

Mortars slam Baghdad; three U.S. soldiers killed

Fate of kidnapped journalist unknown as deadline passes

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq

Violence killed at least 29 people Sunday, including three American soldiers, and mortar fire rumbled through the heart of Baghdad after sundown despite stringent security measures imposed after an explosion of sectarian violence.

A ban on driving in Baghdad and its suburbs helped prevent major attacks during daylight Sunday, but after nightfall explosions thundered through the city as mortar shells slammed into a Shiite quarter in southwestern Baghdad, killing 16 people and wounding 53, police said.

Mortar fire also hit a Shiite area on the capital's east side, killing three people and injuring



CARROLL

six others, police reported.

The vehicle ban, which followed a curfew that kept everyone in the Baghdad region inside for two days, was part of emergency measures imposed after Wednesday's bombing of a Shiite shrine in Samarra triggered a wave of reprisal attacks on Sunni mosques and clerics, pushing Iraq to the brink of civil war.

Although mosque attacks have declined sharply, sectarian violence went unabated Sunday.

A bomb exploded at a Shiite mosque in the southern city of Basra, injuring at least two people, police said.

More than 60 Shiite families fled their homes in predominantly Sunni areas west and north of Baghdad after receiving threats, said Shiite legislator Jalaladin al-Saghir and Iraqi army Brig. Gen. Jalil Khallaf.

North of the capital, gunmen stepped from a car and fired on teenagers playing soccer in a Shiite-Sunni mixed neighborhood of Baqouba, killing two of the youths and wounding five, police said.

In other violence, two American soldiers died when their vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb in western Baghdad, the U.S. military said. A third U.S. soldier was

killed by small arms fire in central Baghdad, the military said.

A roadside bomb also exploded near a police patrol in Madain south of Baghdad, killing one officer and injuring two, police said.

To the west, gunmen killed an ex-general in Saddam Hussein's army as he drove his car in Ramadi, a relative said. Former Brig. Gen. MUSAAB MANFI al-Rawi was rumored to be under consideration to be military commander in the town, an insurgent hotbed, said his cousin, Ahmed al-Rawi.

Gunmen in a speeding car also seriously wounded an Iraqi journalist, Nabila Ibrahim, in Kut,

southeast of Baghdad.

The deadline set by kidnapers of American journalist Jill Carroll for U.S. authorities to meet their demands passed Sunday with no word on her fate and with no sign that American or Iraqi authorities are close to finding her.

An Iraqi Interior Ministry official said an extensive search was under way for the 28-year-old freelancer for the Christian Science Monitor, who was seized by gunmen in Baghdad on Jan. 7.

"Our forces raided some suspected places, but she was not there," Maj. Falah al-Mohammedawi said.

BRIEF STATE

BLOOMINGTON

Study: Nonprofits having trouble finding volunteers

Indiana nonprofit organizations having trouble recruiting quality volunteers might want to target people with higher levels of education, an Indiana University analysis suggests.

Kirsten A. Gronbjerg from the IU Center on Philanthropy recently published a study on Indiana nonprofits that also showed that community attachment, including whether a person attends religious services or registers to vote, was an important factor in volunteering. "Finding and keeping people with interest, expertise and experience is a challenge for a large number of organizations," she told The Herald-Times.

BRIEFS

WORLD

BUSHEHR, Iran

Iran, Russia agree on nuclear enrichment deal

Iran and Russia agreed in principle Sunday to establish a joint uranium enrichment venture, a breakthrough in talks on a U.S.-backed Kremlin proposal aimed at easing concerns that Tehran wants to build nuclear weapons.

The deal, announced by the two countries' top nuclear chiefs after a visit to a Russian-built nuclear plant in southern Iran, could deflect any move by the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency at its March 6 meeting to recommend the Security Council consider action on Iran.

Iran's deputy nuclear chief, Mohammad Saeedi, warned that the deal would be off if the International Atomic Energy Agency refers Iran to the Security Council, a step that could lead to economic or political sanctions.

Russian participation in the project is aimed at ensuring that no enriched material is secretly diverted to a weapons program.

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Palestinian PM: Hamas wants truce with Israel

The Palestinians' incoming prime minister said Sunday that Hamas is interested in a long-term truce with Israel but has no intention of seeking a formal peace agreement that would recognize the Jewish state.

Israel and the United States consider Hamas, winner of January's Palestinian elections, a terror group. Hamas does not recognize the existence of a Jewish state in the Middle East and has sent dozens of suicide bombers into Israel, killing hundreds.

Ismail Haniyeh, the incoming Palestinian prime minister, on Sunday denied saying Hamas would consider peace with Israel under certain conditions.

Haniyeh was quoted by The Washington Post as saying Hamas would establish peace in stages if Israel would withdraw to its 1967 boundaries, before it captured the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem.

PORT SECURITY



Sens. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., left, and Robert Menendez, D-N.J., right, flank Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., as he speaks to reporters on Sunday in New York, after DP World, a United Arab Emirates company offered to submit to a broader review for its deal to take over operations at six U.S. ports.

Arab company agrees to broader probe in ports deal

By TED BRIDIS
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

The Bush administration said Sunday it will accept an extraordinary offer by a United Arab Emirates-based company to submit to a second, and broader, U.S. review of potential security risks in its deal to take over significant operations at six leading American ports. The plan averts an impending political showdown.

The Treasury Department said in a statement it will promptly begin the review once the company formally files a request for one. It said the same government panel that earlier investigated the deal but found no reason for national security concerns will reconsider it.

In six pages of documents sent earlier in the day to the White House, Dubai-based DP World asked for a 45-day investigation of plans to run shipping terminals in New York, New Jersey, Baltimore,

New Orleans, Miami and Philadelphia.

The announcement means the White House likely won't face a revolt by fellow Republicans when lawmakers return today from a weeklong break. A united Republican Party can assert that its leaders, both in Congress and at the White House, have taken additional steps to protect national security.

In a statement Sunday, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., said he will recommend that the Senate wait for results of the broader review before acting on legislation to delay or block the deal. Frist said he anticipates oversight hearings to continue to examine the agreement and its implications on maritime security.

DP World's offer was highly unusual. The secretive U.S. committee that considers security risks of foreign companies buying or investing in American industry has conducted such full investigations only about two dozen times among the more than 1,500 international deals it has reviewed.

The company said that during the renewed scrutiny, or until May 1, a London-based executive who is a British citizen would have authority over DP World's U.S. operations. It pledged that Dubai executives would not control or influence company business in the United States but said it was entitled to all profits during the period. It also said it will appoint an American to be its chief security officer in the United States.

"We hope that voluntarily agreeing to further scrutiny demonstrates our commitment to our long-standing relationship with the United States," said Edward H. Bilkey, the company's chief operating officer.

President Bush forcefully has defended his administration's earlier approval of DP World's proposal to buy London-based Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Co. It was not immediately clear whether the re-examination by U.S. officials would produce a different outcome.

Ports acquisition part of Dubai's plunge into global market

The Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates

Dubai Ports World's \$6.8 billion purchase of Britain's P&O is drawing heightened scrutiny because it includes the takeover of significant operations at six U.S. ports. But the deal represents just a small part of this desert city-state's headlong rush into global investing, a rush almost without precedent.

The stated goal of the tribal sheiks who run Dubai is to mold it into a global hub of trade and luxury tourism. Until now, though, less attention has been paid to the billions being spent by their state-owned investing arms, as well as where

that money comes from and how the investments are performing.

The purchases include everything from apartment complexes in the U.S. sunbelt to trophy hotels and office towers in New York City to the Tussaud Group's wax museum franchise worldwide and a \$1 billion investment in carmaker DaimlerChrysler AG.

There is no secret to the magnitude of Dubai's transformation. The sheikdom's dozens of ultra-luxurious resorts, most sitting on white sandy Gulf beaches, lured in 5.6 million tourists in 2004. State-connected firms are building the world's tallest skyscraper amid forests of shorefront high-rises and reclaiming islands in the Gulf in the shapes of palm trees. And in Saudi

Arabia, a Dubai developer has just broken ground on a \$26.7 billion project to build an entire city on the shores of the Red Sea.

Many experts here believe bolstering transparency is Dubai's next logical step, one that would put in place laws requiring greater disclosure of corporate ownership stakes and financial results.

"Of course it's an enormous success story. But is it time to pause and reorganize the home front? I think so," said Dubai-based political risk analyst Youssef Ibrahim.

"When you jump like this on the global scene, you have to have your internal front secure," Ibrahim said. "You've got to give the world a chance to digest Dubai. You can only push so fast."

Inmates riot, take control of prison

By AMIR SHAH
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KABUL, Afghanistan

Summary executions of prisoners took place at the Policharki prison during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and the Taliban rule of the country. On Sunday, it was the inmates who were in charge.

Hundreds of Afghan soldiers with tanks and grenade-launchers surrounded Kabul's main prison Sunday after rioting inmates seized control of much of the facility in an uprising that officials blamed on al-Qaida and Taliban militants.

Local media reported several people were killed and dozens injured. But it appeared security forces had yet to gain access to parts of the jail under prisoners' control, so officials could not confirm reports of casualties.

Government negotiators late Sunday suspended talks to end the standoff at the notorious Policharki jail, which later this year is slated to receive dozens of Afghans in U.S. military's Guantanamo prison.

The riot broke out late Saturday in Block Two of the prison, which houses about 1,300 of the 2,000 inmates. Officials said the violence began when inmates refused to put on new uniforms, which were ordered after seven Taliban prisoners escaped last month by disguising themselves as visitors.

Officials said about 350 al-Qaida and Taliban loyalists were among the inmates.

The Afghan army said it deployed 800 soldiers around the prison. Along with NATO peacekeepers, they parked at least 10 tanks and armored vehicles outside the gates.

"We have surrounded the jail. There's no way to escape," Mohammed Qasim Hashimzai, deputy justice minister, said.

Hashimzai, who was part of a government delegation that came to negotiate with the prisoners, said about 100 rioters had taken control of the neighboring wing of the jail housing about 70 women, adding that negotiations were set to resume today.



Afghan National Army soldiers wait to receive orders near Policharki Prison in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Sunday.

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