**N. Korea Claims Breakthrough on Nuclear Missile Warheads**

**WASHINGTON** - The Pentagon said on Tuesday that two Iranian warships had linked up with a cargo ship that Iran says is carrying humanitarian aid to Syria in a clear warning to the United States.

At the same time, it denied reports of a submarine in the Persian Gulf, saying it had been “exposed” by another submarine. Analysts say the report was the result of a nuclear test.

**UN-US-Led Strikes in Syria**

**KILL 170 IS Jihadi**

**US-led coalition** carried out a target strike in the past 11 hours on Thursday in a largely successful attempt to destroy IS leader. The coalition said it had killed at least 170 fighters in the past 48 hours, including five cả elaíd leaders who were killed in an airstrike, as well as 200 other IS members.

The strikes were the second in a series of attacks on IS leaders in the past week, the first of which killed nine IS leaders. The second attack, however, was more widespread.

**UN, US Condemn Chemical Attack in Damascus**

**BEIRUT** - A U.S. Special Envoy for Syria said that the United States and its allies were determined to prevent the use of chemical weapons in Syria.

The envoy, Lt. Col. Francis M. O’Donnell, told a news conference that the United States was working with allies to ensure that chemical weapons were not used in Syria.

The United States has said that it would not allow the use of chemical weapons in Syria.

**Germany’s Knauf Starts $52 Million Project in Uzbekistan**

**BRUSSELS** - German-based Knauf, one of the world’s largest manufacturers of building materials, has started work on a new plant in Uzbekistan.

The company said it would invest $52 million in the project, which will produce gypsum wallboard, with the Uzbek government providing the necessary infrastructure.

**Pakistan, Turkmenistan Sign Trade MoUs as Nawaz Begins Asghabat Visit**

**ISMELA** - Pakistan and Turkmenistan have signed four agreements, including one on the construction of a road linking the two countries.

The agreements cover a range of fields, including trade, tourism, energy and security, and are expected to boost bilateral ties.

**Iraqi Forces Say They Repulse Islamic State Attacks Near Ramadi**

**BAGHDAD** - Iraqi forces said on Thursday that they had repulsed Islamic State attacks near the city of Ramadi.

The radical group has been trying to take control of Ramadi in recent days, and the Iraqi government has been stepping up its military operations in the area.

**U.S. Willing to Change Pro-Democracy Programs in Cuba**

**WASHINGTON** - The United States on Tuesday confirmed a reported change in pro-democracy programs in Cuba, following a visit by Vice President Joe Biden.

The Biden visit was part of a broader effort to improve ties with Cuba, and the U.S. government said it was working with the Cuban government to ensure that those efforts continued.

**IS Learns Lessons from U.S. Raid: Jihadist Sources**

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**Isis Submarines ‘Linked Up’ with Yemen-Bound Cargo Ship: Pentagon**

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**U.S. State Department**

The department said it was providing humanitarian assistance to people in need, and that it was working with humanitarian organizations.

The department also said it was providing assistance to people in need in other parts of the world, including Beirut, Lebanon, and the Syrian town of Ras al-Ain.

**U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations**

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The ambassador also said that the United States was providing assistance to people in need in other parts of the world, including Beirut, Lebanon, and the Syrian town of Ras al-Ain.