



Weekly News Update

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

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1. Five Win \$900m Anti-IED Contract

Friday, 13 January 2012

<http://washingtontechnology.com/articles/2012/01/13/ied-contract-5-companies.aspx>

Five companies have won contracts worth \$900 million to fight roadside bombs and other improvised explosive devices that kill and wound U.S. soldiers fighting in theater.

The contract from the General Services Administration's Federal Systems Integration and Management Center will support the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO) Counter-IED Operations/Intelligence Integration Center. The contract was announced on Jan. 10.

The winners are:

- BAE Systems Technology Solutions & Services Inc.
- Lockheed Martin Corp.
- SRA International
- Science Applications International Corp.
- Wexford Group International

The companies will now compete with each other for task orders. The contract has a two-year base with three one-year options.

According to GSA, the contractors will provide solutions to predict, preempt, and defeat the IED campaigns and other threats. They also will provide intelligence, irregular warfare, predictive, and special operations analysis support and IT sustainment support.

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2. Pakistan To Form Anti-IED Force

Tuesday, 17 January 2012

http://centralasiaonline.com/en_GB/articles/caii/newsbriefs/2012/01/17/newsbrief-01

The federal government has directed each province to create a new force to curb the use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), media reported January 17.

The new force will consist of skilled anti-IED technicians who can identify and defuse the devices, Jang reported.

The federal government has ordered the four provincial governments to first establish the force at the provincial level and then at the divisional and district levels. The federal government will finance the counter-IED force, media reported.

The decision comes as terrorist use of IEDs increases. In the past four months alone, terrorists used IEDs in 32 incidents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, media added.

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3. Drugs And Explosives Seized In Baghlan Province

Wednesday, 18 January 2012

<http://www.khaama.com/drugs-and-explosives-seized-in-baghlan-province-457>

Afghan Intelligence Department, National Directorate for Security in northern Baghlan province on Wednesday announced, Afghan security forces discovered and seized various weapons, ammunitions and drugs in this province.

According to a press release issued by Afghan National Directorate for Security, Afghan intelligence forces seized at least 188 rounds of heavy machine gun ammos, 5 grenade launcher missiles, 1 artillery rocket, 5 rounds of mortar rockets, 5 76mm artillery rockets and 16 other types of ammunitions including 60 kgs of drugs.

Afghan Intelligence officials said, the drugs and weapons were seized during the past 24 hours from various regions of northern Baghlan province.

The source further added, the weapons and ammunitions were seized from Jelga and Khenjan districts of northern Baghlan province while drugs were seized from central Baghlan district.

According to provincial intelligence officials, Afghan security forces have not detained any suspect behind the weapons and drugs caches that were discovered in this province.

Our correspondent in northern Baghlan province struggled to obtain more information regarding the recent achievements of Afghan intelligence in this province however the intelligence officials were available to comment.

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4. ISAF Discover Multiple Weapons Cache In Afghanistan

Monday, 16 January 2012

<http://www.khaama.com/isaf-discover-multiple-weapons-cache-in-afghanistan-435>

NATO-led International Security Assistance following a press release on Monday said, Afghan and coalition security force conducted an operation in search of a Taliban facilitator in Kajaki district, Helmand province.

The facilitator operates and funds an insurgent cell in Musa Qal'ah district. He also distributes weapons and explosives for use in attacks against coalition forces.

During the operation, an insurgent armed with an AK-47 and multiple grenades displayed hostile intent. Responding to the immediate threat, the security force engaged and killed the insurgent.

Multiple weapons were confiscated and several suspected insurgents were detained during the operation.

The source further added, Afghan and coalition security force discovered an improvised explosive device cache during a routine patrol in Maiwand district, Kandahar province. The cache consisted of multiple IEDs and approximately 165 pounds (75 kilograms) of homemade explosives. The security force destroyed the IED cache without incident. No civilians were harmed during the operation.

The statement also said, Afghan and coalition security force discovered a weapons cache during a routine patrol in Nad 'Ali district, Helmand province. The cache consisted of multiple firearms, grenades, and approximately 850 rounds of ammunition. The security force confiscated the weapons cache and will destroy it at a later date.

In the meantime, Afghan and coalition security force discovered an improvised explosive device cache during a routine patrol Friday. The cache consisted of approximately 5,000 pounds (2,270 kilograms) of ammonium nitrate in eastern Jalalabad city, Nangarhar province.

The cache was confiscated and will be destroyed at a later date.

According to ISAF officials, Afghan and coalition security force in a separate operation discovered multiple improvised explosive devices during a routine operation yesterday. The IEDs contained a total of approximately 100 pounds (45 kilograms) of explosive materials in Nawah district of eastern Ghazni province.

The IEDs contained a total of approximately 100 pounds (45 kilograms) of explosive materials. All IEDs were destroyed on site.

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5. Taliban Kill 20 Afghans In Suicide Attack, Bombings In The South

Thursday, 19 January 2012

http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2012/01/taliban_killed_20_af.php?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+LongWarJournalSiteWide+%28The+Long+War+Journal+%28Site-Wide%29%29

Over the past two days, the Taliban have killed 20 Afghans, including policemen and political leaders, during suicide and roadside bomb attacks in the southern provinces of Kandahar and Helmand.

The attacks started yesterday in Helmand, where the Taliban killed 13 Afghans in two separate attacks in the districts of Kajaki and Nad Ali. In Kajaki, a suicide bomber killed nine people, including two policemen and seven civilians, in an attack at a bazaar.

The Taliban claimed credit for the Kajaki suicide attack, which they referred to as a martyr attack, in a statement released on their website, Voice of Jihad. The Taliban said the suicide bomber was named Hameedullah and came from Helmand, and they claimed that 12 ISAF troops and five Afghan "puppets," a term reserved for Afghan security forces, were killed. But no US and NATO troops were reported to have been killed or wounded in the attack. The statement also accused NATO forces of targeting Afghan civilians and warned them to stay away from NATO troops

"It should be reminded that Islamic Emirate has repeatedly warned civilians to stay away from foreign troops as the barbaric enemy troops deliberately shoot at civilians after an operation," the Taliban statement said.

In an IED attack in Nad Ali, the Taliban killed the district intelligence chief and two intelligence officers, as well as a member of the Helmand provincial council. The Taliban claimed credit for the attack.

The Taliban also claimed credit for today's suicide attack that took place outside of Kandahar Air Field, NATO's largest military base in the south. Afghan officials said that seven people, including a child and three civilians, were killed in the attack.

The Taliban claimed the suicide bomber, Ahmad from Kandahar, "rammed his explosives-laden van into the Land Cruiser convoy of foreign officials in the front gate of Kandahar airbase" and killed "12 invaders." Again, no US and NATO troops were reported to have been killed or wounded in the attack.

The Taliban continue to target local Afghan officials and security forces as part of their assassination campaign. Last week, a key district governor in Kandahar who was instrumental in getting local Taliban fighters to reconcile with the government was murdered.

Dozens of senior Afghan officials were killed last year. The most high-profile assassination occurred in Kabul, when a suicide bomber detonated explosives hidden in his turban and killed Burhanuddin Rabbani on Sept. 20, 2011. Rabbani was the leader of the Afghan High Peace Council, which has been established to negotiate with the Taliban, and also was the head of the Jamiat-e-Islami political party.

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6. Roadside Bomb Kills Two Afghan Police In Khost Province

Sunday, 15 January 2012

<http://www.khaama.com/roadside-bomb-kills-2-afghan-police-in-khost-province-425>

According to local authorities in eastern Afghanistan, at least two Afghan police officers were killed following a roadside bomb explosion in eastern Khost province.

The officials further added, the incident took place late Saturday in Latak area near Khost city after a vehicle of the Afghan police forces struck with a roadside bomb.

A spokesman for provincial police headquarters Ziarat Gul Azhans confirming the incident said, the deceased police officers were working for Afghan counter-narcotics department and were travelling in a corolla type vehicle when the incident took place.

According to local officials, Afghan security forces have launched an investigation in regards to the explosion, however no suspect has been detained in connection to the incident.

No group including the Taliban militants have so far claimed responsibility behind the incident.

Taliban and other militant groups frequently use Improvised Explosive Device and Roadside bombs as the weapon of their choice to target Afghan and NATO-led coalition forces.

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7. Afghan Suicide Attack Kills Seven At Airport

Thursday, 19 January 2012

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-16627129>

At least seven civilians have died in a suicide attack at an airport used by international forces in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar, officials say.

The attacker, driving a car, detonated explosives close to a gate at the perimeter of the airport.

Nato says none of its personnel was killed. Afghan officials say the victims included two children.

The Taliban told the BBC it was behind the attack, which analysts say shows Kandahar's fragile security situation.

A series of recent attacks has shattered a relative peace enjoyed by Kandahar - seen as the spiritual home of the Taliban, as well as being the birthplace of Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

Earlier this month, a series of blasts killed at least 12 people in the city.

Officials say Thursday's attack - which happened at about 13:15 local time (08:45 GMT) - was aimed at foreign forces stationed at the airfield.

Police initially said the suicide bomber had arrived on foot, but the interior ministry later said the attacker had been driving a Toyota Corolla.

Zalmai Ayubi, a spokesman for Kandahar's provincial governor, said eight other civilians had been injured, including two children.

'Dust everywhere'

Gates to the larger US bases in Afghanistan are often crowded with trucks waiting to deliver goods as well as local residents going to or from work on the compounds.

Map

A truck driver, named only as Safiullah, said he had been waiting his turn to enter the base when the blast occurred.

"There was dust and smoke everywhere," he said.

"I got down on my knees. When the smoke lifted, I moved closer. I saw two children dead at the side of the road."

A Nato-led coalition of foreign forces has been in Afghanistan for more than a decade.

Last year, US President Barack Obama announced that tens of thousands of US forces would be withdrawn by 2013 - though 68,000 will remain of the current US force of 90,000.

Nato has started handing over security responsibility to Afghan forces in several provinces.

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However, according to the UN, the number of casualties in continuing violence in Afghanistan has increased.

On Wednesday, a suicide attack and roadside bomb in Helmand province - which neighbours Kandahar to the west - killed 13 people.

A senior security official and tribal elder were among those killed by the roadside bomb, which the Taliban said it carried out.

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8. Afghan Bomb Hits Diggers

Sunday, 15 January 2012

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/afghan-bomb-hits-diggers/2420044.aspx>

Two Australian soldiers were wounded in an insurgent bomb attack just kilometres from the coalition's main military base in Afghanistan's Uruzgan province on Friday.

The soldiers were inside an armoured Bushmaster vehicle travelling in a convoy south of the multinational military base in Tarin Kowt, when an improvised explosive device detonated nearby.

The two soldiers were wounded by the blast and suffered minor injuries, according to Defence.

Acting Deputy Commander Joint Operations Michael Noonan said the scene had quickly been secured, and the two soldiers airlifted out by helicopter for treatment.

"As soon as the device detonated, the area was secured and first aid commenced on the two wounded," Commodore Noonan said.

"A medical evacuation was quickly organised and the two men are now resting comfortably in a satisfactory condition in Tarin Kowt."

Defence would not provide further details about the identity of the soldiers or the severity of their injuries yesterday, and a statement simply said they were "in a satisfactory medical condition".

"Defence's immediate priority is to provide support to the families of the wounded soldiers and no further information will be made available at this time," the statement said.

Tarin Kowt is the main military base for Australian forces in Uruzgan province in Afghanistan.

It has been the subject of regular rocket attacks, although a radar system provides early warning of incoming missiles.

Five Australian soldiers have been wounded in Afghanistan this year, and 218 soldiers have been wounded since 2001, according to Defence.

The IED attack came on the same day as a death of a coalition service member of unknown nationality.

The service member died in Afghanistan's west on Friday as a result of a "non-battle-related" injury, according to NATO.

The fatality brings to 13 the number of international troops killed in Afghanistan this month.

Defence also revealed yesterday that Australian forces had been involved in capturing a senior insurgent leader responsible for kidnappings, IED attacks, and supplying IED parts to insurgents in the areas surrounding the Tarin Kowt base.

The insurgent commander was suspected of leading up to 50 insurgents, according to Defence.

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The leader, and several other "persons of interest", were captured in an operation launched by the Special Operations Task Group and Afghan forces on January 3.

About 110kg of heroin, 90kg of opium and precursor chemicals were also uncovered in a separate operation involving Australian special forces in the bordering Helmand province.

The large haul of drugs, estimated to have a street value of \$US7million (\$A6.7million), was seized by Australian special forces, Afghan forces, and the United States Drug Enforcement Agency on January 8.

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9. Eighteen Killed In Chehlum Blast

Tuesday, 17 January 2012

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/322281/khanpur-another-bomb-recovered-from-chehlum-blast-venue/>

As Khanpur reeled from Sunday's blast that killed 18 people in a Chehlum procession organised by Shias in the area, another bomb was found at the venue on Monday.

As the death toll from Sunday's bomb attack on a Shia mourning procession rose to 21, police on Monday found and defused another explosive device near the site of the first bombing in Khanpur tehsil of Rahim Yar Khan.

Three more injured expired overnight in hospitals, taking the tally to 21, medics said. Over 50 people were admitted to the Tehsil Municipal Hospital Khanpur and Sheikh Zaid Medical College Hospital in Rahim Yar Khan. One of them with life-threatening wounds was referred to Victoria Hospital in neighbouring Bahawalpur district.

Provincial Ministers Iqbal Channar and Mian Abdul Ghafoor, along with top police officers, also flew in to Khanpur. They visited the hospitals and directed the doctors to provide best possible treatment to the injured.

It also transpired on Monday that 14 of the dead mourners were from the same family and had come from the Hajan Kalan area to attend the Chehlum procession in Khanpur.

On Monday a pall of gloom hung over Khanpur as residents mourned their dead. Mass funeral prayers were offered for 14 of the victims. Over 100,000 mourners from all across south Punjab attended the funeral. The remaining dead were buried individually in their ancestral villages.

Police found another explosive device weighing two kilogrammes and wrapped in a polythene bag at a graveyard adjacent to the Imambargah Darbaar Hussain. The Bomb Disposal Squad was immediately called in to defuse the device.

"Perhaps the terrorists wanted to detonate the second bomb to target the funeral," Jam Muhammad Aslam, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Special Branch, told The Express Tribune.

Sources said that a man was also detained for questioning in connection with the bombing. He was first roughed up by mourners and then handed him over to paramilitary rangers who shifted him to an unspecified place for interrogation.

Investigators revealed that Sunday's bomb was concealed in a box strapped to the electricity pylon in which sacred papers were disposed of. Police are trying to track down the culprits.

Khanpur remained tense as rangers patrolled the streets amidst a shutter-down strike. Lawyers also boycotted court proceedings to register their protest against the carnage.

Protests were also staged in different towns and cities of Punjab on the call of Millat-e-Jafria, Imamia Student Organisation and Shia Ulema Council. They blamed the provincial government for 'inadequate security' at the procession route.

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10. Two Bombs Recovered From Chehlum Blast Venue

Monday, 16 January 2012

http://www.shiitenews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3918:khanpur-two-bomb-recovered-from-chehlum-blast-venue-&catid=57:pakistan&Itemid=37

Two bomb, wrapped in a plastic shopping bag, were recovered from the Khanpur area of Rahim Yar Khan district near Imam Bargah Darbar-e-Hussaini on Monday.

According to the Shiite News, The two bombs were found near the same place where another remote control bomb went off yesterday during a Chehlum procession, resulting in the death of 21 mourners. The bomb disposal squad has successfully disposed off these two bombs.

A shutter-strike is being observed in the Khanpur district to mourn the loss of lives. Collective funeral prayers of the martyred will be held at 2:30pm this afternoon at the place of the incident. Lawyers from Rahim Yar Khan and Khanpur also boycotted all court activities to protest against the blast.

According to the Majlis-e-Wehdat local leader Maulna Asghar Taqi, 14 mourners out of 21 martyred in the blast, belonged to the same family. The families of the deceased have set up a camp outside the Khanpur police station and are staging a sit-in.

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11. One Hurt In IED Blast In Landikotal

Wednesday, 18 January 2012

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2012\01\18\story_18-1-2012_pg7_6

One person got injured in a remote-controlled blast in Khyber Sadu Khel area of Landikotal here on Tuesday evening. The bomb was planted in front of a shop. One Muhammad Dost sustained injuries when the bomb exploded. He was rushed to Landikotal Hospital and later on was shifted to a Peshawar hospital due to his critical condition. An FIR has been lodged against the unidentified terrorists and further investigation into the incident is underway.

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12. Eight Killed In DI Khan Suicide Attack

Sunday, 15 January 2012

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2012\01\15\story_15-1-2012_pg1_4

Eight people, including four suicide bombers, were killed when security forces quelled a militant attack on the office of Dera Ismail Khan's district police officer (DPO) on Saturday, police said.

"Three suicide bombers detonated themselves and one was shot dead by the army," Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Inspector General of Police Akbar Hoti told AFP.

"Army and police units have entered the police station and a search operation is over," he said after an operation lasting over two hours.

"We have recovered bodies of four militants, they were all wearing suicide vests," he said.

One police official and three civilians were also killed in the operation, he said, adding that eight others including a policeman were wounded. "We are checking the identity of the civilian casualties to ascertain if they included any militants."

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Minister Iftikhar Hussain, however, told the media that two suicide bombers were gunned down by police while another blew himself up. He said the attackers entered the office in disguise of police officials. The minister said DPO Khalid Sohail remained unhurt and was escorted out of the office by security forces. Interior Minister Rehman Malik blamed Taliban for the attack. "Terrorists attacked security forces," he told reporters.

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13. Civilian, Policeman Injured In Two IED Attacks In Baqubah

Saturday, 14 January 2012

<http://fpreport.org/?p=2440>

A policeman and civilian were injured last night in Baqubah when two improvised explosive devices (IED) exploded in two separate incidents. An IED exploded in central Baqubah's Tahreer neighborhood, injuring a civilian. Also an IED against a police patrol on its way to the first blast, injuring a policeman

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14. Sixty-Four Killings, 137 Wounded In Basra Explosion

Saturday, 14 January 2012

http://en.aswataliraq.info/%28S%282bkdbx55sjsxzt45aefznxj3%29%29/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=146495&l=1

Security sources said here that the result of the suicide bomber reached today to 64 killings and 137 wounded, most of them were women and children.

The source told Aswat al-Iraq that the explosion was targeted against the pilgrims who were visiting Al-Khatwa mosque, 18 km west of Basra.

The pilgrims in Basra are divided into two groups, the first head for Kerbela, but the weaker ones walk to this mosque.

Basra, center of the province, lies 590 km south of the capital, Baghdad.

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15. Seven Cops Dead, Four Civilians Wounded In Ramadi Explosions

Sunday, 15 January 2012

http://en.aswatiraq.info/%28S%282bkdbx55sjsxzt45aefznxj3%29%29/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=146505&l=1

Seven cops were killed and 6 civilians wounded by the tree explosions in Ramadi, police sources said here today.

The source told Aswat al-Iraq that the outcome of the three explosions reached to killing 7 cops and wounding 6 civilians.

Earlier, security source told Aswat al-Iraq that a bombed car was cornered near the Investment Commission mid of Ramadi city, which led to wounding 4 civilians in the preliminary toll, in addition to burning four civilian cars, which were, accidentally, near the explosion site.

Gunmen attacked Ramadi Police Department, south west of the city, which led to killing 7 cops.

Three explosions shocked the city, that led to unknown figure of casualties.

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16. Iraq Car Bomb Attacks Kill Eleven People

Tuesday, 17 January 2012

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2012/Jan-17/160075-iraq-car-bomb-attacks-kill-11-people.ashx#axzz1jwJA1tNG>

Car bombs ripped through two Iraqi cities Monday, killing at least 11 people, Iraq officials said, in the latest attacks targeting the country's Shiites a month after the U.S. military withdrawal. Violence has surged across Iraq since the last American troops left the country. A string of bombings has left at least 150 people dead since the beginning of the year. Most of the attacks appear aimed at Iraq's Shiite majority, suggesting Sunni insurgents are seeking to undermine the Shiite-dominated government.

Iraq is also facing a sectarian political crisis after the Shiite-dominated government charged Sunni Vice President Tareq al-Hashemi with running death squads, issuing an arrest warrant against him just as the last U.S. soldiers crossed into neighboring Kuwait last month.

The first blast Monday morning struck a Shiite district outside of Mosul, a predominantly Sunni city some 360 kilometers northwest of Baghdad, police and health officials at Mosul's Al-Jomhuri hospital said. Eight people were killed and six wounded.

Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief reporters.

A few hours later, an explosives-laden car detonated inside an industrial zone of the predominantly Shiite town of Hillah, about 95 kilometers south of Baghdad, killing three people and wounding 15, according to a local police spokesman, Muthana Khalid.

A member of the Mosul local council, Qusai Abbas, said the car bomb blew up near a group of houses where members of the Shabak minority have settled since being driven out of Mosul by Sunni militants during fierce sectarian fighting a few years ago.

The Shabaks are ethnic Turkomen and Shiite Muslims. Most of them live in villages east of Mosul, the provincial capital of the ethnically mixed Ninevah province that is predominantly Sunni Muslim.

Mosul has been a hub for Al-Qaeda in Iraq in past years. Other Sunni insurgent groups have battled Kurdish militias for control over the city, Iraq's third largest, killing thousands of civilians in suicide bombings and shootings.

Hundreds of Christians, Yazeedis and members of other minority groups have been driven out of Mosul in recent years as militants used violence and intimidation to tip the ethnic and religious balance to their group's favor.

Abbas, who represents the Shabak community in the local council, said three children and four women were among those killed in Monday's attack. He said that Iraqi security forces have failed to protect people from violence and blamed politicians who he said "want to stir up sectarian fighting again."

"Some politicians are trying to use sectarian hatred to make political gains," Abbas said.

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The government crisis taps into the resentments that have remained raw in the country, despite years of efforts to overcome them. Minority Sunnis fear the Shiite majority is squeezing them out of any political input, and Shiites suspect Sunnis of links to insurgency and terrorism.

Hashemi denied charges against him and fled to the autonomous Kurdish region, out of reach of authorities in Baghdad.

On Sunday, a court in Baghdad ruled that Hashemi must stand trial on terror charges in Baghdad, rejecting his request to be tried in the ethnically mixed city in Kirkuk, where he believes he could get a fair trial, but would be in danger in Baghdad.

Neighboring Turkey has warned the political standoff risks flaming sectarian tensions.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan Tuesday spoke to Iraqi Prime Minister Maliki by telephone, to say: "Democracy will take a beating if the doubts being felt by partners in the coalition government transform into animosity," according to the Anatolia news agency.

But Iraq hit back Monday, summoning Turkey's envoy to Baghdad to protest over what Iraqi officials described as "interference" in its government and warning that Turkey itself would suffer if its actions sparked conflict in the Middle East.

Iraq's Foreign Ministry said Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Jawad al-Deruki summoned Yunus Demirer to "express the Iraqi government's concern over remarks made recently by Turkish officials ... which could negatively affect relations between the two countries."

Deruki said Turkey should "avoid all things that could disturb good bilateral relations," the ministry said in a statement.

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17. Five Injured In Two Baghdad Explosions

Tuesday, 17 January 2012

http://en.aswataliraq.info/%28S%282bkdbx55sjsxzt45aefznxj3%29%29/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=146532&l=1

Five persons have been injured in two excessive explosive charges blasts in eastern and northern Baghdad on Tuesday, a Baghdad security source reported.

"An explosive charge blew up in southeast Baghdad's Zaafaraniya district, targeted against a police patrol, wounding 2 of its elements and a civilian, who were driven to hospital for treatment," the security source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

He said that another explosive charge blew up, also on Tuesday in northern Baghdad's al-Kasra district, targeted against an Iraqi Army patrol, wounding 2 of its elements, along with causing damage to one of its vehicles.

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18. Internet Helps Arrest Fifteen Suspects In Bat-ha Explosion

Wednesday, 18 January 2012

http://en.aswataliraq.info/%28S%282bkdbx55sjsxzt45aefznxj3%29%29/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=146547&l=1

Security sources in Thi Qar announced that the internet contributed in uncovering who the group behind the Bat-ha terrorist suicide explosion were, that led to killing 50 persons and wounding 80.

The source told Aswat al-Iraq that the photo of the terrorist who blew himself up was recognized.

The reporter said he saw him with some people in the city, who extended shelter to him, one day prior to the explosion.

The publishing of the photo of the terrorist was met with condemnation by viewers, particularly from Europe and America.

A suicide bomber, with 40 kg, of highly explosive materials, exploded himself that led to killing 50 and wounding 80 of the pilgrims waking to holy city of Karbala.

Nassiriya, the center of Thi Qar province, lies 365 km south of the capital, Baghdad.

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19. Bomb Car Dismantled, Eight Killed In Another Explosion

Monday, 16 January 2012

http://en.aswatiraq.info/%28S%282bkdbx55sjsxzt45aefznxj3%29%29/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=146517&l=1

Iraqi army unit dismantled a bombed car east of Mosul with no casualties reported after one hour of another explosion in the city, security sources said here today.

The source told Aswat al-Iraq that the area was surrounded for fear of expected other bombs there.

Earlier this morning, another car exploded, 22 km east of Mosul, resulting in killing 8 civilians, including women and children, and wounding four.

No other details were given.

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20. Boko Haram: Army Acquires Bomb Detectors

Tuesday, 10 January 2012

<http://pmnewsnigeria.com/2012/01/10/boko-haram-army-acquires-bomb-detectors/>

The Nigeria Army on Tuesday stated that it has acquired modern explosive detectors and other Hi- Tech equipment in an effort to boost existing capabilities in the field, all in the bid to counter any form of terrorism that may arise in any part of the country.

SECURITY & SECURITY1: Inspector General of Police, Mr. Hafiz Ringim displaying photographs of the damaged properties at the Kano State Government House after a Security Meeting at the State House, Abuja. 10/01/2012

The army, through its Director of Public Relations, Major General Raphael Isa, stated that the battle against the dreaded Boko Haram Islamic fundamental sect has been yielding positive results leading to the sect members search for new operational grounds or abode.

The army spokesman also stated that the Army troops on Operation Restore Order III, recently raided a suspected terrorists' hide out in Pompomari area of Damaturu in Yobe state. According the Isa, an ammunition dump was discovered in addition to the recovery of a number of AK 47 rifles and Improvised Explosive Devices.

While reviewing the operations of the army last year, the image maker gave an indication that the army recovered 32 assorted arms and 339 ammunitions of different calibres among other items in the series of cordon-and-search operations in conjunction with other security agencies. He said the search also led to the recovery of about 40 small arms and subsequent arrest of suspected Boko Haram sect members.

“Major challenges posed by the Boko Haram sect have been reported mainly in Borno and Yobe states. Their prime targets have been mainly isolated offices of security agencies, a few army patrol vehicles and some places of worship. Based on very reliable information, our Operation Restore Order I recorded very remarkable successes in the conduct of operations generally”

Reacting to the 3 day ultimatum issued by the Islamic fundamentalist sect to non Muslims residing in the North to leave the area, General Isa said the army is aware of the threat but advised all and sundry to ignore the ultimatum as it is poised to protect lives and properties of innocent citizens in any part of the country.

Speaking on the readiness of the Army to counter any terrorism in Nigeria, the Army spokesman stated that a Quick Response Groups have been established and equipped with modern equipments including New Troops Carrying Vehicles to be supported by armoured vehicles to boost mobility of troops on internal security operations and for troops' protection.

According to Isa, “Additionally, 54 Mitsubishi pick ups and 50 Toyota Hilux vehicles mounted with radios to ease communication of troops durring conduct of internal security exercises have been acquire”

While expressing appreciation to Nigerians for the cooperation, information and support it has been receiving, the Nigerian Army called for more support for its operations with timely and accurate information from the Nigerian public.

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21. TFG Foils IED Attack Plans

Monday, 09 January 2012

[http://somalireport.com/index.php/post/2484/TFG Foils IED Attack Plans](http://somalireport.com/index.php/post/2484/TFG_Foils_IED_Attack_Plans)

Security and intelligence forces from Somalia's Transitional Federal Government (TFG) today arrested four al-Shabaab militants transporting explosive devices, according to government officials.

Hassan Ali Mohamed, a TFG security official, confirmed the arrests to *Somalia Report*.

"Yes, the brave security forces seized explosive devices and four al-Shabaab fighters, including the driver, in the Black Sea section as their car was coming from Elasha Biyaha. They wanted to slaughter the innocent people of Mogadishu. The suspects were taken to jail and will face prosecution as soon as possible," said Mr. Hassan.

Since fleeing Mogadishu in August, al-Shabaab has repeatedly vowed to attack the TFG and AMISOM forces in the capital.

Meanwhile two people were killed and three others were injured after fighting broke out in Mogadishu's Karan and Heliwa districts between TFG forces, supported by African Union peacekeeping forces (known as AMISOM), and al-Shabaab fighters.

Abdirahman Lafe Yare, a resident of Heliwa district, confirmed the fighting to *Somalia Report*.

"Yes, the fighting broke out in Wahar Adde village of Heliwa after al-Shabaab attacked TFG and AMISOM bases. Two people died and three others were injured. All of the victims were soldiers or militants except for one civilian who was injured the fighting. He was taken to hospital for treatment, the resident explained.

A TFG official who spoke to *Somalia Report* on the condition of anonymity claimed the government forces repelled the attack.

"Al-Shabaab attacked our bases in Heliwa district, but we defeated them. They escaped the scene after we killed two of their fighters and injured others," said the official.

Local residents also confirmed the fighting.

"Fighting erupted near Digfer hospital and there was heavy shelling," said Ali, a local resident.

Al-Shabaab has not yet commented on the fight.

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22. A Day Of Fighting, Arrests, IEDs, And Killing

Saturday, 13 January 2012

http://somalireport.com/index.php/post/2520/A_Day_of_Fighting_Arrests_IEDs_and_Killing

Today marked yet another day filled with fighting, arrests, IEDs and killings across southern and central Somalia as Somalia's Transitional Federal Government (TFG) military forces battled its own police forces in Mogadishu, TFG forces killed five al-Shabaab fighters in Gedo, and Ethiopian forces arrested 30 insurgents and imposed a curfew in Beledweyne.

At least eight people were killed and more than 10 others were injured after two separate fights broke out between Somali police forces and military forces at KM4 junction and Tarbuunka village of Mogadishu on Friday.

Local residents reported that the confrontation at KM4 started when the military forces who were walking by the Hotel Naso Hablood in KM4 and ordered police forces to leave the area, which resulted in the fight.

"Three people died, two of whom were policemen, while the other one was among the military forces. Some of the injured were residents who were around the fighting area," eyewitness Ali Habeb, told *Somalia Report*.

During the fighting, all the movement and the transport around KM4 junction was stopped, but has since returned to normal.

In a second incident, three civilians were confirmed dead while six others from both sides were badly injured after TFG forces fired at each other in Tarbunka village of Hodan district in Mogadishu.

The battling forces were in charge of securing humanitarian aid that was to be taken to the displaced camps in Tarbunka junction and other parts of Hodan district.

"The three victims were all women and the injured were internally displaced children," a resident in Hodan told *Somalia Report*. "The fight resulted in the displacement of those already displaced in the camps."

Senior officials of the TFG would not officially comment, but said investigations were underway. Meanwhile, the fighting wasn't limited to the capital as TFG soldiers in Gedo region killed five al-shabaab fighters in Fafahdun village of Gedo region while they were planting an improvised explosion device (IED) on the road, according to residents and local officials.

"Yes, the brave soldiers have killed five al-shabaab in Fafahdun village of Gedo region 80km east of Bardere district while they were planting an explosive device on the road to kill innocent people. We were heading that way and saw them immediately. We shot them in the head and chest," said Warfaa Sheikh Aden, a TFG commander in Gedo region who spoke to *Somalia Report* by phone.

"After we killed them, our soldiers dug out the explosion device on the road and took it somewhere else so it would not cause any casualties. We also buried them in Fafahdun village by getting help from Kenyan troops," he added.

The commander also warned the militants will face punishment if they continue their fight and urged the youth to defect.

"My message to the al-Shabaab fighters is this: TFG soldiers are not joking and will not be kind to anyone who is creating insecurity. My message to the Somali youth with al-Shabaab is this: May you wish to join the TFG soldiers and work with the government towards peace because al-Shabaab's time is getting to the end," said Mr Warfaa. Al-Shabaab was not available for comment.

In a day of arrests, at least more 30 people, including members of the Amniyaad (assassinations) squad, were arrested after Ethiopian and TFG soldiers conducted security operations in city to root out the remnants of al-Shabaab fighters. The joint forces also imposed a curfew in the city, according to the residents and TFG officials who spoke to Somalia Report.

"Yes, the allied forces imposed the city a curfew at night, which residents are complaint, also the Ethiopians arrested and detained twenty people on Friday," Mohamed Jabarti, a resident in Beledweyne district told Somalia Report.

Twenty of the suspects were arrested in the main town and another 10 suspects in Koshin village. "Our forces, with support of Ethiopians troops, have arrested 20 suspects including one of their top leaders in Bedelweyne Ma'alim Bishaar. We seized him when he was hiding in a house and jailed him. These operations and the curfew will remain in effect until al-Shabaab been cleaned from the city. Our aim is to enhance the security of the city," a TFG military officer in Beledweyne said on the condition of anonymity.

The Ethiopian and TFG forces also conducted security operations in Koshin village of east Bedelweyne district after the residents reported that a landmine had been planted in the village and arrested ten more al-Shabaab suspects.

"The residents told us that a group of terrorist militias entered the village so we headed to the village immediately and caught them. We arrested ten suspects including local businessmen and residents who were helping al-Shabaab. We will not accept anything which will destabilize the villages and the district," Abdi Muktar Omar, a TFG officer in Beledweyne told Somalia Report.

Since the TFG took control of Beledweyne with the help of the Ethiopian troops at the end of last year, there were several operations in the town to tighten the security and in the process several al-Shabaab fighters and explosive devices were seized.

Members of Somalia's parliament from Hiraan region, who were in Beledweyne for several days, on Friday announced that nine members will be in charge of creating the stabilization plan for Beledweyne district and the rest of Hiiran region villages.

MP Mahamed Amiin said the nine committee members were chosen as result of a meeting they had with cultural elders and the elites of the region.

"The most important role which the committee will carry out is setting the plans on how to stabilize the town," he told Somalia Report.

TFG officials, headed by the Prime Minister Abdiweli Mohamed Ali Gaas, recently visited Beledweyne town shortly after the TFG and Ethiopian forces took control of the town from al-Shabaab.

The administration in Beledweyne displayed a number of bodies they claimed were killed by al-Shabaab before the insurgents fled the city.

At least 20 corpses, some torn apart, were shown to the public.

"We don't know who they are. We are in the process of cleaning the area," said Mohamed Noor Agajof, the Doohada Shabelle administration spokesman. "They were covered with some sand and you could see them easily. They were not buried correctly," he added.

Mohamed told Somalia Report said that the corpses were found near the police station and blamed al-Shabaab for the murders.

"Only al-Shabaab can do something like this. No one else can manage such killings. It is like a massacre. You can see that this is terrorism. Some of the corpses seem to have cut their body into pieces while still alive," said Mohamed.

He explained that the bodies had only been recently uncovered and are working with locals to try and identify the bodies.

"Maybe the victims were brought from somewhere else. We'll try to identify them, although we want to bury them properly and immediately," said the spokesman. "Perhaps they had been jailed in here and were killed when the Shabab decided to flee."

Al-Shabaab was not available for comment.

Noor Ali Farah contributed to this report.

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23. Explosives Seized In Linden

Sunday, 15 January 2012

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/explosives-seized-in-linden-1.1213050>

Four men were arrested for allegedly being in possession of explosives and illegal firearms in Linden, Johannesburg, police said on Sunday.

Captain Pinky Tsinyane said the suspects, aged between 27 and 53, were arrested near a shopping complex on Friday.

Tsinyane said two of the men went into a shop while the other two waited in the car.

Police saw that the vehicle had no number plate and searched it. They discovered the explosives and later found two unlicensed firearms on the other two men.

The suspects were expected to appear at the Randburg Magistrate's Court on Monday.

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24. Bomb Attacks In Imphal

Wednesday, 18 January 2012

<http://thesangaiexpress.com/sangai-express-news.php?newsid=12461>

Bomb attacks carried out at the residences of Congress workers still continue in different parts of the valley districts.

Some unidentified persons lobbed a hand grenade at the residence of a Congress worker, one Akoijam Bijoy of Tera Sapam Leikai.

Bijoy is the former Deputy Director of the Agriculture Department.

CorCom has claimed responsibility for the attack. The blast occurred last midnight at around 12.30 and there were no casualties reported from the incident.

In yet another incident, Mayang Langjing residence of Mayang Langjing GP Pradhan Takhellambam Tompok was also attacked with a hand grenade by unidentified persons last midnight around 1.30.

Meanwhile, a hand grenade which failed to go off was located from the residential gate of one Chingtham Manichou of Kha Sanjenbam Chingtham Leikai.

A police team has picked-up the hand grenade today morning.

CorCom has also claimed responsibility for the bomb attacks at the residence of Chingtham Manihar of Nambol Senjam last night at about 11.25 as well as for planting a bomb at Valentina pharmacy opposite to MU Main gate between the nights of January 16 and 17.

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25. Bomb Scare In Banke

Monday, 16 January 2012

<http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Bomb+scare+in+Banke++&NewsID=316969>

Bombs found along Nepalgunj-Gulariya road section caused panic among public in Banke today.

A bomb disposal squad from Nepali Army defused three socket bombs, a time bomb and a Sutali bomb kept near Indrapur canal at around 10 am.

Pamphlets and a flag of Bhagat Singh-led Janatantrik Tarai Madhes Mukti Party were found at the site.

The outfit had earlier placed bombs along Nepalgunj-Kohalpur road section on January 8 as police have launched a special operation to nab outfit leader Bhagat Singh.

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26. Cops Looking For Seller Of Red Alarm Clocks

Saturday, 14 January 2012

<http://www.nst.com.my/local/general/cops-looking-for-seller-of-red-alarm-clocks-1.32035>

Police are appealing to those who sold three or more red alarm clocks to an individual to come forward and help investigations into the bomb blasts on Monday at the Jalan Duta Court Complex.
alarm clock

An alarm clock similar to the ones used in the improvised explosive devices that exploded outside the Jalan Duta Court Complex.

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Police revealed yesterday that the alarm clocks were used in the improvised explosive devices (IED) that exploded outside the court complex.

City Criminal Investigation Department chief Datuk Ku Chin Wah said the clock was cheap but "not commonly sold at established shops".

"It is unique because of its multi coloured numerals," he added.

On Thursday, police said the IEDs were the work of experts as knowledge and experience were essential in the building of the devices.

The devices were made from simple materials, including a PVC pipe, an alarm clock, ball bearings, wires and batteries. The cost of one such device is about RM20.

The explosives were hidden inside plastic traffic cones and placed at three locations near the court complex. It was also reported that the cones used in the incident were different from the ones used by the police.

The three explosions went off in a space of 30 minutes, about an hour after the acquittal of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim of a sodomy charge.

Five people, including a lawyer, suffered minor injuries. The blasts also damaged a few vehicles parked near by.

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27. Bomb Material Found In Thailand After Terror Warnings

Monday, 16 January 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/01/16/us-thailand-security-idUSTRE80F0CY20120116>

Thai police discovered bomb-making materials after the detention of a Lebanese man suspected of planning an attack, but the prime minister insisted on Monday that everything was under control.

Authorities beefed up security in parts of the capital, its two main airports and other areas popular with tourists after the United States and Israel warned on Friday of a possible terrorist attack.

The statements have irked Thailand, which is concerned about damage to its thriving tourism industry and has so far appeared to play down the warnings.

Police detained a Lebanese man reportedly carrying a Swedish passport. Officials said he had links with Hezbollah, a Shi'ite Islamist group in Lebanon backed by Syria and Iran that is on the U.S. blacklist of foreign terrorist organizations.

National police chief Prieupan Damapong told reporters the suspect, named as Atris Hussein, had given police an address where bomb-making material was being kept.

Officers discovered large amount of substances that could be used to make explosives in a building in Samut Sakhon, southwest of Bangkok, including 4,380 kg of urea and 10 gallons of liquid ammonium nitrate.

Prieupan said the suspect had maintained that his group had not planned an attack in Thailand but intended to transport the substances to a third country, which he would not name.

Asked about the discovery, Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra told reporters: "I have been informed. I would like to ask people not to panic. We are currently in control of the situation."

Thai officials have seemed irritated by travel advisories issued by the U.S. and Israeli governments, followed by several more since Friday. Foreign Minister Surapong Towijakchaikul said diplomats from countries that had issued warnings would meet with him for an explanation on Monday.

Tourism is a big money-earner for Thailand and ministers are keen not to deter travelers, especially after the hit to tourism from severe flooding in 2011 and political unrest in 2010.

Yingluck also instructed the defense ministry to consult U.S. embassy officials to discuss its terror warning and seek a retraction.

A defense envoy met the embassy's military advisory group, Edward A. Swanda, on Monday during which it asked for better coordination on the release of information, spokesman Thanathip Sawangsaeng told reporters.

However, an embassy spokesman later said the terror warning to its citizens was valid and the United States had no plan to rescind it.

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Defence Minister Yuthasak Sasiprapha told reporters in the northern city of Chiang Mai on Sunday that Thailand was not the target, although officials have also said that areas of Bangkok frequented by Westerners and Israelis could be hit.

Yuthasak said that a second suspect had managed to leave the country.

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28. Cabbage-Fitted IED Found In Thangmeiband

Thursday, 19 January 2012

<http://www.e-pao.net/GP.asp?src=1..170112.jan12>

Timely detection of a powerful improvised explosive device (IED) by personnel of A Company 44 Bn CRPF today prevented what could have been a disastrous incident.

The proscribed PREPAK, which is a constituent unit of CorCom has claimed responsibility for planting the bomb.

Deployed on area domination duty near their temporary camp at Khoyathong Tombisana High School campus, one of the CRPF personnel namely Constable Ashok Kumar spotted some wires underneath a crumbled RCC stair of the local pond in Khoyathong Polem Leikai.

The CRPF man is said to have initially spotted light fumes emanating from under the stair and realised that it was an explosive device on closer inspection.

On being informed a team of police bomb squad arrived at the site and removed the IED.

When contacted some officials of the CRPF company told The Sangai Express that the IED contained about 500 grams RDX with several bolts and nails, powerful enough to kill or maim many people.

The IED was found wrapped in a sliced/hollow cabbage tucked under a crumbled step of the stair on the eastern side of the local pond.

The stair at the pond from where the bomb was found and inset the explosive
The stair at the pond from where the bomb was found and inset the explosive

Senapati bus parking is located barely 30 metres from the spot where the IED was found at around 11 am.

A large number of civilians were also present around the pond in connection with the flag hoisting ceremony of Khumukcham Joykisan, a Trinamool Congress candidate in Thangmeiband AC for the 10th Manipur Legislative Assembly election.

A blast at the election 'welcome gate' of Joykisan on January 10 had wounded atleast six persons.

At around the same time as the Khoyathong incident, another IED exploded close to the residence of another Trinamool Congress candidate namely Pangambam Premananda of Naharup Mayai Leikai.

The bomb exploded at the Iril river bank near the candidate's residence where a large number of people had gathered in connection with the flag hoisting ceremony.

Premananda will be contesting the State Assembly election from Kshetrigao AC.

Preparation was on for a public meeting at the local ground when the explosion occurred.

There is no report of any casualty or injury in the blast.

Experts opined that the river embankment and bamboo grove at the explosion site contained impact of the blast.

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29. Two More Landmines Found In Jan 5 Blast Area

Sunday, 15 January 2012

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/Two-more-landmines-found-in-Jan-5-blast-area/articleshow/11496085.cms>

Security personnel found two more landmines in Kandhamal district on Friday evening, taking the total number of such death traps unearthed since the January 5 landmine blast in Srirampur to four.

The landmines of 20 kg explosives were found during combing operation along the 10 km long Srirampur-Ora road, said Kandhamal SP J N Pankaj on Saturday. The landmines were defused later, he said.

Police claimed to have averted another major landmine blast in the area with the latest find. Three policemen had died and several were injured in the January 5 blast, suspected to be triggered by Maoists, at the same place under the district's Kotagarh police station area. Earlier, security personnel had found two landmines from the same area on Tuesday.

Locals are in a state of panic with the fresh landmine haul. Police suspect there can be more landmines planted by Maoists in the area. The 10-km-long road between Srirampur and Ora is full of potholes and takes long hours for any vehicle to traverse. Police suspect the difficult terrain might have helped the ultras to plant landmines there.

Police said combing operation has been intensified with the induction of more forces after the death of three police constables in the January 5 blast. Operations have also been intensified in other Maoist infested areas of Ganjam, Gajapati and Rayagada districts, sources said. Night buses are being checked thoroughly and police are keeping a watch on the movement of suspected people.

Besides district police forces, specialized central forces including Cobra, Central Reserve Police Forces (CRPF), Special Operation Group (SOG), Indian Reserve Battalion (IRB), etc., are engaged in the combing operations, sources said.

Police had arrested at least two persons, including Junesh Pradhan, chairman of Daringibadi panchayat samiti, in connection with the Srirampur blast. The other arrested person was identified as Somanath Pradhan, an alleged Maoist supporter, in Janabadi village, under Daringibadi police station, sources said.

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30. Three Kg, IED Recovered In Kokrajhar

Sunday, 15 January 2012

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1120115/jsp/northeast/story_15006878.jsp

An IED weighing 3kg was recovered from Goreswar market in Baksa district by security forces this morning. It was later defused by experts.

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31. Perpetrators Of 2011 Mumbai Blasts Were In City Till January
Monday, 16 January 2012

<http://www.mumbaimirror.com/article/15/2012011620120116020627187184f407d/Perpetrators-of-137-serial-blasts-were-in-city-till-early-January.html?pageno=1>

Three men who planned and executed last year's serial blasts in Mumbai, were holed up in an apartment in Byculla, not more than 15 minutes' walk from the Anti-Terrorist Squad's Nagpada headquarters, till just a few weeks ago, reliable sources have told Mumbai Mirror.

And not just that, the trio - comprising two Pakistanis and India's most wanted Yasin Bhatkal alias Shahrulkh of Indian Mujahideen - during their stay in Mumbai, found time to travel to Delhi to plant a bomb at the capital's High Court that killed 11 people and left over 70 injured in September last year. The safe house, an apartment on the third floor of Habib building near Byculla Railway Station, is now locked and its owner – a woman – has been detained by the ATS for questioning. An unidentified man who had negotiated the apartment's lease, has also been picked up. The only information available about this man so far is that he runs a factory in Bhiwandi.

The owner of the apartment has told the police that her three tenants did not even redeem their security deposit when they left the house in the first week of January, without informing her that they were leaving for good. She has told the investigators that the apartment was rented out some time in April last year. The Mumbai serial blasts that left 26 people dead and over 100 injured; took place three months later in July. Mirror reporters went to Habib building on Sunday, only to find the apartment locked.

The residents refused to speak about their former neighbours; they even refused to confirm whether they saw the trio in the building. The ground-plus-three storey building itself is dilapidated, and each floor houses around six small apartments.

Bhatkal's two Pakistani associates who helped him plant the bombs at Zaveri Bazar, Opera House and Kabutarkhana in Dadar; and subsequently at the Delhi High Court's gate number 5, have been identified as Waqas and Tabrez.

A team of Delhi Police's Special Cell has been in Mumbai for almost a month now, assisting the ATS after receiving information about Bhatkal and his two associates' presence in Mumbai. But the effort may be too little, too late because the three as per the latest information available with investigators, have managed to leave the country.

ATS chief Rakesh Maria remained unavailable for a comment despite repeated attempts from Mirror on Sunday. A message left on his cell phone too remained unanswered.

The Delhi Police received information about Bhatkal and the two Pakistanis' presence in Mumbai, after interrogating seven Indian Mujahideen operatives from Purnia and Madhubani districts of Bihar; and in Chennai in November last year. A huge cache of arms and ammunition was recovered from them. The explosives for Mumbai and Delhi blasts, they have told the Delhi Police, came from Chennai.

The Indian Mujahideen has been badly hit, and faces a massive shortage of manpower ever since Mumbai, Gujarat and Delhi Police launched crackdowns in 2008. Following the arrest of seven Indian

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Mujahideen operatives last year, it was revealed that Iqbal Bhatkal, Riyaz Bhatkal and Yasin Bhatkal were in Delhi for two months after the 2008 Batla house encounter.

Later, the trio moved to Darbhanga in Bihar, where they stayed in an accommodation facilitated by German Bakery blast suspect Qateel. Later, Riyaz and Iqbal crossed over to Nepal and from there to Pakistan, leaving Yasin behind to execute the Mumbai and Delhi blasts.

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32. Explosives For 2008 Blasts In Capital Came From Udupi

Friday, 13 January 2012

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/Bangalore/Explosives-for-2008-blasts-in-Capital-came-from-Udupi/Article1-796342.aspx>

Alleged Indian Mujahideen members Salman alias Chotu and Shahzad Ahmed alias Pappu have allegedly confessed to the Bangalore Police that they had got explosives for the 2008 Delhi serial blasts from Udupi, a coastal town in Karnataka. Both LeT-trained Salman and Shahzad, natives of Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh and arrested by Delhi Police last year, are co-accused in the Chinnaswamy stadium blast case in 2010.

The Bangalore Police had recently interrogated them for allegedly conspiring with the Bhatkal brothers (Riaz Bhatkal, his brother Iqbal Bhatkal and Yasin Bhatkal) when they were in Pakistan and Sharjah.

In their confessional statement, a copy of which is with Hindustan Times, they allegedly told the Bangalore anti-terrorism cell that their associates Mohammed Saif (now in jail) and Khalid (absconding) went to Udupi on August 31, 2008, and brought the explosives to Delhi on September 3, 2008. The Delhi blasts took place on September 13, 2008.

When contacted, Delhi Police spokesperson Rajan Bhagat refused to comment. "We have not been authorised to speak on terror-related matters," he said.

The two also told the Bangalore Police that explosives used in several terror attacks across India, including the Ahmedabad, Varanasi and Delhi blasts, were brought from South India.

According to the confessional statement, Indian Mujahideen founder Riaz Bhatkal told them when they were in Karachi for training that ammonium nitrate (used as explosive) was bought from dealers in Mangalore and Udupi. They said the same substance used by fishermen to kill schools of fish in the ocean was also used in bombs.

Pappu was in Bangalore for seven months between 2007 and 2008, police said. He came in November 2007 and stayed with one Ravish Fahim. Later, Pappu stayed with one Azeem Ahmed, a native of Azamgarh.

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33. Why IM Chose Sleepy Udupi To Setup Its Terror Base

Friday, 13 January 2012

<http://www.rediff.com/news/slide-show/slide-show-1-why-im-chose-sleepy-udupi-to-set-up-its-terror-base/20120113.htm>

When the Indian Mujahideen first made its appearance on the Indian stage in early 2008, the Delhi police came hunting for leads in the coastal town of Udupi in Karnataka. And they did go back with some clues. Vicky Nanjappa reports

The Delhi police had interrogated Mohammad Saif who reportedly told them that he and one of his accomplices had picked up explosives in Udupi. These explosives were allegedly used for the 2008 Delhi blast which took place a month after Bengaluru and Ahmedabad were bombed.

A couple of months back several youth were picked up from Chennai in connection with more recent terror attacks. What foxed investigators was that there were newer modules and the most powerful was in Bihar.

However, while examining the investigations that were also conducted by the Bengaluru police it has been found that a key module continued to operate out of Udupi and this in turn posed a bigger danger to India's national security.

Going by the dynamics of a town like Udupi it is pretty strange that the Indian Mujahideen has chosen this area to carry forward its operations. It is known to be a stronghold of the Bharatiya Janata Party, despite which the IM has decided to operate out of this town.

Investigations show that there are a couple of factors that have led to the IM setting shop in this coastal town and if the menace is not cracked soon, it could lead to a bigger headache for security agencies.

Saif, during his interrogation, had told the police that there was easy access to ammonium nitrate in the coastal belt and hence Riyaz Bhatkal, an IM operative and one of India's most wanted men, had told them to source it from this area. It is said that ammonium nitrate is also used by fishermen in the area and hence it had become easier to source.

However, police officials say that choosing a base one has to do more than just the availability of ammonium nitrate. The IM has never found it difficult to source ammonium nitrate and the more important fact is that there is no real tough laws regarding this.

For quite some time now there has been talk about the entire Mangalore coast turning into a hub for terror activity.

Mangalore is heavily connected with areas such as Bhatkal and also Kasargod and there have been an influx of certain anti-social elements into these places. Both these areas depend heavily on Mangalore for smuggling activities and it is not strange that they may have used the same network to set up a terror hub as well.

However, the IM has been cautious not to make its operations big in Mangalore city. They have chosen a more low profile Udupi (60 kms away) instead intentionally as the heat would be lower. The other

reason is that Udupi, unlike Mangalore, is not a commercial hub and is more of a sleepy temple town which is an added advantage for such activists to carry out operations without being noticed.

What investigators are most worried about is the recruitment of cadres from these areas. Udupi has eternally been an education hub. Students from different parts of the country and also the world can be found in Udupi and also neighbouring Manipal as these are the primary centres for education in Karnataka.

This, according to the police, could be a very crucial factor leading up to recruitments. The Students Islamic Movement of India and the IM have always chosen students for their operations and they could have found no better place than these two towns in coastal Karnataka.

Moreover, they could also find the recruitments to be easier as these belts have been communally charged due to local politics. Communal tensions have been the best reason cited while recruiting terror operatives, it has been found in the past.

In the past few years the police have found a very strong connection between Udupi and operatives from Bhatkal (which is 40 kms from Udupi).

Roshan Khan is one such example. Hailing from Bhatkal, Khan had managed operations from hubs in Udupi. This had been found during a major seizure from an IM hub in Udupi three years back when the police recovered AK-47s and also four kilograms of explosives.

During the probe it was also found that some members of the IM located in Udupi had helped not only procure arms but were also used for logistic support. There was also another aspect that came out that terror modules in Kerala were linked to the modules in coastal Karnataka.

The police however would not make the mistake it did in 2008 when it picked up leads and did not go ahead and act upon it.

The recent arrest of IM operatives in Chennai has once again led investigators to believe that the strongest IM modules in India today are in Bihar and coastal Karnataka apart from parts of Kerala.

Delhi police sources say that they would be going through the investigation report and other details that have been picked up by the Karnataka police.

The Bengaluru police also believes that a part of the operation of the IM which carried out the attack at the Chinnaswamy Stadium in the city could have had the support of the module operating out of Udupi.

There have been instructions to keep a close watch on such activities in these areas in particular, as the political weather is something that the IM would try and counter especially in coastal Karnataka.

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34. Police Arrest Maoists, Seize Explosives In Latehar, Bokaro

Tuesday, 17 January 2012

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/states/other-states/article2806235.ece>

Security forces seized explosives and arrested two Maoists from separate places during anti-naxal operations in Jharkhand's Latehar and Bokaro districts, police said on Monday.

As many as seven IEDs were recovered at Barwadih in Latehar district during the day. In the two-day search launched by the CRPF and Bokaro district police since Sunday, the police nabbed Maoist 'area commander' Janaki Mahato and alleged rebel Moti Mahato from villages situated near the Jhumra foothills, additional Superintendent of Police Prasant Karn told reporters. A huge cache of explosives was recovered during the search. Besides four IEDs, 500 grams of gun powder, 15 metre black wire, 20 kg ammonium nitrate, a double-barrel gun and one country-made gun were seized, the ASP said.

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35. Five Bombs Recovered, Two Kidnapped In Imphal

Wednesday, 18 January 2012

<http://ifp.co.in/imphal-free-press-full-story.php?newsid=4034&catid=1>

he daily incidents of political intimidation on Congress candidates and party workers shows no let down with 5 bombs being recovered from different locations today. A hand grenade was recovered from the residence of Moirangthgem (O) Inakhunbi w/o Jiten. Inakhunbi is Chairperson of Kakching Municipal Council and is said to be an active worker for the INC candidate for Kakching constituency and sitting MLA Y. Surchandra.

The bomb, detected by family members was taken away safely by a team of Kakching police.

Another bomb was recovered from the residence of Takhellambam Koshi(67), aid to be a Congress worker from Ngaikhong Khullen bazaar in Bishnupur district. The bomb was found within his residential complex this morning by family members and was taken away by Bishnupur police.

A hand grenade was also found at the residence of Chingkhamb Tomba (63) of Bishnupur Ward no 3 in the early morning hours today. He is also said to be a congress worker.

In yet another incident, a hand grenade was found in the courtyard of Moirangthem Borajaoba from Lamlai Makha Leikai, who is said to be a congress worker. A hand written note with a caution not to get involved in the forthcoming election was found near the grenade. Another grenade was also found opposite to the Manipur University gate this morning. The Singjamei police took away the grenade.

Two persons identified as Thoi and Lamkhair said to be party workers of DD Thaisi, INC candidate and sitting MLA for Karong AC (Senapati) have been reportedly kidnapped by unidentified armed persons yesterday evening from Karong.

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36. Much More Than A Grenade Attack: A Question Of Principle

Friday, 20 January 2012

<http://www.thesangaiexpress.com/sangai-express-news.php?newsid=12139>

The reason for the bomb that was placed at the office of a vernacular daily on January 2 and the hand grenade that was lobbed at the office of The Sangai Express on January 6 night run deeper than the mere question of publishing or not publishing a statement issued by some self proclaimed sons of the soil. Time for the public, at least those who can think, to dwell over this point and make their assessment impact on the ground reality. The ominous designs, the threats and intimidations that accompanied the bomb and the hand grenade as well as the threatening calls that preceded and followed the overt acts of violence are the pulls and pressures on that character universally known as Principle. Make no mistake about it. The media in Manipur and The Sangai Express could have easily escaped the threats and the gift wrapped bomb as well as the pinless/leverless hand grenade if we had gone with the flow of the tide and sold out our soul. All we had to do was publish all the statements issued by these sons of the soil and kow tow to their diktats/fancy and whims. And in a society which has increasingly plunged itself into a cesspool of the characterless, where morale and principles have been given the quiet burial a long time back, this would have been the easy way out. This is what the present day society in Manipur would have advocated. In the present context of Manipur today, be practical is a call which says compromise, bury all that you believe in, go with the tide, why stick your neck out and in many ways this seems true and advisable. Given this culture, to many the media or The Sangai Express may appear adamant, even to the extent of being foolhardy or stubborn as understood in the context of the mule. But there is something called Principle and if the media in Manipur today enjoy a certain reputation such as one of the few or even the last standing institution which has some scruples about what is wrong and what is right, it is because of this belief. Not that we expect any reward or gallantry medals or anything material for sticking to this belief and if adhering to this belief translates into sticking our necks out, let it be so, is all that we can say at this juncture. Will the conscientious public please take note of this ?

We are not speaking from a high pedestal. We are not Holy Cows. We are certainly not passing a judgement on the morale of society or the people. And like all other professions, the bombs, the threats, the ominous signs etc may be taken and understood as professional hazards. But please note, if compromise dictates life, the media could have easily escaped all these hazards. Publishing the statements from these patriotic sounding groups is not rocket science technology. It does not call for any specialised knowledge. It certainly does not require one to wrack one's brain over it. But it is all about the question of credibility, a question of how true one can be to one's profession. The rot that Manipur finds itself in today is largely due to this culture of compromising our inner most beliefs and convictions and this is most visible in public offices where individuals who once appeared to have the good of society and the people in their minds gradually transform themselves to become synonymous with the very system against which they raised their strongest voice. Each threat that is delivered to the media, each bomb that lands at the offices of the media houses, each act of overt or covert violence against the media is a call to all the conscientious section of society to wake up to the dangers lurking ahead. If and once the media capitulates to these threats and intimidations then it goes without saying that its credibility will stand exposed and eroded. And without elaborating we all know what a toothless media can do whenever a crisis like the 2001 uprising, the 2004 protest, the 2009 incident erupts. The media does not speak for itself. It is here to speak out on behalf of everyone, including those very sons of the soil who had no compunction in lobbing a grenade which was meant to explode at the office of The Sangai Express. We rest our case here.

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37. More Than 1,930 Sq. Km. Cleared Of Landmines In North

Wednesday, 18 January 2012

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2012/01/18/news31.asp>

An area exceeding 1,934 out of 2,061 square kilometres of lands in the North which were dotted with land mines and booby traps have been cleared by the end of 2011 and Economic Development Minister Basil Rajapaksa has given specific directives to expedite the clearing of the remaining 126 square kilometres.

According to Economic Development Minister Basil Rajapaksa, a contingent of 3,600 persons who are trained in mine clearing are involved in the clearance of remaining lands and they are mainly from the humanitarian demining unit of the Sri Lanka Army and other foreign and local organizations.

Mine clearance activities are closely monitored by the Humanitarian Mines Clearance Centre which is functioning under the Economic Development Ministry.

More than 759,138 landmines, booby traps and unexploded devices have been recovered by the deminers so far.

An Economic Development Ministry official added that the Government has brought down more than 39 demining machines to the country. The Humanitarian Demining unit of Sri Lanka Army's Engineering Corps is playing key role in the mine clearance.

In addition to six foreign organizations, two national organizations are involved in the mine clearance in the North.

The government had to face impediment to resettle over 300,000 people who were displaced by terrorist atrocities in the North due to lands dotted with mines and booby traps.

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38. North Colombia Car Bomb Toll Raised To Four

Friday, 13 January 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/21520-north-colombia-car-bomb-toll-raised-to-4.html>

Four people were killed when a car bomb detonates in northeast Colombia. Authorities blame the FARC's 33rd Front for the attack.

General Marco Lino Tamayo, an Air Force commander of the Colombian Armed Forces told the Associated Press that among the dead are the driver of the vehicle, a 12-year-old child, a 21-year-old woman, and woman standing near the scene of the explosion.

The bomb went off at approximately 10:00AM in the town of Tibu, close to the Venezuelan border in Norte de Santander department.

Many houses were also damaged in the attack, which took place two blocks away from a police station.

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39. Two Vehicles Recovered In Arauca

Tuesday, 17 January 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=es&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.prensalibrecasanare.com%2Farauca%2F2244-recuperados-dos-vehnculos-en-operaciones-antiterroristas-del-ejrcito-en-arauca.html>

APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION:

In an act of terrorism carried out by members of the ELN boundary commission on the road that leads to the town of Saravena Cubara, in the village four corners, were approached two vehicles violently occupied more than 60 passengers after pressure and threats had to go down to the strength of the vehicles that were stolen by terrorists who fled.

After knowing the fact, in a swift action, troops Reveiz Pizarro Mechanized Group were deployed to the area, to check the status of the passengers, and then proceed to the recovery of stolen vehicles.

As a result, was placed the white buseta XVW plate 432, on the sidewalk Charro Center, Guayacan farm, and the white bus Termoking, XUE-179 plates of Socorro, on the sidewalk Tinajas (Puerto Contreras), both vehicles attached to a national tourism company. According to intelligence information known, the vehicles have been stolen to commit terrorist acts against civilians in the sector.

Furthermore, Meteor Plan troops in Flor Amarillo, located Tame a ramp with a cylinder packed with explosives, abandoned by terrorists Alfonso Castellanos Mobile Column of the FARC, which was destroyed in a controlled manner.

Also, another site located on the road that leads to Tame Cabuya 2 were neutralized improvised explosive devices in a cylindrical shape with ANFO, which would be activated against the civilian population and military units providing security in the area.

In other results, logging and control area was located by units belonging to the Mobile Brigade. N. May 1 terrorist camp belonging to the Tenth gang of the Farc in the village municipality of Tame Galaxies. The hiding place for up to 50 terrorists, had been abandoned by the terrorists after noticing the presence of troops on the site.

The Command of the Eighth Division civilians invited to report through the lines 146 and 147 of the network of cooperating any suspicious act indiscriminately may affect peace in the region.

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40. Colombian Army Recovers IEDs, Mortars, and ANFO

Thursday, 12 January 2012

http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=es&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.florecianos.com%2Fweb%2Findex.php%3Foption%3Dcom_k2%26view%3Ditemlist%26task%3Dtag%26tag%3Dflorecia%26Itemid%3D181

APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION:

Continued military operations conducted by Army troops in the department of Caquetá, in the last hours allowed neutralization of a mine field installed by terrorists of the FARC.

The action occurred when members of Battalion No. 4 Ground Combat in development of offensive operations against members of the gang `Hector Ramirez 'of the FARC, came to the village of La Estrella in the municipality of Cartagena del Chaira and found the trap prepared with six deadly improvised explosive devices, mortar shells 12, 40 kilos of ANFO, 20 kilos of shrapnel and 150 meters of detonating cord.

Later, the troops proceeded to cordon off the place while explosives experts performed the controlled destruction.

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41. Anti-Tank Missiles Seized From FARC In Cauca

Sunday, 15 January 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=es&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.radiosantafe.com%2F2012%2F01%2F15%2Fincautan-misiles-antitanque-de-las-farc-en-el-cauca%2F>

APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION:

According to the authorities, these weapons threaten the FARC pretended Caucana population and the security forces stationed in this region.

The operation was carried up to the San Joaquin district of Tambo municipality where it was found a cache containing three anti-tank M-72 grenades for RPG, grenade IM-26, a grenade MG-HG -101, Four cartridges links to M-60 machine gun, a provider for Galil rifle and a radio communications.

M-72 grenades seized are primarily used to penetrate armored targets such as tanks, bunkers or fortifications light also penetrates armor plate of 300 mm has a range of 1000 meters, for operation using a tubular type pitcher is made of fiberglass.

A technical expert in explosives off was commissioned to override found mortars, anti-explosive man also claims that the attack has been achieved, this may have caused damage to over 500 meters radius. The first hypothesis suggests that suspected militants of the FARC would be irresponsible to operate mortars found.

The goods seized were left at the disposal of the competent authorities. The artifacts will be destroyed under controlled.

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42. Ecuador Destroys Eleven WWII Bombs

Tuesday, 17 January 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=es&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.elespectador.com%2Fnoticias%2Felmundo%2Farticulo-321536-ecuador-destruye-11-bombas-de-ii-guerra-mundial>

APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION:

Ecuador will complete the destruction of eleven U.S. bombs from World War II, most of them of more than 200 kilos, which were found in 2010 by fishermen in the Galapagos Islands, the Ministry of Defence.

The delegate of the Minister of Defense to destroy Galapagos pumps, Xavier Drouet, told Efe that exploded yesterday "successful" the first six bombs, but today will be destroyed five others.

Drouet told the Americans had a military base in Baltra, so this weapon was used by soldiers in that country "to test shot" during the Second World War, but although they were only for testing contained explosives.

Since the bombs were found in October 2010, they have been stored in the Captaincy of Puerto Ayora on Santa Cruz Island, but the Ministry of Defense decided to destroy them because they represent "a great risk to the population," explained Drouet.

Since the explosives belonged to the United States, a group of Ecuadorian soldiers traveled to Oklahoma, where that country's military trained them on the composition of the weapons and how it should be destroyed.

The explosion of the bombs is being carried out jointly by the soldiers, police and firefighters in the military zone of the island of Baltra, where people live, and also "is being careful not to affect any kind" of Galapagos said Drouet.

To prevent damage, he said, the bombs are buried in a hole three feet deep by two wide, where they are detonated.

Moreover, the destruction is done from the local time of 14.00 (20.00 GMT), not to affect tourism, as in Baltra no hotels and only visitors during the day.

The bombs are carried one by one in separate vehicles, rather than bring them all together to avoid that if one breaks cause a bigger explosion, said the ministerial delegate.

Also, the military has enabled "one hospital with 20 beds air" if there were any wounded to be transported to Guayaquil.

In October 2010, Galapagos fishermen found on the seabed Bartolomé Island eleven bombs while conducting a routine cleaning and plastic bottles.

The Ministry of Defense reported that it is ANM30 9 bombs, one and one ANM64 ANM57 while Drouet noted that the smallest weighs about 45 kilos and the largest about 226.

In October, the time of discovery, the Washington naval lieutenant told Efe Tomay that between 1939 and 1946 the Americans had in Galapagos Baltra military base, so that in the region have found other bombs, but the great peculiarity of these is its size.

"It's bigger than ever encountered. They are between one meter and five feet long and three inches in diameter," explained Tomay.

The officer explained that oceanic movement "pumps covered sand" and found that it took so long.

Military base in Baltra had 16,000 troops and was important for the U.S. Army for its strategic location in the Pacific.

The Galapagos Islands were the world's first inscribed on the List of World Heritage in 1978 and every year thousands of tourists come to the area.

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43. Car Bomb Defused In Tamaulipas

Wednesday, 11 January 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ajuaa.com%2Fnews%2Ftamaulipas%2F56190-Desactivan-automvil-con-explosivos-Tamaulipas.html>

APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION:

Federal police defused in Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas, a car bomb that was near the premises of the State Ministerial Police and the Public Ministry Agency Common Jurisdiction.

The Public Security Secretariat (SSP) federal noted in a statement that the unit was located in the Benito Juarez, when receiving a call of support from the state police personnel, which indicated the presence of a vehicle parked in an unauthorized area , which was perceived a smell of fuel.

There, special agents of the Directorate General of Explosives placed the vehicle on the premises of the State Ministerial Police on the street corner September 16 General Alberto Carrera Torres, which applied a security fence.

This is a 1989 model Chevrolet Corsica type, without license plates, and immediately activated the protocol of disarmament, which allowed us to locate in the trunk a timer connected to a cellular phone with two wires that were directed to a load apparently powder, as well as two cans with gasoline.

Federal Police personnel with specialized safety equipment, proceeded to neutralize the device, which was in the car, which were extracted 10 sausage emulsion with a weight of 40 kilos of gunpowder.

In addition to the drums of gasoline, 20 liters each, also had an electric fuses, cell phone, a timer and various electronic devices placed in a plastic box.

The place was attended by the prosecutor of the Federation before whom they were made available to the insured to conduct investigations and determine responsibilities.

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44. Car Bomb Found Near Texas-Mexico Border

Wednesday, 11 January 2012

<http://deadlinelive.info/2012/01/11/car-bomb-found-near-texas-mexico-border/>

While the so-called mainstream media outlets continue with their obsession to report news about terrorism in the Middle East, Mexican drug cartels are escalating their tactics to fight the drug war to include car bombs near police and government buildings, improvised explosives on the side of roads or bridges, and even Mumbai-style terror attacks like the one at Casino Royale in the city of Monterrey last year.

Yesterday, a car bomb was discovered outside a police station in the city of Victoria, in the Mexican border state of Tamaulipas. The only website and TV station in the U.S. that reported the incident was KGBT in the Rio Grande Valley.

The incident took place outside the Tamaulipas State Police office when authorities discovered an abandoned 1989 Chevy Corsica with a trunk full of explosives. Fortunately, the explosives did not detonate.

Military and federal police bomb disposal units were dispatched to the scene and were able to neutralize the car bomb. The bomb disposal unit found ten sticks of dynamite, two gas cans and a cell phone that was wired as the detonating device.

In the state of Tamaulipas, the Mexican military is currently running most of the police departments. The car bomb incident may turn out to be a significant setback in the process to hand off the police stations from the military back to the towns and cities.

Just last week, Mexican President Felipe Calderon deployed 8,000 troops to this region in the state of Tamaulipas. This announcement was issued just days after the U.S. Military held a secret meeting with the Mexican army in the border city of Matamoros, Tamaulipas.

Last month, the U.S. Ambassador to Mexico (and former assistant ambassador in Afghanistan), Anthony Wayne announced that the U.S. Government will assist the Mexican military with an additional \$700 million in military equipment and aid.

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45. Bomb Squad Investigates Gas Containers And Grenade Simulators

Thursday, 12 January 2012

<http://www.mynews4.com/mostpopular/story/Bomb-squad-investigates-gas-containers-and/KNJWdRiv5UG4-hWn5WVtwQ.csp>

On Monday, January 9th, 2012, Explosives Ordnance Disposal Technicians of the Tahoe-Douglas Bomb Squad were called to investigate unexploded ordnance left outside of a retail gun store in downtown Gardnerville.

The owner of the store discovered the ordnance sitting outside the rear of his shop when he opened for business on Monday morning, January 9th, 2012. The ordnance had been deposited at the location overnight by an unknown person.

EOD Technicians John Preston and Jeff Schemenauer responded to the location and examined the ordnance, consisting of unexploded gas canisters, grenade simulators, and an 81mm smoke mortar round.

The ordnance was inspected, rendered safe, and transported to the Douglas County Shooting Range, where it was disposed of via controlled detonation.

Citizens are reminded that disposing of ordnance by merely dropping items off at a particular location poses a serious safety hazard to others, and is illegal. While most firearm retailers are, by the nature of their trade, knowledgeable in ordnance and ballistics, they normally do not have the means to dispose of UXO. Fortunately in this incident, the items were safely collected and destroyed by capable EOD personnel.

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46. Teens Charged In Two Separate Hoax Bomb Threats

Wednesday, 11 January 2012

<http://swvolusia.com/2012/01/11/teens-charged-in-two-separate-hoax-bomb-threats/>

Four teens face charges this week for two separate hoax bomb threat incidents – one at SpruceCreekHigh School, Port Orange and the other at GalaxyMiddle School, Deltona. At the high school, three students worked together Friday to write a note saying “I’m going to blow the school up” because they thought it would be funny. One of the students then turned the note in to a school administrator at the end of the day. On the opposite side of the county, a middle school student is accused of writing a note on Monday that included the phrase “on Friday the 13th 2012 I will bomb this school.” The note was found in a girl’s bathroom. All four teens are discovering that making bomb threats is serious business, as the Volusia County Sheriff’s Office criminally charged the high school students Monday and will charge the middle school student Wednesday.

During sixth period gym class at SpruceCreekHigh School, a 14-year-old girl, a 15-year-old boy and a 16-year-old boy participated in writing a note that stated a bomb would go off in a specific room Monday afternoon. They included the first name of a student one of the boys didn’t like as the signature at the end. The girl later told her seventh period teacher that she had found the note in the gym, and she was then directed to take it to the dean’s office. School administrators and the school resource deputy searched the specified room both Friday and Monday, but didn’t find anything. On Monday they used surveillance video recordings to try to identify who had left the note in the gym, but instead saw that the girl and two boys wrote it. The boys were identified and during interviews admitted to writing the note.

The investigation at GalaxyMiddle School revealed that a 14-year-old girl was seen during second period by another student writing a note about bombing the school. The girl had also told the witness that she was sick of the school. Later, the girl went into a bathroom and tossed the note on the floor.

The teens were not arrested, but charging affidavits will be filed with the State Attorney’s Office. The high school girl is charged with making a false report to law enforcement, making a false report about planting a bomb and conspiracy to commit a crime. Both high school boys were charged with conspiracy to commit a crime. The middle school girl will be charged with threatening to place or discharge a destructive device.

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47. Officials Seize IED In Kizlyar District, Dagestan

Wednesday, 11 January 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=ru&tl=en&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.1tv.ru%2Fnews%2Fcrime%2F195988>

APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION:

In Dagestan, the explosion killed a law enforcement officer, and 10 policemen were injured. A powerful homemade device consisting of a few bombs and tanks with explosives was found in the Kizil-Yurt district. The area was cordoned off, began operation on mine clearance. However, at some point the bomb worked.

And in the Kizlyar district of Dagestan in these moments is a special operation to neutralize a group of militants. On offer to surrender the criminals returned fire. We started the fight. Wounded servicemen of internal troops. This minute is known about the destruction of a gangster. The rest (according to preliminary data, two of them) continue to resist.

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48. Sappers Killed By Bomb Blast, One Dead, Eight Injured

Wednesday, 11 January 2012

http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=ru&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.ru%2Fimgres%3Fq%3D%25D0%2594%25D0%25B0%25D0%25B3%25D0%25B5%25D1%2581%25D1%2582%25D0%25B0%25D0%25BD%2B%25D0%25B1%25D0%25BE%25D0%25BC%25D0%25B1%25D1%2583%26um%3D1%26hl%3Dru%26newwindow%3D1%26sa%3DX%26biw%3D1600%26bih%3D733%26tbs%3Dqdr%3Aw%26tbnid%3Dsp6rj2MJ6UeSXM%3A%26imgrefurl%3Dhttp%3A%2F%2Fwww.topnews.ru%2Fnews_id_47542.html%26docid%3DS4MPGusjuOgWUM%26imgurl%3Dhttp%3A%2F%2Fwww.topnews.ru%2Fupload%2Fnews%2F2012%2F01%2F6670e4ed%2F6670e4ed_1.jpg%26w%3D340%26h%3D255%26ei%3DxdUVT_y9H4j50gHm5OXEAQ%26zoom%3D1%26iacl%3Drc%26dur%3D729%26sig%3D103516255029385630176%26page%3D1%26tbnh%3D155%26tbnw%3D213%26start%3D0%26ndsp%3D18%26ved%3D1t%3A429%2Cr%3A8%2Cs%3A0%26tx%3D87%26ty%3D93

APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION:

In Kizilyurt region of Dagestan FSB sappers killed by a bomb, which attempted to clear, reports Life News.

One staff member SWAT FSB Dagestan was killed, another eight were seriously injured.

In carrying out search operations FSB operatives discovered an explosive device set, consisting of tens of kilogrammov explosives.

The volume of explosives was 5 pyatidesyatilitrovyyh cans. Wires connected to a bomb had been stretched a mile from the bomb site. Walking along the wires, engineers stumbled upon a camouflaged trap, and the bomb was brought into action.

As reported by "Interfax" the district police department, was stuffed with metal bomb submunitions, and, according to preliminary data could be blown up in the village of Komsomolsk.

With the explosion killed vzryvotekhnicheskoye department of Dagestan Interior Ministry riot police senior lieutenant Camille Khalilov. As explained RIA "Novosti" a law enforcement source in Dagestan, were injured, including four policemen and four members of the republican FSB.

The investigation initiated by the fact of PE criminal case under Articles 223 of the Criminal Code (illegal production of weapons) and 317 of the Criminal Code (attempt on the life of a law enforcement officer). The maximum penalty - life imprisonment.

At the scene the engineers are still working. Sappers continued clearance of the remaining bombs, and therefore the track "Caucasus" is covered for travel.

On January 7 the same Kizilyurt region of Dagestan, near the village of Nechaevka was found "Lada Priora", which was an improvised explosive device and components for making bombs with a total capacity of 30-35 kg of TNT. The sappers defused a dangerous discovery.

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49. Shepherd Survives Walking Over Buried Mine

Thursday, 12 January 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=ru&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fstav.kp.ru%2Fonline%2Fnews%2F1058139>

Last night, near the Dagestani village Sergokala in a field near a local winery out grazing a 23-year-old shepherd.

- The guy suddenly stepped on an improvised explosive device such as booby traps, consisting of buried in the ground 2-liter cans of paint. By happy coincidence triggered only a detonator. The boy was not injured - report to the Interior Ministry of Dagestan.

On the scene were seized: the case of metal cans, a mixture of ammonium nitrate and aluminum powder, the battery "Krona". The issue of a criminal case.

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50. Authorities Seize Weapons, IEDs, And Precursors

Saturday, 14 January 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=ru&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.itar-tass.com%2Fc1%2F316063.html>

APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION:

In the vicinity of the village of Great Areshevka Kizlyar district of Dagestan was found last night a large terrorist base, designed for 20-25 people.

As reported by ITAR-TASS news agency in the Interior Ministry of Dagestan, "dug-out area of 30 square meters consisted of two residential buildings with an autonomous power supply." "In the course of his examination were found about 400 rounds, 20 electric detonators, pressure-elektrozamykateli / 10 pcs / electrical equipment for the manufacture of improvised explosive devices, electrical, clothing, food, and religious literature," - added to the ministry.

The Interior Ministry also reported that in the dugout were three improvised explosive device consisting of two 10-liter buckets, one bucket capacity of 15 liters.

Arrived on the scene specialists vzryvotekhniki Russian Interior Ministry troops destroyed the dugout and the APC.

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51. Palestinians With Bombs Caught En Route To Court

Monday, 16 January 2012

<http://www.jpost.com/Defense/Article.aspx?id=253894>

Border Police intercepted two Palestinians carrying eleven pipe bombs who were likely on their way to carry out an attack at the Samaria military court, as one of the murderers of the Fogel family was being sentenced.

The suspects, both in their 20s, were trying to cross the Salem checkpoint near Jenin, when their nervous conduct aroused the suspicions of a veteran Border Policeman.

"They were placed in a bomb-proof examination hut for a search, but did not cooperate," Border Police spokesman Supt. Shai Hakimi told The Jerusalem Post.

Security personnel became even more suspicious and declared a "situation bell," which is code for strip search of suspects thought to be carrying weapons.

The search revealed eleven pipe bombs, a homemade gun, and ammunition.

The suspects were arrested, and the explosives were neutralized by Border Police bomb squad officers.

Last week, Palestinian suspects attempted to cross the same checkpoint with pipe bombs, and were apprehended by the same Border Policeman who became raised the alarm on Monday.

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52. IDF Thwarts Terrorist Squad Attempting To Plant IED

Wednesday, 18 January 2012

<http://idfspokesperson.com/2012/01/18/idf-thwarts-terror-attempt-explosive-device/>

A short while ago, an Israel Air Force aircraft and armored corps soldiers targeted a terrorist squad that was planting an explosive device near the security fence in the northern Gaza Strip. Hits were confirmed.

An explosion was identified, originating from the explosive device the terrorists attempted to plant near the security fence with the intention of harming IDF soldiers.

This is the second incident in 2012, following approximately 30 similar incidents over the course of 2011.

The IDF will not tolerate any attempt to harm Israeli civilians, and will operate against anyone who uses terror against the State of Israel. The Hamas terror organization is solely responsible for any terrorist activity emanating from the Gaza Strip.

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53. Military Disarms Two IEDs In Daraa

Thursday, 19 January 2012

<http://www.sana.sy/eng/337/2012/01/19/395034.htm>

Military Engineering Units today in Daraa dismantled two explosive devices, prepared to be bombed in places crowded with civilians.

An official source in Daraa stated that the first explosive weighs 40 KG put in a plastic vessel to the west of al-Sabel garden, adding that the second explosive weighs 8 kg put near al-Hussein Mosque.

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Special Feature: [*A Hezbollah Threat in Thailand?*](#) (STRATFOR)

January 19, 2012 | 1213 GMT

By Ben West (STRATFOR)

On Jan. 12, Thai authorities arrested a man they say was a member of the Lebanon-based Shiite militant group Hezbollah who was plotting an attack in Bangkok. In uncovering the plot, Thai police cite cooperation with the United States and Israel going back to December 2011. Bangkok is indeed a target-rich environment with a history of terrorist attacks, but today Hezbollah and other militant and criminal groups rely on the city as more of a business hub than anything else. If Hezbollah or some other transnational militant group were to carry out an attack in the city, it would have to be for a compelling reason that outweighed the costs.

The suspect was identified as Atris Hussein, who was born in Lebanon but acquired Swedish citizenship and a passport after marrying a Swedish woman in 1996. Hussein was arrested on immigration charges as he was trying to board a plane at Suvarnabhumi airport, Bangkok's main international airport. Police said another suspect is still at large and possibly already out of the country. Hussein's arrest on Jan. 12 was followed by a statement the next day from the U.S. Embassy warning U.S. citizens in Bangkok of the potential foreign terrorist threat in the country and encouraging them to avoid tourist areas. Other countries, including the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and Israel, issued similar warnings. Thai police have responded by increasing security in tourist areas like Bangkok's Khao San Road and the island of Phuket.

Then, on Jan. 16, some 200 Thai police officers searched a three-story commercial building in a town along the coast 32 kilometers (about 20 miles) southwest of Bangkok. Information on the location and contents of the building was said to have been provided by Hussein after two days in custody. On the second floor of the building, officers found 4,380 kilograms (about 10,000 pounds) of urea-based fertilizer and 38 liters (about 10 gallons) of liquid ammonium nitrate -- enough materials to construct several truck bombs comparable to the one detonated at the Marriott hotel in Islamabad in 2008. Urea fertilizer can be used to manufacture the improvised explosive mixture urea nitrate, which was the main charge used in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. The compound is also frequently used in improvised explosive devices in Iraq and to some extent in Afghanistan. On the ground floor of the same building, police found reams of printing paper and 400 electric table fans in cardboard boxes.

The following day, a Bangkok court charged Hussein with illegal possession of explosive materials. As in many other countries, a permit is required for handling such large amounts of fertilizer in Thailand.

Since Hussein's arrest and the police raid, a flurry of statements from Thai authorities have given contradictory accounts of what happened. Gen. Yuthasak Sasiprapha, Thailand's defense minister, seemed comfortable connecting the U.S. and Israeli warnings to the arrest and seizure, stating that Hussein and other conspirators were linked to Hezbollah and had chosen Bangkok as part of a plan to retaliate against Israel. The general speculated that the Israeli Embassy, synagogues, tour companies and kosher restaurants could be targeted.

The defense minister's speculations are logical. In 2010, Thailand received 120,000 Jewish tourists, and Bangkok itself has a large Jewish community, complete with a Chabad house (a Jewish cultural center and one of the targets in the 2008 Mumbai attacks). According to its website, the Israeli Embassy is located in a commercial office building with (from what we can tell from photographs) relatively little perimeter security. Hundreds of thousands of Americans also visit Thailand each year. At the same time, [the United States and Israel are engaged in a covert war](#) with Iran that has most recently seen the [assassination of an Iranian scientist](#) allegedly involved in the country's nuclear program. Since Hezbollah has been considered a proxy of Iran, the United States and Israel have long anticipated reprisal attacks from Iran via Hezbollah against U.S. or Israeli targets around the world.

While there are certainly plenty of U.S., Jewish and Israeli targets in Thailand in general and Bangkok in particular, other officials have given different accounts of the alleged plot that add more nuance. According to National Police Chief Piewpan Damapong, Hussein insisted that the materials seized were not intended for attacks in Thailand but were going to be transported to a yet-to-be-named third country (a Stratfor source has cited the Philippines as a logical destination). He also allegedly told authorities that, although he was a member of Hezbollah, he was not a member of the group's militant arm. A Hezbollah official in Beirut, Ghaleb Abu Zainab, told the Lebanese Broadcasting Corp. that Hussein was not a Hezbollah member, while Stratfor sources have told us that he was. Our sources also have confirmed Hussein's reported confession to police that he was on the business side of things -- likely involved in procurement and logistics -- rather than the militant side, which involves such things as bombmaking or operational planning. As a Swedish passport holder, Hussein would have much more access to business connections, so it makes sense that Hezbollah would want to compartmentalize his skills.

Most other official statements since Gen. Sasiprapha's have focused on softening the threat and mitigating the damage done to Thailand's tourism industry. Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra has called on the United States to revoke its warning, saying it will damage the country if it is prolonged. Hence, it is not surprising that tidbits released from Hussein's purported interrogation have moved the spotlight away from the domestic threat and focused more on targets abroad.

The historical record shows ample precedent for attacks by foreign extremists in Bangkok. In 1972, members of Black September took over the Israeli Embassy in Bangkok and held diplomats hostage there for 18 hours. In 1988, Hezbollah gunmen hijacked Kuwait Airways Flight 422, which was departing Bangkok for Kuwait City, in an effort to coerce the Kuwaiti government to release the "al-Dawa 17," a group of Shiite militants being held in Kuwait. And in 1994, a truck laden with explosives was en route to attack either the U.S. or Israeli Embassy (the investigation did not yield conclusive results) when a traffic accident disrupted the plot. Bangkok has long been on the map for terrorist operational planners.

During the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, Hezbollah and other groups conducted dozens of attacks targeting Jews, Israel and Israel's allies around the world. However, over the past decade, Hezbollah has become a more serious political party in Lebanon, and while its international network is still in place, its activities are increasingly focusing on illicit business ventures rather than terrorist attacks. The shell corporations and drug-smuggling networks that for years provided the means to fund ideological terrorist operations have, in many ways, become the end

itself. Hezbollah members who have grown rich off the international network are more interested in spending the cash from the network and building up political patronage at home than in provoking powerful enemies abroad. For example, Bangkok is a hub for acquiring counterfeit documents, which are a lucrative commodity around the world and part of Hezbollah's criminal enterprise. Conducting an attack in Bangkok would likely disrupt a node in the network and ultimately affect the group's bottom line.

Thus, Hezbollah's profile and set of interests support Hussein's reported claims that the bombmaking materials that police found were being moved out of the country and were not intended for use in Bangkok or other tourist locations in Thailand.

Other details from the case support this scenario. The fertilizer was to be hidden in the 400 table fan boxes found in the same building, a move conducive to smuggling the fertilizer, not constructing explosive devices. The sheer amount of fertilizer (nearly 5 tons) is a wholesale amount. The largest vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices (VBIEDs) in recent history have contained about a ton of fertilizer. The device used in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing consisted of about 1,300 pounds of urea nitrate. Constructing and delivering bombs larger than that tends to create technical and logistical hitches. It is much more likely that such a large amount of fertilizer would be meant for multiple smaller or medium-sized devices.

While urea-based fertilizer and ammonium nitrate are key ingredients for the main charge of a VBIED, many more materials are required to make it a viable device, including nitric acid, which must be mixed with urea-based fertilizer to make urea nitrate. (Urea nitrate is highly corrosive and has typically been mixed and held in plastic industrial chemical drums. While cardboard boxes would be fine for holding the urea-based fertilizer, they certainly would not be heavy-duty enough to contain the urea nitrate mixture.) In the Bangkok case, there has been no mention of other important bombmaking components such as fuses, timing mechanisms or detonating charges or of a competent bombmaker to put it all together.

In other words, while some of the materials to make a bomb were present in the commercial building that police raided, there was no viable device there. Nor has there been any mention of weapons such as rifles, handguns or grenades, which are often (although certainly not always) involved in terrorist attacks. Some media sources alleged that Hussein was plotting a "Mumbai-like" attack, which would have required a stash of automatic rifles, ordnance, communication devices and other tactical tools that have yet to surface.

Just as Bangkok is an attractive business hub in Southeast Asia for legitimate businessmen, it is also an attractive hub for illicit businessmen. In 2008, Thai police arrested Russian arms smuggler Viktor Bout after agents from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, posing as members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia guerrilla group trying to negotiate a deal to buy weapons, incriminated Bout during a meeting in Bangkok. It appears that Hussein's role in this case would have been an administrative one similar to Bout's: sourcing the fertilizer, finding a place to stockpile it and concealing it in innocent-looking fan boxes. This would not make him any less guilty of assisting a militant group, but it would deflate the theory that Hezbollah was plotting to use this material in an immediate attack in Bangkok.

This is not to say that Hezbollah or some other militant group will not conduct an attack in Bangkok in the future. But it would take a lot to convince group leaders that the financial pain of

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an attack in the city would be worth the ideological gain. And the recent alleged plot should remind investigators and policymakers to remember the financial bottom line as well as the ideological bottom line when assessing future terrorist threats.

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