

27 killed, over 100 injured in twin bombings in Baghdad; IS claims responsibility

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Baghdad: At least 27 people were killed and more than 100 injured in two bombings in Baghdad, security officials said on Tuesday.

In the first bombing, a car bomb exploded outside a popular ice cream shop in central Baghdad just after midnight Tuesday, killing 16 people and wounding 24.

In the second, a car bomb exploded near one of the capital's main bridges this morning, killing 11, the officials said.

The Islamic State militant group claimed responsibility for the attack, which Iraqi officials said involved apparently remotely detonated explosives inside a parked car. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

The attack came just days into the holy month of Ramadan when Muslims fast during daylight hours. After sundown, families break their fast and Baghdad's restaurants and cafes quickly fill up.

Videos posted to social media showed chaotic scenes on the streets surrounding the blast. A number of wounded lay on the ground, others propped themselves up on the colorful park benches outside the ice cream shop. One young girl, wearing a ribbon and bow in her hair, wandered the scene dazed.

Ramadan is often marked by an uptick in violence in Iraq.

Tuesday's attack comes as Iraqi troops are slowly pushing IS fighters out of their last strongholds in the northern city of Mosul. Iraqi commanders say the offensive, which recently entered its eighth month, will mark the end of the IS caliphate in Iraq, but concede the group will likely increase insurgent attacks in the wake of military defeats.

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