



## Weekly News Update

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The RAPID Weekly News Update is a weekly collection of unclassified news coverage of noteworthy improvised explosive attacks and trends in the IED/C-IED community. For additional information or to be added to the RAPID network, please email the RAPID team ([rapid@at-solutions.com](mailto:rapid@at-solutions.com)) from your government email account.

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## 1. US-Pak Discuss Ways To Target IED Components' Shipment

Wednesday, 06 JULY 2011 (IBN Live)

<http://ibnlive.in.com/generalnewsfeed/news/uspak-discuss-ways-to-target-ied-components-shipment/749346.html>

Pakistan and the US discussed strengthening prosecution and laws to target illegal shipments of components used to make improvised explosive devices and other terrorism cases, as law enforcement and counter-terrorism officials from the two sides held talks here. The two sides also discussed challenges and progress made in Pakistan's efforts to counter the illicit trafficking of drugs. The matter was discussed during a meeting of the law enforcement and counter-terrorism working group as part of the US-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue. The Pakistani side was led by Interior Minister Rehman Malik while Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement William Brownfield headed the US delegation. The two sides "exchanged ideas on how to improve the prosecution for illegal shipments of IED precursors and terrorism cases, including strengthening the legislative framework for such cases", said a joint statement issued after the talks yesterday. Malik and Brownfield discussed the "tragic impact" of IEDs on law enforcement personnel and civilians in Pakistan and across the border in Afghanistan. "The death of over 500 Pakistani civilians from IEDs since the beginning of 2011 called for the need for urgent action to combat the threat," the statement said. Noting that suicide bombings and IED attacks had become "an unacceptable and too frequent occurrence in Pakistan", both sides pledged to improve cooperation on stopping "these vicious cowardly attacks".

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## 2. Improvised Explosive Attacks Soar In Pakistan

Tuesday, 05 JULY 2011

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/203057/improvised-explosive-attacks-soar-in-pakistan/>

The number of attacks from improvised explosive devices in Pakistan has grown by more than 145 percent in the last four years, as expertise in the crude bombs has flowed from militants in Iraq to Afghanistan and eventually to Pakistan, officials said.

Just on Tuesday, three separate IED attacks in North Waziristan near the Afghan border and Baluchistan in the southwest killed seven Pakistan border troops and wounded 24.

“Where this expertise is coming from, probably initially it came from Iraq, and then from Afghanistan and now it’s here,” said a Pakistani intelligence official.

He said there had been a dip in suicide bombings in Pakistan with a correspondent increase in IED attacks, which are increasingly the weapon of choice for Pakistan insurgents.

IEDs are also one of the Afghan Taliban’s most effective weapons against coalition troops in Afghanistan.

A team of law enforcement officials from Pakistan and the United States began meetings in Islamabad on Tuesday as part of their strategic dialogue, with a large part of the discussions focussed on ways to fight the menace of IEDs.

“It’s a lethal weapon,” Interior Minister Rehman Malik said at the opening of the session, vowing to equip security forces with better detection equipment.

According to figures provided by the Directorate of Inter-Services Intelligence, Pakistan’s powerful spy agency, the number of IED attacks on Pakistani troops and security forces soared from 413 in 2007 to 1,015 in 2010, an increase of 145 percent. A breakdown of casualties from IEDs was not available.

But unlike in Iraq, where caches of munitions hidden by Saddam Hussein’s regime were the main source of explosive material, in Afghanistan and Pakistan, most IEDs are made using ammonium nitrate, a common fertiliser in Pakistan.

In March 2010, Pakistani authorities seized more than 6,000 pounds of ammonium nitrate hidden in a market in Lahore.

Zulfiqar Hameed, a senior police official, said three men arrested had links with militants.

“Explosives are very easily available,” said another senior police official in Peshawar, who requested anonymity to speak to the press. “If somebody wants to buy explosive material for mining or other work he can get it through legal ways, but then there is no check or tracking whether it’s used properly.”

Manuals for making IEDs are available on the internet, he said. “It is not a rocket science and it doesn’t require such a huge installation or factory to manufacture it.”

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**3. Suicide Attackers Arrested In Nangarhar** (Bakhtar News Agency)

Tuesday, 05 JULY, 2011

<http://bakhtarnews.com.af/en/index.php?news=5796>

Seven suicide attackers wearing women Burqas have been arrested by Afghan border police in Nazayan district of eastern Nangarhar province. According to Ghulam Sediq Sediqi, spokesman for Afghan Ministry of Interior, 7armed individuals wearing women Burqas and intending to carry out suicide attack in the outskirts of Nngarhar province have been arrested by Afghan border police. According to the source, preliminary inquiries started from the detained figures and details to be broadcasted through media very soon.

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**4. Italian Soldier Killed** (Bakhtar News Agency)

Sunday, 03 July 2011

<http://bakhtarnews.com.af/en/index.php?news=5774>

An Italian soldier killed and another one wounded in explosion of a roadside mine in Farah province. A source of ISAF commandment in the west zone said to BIA, these soldiers faced with a planted mine during a patrol mission in 16 Km west of Bacwah district of Farah province. The source added the health situation of the injured soldiers called satisfactory. It is said Italy has 3880 soldiers in Afghanistan which stationed in the west zone that out of which 37 soldiers have been killed in different incident in Afghanistan.

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**5. Three Afghan Police Hurt By Bomb Near Parliament** (Agence France-Presse)

Sunday, 03 JULY 2011

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jvqdTE9ucZ9\\_28TO60el1wQN\\_s6g?docId=CN.G.c45b1499618bdfc8c2602868ded684ec.1c1](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jvqdTE9ucZ9_28TO60el1wQN_s6g?docId=CN.G.c45b1499618bdfc8c2602868ded684ec.1c1)

A bomb blast apparently targeting a police post near the parliament building in Kabul on Sunday injured three officers, police and the interior ministry said.

"It was an explosion near a police post. Three officers are injured and investigations to determine the cause of the explosion are underway," Kabul police spokesman Hashmat Stanikzai told AFP.

The interior ministry in a statement said the explosion was triggered by an improvised explosive device, or IED, the Taliban's weapon of choice.

It said the three wounded had been taken to hospital for treatment.

The blast follows a major Taliban attack at a landmark hotel in Kabul on Thursday in which 21 people were killed, fuelling doubts over Afghan forces' ability to protect their country as US-led troops begin to draw down forces.

Kabul is the only city under Afghan security control, but a rise in attacks on government departments, and guest houses and shops used by Westerners in recent years, has chipped away at its reputation for relative safety.

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**6. Mine Explosion In Kandahar** (Bakhtar News Agency)

Thursday, 30 JUNE 2011

<http://bakhtarnews.com.af/en/index.php?news=5730>

Apersonnel [sic] was killed and two others were wounded in a mine blast in Kandahar province on Wednesday. The press office the spokesperson of the Ministry of National Defense said the mine was planted by the armed oppositions along the road of Panjwae district of that province and exploded while passing the vehicle of the National Army personnel as a result one person was killed and two others wounded. The injured have been transferred to the hospital.

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**7. Students Of Amir Ali Shirnawai High School Wounded In Maimana** (Bakhtar News Agency)

Sunday, 03 JULY 2011

<http://bakhtarnews.com.af/en/index.php?news=5780>

Due to explosion of a grenade in front of Amir Ali Shirnawi high school in Maimana, 25 people including 17 students of the school wounded yesterday. According to interior ministry press office, throwing of a grenade on the time of students' leaving from school, 17 students of the school and 8 passerbys were wounded. Mohammad Kazim Arab principle of the school said to BIA, this grenade threw by a student of this school due to private enmity on other students. According to him, three injured having critical injuries hospitalized and the others after treatment released. The suspect of the event fled and police efforts to arrest him.

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**8. Soldier from Bossier City dies in Afghanistan**

Wednesday, 06 JULY 2011 (KSLA)

<http://www.ksla.com/story/15030877/soldier-from-bossier-city-dies-in-afghanistan>

A U.S. Army soldier from Bossier City, Louisiana was reportedly killed in action during Operation Enduring Freedom.

According to the Department of Defense, 27-year-old Staff Sgt. Michael J. Garcia died July 4 in Logar province, Afghanistan.

Reportedly his unit was attacked by insurgents using an improvised explosive device (IED) and Garcia died as a result of wounds suffered during the attack.

The Department of Defense reports that Garcia was assigned to the 63rd Ordnance Battalion, 52nd Ordnance Group (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), 20th Support Command (CBRNE), Fort Polk, La. He was stationed at Fort Polk Army Base in Fort Polk, Louisiana.

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**9. FC Men Killed In Kech Blast** (Nation)

Wednesday, 06 JULY 2011

<http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Politics/06-Jul-2011/5-FC-men-killed--in-Kech-blast>

Five personnel of Frontier Corps (FC) Balochistan were killed and five others received serious injuries in a remote controlled bomb blast in Gomazi area of Kech district on Tuesday.

Official sources said, a convoy of FC was heading towards Mand from Turbat when an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) planted along a roadside at Gomazi area of Tump, some 80 kilometers away from Turbat town, exploded soon after FC's vehicles passed by.

Consequently, five personnel died on the spot while five others sustained serious injuries, they said, adding, that a vehicle of FC was completely destroyed in the attack.

The dead and injured personnel were moved to the FC Medical Camp at Turbat.

The deceased FC personnel were identified as Subedar Sultan, Naik Hajab Noor, Lance Naik Khan Muhammad, Sepoy Rozi Khan and Sepoy Abdul Manan while injured were identified as Lance Naik Munnwar Hussain, Sepoy Amjad and Sepoy Nooruddin.

The sources claimed that the explosives were detonated through a remote controlled device and FC convoy was the main target, adding, that the attack could be carried out by Baloch insurgents.

Levies officials in Tump said that they were prevented by FC to have access to examine the crime scene. They were barred from investigating or collecting basic facts of the case, they added.

According to local people of Tump, FC had launched a search drive in the area soon after the explosion and detained two people for interrogation.

However, no official was available to confirm the search.

Meanwhile, Inspector General (IG) FC Balochistan Ubaidullah Khan, in a statement has strongly condemned the attack on a FC convoy and termed it as a cowardly attempt on the part of terrorists.

He said that such cowardly acts would not stop FC from its mission and would continue to render its sacrifices for restoration of complete peace.

He said that the people should extend their cooperation with FC so that the province could be made peaceful.

He said FC personnel are investigating the incident.

A spokesman of banned Baloch Liberation Front (BLF) has claimed responsibility for remote controlled bomb blast in Gomazi area of Kech district in which five FC personnel were killed and five others sustained injuries in the incident on Tuesday.

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**10. 10th Mountain Division Soldier Killed In IED Attack**

Wednesday, 06 JULY 2011

<http://www.watertowndailytimes.com/article/20110706/NEWS03/307069956>

The 10th Mountain Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team suffered Friday its ninth death in Afghanistan. Pfc. James A. Waters, 21, of Coverdale, Ind., was killed after being hit by an improvised explosive device in Sartak, Afghanistan.

The soldier deployed to Afghanistan with the brigade in March and has since earned the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Pfc. Waters was a member of the 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, which so far has lost seven soldiers.

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**11. Three Soldiers Killed In NWA IED Blast** (The News International)

Wednesday, 06 JULY 2011

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=7230&Cat=13&dt=7/6/2011>

The security forces here Tuesday blew up a three-storey private hospital building owned by the lone Member of the National Assembly from North Waziristan Kamran Khan and his father Dr Zakeem Khan.

Tribal sources said the hospital building located on the Miramshah-Dattakhel road was razed to the ground after unknown people attacked a military convoy with an improvised explosive device (IED), killing three soldiers and injuring 16 others.

The military convoy had just left the heavily-guarded Miramshah army camp and was on its way to Dattakhel near the border with Afghanistan when it came under attack near Miramshah bazaar.

The authorities had already clamped curfew on the Miramshah-Dattakhel road for security of the military convoy and directed the tribespeople to stay away from the roadside.

The sources said unknown people had planted the IED on the road near the hospital building. The security officials believed someone hiding in the hospital had triggered the explosive device.

Three soldiers, two of them belonging to the Tochi Scouts, a wing of the paramilitary Frontier Corps (FC), and another from the Pakistan Army, died on the spot and 16 soldiers, all from the army, sustained injuries when their truck was hit by the roadside IED. The security forces immediately opened indiscriminate fire and launched search operation in the area. The soldiers also found two more IEDs planted in the same area on the roadside.

The military convoy could not depart for the remote Dattakhel area and was sent back to the army camp in Miramshah. The troops earlier deployed on the road for protection of the military convoy later besieged the hospital building.

The hospital building was thoroughly searched and the troops took the patients and medical staff into custody. The patients and their attendants were later released but three members of the hospital staff were shifted to an unknown place.

Later in the evening, the security forces planted explosives around the walls of the hospital building and blew up the structure. The building was razed to the ground. The destruction of the hospital shocked the tribespeople living in the area. The tribesmen said they heard a huge blast and then saw heavy dust in the area. Though no group took responsibility for the latest attack on the Pakistan Army, tribesmen in Miramshah said it had created tension not only in Miramshah but the whole of North Waziristan.

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**12. Roadside Bomb Kills 13 Afghan Civilians** (Press TV)

Saturday, 02 JULY 2011

<http://www.presstv.com/detail/187153.html>

Thirteen civilians were killed after an IED (improvised explosive device) hit their vehicle today at 7:50 a.m. (0320 GMT), said Mohammad Jaan Rasulyar, deputy provincial governor of Zabul, a Press TV correspondent reported on Saturday.

The victims, including five men, four women and two children, were on their way to Ghazni Province from Pakistan through Zabul border region and were probably refugees returning from Pakistan, the official further explained.

Meanwhile on Thursday, at least 20 civilians lost their lives in the remote southwestern province of Nimroz as a landmine blast struck a bus.

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) has said it documented 368 "conflict-related" civilian deaths in May this year and 593 civilian injuries.

Eighty two percent of the casualties, 301 deaths, were caused by the Taliban militants, the UNAMA said.

"We are very concerned that civilian suffering will increase even more over the summer fighting season which historically brings the highest numbers of civilian casualties. Parties to the conflict must increase their efforts to protect civilians now," said UNAMA Director for Human Rights Georgette Gagnon.

Civilians are the biggest victims of the Afghan war. The United Nations said that 2,777 people were killed last year, the highest total since the US-led invasion of the Asian country in 2001.

The UN also said in June that the number of security incidents in Afghanistan this year since March was 51 percent higher than in the same period last year.

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**13. Roadside Bomb Kills Two Coalition Service Members In Afghanistan** (MI News)

Saturday, 02 JULY 2011

<http://www.minews26.com/content/?p=8508>

Two coalition service members were killed in western and southern Afghanistan on Friday and Saturday as a result of two bomb blasts, the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said on Saturday. ISAF said one of its service members was killed on Friday evening as a result of an improvised explosive device (IED) attack in southern Afghanistan. Another service member died in western Afghanistan on Saturday morning as a result of another IED attack.

As usual, the multinational force gave no other details about the incidents, including the exact location and the nationalities of those killed. "It is ISAF policy to defer casualty identification procedures to the relevant national authorities," a brief statement said.

Coalition casualties in Afghanistan have been rising sharply in recent years, with a total coalition death toll of 709 in 2010, making it the deadliest year for international troops since the war began in response to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States.

So far this year, at least 283 coalition service members have been killed in Afghanistan. Most troops are killed in the country's south, which is plagued by IED attacks on troops and civilians. Most of the casualties are American.

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**14. Twin Bomb Blasts Kill At Least 35 People In Northern Baghdad** (BNO News)

Tuesday, 05 JULY 2011

<http://channel6news.com/2011/07/twin-bomb-blasts-kill-at-least-35-people-in-northern-baghdad/>

At least 35 people were killed on late Tuesday morning when two bomb blasts targeted a government building in northern Baghdad, Iraqi officials said.

The attack happened at around noon local time near the Municipal Council in the Taji area of northern Baghdad when a car bomb detonated. The large explosion was followed by another when an improvised explosive device (IED) exploded nearby in a garage.

Security sources told the National Iraqi News Agency (NINA) that at least 35 people were killed, most of them civilians, while around 30 others were injured. Some of the casualties were police officers, NINA reported, but it was not known if they were among the fatalities or injuries, or both.

Iraq has been hit by a series of deadly attacks in recent months. Less than two weeks ago, at least 21 people were killed and 107 others were wounded when three booby-trapped bombs exploded in a Shiite neighborhood of Baghdad on June 23.

That attack occurred just two days after at least 22 people were killed during two bomb explosions that targeted a local governor in the city of Al Diwaniya, which is the capital of Iraq's Al-Qādisiyyah Governorate in the country's south-central region, located about 180 kilometers (112 miles) south of Baghdad.

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**15. Terrorists Must Be Deprived Of IED Technology: Malik** (Pakistan Daily Times)

Wednesday, 06 APR 2011

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\07\06\story\\_6-7-2011\\_pg7\\_6](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\07\06\story_6-7-2011_pg7_6)

Minister for Interior, Rehman Malik, on Tuesday, said improvised explosive devices (IEDs) were a “lethal weapon” that needed to be snatched from terrorists to ensure peace in Pakistan and at the same time in the region.

“Practical measures are being taken with the support of United States to check IEDs, also known as homemade roadside bombs which are responsible for the killing of thousands of people in the country,” he told a joint press briefing with the US Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law William Brownfield.

After attending the first round of fourth Pak-US ministerial-level strategic dialogue on Law Enforcement and Counter Terrorism being held with specific focus on countering IEDs, he said border between Pakistan and Afghanistan was a major concern as our security forces and mainland were being attacked by militants through IEDs.

He said the world had now realised that fabrication of this deadly weapon should be stopped, and added there were also certain reports that fertilizer was being exported to Afghanistan to be used in the preparation of IEDs.

The minister said that suicide bombers used these lethal devices, IEDs, by detonating them through a remote control or by a stopwatch or with the help of chemicals, adding that all these IEDs had been detected in various suicide attacks in the country. Giving details, Malik said Pakistan, in collaboration with the United States, would soon initiate a programme for imparting training to the personnel of law-enforcement agencies to check IEDs.

“We are going to introduce a law on IEDs,” the minister said, adding, “We are also going to constitute a forum comprising members from law-enforcement agencies, including the army. We are grateful to the US for their help and support. Their senior officials are here and we will learn a lot from them.”

Malik said he had also issued directives for three to four days’ orientation classes for all academies, training centers of police and law-enforcement agencies so that they could be informed more about IEDs, their lethal effects and how to deal with them.

He pointed out that around 11,024 people died and 25,291 were injured in incidents involving (IEDs), while 1,972 buildings, 79 bridges, 360 electric poles and 231 railway tracks were also destroyed by IEDs in various areas of Pakistan. Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law William Brownfield said that the main agenda of the strategic dialogue-taking place in Islamabad was to save lives of people around the world, especially Pakistani, Afghani and American lives.

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**16. Nine Cops Injured In LeT Attack In Police Station** (Hindustan Times)

Wednesday, 6 JULY 2011

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/Nine-cops-injured-in-LeT-attack-in-police-station/Article1-718050.aspx>

Suspected Laskhar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) militants on Wednesday morning laid a booby trap outside a police station in militant hotbed Sopore in north Kashmir to launch a major attack on local police. Nine cops were injured, four critically, in the well orchestrated attack, aimed at multiple casualties.

Around 9 am, militants fired a grenade from under-barrel grenade launcher at the Sopore police station, 55 km north of Srinagar. The grenade landed inside the police station premises, located at congested old Sopore colony with labyrinth of lanes and bylanes nearby.

"Immediately after the blast, the police started a cordon and search operation of the adjoining area. During the process of throwing the cordon, an improvised explosive device (IED) planted by militants nearby went off injuring nine police personnel. It was a booby trap and we failed to detect it in advance," Superintendent of police Altaf Khan told the Hindustan Times.

Four critically injured cops were shifted to Srinagar hospital where their condition continued to remain unstable till last reports came in.

This was fifth militant attack on the police station this year. Sopore remained very restive for the last three years with hundreds of locals participating in protests and stone throwing. In Sopore, 11 protesters died in security forces' firing in 2010 unrest triggered by the killing of a school boy on June 11.

"The valley is witnessing radicalization of Islam and Sopore is manifestation of that. People here have a different bent of mind as it is Jamaat (e-Islami) bastion. We fear many stone-throwers are involved in terror activities now," said Khan.

Sopore is dominated by the LeT and the Hizbul Mujahideen militants. LeT's three big names Abdullah Unni, suspected to be a Paskitan-occupied Kashmir resident, Abu Huzafa and Muzaffar Naiko, both locals, are active in the area. Unni is giving the police a slip for the past three years now.

"We killed LeT's 10 militants in the previous three months. It is trying to assert itself again by resorting to such attacks. Only four out of 15 LeT militants are left in the area," said Khan.

Sopore is a tough area for security forces since it's close to the border area of Kupwara and, of late, has become a transit point for militants to fan out into entire north Kashmir.

"It takes just one hour from border area of Zalloora to enter into Sopore," said Khan.

Militants and the local police are witnessing growing confrontation in the last two years. The militant focus of attacking on the army and the CRPF has entirely shifted on local police. Out of eight attacks in Sopore this year, five have been on local police.

Meanwhile, the police inspector injured by militants in Srinagar's Bemina area last week succumbed to his injuries at Srinagar hospital.

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**17. Mosque Explosion Kills Son Of Worship Leader** (Star Sun)

Saturday, 02 JULY 2011

<http://www.sunstar.com.ph/davao/local-news/2011/07/02/mosque-explosion-kills-son-worship-leader-164648>

The son of a worship leader was killed when an improvised explosive device (IED) went off inside a mosque in Sharif Aguak, Maguindanao around 10 p.m. Friday.

Authorities identified the lone fatality as Asrad Sapar, son of an Imam or worship leader assigned at the mosque.

Sapar died of multiple shrapnel wounds in different parts of his body, said Maguindanao Provincial Police Director Marcelo Pintac.

Pintac said witnesses saw two men inside the mosque who hurriedly left the area, minutes before the bomb went off.

Elements of the Explosives and Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team found in the blast site fragments of an 81-mm mortar, reports said.

The bomb attack in Sharif Aguak was the third in Central Mindanao this week.

On Monday, an IED fashioned from an 81-mm mortar exploded in front of the building of the Commission on Audit in Kidapawan City. No one was killed or injured in the blast.

Also on that day, bomb experts defused two IEDs planted in a passenger vehicle plying the Cotabato-Isulan route.

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**18. Bomb Found In Dipolog City** (Zambogana Today)

Friday, 01 JULY 2011

<http://www.zamboangatoday.ph/index.php/news/13-top-stories/5157-bomb-found-in-dipolog-city.html>

An improvised explosive device (IED) triggered by an alarm clock was recovered and disrupted by the police bomb experts at the vicinity of Bagsakan Edad Market, Tomas Claudio Street, Miputac, Dipolog City, Zamboanga del Norte Province yesterday morning.

Police Regional Office 9 director Chief Superintendent Elpidio de Asis said the improvised bomb was discovered by a roving security guard identified as Said Gumandol of Armor Security Agency.

De Asis disclosed that the bomb was placed inside a bag made of cloth and set the IED in a plant box at the corner of the market near the Mother and Child Clinic.

He added that when the security guard inspected the suspicious baggage, it was discovered that the bag contains a plastic alarm clock connected to wires.

Personnel from Dipolog City Police Station immediately secured the area from civilian and passersby, while personnel of the 9th Regional Public Safety Battalion (9RPSB) led by SPO1 Albofera disrupted the bomb.

De Asis told Zamboanga today that nobody was injured in the incident.

Police are still studying the possible motive of the incident including the angle of terrorism.

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**19. A Robot That Sniffs Bombs** (IBN Live)

Wednesday, 06 JULY 2011

<http://ibnlive.in.com/news/a-robot-that-sniffs-bombs/165289-60-122.html>

KOCHI: Don't be surprised if you come across a robot searching for explosives anywhere in the city. Inspired by the scientific findings of their colleagues from NSG, two officials of the City Police Anti Sabotage Squad have invented a remote operated machine for the search and detection of explosives— IED Handling Robot. The robot invented by Jose M V and Anoop K Ravindran has already got wide appreciation. DGP Jacob Punnoose has asked them to carry out some more alterations to the robot. The machine which is attached to a platform on four wheels has a control unit with battery under the panel. The search and detection of explosives would be carried out by a handle called gripper to which the explosive detecting device would be attached. A camera on the frontal portion would help capture any signal from the detected device and transfer to the mother unit which would be a laptop. The device will sound an alarm with audio visual signals immediately after detecting an explosive.

“The concept came from a remote operated wire cutter we had invented earlier. On seeing it, the then City Police Commissioner Manoj Abraham asked us to think about something on a moving platform. It took eight months for us to come up with the final output. IG R Sreelekha, Commissioner M R Ajith Kumar and AR Camp Commandant K I Bhaskaran gave us all support,” said M V Jose and Anoop Ravindran.

Built at a cost of around Rs 1 lakh, the robot can handle a wide range of explosives depending on which detecting device is attached to it. It can handle 30-50 kg of explosives and can be operated with a remote within an area of 50 metres. “The alterations to the device will cost roughly Rs 6 lakh. It's in addition to the cost of the detection device,” said Commandant K I Bhaskaran of the AR Camp.

Jose and Anoop are planning to add more flexibility and length to the gripper arm.

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**20. IED Blasts Halt Goods Traffic Ranchi (TOI)**

Monday, 04 JULY 2011

[http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-07-04/ranchi/29735193\\_1\\_howrah-mumbai-route-saranda-forest-coal-india-chord](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-07-04/ranchi/29735193_1_howrah-mumbai-route-saranda-forest-coal-india-chord)

Movement of goods trains was disrupted for a couple of hours on the Howrah-Mumbai route after the tracks were damaged by two IED blasts in Sundergarh district of Orissa during a 24-hour bandh, the second in a week, in Jharkhand.

Jharkhand Regional Committee (JRC) of Maoists have called the bandh to protest the arrest of Maoists from Saranda forest last week, whom the rebels said, were innocent villagers but were arrested by the security forces and were falsely implicated.

JRC spokesperson Samarji in a press release said eight people were arrested during the anti-Naxalite operation in the Saranda forest from June 26. "Those arrested were innocent poor villagers and should be released immediately," said Samarji.

The blasts took place early in the morning between Rengada and Roxy stations of Sundergarh district of Orissa bordering Jharkhand. As a result, several goods train came to halt at different points on the Howrah-Mumbai route.

However, after the Railway Police Force and railway engineers repaired the tracks, the traffic became normal. "The train movement was stopped for a couple of hours but later it was resumed," said CRPF DIG Bhanu Pratap Singh.

The rural markets remained closed in several parts of the state especially in West Singhbhum, Saraikela, Khunti, Gumla and other parts of the state but no violence was reported.

CRPF IG (operation) D K Pandey said the bandh did not evoke any response and no untoward incident was reported from any quarters of the state.

Transportation of mineral was, however, disrupted in Khelari, Lohardaga, Ramgarh, Hazaribagh, Latehar and Garwha districts incurring a huge loss to state exchequer. This is the second bandh in past seven days called by CPI (Maoist).

The rail traffic however remained normal on the Coal India Chord section under the Dhanbad rail division which is often the target of Maoist violence. Long route inter-state buses didn't ply from Palamu, Jamshedpur and Ranchi and people had to opt for train to avoid inconvenience.

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**21. U.S. Warns Airlines On Human Bomb Implants** (Wall Street Journal)

Wednesday, 06 JULY 2011

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303365804576429741400016376.html?mod=googlenews\\_wsj](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303365804576429741400016376.html?mod=googlenews_wsj)

Militants from al Qaeda's branch in Yemen are mulling plans to surgically implant explosive devices in would-be suicide bombers, possibly targeting airlines, U.S. officials said Wednesday.

That intelligence about al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, considered the group's most dangerous affiliate, led the Obama administration to warn foreign governments and American and international airline executives over the past several days that terrorists might attempt to board planes with explosives concealed in their bodies.

"It's more than aspirational," a U.S. official said. "They're trying to make this happen."

The Department of Homeland Security hasn't warned of a specific plot, White House spokesman Jay Carney told reporters. But the specter of militants carrying bombs within them will prompt additional security measures at U.S. airports and overseas airports serving U.S. destinations, the Transportation Security Administration said in a written release.

Mr. Carney said terrorists have repeatedly expressed interest in trying new techniques to conceal explosives.

"That fact that terrorists are interested in finding ways to attack us is pretty much self-evident," Mr. Carney said. "Our security procedures are multifaceted, and we adjust them according to the threat all the time."

U.S. officials have become increasingly worried about plots emanating from Yemen, where a popular uprising against the country's authoritarian leader and tribal clashes have created a security vacuum in which al Qaeda can operate more freely.

The U.S. official said that the administration isn't aware of an imminent plot involving implanted bombs, but the effort represents the next generation of plans following the botched attempt by al Qaeda's Yemeni affiliate on Christmas Day 2009 to down a Detroit-bound airliner with a bomb sewn into the bomber's underwear.

In recent years, the TSA has added hundreds of new full-body screening machines to scores of airports to complement metal detectors and help detect hard-to-find items that could pose a security threat.

However, the new scanners wouldn't be able to identify explosive devices implanted inside a body, which has prompted many security experts to push for alternative security measures, including profiling a passenger's behavior and demeanor to identify potential security risks.

"What technology can we use? The simple answer is the human brain—that's the only way to address the threat," said Philip Baum, founder of Green Light Limited, an aviation-security consultancy in London.

Given that drug smugglers have implanted contraband for years, he said he is surprised that terrorists haven't yet tried to do the same with explosives.

Despite initial speculation that an al Qaeda terrorist used implanted explosives in a failed bid to assassinate a key Saudi Arabian minister in the summer of 2009, U.S. security officials concluded that the explosive device was hidden in the man's underwear—exactly the same technique used four months later in the Detroit plot.

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**22. IED Found Near Liquor Shop At Dal Lake** (Hindustan Times)

Thursday, 30 JUNE 2011

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/IED-found-near-liquor-shop-at-Dal-lake/Article1-715792.aspx>

Suspected militants planted an improved explosive device (IED) at tourist hub Boulevard on the banks of Dal lake near a hotel housing a liquor shop. The IED was detected during a routine patrol. "The bomb was detected in a tin container near Hotel Heemal," said a police officer.

The police said the bomb, left in a parking lot, was defused without causing any loss of life. Thousands of tourists, at present, stay in hotels housed on the bank of Boulevard, which stretches up to 22 km. This year, the night life had also returned to the valley with tourists flocking favourite destinations late in the night. More than four lakh tourists have traveled Kashmir so far.

A police officer on the condition of anonymity said the bomb could have been targeted at the liquor shop and not tourists. Militants banned all liquor shops in Kashmir in 1990s. Very few liquor shops function in Kashmir valley now.

"I do not think it was explosives. It's a rumour," said SDPO Nehru Park Ghulam Geelani. It seems the police in the evening decided not to scare the tourists with such news.

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