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Baghdad suicide attack kills 9

Philippines pulls last of its troops from Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — A suicide bomber in a fuel truck blew it up early today at a police station in southwest Baghdad, killing nine people and wounding about 60 as the inferno engulfed civilians and officers waiting for their daily assign-

ments, officials and witnesses said.

The Philippines, meanwhile, said it has completed the withdrawal of its peacekeeping contingent from Iraq, meeting a demand by Iraqi insurgents threatening to behead a Filipino hostage but defying opposition from Washington.

Also today, militants killed a top official in Iraq's Defense Ministry in a drive-by shooting as he walked into his house in

Baghdad, the ministry said today.

Four gunmen drove up as Essam al-Dijaili, the head of the military's supply department, was bringing dinner home Sunday evening and opened fire, killing him and his bodyguard, said Mishal al-Sarraf, an adviser to the defense minister.

The assassination was the latest attack on senior Iraqi officials. Assaultants killed the governor of Nineveh province

last week and tried unsuccessfully to assassinate the country's justice minister.

The morning blast outside the police station in the Seidiyeh neighborhood, the latest in a string of deadly attacks on police, came as officers gathered to receive their daily assignments.

Insurgents throughout Iraq have used car bombs, roadside bombs and other weapons to target police, whom they view as collabora-

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tors with U.S. forces.

"We were all standing in a row, listening to our officer as he gave us our assignment for the day," said Mehdi Salah

Abed Ali, 32, lying in a bed at Yarmuk hospital, a banda around his leg.

"There were many policemen standing in the square when the tanker exploded," he said. T explosion took place just after a.m.

The fuel tanker attack today killed nine people and wounded at least 60, said Saad al-Amiri Health Ministry official.

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UI research gets flexible

Discovery used to create pliable electronic devices

By GREG KLINE
News-Gazette Staff Writer

Soldiers of the future might bed down for the night by spreading a tarp over the pup tent, as the tarp monitors the air for biological and chemical weapons — issuing a wireless warning if it detects anything.

The flexible electronics at the heart of the system also could be used in consumer applications such as inexpensive wall-to-wall displays, in essence wallpaper that shows video.

UI researchers who already had achieved some breakthroughs in the technology have now advanced it even further by developing a way to incorporate silicon — the base material of computer chips.

The researchers already had developed some promising processes for producing flexible electronics, transistors to start, using carbon-based organic materials with natural pliability.

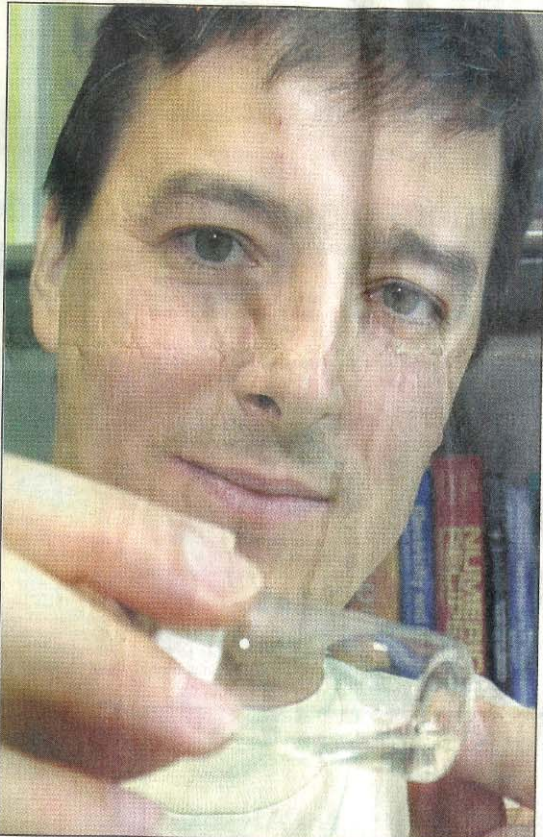
But while they achieved benchmark-setting speeds with the organics, the materials remain substantially slower than inorganic silicon — and speed is essential for applications such as sensing and communications.

"You can't do the wireless links with the organics," UI Professor John Rogers said recently. "They're just not fast enough."

Silicon, on the other hand, is plenty fast. Its electrical properties are roughly 1,000 times better than known organics.

But the material also is inherently rigid. There's nothing flexible about the silicon wafers from which computer chips are manufactured.

The solution developed by Rogers, a materials science and chemistry professor, and colleague Ralph Nuzzo, a chemistry professor and director of the UI's Materials Research Lab, is to chemically carve off tiny electrical components



Robin Scholtz/The News-Gazette

University of Illinois Professor John Rogers holds up a vial containing tiny silicon electronic components suspended in a solution. The pieces can be printed on a flexible base, such as a plastic sheet, to make bendable electronic devices.

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Provena plans intensive care improvements

New central location to help all Illinois units

By DEBRA PRESSEY
News-Gazette Staff Writer

MOKENA — Provena Health will invest \$6 million in new technology to improve the intensive care units of all six of its Illinois hospitals, the health care company said today.

The changes at Covenant Medical Center in Urbana, United Samaritans Medical Center in Danville and the Provena hospitals in Aurora, Elgin, Joliet and Kankakee will be made over the next 16 months.

It has not been determined yet which of the six hospitals will be upgraded first, said company spokesman Clinton Giese.

The changes will create an electronic connection between the 118 intensive care beds in

the six hospitals and medical experts who will staff a new central location to serve all the hospitals, he said.

Specifically, there will be cameras, sound systems and clinical monitors installed between the intensive care beds and the new central location. Provena will hire at least 60 "intensivists," or doctors specializing in intensive care, plus specially trained nurses to staff the new central location and on hand to consult with doctors and nurses at each hospital, he said.

Sophisticated software will be used to enable remote patient monitoring and communication the company said.

For example, if a patient monitor at one of the hospitals picks up a "significant, negative change" in the condition of the patient, it will set off an alert.

Please see PROVENA, A-6

CIA chief: No need for intelligence shake-up

WASHINGTON (AP) — Acting CIA Director John McLaughlin says the agency has made changes since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and he sees no need for a new national intelligence chief.

The bipartisan commission investigating the 2001 hijackings will release its final report this week, and it is expected to recommend the creation of a Cabinet-level position to oversee the nation's 15 intelligence

budgets.

McLaughlin said "a good argument can be made" for such a post. But, he added on "Fox News Sunday," "It doesn't relate particularly to the world I live in. I see the director of central intelligence as someone who is able to do that and is empowered to do so under the National Security Act of 1947" that created the CIA.

"With some modest changes

Devices

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etched on a piece of silicon, wires and the like, and stick them to a cheap, flexible base such as a sheet of plastic.

Not only is the base itself flexible, Rogers said, but the silicon, when cut into pieces, gains some flexibility as well, like wire culled from a steel bar.

Silicon has another big advantage: the decades of experience using it in microelectronics, making its properties and reliability well-known.

"You're just not there yet with the organics," Rogers said. "The organics are promising, but it's gonna take a lot more work."

The UI researchers can suspend the silicon pieces in a liquid solution and basically print them onto a flexible base in a system analogous to printing ink on paper.

The method yields disorganized electronics, but still effective, albeit it with somewhat degraded performance.

They also can pick up the pieces with a kind of high-tech stamp designed to mirror the pattern etched on the silicon, as if pressing a traditional rubber stamp to an ink pad, and use that to print an exact copy on a flexible substrate.

The components can be made to stick to the base either with heat treatment or a liquid polymer that acts like glue.

Both processes could be scaled up for use on a mass production basis.

The UI researchers outlined the work last month in the journal *Applied Physics Letters*. Visiting scholar Etienne Menard, post-doctoral researcher Dahlyoung Khang and graduate student Keon-Jae Lee contributed to the research, which was funded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and

the U.S. Department of Energy.

Rogers said there are myriad potential applications for flexible electronics. Those include such things as scads of cheap, intelligent radio frequency identification tags, replacing product bar codes; foldable, portable, satellite dish-like communications arrays; and medical diagnostic "blankets" festooned with sensors and capable of reporting conditions wirelessly.

The UI researchers have been producing flexible transistors using their techniques and are working on complete circuits now, Rogers said they also have some promising approaches for making electronics that aren't just bendable but stretchable as well. That could make it possible to incorporate the devices into highly irregular shapes such as airplane wings and clothing, among other things.

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Microsoft

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last-minute Microsoft changes — complain that SP2 is creating headaches.

"The changes Microsoft is proposing for SP2 will have serious negative consequences on the consumer experience of many applications and Web sites," RealNetworks spokeswoman Erika Shaffer said. The Microsoft rival makes a digital music and video player and sells subscription download services.

The new system bolsters security on Windows, its built-in Internet Explorer browser and Outlook Express e-mail. Among the changes, a Windows Firewall will automatically be turned on, helping to guard against attack. The browser has been fortified, and a new attachment manager will offer tougher policing against e-mail-borne attacks.

The changes in the way Windows polices itself — particularly the newly strengthened firewall — could cause troubles for applications that are used to working with Windows' old ways. Some say that's particularly true of applications that regularly interact online, such

as gaming programs or music services.

Security experts say it's tough to know how many companies may have to change their products to be compatible.

The company has delayed SP2's release, originally scheduled for June, amid efforts to improve compatibility. Microsoft group product manager Barry Goffe says the "vast majority of applications" should function properly when SP2 comes out.

In the end, analysts believe most consumers will avoid major problems because most companies that have problems will fix them by the time SP2 is released. Gartner Research estimates that a mere 3 percent of applications that run on Windows won't work once SP2 is out.

But Microsoft's Goffe says corporations running customized applications could have more complex problems, requiring them to specially configure SP2. Many legitimate corporate programs depend on just the type of interactions that would also alarm the security system.

It could take months for businesses to adopt the upgrade.

In the end, Cooper and most corporations will very scaled-down version of SP2, both because they avoid compatibility problems because it could be a hassle to manage things like personal firewalls on thousands of desktops.

Still, many big businesses likely running separate applications as well.

Perhaps the biggest concern with SP2 will be a host of alerts the user will see, offering more information about what programs are trying to control the computer and giving the user more chances to accept or decline.

Macromedia Inc.'s technology required only technical changes to be compatible with SP2. The company was more concerned about early language warnings that could make legitimate interactions scary and unwise.

David Mendels, Macromedia's senior vice president and chief executive, said Microsoft was responsive to its concerns. Now, he said the prompt is less dire and more specific.

Report

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in the way the CIA is set up, the director of central intelligence could carry out that function well and appropriately," McLaughlin said.

He also said his agency has disrupted plots to mount attacks by air, sea and other methods in the United States, adding: "It's important to remember here that for these people, an attack in the United States is the brass ring."

McLaughlin took over at the CIA when Director George Tenet left on July 11.

The new post would represent the most drastic step in restructuring the intelligence agencies since the CIA was created after World War II.

Former CIA Director James Woolsey, appearing this

agencies involved in that endeavor.

"I think a Cabinet-level official would be a wise idea," Woolsey said. "I wish people would stop calling him a czar. ... With all these other agencies, I think some coordination at the Cabinet level is probably a good idea."

Two members of the Senate Intelligence Committee — Sens. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., and Dick Durbin, D-Ill. — said they would be open to considering the recommendation for a new intelligence chief.

"When you take a look at how important intelligence must be for our future, you realize that the current situation is untenable," Durbin said on CNN's "10^{PM} Edition." Chambliss cautioned against simply creating

because the Pentagon controls more than 80 percent of the intelligence budget. As a result, CIA requests to other agencies are often ignored.

The commission's final report, expected to be released Thursday, will highlight intelligence failures by the CIA and the FBI that enabled the Sept. 11 attacks to occur.

But McLaughlin was quick to point out that intelligence agencies have improved intelligence-gathering and operations since the attacks. "The intelligence community of that day was for counterterrorism, 300 people spread-eagled across a dike. We now have a hundred people who do nothing but watch-listing alone," he said.

Potential attacks disrupted since then were in the early

Provena

Continued from A-1

the central location and a doctor there will be able to view the patient, check data about the patient on the monitors and give directions about how to proceed with care, the company said.

A key benefit to the new system will be a speedy response, Provena Health officials said,

the enhancement in patient care and safety.

Typically, intensive care patients are tended at the hospital by specialized trained nurses who call in the attending physician as needed, and the new system won't replace that, he said.

"This is an additional layer. It does not replace what's already there. This is a back-up," he added.

sickest patients," Provena Health and Chief Executive William Foley said this month in a written statement.

Giese said an assessment of each hospital's technical abilities and needs will be this week, with the sequent connecting the hospitals to a new center to be determined later.

Provena will be facing a