

# Ban on vehicles silences fighting

## Streets of Baghdad quiet on day of prayer

By SAMEER N. YACOUB  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### BAGHDAD, Iraq

Dozens of young boys turned parts of Baghdad's usually busy Saadoun Street into improvised soccer fields, looking clearly unhappy when the odd car disrupted their games.

Downtown was largely deserted. Most shops and gas stations were closed, though small grocery stores were open.

A driving ban brought the Iraqi capital a day of relative calm Friday, a peace enforced by Iraqi soldiers, police and even a Shiite militia that is one of several armed groups the U.S. military wants abolished.

Thousands of Shiites, frisked by Mahdi Army militiamen in yellow button-down collar shirts and armed with Kalashnikov rifles and metal detector wands, knelt in prayer at a huge outdoor service in Baghdad's Sadr City slum.

The militia that helped keep order Friday was the same force that went on a rampage of reprisal attacks against Sunni Muslim mosques and clerics after the Feb. 22 bombing of a Shiite shrine in Samarra.

Thursday night, after a deadly bomb attack in the poor Shiite neighborhood, police and aides to anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr announced the radical leader's militia, the Mahdi Army, would help government security forces patrol Sadr City.

The government decision to legitimize joint patrols with the Mahdi Army, which had been going on anyway, appeared to have tacit U.S. military approval, even though American forces have fought several protracted battles with the Shiite fighters for control of southern holy cities and the Sadr City Shiite stronghold.

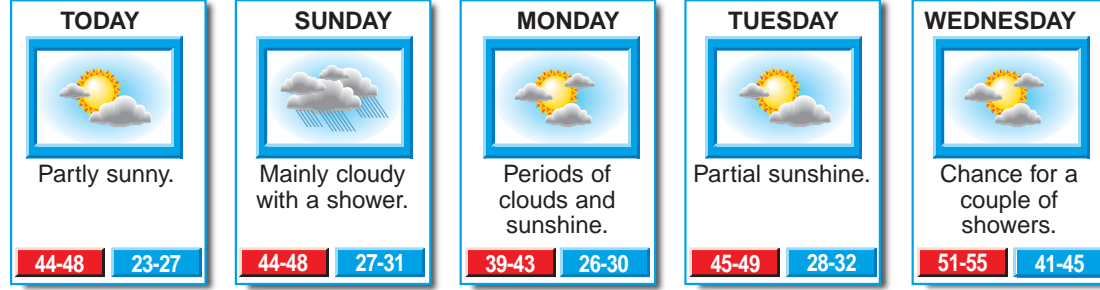
Acceptance of the higher profile for the Mahdi Army, if only for a time, signaled the extreme importance U.S. authorities have put on quelling more than a week of deadly sectarian violence after the Samarra bombing.

The Americans took pains to stay out of the conflict, but there was criticism, nevertheless.

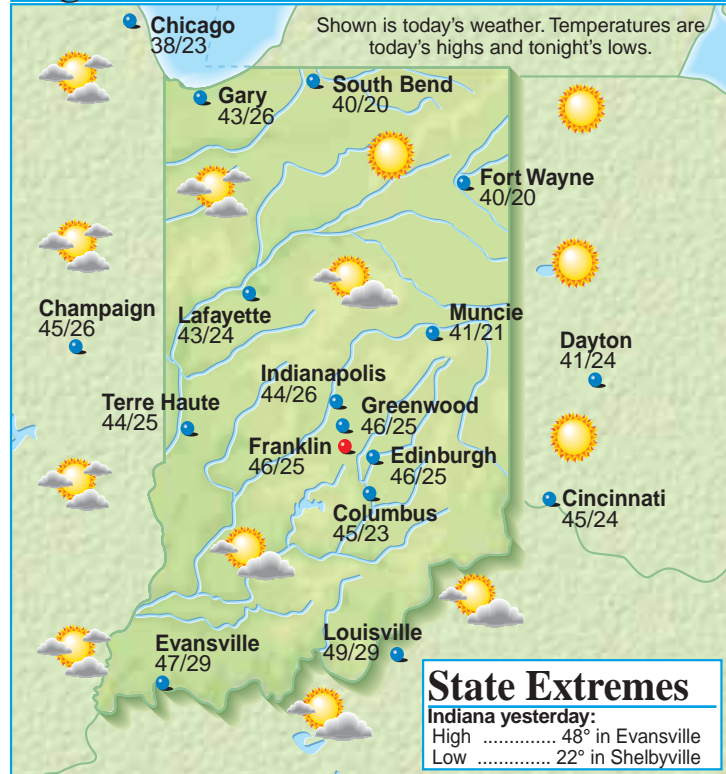
Abdul-Salam Al-Kubaisi, a spokesman for the Sunni clerical Association of Muslim Scholars, suggested U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad might share blame for the violence along with some Shiite religious leaders.

## WEATHER

### AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Johnson County



### Regional weather



### State Extremes

Indiana yesterday:  
High ..... 48° in Evansville  
Low ..... 22° in Shelbyville

### Regional summary

**Indianapolis/Greenwood:** Mostly sunny and chilly today. Clear and cold tonight. Some sun giving way to increasing clouds tomorrow with an afternoon shower.  
**Edinburgh/Franklin:** Partly sunny and chilly today. Increasing clouds tonight. Mostly cloudy tomorrow with the chance of a shower.

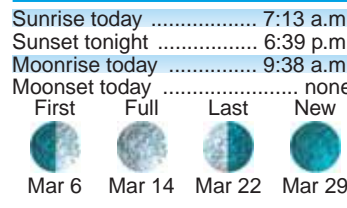
### Today in weather history™

An area from New York to Vermont suffered one of its worst ice storms on record on March 4, 1991. Ice one inch thick accumulated between Buffalo and Rochester.

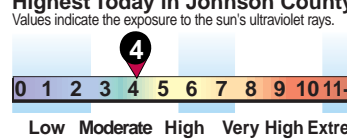
### Regional cities

City	Yest. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W	City	Yest. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W
Anderson	40/24/pc	47/29/c	Indianapolis	43/30/pc	44/32/c
Bloomington	49/28/pc	47/31/c	Kokomo	43/30/pc	45/30/c
Chicago	38/20/pc	38/28/sn	Lafayette	43/28/pc	41/31/c
Cincinnati	42/32/pc	47/32/c	Louisville	49/33/pc	49/39/c
Evansville	48/35/pc	51/36/c	Muncie	38/23/pc	47/29/c
Fort Wayne	37/23/pc	44/26/c	South Bend	37/26/c	42/26/c
Gary	39/24/pc	39/25/sn	Terre Haute	48/26/pc	45/29/c

### Sun and moon



### AccuWeather UV Index™



### Weather Trivia™

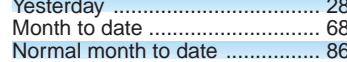
Is northern Canada colder than the North Pole?

### Wind Chill Today

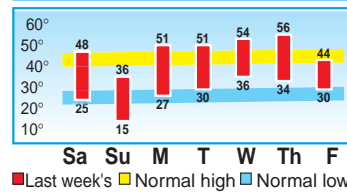


### Heating Degree Days

Index of energy consumption indicating how many degrees the average temperature was below 65 degrees for the day with negative values counting as zero



### Weekly temperatures



### River stages

Fid: flood stage. Stage: in feet at 7 a.m.  
Friday, Chg: change in previous 24 hours.

Station	Fid	Stage	Chg
White River			
Mooresville	9	7.92	-0.02
White River (East Fork)			
Edinburgh	12	4.49	-0.02

## Almanac

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2006  
Statistics for Indianapolis through 5 p.m. yesterday.

**Temperature**  
High ..... 44°  
Low ..... 30°  
Normal high ..... 46°  
Normal low ..... 28°  
Record high ..... 77° in 1992  
Record low ..... -5° in 1943

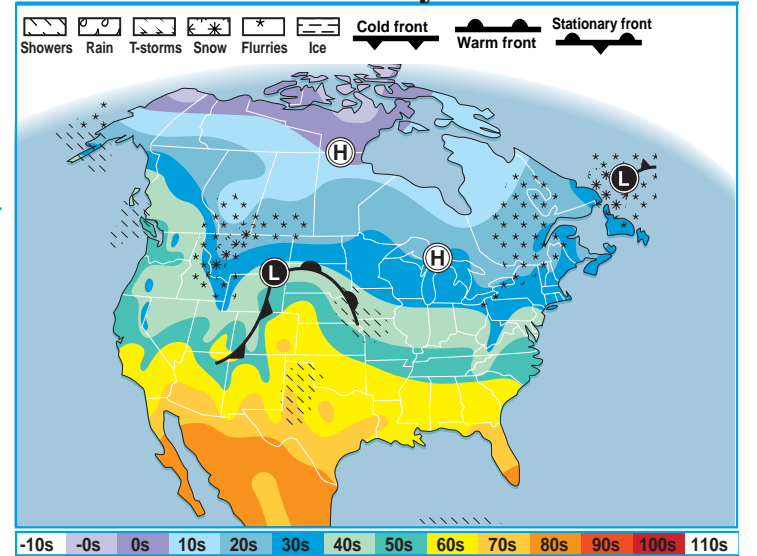
**Precipitation**  
24 hrs. ending 5 p.m. yest. .... trace  
Month to date ..... trace  
Normal month to date ..... 0.30"  
Year to date ..... 5.19"  
Normal year to date ..... 5.19"

**Wind**  
Average dir./speed ..... N at 9.1 mph  
Highest speed ..... 15

**Humidity**  
Yesterday's average ..... 62%  
Today's average ..... 50%

**Air quality**  
**Indianapolis** Source: IAPC  
Yesterday ..... 40  
0-50, Good; 51-100, Moderate; 101-151, Unhealthy (sens. grps.); 151-200, Unhealthy

### National weather today



### National cities

City	Yest. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W	City	Yest. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W
Albany, NY	27/15/pc	35/18/pc	Houston	79/60/pc	76/62/pc
Atlanta	59/44/s	63/47/pc	Jacksonville	81/59/pc	67/45/s
Atlantic City	42/21/pc	46/23/s	Kansas City	49/23/s	54/32/pc
Baltimore	44/30/s	50/28/s	Las Vegas	67/47/pc	68/48/s
Boston	30/19/pc	40/26/s	Los Angeles	60/52/r	68/52/pc
Buffalo	26/14/sf	32/20/pc	Louisville	49/33/pc	49/39/c
Burlington, VT	20/10/sf	32/18/sf	Memphis	59/41/s	64/47/c
Champaign	46/20/pc	42/29/sn	Miami	85/62/pc	76/61/s
Charleston, SC	69/51/pc	64/44/s	Milwaukee	33/22/pc	36/25/sn
Cheyenne	56/21/pc	54/27/s	Minneapolis	32/24/c	35/22/sn
Chicago	38/20/pc	38/28/sn	Nashville	52/33/pc	56/45/c
Cleveland	30/24/sf	43/24/pc	New Orleans	76/59/pc	71/55/pc
Columbia, SC	66/42/pc	66/42/s	New York	37/25/pc	42/30/s
Columbus, GA	67/53/s	66/50/pc	Philadelphia	39/27/c	46/28/s
Dallas	71/51/pc	72/54/t	Phoenix	80/51/s	79/55/s
Denver	66/28/pc	58/30/s	St. Louis	49/32/s	52/35/r
Des Moines	45/26/pc	44/27/r	Salt Lake City	64/39/s	59/36/c
Detroit	33/24/pc	42/29/s	San Francisco	53/44/sh	61/51/r
El Paso	75/52/pc	75/49/s	Seattle	53/34/pc	50/37/sh
Fairbanks	12/-10/pc	20/-9/pc	Tampa	79/65/pc	76/54/s
Honolulu	80/68/pc	80/68/pc	Washington, DC	47/32/pc	50/32/s

Weather (w): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

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# Adviser: Civil war in Iraq unlikely • Crash

By ANNE GEARAN  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### WASHINGTON

Bloodshed among religious sects is a blow to the U.S.-backed goal of a broadly representative Iraqi government, though the immediate threat of civil war has seemingly passed, top U.S. civilian and military officials said Friday.

Sectarian attacks and reprisal killings that began with the bombing of a revered Shiite mosque are troubling, but do not necessarily portend further violence, James Jeffrey, senior

adviser for Iraq to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, said.

"It indicates that the path to national reconciliation and the path to a national compact that we're striving so much for has a ways to go. It means we better continue working and work harder on it," Jeffrey said.

Jeffrey discounted the threat of an all-out civil war but warned that the volatile situation could worsen.



JEFFREY

"There is still the risk of sectarian attacks" double or triple the scale of what Iraq witnessed before the Feb. 22 mosque bombing in Samarra, he said.

"If it were to grow worse then I think we would have a different situation."

In a briefing from Baghdad, Iraq, to reporters at the Pentagon, Gen. George Casey said, "Now, it appears that the crisis has passed."

Casey, the top U.S. military commander in Iraq, added, "We all should be clear: Iraqis remain under threat of terrorist attack by those who will stop at nothing

to undermine the formation of the constitutionally elected government."

Along with the increased level of violence, the scale of targets on Sunni mosques was new, Jeffrey said.

"We were very careful neither to overplay this nor to indicate that this is just business as usual," he said.

"This was a blow to the efforts to bring together the various political forces, but it also illustrates the need for them to come together as soon as possible and that's where we're focusing our efforts."

and towing a trailer carrying a tractor. He was traveling southwest on State Road 135. Officers are investigating how fast Senior was driving. He apparently lost control when he tried to stop and avoid hitting a vehicle that had slowed in front of him.

Police aren't sure if the weight of the equipment contributed to the accident, Werden said.

A vehicle behind Senior was struck by debris from the accident, but the driver was not injured.

As part of every accident investigation, police are also checking to see if speed, alcohol or drugs were factors in the crash, Werden said.

## • Report

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

watch for in their children.

School officials and police have a zero-tolerance approach for talk of students hurting other students or jokes about bringing weapons to their school, Greenwood Police

Chief Joe Pitcher said.

Students have shown they can follow through with threats that might be perceived as blowing off steam. Police ask that children at any school, high school or elementary, report any threats they hear, Pitcher said.

School officials, police and parents can't afford to take a risk and disregard any information, he said.

A child who hears another stu-

dent talking about harming someone in their school needs to know to report the information to school officials immediately, said Rebecca Sager, Edinburgh school superintendent.

Even if the child believes the other student is joking, the youngster should still relay the information to an adult who can help make the decision whether a threat is serious, she said.

Parents should watch out for their children. Be nosy, know who your child's friends are, and what they are doing, Sager said.

If a child reports any type of bullying at school, parents should contact school officials immediately, she said.

Warning signs of problems at school parents should look out for include:

- Change in friends, wardrobe

or attitude.

- Acting out at school.
- Sudden drop in grades.
- Drugs or alcohol in a student's room.

Students should not be left wondering if they could have made a difference had they reported information, Sager said.

A policy at Greenwood Community High School is to set up meetings with counselors when chil-

dren become emotional or angry, Principal James Kaylor said.

Counselors and school officials talk with the student to get to the root of the problem. The students don't always get into trouble, school officials just want to know what is going on, he said.

Parents are also notified, so they can talk with their children about any problems they are having at school, he said.

## • Plot

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

out the plot.

Each teen told investigators about his individual role in the plot, said Maj. Steve Byerly, chief of investigations for the sheriff's office. One of the boys had the plan when he was arrested.

Two or three girls reported the hostage plan to high school administrators Thursday before

school started, around 7:30 a.m. They had overheard a conversation that morning and were worried.

Detectives interviewed about 12 students.

"This is a very disturbing incident," Hamner said. "I think we are all going to be forever grateful that those courageous young ladies came forward and recognized that this was a potential tragedy."

The ringleader started recruiting at least two to three days before the plot was discovered, Byerly said. One parent told

investigators her child had been asked to join the group.

During school Friday 10 deputies from the sheriff's office patrolled the elementary, middle and high schools.

Four to six officers were in the high school at a time, either to interview students about the incident or roam the halls to make sure everyone was safe.

Attendance at the high school was typical, with 95 percent of students in class.

"You'd like to think your kids are safe when sending them off

to school, but maybe that's a little naive on my part," said Virginia Seubert, whose 17-year-old son Jacob Denz is a senior at Center Grove.

"I'm glad I didn't know (because) I'd be nervous to send him," she said. "We've always regarded Center Grove as being a safe place, but it shouldn't be such a surprise because (the school) is so large and has so many different types of kids."

Some students and parents decided staying out of school was the best option.

Senior Lindsey Ward said she

and her mother decided that it would be safer to stay home rather than attend school.

She knew two friends who had also stayed home.

"Since there were police around, we thought it would be safe, but not safe enough," the 18-year-old said. "I couldn't help thinking of Columbine, and I felt safer at home."

In 1999, a pair of students killed 12 classmates and a teacher during a shooting spree at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo.

Several students mentioned the

incident on Web sites such as MySpace and Xanga, expressing surprise that students were planning to bring guns into school and wondering which students were arrested.

Regardless of criminal charges, the school can suspend or expel students involved.

The suspects will be held at the county's juvenile detention center in Franklin until at least Monday, when they will attend a court hearing.

Hamner will ask that the teens be held in the center pending the outcome of the cases, he said.

## • Incident

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

An hour later, some parents were alerted through an electronic paging system that sends information to pagers, cell phones and e-mail, said assistant superintendent Julie Koschnick.

Parents were told to check the school's Web site to learn about a security issue that happened at the high school, Koschnick said.

When and how schools release information depends on circumstances surrounding each incident, area superintendents said.

Officials waited to tell students and teachers what was going on because they didn't want to interfere with the police investigation, Koschnick said.

Administrators did not put the school on lockdown Thursday. However, without giving details, they did ask teachers to be alert to student conversations and what was going on in classrooms and the halls.

Administrators have to weigh each situation to figure out when they can give parents and students accurate information, area superintendents said.

The goal is to get as much information as soon as possible, but not cause panic, Edinburgh

school Superintendent Rebecca Sager said.

"We have to do this balancing act all the time," Sager said. "What is necessary to maintain safety and what is unnecessary to distract and disrupt the flow of the whole school day?"

When administrators hear rumors involving a crime or threat that could put students in danger, they call the police.

Three area superintendents said they try to limit communication about the information until police can decide if there is a real problem.

"We rely pretty heavily on police and what they are telling us," Franklin school Superintendent

William Patterson said. "Is this a valid threat or kids just making some inappropriate comments?"

Sager said that school officials and police have to talk to as many people as quickly as possible, trying to get reliable information.

Officials called Johnson County sheriff's officers around 7:30 a.m. after students said they had overheard teens talking before classes started about bringing guns to the high school.

Officers came to the high school to interview students and search lockers. No guns were found, but police said they believed the threat was real after talking to about a dozen students.

Once school officials figure out

how serious the threat is, they can figure out the best way to let teachers and parents know what they've learned.

Often, parents get notes about the incident that are sent home with students or information will be posted on the school district's Web site, said Anne Young, a certified school safety specialist with the Clark-Pleasant school district.

Parents should have a written statement so everyone is getting the same information at the same time, Young said.

When students at West Grove Elementary School thought they saw a man with a gun last year, officials sent a letter to parents outlining steps the school had

taken to keep students safe while maintaining a calm atmosphere in the school buildings.

No letter was sent to parents about the plot students reported on Thursday, Koschnick said.

## LOTTERY

Here are the winning numbers selected Friday in the Hoosier Lottery:

**Daily Three Midday:** 8-9-5  
**Daily Three Evening:** 5-6-2  
**Daily Four Midday:** 6-6-0-0  
**Daily Four Evening:** 7-6-9-5  
**Lucky Five Midday:** 12-13-23-27-36  
**Lucky Five Evening:** 9-24-25-28-36  
**Hoosier Lotto jackpot:** \$6.5 million.  
**Powerball jackpot:** \$38 million.