman for the group, told The New York Times that Arabs, Frenchmen, and Belgians are present in the ranks, and that the group espouses al Qaeda's ideology.

"The Qaeda ideology existed previously, but it was suppressed by the regime," Abu Zein told The New York Times in July. "But after the uprising they found very fertile ground, plus the funders to support their existence. The ideology was present, but the personnel were absent. Now we have both."

Al Nusrah Front and suicide attacks

The al Qaeda-linked Al Nusrah Front has been the most active jihadist group in Syria. It has claimed credit for 34 of the 42 known suicide bombings in Syria that the The Long War Journal has tallied since December 2011. Since the end of August, Al Nusrah has claimed credit for launching 16 suicide attacks. For more information on the suicide attacks in Syria, see LWJ report, Suicide bombings become commonplace in Syria, and Threat Matrix report, Al Nusrah Front claims 4 more suicide attacks in Syria.

In addition to working with other jihadist groups, the Al Nusrah Front is known to conduct joint operations with the Free Syrian Army, which is often upheld as the secular resistance to Assad's regime. On Oct. 11, Al Nusrah, the Free Syrian Army, and Chechen fighters overran a Syrian air defense and Scud missile base in Aleppo [see LWJ report, Al Nusrah Front commanded Free Syrian Army unit, 'Chechen emigrants,' in assault on Syrian air defense base].

Al Nusrah has become more appealing to Syrian rebels as the group's fighters are better organized and have expertise from waging jihad in Iraq and elsewhere, and have integrated their operations with the Free Syrian Army.

Foreign jihadists have begun to pour into Syria to wage jihad against Assad's regime. Fighters from Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Jordan, and the Palestinian Territories are known to have been killed in Syria. Recently, two of Abu Musab al Zarqawi's cousins were detained by Jordanian security forces after fighting in Syria.

Jihadists from the UK may be flocking to the Syrian battlefields as well. In mid-October, The Times reported that authorities had identified a Bangladeshi resident of London as the leader of a group of British jihadists seeking to fight in Syria. Scotland Yard seized computers and mobile phones from members of the group, which consists mainly of Londoners and includes seasoned Chechen fighters.

Several other Islamist groups also operate in Syria, including Al Qaeda in Iraq, the Abdullah Azzam Brigades, the Al Baraa Ibn Malik Martyrdom Brigade, and the Omar al Farouq Brigade.





CENTCOM

28. [Law Enforcement, Iran] Iran Says Arrests Foreign-Linked Bomb Plotters

Friday, November 16 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/16/us-iran-arrests-idUSBRE8AF0HF20121116>

Iran's Intelligence Ministry has arrested people planning bomb attacks with the support of Western and Israeli spy agencies in the oil-producing province of Khuzestan, state television reported on Friday.

Khuzestan, in Iran's southwest, is home to a large population of ethnic Arab Iranians, also known as Ahwazis, who have long complained of economic deprivation and systematic discrimination by the authorities. The region has occasionally suffered violent action by militants.

Iran has in the past accused Western intelligence agencies and the Israeli Mossad of carrying out attacks against its nuclear scientists.

"In the last few days a number of terrorist elements connected to foreign intelligence services ... were identified and arrested along with a significant amount of explosives materials and items sent from a country in the Persian Gulf area," the Intelligence Ministry statement said, according to Iranian state television's website.

"These elements, led by Western-Zionist intelligence services, sought to commit other acts of sabotage, which were foiled."

The statement said the individuals, who it did not otherwise identify or give details on, had planned to blow up parts of Khuzestan's energy infrastructure.

Five Iranian scientists and academics have been killed or attacked since 2010, in incidents believed to have targeted Iran's disputed nuclear programme, which the West says is aimed at producing a bomb, a charge Iran denies.

The United States has denied involvement in the attacks, while Israel has remained silent.

Ten Iranian Arabs were sentenced to death in July 2006 in Ahvaz, the capital of Khuzestan, for a series of bombings.

Activists say Iran's authorities have increasingly cracked down on Ahwazis, who say they are discriminated against in employment, housing, and civil and political rights.

In June, U.N. human rights experts said Iran had executed four Arab Iranians after an opaque trial whose fairness was questionable, and urged Tehran to halt all executions.



EUCOM

29. [Trend, Israel] Gaza Death Toll Climbs To Seven

Tuesday, November 13 2012

<http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/gaza-death-toll-climbs-seven>

Israel continued its aerial bombardment of Gaza for a fourth consecutive day Tuesday morning, striking an uninhabited area it said was used to store weapons and launch rockets, as a 20-year-old Palestinian died from injuries sustained during Israeli attacks on Saturday.

The man, Mohammed Ziad Abdullah Quno, was critically wounded when Israeli tanks shelled a civilian area in Gaza City Saturday, killing four others, mostly children, and injuring at least 25.

Quno's death brings the total number of people killed in Gaza to seven since Saturday.

The newest round of attacks erupted after leftist fighters with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine attacked an Israeli military SUV that crossed into Gaza on Saturday, injuring four soldiers.

Two 20-year-old members of Islamic Jihad were killed in Israeli air strikes Saturday night and Sunday morning.

Palestinian resistance groups retaliated by launching dozens of rockets into southern Israel Saturday night and Sunday. There has since been a significant drop in rocket attacks on Israel as Palestinians offered a truce on Monday.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad on Monday night said at a news conference they were ready for a ceasefire if Israel ends its aggression against Gaza.

"The Islamic and nationalist movement confirm that the response of the resistance depends on whether the Zionist aggression against our people is continued," they said.

However, Israel's minister of defense Ehud Barak told reporters his government was preparing to launch a round of assaults on Gaza, without going into detail.

"The matter has definitely not ended and we will decide how and when to act at the time when there will be a need," he said.

"I do not want to talk about the time or the means because it would not be right to allow the other side to have this information," he added.

Israeli daily Yedioth Ahronoth on Monday reported that the United States had given Israel a green light to launch a major assault on Gaza.





EUCOM

30. [Law Enforcement, Italy] Man Held Over Bomb Attack Before Soccer Game In Rome

Tuesday, November 13 2012

http://www.agi.it/latest-news/news/201211131205-epp-rt10125-man_held_over_bomb_attack_before_soccer_game_in_rome

A twenty-three year-old member of the Ultras Offensiva group was arrested by Italy's special security police, DIGOS, on Tuesday. The man is accused of throwing molotov bombs at police security cordons before the Lazio-Rome soccer match on Sunday. The arrest was ordered after Rome Digos completed house searches and viewed video and photographic footage of the incident in Piazza Lauro De Bosis.



EUCOM

31. [Attack, England] Bomb Attack On Clayhall House 'Anti-Semitic'

Tuesday, November 13 2012

http://www.ilfordrecorder.co.uk/news/news/bomb_attack_on_clayhall_house_anti_semitic_1_1692342

Police have said that a small explosive device left outside a home in Clayhall yesterday was an anti-Semitic attack. About 500 metres of Clayhall Avenue was cordoned off yesterday after the family became suspicious about a packet left outside their home.

Police were called at about 3pm yesterday and the device was examined and made safe by officers.

No one was injured and police have said that the package did not pose risk to the general public.

Four police cars, five ambulances and four fire engines were at the scene.

The cordon was lifted at about 4pm.



EUCOM

32. [Security, Northern Ireland] Viable Device May Have Been Booby-Trap Bomb

Tuesday, November 13 2012

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/headlines/viable-device-may-have-been-booby-trap-bomb-1-4469930>

A viable device - possibly an under-car booby trap bomb - which police have described as “designed to maim or kill” was found close to a primary school in north Belfast.

It was discovered around 12 noon on Monday, and it is believed it may have fallen off from under a car.

The Ballymagarry Lane re-opened on Tuesday afternoon.

Pupils at Springhill Primary School, and nearby Harmony and Forthriver schools were kept indoors while army bombs experts worked to make the device safe.

A number of homes in the area were also evacuated while Ballymagarry Lane was closed at the junctions to Ballygomartin Road and Lyndhurst Park for much of the day.

Detectives from the PSNI’s Serious Crime Branch are investigating the circumstances surrounding the discovery of what they have described as “a viable explosive type device”.

“At this stage police believe that this could have been an under car booby trap designed to kill and maim,” a police spokesman said.

“Police remain in the Ballymagarry Lane in North Belfast due to the security alert. Ballymagarry Lane is still closed and is expected to remain so overnight while investigations continue. The Ballygomartin Road is open to traffic.

“The device was discovered just before 12noon. A number of nearby houses were evacuated and schools in the immediate area were notified of the security alert whilst ATO carried out two controlled explosions. The device was made safe and taken away for further forensic examination.”

North Belfast DUP MLA William Humphrey condemned those responsible for the device.

“The security alert resulted in the closure of Ballymagarry Lane, the only access route to over 250 houses at Lyndhurst Meadows and Heath Lodge,” he said.

“This caused huge disruption to hundreds of residents who were unable to get in or out of the area for many hours.

“Some local primary schools stayed open longer for pupils who were unable to get home.

“Belfast City Council established an emergency rest centre at Ballygomartin Presbyterian Church and I wish to thank the church for making their premises available.

“This device could have caused death or serious injury to the intended target or to any passing member of the pub-



lic while it lay on the road.

“Those responsible have been entirely reckless and did not care who suffered the consequences of their actions. We are indebted to the PSNI and army bomb disposal officers who cleared this security alert.”

Police said they were working to identify the target of the bomb.





EUCOM

33. [Special Interest, Israel] Bomb-Sniffing Mice Unveiled At Israeli Security Expo

Wednesday, November 14 2012

<http://www.securityinfowatch.com/news/10829455/bomb-sniffing-mice-unveiled-at-israeli-security-expo>

An Israeli security firm has found a new way of detecting if someone is carrying a bomb - explosive-sniffing mice.

The rodents, who sit inside a scanner, were showcased at an event to promote developments in homeland security in Tel Aviv.

The BioExplorers detection system is based on the idea of using mice as superior biosensors.

Eran Lumbroso, Chief Technology Officer at BioExplorers said: "We use mice as biosensors because they are very sensitive, very specific and we can use multiple sensors in one cartridge so it increases the detection rate and lowers the false alarm rate."

Makers of the new system claim it provides an accurate detection of a variety of explosive materials, narcotics, agricultural products, spoiled food, disease markers and more.

Unlike current systems, the main advantage of this invention is that it emits zero radiation.

If there is enough interest, the bomb mice could debut soon at airports and other security sensitive locations.

Watch the video: <http://news.yahoo.com/video/explosive-sniffing-mice-become-security-172915942.html>



EUCOM

34. [Security, Israel] Rockets, Airstrikes Reignite Mideast Conflict

Thursday, November 15 2012

<http://www.cnn.com/2012/11/14/world/meast/gaza-israel-strike/index.html>

Israel launched a series of blistering airstrikes Wednesday on what it says are terrorist targets in Gaza, killing the chief of Hamas' military wing and at least eight others, Israeli and Palestinian officials said.

As the tensions ratcheted up, the U.N. Security Council held an emergency meeting Wednesday evening.

Palestinian leaders immediately condemned the attacks as an escalation, with President Mahmoud Abbas calling for an emergency session of the Council of the League of Arab States to discuss what he called Israeli "aggression," the Egyptian state news agency MENA reported.

Hamas' military wing warned that Israelis had opened "the gates of hell on themselves" with the move.

A report on the Israel Defense Forces website said Brig. Gen. Yoav Moredechai would not rule out a ground attack.

"Infantry brigades have been shifted in preparation for the operation," he said, according to the website.

Israeli military spokeswoman Lt. Colonel Avital Leibovich said: "There are some reserve units that are preparing but nothing more than that at this point."

There were at least 70 strikes by warplanes and ships Wednesday, officials from Palestinian militant groups said. As night fell, more airstrikes could be heard, and Hamas security officials said four more attacks hit empty swaths of farmland in Gaza late Wednesday. The IDF said at least 128 rockets had been fired from Gaza since Saturday.

Israel's Iron Dome air defense system intercepted 28 rockets launched at Israel on Wednesday, the IDF said on its Twitter feed, which it was updating almost hourly with new details as well as links to photos.

One of the posters on the IDF's feed was Al-Qassam, the military wing of Hamas, which has the Twitter ID of Alqassam Brigades.

It wrote: "@idfspokesperson Our blessed hands will reach your leaders and soldiers wherever they are (You Opened Hell Gates on Yourselves)."

Palestinian medical sources said at least eight people died in the Israeli airstrikes, including two young girls, and 84 others were wounded, 10 in serious condition. However, the health minister in Gaza, Mufid al-Mukhalalati, put the death toll at seven.

The dead included Ahmed al-Ja'abari, the popular and influential head of the Hamas military wing, and his son, the group said on its website.

The Israeli operation -- which the military calls "Operation Pillar of Defense" -- came after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned this week of pending retaliation by Israel for increased rocket attacks from Gaza.

"I would ask you, I'd ask any person around the planet: What would you do if your population was targeted day after day?" Israeli government spokesman Mark Regev said, later adding that "you have to see our operation as fundamentally defensive."

Egypt recalled its ambassador to Israel on Wednesday, the Israeli Foreign Ministry said. A senior Israeli official said its ambassador to Egypt returned home, but that move wasn't related to the ongoing violence. The official wouldn't comment on whether Israel had pulled its entire diplomatic staff from Egypt.

The United States said Israel has the right to defend itself, according to a statement from the State Department.

"We strongly condemn the barrage of rocket fire from Gaza into southern Israel, and we regret the death and injury of innocent Israeli and Palestinian civilians caused by the ensuing violence," the statement said. "There is no justification for the violence that Hamas and other terrorist organizations are employing against the people of Israel. We call on those responsible to stop these cowardly acts immediately."

The White House said in a news release that President Obama spoke with Netanyahu by phone, reiterating the United States support for Israel. Obama also spoke with Egyptian President Mohamed Morsy and the two agreed it was important to help de-escalate the situation quickly, the White House statement said.



A spokesman for Hamas, Osama Hamdan, claimed that Hamas has been defending itself from Israeli attacks. "I think the ones who declared war was Israel, and I think the Palestinians are in the position of defending themselves and nothing more than this," he said. Hamas will resist as long as the Israeli offensive lasts, Hamdan said. Israeli navy ships could be seen firing into Gaza from the Mediterranean. The navy struck "terror sites" there, the IDF said via Twitter.

The Israeli military said in a statement Wednesday it targeted "a significant number of long-range rockets sites" to deliver "a significant blow" to Hamas' underground rocket-launching capabilities and munitions warehouses. Some of the munitions warehouses were in civilian residential buildings, which showed that Hamas uses a strategy of human shields, Israeli military sources said.

"The aim of targeting these sites is to hamper their rocket-launching weapons build up capabilities," the IDF statement said, adding that the Gaza strip had become "a frontal base for Iran firing rockets and carrying out terrorist attacks against Israeli citizens."

Angry crowds gathered at the heavily damaged vehicle that contained the bodies of al-Ja'abari and his body-guard.

Saeb Erakat, the chief Palestinian negotiator, condemned "in the strongest possible terms" what he called the Israeli assassination of al-Ja'abari.

In an interview with CNN, Erakat labeled the attack the beginning of a "major, major Israeli escalation," and he called on the international community to pressure Israel to halt its operation.

Al-Mukhalalati, the Gaza health minister, also called on "the free world to stop this massacre committed by Israel."

Asked about assassinating al-Ja'abari, Regev said the Hamas military leader headed a "terror military machine." "This is the man with blood on his hands. This man is a known and wanted terrorist," he said. "In taking him out, Israel was acting legitimately."

The latest escalation in violence is part of a cycle of attacks between periods of relative stability between Israel and the Palestinians.

"This was both inevitable and predictable," said Aaron David Miller, a Middle East expert and vice president at the Woodrow Wilson Center.

There is no long-term basis for both sides to find a lasting peace, he said.

Israel and the Palestinians have "completely different political and strategic goals," Miller explained. The focus should be on how to bring security until a basis for long-term stability arises, he added.





EUCOM

35. [Security, England] Bomb Disposal Team Called After Explosives Found In Carbis Bay

Thursday, November 15 2012

<http://www.thisiscornwall.co.uk/story-17331094-detail/story.html>

A bomb disposal team has swooped on Carbis Bay.....after railway track detonators were found wrapped around a safe.

A man was renovating his late relative's house when he stumbled upon the make-shift safety device.

The bomb disposal team is set to arrive at the scene this evening, after receiving a call about the bizarre find at around lunchtime.

"A home owner appears to have put some small railway track explosives around a safe to safeguard it," said a spokesman for Devon and Cornwall Police.

"The bomb disposal team are going to go and check it is safe."

Railway detonators are used as a warning signal to train drivers. Strapped to the top of the rail, they emit a loud bang when a train wheel passes over them. The small explosives are used in a number of situations including warning of engineering works, dense fog or an obstruction on the line.

The police spokesman said no one had to be evacuated from the west Cornwall property and no one had been injured.



EUCOM

36. [Attack, Turkey] Terrorists Attack Gendarmerie Station With Bomb-Laden Tractor

Friday, November 16 2012

<http://www.todayszaman.com/news-298397-terrorists-attack-gendarmerie-station-with-bomb-laden-tractor.html>

A group of terrorists from the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) staged an attack on a gendarmerie station with a bomb-laden tractor in the Lice district of the southeastern Diyarbakir province in the early hours of Friday morning.

According to Diyarbakir Governor Mustafa Toprak, the incident took place at 5 a.m. The terrorists opened fire on the gendarmerie station from a tractor, with security forces responding. The terrorists quickly fled the scene, following which the tractor exploded, leaving a three-by-two-meter hole in the front of the station.

Recalling a former operation by the military against members of the PKK in Lice that resulted in the killing of three terrorists on July 17, Toprak stated that the terrorists may have wanted to take revenge for that incident.

The gendarmerie launched an investigation into the attack, employing sniffer dogs at the scene.

Meanwhile, gendarmerie and police special forces units launched a massive ground operation with air support on Friday in the eastern province of Tunceli's Ovacik district, where Ovacik Chief Public Prosecutor Murat Uzun was killed by the PKK on Sept. 20. Security forces detonated four bombs under the supervision of bomb disposal units. The Tunceli-Ovacik highway was closed to traffic due to the ongoing clash between security forces and the terrorists.

The 35-year-old prosecutor Uzun was shot in Ovacik while on his way home. Uzun was rushed to Ovacik State Hospital for urgent treatment and then to Firat University Hospital, where he died.

The terrorist PKK has been waging a bloody war in Turkey's Southeast since 1984 with the aim of carving out a separate state in predominantly Kurdish southeastern Turkey.



EUCOM

37. [Trend, Israel] Two Rockets Land Outside Jerusalem Following Two Fired At TA

Friday, November 16 2012

<http://www.jpost.com/Defense/Article.aspx?id=292171>

Two rockets landed outside of Jerusalem Friday evening as sirens rang out, causing no injuries or damage. Police reported that there was "no indication" that rockets landed in the city, stating that "most likely, the rockets landed in an open area outside of Jerusalem."

Hamas took credit for the attack, claiming to have shot "an improved Kassam," which it called an M-75, towards Jerusalem. The launch represents the first Hamas rocket attack aimed at Jerusalem.

A rocket is believed to have fallen in the Judean desert, near the area of Takua, though this is not yet certain.

Hours earlier, two rockets were fired from the Gaza Strip in the direction of the greater Tel Aviv area and prompted a red alert air raid siren to be sounded in the city for the second straight day.

The IDF stated that no rocket impact was located in Tel Aviv, but local residents reported hearing an explosion following the siren. No injuries or damage were reported.

The armed wing of Hamas claimed responsibility for that attack as well.

The cities of Be'ersheva, Ashdod, and Ashkelon, and southern towns came under repeated rocket attacks throughout the day. Homes were damaged in the attack.

Thursday and Friday's attacks on the Tel Aviv area marked the first time the center of the country was hit in the renewed violence from the Gaza Strip and the first time that a real siren was sounded in Tel Aviv since the Gulf War in the early 1990s. Palestinian Islamic Jihad took responsibility for Thursday's rocket on Tel Aviv.

The Tel Aviv Municipality decided to open all public bomb shelters in the city on Friday afternoon following the attacks.

The attack on the greater Tel Aviv area came as Operation Pillar of Defense entered its third day. More than a hundred rockets were fired into the South on Friday despite the IDF's continued air strikes on Gaza, meant to root out the terror infrastructure in the territory.

Following the attack on Tel Aviv, the IAF struck 40 targets in the Gaza Strip and the Navy struck three targets.

Nearly 350 rockets have landed in Israel since the operation began on Wednesday, with three Israelis losing their lives in a rocket attack on Kiryat Malachi on Thursday.

Three IDF soldiers were wounded by a rocket attack on the Eshkol Regional Council area on Friday, one moderately and two lightly.

The IDF has struck some 500 terror targets in Gaza since the operation began. According to Palestinian sources 20 people have been killed in IDF strikes on Gaza.



PACOM

38. [Security, Indonesia] Militant Training Camp Discovered In Poso

Saturday, November 10 2012

http://khabarsoutheastasia.com/en_GB/articles/apwi/articles/features/2012/11/10/feature-02

A major security operation under way in Poso, Central Sulawesi has uncovered a suspected terrorist training site on Gunung Biru (Blue Mountain), not far from the place where the dead bodies of two missing policemen were found in early October, multiple media have reported.

Police found weapons, hiding places dug in the ground and the word "jihad" written on a tree at the site, a clearing about two hectares in size in the midst of a thick forest.

Live mines, apparently placed to target security forces, were successfully deactivated, Central Sulawesi Police Chief Dewa Parsana told the Antara News Agency. A 300-strong joint force of police and soldiers is combing the area, hunting for militants and any other explosives that could harm local residents working in a nearby cocoa plantation.

The clearing is about 2km from where two missing policemen were found on October 16th, buried together in a hole, their throats slit. They had been sent to the area to investigate an alleged paramilitary training camp linked to extremist Islamist group Jamaah Ansharut Tauhid (JAT).

Terrorism hotbed

The following day, security forces mounted an aggressive operation in the area which is still unfolding. Major events are summarised here.

Officials say that militants who once gathered in the hills of Aceh have decamped to Central Sulawesi, a place already scarred by a history of Christian-Muslim violence.

"Since 2010, terrorist groups wanted to make Aceh a militant training base because of the geographical reason. But we have successfully defeated their plan," National Counterterrorism Agency (BNPT) head Ansyad Mbai told Khabar Southeast Asia.

"Therefore they looked for a new place, which ended up in Poso. They chose Poso because of its geography and history, since Poso was a conflict area back in 1998 and 2000."

From the late 1990s to the mid-2000s, Poso was home to sectarian conflict between Muslims and Christians in which 1,000 people were reportedly killed.

Since then, Poso has become a terrorism hotbed, hosting several terrorism cells. The groups are trying to reignite sectarian conflict in the region, Mbai said.

"Their goal is to establish an Islamic state based on their version of Sharia Islam." Ansyad said. "If the scenario goes as expected, they would call for a jihad," he said.

"However, the local communities are aware of what is happening. They are not easily provoked because they have been suffering from previous experiences," he said. Experts: terrorists trying to use Poso as base

At a recent forum in Jakarta, terrorism expert Solahuddin said that militants are trying to establish a new jihad movement in Poso by uniting smaller cells from all over Indonesia, including those based in Medan and Java.

"They were all united through the military training. They got funded from cyber robbery," said Solahuddin, a journalist who wrote "From NII to JI: Salafi Jihadism in Indonesia".

Fugitive terrorist Santoso, thought to be the current leader of the Poso movement, was enflamed after police recently arrested members of the Al-Qaeda Indonesia network, including a man arrested in Palu, Sulawesi.

"That led to the kidnapping of police officers and the bombing of a police post, and they now challenge police officers to an open war," Solahuddin said.

Caught in the crossfire

The security operation has been costly for local residents. Twenty-two people swept up in a sunrise raid in Kayamany village and released that evening are taking complaints of heavy-handed police techniques to the National



Commission on Human Rights (Komnas Ham), according to reports.

Residents have also protested the deaths of two local people – militant suspects, according to police – shot dead in the course of the raids.

Ansyaad said one of the biggest problems in combating terrorism in Poso is religious sensitivity and misinterpretation of what is happening.

"Often time, the counterterrorism operation tends to be misinterpreted as repressive to religious activities because the terrorist groups always claim their activities as religious activities," he said. "The terrorist tends to claim that what they are doing is a religious struggle, which is very easily used to provoke society."

At the same time, local officials and citizens support counterterrorism efforts in Poso because they are tired of the terrorists' activities.

"Even the local government is worried that terrorist groups' activities can trigger the sectarian conflict in Poso. And local communities also have been sick and tired with the terrorist groups' activities. But they are too afraid to report it to the police," he said. "However, residents have shown their support to the law enforcement officers to combat the growth of terrorism in Poso."





PACOM

39. [Law Enforcement, Philippines] Police Arrest Three Militants And Thwart Bomb Attack

Monday, November 12 2012

http://www.gulf-times.com/site/topics/article.asp?cu_no=2&item_no=543274&version=1&template_id=45&parent_id=25

Police in the southern Philippines said yesterday they had arrested three members of the Al Qaeda-linked Abu Sayyaf group and thwarted a bomb attack.

Intelligence operatives intercepted the men Thursday night on the island of Basilan, a known hotbed of the extremists, regional police said in a statement.

Police said they seized two motorcycles, one of which was rigged with explosives, as well as handguns. They said the three allegedly planned to set off the bomb in a heavy populated urban area.

The suspects were members of a squad responsible for carrying out sabotage attacks to divert military and police attention as other members stage kidnappings, police said.

The Abu Sayyaf is a small group of militants blamed for the country's worst terrorist attacks, including a ferry bombing in 2004 that killed more than 100.

The group is also behind a series of high-profile kidnappings of foreign and local tourists as well as businessmen. It is on the US government's list of foreign terrorist organisations. A number of American advisers have been rotating in the southern Philippines for the past decade helping local counterparts to try to crush the group.

A number of foreign hostages are believed held by the Abu Sayyaf in the south, including two European bird-watchers seized in February and an Australian abducted last December.

Three Filipino Marines searching for the hostages were killed in a clash with the Abu Sayyaf in another island in the south last month.



PACOM

40. [Attack, India] Farmer Killed In Bomb Blast

Tuesday, November 13 2012

http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/wire-news/farmer-killedbomb-blast_781961.html

A farmer was killed in a bomb blast when unidentified assailants hurled the explosive at him at Chatia in Bihar's East Champaran district today, police said. The crude bomb was hurled at Ramnarayan Sah (40) while he was returning home after easing himself in a nearby field. Injured Sah died on way to the hospital. Dispute over purchase of a piece of land was stated to be the motive behind the farmer's killing. One person was arrested.



PACOM

41. [Trend, Bangladesh] Villagers Panicked By Frequent Bomb Blasts At Night

Tuesday, November 13 2012

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=257331>

Residents of two villages in Alamdanga upazila of Chuadanga district are in a state of panic as unidentified gangs exploded several bombs at the villages on two consecutive nights.

Police quoted the villagers as saying that three bombs went off at Nischindpur village at around 11.00pm on Saturday while five bombs at Shishirdari village at the same time on Sunday.

They said the bombs exploded at different locations of the two adjacent villages within a span of merely 15-30 minutes and the gangs left the scenes soon after the explosions.

Police led by Sub-Inspector (SI) Keramat Ali of Khaskarra police camp went to the villages after bomb blasts. None was arrested in connection with the incidents as of yesterday.

Local people said outlawed party cadres and different criminal gangs have been roaming freely in the areas for the last few days. They are demanding money from some villagers and local shop owners, said a villager seeking anonymity.

Contacted, Officer-In-Charge (OC) Syed Abdullah of Alamdanga Police Station, said police patrolling and surveillance have been intensified at the villages.

Meanwhile, law enforcers seized five bombs from outlaw Nayan Ali's house at Madhugari village in Daulatpur upazila of Kushtia early yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, a team from Daulatpur Police Station raided the house of Nayan, a cadre of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML), at the village at around 12:30pm and found the bombs.



PACOM

42. [Law Enforcement, Indonesia] Two Indonesians Arrested In Failed Bomb Attack

Tuesday, November 13 2012

<http://www.irrawaddy.org/archives/18646>

A man threw a pipe bomb at an Indonesian provincial governor while he was on a stage but the device packed with nails failed to explode, police said on Monday after arresting the suspect and a second man. No one was injured.

South Sulawesi Gov Syahrul Yasin Limpo was attending a ceremony commemorating the anniversary of his political party, the Golkar party, in the provincial capital, Makassar. Police are investigating whether Sunday's failed attack was linked to a known terrorism group or to the next gubernatorial election. Limpo is seeking re-election in the January poll.

White smoke poured out of the pipe bomb but it did not explode, said national police spokesman Brig-Gen Boy Rafli Amar.

The suspect, Awaluddin Nasir, 25, was beaten up by the crowd and arrested just after allegedly tossing the device.

Nasir led police to another suspect late on Sunday, and security forces are still searching for at least two other men who escaped during a police raid near Pamajengang Village. Dozens of officers are now surrounding the area.

Police seized a homemade bomb and two guns and are investigating a possible terrorism link. "We found similarities with the explosive used by a terrorist group in Poso," Amar said.

Poso was a flashpoint for violence between Christians and Muslims in which more than 1,000 people died in 2001 and 2002. Authorities believe the district is now a terrorist hotbed.

Indonesia has been battling terrorists since the 2002 bombings on the resort island of Bali that killed 202 people, mostly foreign tourists.

Terrorist attacks aimed at foreigners have been largely replaced in recent years by smaller, less deadly strikes targeting government, mainly police and anti-terrorism forces.



PACOM

43. [Security, India] Bomb Disposal Squad Defuses Explosive Device

Tuesday, November 13 2012

<http://pamirtimes.net/2012/11/14/gilgit-bomb-disposal-squad-defuses-explosive-material/>

The bomb disposal squad of Gilgit Police defused an explosive device, a hand-grenade, according to some sources, left by unknown people near a bridge in middle of the city, averting a potential disaster. The information about presence of a second explosive device proved to be a rumor.

The security situation has been beefed up ahead of the month of Moharram. The incidents of recovery of explosive material, targeted attacks and threats have increased during the last two weeks.

Police officials today told the media in Gilgit that they are alert to counter the nefarious designs of the terrorists who want to push the region to chaos, once more. They appealed to the public to remain vigilant and cooperate with the law enforcing agencies.



PACOM

44. [Law Enforcement, Indonesia] Fifty Alleged Terrorists From Islamic School In Nganjuk Detained

Tuesday, November 13 2012

<http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/home/fifty-alleged-terrorists-from-islamic-school-in-nganjuk-detained/555943>

Approximately 50 students and one teacher affiliated with an Islamic boarding school and allegedly involved in terrorist activities were taken into police custody on Tuesday.

According to Antaranews.com, dozens of fully-armed police officers raided the Pondok Darul Akhfiya school in the Kepuh village of the Nganjuk district in East Java.

Besides hauling in students, officers also arrested Nasiruddin Ahmad, also known as Landung Tri Bawono, the teacher at the institution.

Nganjuk police chief Adj. Sr. Comr. Anggoro Sukartono told Okezone.com that police were still trying to determine whether or not the students were being trained to be terrorists.

A local resident commented that people who live in the surrounding area of the school regularly witnessed students participating in martial arts training during the morning and evening.

“They often exercised and practiced martial arts. They even have a space that looks like a military training field behind the school,” Maryono, one of the locals, said, as quoted by Antaranews.com. “We suspect they are members of a terrorist network.”

Maryono said that students of the school are high school-aged and are from several different regions, such as Banyuwangi, Pasuruan and Ambon.

Nasiruddin denied the allegations and claimed that he only teaches the students about Islam.

“We’re not teaching terrorism, but only religious studies, as other Islamic boarding schools do,” Nasiruddin said. “Besides that, we teach them martial arts.”

Police have not let journalists investigate the scene further, but a reliable source told Antaranews.com that police found many books about jihad and air guns on the premises.

Nganjuk police officers refused to comment when the Jakarta Globe contacted them.



PACOM

45. [Security, North Korea] N. Korea Reportedly Shipped Missile Parts To Syria, In Violation Of U.N. Sanctions

Wednesday, November 14 2012

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2012/11/14/249518.html>

North Korea tried to export ballistic missile parts to Syria in May in violation of U.N. sanctions, Japanese media said Wednesday, citing diplomats who have seen a classified U.N. report.

South Korean authorities inspected North Korean cargo bound for Syria and confiscated hundreds of cylinders that could be used to build the weapons, the Asahi Shimbun said.

Seoul in June reported the discovery to the United Nation's North Korea sanctions committee, which then dispatched experts to South Korea to inspect the materials, the liberal daily said.

If confirmed, the reported action shows Pyongyang violated U.N. bans on trading military- and weapons-related materials, imposed successively since 2006 after nuclear tests by the secretive regime.

The 445 graphite cylinders were on a Chinese-registered freighter with a cargo bound for a Syrian company with North Korean links, Kyodo News said, citing U.N. diplomats.

The Asahi said South Korea confiscated 535 cylinders, disguised as lead pipes that would have no connection to ballistic missiles.

The finding was included in a report filed this month to members of a special committee that is charged with overseeing the implementation of sanctions imposed on North Korea, Kyodo said.

The apparent attempt at arms exports came shortly after the U.N. Security Council adopted a presidential statement calling for tougher sanctions against Pyongyang, which in April attempted but failed to launch a satellite.

The launch was widely seen by other nations as cover for a missile test.

The graphite cylinders found aboard the cargo ship Xin Yan Tai in South Korea's Busan port could be used for rocket nozzles and re-entry vehicle nose tips, Kyodo said.

The ship, registered in Shanghai, was built in 2005 and is owned by a Shanghai shipping company, Kyodo said, citing the China Classification Society of vessels.

The Shanghai firm's involvement in the case could pose a question over China's commitment to implementing sanctions on North Korea, Kyodo added.

The interim report was prepared by a panel of experts from the five permanent members of the Security Council, Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States, as well as Japan and South Korea, Kyodo said.

Every November, the panel turns over its interim report privately to the special committee to update the 15 council members on Pyongyang's sanctions violations, Kyodo said.



The interim report also says that Ukrainian authorities confirmed the arrests of two North Korean agents who attempted to steal ballistic missile technology from the former Soviet state, the Asahi said.

The panel will continue to investigate the cases involving the cylinders and the arrests in Ukraine, the Asahi added.



PACOM

46. [Security, India] Explosives Seized In Odisha

Friday, November 16 2012

http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed_news.asp?date1=11/16/2012&id=10#10

Security Forces (SFs) unearthed explosive materials belonging to Communist Party of India-Maoist (CPI-Maoist) in Kandhamal and Koraput Districts of Odisha during separate combing operations on November 14, reports The Hindu. According to Koraput District Police sources, on November 14, SFs raided a Maoist camp inside the jungle near Samna village under Narayanpatna Block. But the Maoists managed to escape. The items seized from the camp included 129 gelatine sticks, 15 metres of codex wire and 20 metres of flexible wire, one tiffin bomb, maps, a steel container used to prepare Improvised Explosive Device (IED), materials of day to day use, Maoist uniforms, leaflets and literature.

Meanwhile, the Superintendent of Police (SP) of Kandhamal Jayanarayan Pankaj said "We seized three land mines, of the size of 20, 15 and five kg respectively, in a forest near Singaranga village," reports newstrackindia.com quoting IANS.



NORTHCOM

47. [Special Interest, United States] New Robot Testing Terrorist Bomb Recipes

Friday, November 9 2012

<http://www.technewsdaily.com/15406-robot-terrorist-bomb-recipes.html>

Following a terrorist's recipe for blowing up a plane is a good way for human bomb-makers who study these recipes to risk death themselves. But a fearless new robot named "LEXI" can help the U.S. Department of Homeland Security cook up potentially unstable explosive mixtures for the sake of studying terrorist tactics.

LEXI works inside the "firing tanks" used for testing the power of homemade explosives at the High Explosives Applications Facility of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California. The robot's job is to take explosive cocktails from a vibrating mixer and place them on a firing table to prepare for detonation — a task too dangerous for humans to handle.

"We need to see what a terrorist might use and how effective certain types of explosives might be in bringing down planes and other targets of interest," said Lee Glascoe, an engineer at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

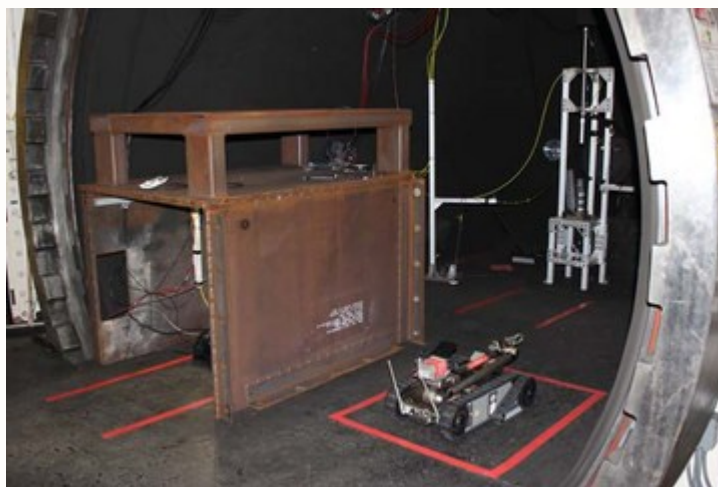
The robot hides behind a blast shield as an acoustic mixer vibrates to mix bomb ingredients into an explosive mixture. LEXI only comes out into the open to move the bomb mixture to the firing table before rolling out the firing tank's door to escape the blast zone prior to detonation.

Such robotic precautions have enabled the National Explosives Engineering Sciences Security (NEXESS) Center — a program is funded by the Department of Homeland Security — to test the explosive power of possible bomb mixtures used by terrorists.

"There are a lot of materials that we look at, and many are safe to work with in contact, such as with your hands, if you know what you are doing," Glascoe explained. "But there are many that are not; particularly if they have certain additives like sulfur or aluminum."

LEXI represents a modified iRobot Packbot 510 — a battle-tested robot made by the company that also produces Roomba vacuum cleaners. But LEXI's unique job of assisting bomb-making stands out compared with its fellow iRobots that usually help U.S. soldiers disable roadside bombs in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Before LEXI, we weren't able to look at some of these explosives because of safety concerns," Glascoe said.





NORTHCOM

48. [Law Enforcement, United States] Two Accused In Homemade Bomb Investigation

Saturday, November 10 2012

<http://www.wisn.com/news/south-east-wisconsin/ozaukee-washington/2-accused-in-homemade-bomb-investigation/-/10151118/17358624/-/rvkpda/-/index.html>

Two men were arrested Saturday after a fight escalated into an attack involving homemade bombs.

Authorities in Grafton said one explosive was thrown into a car Friday night during the incident.

Investigators said the bomb was tossed out of the car before it detonated.

Officials said they later found another explosive inside a car belonging to one of the suspects.

No injuries were reported.

Authorities said they arrested a 21-year-old man from Grafton and a 20-year-old man from Sheboygan.

Police said both of the men were also accused of throwing a similar explosive into a Grafton business recently.



NORTHCOM

49. [Security, United States] Improvised Explosives Investigated In Pueblo West

Wednesday, November 14 2012

http://www.chieftain.com/news/local/improvised-explosives-investigated-in-pueblo-west/article_1b9696f2-2e8a-11e2-b40c-0019bb2963f4.html

The Pueblo County Sheriff's Department evacuated at least seven homes in the 300 block of Karval Street in Pueblo West after deputies discovered two suspected explosive devices.

Pueblo County Sheriff Kirk Taylor said one device sufficient to blow up a block was removed from the home and will be disposed of. A robot was being used to search for other possible explosives. A second, smaller device was also found, according to our TV news partner KRDO NewsChannel 13.

Deputies were in the process of searching the garage of a home on Karval when they discovered a possible explosive device, said Lisa Shorter, a sheriff's department spokeswoman.

Shorter said the homeowner had given deputies consent to search the garage after law enforcement officials were alerted of suspicious activity at the home.

Taylor said an improvised explosive was found in the garage of Anthony Heptig, 46, of Pueblo West. He was arrested Tuesday for unrelated reasons. An anonymous tipster told the sheriff's office about the device last week and an investigation began. Taylor said it appears to have been an experiment with Fourth of July fireworks, "making them bigger and bigger."

The metro bomb squad was on scene with the Pueblo West Fire Department on standby.

Shorter said nearby Liberty Point Elementary and Liberty Point Middle schools were on secured perimeter status, meaning students and staff are not allowed to leave the building.



SOUTHCOM

50. [Attack, Colombia] Rebels Blow Up Truck In Southwest Colombia; 26 Injured

Monday, November 12 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/26958-rebels-blow-up-truck-in-southwest-colombia-26-injured.html>

A bomb explosion near a police station in southwest Colombia injured 26 people Monday.

A van, laden with explosives and bananas, blew up near a police station in Suarez, a municipality in north the north of the Cauca department leaving numerous injured and a police station crumbled.

According to Mayor Ruben Dario Devia, the van was placed near the police station Sunday night and later detonated via some sort of electronic device. Dario confirmed that several police and civilians were injured, albeit not seriously.

In addition to the Mayor, multiple news agencies are claiming FARC is responsible for the attack.

Last year, the FARC's supreme commander Alfonso Cano was killed in a bomb explosion near Suarez and ever since the community has suffered from the anxiety that has come with increasing guerrilla attacks.

According to Mayor Dario, "hundreds of farmers have been displaced from the upper area of the region by permanent military operations and armed clashes."



Photo: La Vanguardia Liberal



SOUTHCOM

51. [Attack, Colombia] One Dead, Five Injured In Alleged FARC Attack

Thursday, November 15 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/27003-1-dead-5-injured-in-alleged-farc-attack.html>

Alleged FARC attacks in southwest Colombia Wednesday left one dead and five more injured.

Local media report that simultaneous attacks in the villages of Totoro and Jambalo result in the death of one Colombian soldier while five others are injured.

According to Imelda Sanchez, the Government Secretary of the municipality in question, the situation in said villages is still tenuous. Sanchez told Caracol Radio that several villagers have fled their homes, many stores have closed up shop and some government buildings and schools have become shelters for those seeking refuge from all the chaos and violence.

The deteriorating security situation comes amidst the first peace talks between the Colombian government and the country's oldest and most influential rebel group in ten years.

Both sides have not agreed to halt military operations during negotiations and the administration of President Juan Manuel Santos has beefed up the armed forces and its budget in recent weeks.