

RAPID

Realtime Analysis and Publishing of IED Data

WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

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



Al Nusra Front Claims Suicide Attack At Hospital, Joint Operation With Chechen Fighters

The Al Nusra Front shows the suicide car bomb used to attack the French hospital in Aleppo.

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1. [Attack, Pakistan] Two Injured In Swabi IED Blast

Saturday, November 24 2012

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-19074-Two-injured-in-Swabi-IED-blast>

Two civilians sustained injuries in a roadside blast here on Friday, police sources said. "The bomb was attached to a bicycle and the blast happened as soon as the mobile van of the City Police Station passed through the area," the sources added. The van was on its way back to the police station from the market when it was targetted with the roadside bomb, they added. The two injured were identified as Abdul Wahab, and Ishaq Nabi. They were taken to the District Headquarters Hospital where doctors declared their condition out of danger. The sources said no high-ranking official was traveling in the police vehicle.



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2. [Security, Pakistan] Terror Bid Foiled In Karachi

Sunday, November 25 2012

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-76994-Terror-bid-thwarted,-huge-cache-of-weapons-recovered-in-Manghopir>

CID Police have thwarted a terror bid and killed a suspect besides recovery of a huge cache of explosive material and arms in Manghopir area of the metropolis, IG Sindh Fayaz Leghari said.

During a press conference at a local hotel here on Sunday, IG Sindh said that the police during their raids faced confrontation from the suspects.

He told newsmen that the police launched a raid in Manghopir area at 4 AM on Sunday. He said that 2 suicide jackets were also recovered from the site.

Leghari said that the alleged terrorist had planned to enter the main procession of Ashura to make a big blow which was foiled by CID police.

He said that it is premature to name Lashkar e Jhangvi for their involvement.

IG Sindh said that they are facing shortage of police personnel in a mega city like Karachi, adding that 5,700 more policemen would be recruited this year.

He said that forensic laboratories are being upgraded while 500 new police vehicles would be received and 100 surveillance cameras would be installed to maintain peace in the city.

Meanwhile, Governor Ishrat ul Ebad announced a cash reward of Rs 2 million.



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3. [Attack, Pakistan] One Killed, Four Injured In Karachi Blast

Monday, November 26 2012

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-77062-Karachi:-One-killed,-four-injured-in-Malir-blast->

A man was killed while four others were injured when a blast occurred in Malir City area of Karachi Monday morning, Geo News reported.

According to police, the explosion occurred near Sheesh Mahal bus stop in Mohabbat Nagar area of Malir City. Due to the blast, one man was killed and four others sustained injuries while one injured is said to be in critical condition, Deputy Director of Jinnah Hospital told.

Witnesses and police sources told that the blast occurred in a block manufacturing area.

Rescue teams and police reached the spot while the injured were shifted to nearby hospital for treatment.

Security forces cordoned off the area and started investigation meanwhile the bomb disposal squad was also called in to scrutinize the area.





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4. [Attack, Pakistan] Prominent Pakistani TV Anchor Threatened By Taliban Survives Assassination Attempt

Monday, November 26 2012

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/bomb-kills-1-person-in-pakistans-largest-city-wounds-4-others/2012/11/26/bfb58f4a-379f-11e2-9258-ac7c78d5c680_story.html

Police on Monday found and defused a bomb planted under the car of a prominent Pakistani TV anchor threatened by the Taliban for his coverage of a schoolgirl shot by the militants, police said.

The bomb was made up of half a kilogram (one pound) of explosives stuffed in a tin can, said Bani Amin, the police chief in Pakistan's capital, Islamabad, where the incident occurred. It was placed in a bag and attached to the bottom of Mir's car, said Amin.

One of Mir's neighbors noticed the bomb under the car after the TV anchor returned from a local market, and the police were notified, said Rana Jawad, a senior official at Geo TV.

No group has claimed responsibility.

The Pakistani Taliban threatened Mir and other journalists last month over their coverage of an assassination attempt against Malala Yousufzai, a 15-year-old schoolgirl activist who was shot in the head by the militants in the northwest Swat Valley.

The Taliban targeted Malala for criticizing the militant group and promoting secular girls' education, which is opposed by the Islamist extremists. She is recovering in Britain.

Pakistani Interior Minister Rehman Malik offered 50 million rupees (\$500,000) for information about those responsible for the attempted attack against Mir.

The anchor said on TV after the incident that it would not deter him from speaking the truth.

"It was proven today that the Protector is more powerful than the attacker," said Mir.

He said he wasn't prepared to blame the Taliban for the attempted bombing, claiming he had received threats from others as well.

Elsewhere in Pakistan, a bomb hidden in a cement construction block exploded in the southern city of Karachi, killing one person, said senior police officer Farooq Awan. Four other people were wounded, he said.

The bomb contained about one kilogram (two pounds) of explosives and was detonated by a mobile phone, Awan said.

Pakistan suspended mobile phone service throughout most of the country on Saturday and Sunday to prevent attacks against Shiite Muslims during a major religious commemoration.

Despite the ban, a pair of bombings over the weekend killed at least 13 people.

Awan said he suspected the bomb in Karachi was meant to target Shiites over the weekend, but militants were not able to detonate it at the time because of the mobile phone cutoff. Shiites are observing the holy month of Muharram. Pakistani Shiites on Sunday marked Ashoura, the most important day of the month.

Pakistan has a long history of Sunni Muslim





extremists targeting Shiites, whom they consider heretics.

Also Monday, police said 16 addicts have died in the eastern city of Lahore after drinking cough syrup suspected of being toxic, said police officer Multan Khan.

Khan said they died at various hospitals in Lahore over the past three days. Two people were still being treated at the city's main hospital.

Police arrested the owners of three drug stores where the cough syrup was sold and sent a sample for analysis to determine whether it was toxic, Khan said.



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5. [Attack, Pakistan] Deaths In Blast As Pakistan Shia Mark Ashoura

Monday, November 26 2012

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2012/11/2012112515644432149.html>

A bomb attack on a Shia Muslim procession has killed five people and wounded scores more in northwest Pakistan as the group marked Ashoura, a day of religious significance for Shia and some Sunni Muslims.

The bomb exploded on Sunday in the city of Dera Ismail Khan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, where another blast on Saturday killed eight people near a Shia Muslim procession.

"Five people were killed and 83 injured in the bomb blast," Shafeerulla Khan, a senior government official in regional capital Peshawar told AFP news agency.

Khan said preliminary investigations indicated the device was planted inside a shop but police were probing whether a suicide bomber was involved.

A spokesman for the Pakistani Taliban said the armed group claimed responsibility for the bombing and threatened more attacks.

"It was a suicide attack and we claim responsibility for it," Ehsanullah Ehsan told AFP by telephone from an undisclosed location.

He repeated his threat made on Saturday that the Taliban had dispatched more suicide bombers across the country for attacks against the minority community.

The group claimed Saturday's bombing, and a suicide attack that killed 23 people on Thursday at a Shia procession in the garrison city of Rawalpindi.

Anwar Khan Akbar, a police official confirmed the death toll and said the target of the attack was the Ashoura procession.

Khalid Aziz, a doctor in the city's main hospital, told Pakistan's private ARY TV channel some of the injured were in critical condition.

Foiled attack

In a separate development, police in Pakistan's largest city Karachi said they foiled a major terrorist attack.

They said they killed a Taliban member in a gun battle and recovered a 100kg bomb planted in a car.

Police arrested another suspected Taliban member and also found two suicide vests, two AK-47 assault rifles and two pistols in the car.

"Police intercepted the car and killed a militant in an exchange of gunfire," Aslam Khan, a senior police official, told AFP, saying that the suspects planned to use the car to target an Ashoura procession.



In December 2009, a suicide bomber killed 43 people in Karachi at a Shia procession to mark Ashoura.

Pakistan has deployed tens of thousands of police and paramilitary forces to try to avert sectarian clashes or attacks on Ashoura marches.

While both Shia and some Sunni Muslims mark the day of Ashoura, it is a day of commemoration for Shia Muslims who mourn the killing of the Muslim Prophet Mohammed's grandson Imam Hussein.

Authorities have ordered heightened security, with services for mobile phones, which are often used to trigger bombs, suspended in major cities.

More than 300 Shia Pakistani's have been killed this year alone in sectarian related conflict, according to local Pakistani media.



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6. [Security, Afghanistan] Three Militants Detained, IED Seized In Coalition Operation

Monday, November 26 2012

http://www.wakht.af/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7183%3Athree-militants-detained-ied-seized-in-coalition-operation&catid=6%3Asecurity-a-crime&Itemid=17&lang=en

Three insurgents were arrested and a quantity of ammunitions seized during a joint Afghan and coalition forces operation launched by Afghan and coalition forces in some provinces of the country, a statement said Monday.

The operation had been launched in Mohammad Agha district of southern Logar province, arresting one insurgent, Regestan district of Kandahar province discovering a quantity of ammunition and in Sayedabad district of Maidan/Wardak province arresting two insurgents as a result, during which a quantity of ammunitions including Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) as well as light and heavy arms had also been seized, the alliance said in the statement.

The operations had been conducted in joint cooperation and coordination with the Afghan security forces including, national police, national army and national directorate for security personnel, according to the statement.

But, no security troops and civilians had so far been reported to be killed or wounded during the clearance operation.

The government armed oppositions had not so far commented on the statement as the rebels' spokesman, Zabiullah Mujaheed usually rejects the Afghan ministry of interior statement issued on their fighters casualties.



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7. [Special Interest, Afghanistan] New IED Detection Equipment Sent To Troops In Afghanistan

Monday, November 26 2012

<http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/Military-Sends-New-IED-Detection-Equipment-to-Afghanistan-180769091.html>

The military is rushing new equipment to Afghanistan to help troops detect and detonate improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

In recent years, innovative technology and procedures have helped lessen the danger of roadside bombs that soldiers face each and every day.

However, insurgents have upped the ante by planting IEDs in different places in record numbers, making the explosive devices a top killer of U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

Major Paul Krumenacker has served with the Marine Corps for 18 years and has experience clearing routes from IEDs. He says insurgents are attacking troops in places where they're more vulnerable, including narrow paths and bridges.

"We found a way to defeat them on the roads, now they use the paths. Now we're finding a way to defeat them on the paths," explained Krumenacker.

According to "USA Today," the Army is sending several new technologies overseas to help.

Among the equipment is "The Minotaur," a modified Bobcat-like vehicle operated by remote control that can detect and detonate IEDs.

The Army is also sending a small portable "line-charge" tool to give troops stand-off distance while detonating devices.

Also, the Lethal Miniature Aerial Munition System, known as the "Switchblade," gives soldiers the benefit of a bird's-eye view.

Krumenack told NBC 7 that new, innovative technology is the key to saving lives on the battlefield, even as the war winds down.

"I wish we had this technology when I was over there. I've lost some troops and I know that personally, if we had these, they would be alive today," he said.

Krumenacker said a lot of new technology is developed from feedback from the troops on the ground.

He believes this effort to deploy equipment specific to the current operating environment is essential to keep troops safe while completing their mission.



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8. [Attack, Pakistan] Two Die In Kachi Landmine Blast

Monday, November 26 2012

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-77145-Two-die-in-Kachi-landmine-blast>

At least two people died and another sustained injuries in a land mine blast occurred in the Gaheilla village of Kachi Bolan district, official sources said.

Motorcycle hit a landmine planted by unknown men near the Sunni Levis Thana in the Kachi, sources said adding as a result, two persons namely Mohammad Younus and Qaisar died instantly while one Siraj Ahmed suffered critical injuries.

The dead and injured were moved to nearby hospital for medico-legal formalities.

Local administration initiated probe into the incident.



AFPAK

9. [Attack, Afghanistan] Suicide Bomb Blast In Southern Kandahar Province

Wednesday, November 28 2012

<http://www.khaama.com/suicide-bomb-blast-in-southern-kandahar-province-2023>

A suicide bomb blast rocked southern Kandahar province of Afghanistan late Wednesday evening injuring at least 7 Afghan civilians, local authorities.

The officials further added the incident took place around 6 pm local time after a suicide bomber detonated explosives packed in a transportation motorcycle in southern Kandahar city.

Provincial governor spokesman Javid Faisal said the incident took place in a market where motorcycles were being sold.

He said the suicide bomber was killed following the blast and 7 others including an individual who was accompanying the suicide bomber was injured following the blast.

Mr. Faisal also said that Afghan security forces have launched investigations in this regard.

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



AFPAK

10. [Special Interest, Pakistan] Pakistan Successfully Test-Fires Hatf-V Ghauri Missile

Wednesday, November 28 2012

<http://dawn.com/2012/11/28/pakistan-successfully-test-fires-hatf-v-ghauri-missile-ispr/>

Pakistan on Wednesday conducted a successful test of its mid-range nuclear capable Hatf-V Ghauri ballistic missile according to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), DawnNews reported.

The liquid-fuelled ballistic missile, capable of carrying both conventional as well as nuclear payload, has a range of 1300 kilometres.

The Ghauri missile was first test-fired on 6 April 1998.



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11. [Attack, Afghanistan] Roadside Bomb Kills Ten Civilians In Afghanistan

Thursday, November 29 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/29/us-afghanistan-bomb-idUSBRE8AS0IB20121129>

A roadside bomb exploded under a passenger van in southern Afghanistan on Thursday, killing 10 people, most of them women and children, government officials said.

Eight people were wounded in the blast in the Deh Rawood district of Uruzgan province, President Hamid Karzai's office said in a statement. The Interior Ministry said 14 people were wounded.

"Innocent peoples' blood will not be wasted and terrorists will be shamed in this world and hereafter," Karzai said in the statement.

Violence has been increasing across the country as an end of 2014 deadline approaches for most foreign combat troops to leave, putting the 350,000-strong Afghan security forces in control.

Civilians have borne the brunt of much of the violence in the 11-year conflict. A roadside bomb in the relatively peaceful province of Farah killed 17 people and wounded nine on November 16.

Most of the victims in Farah were also women and children, driving in a van as part of a wedding procession.

Three people were killed and more than 90 wounded on Friday, including several foreign soldiers, in a truck bombing in Wardak province near Kabul. Most of the casualties were civilians.



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12. [Attack, Pakistan] Suicide Bomber Wounds Key Taliban Commander In Pakistan, Kills Six

Thursday, November 29 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/29/us-pakistan-taliban-commander-idUSBRE8ASODP20121129>

A suicide bomber wounded a senior Taliban commander and killed six people on Thursday in a market in a north-western Pakistani region on the Afghan border, a spokesman for the commander and police said.

Maulvi Nazir Wazir, also known as Mullah Nazir, was wounded in the attack at the main market of Wana, the capital of the South Waziristan region. It was not immediately clear who was behind the attack or the extent of Nazir's wounds.

The blast destroyed Nazir's vehicle, killed six people and wounded 12, said Maulana Amir Nawaz, a spokesman for Nazir.

"Nazir is a very important commander with the support of his tribe," said Mansur Khan Mahsud, the director of research at the Islamabad-based FATA Research Centre.

Pakistan's semi-autonomous Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) are dominated by ethnic Pashtun tribes, some of which have sheltered and supported militants over decades of conflict in neighboring Afghanistan.

The al Qaeda-linked Nazir is an ally of the Afghan Taliban and had signed peace accord with the Pakistani government in 2007. His group has previously clashed with other Taliban fighters during a struggle for leadership.

Tribal elders say that Nazir was more interested in attacking U.S. forces in Afghanistan than Pakistan's security forces, a divisive issue within the Pakistani Taliban leadership.

They said the government had even asked Nazir to help expel fighters who were bent on attacking Pakistani security forces.

Pakistani security officials have at times referred to Nazir as one of several "good Taliban".

Nazir's faction was allied with other al Qaeda-linked groups including the faction of commander Hafiz Gul Bahadar, the Haqqani Network and the Pakistani Taliban led by Hakimullah Mehsud.

The issue of whether to fight the Pakistani state is one of many disagreements among the factions that have sown distrust.

Yet despite the rivalries, analysts said the Pakistani Taliban are unlikely to splinter as that would make them an easier target for the





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13. [Attack, Pakistan] Bomb Attack Kills Two In Northwest Pakistan

Friday, November 30 2012

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2012/11/30/275343/bomb-attack-kills-2-in-nw-pakistan/>

At least two people have been killed and several others injured after a roadside bomb went off in Pakistan's north-western tribal region, Press TV reports.

The roadside-planted bomb ripped through a road in Safi Tehsil area in Mohmand tribal region on Friday.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Meanwhile, at least four security personnel were injured on Friday, when a military convoy was attacked near Sheikhwal area in the Khyber tribal region.

The convoy was attacked with remote-controlled bombs planted on a roadside.

The injured troopers have been shifted to the local hospital, as they were reportedly in critical condition.

Also on Friday, a police vehicle was attacked in Badbir area in northwestern city of Peshawar. Two policemen were wounded in the attack.

Thousands of Pakistanis have lost their lives in bombings and other militant attacks since 2001, when Pakistan joined an alliance with the United States in the so-called war on terror.

Since late 2009, there has been a surge in militant attacks in Pakistan and thousands more have been displaced by the wave of violence and militancy sweeping across the country.



AFRICOM

14. [Attack, Somalia] Bombings In Former Somali Shebab Bastion Kill Five

Monday, November 26 2012

http://www.keydmedia.net/en/news/article/bombings_in_former_somali_shebab_bastion_kill_five/

Two roadside bomb attacks in the Somali port city and former Islamist bastion of Kismayo on Sunday killed at least five people, witnesses and a local pro-government militia said.

One person was killed in a bomb blast at a house next to an administrative building and at least another four were killed in a second attack near a market where women sell khat, a mild stimulant very popular in Somalia.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attacks but they were blamed on Al-Qaeda linked Shebab Islamists who were pushed out of Kismayo in September after Kenyan troops allied with pro-government Somali militia stormed the town.

"Two explosions hit the town today," Ahmed Adam, a commander from the pro-government Ras Kamboni militia, told AFP by telephone from Kismayo. "The first one killed a woman and injured two others while the second, which was detonated near the khat market, killed several, we are still investigating the exact number," he said.

"Shebab carried out the attacks but they only killed civilians," he added. Residents however said men from his militia were among the casualties. Hassan Ilyas, a resident who saw the second bomb go off, said it killed two militia fighters and two women selling khat.

Government security officials and allied militia sealed off the area around the second blast and arrested several people, said Mohamed Abdulahi, another witness.

The Shebab, who have kept a low profile over the past weeks, on Saturday briefly took control of a small town on the border with Kenya before being pushed back when Somali government troops received reinforcements.



AFRICOM

15. [Attack, Somalia] Big Blast Hits AU Soldiers In Marko, South Somalia

Tuesday, November 27 2012

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201211280067.html>

Witnesses say a huge blast tore through a military personnel carrier with soldiers serving for the African Union peacekeeping mission in Somalia in Marko town, just 110 Km south of Mogadishu.

Local residents in Marko said they heard a loud explosion at about 2pm on Tuesday that was targeted on AMISOM forces as they were passing on one of the streets in the city.

Details on the casualties are yet sketchy as the AU forces sealed off the area and carried out searched following the attack. The city has once under Al shabab control before the coalition forces moved in almost one months ago.

No group has yet claimed responsibility for the blast and the local authorities were unavailable to reach for comments on the incident.



AFRICOM

16. [Law Enforcement, Nigeria] Bomb Scare In Ekiti As Police Arrest Suspect

Thursday, November 29 2012

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201211290473.html>

There was pandemonium in Ado-Ekiti, the Ekiti State capital Wednesday following rumours of bomb scare few meters away from the Government House, leading to the arrest of a young man suspected to be on a suicide mission.

The incident, which occurred between the hours of 10 a.m, and 11 a.m spread rumours across the city capital like a wild fire, causing residents to scamper for safety in different direction.

It was gathered that a middle-aged man, whose identities were not made public by the police was said to have been conveyed by a motorbike to the spot and alighted in-front of the main gate of the Government's House, where he was said to have been making calls in a manner that gave room for suspicion.

Reports have has it that three suspected bombers actually came for the operation, while only one was arrested, and the other two suspects escaped in a motorcycle.

Explaining how the incident took place, a civil servant named Johnson, said having suspected the strange moment of the suspect, he quickly demanded his mission in the area, which was about a kilometre to the Governor's Lodge.

According to him, he immediately alerted the security personnel detailed at the main gate of the Government's House, who responded swiftly and dispossessed the suspect of some of his personal belongings.

Johnson disclosed to journalists that substance suspected to be explosive devices were recovered from the suspect, while other dangerous weapons like charms, knives and other lethal tools were also found on him.

However, commenting on the incident, the Police Public Relations Officer of the Ekiti State Police Command, Mr Victor Olu , who confirmed the arrest of the suspect, said no explosive material or bomb was found on him.

"Somebody was just trying to draw attention to himself. No bomb or explosive material was found on him. He only behaved curiously and that caused the suspicion that made people to raise the alarm because he exhibited a conduct likely to cause the breach of public peace."

The police spokesman added that the suspect was being detained at the state police headquarters as investigations on his motive, are still ongoing.

Also, in his reaction, the state Commissioner for Information, Mr Funminiyi Afuye, said the matter was already with the police, adding that the outcome of the police investigation would determine the next line of action.

Meanwhile, hearing would begin today in the suit filed by the former governor of the state, Mr. Segun Oni, seeking the retrial of the case filed against the declaration of Kayode Fayemi as governor of the state by the Court of Appeal, culminating in Oni's ouster from office on October 15, 2010.

Oni, in the suit also claimed that the suspended chairman of the Appeal Court, Justice Isa Ayo Salami, was not fit to chair the appeal panel in Ilorin that nullified his election on the strength of alleged conviviality with some top



members of the ACN.

A top brass of a security agency told journalists in Ado Ekiti of the readiness of all the security outfits to beef up security in the state capital, owing to the high level of curiosity among the political class.

The Appeal Court sitting in Ado Ekiti had earlier dismissed Oni's appeal on the ground that it lacks merit and that his request cannot be granted.



AFRICOM

17. [Security, Nigeria] Nigerian Troops Find Bomb-Making Items In Restive North

Friday, November 30 2012

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2012/Nov-30/196707-nigerian-troops-find-bomb-making-items-in-restive-north.ashx#axzz2DipW4wCB>

Nigerian troops have recovered explosives and bomb-making items from a Boko Haram base in restive northern city of Zaria and arrested a suspect, the military said Friday.

"During the operation, a two-bedroom bungalow of bomb-making factory was discovered in which Improvised Explosive Devices in stage one state of readiness and several IED-making components were recovered," the military said in a statement.

It said bomb-making items found in the building at the Jushin Ciki neighbourhood in Zaria on Thursday included 17 sensor mechanical timers (remote contro), 11 primed suicide bombers vest, 36 primed IEDs in cans and one military kitbag.

Others were a hammer, cellotapes and gums, two gallons of paint containing prepared IEDs, two gallons of turkey oil brand with prepared IEDs, seven rolls of wires of various lengths, one bag containing several sensors and 25 volt batteries, it said.

The military said they arrested a suspect and destroyed the building.

"A sixty-year-old man Umaru Mohammed was arrested within the premises and in line with resolve to deter terrorists, the building housing the factory was demolished," it added.

Kaduna state where Zaria is located, has been hit by numerous attacks blamed on Boko Haram in recent months, prompting frequent military crackdown on hideouts of of extremist group.

Violence linked to the Boko Haram insurgency in northern and central Nigeria is believed to have left some 3,000 people dead since 2009, including killings by the security forces.



CENTCOM

18. [Security, Iran] Iran Boasts Of Providing Missile Technology To Palestinian Terrorists

Thursday, November 22 2012

<http://www.thecuttingedgenews.com/index.php?article=77447&pageid=20&pagename=Security>

Only a mere few hours after a fragile ceasefire took effect between Israel and the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, Iran's top military commander, Gen. Mohammad-Ali Jafari, announced on Wednesday that the Iranian government is going to provide the Palestinian "resistance" with the technology necessary to mass produce Fajr-5 missiles, according to an Israeli counterterrorist who monitors the Iranian news organizations.

Gen. Jafari claimed that since Iran is prohibited from sending arms and military equipment due to Gaza being held under siege, Iran's Quds Force has provided the Palestinians with training in the manufacture of Fajr-5 missiles. In fact, if the Iranian general is telling the truth, these missiles are already in the planning stages for manufacturing in relatively large numbers.

The Fajr-5 missile is much more powerful, accurate and destructive than the rockets used during Hamas' weeklong barrage of Israeli targets. The Islamic republic extends technological aid and assistance to every Muslim nation or group that stands against "the arrogant powers" such as the Little Satan (Israel) and the Big Satan (United States).

On Wednesday, the Iranian Parliament's Speaker Ali Larijani said on Iranian television that the Quds Force -- Iran's special forces -- has provided military aid to the Palestinian "resistance groups" in the Gaza Strip. The Palestinians living under the rule of the Palestinian National Authority in the West Bank totally refrained from becoming involved in this latest conflict.

"We declare proudly that we have supported the Palestinian nation and Hamas and we have the honor to declare that we will stand beside the Palestinian people in the hardest and most difficult conditions," Larijani said during a rally staged by the Iranian parliamentarians in support of the Palestinians in Gaza and televised throughout the Middle East by semi-official Fars News Agency. Hamas terrorists admitted their responsibility for the Fajr-5 long-range missile attacks on Jerusalem and Tel Aviv in their ongoing terror war against Israel.

Hamas and the PIJ claimed responsibility for most of rockets, including long-range rockets, fired into Israeli territory. Other small organizations, such as the Popular Resistance Committees, Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade and networks affiliated with the global jihad also claimed responsibility for a number of rocket launchings.



CENTCOM

19. [Trend, Syria] Al Nusrah Front Claims Suicide Attack At Hospital, Joint Operation With Chechen Fighters

Friday, November 23 2012

http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2012/11/al_nusrah_front_clai_8.php

The Al Nusrah Front for the People of the Levant, an al Qaeda-linked jihadist group that is fighting Bashar al Assad's regime in Syria, has claimed credit for yet another suicide attack as well as another joint operation with Chechen fighters.

Al Nusrah claimed the attacks in a series of three statements released on jihadist websites on Nov. 21. The statements were translated by the SITE Intelligence Group.

The suicide attack took place at a hospital in the contested city of Aleppo. Al Nusrah said the "French hospital" was being used as "the headquarters of the army and the tyrant's [thugs]." The terror group did not provide a date for the attack.

The suicide attack was executed by "the knight Abu 'Aun al Shamali," who used a car bomb "laden with 2 tons of explosives." The statement was accompanied by pictures of the car bomb as well as the explosion at the hospital. Al Nusrah then detonated a car bomb parked outside the hospital and launched "an armed attack by a group of mujahideen on what remained of the headquarters."

Al Nusrah has been the most active jihadist group in Syria. It has claimed credit for 36 of the 44 reported suicide bombings in Syria that the The Long War Journal has tallied since December 2011. Since the end of August, Al Nusrah has claimed credit for launching 18 suicide attacks.

In addition to the suicide attack in Aleppo, Al Nusrah claimed it launched, "with the participation of the battalion of Chechen emigrants," several assaults against Air Defense Brigade 602's base in Handarat.

"The mujahideen had made previous attempts to storm the brigade on November 6-8, and the most recent came on November 18 and 19," the Al Nusrah Front statement said, according to SITE. Al Nusrah claimed that its snipers killed three soldiers and that its fighters entered the base and seized two machine guns.

Al Nusrah also released two photographs associated with the raid on the air defense base in Handarat. One photograph shows a map of the base; the other shows fighters standing next to an Islamist flag.

Al Nusrah has conducted at least one other joint operation with Chechen fighters in Syria over the past two months. On Oct. 11, Al Nusrah commanded a group of "Chechen emigrants" as well as a battalion from the supposedly secular Free Syrian Army when the joint force overran a Syrian air defense and Scud missile base in Aleppo. Doku Umarov, the emir of the Islamic Caucasus Emirate in southern Russia, addressed the issue of jihad in Syria in a videotape that was released on Nov. 13, according to Kavkaz Center.

In the videotape, Umarov addressed "my brothers who are doing jihad in Syria against the regime," and warned them not to fight to "replace the regime of Bashar al Assad with Turkish or Saudi or Egyptian or American or English money, with another pagan idol under the cover of democracy."



جبهة النصرة / فرقة القاتل أبو عائشة - قرابة 700 من المتفجرات التي استخدمت في العملية الاستشهادية على كنيسة نظام السطاح التي انفجرت في دمشق الفرنسي في حلب



جبهة النصرة / فرقة القاتل أبو عائشة - السيارة المكونة التي تم تفجيرها مباشرة بعد العملية الاستشهادية على كنيسة نظام السطاح التي انفجرت في دمشق الفرنسي في حلب



CENTCOM

20. [Law Enforcement, Lebanon] Army Arrests Five Accused Of Ashura Bomb Plot

Saturday, November 24 2012

<http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/army-arrests-syrians-accused-conspiring-bomb-lebanon-ashura-commemorations>

The Lebanese army has raided the home of five Syrian nationals in Nabatiyeh where 450 grams of explosive material, and three explosive charges were discovered, according to an army statement Saturday.

The suspects were accused of planning to use the explosives at Ashura commemorations this weekend, according to security sources cited by The Daily Star.

Lebanese Shia across the country hold mass rallies to mourn the death of Imam Hussein, the Prophet Mohammad's grandson during Ashura every year.

Al-Qaeda had threatened earlier this year to target Shia in Lebanon over Hezbollah's support for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.



CENTCOM

21. [Attack, Iraq] Deaths In Iraq Bomb Explosions

Tuesday, November 27 2012

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2012/11/201211271239767751.html>

At least 21 people were killed and 70 others injured in a series of bomb attacks against security forces and civilians in central and northern Iraq, officials said.

Shia mosques in Baghdad were main targets in Tuesday's attacks, along with policemen in Kirkuk, a city claimed by quarrelling ethnic groups in a disputed northern region.

Car bombs exploded near three mosques shortly after nightfall in the capital, killing 12.

Police and hospital officials said the first exploded near a Shia mosque following evening prayers in Hurriya neighbourhood, killing six worshippers and wounding 20 others.

Minutes later, another car bomb went off near Gaereat mosque, killing three people.

Later, police said a third car bomb exploded, killing three Shia worshippers and wounded 14 others in Shulla neighbourhood in northern Baghdad.

'Horroric scenes'

Ali Habib, a taxi driver, said he was driving near the Shia mosque in Hurriya when he heard a loud explosion. He rushed to the blast site and helped take wounded to the hospital.

"The scene was horrific, with people screaming for help," he said. "Such attacks bring back memories of the darkest days of sectarian strife that took place several years ago in Iraq."

In the north, a police officer said three bombs in parked cars exploded simultaneously in the oil-rich city of Kirkuk, the largest city in the area claimed by several ethnic groups in a dispute with the central government in Baghdad. The bombs hit two Kurdish residential areas in the centre of the city. One went off near a main Kurdish party headquarters.

Five people, including a Kurdish security guard, were killed and 58 others wounded.

A few minutes later, two bombs exploded in a market in the Sunni-dominated town of Hawija west of Kirkuk, killing two civilians and wounding five others, he said.

Also, five Iraqi army soldiers were wounded when fighters detonated bombs near their houses in the nearby town of Tuz Khortmato.

Kirkuk, 290km north of Baghdad, is home to a mix of Arabs, Kurds and Turkomen, who all have competing claims to the oil-rich area.

The attacks came a day after senior security officials from the federal government and Iraq's autonomous Kurdistan region reached an agreement aimed at easing mounting tensions in the disputed areas of northern Iraq.

The country's parliamentary speaker, Osama al-Nujaifi, has warned of civil war due to inaction.

The Kurds want to incorporate it into their self-ruled region in Iraq's north, but Arabs and Turkomen are opposed.

Violence has ebbed since the peak of several years ago, but lethal attacks still occur frequently. No one claimed responsibility for Tuesday's attacks.

Sahwa targeted

In the northeastern province of Diyala, fighters in speeding car shot at a check point manned by Sahwa, an anti-al-Qaeda group, killing one and wounding two others, another police official said.

The Sahwa are Sunni Arabs who joined forces with US military to fight al-Qaeda at the height of Iraq's civil war.

They have since been favorite targets for Sunni fighters who consider them as traitors.

Also in Diyala, a roadside bomb targeted a passing police patrol in the town of Khan Bani Saad, killing a civilian bystander and wounding two policemen, the officer said. The town is about 35km north of Baghdad.

In the northern city of Mosul, a parked car bomb went off near a house of a Sunni politician, wounding five bystanders. The politician, a woman, was unharmed, another police officer said.



Five other civilians were wounded when a roadside bomb exploded near an Iraqi military base in the town of Taji, 20km north of Baghdad, a police officer said. Three health officials confirmed the causality figures. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorised to release information.





CENTCOM

22. [Attack, Syria] Syrian Warplanes Bomb Olive Oil Plant In North, Killing At Least 20, Activists Say

Tuesday, November 27 2012

<http://www.startribune.com/world/180982011.html?refer=y>

Syrian warplanes bombed an olive oil factory packed with farmers Tuesday, killing at least 20 people in the latest regime strike to rip through a crowd of civilians, activists said.

The bombing comes as the civil war takes a devastating toll on an already beleaguered population. Human Rights Watch said it found "compelling evidence" that the regime used cluster bombs in an airstrike that killed at least 11 children earlier this week.

It was not immediately clear whether the olive press was the intended target, or if the plane misfired. The government generally does not comment on rebel claims and there was no official reaction to the latest allegations.

But two anti-regime activist groups — the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and the Local Coordination Committees — said the factory was hit Tuesday near the northern city of Idlib.

The Observatory said "tens were killed or wounded," while the LCC said at least 20 people were killed. Syria restricts independent media coverage, making it difficult to determine the exact toll.

Both groups depend on a network of activists on the ground around the country.

President Bashar Assad's regime has been relying on air power in recent months, mostly in the northern province of Idlib, the nearby province of Aleppo, Deir el-Zour to the east and suburbs of the capital, Damascus.

Hilal Khashan, a political science professor at the American University of Beirut, said the air force is being used in areas that the overstretched army cannot easily reach.

"This is mass punishment," Khashan said. "The regime is desperate and wants to make the price of its opponents' victory costly."

Olive oil is a main staple in Syria. Tens of thousands of tons are produced annually.

Fadi al-Yassin, an activist based in Idlib, told The Associated Press by telephone that dozens of people had gathered to have their olives pressed when the warplanes struck, causing a large number of casualties.

"Now is the season to press oil," said al-Yassin, noting that many olive press factories are not functioning because of the fighting in the region. "Functioning olive press factories are packed with people these days."

Also Tuesday, Syria's air force targeted a village in northeastern Hasekah province as well as the town of Harim, in Idlib province, according to Turkey's state-run Anadolu Agency.

At least four people wounded in Hasekah were taken to neighboring Turkey for treatment.



An AP reporter on the Turkish side of the border, across from Harim, saw smoke rising from the town.

The conflict in Syria started 20 months ago as an uprising against Assad, whose family has ruled Syria for four decades. The conflict quickly morphed into a civil war, with rebels taking up arms to fight back against a bloody crackdown by the government. According to activists, some 40,000 people have been killed since March 2011.

Assad blames the revolt on a conspiracy to destroy Syria, saying the uprising is being driven by foreign terrorists — not Syrians seeking change. On Tuesday, the pro-government daily Al-Watan published a list with names of 142 Arab and foreign terrorists it said were killed in Syria in recent months.

The list had names from 18 countries, including 47 from Saudi Arabia, 24 Libyans, 10 Tunisians, nine Egyptians, six Qataris and five Lebanese.

Analysts say most of those fighting Assad's regime are ordinary Syrians and soldiers who have defected, having become fed up with the authoritarian government. But increasingly, foreign fighters and those adhering to an extremist Islamist ideology are turning up on the front lines. The rebels try to play down their influence for fear of alienating Western support.

The regime, however, points to foreign fighters as evidence that the uprising is illegitimate.

As the conflict grinds on, however, the toll on civilians is growing.

Winter is coming, and temperatures can drop below freezing in northern Syria, where it often rains heavily. The parts of the country outside government control have to rely on smuggled supplies of gasoline and heating oil, which have already tripled in price.

The violence is also hitting the most vulnerable.

New York-based Human Rights Watch said evidence has emerged that an airstrike using cluster bombs Sunday on the village of Deir al-Asafir near Damascus killed at least 11 children and wounded others.

Cluster bombs open in flight, scattering smaller bomblets over a wide area. Many of the bomblets don't explode immediately, posing a threat to civilians long afterward. They have been banned by most nations.

"This attack shows how cluster munitions kill without discriminating between civilians and military personnel," said Mary Wareham, arms division advocacy director at Human Rights Watch. "Due to the devastating harm caused to civilians, cluster bombs should not be used by anyone, anywhere, at any time."



CENTCOM

23. [Special Interest, Iran] Iran Working On Nuclear Bomb Much More Powerful Than Hiroshima, Diagram Suggests

Tuesday, November 27 2012

<http://www.thestar.com/news/world/article/1293797--iran-working-on-nuclear-bomb-much-more-powerful-than-hiroshima-diagram-suggests>

Iranian scientists have run computer simulations for a nuclear weapon that would produce more than triple the explosive force of the World War II bomb that destroyed Hiroshima, according to a diagram obtained by The Associated Press.

The diagram was leaked by officials from a country critical of Iran's atomic program to bolster their arguments that Iran's nuclear program must be halted before it produces a weapon. The officials provided the diagram only on condition that they and their country not be named.

The International Atomic Energy Agency — the Vienna-based UN nuclear watchdog — reported last year that it had obtained diagrams indicating that Iran was calculating the “nuclear explosive yield” of potential weapons. A senior diplomat who is considered neutral on the issue confirmed that the graph obtained by the AP was indeed one of those cited by the IAEA in that report. He spoke only on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the issue.

The IAEA report mentioning the diagrams last year did not give details of what they showed. But the diagram seen by the AP shows a bell curve — with variables of time in micro-seconds, and power and energy both in kilotons — the traditional measurement of the energy output, and hence the destructive power of nuclear weapons. The curve peaks at just above 50 kilotons at around 2 microseconds, reflecting the full force of the weapon being modeled.

The bomb that the United States dropped on Hiroshima in Japan during World War II, in comparison, had a force of about 15 kilotons. Modern nuclear weapons have yields hundreds of times higher than that.

The diagram has a caption in Farsi: “Changes in output and in energy released as a function of time through power pulse.” The number “5” is part of the title, suggesting it is part of a series.

David Albright, whose Institute for Science and International Security is used by the U.S. government as a go-to source on Iran's nuclear program, said the diagram looks genuine but seems to be designed more “to understand the process” than as part of a blueprint for an actual weapon in the making.

“The yield is too big,” Albright said, noting that North Korea's first tests of a nuclear weapon were only a few kilotons. Because the graph appears to be only one in a series, others might show lower yields, closer to what a test explosion might produce, he said.

The senior diplomat said the diagram was part of a series of Iranian computer-generated models provided to the IAEA by the intelligence services of member nations for use in its investigations of suspicions that Iran is trying to produce a nuclear weapon. Iran denies any interest in such a weapon and has accused the United States and Israel of fabricating evidence that suggests it is trying to build a bomb.



Asked about the project, Iran's chief IAEA delegate, Ali Asghar Soltanieh, said he had not heard of it. IAEA spokeswoman Gill Tudor said the agency had no comment.

Iran has refused to halt uranium enrichment, despite offers of reactor fuel from abroad, saying it is producing nuclear fuel for civilian uses. It has refused for years to co-operate with the UN nuclear agency's efforts to investigate its program.

Iran's critics fear it could use the enriched uranium for military purposes. Such concerns grew this month when the IAEA said Iran is poised to double its output of higher-enriched uranium at its fortified underground facility — a development that could put Tehran within months of being able to make the core of a nuclear warhead.

In reporting on the existence of the diagrams last year, the IAEA said it had obtained them from two member nations that it did not identify. Other diplomats have said that Israel and the United States — the countries most concerned about Iran's nuclear program — have supplied the bulk of intelligence being used by the IAEA in its investigation.

"The application of such studies to anything other than a nuclear explosive is unclear to the agency," the IAEA said at the time.

The models were allegedly created in 2008 and 2009 — well after 2003, the year that the United States said Tehran had suspended such work in any meaningful way. That date has been questioned by Britain, France, Germany and Israel, and the IAEA now believes that — while Iran shut down some of its work back then — other tests and experiments continue today.

With both the IAEA probe and international attempts to engage Iran stalled, there are fears that Israel may opt to strike at Tehran's nuclear program. The Jewish state insists it will not tolerate an Iran armed with nuclear arms.

An intelligence summary provided with the drawing linked it to other alleged nuclear weapons work — significant because it would indicate that Iran is working not on isolated experiments, but rather on a single program aimed at mastering all aspects of nuclear arms development.

The IAEA suspects that Iran has conducted live tests of conventional explosives that could be used to detonate a nuclear weapon at Parchin, a sprawling military base southeast of Tehran. The intelligence summary provided to the AP said data gained from those tests fed the model plotted in the diagram. Iran has repeatedly turned down IAEA requests to visit the site, which the agency fears is undergoing a major cleanup meant to eliminate any traces of such experiments.

The intelligence summary named nuclear scientists Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, Majid Shahriari and Fereidoun Abbasi as key players in developing the computer diagrams, adding that Shahriari and Abbasi were also involved in the Parchin testing.

Iran has for years rebuffed IAEA attempts to question Fakhrizadeh for his suspected involvement in secret programs. Shahriari was assassinated in 2010 by what Iran says were Israeli agents. Abbasi, now the head of Iran's nuclear agency, was wounded in a separate assassination attempt the same day that Shahriari was killed.

The senior diplomat, who is familiar with the Iran probe, said the agency has not yet determined any connection between Parchin and the computer models. But Olli Heinonen, who headed the IAEA's Iran investigation until 2010, said using the results of the alleged Parchin tests would "make sense as part of the design and testing of a (computer) model."



CENTCOM

24. [Attack, Syria] Twin Car Bombs In Damascus Kill 34 People

Wednesday, November 28 2012

<http://www.sfgate.com/news/world/article/Syrian-state-media-Damascus-car-bombs-kill-34-4072141.php>

Twin suicide car bombs ripped through a Damascus suburb minutes apart on Wednesday, killing at least 34 people, state media said, and rebels claimed they shot down a Syrian air force fighter jet.

The state news agency, SANA, said suicide bombers detonated two cars packed with explosives early in the morning in the eastern suburb of Jaramana, a Christian and Druse area known as mostly loyal to President Bashar Assad.

Suicide bombings have struck regime targets in Damascus and elsewhere since last December. Such attacks are a trademark of radical Muslim groups fighting alongside other rebels units, raising concerns of growing influence of Islamic extremists among the forces seeking to topple the regime.

Wednesday's bombs were detonated in a parking lot near a cluster of commercial buildings as groups of laborers and employees were arriving for work, killing 34 and injuring 83 people, SANA said.

The blasts shattered windows, littering the street with glass and debris. Human remains were scattered on the pavement in pools of blood. Six commercial buildings were damaged in the attacks, and dozens of cars were destroyed, SANA said.

After the first explosion, people rushed to help the injured, and then the second bomb went off, said Ismail Zlaiaa, 54, who lives in the neighborhood.

"It is an area packed with rush-hour passengers," he said. "God will not forgive the criminal perpetrators."

Ibtissam Nseir, a 45-year-old teacher, said the bombs exploded minutes before she set off for work. She said there were no troops around the district and wondered why the attackers would target it. Nseir blamed rebels.

"Is this the freedom which they want? Syria is a secure country and it will remain so," she said.

There were conflicting reports about the death toll. Two hospital officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to reporters, said at least 30 bodies were brought to two hospitals. The Britain-based Observatory for Human Rights, which relies on reports from the ground, said 29 people were killed.

The different tolls could not immediately be reconciled. The regime restricts independent media coverage.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Wednesday's bombings.

Opposition fighters are predominantly members of the Sunni Muslim majority. In their push to take Damascus, they have frequently targeted state institutions and troops. They have also often hit districts around the capital with the country's minority communities, perceived to be allied with Assad's Alawite sect, an offshoot of Shiite Islam.

Downtown Damascus — the seat of Assad's power — has been the scene of scores of car bombs and mortar



attacks targeting state security institutions and troops, areas with homes of wealthy Syrians, army officers, security officials and other members of the regime.

In May, two suicide car bombers blew themselves up outside a military intelligence building in Damascus, killing at least 55 people. In July, a bomb hit a building in which Cabinet ministers and senior security officials were meeting, killing the defense minister and his deputy, who was Assad's brother-in-law. A former defense minister also died in the attack.

Fighting between rebels and government troops raged on in several parts of the country on Wednesday. Regime warplanes struck rebel-held areas in the northern Idlib province and Damascus suburbs.

In northern Syria, a rebel group claimed it brought down a Syrian MiG-23 fighter plane near the rebel-held town of Daret Azzeah, according to a report by Turkey's state-run Anadolu news agency. The report quoted unnamed rebels in the area and said the jet was shot down Wednesday, most likely by a missile.

There was no immediate independent confirmation.

Opposition fighters claim they have shot down helicopters and warplanes in the past, although the rebels repeatedly complain their arsenal is no match for the regime's fighter jets and attack helicopters.

In recent weeks rebels have captured several air bases with anti-aircraft weapons, but it is not known if they have the ability to operate them.

Since the summer, the Syrian military has significantly increased its use of air power in efforts to roll back the rebels' territorial gains, particularly in the northeast, along the border with Turkey.

Syria's conflict started 20 months ago as an uprising against Assad, whose family has ruled the country for four decades. It quickly morphed into a civil war, with rebels taking up arms to fight back against a bloody crackdown by the government. According to activists, at least 40,000 people have been killed since March 2011.

Assad blames the revolt on a conspiracy to destroy Syria, saying the uprising is being driven by foreign "terrorists" — a term the authorities use for the rebels — and not Syrians seeking change.

Analysts say most of those fighting Assad's regime are ordinary Syrians and soldiers who have defected. But increasingly, fighters adhering to an extremist Islamist ideology are turning up on the front lines. The rebels try to play down the Islamists' influence for fear of alienating Western support.





CENTCOM

25. [Attack, Iraq] Bombs Kill 30 In Iraq Shi'ite Cities

Thursday, November 29 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/29/us-iraq-violence-idUSBRE8AS09W20121129>

Bombs in two majority Shi'ite Muslim cities in southern Iraq killed 28 people on Thursday, police and hospital sources said, in an attack aimed at spreading sectarian strife in the country.

Scores more were wounded in the blasts, which struck during a month that is of special significance to Shi'ite Muslims, who are often targeted by al Qaeda's Iraqi affiliate and other Sunni Muslim insurgents.

Nearly 2,000 people have been killed in Iraq so far this year following last December's withdrawal of U.S. troops, who had invaded in 2003 to overthrow Saddam Hussein.

Although violence is far lower than during the sectarian slaughter of 2006-2007, insurgents have carried out at least one big attack a month this year,

Tensions between Shi'ite, Kurdish and Sunni factions in Iraq's power-sharing government have been on the rise since the U.S. withdrawal. Rivals of Shi'ite Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki accuse him of trying to monopolize power.

Iraqi officials are also now worried that Islamists may be gaining strength from the conflict in neighboring Syria, where Islamists have joined the ranks of rebels fighting to overthrow President Bashar al-Assad.

Two explosions near a restaurant in the city of Hilla, 100 km (60 miles) south of Baghdad, killed 28 people, said Nabil Mohammed, the head of a hospital there.

"We started to stop civilian cars asking them to take the wounded to hospital since there were not enough ambulances to transfer them," said 39-year-old Ihsan al-Khalidi, a schoolteacher who was near the scene of the explosions.

Blood, shoes, body parts and wristwatches were scattered around the site of the blast and grieving women pounded their faces and chests, searching for relatives who might have been hurt.

"Shame on the officials who are just sitting in their offices while explosions hit the city every day," Khalidi said.

In the predominantly Shi'ite city of Kerbala, a car bomb near a bus terminal where pilgrims gather killed two people, a spokesman for the local health office said.

Attacks tend to increase during the period when Shi'ites commemorate the death of the Prophet's grandson, Imam Hussein.

On Tuesday, car bombs targeting Shi'ites in mourning processions killed 14 people in Baghdad.

Shi'ites were not the only target on Thursday. In Falluja, a mainly Sunni city 50 km (32 miles) west of Baghdad, three people were killed when a suicide bomber blew himself up in the midst of a group of soldiers who were gathering to get their pay from a state bank, police and health sources said.



A roadside bomb also went off near a checkpoint in the northern city of Mosul, killed one policeman and one civilian, police said.





CENTCOM

26. [Attack, Syria] Bomb Explosion Rips Through Press TV Vehicles In Syria

Friday, November 30 2012

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2012/11/30/275320/bomb-attack-hits-press-tv-cars-in-syria/>

A bomb attack has ripped through six vehicles, including an SNG truck, belonging to Press TV and al-Alam television networks in the Syrian capital Damascus, security sources report.

Syrian security guards said on Friday that the bomb explosion occurred near Press TV's office in Damascus after a man was caught on camera sticking something to a car.

According to reports, he escaped the scene of the attack minutes before the blast.

However, the bomb attack did not cause any casualties.

On September 26, militants in Damascus attacked Press TV staff, killing the Iranian English-language news network's correspondent Maya Naser, and injuring its Damascus Bureau Chief Hosein Mortada.

Mortada has received numerous threats and survived several attempts on his life over the past few months.

Syria has been the scene of unrest since March 2011. Many people, including large numbers of security forces, have lost their lives in the turmoil.

The Syrian government says foreign-backed "terrorists" are responsible for the killings, and that certain Western states, especially the United States, and their regional allies are fueling the turmoil.



EUCOM

27. [Trend, Greece] Golden Dawn Linked To Firebombs

Monday, November 26 2012

http://www.ekathimerini.com/4dcgi/_w_articles_wsite1_1_21/11/2012_471064

A 22-year-old man who was arrested in Volos, central Greece, earlier this month carrying a load of Molotov cocktails has allegedly told police that he was intending to firebomb a makeshift mosque following instructions from members of neofascist Golden Dawn, who had provided him with paid work.

Kathimerini understands that the suspect, known by the initials ZM, told police that he carried out tasks for the party in return for occasional work. "He did some farming work that was assigned to him by Golden Dawn," the suspect's lawyer, Dimitris Gouvas, told Kathimerini. "This helped him secure a few days' wages, which he needed to look after his family. He is married and has a 14-month-old child."

When contacted by Kathimerini, the local branch of the party denied any connection to the suspect.

The 22-year-old told police that two other men arrested when his car was stopped did not know he was carrying the petrol bombs. However, a search of the suspects' homes revealed various Golden Dawn literature, two knives and balaclavas.

Kathimerini understands that the three men had been under observation by the police when they were arrested but it was only later that the 22-year-old revealed they were intending to attack a makeshift mosque in Volos.

In a related development, an internal investigation has been launched into claims that a 22-year-old police cadet threatened students at the Democritus University of Thrace, telling Muslims they should leave the building as he was a Golden Dawn member.



EUCOM

28. [Security, Israel] Israel Successfully Tests New Missile Defense System Against Mid-Range Missile Threat

Monday, November 26 2012

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/israel-successfully-tests-new-missile-defense-system-against-mid-range-missile-threat/2012/11/25/f3cc6674-3730-11e2-9258-ac7c78d5c680_story.html

Israel successfully tested its newest missile defense system Sunday, the military said, a step toward making the third leg of what Israel calls its “multilayer missile defense” operational.

The “David’s Sling” system is designed to stop mid-range missiles. It successfully passed its test, shooting down its first missile in a drill Sunday in southern Israel, the military said.

The system is designed to intercept projectiles with ranges of up to 300 kilometers (180 miles).

Israel has also deployed Arrow systems for longer-range threats from Iran. The Iron Dome protects against short-range rockets fired by militants in the Gaza Strip and Hezbollah guerrillas in Lebanon. Iron Dome shot down hundreds of rockets from Gaza in this month’s round of fighting.

Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak said the success of Iron Dome highlighted the “immense importance” of such systems.

“David’s Sling,” also known “Magic Wand,” is developed by Israel’s Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and U.S.-based Raytheon Co. and is primarily designed to counter the large arsenal of Hezbollah rockets in Lebanon.

The military said the program, which is on schedule for deployment in 2014, would “provide an additional layer of defense against ballistic missiles.”

The next generation of the Arrow, now in the development stage, is set to be deployed in 2016. Called the Arrow 3, it is designed to strike its target outside the atmosphere, intercepting missiles closer to their launch sites. Together, the two Arrow systems would provide two chances to strike down incoming missiles.

Israel also uses U.S.-made Patriot missile defense batteries against mid-range missiles, though these failed to hit any of the 39 Scud missiles fired at Israel from Iraq in the first Gulf War 20 years ago. Manufacturers say the Patriot system has been improved since then.





EUCOM

29. [Attack, Northern Ireland] Pipe Bomb Thrown At Police Vehicle 'Viable'

Wednesday, November 28 2012

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/headlines/pipe-bomb-thrown-at-police-vehicle-viable-1-4530786>

The pipe bomb thrown at a police vehicle in west Belfast on Monday night was a viable explosive device, police have confirmed.

Officers were responding to a burglary call at around 7.30pm when they were targeted with the improvised grenade in the Culmore Gardens area of Andersonstown.

It is thought the device bounced off the PSNI Land Rover and failed to explode.

District Commander George Clarke yesterday described the attack as "reckless".

"We are very fortunate not to be talking about serious injuries or deaths this morning following the reckless attack on my officers and the residents of Culmore Gardens last night. Police officers were responding to assist in what they believed to be a genuine call for help when this viable device was thrown at their vehicle.

"The people responsible for this attack did not care that this was in a built-up residential area," he said.

A number of residents were evacuated from the street for several hours while Army technical experts made the device safe.

Chief Superintendent Clarke said: "Once again the local community has been disrupted, with families put out of their homes until after midnight last night. Once again the lives of residents have been put at risk by an element intent on causing as much loss of life and disruption as they can.

"These people are not part of the society within which the majority of people of Northern Ireland wish to live."

The police chief said his officers were determined to deliver the service the community deserves and would work tirelessly with local people and community representatives "in an effort to continually improve policing, build strong and safe communities" and to assure residents that all was being done to bring those responsible to justice.

Chief Supt Clarke added: "I would call on everyone in our community who wants to see a happier and more peaceful future to give us the information to put these people before the courts. In particular, we would like to hear from anyone who was in this area last night and has any information about this incident to contact us on 0845 600 8000."

UUP Policing Board member Ross Hussey MLA said he was relieved no one was hurt in the "cowardly" attack.

"The terrorists who committed this crime offer no hope of a better future for anyone and only a one-way ticket to prison. They must be rejected and handed over to the police," he said.

Tim Attwood of the SDLP said there is a "stark difference" between local residents, who are working to eradicate crime, and those who threw the pipe bomb at police.



The Upper Falls councillor said: "I condemn this action. It was utterly pointless and served nothing but to frustrate and anger local residents, many of them young people and vulnerable elderly couples, who were evacuated from their homes on a bitterly cold, winter night."

Sinn Fein councillor Emma Groves also condemned the incident, saying "the only thing it has achieved is annoyance and upset" for residents.



EUCOM

30. [Trend, Italy] Letter-Bomb Explodes Near Rome Market, No Injuries

Thursday, November 29 2012

http://www.ansa.it/web/notizie/rubriche/english/2012/11/29/Letter-bomb-explodes-near-Rome-market-injuries_7876552.html

A letter-bomb exploded in Rome's San Giovanni neighbourhood Thursday, creating panic but no injuries.

The blast occurred in Via Sannio, near a famous street market selling clothes and accessories. The device exploded on the pavement near a Telecom telephone exchange, not far from the offices of the water and electricity utility Acea.



PACOM

31. [Trend, Philippines] IED Explodes In Ampatuan, Maguindanao

Monday, November 26 2012

<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/283827/news/regions/ied-explodes-in-ampatuan-maguindanao>

An improvised explosive device (IED) exploded in a town in Maguindanao province early Monday, but there was no initial report of casualties.

The incident occurred at about 8:23 a.m. at Barangay Salibu in Datu Saudi Ampatuan town, according to a report by radio dzBB's Glen Juego.

Maguindanao police chief Senior Superintendent Jaime Pido was quoted in the report as saying debris that included metal scraps and remains of a mobile phone were found in the area.

Pido said no one was initially reported injured in the explosion.

Local police are still investigating who left behind the IED, the report said.

The report cited initial information indicating the IED may have been based on a 60-mm mortar.



PACOM

32. [Special Interest, North Korea] North Korea Test Missile Next Week

Friday, November 30 2012

<http://english.samaylive.com/world-news/676518989/north-korea-missiles-missile-test-pyongyang-kim-jong-un.html>

Fresh analysis of new satellite imagery confirms apparent North Korean preparations for an imminent long-range missile test -- perhaps as early as next week -- a US think tank said on Friday.

Speculation over a new test, following a failed launch in April, has intensified in recent weeks and drew a sharp warning Thursday from the UN Security Council to Pyongyang. The US-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins University said new images provided by satellite operator DigitalGlobe clearly pointed to advanced launch preparations at the Sohae satellite launch station.

"If Pyongyang follows past practice in preparing for a launch, it could be ready to fire a rocket as early as the end of the first week in December," Nick Hansen, an expert on imagery analysis, wrote on the institute's website 38 North.

The analysis highlighted images showing trailers used for carrying the first two stages of an Unha-3 rocket parked near the main missile assembly building. "(This is) a clear indicator that the rocket stages are being checked out before moving to the pad for an eventual launch," Hansen said.

Empty tanks spotted at four locations indicated that the propellant buildings at the pad have likely been filled in preparation for fuelling the rocket, he added. In Seoul, a senior government official said South Korea believed preparations for a test had "entered a final stage".

"But there is no telling whether or when it would go ahead," the official, who declined to be identified, told North Korea is known to have an inter-continental ballistic missile (ICBM) in development -- the Taepodong-2 -- but it has never been tested successfully.

In April, North Korea failed with a much-hyped launch of an Unha-3 that Pyongyang said was aimed at placing a satellite in orbit.

The United States and United Nations insisted it was a disguised ballistic missile test using a three-stage variant of the Taepodong-2. The April test put a halt to the latest international effort to engage North Korea, with the United States calling off plans to deliver badly needed food assistance.

On Thursday, the UN Security Council warned North Korea against carrying out another launch bid. "We all agree it would be extremely inadvisable to proceed with the test," the head of the North Korea sanctions committee at the council, Portuguese Ambassador Jose Filipe Moraes Cabral, told reporters.

The latest satellite images were taken on November 23 and 26, and several experts suggested Pyongyang had accelerated test preparations ahead of a rocket launch by South Korea scheduled for November 29.



PACOM

33. [Security, India] Maoists' Secret Dump Recovered In Odisha

Friday, November 30 2012

http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed_news.asp?date=11/30/2012&id=10#10

Security Forces (SF) personnel recovered a secret dump belonging to Communist Party of India-Maoist (CPI-Maoist) cadres in Daringbadi Police Station area of Kandhamal District on November 29, reports The Hindu. According to Kandhamal District Police sources, the Maoist dump was recovered during a Joint Combing Operation by the District Police, Special Operation Group (SOG) and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Badabanga forest near Kerubadi. A landmine containing around 20 kilogram explosive and two other Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) each having two kilogram explosives, wire used to detonate landmines were seized from the spot. But no arms or ammunition was seized from the dump.



PACOM

34. [Attack, India] One Killed, Three Hurt In Bomb Attack

Friday, November 30 2012

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/one-killed-three-hurt-in-bomb-attack/article4147700.ece>

One person was killed and three others injured in a bomb attack in Somangalam police station limits on Thursday night.

According to the police, the incident took place around 9 p.m.

D. Sivakumar (assistant director, mines, Kancheepuram district) and three others were travelling in a car towards Pallavaram on Sriperumbudur Manimangalam Road.

As they neared Kannimedu, an unidentified gang hurled country-made bombs on the car and fled.

Mr. Sivakumar, car driver Karthikeyan, and Vasudevan, relative of a village panchayat president in Kundrathur block, were rushed to a nearby hospital.

The fourth occupant, Sivalingam, an office assistant in the mines department, escaped with minor injuries. He then took the help of a passing motorist and went to the Somangalam police station to lodge a complaint.

Mr. Karthikeyan succumbed to injuries at the hospital. The Somangalam police have registered a case and are investigating.



NORTHCOM

35. [Security, United States] Explosive Device Found In Grand Chute Home

Saturday, November 24 2012

http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/article/20121124/GPG0101/311240333/Explosive-device-found-Grand-Chute-home?odysey=tab|topnews|text|GPG-News&nlick_check=1

Three men discovered what police determined to be an improvised explosive device while cleaning out the garage of a home in the 2700 block of West Highway Drive on Saturday afternoon.

The men — all brothers — were cleaning the garage for their father, said Sgt. Randy Reifsteck of the Grand Chute Police Department. Reifsteck did not know the brothers names or ages, but confirmed they were all adults.

The device, found in a box, was “like a piece of pipe with tape around it,” Reifsteck said. The two ends of the pipe were sealed.

One of the brothers, a Wisconsin sheriff’s department employee, was suspicious and called police at around 12:40 p.m., he said. A technician from the Brown/Outagamie County Bomb Squad eventually secured the item and “rendered” it safe.

The bomb squad will usually detonate the device before logging it into evidence, Reifsteck said. On Monday, the item will be assigned to an investigator who will dig further into how it ended up in the garage.

“The brothers did not report why it was there and why it got there,” he said.



NORTHCOM

36. [Trend, United States] Bomb Threats Aimed At 30 Government Sites

Wednesday, November 28 2012

http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/national_world/2012/11/28/bomb-threat-aimed-at-30-government-sites.html

Bomb threats to 30 courthouses and other government buildings across Tennessee forced many to be evacuated yesterday, including the federal building in Memphis, but authorities said no explosives were found.

Tennessee became the fourth state to deal with similar bomb hoaxes. One targeted 28 courthouses in Oregon and similar threats were reported in Nebraska and Washington this month.

Nine threats were reported in western Tennessee counties — including the Memphis federal building — seven in middle Tennessee and 14 in eastern Tennessee, said Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security spokeswoman Dalya Qualls.

No arrests have been made.



NORTHCOM

37. [Security, United States] Bomb Defused At Lynchburg School

Thursday, November 29 2012

<http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Bomb-defused-at-Lynchburg-school-4077425.php>

Police have defused a bomb that a student brought to a private school for special-needs children in Lynchburg.

Lynchburg Police Capt. Ryan Zuidema tells The News and Advance that the Rivermont School and neighboring homes and businesses were evacuated Thursday while state police took the chemical bomb to a secure location away from the school and defused it. About 56 students were at the school. Nobody was injured.

Police said the 14-year-old student brought the foot-tall bomb to school in his backpack. Staff became aware of the threat and took the bomb outside.

The student was taken into custody.

The school is run by Centra. Its website says the school is designed for students who have psychological, emotional or learning problems but do not require inpatient treatment.



NORTHCOM

38. [Trend, United States] Pipe Bomb Found In Smyrna-Area Home

Thursday, November 29 2012

http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20121129/NEWS01/311290067/Police-Pipe-bomb-found-Smyrna-area-home?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|Local|p&nlick_check=1

Delaware State Police say probation officers and detectives found a pipe bomb, gun, ammunition and fireworks inside a Smyrna-area man's bedroom Wednesday night.

Master Cpl. Gary Fournier said officers conducted an administrative search of Robert Cadmus' home in the 1000 block of Hurd Road just after 9 p.m. Police said Cadmus was outside the home and allowed officers inside. Fournier said findings included a 12-gauge shotgun with ammunition, a variety of prescription drugs not prescribed to Cadmus, drug paraphernalia and fireworks. A gray duct-taped cylindrical object also was found on a shelf in Cadmus' bedroom. The Delaware State Police Explosive Ordinance Disposal Unit responded and determined the item to be a homemade pipe bomb, Fournier said. The device was removed from the house and rendered safe. There were no injuries and all occupants of the home were safely evacuated prior to the device being removed.

The 19-year-old faces half a dozen charges related to the found items. He was arraigned and committed to Vaughn Correctional Center on \$12,1000 secured bond.