

Spate of violence, arrests in Iraq

by UPI

BAGHDAD -- A spate of bombings and U.S.-led coalition counterinsurgency arrests were reported throughout Iraq on Thursday. A raid targeting an unidentified Shiite extremist north of Baghdad resulted in the deaths of two armed militants and the arrests of five others, a U.S. military statement said. Raids in Tarmiya, north of Samarra, Hawija, and Baiji also netted 12 al-Qaida insurgent suspects, CNN reported. In Karbala, police chief Maj. Shaker Jawdat announced police had found a cache of about 1,000 weapons, explosives and missiles, Alsumaria reported. The Iraqi Interior Ministry reported two roadside bombs exploded in Baghdad, killing one civilian and wounding 12 others. In Baquba, a woman wearing an explosives belt blew herself up, wounding seven U.S. soldiers and five civilians, Alsumaria said. The U.S. military also reported an unmanned MQ-1 Predator reconnaissance aircraft crashed in an unspecified unpopulated area and said an investigation had been launched to determine a cause of the wreck.

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