

RAPID

Realtime Analysis and Publishing of IED Data

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.



Egyptian Army Foils Bid To Bomb Rafah Church As Copts Celebrate Christmas

Another car carrying masked men sped away as patrols seized a Toyota vehicle packed with these explosives.

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1. [Attack, Pakistan] Bomb Kills Two Pakistanis In Peshawar

Friday, January 4 2013

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/International/2013/Jan-04/200938-bomb-kills-two-pakistanis-in-peshawar.ashx#axzz2HJHw6aLF>

A bomb planted at an electricity tower on Friday killed two passers-by in Pakistan's northwestern city of Peshawar, police said.

The explosive attached with a time device exploded when the victims were close to the electricity tower in the Badh Bher area of Peshawar, the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, which borders Afghanistan.

"Two kilograms of explosives were used for the blast which killed two people," Javed Khan, a local police official told AFP.

The electricity tower was also damaged as a result of the blast.

Peshawar is vulnerable to bomb blasts and Taliban attacks as it runs into the semi-autonomous tribal belt, considered a safe haven for Taliban, Al-Qaeda and other insurgents fighting both in Pakistan and across the border in Afghanistan.

Pakistan says 35,000 people have been killed as a result of terrorism since the 9/11 attacks and the 2001 US-led invasion of Afghanistan.



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2. [Attack, Pakistan] Afghanistan Fire 25 Mortar Shells In Pakistan

Saturday, January 5 2013

<http://www.khaama.com/afghanistan-fire-25-mortar-shells-in-pakistan-officials-1201>

According to Pakistani officials at least 25 mortar shells were fired from the Afghan soil which landed in the border area of Ghulam Khan in North Waziristan Agency on Friday.

The sources confirmed the shelling by unidentified people believed to be Afghan security personnel, did not incur any casualties to local residents.

The shelling according to the sources continued for four hours. The mortar shells were fired from Tarkhobi area in Afghanistan's Khost province.

Cross-border shelling has heightened tension between Pakistan and Afghanistan as the two countries accuse each other of firing.

The Afghan government has repeatedly asked its Pakistani counterpart to stop cross-border shelling, the Pakistani officials however denies any involvement and blames Afghanistan for violating border sovereignty.

Local authorities in eastern Kunar province of Afghanistan at least 4 Afghan civilians were killed or injured following missile attack from Pakistan last week.

The officials added at least 12 missiles were fired in Sarkano district, leaving an Afghan woman dead and 3 children injured.

Local officials are saying at least 60 people have been killed or injured following missiles attacks by Pakistan military during the past 9 months.





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3. [Attack, Afghanistan] Taliban Suicide Team Strikes In Kandahar

Sunday, January 6 2013

http://www.longwarjournal.org/threat-matrix/archives/2013/01/taliban_suicide_team_strikes_i_1.php

A pair of Taliban suicide bombers launched an attack on the district center of Spin Boldak in Kandahar earlier today, killing five people and wounding 15 more. A Taliban spokesman claimed credit for the bombings. Pajhwok Afghan News provides the details of the attack:

One tribal elder, a police coordinator and a child were among the dead, the provincial police chief, Brig. Gen. Abdul Razzaq, told journalists.

One of the insurgents crashed his explosives-packed vehicle into the government building around 12.00 noon, the district chief told Pajhwok Afghan News.

Mohammad Hashim Agha said the second attacker entered the office complex and blew himself up inside the building where a meeting of the local council was in progress.

The roof of the meeting hall collapsed, killing a tribal elder and injuring 15 others, he added. But the governor's spokesman, Javed Faisal, said three tribal elders were killed and 15 others, including three policemen, injured.

Today's attack, like previous complex suicide operations carried out by the Taliban in Kandahar, was likely carried out by the Mullah Dadullah Mahaz, or the Mullah Dadullah Front, a radical Taliban subgroup closely linked to al Qaeda.

The Mullah Dadullah Front is a wing of the Taliban in the south that has adopted al Qaeda's tactics and ideology, a US intelligence official told The Long War Journal in December 2010. The Mullah Dadullah Front is led by Mullah Abdul Qayoum Zakir, the former Guantanamo Bay detainee who has since been promoted as the Taliban's top military commander and co-leader of the Taliban's Quetta Shura.

The radical Taliban wing is known to be behind numerous complex attacks in the south, including last summer's suicide assault on Camp Bastion that destroyed a Marine Harrier fighter squadron, and a suicide attack on Jan. 8, 2011 in Spin Boldak that killed 17 people, including a senior police commander allied with Razzaq, Kandahar's police chief. Razzaq himself has been the target of multiple assassination attempts in both Spin Boldak and Kandahar City.

Just a few miles from Spin Boldak but across the border, Zakir and other Taliban leaders operate out of the Pakistani city of Chaman in Baluchistan, as the location shields them from US and NATO operations. The Taliban maintain a command and control center in Chaman, but the Pakistani military and intelligence services have refused to move against the Taliban there.





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4. [Attack, Pakistan] Bomb Blast Damages Seven Shops

Sunday, January 6 2013

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-4-152681-Bomb-blast-damages-seven-shops>

At least seven shops and five pushcarts were damaged by a powerful bomb blast in the SITE-A police jurisdiction on Saturday.

SITE-A SHO Rao Muhammad Rafiq received information at around 6:30 am that an explosion had occurred at Time Medico near Shabbir Eye Hospital.

Rafiq said he called the intelligence officer present at the crime scene and found out that the blast had occurred outside the shop. Following that, forensic experts and the Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) were asked to reach the blast site.

The bomb weighed around 3kg and contained ball-bearings as well as explosive materials that were locally made, said a BDS report.

The report said the bomb was planted in a parked motorcycle and exploded by a remote control. It contained an electronic 15-minute timer with a China-made battery, added the report.

SHO Rafiq said the bomb was an improvised explosive device, which was planted inside a cement block.

Following the explosion, law-enforcement agencies, BDS, and Edhi and Chhipa volunteers arrived at the blast site and cordoned off the area.

The SHO said Time Medico, the shop that was targeted a second time on Saturday, belonged to Awami National Party leader Hanif Khan. A drug peddler had demanded Rs2 million from Khan and when he had refused to pay, a grenade was hurled at his shop around 15 days ago, added the police officer.

Another attack

Mauripur SHO Shafiq Khan and two other policemen were injured in an attack on the office of Pakistan Muslim League-Functional in Mawach Goth.

The three policemen were standing near the police mobile van when two men on a motorcycle hurled a grenade at the office. Police arrested the attackers, Kashif and Imran, and recovered two grenades as well as two TT pistols from them. They also shifted the wounded policemen to the Civil Hospital Karachi.



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5. [Security, Afghanistan] Explosive Devices Discovers In Kandahar

Sunday, January 6 2013

<http://www.bakhtarnews.com.af/eng/security/item/5759-explosive-devices-discovers-in-kandahar.html>

The police officials of Kandahar province discovered and neutralized quantity of explosive devices yesterday. Interior ministry press office said to BNA, 3 gallons full of explosive devices which were placed by armed militants for terrorist and destructive activities in the vicinities of Takhta Pul district of that province discovered and neutralized.

With discovering of these materials, they prevented several terrorist events in that province.

According to another report, the police personnel of Herat province discovered and defused a mine which was planted by armed militants along the road of Pashtoon Zarghoon district of that province.





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6. [Security, Pakistan] Bomb Found From New Karachi Defused

Monday, January 7 2013

<http://www.brecorder.com/pakistan/general-news/99638.html>

Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) defused a bomb found from Khawaja Ajmer Nagri here on Tuesday.

According to police, information was received about a suspicious parcel in Khawaja Ajmer Nagri area near Rashidabad police picket, New Karachi in the limit of Khawaja Ajmer Nagri Police station on Monday.

The police rushed to the scene and Bomb Disposal Squad was called in. The BDS experts successfully defused the home-made bomb, weighted around 2 kilograms. The explosive devise was planted in a pressure cooker.



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7. [Attack, Pakistan] Bomb Goes Off Near NGO Official's Residence

Monday, January 7 2013

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-152922-Bomb-goes-off-near-NGO-officials-residence>

An explosive device went off near the hujra of an official of a non-governmental organisation (NGO) in Razar tehsil in Swabi district, local sources said on Sunday. The sources said unknown people had planted two bombs near the main gate of the hujra of Fazal Muhammad in Arakh area in Razar tehsil and triggered the explosion late in the night. The blast damaged the main gate and boundary walls of the structure but didn't cause any casualty, the sources added. The sources added the personnel of the bomb disposal unit (BDU) recovered a second bomb and defused it.



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8. [Attack, Pakistan] One Dead In Rickshaw Bomb Blast

Monday, January 7 2013

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-82844-Quetta:-One-dead-in-rickshaw-bomb-blast>

A bomb blast killed a man and injured scores of others in Quetta here on Monday, Geo News reported.

The improvised explosive device was planted in a rickshaw parked on Sariab Road.

Rescue efforts were kicked off immediately after the explosion and the injured were shifted to the hospital while security forces cordoned off the area and started investigation.



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9. [Attack, Pakistan] Blast Kills Two Security Personnel In Mohmand Agency

Monday, January 7 2013

<http://dawn.com/2013/01/07/blast-kills-two-security-personnel-in-mohmand-agency/>

At least two security personnel were killed Monday when a bomb exploded in Pakistan's northwestern Mohmand tribal agency near the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, officials said.

The improvised explosive device (IED) blew up near Albo security checkpoint area in Khwezai Tehsil, some 40 kilometers west of the agency headquarters Ghalanai, injuring another security personnel.

Ghazi Nawaz, assistant political agent for Khawezai Tehsil, confirmed two security personnel were killed and one injured in the blast.

He said the bomb appeared to be have planted along the road to target security forces near Margano Jalaa area of Khwaezai tehsil, close to the Pakistan-Afghan border.

Mohmand is one of Pakistan's seven tribal agencies near the Afghan border which are rife with homegrown insurgents and are said to be strongholds of Taliban and al Qaeda operatives.



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10. [Attack, Pakistan] Grenade Attack Leaves Two Injured

Monday, January 7 2013

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-82829-Quetta:-Grenade-attack-leaves-2-injured>

A hand grenade attack left two people injured here on Monday, Geo News reported.

The injured were rushed to hospital soon after rescuers arrived at the scene.

Police have started investigation.



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11. [Attack, Afghanistan] Rocket Attack Near Kandahar Airport; PIA Plane Safe

Tuesday, January 8 2013

<http://dawn.com/2013/01/08/rocket-attack-at-kandahar-airport/>

Unknown assailants fired several rockets near Afghanistan's Kandahar airport on Tuesday while a Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) plane was on the tarmac ready for departure, DawnNews reported.

The flight PK-199, with 42 passengers on board, was ready to depart for Quetta when eight to 10 rockets were fired from multiple sides close to the airport.

However, PIA officials confirmed that the passengers and flight crew were safe and that there was no damage to the aircraft.

The plane was grounded temporarily as the airfield was shut down following the attack. However, officials confirmed that the field was subsequently cleared for operation and that the PIA flight would depart shortly.





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12. [Security, Pakistan] BDS Defused Seven Kg Bomb

Tuesday, January 8 2013

<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/karachi/08-Jan-2013/bds-defused-7-kg-bomb>

Bomb disposal squad has defused a locally made bomb planted in Rasheedabad police post situated at North Karachi area within the vicinity of Khawaja Ajmair Nagri police station on Monday. According to details, police said that after getting information police reached the spot and cordoned off the area and called the BDS immediately to defuse the bomb. The BDS officials said that the bomb was made in a pressure cooker, which would be more harmful if it went off. Police officials said that the terrorists aimed at targeting the police post.

SHO Chaudhry Afzal said that some labourers working at an under-construction plot found the suspicious pressure cooker connected with wires, upon which they informed the police. BDS experts managed to defuse the bomb with the efforts of about 20 minutes and later cleared the area.

Police said that the police post was established about a month ago in the area to monitor the movement of the terrorists belonging to Manghopir, Sultanabad, Pakhtoonabad and their surrounding areas. According to BDS experts, the bomb carried seven kilogram explosives, adding that two detonators and two batteries were also attached to it and the bomb would be exploded with remote control. Police had registered a case against unidentified persons under Explosive and Anti-Terrorism Acts and initiated further investigation.

MWM DEMANDS ACTION AGAINST TERRORISTS: MWM Karachi has demanded the government and law-enforcement agencies to take stern action against the terrorists involved in attacks on Shia mosques and Imambargahs.

Maulana Sadiq Raza Taqvi, secretary general, MWM Karachi strongly reacted to the attacks on mosque and Imambargah Haider-e-Karrar Orangi Town and mosque and Imambargah Imamia Liaquatabad C-Area. "One terrorist has been caught red handed in Orangi Town. We demand he must be shown to people via media," Maulana Taqvi urged while talking to people during his visits of the attacked mosques and Imambargahs on Monday.

He said that after genocide of Shiites, enemies of Islam have launched attacks on Shia mosques and Imambargahs so that Shia Muslims could not offer prayers without fear. "Terrorists rule Karachi and the law-enforcement agencies have become hapless and failed to counter them," he said. The MWM official recalled that since the start of new Islamic calendar, 5 mosques and Imambargahs have been attacked. He said that the terrorist caught red-handed on Monday belong to an outlawed notorious terrorist group.

Certificates, cheques distributed among beneficiaries of BISP: Chairperson, Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Mrs. Farzana Raja on Monday said that BISP is a brain-child of President Asif Ali Zardari to support the depressed and the poor class of the country. This is in pursuance of the mission of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto to provide "roti, kapra aur makan."

The BISP Chairperson was speaking at a ceremony to distribute certificates and cheques among the beneficiaries of different initiatives BISP, held here at Bilawal House.

She said that, now, BISP has been internationally recognised. It is very transparent, practical and easy way to reach



the poor population. It has earned a good name for the country, she said. President Asif Ali Zardari, Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Miss Bakhtawar Bhutto Zardari, Miss Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah, Speaker SA Khuhro, Federal and Provincial Ministers, MNAs, MPAs, other leaders of PPP, Chancellors of Universities, members of academia and others.

, senior officers of Federal and Provincial governments besides a large number of beneficiaries of BISP were present.

The BISP Chairperson said that under Waseela-e-Haq initiative, 7 million families had been registered so far. Every beneficiary gets Rs 3,000 after every three months period.

Under Waseela-e-Rozgar initiative, graduates from BISP beneficiary families or nominated by them are given technical and vocational training in 52 professions/disciplines making them able to start their own business. During the training, she said, each graduate receive Rs 6,000 monthly stipend.

She said that under Waseela-e-Rozgar, the Government wanted to train 1,50,000 graduates.

Farzana Raja paid tribute to Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto and President Asif Ali Zardari for their policies aimed at improving the living standard of the commonman, especially the depressed ones.

She said we promoted the spirit of nationhood. Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto used to say “no force can take them away from the masses.” Pakistan Peoples Party from its day one strongly believed in the people’s power and support.

She pledged that under the leadership of President Asif Ali Zardari, who is also Co-Chairman of PPP, we would complete mission of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto for bringing social and economic revolution in the country.

The BISP chairperson also played a documentary highlighting BISP’s Waseela-e-Haq, Waseela-e-Rozgar and Waseela-e-Taaleem initiatives.

Thousands of BISP beneficiaries present there raised solagans in support of President Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. Earlier, Farzana Raja led congregational dua for Shaheed Benazir Bhutto.





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13. [Attack, Pakistan] Blast Kills Peace Body Member In Bokhar

Tuesday, January 8 2013

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-82952-Blast-kills-peace-body-member-in-Bokhar>

A member of a peace committee was killed and another injured in an explosion occurred here Tuesday at Bokhar, remote area of Tirah Valley in Khyber Agency.

According to details, unknown miscreants planted a bomb near the road that exploded killing a member of peace committee, Imran. The explosion also injured another identified as Noor Muhammad.

The injured was shifted to a nearby hospital while a probe into the incident has been started by political administration.



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14. [Attack, Pakistan] Tribal Volunteer Killed In IED Blast

Wednesday, January 9 2013

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-153368-Tribal-volunteer-killed-in-IED-blast>

A volunteer of pro-government Zakhakhel tribal Lashkar was killed and his other accomplice injured in a roadside blast in Bukaan area of Landikotal Tehsil in Khyber Agency, official and local sources said on Tuesday. The sources said that Imran, son of Sunnat Khan, and Noor Muhammad, son of Wadan, were on their way to Dray Khula area when a powerful bomb exploded on the roadside. They said Imran died on the spot while Noor Muhammad sustained injuries. No group claimed the responsibility for the blast.



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15. [Attack, Pakistan] Two Separate Bombs Kill 32, Hurt 100 In Pakistan Cities

Thursday, January 10 2013

[http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/01/10/us-pakistan-blast-idUSBRE9090SL20130110?](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/01/10/us-pakistan-blast-idUSBRE9090SL20130110?feedType=RSS&feedName=pakistan&virtualBrandChannel=10165&utm_source=divr.it&utm_medium=twitter&divr.it=59231)

[feedType=RSS&feedName=pakistan&virtualBrandChannel=10165&utm_source=divr.it&utm_medium=twitter&divr.it=59231](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/01/10/us-pakistan-blast-idUSBRE9090SL20130110?feedType=RSS&feedName=pakistan&virtualBrandChannel=10165&utm_source=divr.it&utm_medium=twitter&divr.it=59231)

Bomb blasts in two Pakistani cities killed 32 people and injured more than 100, police and hospital officials said.

A bomb in Quetta, the capital of the eastern province of Balochistan, killed 11 people and injured more than 40, police officer Zubair Mehmood said. A local militant group claimed responsibility.

Another 21 were killed and more than 60 injured in a bombing where people had gathered to hear a religious leader speak in Mingora, the largest city in the northwestern province of Swat, police and officials at the Saidu Sharif hospital said.

"The death toll may rise as some of the injured are in critical condition and we are receiving more and more injured people," said Dr. Niaz Mohammad.

Police initially said the Swat blast was caused by an exploding gas cylinder but later police chief Akhtar Hayat said it was a bomb.

It has been more than two years since a militant attack has claimed that many lives in Swat.

The mountainous region, formerly a tourist destination, has been administered by the Pakistani army since their 2009 offensive drove out Taliban militants who had taken control.

But the Taliban retain their ability to mount attacks in Swat and shot schoolgirl campaigner Malala Yousufzai in Mingora last October.

The bomb in a market in Quetta targeted a police patrol and mostly killed sellers of vegetable and second-hand clothes, officer Mehmood said.

Three police officers nearby were injured and a child was among the dead, he said.

The United Baloch Army claimed responsibility for the blast.

The group is one of several who are fighting for independence for Balochistan, an arid and impoverished region with substantial gas, copper and gold reserves.

It constitutes just under half of Pakistan's territory and is home to about 8 million of the country's population of 180 million.

Human rights groups say hundreds of bodies have been recovered in the region since 2011. Many have broken limbs, cigarette burns or other signs of torture. Local activists blame the security services.



The state denies the accusations and says that insurgents sometimes put on military uniforms before kidnapping people.

Sectarian attacks are also on the rise, and militant groups frequently bomb or shoot Shia passengers on buses travelling to neighboring Iran.





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16. [Attack, Pakistan] Two Killed In Karachi Car Bomb Blast

Thursday, January 10 2013

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-20151-Two-killed-in-Karachi-car-bomb-blast>

A bomb blast ripped through a car at a petrol pump adjacent to Askari IV on Rashid Minhas Road in the early hours of Thursday, leaving two people dead and as many injured.

The blast occurred at around 1am in a silver-coloured Corolla car at the Shell petrol pump, killing the driver and a passenger, SSP CID Raja Umar Khattab said. He said it was a planted bomb containing three to four kilograms of explosives.

Police said the car's number plate (AXX-525) was fake and appeared to have been stolen. The explosion destroyed the vehicle. The casualties were taken to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre.

Police and Rangers cordoned off the scene of the blast and the petrol pump was closed down as the bomb disposal squad officials arrived at the scene and started investigation.





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17. [Attack, Pakistan] Forty-Three Killed In Four Bomb Attacks In Pakistan

Thursday, January 10 2013

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/304375/43-killed-four-bomb-attacks.html>

Forty-three people were killed and over 120 others injured in four bomb attacks in the restive Pakistani provinces of Balochistan and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa today, with terrorists targeting a security forces vehicle and a religious gathering.

A powerful bomb went off under a security forces vehicle at the busy Bacha Khan Chowk in Quetta, the capital of Balochistan, killing 12 people and injuring about 40 others.

The blast was heard from several kilometres away.

The roundabout, located near several markets, was crowded when the explosion occurred.

Officials at a nearby hospital said 12 people, including two children and a Frontier Corps personnel, were killed. They said they had received about 40 injured people, including several children and security personnel.

Police said the blast was caused by a timed explosive device planted under the security forces vehicle. An estimated 20 kg of explosives was used in the attack.

The blast caused a large crater and destroyed about 10 cars, including the security forces vehicle.

In the second incident, 22 people were killed and nearly 70 injured in an explosion at a "tablighi markaz" (preaching centre) near Mingora, the main town in Swat Valley of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province, this evening.

The blast occurred in the basement of the centre at Takhta Band Road.

State-run Radio Pakistan reported the blast was caused by a gas cylinder but police officials subsequently described the incident as an act of terrorism. Several injured persons said there were no gas cylinders nearby.

Officials at a hospital in Saidu Sharif said the dead and injured were hit by ball bearings, which are often used in explosive devices.

Officials confirmed 22 people were killed and said several of the injured were in a serious condition.

The blast occurred when a large group of people had gathered in the centre for prayers.

Later in the evening, nine persons were killed and 15 more injured when two bombs went off within minutes of each other at Alamdar Road and Airport Road in Quetta, police said.

Two cameramen of TV news channels and a police officer were injured and an outdoor broadcast van of Geo News was damaged in the second blast.

The second explosion occurred when security forces and media teams reached the area.



Alamdard Road has a sizeable population of Shia Hazaras, who have been the target of numerous sectarian attacks.

No group claimed responsibility for any of the attacks.

Several militant groups, including the Taliban and Baloch nationalist organisations, are active in Balochistan.

The Swat Valley was a stronghold of the local Taliban till the army conducted an operation to flush out militants in early 2009. Most of the top Taliban commanders of the region escaped to Afghanistan.



AFPAK

18. [Security, Pakistan] Huge Cache Of Arms, Explosives Seized In Quetta

Thursday, January 10 2013

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-20154-Huge-cache-of-arms-explosives-seized-in-Quetta>

The police seized a huge cache of arms and explosives buried at Eastern Bypass area of the provincial capital during an operation on Wednesday.

“The police raiding team headed by SP Sariab Amanullah Kakar following a tip-off carried out search operation at an empty plot located in the Western Bypass area on early Wednesday,” CCPO Quetta Mir Zubair Mehmood told media persons after extracting the arms and explosives from the hidden caves.

DIG Operations Wazir Khan Nasir, SP Sariab and other officials of the law enforcement agency were also present. CCPO Mir Zubair noted that five Kalashnikovs recovered from the plot belonged to the police personnel who were gunned down by the armed men in an attack in the precincts of Satellite Town PS some days back.

“The excavation of the hidden arms and ammunition was still in progress; he said and hinted at the investigation into the seizure carried out under the supervision of DIG investigation Hamid Shakeel would lead the police to elopements opposed to peace.

The weapons packed in seven sacks and drums included five Kalashnikovs, five pistols, two-hand grenade, two live bombs, one anti tank, large quantity of ball bearings, detonators, prima card, and a huge quantity of other explosives material.



AFPAK

19. [Attack, Pakistan] Pakistan Bombings Kill 120 People

Friday, January 11 2013

<http://abcnews.go.com/m/story?id=18179909>

Shiites in a southwestern Pakistani city hit by a brutal terror attack refused to bury their dead Friday in protest, demanding that the government do something to protect them from what has become a barrage of bombings and shootings against the minority Muslim sect.

The bombings Thursday in Quetta were the worst in a series of attacks across Pakistan that killed 120 people. It appeared to be the country's deadliest single day of violence in five years.

Most of the dead were Shiite Muslims killed in twin bombings at a billiards hall — a frightening reminder that Sunni extremists are increasingly targeting them.

Members of the beleaguered Shiite community in Quetta laid about 50 of their dead out in the street Friday, saying they would not bury them until the government improves security in the area. Young Shiite men also set tires on fire and blocked a nearby road in protest.

"We want safety for our all sects, and all security measures should be taken for our safety, said Fida Hussain, a relative of one of the victims. "We will not bury them until the government fulfills all our demands."

The strike was the worst of three deadly bombings targeting Shiites and soldiers in Quetta, capital of the volatile Baluchistan province, and worshippers at a Sunni mosque in the northwest on the same day.

It appeared to be Pakistan's worst day of violence since October 2007, when 150 were killed in a bombing aimed at Pakistani politician Benazir Bhutto. She survived the blast but was assassinated two months later.

Five people who were wounded in the twin bombings at the billiards hall late Thursday died of their wounds overnight, said Quetta senior police official Hamid Shakeel, putting the death toll from that attack at 86.

The billiards hall bombing, in a Shiite area of the city, started with a suicide attack followed by a car bomb minutes later. Militants often use such staggered bombings to maximize the body count by targeting rescuers and others who rush to the scene after the first explosion to help.

On Friday, Shiite volunteers erected tents to keep bystanders away from the severely-damaged building, where the pool hall once occupied the basement.

Nearby resident Jan Ali described it as a neighborhood gathering spot where young and old often waited in line to play on its six tables. He rushed to the scene Thursday night after the blast.

"It was a scene like hell on earth," said Ali. "Rescue people were carrying out dead and injured, people bleeding and crying, and rushing them toward ambulances. I have never seen such a horrifying situation in my life."

One of those killed in the carnage was a young human rights activist named Irfan Ali.



"He was a very active, energetic activist," said Tahir Hussain, a lawyer and vice chairman of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan's Baluchistan chapter. He said Ali had been associated with the HRCP for the last ten years, often writing about social issues and oppression of the Shiite Hazara community. Shiite Hazara migrated from Afghanistan more than a century ago and have been the targets of dozens of attacks over the past year, but Thursday's was by far the bloodiest.

Ali appeared to have been killed during the second explosion after he rushed to the scene to help, said Hussain. On his Twitter feed before his death, Ali wrote about Hazara families who were leaving the area in fear.

Many residents railed at the government for the repeated acts of violence.

"This government has totally failed in protecting us," said Abbas Ali, who was collecting items from the rubble of his nearby shop, also destroyed in the blast. "Somehow we will get compensation for our losses but those who have gone away will not come back."

Pakistan's minority Shiite Muslims have increasingly been targeted by radical Sunnis who consider them heretics. Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, a Sunni militant group with strong ties to the Pakistani Taliban, claimed responsibility for Thursday's attack.

Last year was the bloodiest year for Pakistan's Shiite community in living memory, said Human Rights Watch in a press release Thursday. According to the organization over 400 Shiites were killed in targeted attacks in 2012; over 120 of them died in Baluchistan.

In the other incident in Quetta, a bomb hidden in a bag went off near a vehicle carrying paramilitary soldiers elsewhere in the city, killing 12 people and wounding more than 40 others.

The United Baluch Army, a separatist group, claimed responsibility for the attack in calls to local journalists. Pakistan has faced a violent insurgency in Baluchistan for years from nationalists who demand greater autonomy and a larger share of the country's natural resources.

The third blast Thursday targeted a mosque in the northwestern Pakistani city of Mingora, killing 22 people and wounding more than 70. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for that explosion.



AFPAK

20. [Attack, Pakistan] Twenty-Two Die As Suicide Bomber Hits Tableeghi Markaz In Mingora

Friday, January 11 2013

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-20159-22-die-as-suicide-bomber-hits-Tableeghi-Markaz-in-Mingora>

Twenty-two members of the Tableeghi Jamaat were killed and more than 60 injured in a blast inside the Tableeghi Markaz in Swat Valley on Thursday, police and local residents said.

Some police officials initially claimed that the blast was caused by a gas cylinder but Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Malakand Akhtar Hayat later said it was a terrorist act.

The police said the blast took place inside the main Tableeghi Markaz located on the Takhta Band Road in Mingora city, the headquarters of Swat district.

Several members of the Tableeghi Jamaat said they believed it was a suicide attack. They said hundreds of worshippers had gathered in Tableeghi Markaz for Shab-e-Juma (Thursday night). They said it was a huge blast and there was no way it could be a cylinder explosion.

The doctors at the Saidu Sharif Hospital said more than 70 injured were brought to the hospital. Some of the dead included Aman Khan, Fazal Wahab, Fazal Khaliq, Lal Muhammad Khan, Shah Zaib, Ziauddin, Bakht Buland, Afzal Khan, Bakht Khan, Saifur Rehman, Shahi Rehman (ASI), Hazrat Rehman, Alamgir and Hijrat Alam.



“The death toll may go up as some of the injured are in a critical condition. It doesn’t seem to be a gas cylinder blast as there were no burn injuries on the victims brought to us,” a doctor said on condition of anonymity.

Some members of Tableeghi Jamaat said it was a suicide attack. “There was no cylinder in the basement. Gas cylinder does not kill so many people,” stated one of the injured, Liaquat Khan.

Another member of the group Nisar Khan also challenged the police claim and said there were no gas cylinder on the premises of the building. They said some of the people died of their critical injuries as they could not be shifted to hospital in time.

They also complained of lack of vehicles for transportation of the injured people to the hospital. The district administration and local police initially tried to downplay impact of the blast and termed it a gas cylinder blast.

When reached by The News, Swat Deputy Commissioner Kamran Rahman said that it was a terrorist act but did not agree to confirm that it was a suicide attack. “There is possibility of terrorism in this act but the police and Pakistan Army are jointly investigating to determine the nature of the blast,” the official said.



It was after a long time that the people of Swat experienced such a huge bloodshed in the valley. Meanwhile, the Pakistani Taliban condemned the blast and termed it an act of the enemies of Islam and Muslims.

“No one can even imagine carrying out such an act and kill members of the Tableeghi Jamaat. We are so sad over the killing of innocent people in the Markaz and assure them that we will try our level best to trace those behind this cowardice act and will give them exemplary punishment,” TTP spokesman Ihsanullah Ihsan said.



AFRICOM

21. [Attack, Kenya] Deadly Grenade Attack In Kenya's Dadaab Camp

Saturday, January 5 2013

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2013/01/20131571854963314.html>

Two youths were killed and seven people injured in a grenade attack at a refugee camp in northeastern Kenya, the country's Red Cross has reported.

The explosion at the Dagahaley refugee camp in Dadaab occurred on Friday evening at a popular restaurant, normally frequented by locals.

"The seven victims sustained multiple shrapnel wounds from the grenade blast in different parts of their bodies and were rushed to hospital, where they are still admitted and receiving treatment," the Red Cross said in a statement.

The Dadaab refugee camp complex, the world's biggest, lies about 100km from the border with Somalia.

"We lost two people and others have been injured," Philip Tuimur, the regional police chief, said. Another police source said the grenade was thrown from a moving vehicle.

Al-Shabab violence

Dadaab has sheltered Somalis fleeing violence and drought for more than 20 years, and their numbers currently stand at nearly half a million.

Attacks have increased within Kenya since Nairobi sent army soldiers into southern Somalia to fight Somalia's al-Qaeda-linked Shabab fighters in late 2011.

Similar attacks and cross-border raids in the region have been blamed on the fighters or their Kenyan supporters, who have vowed revenge.

The Shabab still control large parts of southern Somalia, despite African Union troops, allied Somali forces and Ethiopian soldiers having wrested control of several key towns.

Kenyan troops, now integrated into the African Union force, seized the Shabab bastion of Kismayo, a key southern Somali port, in September.

That led to warnings of retaliation from both the Islamist insurgents and their Kenyan supporters.

But al-Shabab have denied involvement in previous similar bombings.

Displaced Somalis

Violence in Kenya, ranging from attacks blamed on Islamists, inter-communal clashes and a police crackdown on a coastal separatist movement, have raised concerns over security ahead of elections due in March 2013.



Five years ago, elections descended into deadly post-poll killings that shattered Kenya's image as a beacon of regional stability.

In Somalia in 2011, famine caused by extreme drought exacerbated by conflict claimed tens of thousands of lives and affected more than four million people, according to the United Nations.

Over a million Somalis are displaced inside the country, while over a million are refugees in neighbouring nations, according to UN figures.



AFRICOM

22. [Security, Somalia] AMISOM Captures Key Al-Shabaab Base

Sunday, January 6 2013

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201301070160.html>

The AMISOM forces in Somalia have captured another key al-Shabaab base, located about 120km North-West of Mogadishu, further fending off threats from the al-Qaeda linked group.

The assault took place in the thickets of the general areas of Balidoogle on Thursday. Four submachine guns and 13 fully loaded magazines, containing 390 live bullets, were recovered.

Maj. Henry Obbo, the Uganda Contingent Public Information Officer, said the Ugandan contingent of the peace-keeping force, had trailed the al-Shabaab group since Sunday, after it staged a road ambush between Balidoogle and Leego.

Obbo disclosed that the peacekeeping forces neutralised the insurgents, who had closed in 20km north east of the Ugandan contingent base of Ballidoogle.

The Uganda Contingent Commander, Brig Michael Ondoga, explained that the operation was intended to improve security of the Ballidoogle -Leego road, further weaken the insurgents and eliminate Al-Shabaab pockets in the neighbourhood.

"We cannot afford to allow freedom of activity for the enemy in areas we have captured. Issues of road ambushes cannot be handled by road patrols alone, but also by solving the problem from the source. Our operations are paying off," he said in a press statement.

Meanwhile, early this week, the peacekeeping forces captured an insurgent at Baleweyn, 115km North West of Mogadishu.

"The insurgent was in possession of several military gear, including camouflage uniforms and ranger boots. One rocket-propelled grenade bomb was also recovered from the Al-Shabaab in Gupta, Mogadishu," Obbo said.

He noted that the AMISOM forces were mandated to use all means to support offensive action to seize, retain and exploit the initiative of hostile forces in Somalia.



AFRICOM

23. [Trend, Mali] Al-Qaeda Targets More Mali Territory

Sunday, January 6 2013

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201301070417.html>

Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and Ansar al-Din fighters were spotted Saturday (January 5th) in a convoy of some 100 weapons-filled vehicles bound for the northern Mali town of Mopti, Al-Arabyia reported.

Ansar al-Din military leader Omar Hamaha reportedly passed through Timbuktu before heading to Mopti to begin an assault on the town.



AFRICOM

24. [Trend, Angola] INAD Destroys Over 4000 Explosive Devices In 2012

Monday, January 7 2013

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201301071542.html>

Over 4,462 explosive devices, among landmines and ammunitions of various calibers, were destroyed in 2012 in the central Huambo province by the National Demining Institute (INAD).

Speaking to Angop on Monday, the head of the provincial Office of INAD, Victor Jorge said that the deactivation of these explosive devices enabled to clear out an area of 1.3 square metres of land handed over to the local population for cultivation.

For 2013, the official said that INAD eyes to hold awareness campaigns on the landmines risks, surveys of suspicious areas, trace and destroy explosive devices and demining of agricultural and residential areas.



AFRICOM

25. [Attack, Kenya] One Dies In Garissa Grenade Attack

Tuesday, January 8 2013

http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/?articleID=2000074554&story_title=Kenya-One-dies-in-Garissa-grenade-attack

One person succumbed to injuries he sustained from grenade and gun attacks on a police car in Garissa Town on Monday night.

The body of the 22-year old man was found few meters away from the scene of the attack with gunshot wounds. Police said he had tried to escape from the scene after the attack but was overwhelmed and his body was discovered almost an hour later.

Eight other people including four police officers are admitted in hospital following the 7 pm incident.

Police said the victims are in a stable condition in hospital and that two of them had been operated on.

The incident happened as the officers drove in a police car to their places of work.

Witnesses and police said unknown people threw a grenade into the police vehicle as it sped past a crowd along Ngamia Road near the local DO's office.

One of the officers sustained injuries in the head while the second one had chest injuries and a third one had leg injuries, police said. The other four were civilians who were walking near the scene of the incident.

The attack was followed by gunshots that were fired by the attackers who escaped into the crowd, police said.

North Eastern Provincial Police Officer Phillip Tuimur said no arrest had been made but police were pursuing the attackers.

The incident was the latest in a series that have happened in the area since October 2010 when Kenyan troops crossed to Somalia to hunt Al Shabaab militants.

Last Friday two people were killed and seven wounded in a grenade attack at Dagahale area, Dadaab.

Police said the blast happened when a speeding saloon car stopped at a tent where the locals use it as a place for chewing miraa, stopped and hurled a grenade at them and sped off.

It was recently reported by Garissa County Commissioner Maalim Mohammed that Al Shabaab was offering a bounty reward of up to Sh890,000 (\$8,000) for any Kenyan security officer killed.

Mr Mohammed said the Government got the information after intercepting the Al Shabaab militants' communication.



CENTCOM

26. [Trend, Syria] U.S. 'Alarmed' By Assad's Firing Of Iranian-Made Precision Missiles

Saturday, January 5 2013

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2013/01/05/258789.html>

The United States is becoming increasingly worried about Syria's ballistic missiles supplied by Iran to the regime of President Assad, according to U.S. media reports.

The Wall Street Journal quoted unnamed U.S. officials as saying that the Syrian regime recently fired four short-range Iranian-made ballistic missiles at sites of opposition fighters, raising concern that the embattled Assad may be turning into more dangerous weapons.

"It certainly shows more aggressive action by the Syrian regime, aided by the Iranians," a senior U.S. official told the WSJ.

The missiles are known as the fatah-110 and are more precise than the Scud rockets currently used by the Assad's regime. "It could be a sign of new tactics or desperation," the official added.

He said U.S. intelligence agencies are evaluating the new missiles in terms of their precision and their scope of destruction.

In December, first reports emerged of Assad's forces using scud missiles against the opposition fighter in what observers say was a sign of desperation in the face of an increasingly emboldened opposition force.

"I can confirm that we have detected the launch of Scud-type missiles. We strongly regret that act," NATO chief Anders Fogh Rasmussen said, calling the launches "acts of a desperate regime approaching collapse."

A NATO official told Reuters that there had been multiple launches of Scud-type missiles inside Syria on Thursday morning.

Rasmussen used the Scud launches to justify NATO's decision to dispatch Patriot anti-missile systems to NATO ally Turkey - a deployment criticized by Syria, Iran and Russia.





CENTCOM

27. [Security, Egypt] Egyptian Army Foils Bid To Bomb Rafah Church As Copts Celebrate Christmas

Monday, January 7 2013

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2013/01/07/259116.html>

Egyptian army forces stationed in the Sinai Peninsula foiled an attempt early on Monday to bomb a church in Rafah, a city in the border with Gaza Strip, according to a military statement.

Col. Ahmed Mohammed Ali, a spokesman for Egypt's armed forces said, "the armed forces managed to stop two cars, a Toyota Doble Cabina and a Daewoo Lanos with no plates, in an area between Rafah church and a military unit under construction."

The military spokesman added that one of the vehicles carrying "masked elements" was able to escape. He said weapons seized in the other vehicle included sacks of TNT, two automatic weapons, 50 rounds, five electric detonators and an RPG launcher.

Earlier, Egypt's official MEAN news agency reported that "army units foiled an attack against the Rafah church at 1:00 am (2300 GMT Sunday) and seized a car packed with explosives and weapons near the church."

Egypt's Coptic minority celebrates Monday its first Christmas under Islamist rule and amid a climate of fear and uncertainty for their future, although President Mohamed Mursi has pledged to be the "president of all Egyptians."

In September, residents and officials reported that several Coptic families from Rafah had fled from the Sinai peninsula town that borders the Gaza Strip after receiving death threats from Islamists.

Egyptian security sources suggested, meanwhile, that the planned attack could have been aimed at a military camp under construction near the church which has been targeted in the past by Islamist militants.

They said the church has been lying abandoned for the past two years after it was torched in the aftermath of the nationwide uprising that toppled the regime of former president Hosni Mubarak in February 2011.

It was not immediately clear who was behind the planned attack but one security source said the perpetrators were "probably radical Islamists whom security forces have been tracking for months."

Mursi, who hails from the powerful Muslim Brotherhood, visited the Sinai peninsula in October to meet with and reassure Coptic families, telling them that "your security is our security".

Egypt's Copts, who make up six to 10 percent of the country's population of 83 million, have regularly complained of discrimination and marginalisation and have also been the target of numerous sectarian attacks.

One of the worst incidents of violence occurred on January 1, 2011 when 23 people were killed in an attack on a Coptic church in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria.

Sinai, a scarcely populated peninsula home to lucrative tourist resorts in the south and shadowy Islamist militants in the north, is a major transit point for arms smuggling to Gaza which is ruled by the Islamist Hamas group.



Security in the desert and mountainous region collapsed after the uprising that toppled Mubarak.

Since his downfall, several militant attacks have targeted police and soldiers, including a brazen August 5 ambush on an army outpost that killed 16 soldiers.

The military launched a wide-ranging campaign after that attack to flush out militants, but drive-by shootings have continued.

And on Friday security officials announced the seizure in Sinai of US-made anti-tank and surface-to-air missiles destined for Gaza, where militants have said they would acquire more weapons to use against Israel.





CENTCOM

28. [Attack, Iraq] Anbar IED Kills Three Soldiers

Monday, January 7 2013

http://al-shorfa.com/en_GB/articles/meii/newsbriefs/2013/01/07/newsbrief-05

Three Iraqi soldiers died Monday (January 7th) in an explosion targeting a military vehicle in Anbar province, Iraqi police said.

"An IED exploded as an army military vehicle passed in al-Habbaniyah, east of Fallujah, killing three soldiers on board," Anbar police spokesperson Col. Rahim Zaban told Al-Shorfa.

The blast "set the vehicle ablaze and caused material damages to other nearby civilian vehicles," he said.

Police obtained information confirming al-Qaeda's involvement in the blast and are conducting search operations in co-operation with the army to find those responsible, he added.



CENTCOM

29. [Attack, Iraq] Bombings Kill Eight In Iraq

Wednesday, January 9 2013

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/01/09/2582996/iraq-shuts-border-with-jordan.html#.UO8GooaRZ8E>

A series of attacks on a bus stop, police patrol and a convoy carrying the head of a university on Thursday in Iraq killed eight people and wounded 20 others, authorities said.

One explosion occurred when a car filled with explosives blew up near a bus stop in the mainly Shiite neighborhood of Hurriyah as commuters gathered to catch rides to various parts of Baghdad. The blast killed five people and wounded 15 others, police officials said.

The new violence comes amid a wave of discontent among the Sunni majority over alleged discrimination by the government led by the Shiite minority sect. Protests swept Sunni areas in Anbar province and other parts of the country after the arrests of bodyguards assigned to Finance Minister Rafia al-Issawi, one of the central government's most senior Sunni officials.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Thursday's bombing. Attacks against Shiites are typically the work of Sunni extremists.

Several minibuses and cars were damaged or burned in the attack and a photographer for The Associated Press at the scene saw damage to houses near the blast site. Security forces sealed off the area while firefighters used water hoses in order to clean up the area.

Also on Thursday, a roadside bomb hit the convoy of Fadhil al-Dulaimi, the head of Diyala University, as he was heading to his office in Baqouba city. Two bodyguards were killed and two others were wounded. A provincial police official said al-Dulaimi was not hurt in the attack. Baqouba is 60 kilometers (35 miles) northeast of Baghdad. Hours later, police said a roadside bomb struck a police patrol in southeastern Baghdad, killing one civilian bystander and wounding three policemen.

Medics in a nearby hospital confirmed the casualty figures.

All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to talk to the media.



CENTCOM

30. [Trend, Syria] NATO Official Says More Missiles Launched In Syria

Thursday, January 10 2013

http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/01/10/us-syria-crisis-missile-idUSBRE9090A320130110?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews&utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter&dlvr.it=286409

A short-range ballistic missile was fired inside Syria on Wednesday, following similar launches last week, a NATO official said on Thursday.

The official condemned as "reckless" the missile launches, which U.S. officials called an escalation of the 21-month-old Syrian civil war when their use was first spotted last month.

"The use of such indiscriminate weapons shows utter disregard for the lives of the Syrian people," he said.

The official said NATO had detected the launch of an unguided, short-range ballistic missile inside Syria on Wednesday, following similar launches on January 2 and 3. All the missiles were fired from inside Syria and landed in northern Syria, he said.

The description of the missiles fits the Scuds that are in the Syrian military's armory, but the official said NATO could not confirm the type of missile used.

The NATO official was responding to a report from a Syrian opposition activist living near the Qaldoun army base, 50 km (30 miles) north of Damascus, who said four large rockets, apparently Scuds, were fired from the base overnight.

NATO has agreed to send Patriot anti-missile batteries to protect its member Turkey from possible missile attack from Syria.





CENTCOM

31. [Attack, Lebanon] Bomb At Liquor Store In South Lebanon

Thursday, January 10 2013

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Local-News/2013/Jan-10/201610-bomb-at-liquor-store-in-south-lebanon.ashx#axzz2Hb7k64SA>

An explosion ripped through a liquor store in Sarafand, south Lebanon, at dawn Thursday, causing only material damage.

The 3 a.m. explosion, the second in Sarafand since January 2012, blew the shop door onto the main street. It also shattered windows of a few nearby shops.

Broken liquor bottles littered the shop, on the ground floor of the 10-story Sarafand Center on the main highway between the southern port cities of Sidon and Tyre.

Hasan Asayli, the owner of the store, said the explosion caused minor damage.

"Thank God the bomb inflicted little damage," Asayli told The Daily Star.

Asayli did not make any accusations, but blamed "sick minded people" for the bombing.

The Lebanese Army and crime scene investigators arrived at the scene shortly after sunrise to investigate the blast, the latest in a spate of attacks against outlets selling alcohol.





CENTCOM

32. [Attack, Bahrain] Bomb 'Was Detonated With Remote Control'

Thursday, January 10 2013

<http://www.gulf-daily-news.com/NewsDetails.aspx?storyid=345281>

A homemade bomb that injured five policemen in Bani Jamra was detonated through a remote control, it was claimed in court yesterday.

Explosive experts were called in to examine the device that went off in the village on January 28. They sent a report on their findings to prosecutors in the case of seven men charged with attempted murder and making, possessing and detonating an explosive device, as well as participating in an illegal gathering.

The defendants, aged between 19 and 24, are standing trial at High Criminal Court. Nine other suspects are still on the run and are being tried in absentia.

"The bomb was a home-made explosive powered by 12 volts batteries that was placed in debris and remotely detonated," said Public Prosecution documents.

According to case files, police were dispatched to remove debris that was blocking traffic on the Janabiya Highway, but as they were doing so a hidden explosive device was triggered - causing multiple injuries to five officers.

The trial was adjourned until February 10 to summon defence witnesses for cross-examination.



CENTCOM

33. [Attack, Yemen] Bomb Halts Yemen Marib Oil Pipeline Flows Again- Officials

Thursday, January 10 2013

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2013/01/10/259670.html>

Flows of oil through Yemen's main crude export pipeline have stopped again after it was blown up by unknown attackers on Thursday morning, government and oil industry officials said.

Yemen resumed oil pumping on Dec. 31 at a rate of around 70,000 barrels per day (bpd) after the latest repairs to a pipeline which used to carry around 110,000 bpd of Marib light crude an export terminal on the Red Sea before a spate of attacks began in 2011.

Just 10 days after flows restarted, unknown attackers blew up the pipeline again by placing a roadside bomb near the line in Serwah area in the central Maarib province, a government security official said.

"The bombing of the pipeline made us stop the crude pumping from the fields to the export terminal," an oil ministry official told Reuters.

Yemen's oil and gas pipelines have repeatedly been sabotaged by insurgents or angry tribesmen since anti-government protests created a power vacuum in 2011, causing fuel shortages and slashing export earnings for the impoverished country.

Yemen's stability is a priority for the United States and its Gulf Arab allies because of its strategic position next to top oil exporter Saudi Arabia and shipping lanes, and because it is home to one of the most active wings of al Qaeda.

A long closure of the line in 2011 forced the country's largest refinery at Aden to shut, leaving the small producer dependent on fuel donations from Saudi Arabia and imports.





CENTCOM

34. [Attack, Iraq] Fourteen Dead After Car Bomb Explosion In Iraq

Thursday, January 10 2013

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2013/01/10/14-dead-after-car-bomb-explosion-in-Iraq/UPI-33881357825689/

An Iraqi security source said a car explosion that rocked Baghdad has killed 14 and injured many others.

IraqiNews.com said the blast Thursday morning killed three civilians and 11 others.

The source said police forces and ambulances transferred the injured to hospitals for treatment.

The bomb exploded in the Hurriya area of northwestern Baghdad near the Hurriya Police Station, the source said. Security sources believe the bomb was an assassination attempt on the head of Diyala University, Abbas al-Dulaimi.

IraqiNews.com said Dulaimi survived the attack.

The bomb also damaged nearby shops and buildings.





EUCOM

35. [Law Enforcement, United Kingdom] Sheffield Bomb Alert Man Jailed

Friday, January 4 2013

<http://www.thestar.co.uk/news/local/sheffield-bomb-alert-man-jailed-1-5275036>

A bedroom chemist who sparked a two-day evacuation of a Sheffield suburb when police discovered bomb-making chemicals at his home has been locked up for 18 months.

Fifty homes were evacuated in Intake, roads and air space were closed and trams were diverted after dangerous high-explosive TATP was found at the house 35-year-old James Curtis shared with his mother in Ridgehill Avenue. Sheffield Crown Court heard TATP is 'extremely hazardous', and has been used to detonate improvised explosive devices in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Curtis denied trying to make a bomb - telling police the explosive was 'just rocket fuel'.

A 200 metre cordon was thrown around the area, 40 police officers were deployed, and the Army bomb squad was called to carry out two controlled explosions last May.

The court was told Curtis was a loner who 'lived in a world of his own'. From a young age he had a 'fixation' for rockets, chemicals and explosives.

Jailing him, Judge Simon Lawler QC said: "There was a potential and serious risk to the public, you were responsible for that and it can't be overlooked. An immediate custodial sentence is unavoidable. The reaction was understandable, particularly in this day and age."

Rachel Harrison, prosecuting, said police discovered the chemicals when they executed a drugs warrant at the address on May 10. She said the TATP - triacetone triperoxide - was in a box on top of a kitchen cupboard.

"The defendant obviously had a great interest in chemistry," she said. "The Army was called, the police vacated the house, and the bomb squad attended.

"Twenty people had to leave their homes, although two elderly residents refused.

"The road was closed and there were traffic diversions.

"At 8pm the cordon was lifted, but it was reinstated at 9am the next day after a pipe bomb was discovered in the shed. It was lifted again at 11pm," she said.

"A huge number of different chemicals was recovered including a wide variety of explosive substances."

Curtis' computer was seized, and police found he'd searched the internet for information about chemicals.

He admitted two charges of making explosives and one of possessing them.

Danny Simpson, defending Curtis, said he suffered a depressive illness worsened following the death of his partner. He said his fixation with rockets, chemicals and explosives was 'the only thing he had any interest in'.



“It’s not suggested for one moment he was intending to harm anybody or anyone,” he added. “They were not in any way preparations for a weapon of any sort.”

Judge Lawler told Curtis he ‘knew what he was about’ with the TATP, adding: “You’ve clearly had an interest in explosives and rockets for many years.

“I accept you had no hostile or malicious intent with regard to the public, but you knew this material was serious, it was hazardous, and it was dangerous, and that’s the serious aspect of this.”



EUCOM

36. [Security, Russia] Russia Kills Militants Suspected Of Christmas Attack Plan

Sunday, January 6 2013

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/01/06/us-russia-caucasus-idUSBRE9050DM20130106>

Russian security forces in a restive North Caucasus province on Sunday killed three militants suspected of planning attacks on church services during the Russian Orthodox Christmas holiday, authorities said.

Security forces tried to stop a van in the Kabardino-Balkaria province on Sunday but its occupants opened fire and were killed in the ensuing battle, during which the vehicle caught fire, the National Anti-Terrorism Committee said in a statement.

It said that explosives, guns and ammunition were found in the van and that the men who were killed had been planning attacks on churches during services marking Russian Orthodox Christmas, which is on Monday.

The statement gave no evidence to support that suspicion and the account could not be verified.

Deadly exchanges of gunfire between police and suspected militants at road checkpoints are common in Russia's North Caucasus, a string of provinces hit by an Islamist insurgency rooted in two separatist wars in Chechnya.

Kabardino-Balkaria, west of Chechnya, is mostly Muslim but has a sizable Christian minority.

President Vladimir Putin's 13 years in power have been marred by violence in the North Caucasus and attacks by the insurgents elsewhere, and he has called repeatedly for ethnic and religious peace during a new term that started last May.

Putin attended a midnight Russian Orthodox Christmas service early on Monday in Sochi, a Black Sea and Caucasus Mountain resort about 300 km (185 miles) west of Kabardino-Balkaria that is to host the 2014 Winter Olympics.





EUCOM

37. [Attack, Northern Ireland] Petrol Bombs Thrown In East Belfast

Tuesday, January 8 2013

<http://www.u.tv/News/Petrol-bombs-thrown-in-east-Belfast/07dd7c5c-7b9d-47fc-babf-8804c3c9b063>

Petrol bombs, fireworks, bricks and other missiles were thrown at police lines by loyalist rioters on the Lower Newtownards Road on Tuesday night.

Police say calm has now been restored and they continue to maintain a presence in area.

The disorder, which erupted before 8pm after a number of flag protests were held, was not on the same scale as that of the past five nights.

The Newtownards Road, Templemore Avenue, Castlereagh Street and Beersbridge Road have reopened to traffic. Glenmachan Street has also re-opened following an earlier protest.

Last month Belfast City Council passed a motion to restrict the flying of the Union Flag at City Hall.

It has been followed by weeks of protests and rioting in which more than 60 police officers were injured.

Community worker Jim Wilson from east Belfast said he met with the PSNI, after allegations of police heavy-handedness.

"If the PSNI act responsibly, then there is a chance of the next night it (the violence) being less, and the next night being less."

On Monday night, trouble erupted after a crowd of around 70 nationalist youths from the Short Strand area hurled missiles at the protestors returning from a City Hall demonstration, some of whom chanted sectarian abuse.

Joe O'Donnell, from the Belfast Interface Project, said representatives are still working hard to mend community relations in east Belfast.

"We still have to pick up the pieces," he said.

"I am very confident that given the time, given the space that we can move this forward."

One former loyalist rioter told UTV Live Tonight that those involved in violence are angry at the police.

"The riots do get out of hand, and they do develop from protests, but the police do not help matters," he added. He said he now tries to dissuade young people from the disorder.

"You can be proud of where you're from, celebrate your history and culture without attacking the police."

Earlier on Tuesday, First Minister Peter Robinson said that the ongoing disorder was "very damaging" to Northern Ireland's reputation around the world.

"We've worked for a very long period of time to overcome the image of Northern Ireland as a place where there is violence and instability," the DUP leader told UTV.

"Already we have had investors, both people who have invested and people who were about to invest asking questions, and we are having to give reassurances to them," he said.

"It's bad for our image, it is bad for our opportunities to bring jobs to Northern Ireland, and that ultimately means that it is bad for ordinary people on the ground who will not have the opportunity to work in those jobs that could have been created."

The first meeting of the unionist taskforce created by Mr Robinson and UUP leader Mike Nesbitt in response to the ongoing flag violence will take place at Stormont on Thursday morning.

In a statement, Mr Robinson and Mr Nesbitt said the Unionist Forum will "seek to engage with the entire unionist community and address issues of concern".

The Union Flag is next due to fly at Belfast City Hall on Wednesday to mark the Duchess of Cambridge's birthday - the first of 18 annual designated days.



EUCOM

38. [Trend, Northern Ireland] Pipe Bomb Handed In To Belfast Community Office

Wednesday, January 9 2013

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-20955550>

A man has carried a pipe bomb into the offices of a Belfast-based community justice group.

Army bomb disposal teams were called to the Jasmine End office of Community Restorative Justice Ireland (CRJI) in Twinbrook on Tuesday after a suspicious object was handed in.

They later confirmed that it was a viable device.

Harry Maguire of CRJI said the man had found the bomb and been concerned about the danger it posed to children.

"A member of the public found what he believed to be a dangerous device. He was worried about the risk to children and he decided to bring it to our local office in Jasmine End," he said.

"The office immediately contacted the police because of the dangerous nature of this device.

"Our only concern in this incident has been to keep children and local people safe from what is a potentially lethal device and ensure that no one gets hurt."

He said that he understood that the device had been found in the Twinbrook estate and said that anyone who found a suspicious object should call the police.



EUCOM

39. [Security, Ireland] Explosive Device Found In Clare

Wednesday, January 9 2013

<http://www.breakingnews.ie/ireland/explosive-device-found-in-clare-580498.html>

A viable Improvised Explosive Device was made safe in a house in Tulla, Co Clare last night, it has emerged.

The Defence Forces deployed to Main Street, Tulla at 11pm following a request from the Gardaí.

The area had been cordoned off by gardaí and local residents were evacuated to a safe location.

The scene was declared safe at the scene at 11.50pm. The remains of the device have been handed over to the Gardaí to assist with their investigations.

The discovery was made following the arrest of two males, aged 17 and 22 respectively, after a car was stopped and searched at Ballyblood, Tulla at approximately 4pm yesterday, during which drug paraphernalia and cartridges were found.

The gardaí conveyed the pair to Killaloe Garda station where they are being detained under the provisions of Section 4 of the Criminal Justice Act 1984 as amended.



EUCOM

40. [Security, Poland] Mock Bomb Smuggled Into Polish Parliament

Wednesday, January 9 2013

<http://www.thenews.pl/1/9/Artykul/123577,Mock-bomber-leaves-explosive-materials-in-Polish-parliament>

A month after a man was arrested for allegedly planning to blow up Poland's parliament, a journalist without a pass managed to leave a mock bomb in the heart of the building.

The incident took place during the last session of the lower house of parliament (Sejm) in December.

In spite of not carrying passes, journalists from public television channel TVP 1 managed to enter the building through a supposedly guarded side entrance.

They had packed 3 kg of materials that could be used to make a bomb into a briefcase.

Once inside, the group managed to visit the debating chamber, ultimately leaving the briefcase in a conference room currently used by the Democratic Left Alliance party (SLD).

"This is outrageous and shocking, but it also shows how easy it is to get in there," said Speaker of the House, Ewa Kopacz, in an interview with TVP.

Specialists from Warsaw's Military University of Technology (WAT) have confirmed that the substances in the briefcase could be used to make a bomb.

All the substances can be obtained legally in Poland.

In November, Dr Brunon K. (full name withheld under Polish privacy laws), an employee of Krakow's Agricultural University, was arrested for allegedly planning to blow up parliament.

Prosecutors described the man as a nationalist and anti-semitic, who believed that "the situation in the country was going in the wrong direction because all leading governmental positions were occupied by 'foreigners'."

Security report highlighted weak points

A governmental report from 2010 made clear that Poland's parliamentary buildings were highly vulnerable to a terrorist attack, Polish paper Gazeta Wyborcza outlined after Brunon K.'s arrest.

The report, which was commissioned by the Ministry of the Interior, concluded that the front of Poland's lower house of parliament (Sejm) had no protection, and only half of the entrances to parliament were properly equipped.

The document revealed that Poland's parliamentary complex was one of the worst protected in the world, yet none of the report's recommendations were taken up, the paper claims.





EUCOM

41. [Law Enforcement, Northern Ireland] Man Arrested After Pipe Bomb Found

Thursday, January 10 2013

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/man-arrested-after-pipe-bomb-found-16259797.html>

A man has been arrested following the discovery of a pipe bomb near a police station in Co Armagh.

The suspect, 41, was detained by Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) detectives in Newry, Co Down.

The device was found near the barracks in Tandragee last month. The Armagh Road was cordoned off during the alert and residents had to leave their homes.

A PSNI spokeswoman said the man is helping them with their inquiries.



EUCOM

42. [Attack, Israel] Bomb Blast Injures Seven In Tel Aviv

Thursday, January 10 2013

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2013/01/10/Bomb-blast-injures-seven-in-Tel-Aviv/UPI-79731357831646/

Israeli officials said they believe a car explosion Thursday in Tel Aviv in which seven people were hurt was an assassination attempt against a criminal.

Police said the car exploded in the central part of the city after a bomb apparently was detonated by a motorcyclist nearby, Haaretz reported.

A preliminary investigation indicated the explosion was an assassination attempt that targeted criminal Nissim Alperon of the Tel Aviv's third-largest crime family, police said.

Witnesses said a black Mazda burst into flames and a nearby empty bus was also hit in the explosion.

Alperon reportedly was in the car just before the blast and escaped unhurt, Haaretz said.

If Thursday's explosion was an assassination attempt, it would be the eighth targeting Alperon in the past last 12 years, the newspaper said. He survived an attempt on his life in June, when a bomb exploded in his car.

His brother, Yaakov Alperon, was assassinated by a car bomb in 2008 in Tel Aviv.



EUCOM

43. [Security, Israel] Israel Car Bomb Linked To Organised Crime

Thursday, January 10 2013

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-01-10/car-explodes-in-tel-aviv2c-police-say-27crime-related27/4460260>

A car has exploded near the Israeli defence ministry in Tel Aviv, injuring several people in what police say is a crime-related incident and not linked to militant groups.

Israeli public radio said three people were injured in the explosion, none seriously.

It said the attack appeared to have targeted Nissim Halperon, head of one of Israel's top organised crime families.

"A car bomb exploded in Tel Aviv. Apparently it is a criminal incident, a settling of accounts," police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld told AFP.

Mr Halperon has already escaped seven attempted assassinations, including one six months ago in the Ramat Gan suburb of Tel Aviv.

He did not appear to have been in the car when the bomb exploded, public radio said.

Israeli organised crime gangs have been engaged in an often violent struggle in the past few years, prompting the police to create a special task force, Unit 443, dedicated to tackling the issue.

In recent years, around a dozen Israelis are believed to have been killed in violence related to fighting between the various crime families.



EUCOM

44. [Attack, Greece] Makeshift Bombs Explode Outside Homes Of Greek Journalists

Friday, January 11 2013

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/01/11/us-greece-attack-idUSBRE90A0D420130111>

Small makeshift bombs exploded early on Friday outside the Athens homes of five Greek journalists working for major media outlets, in an apparent protest over coverage of events linked to the country's economic crisis, police said.

The incendiary devices caused minor damage but no injuries and were the first such coordinated attacks against mainstream journalists since the Greek debt crisis erupted in 2009.

Among those targeted by the bombs - gas canisters and explosives packed together - were the editor of the semi-official Athens News Agency and two presenters from the private Mega television channel.

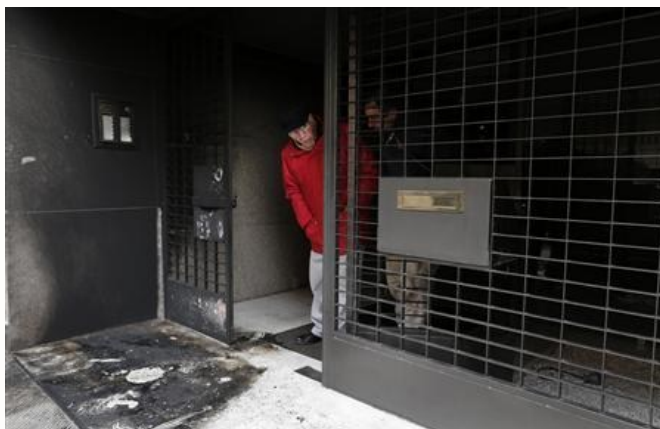
Homemade bomb attacks have been on the rise as Greece struggles through its sixth year of recession, which has fuelled anger against foreign lenders, the wealthy elite and mainstream media - viewed by Greeks as close to the political classes.

"We believe the attacks are related to the latest economic developments and the way the journalists present the facts," said a police official, who declined to be named.

The official did not say who might be behind the early morning attacks and no group has so far claimed responsibility.

The Greek government condemned the attacks, which followed scattered protests against a police raid earlier this week to clear a squat popular with radical leftists and anti-establishment groups.

"This is an attempt to openly terrorize the media, a vital part of our democracy," said Simos Kedikoglou, the coalition government's spokesman. He noted the attacks came a day after protesters barged into a radio station in solidarity with those arrested at the squat.





PACOM

45. [Trend, Philippines] Troops Foil Bomb Attacks In Maguindanao

Friday, January 4 2013

<http://www.rappler.com/nation/19135-troops-foil-bomb-attacks-in-maguindanao>

The military said it foiled on Friday, January 4, a terror attack believed orchestrated by suspected members of a breakaway rebel group in Maguindanao.

Regional military spokesman Col Prudencio Asto said soldiers have recovered and defused powerful two home-made bombs each fashioned from 81-milimeter mortar shell in front of the main entrance of municipal hall of Shariff Aguak in Maguindanao.

Asto said the explosives were attached to a mobile phone as triggering device.

“We suspect their targets were our troops conducting foot patrol in the area,” the military official said, referring to Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement, a group that broke away from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). The MILF has signed an initial peace agreement with the government that sets the stage for the creation of the Bangsamoro region.

But the BIFM denied they were behind the foiled attacks.

Abu Misry Mama, spokesman of the BIFM, said none of the BIFM members were involved in the attempt to detonate an improvised explosive device outside the municipal hall of Shariff Aguak.

“The military is the one responsible in the bombings in Mindanao. They are the terrorist,” Mama said.

On December 29, at least 15 people were wounded when a bomb went off inside a passenger bus in the town of Isulan in Sultan Kudarat.

A day before that attack, two civilians were also wounded in bomb explosion in the city of Tacurong.



PACOM

46. [Trend, Philippines] Security Forces Foil Bomb Attack In Mindanao

Saturday, January 5 2013

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/6136bd4a-6b65-4aa2-ad78-738b2ee984d2.aspx>

Government security forces foiled a bomb attack in Maguindanao province in volatile Mindanao which was blamed on a breakaway Moro rebel group, the military reported on Friday.

Colonel Prudencio Asto, the regional military spokesman, said soldiers recovered and defused two powerful improvised bombs planted in front of the main gate to the town hall of Sharif Aguak in Maguindanao.

The bombs, Asto said, were fashioned out from two 81-millimetre mortar shells attached to each of which were mobile phones to act as triggering devices.

“We suspect the targets were our troops conducting foot patrol in the area,” Asto said, adding the home-made bombs could have been planted by members of the breakaway rebel group known as the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement (BIFM).

The BIFM is headed by Ameril Umbra Kato, a senior commander of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), who broke away from the front due to major differences with other leaders in the conduct of the peace talks with the government.

However, Asto said another angle being investigated is the alleged involvement of a notorious criminal syndicate known as Al Khobar believed responsible for a series of extortion and kidnap-for-ransom cases in Mindanao.

On Oct.15 last year, the MILF signed in Malacanang Palace a historic framework agreement with the government described as a roadmap to the crafting of a treaty to bring lasting peace as well as end decades-long war and violence in troubled Southern Philippines.

Under the agreement, the government is to set up a new Bangsamoro political entity to be carved out of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), one of the country’s poorest.

Maguindanao where the bomb attack was foiled is a component province of ARMM along with Lanao del Sur, Tawi-Tawi, Basilan and Sulu as well as Marawi City.

Police and the military have expressed grave concern over the increasing use and proliferation of home-made bombs in Mindanao by criminal groups and “rogue” members of the MILF.

On Dec.29, fifteen people were wounded when a bomb exploded at the rear portion of a passenger bus in the town of Isulan, Sultan Kudarat province while on its way from Maguindanao to General Santos City.



PACOM

47. [Trend, Philippines] Another Bomb Attack Foiled In Maguindanao

Sunday, January 6 2013

<http://www.rappler.com/nation/19210-another-bomb-attack-foiled-in-maguindanao>

State security forces successfully recovered and disarmed a powerful improvised explosive device (IED) in Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao on Saturday morning, January 5, a military spokesman said.

Col Prudencio Asto, spokesman of the military's 6th Infantry Division, said operatives of the 1st Mechanized Infantry Battalion spotted a suspicious-looking bag in the middle of the road in Sitio Malinis, Poblacion at around 4:30 am.

Asto said the bag contained a bomb, which was fashioned from two 60-millimeter mortar rounds with an electronic detonator.

He said government troops rushed to the area and defused the bomb.

Authorities are still trying to identify the perpetrators.

The incident came a day after an IED was disarmed at the entrance of Shariff Aguak's town hall.



PACOM

48. [Security, Indonesia] Indonesian Police Discover Bomb Stash

Wednesday, January 9 2013

<http://www.timesofoman.com/News/Article-5903.aspx>

Police discovered a stash of more than 20 homemade bombs in central Indonesia Wednesday after uncovering plots to attack tourist destinations in the region, a spokesman said.

Anti-terror police found bombs, explosive materials, detonators, nails and books on jihad (holy war) on the island of Sulawesi, where police have reported increased militant activity in recent months.

"A total of 20 pipe-bombs and a 16-kilogram (35 pound) bomb housed in three Tupperware containers stuck together were found," said national police spokesman Boy Rafli Amar, adding the raids took place in the southern district of Enrekang. Police said interrogations of suspected militants revealed several men in the group had been trained to assemble bombs and two of them were still at large, according to Amar.

Police shot dead seven terror suspects and arrested four in raids last week on Sulawesi and Sumbawa islands, where the men were allegedly planning to attack holiday spots. Another 75 kilograms of explosive materials was found in raids Wednesday in five different locations around the popular tourist town of Tana Toraja, a suspected target.

Police said the suspects were connected to a militant training camp and had been involved in killings of several police in central Sulawesi's Poso district, a known hotbed of militant activity. Police have strengthened security in Poso since late last year after two police officers investigating a camp were found with their throats slit. Several small bomb plots were subsequently foiled. Indonesia was rocked by a series of deadly terror attacks targeted at Westerners during the last decade. Most -- including the 2002 Bali bombings that killed 202 people -- were blamed on the Al-Qaeda-linked group Jemaah Islamiyah.



PACOM

49. [Security, India] Explosive Device Defused In J&K

Wednesday, January 9 2013

http://www.thestatesman.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=438540&catid=36

A major tragedy was averted with the timely detection of an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) on the Jammu-Rajouri-Poonch highway in the Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir.

An IED, which was planted by the militants near the bridge on the highway, was detected by the Army troops, a defence spokesman said.

The IED was later defused by the bomb disposal squad, foiling ultras bid to set off an explosion.



PACOM

50. [Security, New Zealand] Fertiliser Bags Spark Bomb Scare

Thursday, January 10 2013

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/8162997/>

Employees were evacuated from their offices and the bomb squad called in after two bags of a "suspicious substance" were found on an Auckland street corner this morning.

The Fire Service was called out to the intersection of Norwich and Diamond streets in Eden Terrace at about 10.30am and discovered what they thought was 15kg of "explosive blasting type powder" due to the chemical identification number on it.

However, after closer inspection the bags were not found to contain explosives but nitrate fertiliser.

There was a 100-metre cordon around the scene and people were evacuated from surrounding buildings, a fire communications spokeswoman said. The cordon has since been removed.

Glenn Hoey from Fujitsu, which is based on Diamond St, had a prime view of the action and though his building wasn't evacuated he said there were several employees from a closer business who were.

Police went around the area, which is a mix of commercial properties and apartments, and told those who were not evacuated to stay away from the windows.

Despite the risk, Hoey could not resist taking a couple of photos with his phone.

Senior Sergeant Steve Samuels said police were investigating why the nitrate had been left on the street.

Because of the fertiliser's use in explosives, there can be restrictions around the sale of it. Ammonium nitrate fertiliser was used in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing that killed 168 people.

However Samuels was quick to rule out any sinister intentions behind the incident.

"On it's own it's quite stable - it's just normal fertiliser," he said.

"But with certain chemicals, that stuff supplies a bigger oomph. It's like a car with a turbo charger."

He confirmed there were no other chemicals found at the scene.

The fertiliser was put in a drum and firefighters were waiting for Auckland Council staff to arrive before removing it.



PACOM

51. [Attack, India] Maoists Plant Bomb In Dead Indian Policeman

Thursday, January 10 2013

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/asia/330236/>

Maoist rebels planted a bomb inside the stomach of an Indian policeman killed during clashes in the eastern state of Jharkhand, a hotbed of left-wing extremism, police said on Thursday.

The bomb was found by a team of doctors conducting post-mortems following the death of 10 policemen in Latehar district, 108 kilometres (67 miles) from the state capital Ranchi, after a clash with the insurgents on Monday.

The doctors became suspicious upon seeing stitches around the stomach of the dead man, senior Jharkhand police officer S.N. Pradhan told AFP.

"We were not prepared for it because we never expected such (a) thing," he said.

The device was later defused by a bomb squad, a senior official from the Central Reserve Police Force told the Press Trust of India news agency.

"The doctors were shocked to see that vital organs like intestines and spleen were taken out to create a cavity to place the 1.5kg unexploded bomb. The Naxals (Maoists) had done a very clean vertical stitching," the agency said, quoting the official.

The Maoist guerrillas, described by the government as the country's most serious internal security threat, control large swathes of central and eastern India and often raise funds through extortion and protection rackets.

In New Delhi, Home Minister Sushilkumar Shinde said the government had taken note of the latest tactic.

"An IED (improvised explosive device) was found stitched in the stomach. It was found out and defused. They keep coming up with new ploys, we have given instructions and taken control of the situation," he said at a press conference.

Maoists say they are fighting for the rights of poor farmers and landless labourers. They have spread into rural pockets in 20 of India's 28 states.

Thousands have been killed in the insurgency since the late 1960s.



NORTHCOM

52. [Security, United States] Bomb Squad Detonates Live Grenade

Friday, January 4 2013

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2013/01/04/3764652/bomb-squad-sent-to-salisbury-neighborhood.html#storylink=rss>

Salisbury authorities are trying to determine how a live, improvised grenade ended up in a container sold by Foils recycling plant to one of the company's customers.

Salisbury resident Carlos Ortiz called police to his home at 322 S. Church Street Friday after he found the grenade inside a 2-foot-by-2-foot container he had purchased from Foils on Thursday.

Police and the Cabarrus County Bomb squad responded to Ortiz' home and determined they needed to detonate the grenade. Authorities dug a hole in Ortiz' backyard, used a robot to move the grenade from the container to the hole and refilled the hole with dirt. Then, police detonated the grenade.

The Salisbury Police Department's Criminal Investigations Division and the Alcohol Tobacco Firearms (ATF) law enforcement are working together to find where the container originated from and who placed the device into the container.

Officials said ATF will retrieve the remnants of the device for their investigation.



NORTHCOM

53. [Security, United States] Suspicious Device Found At Safeway In Central Phoenix

Saturday, January 5 2013

http://www.abc15.com/dpp/news/region_phoenix_metro/central_phoenix/suspicious-device-found-at-safeway-in-central-phoenix

A suspicious device was found in the parking lot of a Safeway in Central Phoenix on Saturday afternoon.

Police say they found a live device, and it was successfully detonated by the bomb squad outside the store on 5th avenue and Osborn.

When Phoenix police arrived on scene they evacuated the parking lot surrounding the store.

According to police, a passerby found the device right outside the grocery store.

There are no reports of damages or injuries at this time, and police do not have any information on a potential suspect.



NORTHCOM

54. [Security, United States] Teen's Planned Bomb Plot Against School Was A Hate Crime

Monday, January 7 2013

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/teens-planned-bomb-plot-school-hate-crime/story?id=18147782#.UOr7PoaRZ8E>

A 17-year-old, self-proclaimed white supremacist will be arraigned today in what police say was a plot to attack fellow students at his high school in Russell County, Ala., with homemade explosive devices.

Derek Shrout was arrested Friday after a teacher at Russell County High School found what appears to be the teen's journal and contacted authorities. Police said the journal contained plans to kill six students and one teacher with homemade grenades. Six of the seven individuals were black.

In the journal, police say that Shrout thought the white male on his list was gay.

"That's the reason the white male was on the list. It screams hate crime," Russell County Sheriff Heath Taylor said.

Investigators say Shrout started writing in his journal just three days after a gunman killed 20 children and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., on Dec. 14.

"The journal contained several plans that looked like potential terrorist attacks and attacks of violence and danger on the school," Taylor said.

Shrout told police that the journal was a work of fiction.

"I didn't think anything like that could happen in Russell County. I thought maybe that's just something that happens everywhere else," said student Qunitin Hobbs.

Shrout told police that he rarely interacted with the people he's accused of targeting. Police say Shrout learned how to make the devices on the Internet.

A search of Shrout's home turned up dozens of empty tobacco containers filled with shrapnel. The containers had holes in them ready for fuses to ignite. He hadn't obtained gunpowder, fuses or a substance to ignite the devices.

"He could have got the whole school, just got all of us at once," said student Javon Rogers.

Shrout is expected to plead not guilty in his court appearance later today. The teen is being charged as an adult with attempted assault.



NORTHCOM

55. [Security, United States] Alabama Teen Free On Bail After Allegedly Plotting 'Terrorist Attacks'

Tuesday, January 8 2013

<http://www.cnn.com/2013/01/08/justice/alabama-terror-plot/index.html>

An Alabama teen was released on bail Monday, two days after his arrest for allegedly plotting to launch "terrorist attacks" in his high school.

Derek Shrout was in a Russell County court Monday, where District Judge David Johnson set his bond at \$75,000, prosecutor Buster Landreau said. According to CNN affiliates WRBL and WTVM, the teenager pleaded not guilty to attempted assault.

The 17-year-old was arrested after a teacher at Russell County High School found a journal that "contained several plans that looked like potential terrorist attacks, and attacks of violence and danger on the school," Russell County Sheriff Heath Taylor said on Saturday. "There were six students specifically named, and one teacher."

"He had put a lot of thought into this," the sheriff said. "It was obvious to us that there was more than just writing a story in a journal and it being fictitious."

Shrout's lawyer, Jeremy Armstrong, told reporters in court Monday that "this was just a lot of talk from my client."

"I believe he had no intentions ... to hurt anyone," Armstrong said to several media outlets, including WRBL.

This weekend, authorities showed reporters 25 tobacco tins and two larger ones, each with holes drilled in them and pellets inside similar to BBs.

Taylor said experts that his investigators consulted determined that, with a few more elements, the tins "would absolutely blow up exactly the way he wrote it."

"These ... devices were a step or two away from being ready to explode," the sheriff said.

The suspect is a self-described white supremacist, though it isn't known if he was linked to any specific group, Taylor told the Southern Poverty Law Center, a civil rights group.

"At first through JROTC, he was confident, well-rounded. But as time went by, he was doing the whole white power thing," David Kelly, the senior class president at Russell County High School, told WTVM.

Shrout began writing in the journal shortly after last month's massacre at a Newtown, Connecticut, elementary school that ended with 27 people, including the suspected shooter, dead.

Taylor said that school shooting "was potentially the spark that started him writing things down in a plan."

Opinion: How a boy becomes a killer

But Shrout's lawyer said he thinks his client's case may "have been blown a little out of proportion, in light of what



happened in Newtown."

"Of course, everybody in our nation is on edge," Armstrong said.

Under the conditions set Monday by the judge, Shroud must remain at home and will have an electric monitoring device, said Landreau. He cannot contact anyone at his school.

His next court hearing is scheduled for February 12, according to Landreau.



NORTHCOM

56. [Security, United States] Potentially Explosive Donation Prompts Evacuation

Tuesday, January 8 2013

<http://www.wlns.com/story/20528647/potentially-explosive-donation-prompts-evacuation>

A potentially explosive donation left at a suburban Detroit charity drop box prompted the evacuation of several area businesses.

Police say three hand grenades were found Monday by an employee at a Salvation Army store in Macomb County's Shelby Township.

Police say 2 of the grenades appeared to be inert; the third may have been live. One is believed to be from World War I and the others from the World War II era.

No injuries were reported.

The devices apparently were dropped off over the weekend along with other items. It wasn't known who put them in the drop box, but police say they don't believe harm was meant.

The grenades were removed and destroyed by a Michigan State Police bomb squad.



NORTHCOM

57. [Security, United States] FBI Technician Details Booby-Trapped Bomb At Aurora Shooting Suspect's Home

Tuesday, January 8 2013

<http://www.thewrap.com/media/article/fbi-technician-details-booby-trapped-bomb-aurora-suspects-home-71921>

An FBI bomb technician, testifying on the second day of a preliminary hearing in the case against Colorado theater shooting suspect James Holmes, said Holmes had devised a complex -- and potentially deadly -- booby-trap bomb system at his apartment.

Garrett Gumbinner said Holmes' system included improvised napalm and thermite, the Associated Press reported. Gumbinner also said there were three different ignition systems in Holmes apartment. When the authorities got into the apartment, they found a container filled with glycerin near a skillet full of another toxic chemical. Mixing the two components would create flames and sparks. A trip wire linked the glycerin container to the front door. When arrested outside the theater after the shooting spree, Holmes told officers that he had booby-trapped his apartment and left loud music playing in hopes of diverting first responders from the site of the shooting spree. He told them he had rigged his apartment to explode or catch fire in order to send resources to the apartment rather than the theater, Gumbinner testified.

In what is expected to be a weeklong hearing at the Arapahoe County Court House in Centennial, Colo., prosecutors are trying to show that Holmes acted in a premeditated manner in the July 20 attack at the theater in Aurora that left 12 dead and dozens wounded. Prosecutors maintain Holmes should stand trial for the attack that occurred during a showing of "The Dark Knight Rises," while his defense attorneys say he is mentally ill. At the end of the hearing, Judge William Sylvester will decide whether the case can go to trial.



NORTHCOM

58. [Security, United States] US Lawmakers Warning Of Dirty Bomb Threat To US Ports

Wednesday, January 9 2013

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/us-lawmakers-warning-of-dirty-bomb-threat-to-us-ports-186165862.html>

GateKeeper USA Inc. (OTC Symbol: GTKP) announced today that in a recent Bloomberg article, it was reported by Jeff Bliss that the US Backs Off All Cargo Scanning Goals. As reported by CBP (Customs & Border Protection), officials' port X-ray and Gamma-ray machines were only able to facilitate scanning 4.1% of the millions of containers that arrive in US ports each year. That percentage is consistent over the last several years. Even though DHS has publically admitted that with the utilization of existing technologies 100% screening of incoming containers would be nearly impossible, lawmakers continue to favor the mandate and stated that they are concerned about terrorists detonating a dirty bomb at a port, killing workers and rendering the facility and surrounding areas uninhabitable for years. Stephen Flynn, founding co-director of the George Kostas Research Institute for Homeland Security at Northeastern University in Boston, stated that, "So much commerce flows through ports that any interruption stemming from an attack would reverberate throughout the worldwide supply system." The US Congressional Budget Office estimated that a yearlong shuttering of the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles would cost \$70 Billion, or as much as .55% of gross domestic product.

As reported in the Washington Post this past summer, the Department of Homeland Security has failed to meet the legal deadline for scanning incoming maritime cargo containers for radioactive materials. In a July 15, 2012 article, Douglas Frantz stated that DHS says monitors scan containers for radiation after they arrive at U.S. ports. But experts say the monitors at U.S. ports are not sophisticated enough to detect nuclear devices or highly enriched uranium, which emit low levels of radiation.

Containers often sit for days awaiting radiation checks. The Government Accountability Office has warned that a nuclear device could be detonated while at a port, causing billions of dollars in damage in addition to the loss of life. Estimates of damage caused by a nuclear detonation at a major port range from tens of billions of dollars to \$1 trillion."

According to Berg Insights, there were over 130,000 different cargo and port security devices sold in the first part of 2012 alone, all hoping to capture a portion of a huge multi-billion dollar international market. Steve Vito, a partner in UpsonVito LLC, said in a statement on Jan. 3rd, "Sixty-three major US ports have technology-driven infrastructure improvement projects worth over \$46 billion slated for the next five years." With the exception of CAMS, the entirety of the devices devoted to CBRNE (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear & explosive) detection, require the use of multiple devices and applications to either detect or alert only after a container has reached its destination port.

Failure to detect CBRNE material is a breach that cannot be tolerated, and the CAMS device from Gatekeeper USA answers that challenge since it is the ONLY device that is capable of DETECTION and NOTIFICATION of the presence of contraband IMMEDIATELY upon activation. To date, Gatekeeper USA's CAMS device is the only known device that has the ability to scan the interior of a shipping container 24/7 and will signal alerts in real time from the moment it is loaded and throughout its overseas journey until it is shipped inland and unloaded at its final destination. Gatekeeper's CAMS devices can meet the mandate from DHS making 100% screening possible, and prevent an attack on US soil.



NORTHCOM

59. [Trend, United States] N.J. Board Suspends License Of Ridgewood Doctor In Bomb-Materials Case

Wednesday, January 9 2013

http://www.northjersey.com/news/Ridgewood_doctor_in_bomb-materials_case_has_license_temporarily_suspended.html?page=all

A village physician who has been charged with stockpiling large amounts of highly volatile chemicals typically used for making bombs has had his license to practice temporarily suspended, authorities said Wednesday.

Dr. Roberto E. Rivera, 60, was arrested in November and remains incarcerated at the Bergen County Jail on \$1 million bail. He faces charges of possession of large quantities of bomb-making materials — including detonators — and unlicensed possession of multiple assault weapons.

Police also allege they found several high-capacity ammunition magazines in Rivera's home.

New Jersey Attorney General Jeffrey S. Chiesa announced Wednesday that the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners had temporarily suspended Rivera's medical license. Rivera is not licensed to own a firearm, Chiesa said. The temporary suspension will remain in effect until the board reviews the outcome of his criminal case. Rivera has a right to appeal the board's decision.

Rivera also has a medical license from New York State, prosecutors have said. Electronic records show only one Roberto Rivera registered to practice medicine in New York. There was no indication Wednesday that Rivera's New York license, which lists an address in Yonkers, had been suspended.

Police were called to Rivera's home on Nov. 16 to investigate a report of a potentially hazardous material, authorities said. An FBI terrorism task force and the Bergen County bomb squad joined the search after chemicals were found in his basement, Bergen County Prosecutor John L. Molinelli said at the time.

Police allegedly found 2.5 liters of nitric acid, which can be used to create explosive devices, in a basement freezer, Chiesa said Wednesday.

They also found containers in the attic that were addressed to Rivera that included hydrogen peroxide, glycerin, sulfuric acid, calcium hypochlorite, and potassium perchlorate — chemicals that Chiesa said can be used to create bombs. Police also found 10 pounds of thermite and 10 thermite lighters, which can be used to detonate bombs. The weapons seized included two Cobray M11 assault pistols, which were not registered and which Rivera was not licensed to own; a Hellfire trigger mechanism, which enables a gun to fire at an extremely high rate; several high-capacity magazines; and a stun gun in addition to several boxes of ammunition, Chiesa said.

Folders marked "Revolution" and "Anarchism" also were found in Rivera's house, as were documents on how to create homemade explosives, a military improvised munitions manual and documents on how to convert firearms into fully automatic machine guns.

Mace, a wig and fake sideburns also were seized, the attorney general said.

Prosecutors have yet to offer a motive in the case, and have not said what exactly Rivera was planning to do, or whether he was working alone or with a group. Rivera was unemployed at the time of his arrest, prosecutors said. While residing in Ridgewood, Rivera allegedly occasionally lived and worked out of a 2007 Nissan Xterra, from which he provided medical examinations on Long Island, Chiesa said.

The Ridgewood police found bottles of medication, medical equipment and prescription pads bearing Rivera's name and New York license number, Chiesa said.

In October, Rivera was photographed by Bloomberg News for a feature on Occupy protesters. He was quoted saying, "I'm glad that at last the youth of America is able to stand on two feet and take a position that millions of people around the world have taken that they will not be intimidated by the capitalist free-market paradigm and they will fight against gross inequality in distribution of income and assets."

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Rivera graduated from the Brooklyn College of Medicine in 1979 and has been licensed since 1980 to practice medicine in New Jersey, according to the state Board of Medical Examiners.



SOUTHCOM

60. [Attack, Colombia] Colombia Rebels Bomb Cano Limon Oil Pipeline; Pumping Halted

Tuesday, January 8 2013

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/news/2013/01/08/colombia-rebels-bomb-cano-limon-oil-pipeline-pumping-halted/>

The pipeline has a capacity to pump more than 200,000 barrels a day but has averaged closer to 70,000 barrels a day in recent years. The official from state oil company Ecopetrol SA (EC, ECOPETROL.BO, ECP.T), which owns the pipeline, said pumping has been halted until repairs can be done. California-based Occidental Petroleum Corp. (OXY) also uses the pipeline.

The same pipeline was bombed Thursday in the same Norte de Santander region of northern Colombia. Repairs for Thursday's blast were completed Sunday, when pumping resumed.

It isn't clear which rebel group is to blame for the latest attack, but the Thursday bombing was blamed on the ELN, Colombia's second-largest rebel group.

Pipeline attacks declined in late 2012, which helped Colombia ramp up overall oil production.





SOUTHCOM

61. [Attack, Colombia] North Colombia Bomb Kills Policeman, Injures Three Others

Thursday, January 10 2013

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/27638-bomb-kills-colombian-policeman-3-others-wounded.html>

A police lieutenant was killed and three officers wounded Thursday while on patrol in the north of Colombia.

Lieutenant Rafael Robinson Rodríguez Calbache was allegedly on patrol in the early hours of the morning when he was killed by an explosive device in a rural area of Convencion, a municipality in the troubled Catatumbo region.

Three other officers were injured in the attack, and they are currently receiving medical treatment in Cucuta, the capital of Colombia's Norte de Santander department.

Rodríguez is the second police officer to die in the area this week after a National Police lieutenant was assassinated near the town of Ocaña.

No possible suspects have been named by authorities at this time.

The Catatumbo region is one of Colombia's most violent regions because -- thanks to its proximity to the Venezuelan border -- it has become a hotbed of guerrilla and drug trafficking activity.