Blast in Iraq kills three, injures 12

By Charles J. Hanley
Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A blast near a holy Shi'ite Muslim shrine in the city of Karbala on Monday killed three people and injured 12, witnesses said.

Meanwhile, in Baghdad, a string of mortar blasts struck near downtown after sunset.

The violence came a day after insurgents shot down a U.S. transport helicopter west of Baghdad, killing 16 Americans and wounding 27 in a dramatic show of increasing sophistication in their