



*Realtime Analysis and Publishing of IED Data*

## Weekly News Update

Volume 2, Issue 30

27 July 2012

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-tsolutions.com> using your government (.mil or .gov) email account.



CCTV images of the suspected bomber at Burgas airport in Bulgaria ahead of the attack on the Israeli tour bus (Picture: AP 2012)

[See [Bulgaria Bomb 'Detonated By Remote Control'](#)]

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## 1. [Attack, Pakistan] Bombing In Pakistan Militant Dispute Kills Nine

Saturday, July 21 2012

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/22/world/asia/suicide-bomb-kills-several-in-pakistan-tribal-area.html>

A suicide bomber killed at least nine people, including four young children, in Pakistan's tribal belt on Saturday as part of a rivalry between militant groups, local officials said.

The bomber exploded his vehicle in the Orakzai tribal agency, near the regional capital, Peshawar, close to the home of a pro-government militant commander, a local government official, Khushal Khan, said by telephone. "This is basically between two militant groups," he said in a telephone interview.

Mr. Khan said that 9 to 12 people had been killed in the assault and that at least 13 had been seriously hurt. Three of the dead children were girls and the fourth was a boy, he said. Several houses were badly damaged in the blast, but the apparent target, a militant commander named Maulvi Nabi, had survived, Mr. Khan added.

Another tribal official said Mr. Nabi and his supporters were engaged in a war of attrition with a second militant group in Orakzai that is loyal to the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan organization, commonly known as the Pakistani Taliban.

"Both groups are involved in killing each other's men, and Nabi is waging a war against the T.T.P. He is not anti-state," said the official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the news media. The official said speculation was rife that Mr. Nabi's rival, a militant known as Mullah Toofan who commands pro-Taliban forces in Orakzai, had carried out the attack.

The Pakistani Taliban backed that theory: a Taliban spokesman in North Waziristan claimed responsibility for the attack, local news media reported, and the spokesman said Mr. Nabi had been targeted because his forces supported the government.

Violence also was reported in Upper Dir, on the edge of the Hindu Kush mountains, where four people were killed in what the police described as a roadside bombing. The explosion hit a pickup truck carrying passengers as it traveled between Dog Darra and Shringal villages.

As in Orakzai, the police said the blast might have been linked to tensions between pro- and anti-Taliban armed groups.

There was also violence in the southwestern province of Baluchistan, where gunmen opened fire on a coast guard station near the town of Gwadar, killing seven soldiers, a senior local official told Agence France-Presse.

The Islamabad government has been battling nationalist militants in Baluchistan for seven years in a low-intensity conflict characterized by brutal attacks on both sides.

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## 2. [Security, Pakistan] Another 13Kg Planted Bomb Found

Saturday, July 21 2012

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2012\07\21\story\\_21-7-2012\\_pg12\\_5](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2012\07\21\story_21-7-2012_pg12_5)

Another 13-kilogram planted bomb was found near Safoora Chowranghi within the precincts of Sachchal police station here on Friday that failed to blow up.

Getting information about presence of the suspected material at the roadside in the noon hours of Friday, a heavy contingent of the law enforcement agencies (LEAs) and the Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) rushed to the scene and cordoned off the area to avoid any untoward incident. The BDS defused the bomb after hours of hectic work.

Talking to Daily Times, BDS official said that the bomb was locally made and concealed in a cement block and planted at roadside. He said that the bomb containing 13-kilogram high explosive material, including ball bearings, nut and bolts and improvised explosive device was connected with the remote control.

Answering a question, official informed that the recent bomb blast in Buffer Zone, Quaidabad and Super Highway had similarities, and a group of militants was behind the continued incidents.

He said that we have collected the evidence and initiated further investigation to trace the group of militants behind planning the bombs. Police officials suspected that the bomb was planning to target the law enforcers and the investigation was underway.

It is pertinent to mention here that in current week, at least such four incidents happened in the city, while the LEAs failed to arrest mentioned name of group behind the incidents.



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### 3. [Security, Afghanistan] 'Sticky Bombs,' Like Those Used In Iraq, Now Appearing In Afghanistan

Sunday, July 22 2012

<http://www.stripes.com/news/middle-east/afghanistan/sticky-bombs-like-those-used-in-iraq-now-appearing-in-afghanistan-1.183623>

In the midst of a rash of assassinations and attacks on supply trucks across Afghanistan, it seems insurgents are employing a new weapon some American war veterans will recognize: sticky bombs.

“Sticky bombs” are magnetic explosive devices that stick to metal (often placed on the underside of cars) and became the assassination tool of choice in Iraq during the latter part of the U.S. occupation. Now, in the span of a week, four incidents that resulted in deaths and mass destruction employed the hard-to-detect bombs.

It represents a more sophisticated, precision killer than roadside bombs, which are often a jug of fertilizer that blow up the first truck heavy enough to engage the detonator. Sticky bombs also appear to be yet another threat to NATO supply lines, as evidenced by almost two dozen trucks wiped out in a single magnetic bomb attack.

Afghan security officials are pointing to Pakistan and Iran as the source of the bombs.

“All the proof and evidence is that these come from a neighboring country,” Sediq Sediqqi, the spokesman for the Afghan Ministry of the Interior.

The recent attacks happened in quick succession:

- On July 13, Hanifa Safi, Laghman province’s head of women’s affairs, was killed and 11 other people were injured by a magnetic bomb attached to her car in Laghman’s capital.
- Three days later the same type of bomb blew up a district governor’s car in Kunduz, killing a bodyguard and wounding eight others.
- On Wednesday, 22 NATO supply trucks were blown up in quiet Samangan province by suspected sticky bombs.
- Also Wednesday, police in neighboring Baghlan province caught suspected insurgents trying to attach magnetic bombs to yet more supply trucks.

ISAF officials claim none of the trucks burned were contracted for NATO bases, though local security officials and the Taliban said they were bound for NATO bases and the road they were on is heavily traveled by NATO supply trucks on the so-called 'Northern Route.'

Several other government and security officials have been the target of assassination attempts across the country, though the attackers employed other methods.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousaf Ahmadi acknowledged the recent use of magnetic bombs, which normally pack less punch than fertilizer bombs, alluding to less potential for civilian casualties.

“Our guerrilla fighters have started using sticky bombs in the right situation and on some special occasions ... especially in crowded places and when a car is moving in a city,” he said.

He vehemently denied the bombs were supplied by other countries, saying Taliban fighters have the know-how to make the bombs themselves.

“We don’t need anyone’s help,” he said.

The bombs are particularly insidious, as they are small, hard to detect, and can turn an unwitting driver into a suicide bomber.

“It’s very difficult, no doubt, but at the same time, our investigation teams are trying to brief our forces across the country on how they can prevent such explosions or attacks,” Sediqqi said.

Coalition officials declined an interview request, saying speculation about the types of explosive devices puts troops at risk, though all four incidents have been widely reported. There do not appear to have been any recent magnetic bomb attacks directed at coalition forces.

A statement from the International Security Assistance Force read: “The safety of coalition and (Afghan National Security Forces) servicemembers is of utmost importance to ISAF. We are constantly refining our tactics, techniques and procedures in order to counter the latest threats and to stay one step ahead of the insurgency.”



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#### 4. [Attack, Pakistan] Upper Dir Bombing Claims Four Lives

Saturday, July 21 2012

<http://dawn.com/2012/07/22/upper-dir-bombing-claims-four-lives/>

Four people, including three members of the same family, died and eight others suffered injuries when a bomb exploded near a pick-up truck in Doog Darra area of Upper Dir on Saturday morning.

According to Sheringal police, three people were killed on the spot and the fourth person died in hospital.

The victims were residents of different villages in Doog Darra, an area where militants were defeated by a lashkar in 2010. The lashkar comprised volunteers from Hayagay Sharqi and 25 other villages.

The militants, who have been launching raids in the area from Afghanistan, have previously attacked lashkar members and a mosque in the area.

However, the pick-up targeted on Saturday did not carry any lashkar member.

Upper Dir DPO Ehsanullah Khan said that 15 to 20 kilograms of explosives were used in the bomb.

Those killed were identified as Naimatullah, Said, Hayatullah Khan and Said Alam. The injured were taken to the district headquarters hospital.

Mohammad Zada, who was on the vehicle, told Dawn that he fell unconscious when the bomb exploded.

“When I regained consciousness I found myself in thick smoke. I saw the driver and two people sitting on the front seat dead. The injured around me were screaming,” he said.

“I fainted when the bomb exploded and woke up in the hospital,” said another injured, Mohammad Yar.

The DPO said a search operation had been launched in the area, adding that eight suspects had been arrested.

He said the incident was being jointly investigated by security forces and police.

AFP adds: The improvised explosive device “was detonated using a remote controlled device” the DPO said.

“It was a militant act aimed at creating fear among the people in the area,” he said.

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## 5. [Attack, Pakistan] Blast Near Chinese Consulate In Karachi

Monday, July 23 2012

<http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/blast-near-chinese-consulate-in-karachi-246517>

A bomb exploded near the Chinese consulate in Karachi's upmarket Clifton area on Monday, Dawn reported. Two people, including a paramilitary personnel, were injured today in the low-intensity blast, police said.

There were no reports of casualties or damage within the consulate.

A car and two motorcycles were damaged by the blast.

Police officials told the media that a bomb was planted on a motorcycle parked near a building located adjacent to the consulate in Clifton area of Karachi.

Footage on television showed the area had been cordoned off by personnel of the paramilitary Pakistan Rangers.

Rescue teams and additional security personnel rushed to the site.

Clifton area is where late Pakistani president Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's mansion is located.



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## 6. [Security, Pakistan] Bomb Goes Off Near China Karachi Mission, Another Defused

Tuesday, July 24 2012

<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/national/24-Jul-2012/bomb-goes-off-near-china-karachi-mission-another-defused>

A Rangers constable and a security guard of a private bungalow were injured, while at least four vehicles damaged, in a bomb blast near the Chinese Consulate in Karachi's high-security zone on Monday.

The high-intensity explosion rocked the vicinity near Abdullah Shah Ghazi's shrine in Block-4, Old Clifton, within the limits of Boat Basin Police Station.

Following the explosion, a heavy contingent of law-enforcers including Rangers, police and experts of Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) reached the site to collect the evidence.

The explosion wounded two men and also damaged a car and three motorcycles. The injured were rushed to the hospital by the residents of the area before the arrival of law enforcement agencies personnel.

The BDS experts said it was a time device fixed in a motorbike parked near the Chinese Consulate, adding ball bearings were not used in the explosion.

It is pertinent to mention that the modus operandi of the recent blasts was similar to this one, but the device used in the latest attack did not carry the pellets with the explosive. At least one kilogram explosive material had been used in the bomb exploded by a time device.

Sindh IGP Fayyaz Leghari announced Rs1 million as reward for providing information regarding the terrorist involved in the blast.

On the other hand, according to some media reports, Lashkar-e-Balochistan has claimed responsibility for the attack and said the Rangers personnel were the target. Earlier, Lashkar-e-Balochistan had claimed responsibility through media for the bomb attack at the bus carrying SUPARCO employees on Hub River Road.

According to District South SSP Asif Ejaz Sheikh, the motorcycle, in which bomb was planted, had no criminal record. Police have traced the whereabouts of the owner of the motorcycle, bearing registration number KEG-3252.

Police sources say the motorcycle is owned by Khalil, a resident of Landhi, and they have also conducted raid at his residence, from where two suspects were arrested, while further investigation has been launched.

Clifton SP Dr Farrukh Ahmed, while quoting the injured Rangers personnel, said a suspected man was trying to park the motorcycle at the parking area and escaped when they tried to intercept him.

Meanwhile, the BDS defused another device planted on a motorcycle parked near the Chinese Consulate on Monday night.

The BDS sources said the bomb, weighting around three kilogrammes, was planted in a motorcycle parked near the consulate, adding that it was connected with the detonator.

Police officials said the bomb was recovered on the information of the residents. They said initial investigation suggested that the Rangers personnel, deployed near the motorcycle, could be the target.



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## 7. [Attack, Afghanistan] Bomb Kills At Least Six Afghan Children

Tuesday, July 24 2012

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5i15QZvcgURsYwaDzgK7PriizITA?docId=CNG.6d8641a4afc8598f544afb9c4163707d.991>

At least six Afghan children were killed on Tuesday after a bomb exploded in central Afghanistan's impoverished Ghor province, officials said.

The children, aged between seven and 14, were grazing animals in Taywara district when they found the device partially buried under the mud, provincial spokesman Abdul Hai Khatibi told AFP.

"As they pulled a wire attached to the weaponry, the explosion went off killing seven children," Khatibi said.

Provincial police chief Delawar Shah Delawar said six children were killed while one was critically wounded.

Delawar blamed the Taliban for planting the device, saying a group insurgents active in the district had attacked a nearby police checkpoint two nights earlier.

"This is the Taliban's work, they have repeatedly attacked police in this district recently. They fire rockets and use mines to target our police," he said.

Delawar added that security forces in the district were preparing to launch an operation to clear insurgents from the area.

The Taliban, whose hardline regime was toppled in a US-led invasion in late 2001, were not immediately reachable for comment.

Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) planted on Afghan roads are a common insurgent tactic but they frequently miss their intended target -- Afghan and NATO troops -- resulting in civilian deaths.

According to the United Nations, the number of civilians killed in the war has risen steadily in the past five years, reaching a record 3,021 in 2011 -- the vast majority caused by insurgents.

A recent UN report showed child casualties from Afghan conflicts rose by over a quarter last year with an average of nearly five children killed or injured every day in 2011.

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## **8. [Attack, Pakistan] Toy Bomb Injures Seven Kids In Darra Adam Khel**

Wednesday, July 25 2012

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2012\07\25\story\\_25-7-2012\\_pg7\\_5](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2012\07\25\story_25-7-2012_pg7_5)

At least seven children were wounded in a toy bomb blast in Darra Adam Khel, a small town near Kohat city in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) on Tuesday, officials said. According to a local political agent, the children were playing with the toy bomb, which exploded resulting in injuries to seven of them. Local residents rushed to the scene and shifted the wounded kids to a Peshawar hospital. Medical officials in Peshawar told the media that the condition of two children was critical while the rest of them were out of danger. Political administration has started investigation. Police confirmed that the house where the toy bomb exploded was that of the cousin of a commander of the Tehreek Taliban Pakistan (TTP) Tariq Group.

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## 9. [Attack, Afghanistan] Rare Taliban Video Shows Huge Bomb Attack On U.S. Base (Video)

Tuesday, July 24 2012

<http://www.wired.com/dangerroom/2012/07/talibvid/>

The Taliban and its Haqqani Network allies have released a video depicting the June 1 suicide bombing of one of eastern Afghanistan's largest bases.

In the video, a clip of which is shown above, a group of militants pack into a squat white minibus, along with what appear to be explosives. The driver of a flatbed truck, garlanded with flowers, is shown smiling before what is presumably his final ride. A camera follows the minibus as it snakes through the security barriers outside Forward Operating Base Salerno in Khost Province, just a few kilometers from the Pakistan border. Then, a giant explosion fills the screen. The camera angle appears to be hundreds of yards away, if not further; it's a giant boom.

A calm, steady camera captures U.S. helicopters flying overhead of the wreckage. Toward the end of the video — there is another hour's worth of footage elsewhere, according to the Long War Journal — the camera shows a destroyed black aircraft that looks like a cargo plane. It is unclear if it was damaged in the explosion.

Two U.S. troops and five Afghan civilians died in the attack on the Khost Province mega-base. At least three dozen troops were seriously wounded; about 100 others were treated for minor wounds. According to the Washington Post, the suicide attack was one of the insurgency's largest in 2012. Not only did the attackers use an estimated 1500 pounds of explosives, but the bomb "flattened the dining hall and the post exchange" — both of which are well within the interior of the blast walls protecting Salerno.

Defense officials have attributed the attack to the Haqqani Network, which is considered responsible for many high-profile attacks in the eastern provinces abutting Pakistan. Days after the assault on Salerno, troops in east Afghanistan began what will probably shape up to be the final major U.S. combat operation of the decade-long war, in Ghazni province. Gen. John Allen, the war commander, is said to want to roll back the hold the Haqqani Network has over the east before the majority of U.S. combat troops withdraw in 2014.

Video: <http://bcove.me/haelgc84>

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## 10. [Attack, Pakistan] Deadly Blast Hits Pakistan Town

Thursday, July 26 2012

[http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2012/07/20127268206703534.html?utm\\_content=automate&utm\\_campaign=Trial6&utm\\_source=NewSocialFlow&utm\\_term=plustweets&utm\\_medium=MasterAccount](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2012/07/20127268206703534.html?utm_content=automate&utm_campaign=Trial6&utm_source=NewSocialFlow&utm_term=plustweets&utm_medium=MasterAccount)

At least nine people have been killed after a bomb exploded in a crowded market in northwestern Pakistan.

The blast in Salarzai town in the Bajaur tribal area also wounded over a dozen people, some of them critically, said Jehangir Azam, a local government administrator.

Twenty others were wounded when the device, planted in a pick-up truck, exploded in Pasht bazaar of Salarzai, known as one of the toughest battlegrounds in Pakistan's fight against the Taliban in the northwest.

"There are nine bodies and 20 wounded brought to hospital," Doctor Khalilur Rehman told the AFP news agency.

Two children aged eight and 13 were among the dead and four children aged five to 11 were among the injured, he said.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, but the Pakistani Taliban have a strong presence in the area.

In recent months the army has carried out several offensives against the extremist groups as they continue to stage attacks on government installations.



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## 11. [Security, Afghanistan] Haqqani Explosives Expert, Taliban Leader Captured

Friday, July 27 2012

<http://paktribune.com/news/Haqqani-explosives-expert-Taliban-leader-captured-251867.html>

A Haqqani explosives expert and a Taliban leader were captured in joint Afghan and Nato troops operation on Thursday, Isaf said.

"The Afghan Special Operations Unit, supported by coalition troops, arrested a Haqqani explosives expert in Khost district of Khost province, today (Thursday)," Isaf said in a statement.

The man conducted improvised explosive device (IED) attacks against Afghan and coalition forces in the province, it said.

"He also trained insurgents how to make and use IEDs. At the time of his arrest, the Haqqani explosives expert was in the process of building several IEDs," it said.

The statement also said that a Taliban weapons dealer and several other insurgents were detained in joint Afghan and Nato troops operation in Shah Wali Kot district of southern Kandahar province.

The weapons dealer distributed illegal weapons, including rocket-propelled grenades and assault rifles, to insurgents throughout Kandahar's north, Isaf said.

Recently several insurgent leaders have been arrested in joint Afghan and Nato troops operations' in the country.

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## 12. [Trend, Afghanistan] Afghanistan Insurgent Attacks Up 11 Percent

Friday, July 27 2012

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2012/07/27/228703.html>

Insurgent attacks in Afghanistan rose by 11 percent in the past three months over the same period last year, according to the latest figures released by NATO's U.S.-led coalition.

The month of June alone accounted for the highest number of attacks in nearly two years, with more than 3,000 assaults, including firefights and the explosion of homemade bombs, the International Security Assistance Force said.

The upturn comes as the U.S.-led coalition starts to withdraw its 130,000 troops after more than 10 years of war and ahead of a 2014 deadline for an end to combat operations.

ISAF says one reason for the increase was an earlier start to the summer fighting season because of an early end to the harvest of opium poppies -- a major source of income for Taliban Islamist insurgents.

It gave another as the increased presence on the battlefield of Afghan security forces and better reporting of attacks against them.

"Enemy-initiated attacks over the last three months (April-June) are 11 percent higher compared to the same quarter last year," ISAF said in a report on its website.

"The annual start of the poppy harvest period is characterized by a considerable decrease in enemy-initiated attacks usually followed by a few weeks of lower attack levels.

"This year's harvest started later and finished earlier in the most poppy prevalent areas of Afghanistan compared to last year."

Despite the increase in attacks, the number of coalition deaths in the first six months this year -- 220 -- was down on the same period last year when 282 died, according to figures kept by the website [icasualties.org](http://icasualties.org).

About half of all deaths in both periods were due to roadside bombs, the statistics show.

"Insurgents continue to rely on IEDs (improvised explosive devices) as the principal means to execute their campaign," ISAF said.

In the latest attack, two NATO soldiers were killed on Thursday in an IED explosion in southern Afghanistan, ISAF said in a separate statement, without giving further details.

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### **13. [Attack, Nigeria] Bomb Near North Nigeria Beer Garden Kills Boy, Wounds 10 Other People**

Sunday, July 22 2012

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/bomb-near-north-nigeria-beer-garden-kills-boy-wounds-10-other-people/2012/07/22/gJQA7rYg2W\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/bomb-near-north-nigeria-beer-garden-kills-boy-wounds-10-other-people/2012/07/22/gJQA7rYg2W_story.html)

Police in Nigeria say a bomb hidden inside a wheelbarrow exploded near a beer garden in the north of the country, killing a 6-year-old boy and wounding 10 other people.

Sunday's explosion in Bauchi struck a local bar many gather at to enjoy beer, despite the state being ruled under Shariah law. Bauchi state police commissioner Mohammed Ladan said the blast killed the boy, who was near the bar.

Adamu Abubakar, a Red Cross official, said security forces had surrounded the area.

Bauchi has been previously struck by sectarian violence sweeping across Nigeria's north from a radical Islamist sect known as Boko Haram. However, the sect did not immediately claim responsibility for the attack.

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## 14. [Attack, South Sudan] South Sudan Accuses Sudan Of New Bomb Attack

Saturday, July 21 2012

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hvzKXL9IQx3Fnltl-Q9C4XfinGYA?docId=CNG.fe26f1ca56e58350b5d4026f59b06957.1f1>

South Sudan on Saturday accused Sudan of launching a new air raid on its territory and queried if Khartoum was trying to derail fragile peace talks which resumed recently.

"There was bombing yesterday morning at a place called Rubaker," in northern Bahr el Ghazal, South Sudan's military spokesman Philip Aguer told AFP, adding that "this might have implications because maybe that is the intention of Sudan to bomb us and to stop talking".

Aguer said eight bombs were dropped by Sudanese army Antonov planes.

"Two civilians were wounded -- a man and a woman. They were sleeping in their houses in the villages of Wuer Kil and Wuer Puech", he said, warning of consequences for the peace talks.

"Last time they wanted to break off talks in (the Ethiopian capital) Addis Ababa, they bombed us ... that was on March 26" at a military base in oil-producing Unity state, he added.

The fighting in March led to a new escalation of violence between the two sides and fears of renewed full-blown war.

Decades of fighting between the mainly Arab and Muslim north and the black African south has left millions dead.

Because of the unrest, talks to settle the conflict stalled in April in spite of the South's independence in July last year.

They resumed in May.

The African Union's Peace and Security Council Saturday has urged Khartoum and Juba to settle their differences on oil and border demarcation before an August 2 deadline set by the United Nations.

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## 15. [Special Interest, Nigeria] Air Force Develops Bomb-Detonating Robot, Tracking Device

Tuesday, July 24 2012

[http://www.ngrguardiannews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=93230:air-force-develops-bomb-detonating-robot-tracking-device-&catid=1:national&Itemid=559](http://www.ngrguardiannews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=93230:air-force-develops-bomb-detonating-robot-tracking-device-&catid=1:national&Itemid=559)

Experts in bomb detonation would soon not need to get closer to such lethal objects to neutralise them as the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) is developing a robot to undertake the task from afar.

The Commandant of the Nigerian Air Force Institute of Technology (NAFIT), Kaduna, Air Vice Marshal John Oshoniyi, who spoke on the contributions of NAF to internal security yesterday, explained that the institute had developed an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle for surveillance and intelligence gathering in crisis-prone parts of the country.

At a press conference to herald activities marking the 41st graduation of the institute, the Commandant, said the bomb detonating robot, would assist the government check the series of bombing by terrorist gangs.

He said the equipment required no operator to be physically present at the scene of any detected bomb before its detonation.

Oshoniyi said the institute, funded by NAF, would present the device to the public when it is ready.

“We all know that human beings have always gone to detonate bombs and in view of the danger involved, anything can happen. It is because of this that we decided to go into research and the development of the bomb detonation robot. When we get to the time when we feel the public should know, we will show it to them.”

On the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) code-named “Amebo,” which he claimed to be the first in Africa, the Commandant said its development was a product of the transformation agenda of the present administration, adding that “we do believe that Nigeria is capable of attaining higher pedestal in military aviation and defence related technology.

“Accordingly, in tandem with President Goodluck Jonathan transformation agenda, AFIT has for the past few years been focusing on defence-related research and development activities as part of its contributions to the realisation of his vision,” Oshoniyi said.

He said the UAV had already attracted interest from foreign companies and awaiting test flight, adding that after a successful flight, it would be employed in aerial surveillance to track down pipeline vandals and other economic saboteurs.

Oshoniyi said: “It is pertinent to note that following the successful launch of the our Unmanned Aerial Vehicle - Amebo II last year, a modified and improved version of Amebo III was produced and exhibited at the recent Air Expo 2012, organised by the NAF. This latest version is awaiting test flight.”

A total of 158 students, comprising personnel of the Nigerian Army, Nigerian Navy and NAF as well as civilians will graduate from the Master of Science, Postgraduate Diploma, Higher National Diploma and National Diploma programmes of the institute.



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## 16. [Attack, Kenya] Bomb Explodes Inside Of Somali Refugee Camp

Thursday, July 26 2012

<http://thedailynewsegypt.com/2012/07/26/the-dabaab-refugee-camp-where-some-450000-refugees-from-somalia-have-fled-violence-file-photoafp/>

A bomb injured six people on Wednesday after it exploded inside of the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya, according to the Kenyan Red Cross. The bombing came at a site for food distribution in the mega-camp, which house more than 450,000 people, and has the distinction of being the largest refugee camp in the world. The camp is designed to hold only 90,000 refugees.

On Wednesday, rapid-response teams from the Kenyan Red Cross stabilized victims at the scene and rushed all six to hospitals.

The attack comes after an attack earlier in July in Garissa Town, which lies on the road from Dadaab to the Kenyan capital of Nairobi. In the Garissa incident, attackers threw two grenades into a church, killing 17. At Dadaab in May, a suicide bomber draped in female robes set off an explosion that killed three people. The refugees refused to assist in the investigation, according to the news portal Somalia Report.

Wednesday's explosions were the most recent turn of events in a destabilized region where Kenyan territory meets Somalia. In Somalia, international forces continue to fight Al-Shabaab, an Al-Qaeda-linked militant group inside of Somalia. The fighting comes as a severe drought has ravaged the region. Both the violence and the drought have sent masses of Somalis pouring across the border into Kenya.

The Kenyan newspaper the Daily Nation reported a pending offensive from the African Union Mission in Somalia (Amisom) against Al-Shabaab. Plans were drawn up over the weekend on how to retake Kismayo in southern Somalia, the newspaper reported. Kismayo is a shipping hub on the Indian Ocean, where Al-Shabaab has maintained a tight grip, allegedly not letting citizens to enter or leave. Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, Ethiopia and Djibouti are planning a joint attack, in tandem with government allied militias in Somalia, to take back the town.

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## 17. [Trend, Kenya] Iran Ship With Explosives On Way To Kenya

Friday, July 27 2012

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201207250997.html>

A vessel suspected to have shipped into Kenya the powder making explosive-Cyclotrimethylene Trinitramine is expected to dock at the port of Mombasa anytime this week, again. The MV Padriz has also been at the centre of possible US sanctions over Iran-owned vessels, which are said to be re-flagged to mask their ownership.

Sources confirmed to the Star that the vessel has so far made 23 calls to the port of Mombasa, on a monthly basis, and it was during one of those calls that the vessel was carrying the RDX, which has been linked to the two Iranians facing terrorism charges, Ahmad Mohammed and Sayed Mousavi. The Star recently reported that the manifest of MV Padriz apparently confirmed that six security officers and another nine crew members were on board the vessel, which was carrying about 200 containers when it last docked at the port with the explosives.

However, the Iran government has dismissed the reports that the ship allegedly owned by the Pacific Island nation, Tuvalu, was used to sneak into the country dangerous explosive materials that were impounded in Mombasa. Iranian ambassador to Kenya Malek Hossein Givzad claims the information is "false and aimed at further tarnishing its international image in wide propaganda by US, Israel and some European Union (EU) states".

According to the police, the 15 kilogramme RDX was impounded at a Console base warehouse situated in Changamwe on June 20 after it was allegedly shipped into the country by MV Pardis from Iran. Speaking to the Star on the phone, Givzad said they have not contracted any of its vessels to do any shipping of its (oil) products in East Africa.

Yesterday, the Star further established that the container in which the explosives were impounded had its number changed over three times, making it difficult for security detectives to pinpoint the consignment. The vessel has been docking in Kenya to deliver containerized goods, which are categorized as mechanical and farm inputs, according to officials. The 14 days shipping schedule of the Kenya Ports Authority indicated that the vessel is expected to dock this week on 25th July, and will discharge 352 containers, and load 718.

The shipping agents in Kenya are Seven Seas Shipping Agency (K) Ltd, (SSA) whose officials from the imports department confirmed that it may instead dock around 28th July this year. "What we can confirm is that the ship is a containerized vessel, as opposed to either lose or bulk cargo or a tanker/oil," said the official, who declined to be named due to the sensitivity of the issue.

The official also revealed that the vessel is now registered in Zanzibar, and owned by Arabs. "It docks at the port every once per month and was here last on June 11th this year, plus as a requirement, it has to fly the Kenyan flag," he said. Under the KPA's list of expected vessels, the container vessel, Pardis, had its vessel scheduled as 'Pard 2012-0905, call sign 5IM540, voy no SAS 0024'. SAS 0024 would mean that it will be its 24th trip to the country.

The vessel under the 14 days list was booked on 30th of June this year. Other sources in the imports business confirmed that it docked on May 23rd, this year, it being its 22nd trip to the country, and it discharged 332 containers and loaded 838 containers. "In normal cases, the same shipping company should handle the vessel, and a report on containers nominated by KPA and which yard it was found, is also given, though all the contents may not be thoroughly screened once the first few have been tested and passed," said the source.

But the ambassador, in Iran's defense, said, "It is not true that Tuvalu-the small South pacific Island nation- as claimed by US government is reflagging Iran oil ship to assist the Iranian regime in evading US and EU sanctions and generating additional revenues for its nuclear weapons program and its support for international terrorism," stated Hossein Givzard.

Reports in the UK Telegraph indicated that Tuvalu has been told by the US to stop reflagging Iranian oil tankers and warned its government of the risks of breaking US sanctions. The report further indicated that the European Union banned Iranian oil imports as well as providing insurance for vessels carrying Iranian oil on July 1, with the US having new economic sanctions that have curbed Iranian oil imports by most other major nations, in efforts to pressurize Tehran to end its nuclear program.

According to the report, reflagging ships, makes it easier for Iran to obtain insurance and financing for the cargoes, as well as find buyers for the shipments without attracting attention from the US and EU. But the ambassador said Iran would not be coward by US sanction and has a grand plan to invest in sectors such as trade, tourism, service engineering, education, agriculture, and industry.

Highly place sources indicate that MV Pardis docked at the port of Mombasa after it making its way back from Tanzania last month.

During the seizure of the RDX, acting head of civil servants Francis Kimemia revealed in Mombasa the container was seized with 15 kilograms of explosive material in Mombasa with the aid of international agencies.

He added that the government had sought the help of international agencies such the FBI and Interpol in helping deal with security threats.

He said the container was impounded after two Iranian terror suspects were arrested after checking into a five star hotel in Nairobi following a tipoff from international agencies including FBI and Interpol officers.

Anti-terrorism police are now looking for four Kenyans in Mombasa believed to have been in contact with the two Iranians. It is believed that more than 100kg was delivered by an Iranian man believed to be a security officer working on the ship but police only managed to recover 15kg.

Sources privy to the investigations indicates that 100 kilograms of RDX explosive material was offloaded at Gate number 8 at the port of Mombasa before the container was taken to Changamwe. It has also emerged that police did not recover any powder from the warehouse only to impound 15 kilograms of it at a house situated at Mama Ngina drive while the rest of the explosive cannot be accounted for.



The police only recovered a tractor and other building materials. A senior anti terrorism police officer told the Star the powder is used to make improvised bombs with a capacity to bring down tall buildings. Sources also said despite the entire alert from other agencies the Kenya government was very reluctant to intercept MV Pardiz before or upon arrival at the port of Mombasa.

The two Iranian suspects entered Kenya as tourists and were supposed to receive the explosive from the contact on MV Padriz. They were then supposed to deliver it to the Mombasa Club golf course where another contact would collect it and take it to an unknown destination. The tourist visa of the two men was due to expire on June 26 but they were arrested on June 19, five days after MV Padriz docked in Mombasa. Security sources believe that the two Iranians already charged at the high court in Nairobi could be part of Iran's elite Islamic revolutionary guards corps, a secretive unit used against foreign interests.

Kenya security agencies are now on high alert with reports that the same ship will dock at the port this week. The raid at Consol Base was led by anti terror police boss Elijah Rop. Several officials have been questioned over the consignment. The warehouse was recently in the news when a consignment of fake Somali passports was recovered there. The case is pending in court, with a businessman having been charged over the case. The Coast PPO Aggrey Adoli said a special team of security officers will also be conducting random inspection of containers at the Port of Mombasa, as police remain on high alert, over the arrival of the vessel and any others calling at the port this month.

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## 18. [Attack, Egypt] Blast Rocks Egypt's Gas Pipeline To Israel, Jordan

Saturday, July 21 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/07/22/us-egypt-pipeline-idUSBRE86L00T20120722?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews&>

An explosion on Sunday rocked the Egyptian pipeline built to carry natural gas to Israel and Jordan, the 15th time it has been attacked since the start of the uprising in early 2011 that toppled President Hosni Mubarak.

The blast occurred in the early hours of Sunday morning at al-Tuwail, east of the coastal Sinai town of al-Arish, at a point before the pipeline splits into separate branches to Israel and Jordan, security officials and witnesses said.

Gunmen in a small truck drove up to the pipeline, dug a hole and placed explosive charges under the pipeline that they detonated from a distance, a security official and witnesses said.

A large boom echoed across the area and residents up to 30 km (18 miles) away said later they could see flames of burning gas lighting the sky.

An official in the company that manages the pipeline said exports of gas to both Israel and Jordan had been halted since an explosion that hit the pipeline in April and that the flames were caused by residual gas.

Residents in al-Arish, however, said gas shipments had begun three days ago through the pipeline, which at one point supplied Israel with about 40 percent of its natural gas.

Egypt in April terminated its agreement to supply gas to Israel because of what it said was a business dispute.

The 20-year gas deal, signed in the Mubarak era, was unpopular with many Egyptians, with critics accusing Israel of not paying enough for the fuel.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attacks on the installation that crosses the increasingly volatile Sinai Peninsula. Security in Sinai was relaxed after the fall of Mubarak as the police presence thinned out across Egypt.

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## 19. [Attack, Iraq] Spate Of Attacks Kills 107 Across Iraq

Monday, July 23 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/07/23/uk-iraq-bomb-idUKBRE86M06S20120723>

At least 107 people were killed in bomb and gun attacks in Iraq on Monday, a day after 20 died in explosions, in a coordinated surge of violence against mostly Shi'ite Muslim targets.

The bloodshed, which coincided with an intensifying of the conflict in neighbouring Syria, pointed up the deficiencies of the Iraqi security forces, which failed to prevent insurgents from striking in multiple locations across the country.

As well as the scores of deaths, at least 268 people were wounded by bombings and shootings in Shi'ite areas of Baghdad, the Shi'ite town of Taji to the north, the northern cities of Kirkuk and Mosul and many other places, hospital and police sources said, making it one of Iraq's bloodiest days in weeks.

No group has claimed responsibility for the wave of assaults but a senior Iraqi security official blamed the local wing of al Qaeda, made up of Sunni Muslim militants bitterly hostile to the Shi'ite-led government, which is friendly with Iran.

"Recent attacks are a clear message that al Qaeda in Iraq is determined to spark a bloody sectarian war," the official said, asking not to be named.

"With what's going on in Syria, these attacks should be taken seriously as a potential threat to our country. Al Qaeda is trying to push Iraq to the verge of Shi'ite-Sunni war," he said. "They want things to be as bad as in Syria."

The last two days of attacks shattered a two-week lull in violence in the run-up to the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan, which started in Iraq on Saturday.

Sectarian slaughter peaked in 2006-2007 but deadly attacks have persisted while political tensions among Iraq's main Shi'ite, Sunni and Kurdish factions have increased since U.S. troops completed their withdrawal in December.

"I ask the government if security forces are capable of keeping control," a man named Ahmed Salim shouted angrily at the



scene of a car bomb in Kirkuk. "With all these bloody bombs and innocent people killed, the government should reconsider its security plans," he told Reuters Television.

#### TRAIL OF DESTRUCTION

The security forces themselves were often the targets or victims of the assaults perpetrated across Iraq.

Gunmen using assault rifles and hand grenades killed at least 16 soldiers in an attack on an army post near Dhuluiya, 70 km (45 miles) north of Baghdad, police and army sources said.

In Taji, 20 km (12 miles) north of Baghdad, six explosions, including a car bombing, occurred near a housing complex. A seventh blast there caused carnage among police who had arrived at the scene of the earlier ones. In all, 32 people were killed, including 14 police, with 48 wounded, 10 of them police.

Two car bombs struck near a government building in Sadr City, a vast, poor Shi'ite swathe of Baghdad, and in the mainly Shi'ite area of Hussainiya on the outskirts of the capital, killing a total of 21 people and wounding 73, police said.

Nine people, including six soldiers, were killed in attacks in the northern city of Mosul, police and army sources said.

In Kirkuk, five car bombs killed six people and wounded 17, while explosions and gun attacks on security checkpoints around the restive province of Diyala killed six people, including four soldiers and policemen, and wounded 30, police sources said.

Other deadly attacks occurred in the towns of Khan Bani Saad, Udhaim, Tuz Khurmato, Samarra and Dujail, all north of Baghdad, as well as in the southern city of Diwaniya.

The orchestrated spate of violence followed car bombs on Sunday in two towns south of Baghdad and in the Shi'ite shrine city of Najaf that killed 20 people and wounded 80.

Last month was one of the bloodiest since the U.S. withdrawal, with at least 237 people killed and 603 wounded.

Iraq, whose huge desert province of Anbar, a Sunni heartland, borders Syria, is nervous about the impact of the conflict in its neighbour where mainly Sunni rebels are fighting to end President Bashar al-Assad's Alawite-dominated rule.

Hundreds of thousands of Iraqis took refuge in Syria from bloodshed that lasted for years after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein. Last week the Iraqi government urged them to return home to escape the violence in Syria.

At least 80 buses laden with returning Iraqi refugees crossed the border last week, a U.N. spokeswoman said.

Iraq's Shi'ite-led government is also worried about the longer-term implications if Assad falls and Syria's majority Sunnis overthrow the supremacy of the president's Alawite sect, which traces its roots to Shi'ite Islam.

A sectarian struggle for control in post-Assad Syria could raise tensions across the border and damage Iraq's chances of overcoming its own formidable security and political challenges.



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## **20. [Security, Yemen] Yemen Says Defused Bomb At Intelligence Building**

Monday, July 23 2012

<http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/yemen-says-defused-bomb-intelligence-building>

Yemeni security forces have allegedly they defused a bomb planted at the entrance of an intelligence services building in the southern port city of Aden, the defense ministry said.

The bomb was to have been detonated by remote control, the ministry's website quoted a security official as saying late on Sunday.

Yemeni troops regained control last month of several towns in the southern province of Abyan which Islamist militants had seized last year during political upheaval that toppled US-backed dictator Ali Abdullah Saleh.

But a string of attacks and assassination attempts against security officials showed the militants are still capable of carrying out attacks and highlighted the tenuous grip of Yemen's central authorities on the restive south.

The uprising against Saleh split Yemen's military and raised fears in the United States and top oil exporter Saudi Arabia that political chaos would embolden Islamists in Yemen.

The two powers were also concerned a full democracy in Yemen would harm their interests, and have moved to thwart a full democratic transition.

Washington and Riyadh backed a power transfer deal that replaced Saleh with his deputy in February.

Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, Saleh's successor, took office promising to reunify the military and to fight al-Qaeda with US backing.

In May, he launched an offensive with US air and intelligence support, with Washington controversially increasing its use of drones in the country, much to the outrage of locals.

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## 21. [Attack, Syria] War Planes Bomb Aleppo

Tuesday, July 24 2012

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/syria/9423574/Syria-war-planes-bomb-Aleppo.html>

Syrian fighter jets launched strikes on Aleppo on Tuesday afternoon, according to the BBC. If such a tactic is confirmed, it would lead to a significant escalation in the 16-month-long conflict. Reports of the strike came after eight people were killed in a mutiny at Aleppo prison.

Security forces "opened fire with bullets and tear gas on the detainees at Aleppo central prison in response to a peaceful sit-in organised by prisoners because of the great injustice of which they are victims," the Syrian National Council said in a statement. "Eight people were martyred and a fire broke out inside the prison."

The statement said regime forces had fired on the prison from helicopters as the fire raged inside, preventing help from arriving at the facility. The mutiny is the second in less than a week in Syria, after a similar incident in the central prison in the southern city of Homs.

The Free Syrian Army warned that the embattled regime of Bashar al-Assad had moved chemical weapons to airports on Syria's borders, a day after the regime warned it could use them if attacked by an outside force.

"We in the joint command of the Free Syrian Army inside the country know very well the locations and positions of these weapons," a statement from the FSA said. "We also reveal that Assad has transferred some of these weapons and equipment for mixing chemical components to airports on the border."

The statement said the weapons had been moved in a bid to pressure the international community, much of which has called for Assad to step aside in the face of a 16-month uprising against his rule.

"According to our information, the regime began moving its stocks of weapons of mass destruction several months ago ... with the goal of putting pressure on the region and the international community," the FSA said.

On the political front, the opposition Syrian National Council (SNC) said on Tuesday it would be willing to accept a transition led temporarily by a member of the regime if Assad steps aside, after armed rebels suffered setbacks in their bid to overrun Damascus.

"We would agree to the departure of Assad and the transfer of his powers to a regime figure, who would lead a transitional period like what happened in Yemen," SNC spokesman George Sabra told AFP.

Asked about who might lead such a transition, Sabra said "Syria has patriotic figures both in the regime and among officers in the Syrian army who could take such a role."

He did not elaborate.

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## 22. [Attack, Iraq] Bomb Kills Iraq Policeman's Wife, Children

Wednesday, July 25 2012

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gva15qQxXdmrQpHbfv2iy0F8SS4g?docId=CNG.b4cc08dc997a311f5dff666028b265a6.101>

A car bomb has killed the wife and four children of a policeman in central Iraq, a day after 113 people died in the country's deadliest day in two and half years, police and medics said.

"Around 10 pm (1900 GMT), a car bomb blew up in the garage of the home of a police captain," said a police officer in Salaheddin province.

"While the police captain had gone out with one of his sons, a terrorist parked the booby-trapped vehicle in the garage, the door of which had been left open.

"Four of his children and his wife were killed, and four neighbours wounded," the officer said, adding that all the children were less than 10 years old.

A hospital official in the provincial capital Tikrit confirmed receiving the bodies of the dead.

The bombing struck in Ad-Dawr, just outside Tikrit, where US forces captured now executed dictator Saddam Hussein in December 2003.

It came as Al-Qaeda front group the Islamic State of Iraq claimed responsibility for Monday's wave of 29 separate attacks in 19 cities, which shattered the relative calm that had held in the lead-up to the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

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### **23. [Attack, Iraq] Bomb Attacks Kill Nine As Violence Escalates Across Iraq**

Wednesday, July 25 2012

<http://thechronicleherald.ca/world/120554-bomb-attacks-kill-nine-as-violence-escalates-across-iraq>

Bomb attacks in Iraq killed nine people Tuesday, officials said, a bloody aftershock to the country's deadliest day in two years that followed the declaration of a new al-Qaida offensive.

Police said an explosives-rigged motorcycle killed six Kurdish intelligence officials on a late afternoon security patrol in the northeast town of Tuz Khormato, located 210 kilometres north of Baghdad.

A local medic confirmed the deaths. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release the information.

Less than an hour earlier and a little farther south, a parked minibus blew up near a police checkpoint in the city of Baquoba. The blast killed three passers-by and wounded 29 others, said local council spokeswoman Samira al-Shibli.

The blasts followed a wave of violence across Iraq on Monday during which 115 people were killed. Many of those attacks also targeted security forces. Al-Qaida's new leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi announced days before that the network would stage attacks and try to rebuild tribal alliances to make a comeback in Sunni areas from which it had retreated in 2007-2008.

Iraq's Shiite-led government has been under intense pressure to prove it can protect the country from terrorism after years of similar violence and, on Tuesday, continued its trial of the Sunni vice-president who is accused of running death squads against security forces and religious pilgrims.

But the case has also deepened the rift between Iraq's political factions, which break down largely on sectarian lines.

Witnesses testified during the court hearing about weapons taken from the homes of Vice-President Tariq al-Hashemi and Ahmed Qahtan, his son-in-law and office manager.

Al-Hashemi, who is in Turkey avoiding trial, has denied the wrongdoing and has said he is the victim of a political vendetta by Shiite Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. He is one of Iraq's highest-ranking Sunni politicians.

Al-Hashemi's defence lawyers also announced that an Iraqi appeals court refused to allow President Jalal Talabani to testify in the trial.

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## 24. [Attack, Iraq] Iraq Blasts Kill Kurdish Security Officials

Thursday, July 26 2012

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2012/07/20127250585042564.html>

A twin blast has killed six members of the Kurdish intelligence forces known as the Asayish and wounded three others in a town north of the capital Baghdad, hospital and police sources said.

The first bomb was planted outside a house of a member of the Asayish in Tuz Khurmatu, Salahuddin province, 170km north of Baghdad. When Asayish members arrived at the scene to evacuate the wounded, a bomb-rigged motorised cart then exploded. Three civilians were also wounded in the attack, sources said on Tuesday.

At least 107 people were killed in bomb and gun attacks in Iraq on Monday, a day after 20 died in explosions, in a co-ordinated surge of violence against mostly Shia Muslim targets.

The bloodshed, which coincided with an intensifying of the conflict in neighbouring Syria, pointed out deficiencies of the Iraqi security forces, which failed to prevent fighters from striking in multiple locations across the country.

As well as the scores of deaths, at least 268 people were wounded by bombings and shootings in Shia majority areas of Baghdad, the Shia town of Taji to the north, the northern cities of Kirkuk and Mosul and many other places, hospital and police sources said, making it one of Iraq's bloodiest days in weeks.

Sectarian violence surged in 2006-2007 but deadly attacks have persisted while political tensions among Iraq's main Shia, Sunni and Kurdish factions have increased since US troops completed their withdrawal in December.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi government has blacklisted Chevron Corp over its new deal with the semi-autonomous Kurdish region.

"In line with Oil Ministry policy based on the constitution, the Oil Ministry announces the disqualification of Chevron company and bars it from signing any deals with the federal Oil Ministry and its companies," the oil ministry said in a statement on Tuesday.



Baghdad says deals made with the Kurdistan Regional Government are illegal. Iraq banned Exxon Mobil from an oil exploration operation in May because it had signed a deal with the Kurds last year. The country is said to have the world's fourth largest oil reserves, with parts of the country still undeveloped.

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## 25. [Attack, Syria] Assad Forces Bomb Aleppo, Damascus

Thursday, July 26 2012

<http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Assad+forces+bomb+Aleppo%26sbquo%3B+Damascus&NewsID=341117>

Damascus and Syria's second biggest city, Aleppo, came under shell fire today as troops loyal to President Bashar al-Assad stepped up efforts to crush rebels threatening the government's two main power centres.

A bomb attack that killed four of Assad's closest lieutenants last week prompted predictions among his enemies that the 46-year-old president's time in power was drawing to a close.

But in the days that have followed that attack, Assad's forces have noticeably toughened their response to the armed revolt, with fixed-wing combat aircraft seen in action over Aleppo and rebel fighters said by opposition sources to have been summarily executed on the streets of Damascus.

Residents in the capital reported a shell landing in southern districts every minute this morning. Helicopters were attacking the Hajar-al-Aswad district, one of the last rebel strongholds in the city after days of street fighting, opposition activists said.

After a major assault on rebels in Damascus last week, the army has turned to Aleppo, reinforcing troops there with an armoured column that had been operating in a northern province, apparent evidence of the government's aim not to lose control of Syria's commercial capital, a city of 2.5 million.

Fierce clashes raged in the early hours of Thursday in Aleppo, and an activist said rebels now controlled half of the city, a claim that could not be independently verified.

Activists said 24 people were killed in fighting in and around Aleppo today, swelling a national death toll of about 18,000 since the revolt against Assad began 16 months ago. In the Syrian capital, a resident in the Yarmouk Palestinian refugee camp reported heavy shelling, particularly near the southern Hajar al-Aswad district.

She said the army seemed to be targeting sites on the edges of the camp, firing shells every minute. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, addressing the Bosnian parliament in Sarajevo, said the world must unite to end the "slaughter" in Syria, recalling the inertia of the United Nations in 1995 during the Srebrenica massacre in Bosnia.

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## **26. [Attack, Italy] Bomb Injures Senior Police Officer In Italy Rail Protest**

Saturday, July 21 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/07/22/italy-protests-idUSL6E8IM1E320120722>

A senior Italian police officer was injured in clashes with demonstrators protesting against a planned high speed rail link between France and northern Italy, officials said on Sunday.

The head of a police special operations unit in Turin, Giuseppe Petronzi, was hurt by an improvised explosive device during the confrontation on Saturday evening in Val di Susa in the far north of Italy, when police fired teargas at supporters of "No-Tav", the anti high-speed rail movement.

The latest in a long run of clashes follows months of confrontations which have raised concern about a rise in violent demonstrations during the economic crisis.

The head of the centre-left Democratic Party, Pierluigi Bersani, condemned the violence and expressed solidarity with Petronzi.

"In a democracy, dissent is legitimate but the form of violence being used by some members of the No Tav movement are unacceptable," Bersani said in a statement.

Villagers in Val di Susa, supported by a coalition of outside activists, have held repeated demonstrations against the 15 billion euro (\$18 billion) project, agreed between Italy and France in 2001.

The government says the rail link, which will almost halve the time of a journey between Paris and Milan to four hours, is vital to strengthen transport links between northern Italy and the rest of the continent.

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## **27. [Trend, United Kingdom] One Thousand Bombs Found On Mappleton Beach – And There Will Be More**

Tuesday, July 24 2012

<http://www.thisishullandeastriding.co.uk/1-000-bombs-Mappleton-beach-ndash/story-16583959-detail/story.html>

Bomb disposal experts who have so far found more than 1,000 explosives on a beach are warning there will be more.

A guarded cordon was put in place after a landslide at Mappleton beach, near Hornsea, resulted in bombs and rockets embedded in the cliffs for more than 40 years tumbling on to the sands.

Bomb disposal experts continue to clear the remaining explosives from the site, which was used by the RAF during the war and the cliffs were used for target practice.

Inspector Mark Coulthard, from the Holderness neighbourhood policing team, said: "On no account should any person pick these items up and take them home.

"The likelihood of more finds is high, as coastal erosion washes away some of the cliffs, and unearths more munitions."

One bomb disposal expert, who wished to remain anonymous, said: "I've never seen anything like it apart from pictures from Iraq on TV.

"The amount of visible bombs was horrific."

The mixture of rockets, mortars and 25lb bombs were spotted by a dog walker, who notified the police on Saturday.

The police attended but were unable to identify what was there due to the high tide. The area was checked again on the Sunday.

The bomb disposal expert said: "With regards to the unexploded ordnance (uxo), they are always potentially a danger. Even though they could have been in the ground for 40 or 50 years they are still a danger.

"I think something should be done and public access should be restricted to the beach.

"With the tide there is also a danger they could be washed up and down the coast.

"It will take a considerable amount of time to remove the uxos. If anyone does come across any unexploded bombs they should not touch them and should report them to the police."

An explosive ordnance disposal team attended the scene with the assistance from the Defence School of Transport on Sunday when many of the items were taken away.

UNCLASSIFIED

By the end of play on Sunday, 15 controlled explosions had been carried out on those items considered dangerous.

Inspector Coulthard said: "Although not live munitions, they do pose a danger as they have flash charges in them.

"I would advise any member of the public finding such an item to ensure they leave it alone and phone the police to notify us, so we can arrange the necessary measures to make them safe."

Kim Soltys, Mappleton Parish Council clerk, said: "The bomb disposal teams are down here every week picking them up, but I've never know this quantity before."



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## 28. [Special Interest, Bulgaria] Bulgaria Bomb 'Detonated By Remote Control'

Wednesday, July 25 2012

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/bulgaria/9425772/Bulgaria-bomb-detonated-by-remote-control.html>

Itzik Colangi and Amir Menashe confronted the bomber when he moved their bags in order to try and place his bomb deeper inside the luggage compartment of the tour bus, packed with holidaymakers heading for the Black Sea's "Sunny Beach" resort.

The authorities have confirmed that the bomber, who was killed in the Burgas airport attack that took the lives of five Israeli tourists and a Bulgarian, was backed up by an organised group who helped him plan and carry out the attack.

Gilat Colangi, Itzik's wife, told police that as the argument escalated the bomber's controller triggered the device, an account that is borne out by other witnesses of the attack.

"An operator activated the load by remote control," she told Channel Two television in Israel.

"He [the bomber] came over to the bus, pushed their bags aside and put his own bag down. They started to argue with him – and that's when his operator, who saw them from a distance – activated the explosive."

The Burgas-based news website Besove has reported that forensic analysis of the bomber's head shows he may have been mentally disabled and used as a dispensable bomb "mule" by terrorist associates.

Other local press have reported that alleged suicide bomber has arrived from Belgium and could be a Belgian national.



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## **29. [Attack, Turkey] Two Soldiers Killed In Blast In Southeast Turkey**

Friday, July 27 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/07/27/us-turkey-kurds-idUSBRE86Q07I20120727>

Two Turkish soldiers were killed in the mainly Kurdish southeast on Friday when the vehicle they were traveling in was hit by a remote-controlled explosive, security sources said.

A third soldier and one civilian were also wounded in the attack, which occurred around 7 a.m. (0500 GMT) near the town of Lice in Diyarbakir province, they said.

Security officials blamed the attack on the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), which has waged a 27-year campaign against the Turkish state in which 40,000 people, mainly Kurds, have died.

Explosives were buried in a road near military barracks and were set off by remote control when the vehicle carrying soldiers passed, the officials said.

Turkey, the European Union and the United States all list the PKK as a "terrorist" organization.

The PKK, based mainly in northern Iraq, has scaled back its demands for a Kurdish homeland for Turkey's 14 million Kurds to greater cultural rights and political autonomy.

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### 30. [Security, Ireland] Public Safety 'At Risk'

Friday, July 27 2012

<http://thecorknews.ie/articles/public-safety-%E2%80%98-risk%E2%80%99-6604>

Local lives could be at risk if Garda cutbacks continue, a local TD has warned, after members of the force were called out to the third bomb threat this year on Cork's northside. An army bomb disposal team made safe a suspect explosive device in Farranree yesterday morning, Thursday, after gardaí were notified by a member of the public.

Residents of Kilnap Place were evacuated to a safe location and the device—in a house on the terrace—was made safe in situ by a controlled explosion at approximately 12.50pm. The remains of the Improvised Explosive Device (IED) were handed over to Mayfield Gardaí to assist in their investigations.

The bomb threat happened just minutes away from where a viable pipe bomb was found in a parked car on Popham's Road last year and comes within weeks of two further threats on the city's northside. In March, an explosive device was discovered under a car in a housing estate in Mervue Lawn, Ballyvolane with a member of an Army Bomb Disposal Team receiving minor injuries when the device exploded as he attempted to make it safe.

Earlier this month, a makeshift bomb, made up of more than 70 nails, was discovered under a car at The Cow Bar in Mayfield leading to the evacuation of almost 50 residents in the early hours.

Sinn Fein deputy, Jonathan O'Brien who attended the scene at Farranree yesterday told The Cork News that with three bomb threats in the past five months on the city's northside, there is "concern" amongst residents living in the areas. "These are not day-to-day happenings but they are becoming more common. There is almost an attitude of 'it's happening again' by residents and they are no longer surprised by it," he said, adding that vigilance though has increased in residential areas across the city.

Deputy O'Brien stated that the Garda and Defence Forces to date have ensured that there has been no loss of lives. "It is quite clear to me that they have the situation under control, and whatever they are doing is preventing the loss of lives. However, if there are cuts in garda numbers and stations, there is a potential for more crimes to be committed. Public safety is at risk with budget cuts," he said.

It was reported this month that a series of garda districts around the country are to be merged to streamline policing and reduce the number of senior officers. Currently the force stands at 13,500 down from 14,500, with 500 further cuts planned. President of the Garda Representative Association, John Parker stated that "urgent recruitment" of rank and file gardaí who are on the front line of policing in Ireland must take place. "Policing is an investment, not an expense; if numbers aren't available on the streets to prevent crime then we will pay a heavy price in the future," he said. "The Force is being systematically reduced down to 13,000, yet just five years ago all political parties agreed the need for 16,000 officers to effectively police our community.

“An Garda Síochána needs recruitment to begin immediately to replenish and revitalise a Force that has already been reduced beyond its elastic limit and to replace those further gardaí retiring over the next two years.

“Ireland is the only country in the EU with no police officers in training. This is clearly not sustainable.”

Echoing Mr Parker's comments, Deputy O'Brien stated: “There can only be a certain amount of cuts before it affects public safety. That needs to be made clear. What is happening in the northside does not stop with bomb threats. A number of incidents go unreported like attacks on people's homes. There is tension there within a certain groups,” he said.

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### 31. [Attack, India] Bomb Explosion Reported In Manipur

Monday, July 23 2012

[http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed\\_news.asp?date1=7/23/2012&id=6#6](http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed_news.asp?date1=7/23/2012&id=6#6)

Kanglaonline reports that a powerful Improvised Explosive Device (IED) exploded at Salang Sabal Leikai of Awang Khunou near Gokulchand High School along National Highway-37 (Imphal-Jiribam) under Patsoi Police Station in Imphal West District at around 4.20 pm on July 21 just after a convoy of 28 Assam Rifles (AR) passed the explosion site. However, there was no casualty in the blast. Notably, the explosion took place after 73 valley-based militant cadres laid down arms and surrendered before Chief Minister Okram Ibobi and Home Minister Gaikhangam in a home coming ceremony on July 20. A ministerial team comprising of works minister Ratankumar and social welfare minister AK Mirabai was also on the NH-37 Road at the time of bomb explosion. The PLA, meanwhile, has claimed responsibility for the IED explosion. A press statement of the outfit signed by its chief of publicity, Taohangsu Heiremcha claiming responsibility of the explosion said, the IED explosion was carried out under the supervision of the Special Operation Group, PLA, against the 9 Sector 28 AR. The statement has also claimed that the PLA has already initiated steps to continue with such attacks.

Meanwhile, Security Forces (SFs) arrested 'lieutenant' Kshetrimayum Noren Singh alias King who is the organisation head of Division VIII (Thoubal District) of People's Liberation Army (PLA) from Andro Khunao Maring Leikai in Thoubal District on July 22. The SFs recovered one 7.62 mm AK-47 along with 13 live rounds, one magazine of AK-47 and Chinese Hand Grenade. He joined PLA in 1998 and received formal training in Myanmar. He was providing safe passage to PLA cadres infiltrating into the Imphal valley and collection of taxes from civil and Government bodies of the State in the Thoubal District. He was also involved in the ambush on Indian Reserve Battallion (IRB) vehicle column in 2009 in which four IRB personnels were killed.

In another incident, Assam Rifles personnel arrested a 'lieutenant' of the PLA identified as Sinam Nando Singh during an operation at Nongpok Sekmai village in Thoubal District on July 20, reports Times of India. The AR recovered a US made .9mm pistol with five bullets and a Chinese hand grenade from the cadre.

Further, a team of the Thoubal District commandos rescued a 14 year girl from being allegedly recruited as a child soldier of the Noyon faction of Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP-Noyon) at Pallel Bazar on July 20.

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## 32. [Attack, Thailand] Muslims Begin Ramadan Fast; Bombs Hit Thai South

Saturday, July 21 2012

<http://www.ajc.com/news/nation-world/muslims-begin-ramadan-fast-1481326.html>

Muslims have begun fasting for the start of the Ramadan holy month in Indonesia, Malaysia and elsewhere around Asia, but the somber occasion was marred in Buddhist-dominated Thailand by two bomb blasts that killed one person and injured seven.

The Muhammadiyah group, Indonesia's second-largest Muslim organization, told its 30 million followers that Ramadan starts Friday. The government, however, declared the official start as Saturday, when most of the remaining 190 million Indonesians began the dawn-to-dusk fast.

Muslims in Thailand also began Ramadan on Friday, while Malaysians began Saturday. India, Pakistan and Bangladesh were to start Saturday or Sunday.

The Muslim holy month devoted to dawn-to-dusk fasting, prayers and good deeds culminates with the three-day holiday of Eid al-Fitr.

Muslims believe God revealed the first verses of the Quran to the Prophet Muhammad during Ramadan, which starts with the sighting of the new moon. The Muslim lunar calendar moves back through the seasons, so Ramadan starts 11 days earlier each year under the Western calendar.

The holy month started ominously in southern Thailand, the region where most Thai Muslims live and where an insurgency has claimed thousands of lives. The car bombing started fires at shops and residences and sent black smoke wafting from a row of four-story buildings in a commercial area of Sungai Kolok in Narathiwat province.

Seven people were injured, including four who were briefly trapped on the roof of a burning building, said police Col. Maitree Chimcherd. He said Muslim insurgents hid the homemade bomb in a pickup truck parked in front of a computer store.

On Thursday night, a roadside bomb killed a villager and wounded his companion while they were hunting for squirrels in the woods in Yala province, said police Col. Wichai Jaengsakul.

Still, residents of Narathiwat, Yala and Pattani provinces flocked to local markets Friday to shop for fresh and dried fruit including date palm to be consumed at dusk after the first day of fasting ends.

In Malaysia, where nearly two-thirds of the population is Muslim, people began observing the holy month by heading to mosques Friday night on the eve of Ramadan's start, with special Quran-reading and prayer sessions to proceed nightly throughout the month.

The start of Ramadan is often quiet in Malaysia, with excitement peaking in the final week, when people buy new clothes, food and other supplies to celebrate the end of the holy month.

Many hotels in Kuala Lumpur have begun advertising promotional dinners featuring roast lamb, savory curries and sumptuous cakes for more affluent Muslims to break their fast, while in numerous

neighborhoods, entrepreneurs will set up evening stalls for customers to purchase cooked rice, meat and vegetables to bring home for their families.

Homemaker Karina Hassan said this Ramadan might be significant for her family because her 8-year-old daughter could try fasting for the first time. "She might try to fast for half a day at first," Karina said. "She's always hungry 24 hours a day, so fasting could be tough for her."

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak urged his country's Muslims to set aside their political differences during Ramadan and foster unity among believers. Political rhetoric and mudslinging has intensified in Malaysia over the past year ahead of national elections that must be held before mid-2013.

In Brunei, an air force helicopter crashed late Friday, killing at least 10 people, mostly military cadets being flown home after training. The sultanate's Borneo Bulletin newspaper called it "a national tragedy" that struck a day before the country's Muslim majority marked the start of Ramadan.

Ramadan's start varies because Muslim countries and groups use different ways of calculating when the new moon crescent is sighted.

Muhammadiyah, which uses calendar-based astronomical calculations, believed that the crescent should have appeared after sunset on Thursday. But the government argued it could not be seen by eyes or telescopes, hence Ramadan has to start Saturday.

Pakistan's government has promised there will not be any power blackouts during the key hours when people are preparing for their fast or during the evening when they pray and break their fasts.

"If there is electricity or no electricity, people do fast, and they fast with patience," said Shah Mohammed, who sells nuts in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad. "Allah gives you patience."

In Bangladesh too, Ramadan is likely to start Saturday. However, a national moon sighting committee headed by state minister for religious affairs was to sit Friday evening to make an official declaration.

Parts of India, where about 13 percent of the 1.2 billion people are Muslim, started Saturday, including New Delhi and the Indian portion of Kashmir.



The largest Muslim rebel group in the predominantly Catholic Philippines said fasting there would begin Saturday.

A cease-fire has curtailed fighting and fostered peace talks between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in recent years. Rebel spokesman Von Al Haq said the guerrillas would observe Ramadan but still defend themselves if attacked.

The Philippine military traditionally orders troops to refrain from offensives that could disrupt Ramadan in the southern regions where minority Muslims live. Presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda released a statement expressing solidarity with and goodwill toward Filipino Muslims in the holy month.

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### **33. [Attack, Thailand] More Soldiers Hurt By Roadside Bomb**

Sunday, July 22 2012

<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/national/MORE-SOLDIERS-HURT-BY-ROADSIDE-BOMB-30186705.html>

Southern unrest in Ramadan, the Muslim holy month, continued yesterday with two soldiers wounded by a roadside bomb in Narathiwat

On Friday, first day of Ramadan, a car bomb in Sungai Kolok district wounded eight people, while another roadside bomb in Ra Ngae district wounded seven people, a Ra Ngae district's rubber plantation co-op's storehouse was burned down and a civilian was injured in a Jor Irong district teashop shooting.

Yesterday at 9am, a 5kg bomb exploded, aiming to hurt a six-soldier patrol on three motorcycles in Tambon Manang Taylor's Ban Jood Daeng. It wounded Private Arisman Wayeng and Private Sangworawut Ngamprom, both 23.

Narathiwat Governor Apinan Suethanuwong said the car bomb culprits tried to park the vehicle at a bank but got chased off by guards, so they parked in front of the electrical appliance shop instead. He has had to beef up security at banks in 13 districts.

He said he asked female rangers to help police, soldiers and defence volunteers in manning checkpoints. He also asked for funds from the Southern Border Provinces Administration Centre to demolish wooden homes in Ban Tha Reu in Reu So district, where a July 17 attack killed one soldier, two civilians and wounded six others, and build concrete homes that better shield people.

Internal Security Operations Command Region 4 spokesman Colonel Pramote Phrom called for modern tools for checkpoints to boost efficiency in the combined security forces' guarding seven community and economic areas in the region, as per PM Yingluck Shinawatra's "Safety Zone" policy.

Pheu Thai Party spokesman Phrompong Nopparit condemned the car bomb as savage and cruel. He said the party would gather information in the Deep South to help the government, while Nakhon Si Thammarat Democrat MP Thepthai Senapong urged Yingluck to visit the Deep South to oversee and review if the policy was on the right track and agencies were working efficiently.

Sungai Kolok hotel association head Saengthong Preechawuttidech said the car bomb caused Malaysian tourists to check out and go home and it would take a long time to restore their confidence, while Narathiwat Industrial Council chief advisor Pongsak Chutichaowakun said the car bomb aimed and succeeded in hurting the city's economy.

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### 34. [Attack, Indonesia] Bomb Explodes In Batam, No Injuries

Tuesday, July 24 2012

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2012/07/24/bomb-explodes-batam-no-injuries.html>

A bomb exploded in the vicinity of Haluan Kepri daily newspaper in Batam, Riau Province, on Tuesday morning. No fatalities or injuries were reported in the blast.

Locals residing about 200 meters from the location said that they heard the explosion at around 1 a.m.

The Jakarta Post observed that some part of the cylinder shaped bomb remained intact despite the explosion. Some officers from the Riau Police bomb squad took the bomb part to Riau Police headquarters at 4 a.m. to detonate it since they believed that it had not fully exploded.

The newspaper's general affairs head Rudiyanto said many workers were preparing the printing of the morning edition when the blast occurred.

"We temporarily put into a halt to all the printing work and reported the incident to the Bengkong Police sub precinct," Rudiyanto said.

According to Rudiyanto, the explosion ripped through a van belonging to the newspaper's circulation division.

A senior journalist with the newspaper, Tito Sumarsono, said he thought the attack was linked to the newspaper's reports.

"This is not the first attack [on the newspaper]. In 2008, we also received bomb thrown by unidentified assailants allegedly related to our news reporting," Tito said without elaborating further on what news might have triggered the attack.

Barelang Police chief detective Comr. Yos Guntur said that police had yet to determine whether the bomb comprised of low or high explosives.

"We are investigating the case since we allege that the bomb has yet exploded completely," Yos said.

Police have also yet to determine the motive of the attack.

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### 35. [Trend, Australia] Large Bomb Defused Outside Sydney Pub

Wednesday, July 25 2012

<http://news.ninensn.com.au/national/8504983/large-bomb-defused-outside-sydney-pub>

A bomb designed to cause mass destruction has been defused outside a pub in Sydney's west known to be frequented by bikies.

Police were called to The Mill hotel in Milperra at 7.30am (AEST) this morning after an employee discovered a box with wires on the front steps of the establishment.

Streets around the hotel were shut down as bomb squad officers investigated the package.

Nine News has reported the device was packed with powergel, a high energy explosive usually used in mining operations, that could have caused catastrophic damage in the area.

Destruction was averted when the timing device attached to the bomb failed, freezing on 17 minutes, Nine reports.

A police spokesman said officers attended the scene and immediately put measures in place to protect those in the vicinity of the pub.

"This package appeared to have a number of wires that protruded from it," he said.

"Police then enacted a number of protocols and established an exclusion perimeter around the hotel.

"We then implemented a number of road blocks and evacuated residents purely as a precautionary purpose."

The spokesman said the device was approximately 30cm in length and had been taken away for forensic examination.

"Police have taken possession of an item that is being forensically examined," he said. "We've initiated an investigation into this incident."

The investigation into the incident is being jointly run by detectives from Bankstown Area Command and the State Crime Command.

It had been reported the hotel was owned by John Ibrahim, but the Australian Hoteliers Association has told Nine News there is no connection to the Ibrahim family.

"The owners have absolutely no involvement with the Ibrahim family," AHA (NSW) Director of Policing and Membership John Green said.

"At the moment management is assisting police in relation to a suspect device found on the premises."

The hotel was the scene of a bloody shootout in 1984 when rival bikie gangs clashed at a motorcycle swap meet.

Named the Viking Tavern at the time, the shootout — known as the Milperra Massacre — claimed the lives of seven people, including 14-year-old Leanne Walters.

The other six victims included two members of the Bandidos motorcycle gang and four from the Comancheros.

Police have said that apart from the location there is no link between the current owners of the hotel and those who ran the Viking Tavern.

"This is a new establishment that we've worked very closely with since its inception to ensure a safe environment," the spokesman said.

"There's nothing I'm aware of at this time that would give us the indication as to what would lead to this incident."



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### 36. [Attack, Thailand] Bomb Kills Five Police In Yala

Wednesday, July 25 2012

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/304240/bomb-kills-5-police-in-yala>

Five policemen were killed and another wounded by a bomb explosion in front of a school in Raman district of Yala province on Wednesday afternoon, reports said.

The bomb exploded about 3pm as a police patrol vehicle providing security for teachers was leaving Ban Upoh School in tambon Wang Phraya of Raman district.

One report, which was still not confirmed, said it was a car bomb.

Five police officers on board the vehicle were killed and one other wounded, he said.

The explosion was followed by an exchange of fire between surviving police and the attackers, who then fled.

Police had sealed off the area and called for reinforcements.



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### 37. [Security, Philippines] IED Recovered In Norcot Town

Wednesday, July 25 2012

<http://www.zambotimes.com/archives/49874-IED-recovered-in-NorCot-town.html>

Police patrolling the perimeter area of their base in a remote village in the hinterlands of Arakan town in North Cotabato recovered on Sunday an improvised explosive device (IED), the second this week after government troops overran one of the biggest rebels' enclave in nearby Magpet town.

Lt. Nasrullah Sema of the civil military operations of the 57th IB said the explosive weighed at least eight kilos, with blasting cap, and at least 100 meters of detonating cord, which was exactly the same IED they recovered on July 21 in Barangay Datu Celso, Magpet.

Sema said a resident of Barangay Malibatuan, Arakan discovered the IED when he was tilling his field, around 4:45 p.m. Sunday.

After getting the information, elements of the SAF and Arakan municipal police station went straight to the area and recovered the explosive.

In a statement, the Army's 602nd Brigade of the 6th Infantry Division said the IED, which was placed a few feet away from the municipal road of Arakan town, was very clear that the explosive was intended to inflict casualties to government troops, including civilians, in the area.

The IED in Arakan town was the second the government troops recovered in North Cotabato several days after they overran one of the biggest rebels' enclaves in Magpet town.

The explosive was placed under the custody of the 602nd Brigade in Carmen, North Cotabato, reports said.

The Army hinted the New Peoples' Army (NPA) was behind the bomb attempt.

"This despicable act is a blatant disregard of human rights and a clear violation on the provisions of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Respect for Human Rights and the International Humanitarian Law, which prohibits the use of anti-personnel mine wherein their group is a signatory," the Army statement said.

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### **38. [Special Interest, United States] Colo. Suspect Rigged Apartment Bombs 'To Kill'**

Saturday, July 21 2012

<http://www.uticaod.com/news/x42015797/Bomb-squads-disarm-traps-at-Colo-suspects-apartment>

The Colorado shooting suspect planned the rampage that killed 12 midnight moviegoers with "calculation and deliberation," police said Saturday, receiving deliveries for months that authorities believe armed him for battle and were used to rig his apartment with dozens of bombs.

Authorities on Saturday were still working to clear dangerous explosive materials from inside James Holmes' suburban Denver apartment a day after police said he opened fire and set off gas canisters in a suburban theater minutes into the premiere of the Batman film "The Dark Knight Rises."

In addition to the 12 deaths, almost 60 people were injured.

His apartment was rigged with jars of liquids, explosives and chemicals that were booby trapped to kill "whoever entered it," Aurora Police Chief Dan Oates said, noting it would have likely been one of his officers.

"You think we're angry? We sure as hell are angry," Oates said.

Authorities wouldn't discuss a motive for one of the deadliest mass shootings in recent U.S. history, as makeshift memorials for the victims sprang up and relatives began to publicly mourn their loved ones.. Holmes had recently withdrawn from a competitive graduate program in neuroscience; neighbors and former classmates in California have said he was a smart loner who said little.

But he had apparently prepared the attack at the Aurora theater well in advance, receiving multiple deliveries by mail for four months and buying thousands rounds of ammunition on the Internet, Oates said.

"He had a high volume of deliveries to both his work and home address. We think this explains how he got his hands on the magazine, ammunition," he said, as well as the rigged explosives in his apartment.

"What we're seeing here is evidence of some calculation and deliberation," Oates added.

Federal authorities detonated one small explosive and disarmed others inside Holmes' apartment after sending in a robot to take down a trip wire, FBI Special agent James Yacone said. Bomb technicians then neutralized what he called a "hyperbolic mixture" and an improvised explosive device containing an unknown substance. There also were multiple containers of accelerants, he said.

"It was an extremely dangerous environment," Yacone said, saying anyone who walked in would have sustained "significant injuries" or been killed.

Holmes, 24, was in a county detention facility Saturday, held without bond on suspicion of multiple counts of first-degree murder. He was set for an initial hearing on Monday and had been appointed a public defender, authorities said.

Stories of the dead began to emerge, including including a 6-year-old girl and a man who died on his 27th birthday and a day before his anniversary. Families grieved and waited at hospitals, which reported at least seven wounded still in critical condition Saturday and others with injuries that were likely permanent.

Veronica Moser, 6, had gone to the movies with her mother, who was drifting in and out of consciousness in a hospital intensive care unit, bullets lodged in her throat and abdomen.

"Nobody can tell her about it," Annie Dalton said of her niece, Ashley Moser. "She is in critical condition, but all she's asking about is her daughter."

Veronica had just started swimming lessons on Tuesday, Dalton said.

"She was excited about life as she should be. She's a 6-year-old girl," her great aunt said.

Another victim, 27-year-old Matt McQuinn, was killed after diving in front of his girlfriend and her older brother to shield them from the gunfire, said his family's attorney, Rob Scott of Dayton, Ohio.

Alex Sullivan had planned a weekend of fun, to ring in his 27th birthday with friends at the special midnight showing of "The Dark Knight Rises" and then celebrate his first wedding anniversary on Sunday.

"He was a very, very good young man," said Sullivan's uncle, Joe Loewenguth. "He always had a smile, always made you laugh. He had a little bit of comic in him."

Oates said Holmes used a military-style semi-automatic rifle, a shotgun and a pistol to open fire on the unsuspecting theater-goers. He had bought the weapons at local gun stores within the last two months. He recently purchased 6,000 rounds of ammunition over the Internet, the chief said.

Holmes also bought an urban assault vest, two magazine holders and a knife for just over \$300 on July 2 from an online supplier of tactical gear for police and military personnel, according to the company.

Chad Weinman, CEO of TacticalGear.com, said his company processes thousands of orders each day, and there was nothing unusual in the one that Holmes placed. While his company often receives orders from military units and law enforcement organizations, it is not out of the ordinary for individual police officers or soldiers to place orders, he said.

"Everything Mr. Holmes purchased on July 2 is commercially available," Weinman said, adding he was "appalled" that the material was sold to Holmes before the shooting.

It wasn't known why the suspect chose a movie theater to stage the assault, or whether he intended some twisted, symbolic link to the film's violent scenes.

The Batman movie, the last in the trilogy starring Christian Bale, opened worldwide Friday with midnight showings in the U.S. The plot has the villain Bane facing Bale's Caped Crusader with a nuclear weapon that could destroy all of fictional Gotham.

"The Dark Knight Rises" earned \$30.6 million in Friday morning midnight screenings, and, according to industry estimates, roughly \$75-77 million on the day. That put it on track for a weekend total of around \$165 million, which would be the second highest opening weekend ever, following "The Avengers."

Warner Bros. has announced it would forgo the usual revenue reports until Monday out of respect for the victims. Sony, Disney and Universal also said they would delay reporting box office receipts until Monday, a day later than the routine Sunday releases for Hollywood.

After buying a ticket to the movie, Holmes went into the theater and propped open an exit door several minutes into the film, a federal law enforcement official said. The suspect then returned in protective gear and with high-powered weapons and opened fire, shooting scores of people and picking off victims who tried to flee, officials said.

The shooting was the worst in the U.S. since the Nov. 5, 2009, attack at Fort Hood, Texas. An Army psychiatrist was charged with killing 13 soldiers and civilians and wounding more than two dozen others. It was the deadliest in Colorado since the 1999 attack at Columbine High School, where two students killed 12 classmates and a teacher and wounded 26 others before killing themselves.

After excelling at the University of California-Riverside, Holmes was in the process of withdrawing from a neuroscience Ph.D. program at the University of Colorado-Denver for unknown reasons.

First-year students must take a three-part exam at the end of the academic year to move on in the program, University spokeswoman Jacque Montgomery said Saturday. Montgomery did not know whether Holmes had taken the exam.

As part of the program, Holmes had been listed as making a presentation in May about Micro DNA Biomarkers in a class named "Biological Basis of Psychiatric and Neurological Disorders."

Mary Muscari, a criminology professor at Regis University in Denver who studies mass killings, said she was not surprised Holmes was studying neuroscience and mental disorders.

"It could be he was interested in that because he knows there's something different in him," said Muscari.

She said that several mass murderers are young men in late adolescent or early adulthood. "We're talking about guys when they're at that age when they're testosterone charged, their brains start developing, and it's also when schizophrenia kicks in."

Those who knew Holmes described him as a shy, intelligent person raised in California by parents who were active in their well-to-do suburban San Diego neighborhood. Holmes played soccer at Westview High School and ran cross-country before going to college.

Police said they would begin collecting the personal items left by panicked moviegoers in days and would move out of the theater by midweek. Shaken law enforcement officials urged residents to not stay home.



"I just don't want the shameless and senseless act of one man to make this difficult for families to move on," Aurora Fire Chief Mike Garcia said. "Go out. See a movie. Go out into your city. Don't be afraid."



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### **39. [Special Interest, United States] Colorado Shooting Suspect's Apartment Like A "House Bomb"**

Tuesday, July 24 2012

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-rt-us-usa-shooting-denverbre86n0wt-20120724,0,6701994.story>

The booby-trapped apartment of the man accused of killing 12 people and wounding 58 others in last week's movie theater shooting in Colorado was effectively a "house bomb" rarely seen outside of war zones, a former FBI agent said on Tuesday.

James Holmes' 800-square-foot apartment in Aurora, Colorado, was so extensively wired with explosives and other devices that bomb experts needed to use a small remote-controlled detonation to prevent a blast that likely would have consumed the entire three-story building, officials said.

"This would be one of the first times I think we have ever seen what we can describe as a house bomb in the United States," retired FBI agent Ray Lopez said on CNN Tuesday morning, a day after Holmes, 24, made his initial appearance in a Colorado court.

"We've seen them in places like Iraq and Afghanistan," said Lopez, who was an explosives expert during his FBI career, which included a stint in Afghanistan. "But this is the first one that I can actually recall ever reading or seeing about in the United States where it was actually set to destroy the home."

A law enforcement official who was on the scene during the weekend and has expertise in improvised explosives said the assembly of explosives and trip wires was extensive. Inside the apartment they found 30 aerial shells filled with gunpowder, two containers brimming with liquid accelerants and numerous bullets left to explode in the resulting fire [ID:nL2E8IM00V].

Lopez said the array in Holmes' apartment, which police believe was designed to kill first responders, required no special training to set up.

"This kind of information exists on the Internet," Lopez said. "If you're looking to wire explosives, it is on the Internet. With a little bit of common sense, and he has quite a bit of that, he's very intelligent, he just put it all together and had something ready for the apartment."

Holmes' apartment building remains closed and police have not said when residents will be allowed to return.

Lopez's comments came a day after Holmes made his first court appearance, looking bleary-eyed and emotionless, his unruly hair dyed shades of bright orange and red.

Holmes, 24, who was arrested outside the theater after the massacre, appeared groggy during Monday's brief hearing. He stared straight ahead and occasionally closed his eyes as if fighting off sleep, his wrists and feet in shackles. He will be formally charged on July 30.

Police say the former neuroscience graduate student presented a far different figure last Friday when, dressed in a gas mask and body armor and toting three guns, he opened fire at a packed midnight show of "The Dark Knight Rises" at a theater complex in the Denver suburb of Aurora in the early hours.



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## 40. [Security, Colombia] Armed Forces Destroy 'FARC' Camp In Western Colombia

Friday, July 20 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/25175-colombian-military-strikes-farc-camp-in-choco.html>

A joint operation between Colombia's Air Force and Army dealt another blow to guerrilla group FARC in the country's west Thursday.

Following three months of intelligence work, Colombian forces raided the suspected encampment of the FARC's "Aurelio Rodriguez" Front in Pueblo Rico, a municipality located along the border between the departments of Choco and Risaralda.

Risaralda's Governor Carlos Botero praised the troops, saying "I want to congratulate our National Army for carrying out their duty."

According to Colonel Marcos Pinto, authorities seized a cache of arms, munitions, landmines, communication equipment, six laptops, two USB sticks and uniforms.

The military captured a woman, known by the alias of "Claudia", who allegedly worked as a nurse for the front's top command for over a decade.

The military also wounded two suspected guerrillas, known by their aliases, "Arley" and "Jimmy". The rebels surrendered to security forces, after which they received first aid and were evacuated for further medical care.



A FARC jungle camp

Photo: El Espectador

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## 41. [Attack, Colombia] FARC' Destroys Bridge In Southern Colombia

Friday, July 20 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/25174-farc-destroys-bridge-in-southern-colombia.html>

Suspected FARC guerrillas detonated dynamite on a bridge connecting two municipalities in Colombia's southern Caqueta department, reported local media.

The town of San Vicente del Caguan, located some 400km south of Bogota, was completely cut off from the adjacent municipality of Florencia after the attack.

"For the moment the road is blocked as authorities assume control over the situation. There are no wounded, nor deaths, only material damage," said Luis Eduardo Campo, government secretary of Caqueta.

Authorities blamed FARC's Teofilo Forero Column for the attack.

Caqueta has traditionally been a hotbed of guerrilla activity. In June, oil company Emerald Energy reported a shutdown in production due to repeated attacks and threats from FARC units.

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## **42. [Attack, Colombia] FARC Attack' Stops Oil Production In Northeastern Colombia**

Monday, July 23 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/25188-farc-attack-stops-oil-production-in-northeastern-colombia.html>

An alleged FARC attack in northern Colombia caused a stop in oil production and left thousands of people without clean water, reported local media Sunday.

The explosives attack, which took place at the Caño Limon-Coveñas pipeline in the northeastern department of Boyaca, caused “grave environmental damage” as large amounts of oil poured into a nearby river, according to authorities.

People living in the municipalities near the attack were advised not to drink the water or go near the river.

Colombian state-owned company Ecepetrol said the pipeline transported some 80,000 barrels of crude oil a day before being shut down.

Authorities blamed left-wing rebel group, the FARC, for the attack.

On Sunday morning, Colombia’s energy minister said the oil spill had reached the eastern town of Arauca, where it had contaminated the local water supply.

Oil pipelines in Colombia have been hit by a total of 67 attacks during the first six months of 2012, a 300% increase over the same period in 2011, according to the Ministry of Defense.

The Boyaca region is considered to be under the influence of the FARC's Middle Magdalena Bloc, a medium-sized FARC unit with some 800 armed members.

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