

MORE THAN MILD
Partly cloudy today with
highs in the mid-50s;
foggy and mild tonight.
Forecast, B6

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Afghan detainees a dilemma for U.S.

Efforts to transfer hundreds of prisoners being held at a U.S. military base to an Afghan-controlled facility so far have largely failed.

BY TIM GOLDEN
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — As the Bush administration struggles for a way to close the military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, a similar effort to scale down a larger and more secretive U.S. detention center in Afghanistan has been beset by political, legal and security problems, officials say.

The U.S. detention center, established at the Bagram military base as a temporary screening site after the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, is now teeming with some 630 prisoners — more than twice the 275 being held at Guantanamo.

The administration has spent nearly three years and more than \$30 million on a plan to transfer Afghan prisoners held by the United States to a refurbished high-security detention center run by the Afghan military outside Kabul.

But almost a year after the Afghan detention center opened, U.S. officials say it can accommodate only about half the prisoners they once planned to put there. As a result, the makeshift U.S. site at Bagram will probably continue to operate with hundreds of detainees for the foreseeable future, the officials said.

Meantime, the treatment of some prisoners on the Bagram base has prompted a strong complaint to the Pentagon from the International Committee of the Red Cross, the only outside group allowed inside the detention center.

In a confidential memorandum last summer, the Red Cross said dozens of prisoners had been held incommunicado for weeks or even months in a previously undisclosed warren of isolation cells at Bagram, two U.S. officials said.

The Red Cross said the prisoners were kept from its inspectors and sometimes subjected to cruel treatment in apparent violation of the Geneva Conventions, one of the officials said.

The senior Pentagon official for detention policy, Sandra L. Hodgkinson, would not discuss the complaint, citing the confidentiality of communications with the Red Cross. She said

SEE **DETAINEES, A5**

A new way of assessing dam dangers

The DEM now considers how much damage could be caused if a dam fails.

BY PETER B. LORD
JOURNAL ENVIRONMENT WRITER

A recently completed survey of dams in Rhode Island has quadrupled the number that are considered capable of taking human lives or causing significant economic losses should they fail.

The new total of 205 dams considered to pose significant hazards or high hazards is part of a new set of regulations the state Department of Environmental Management recently put into force.

The survey has nothing to do with the structural integrity of the listed dams, only the potential for disaster should they fail.

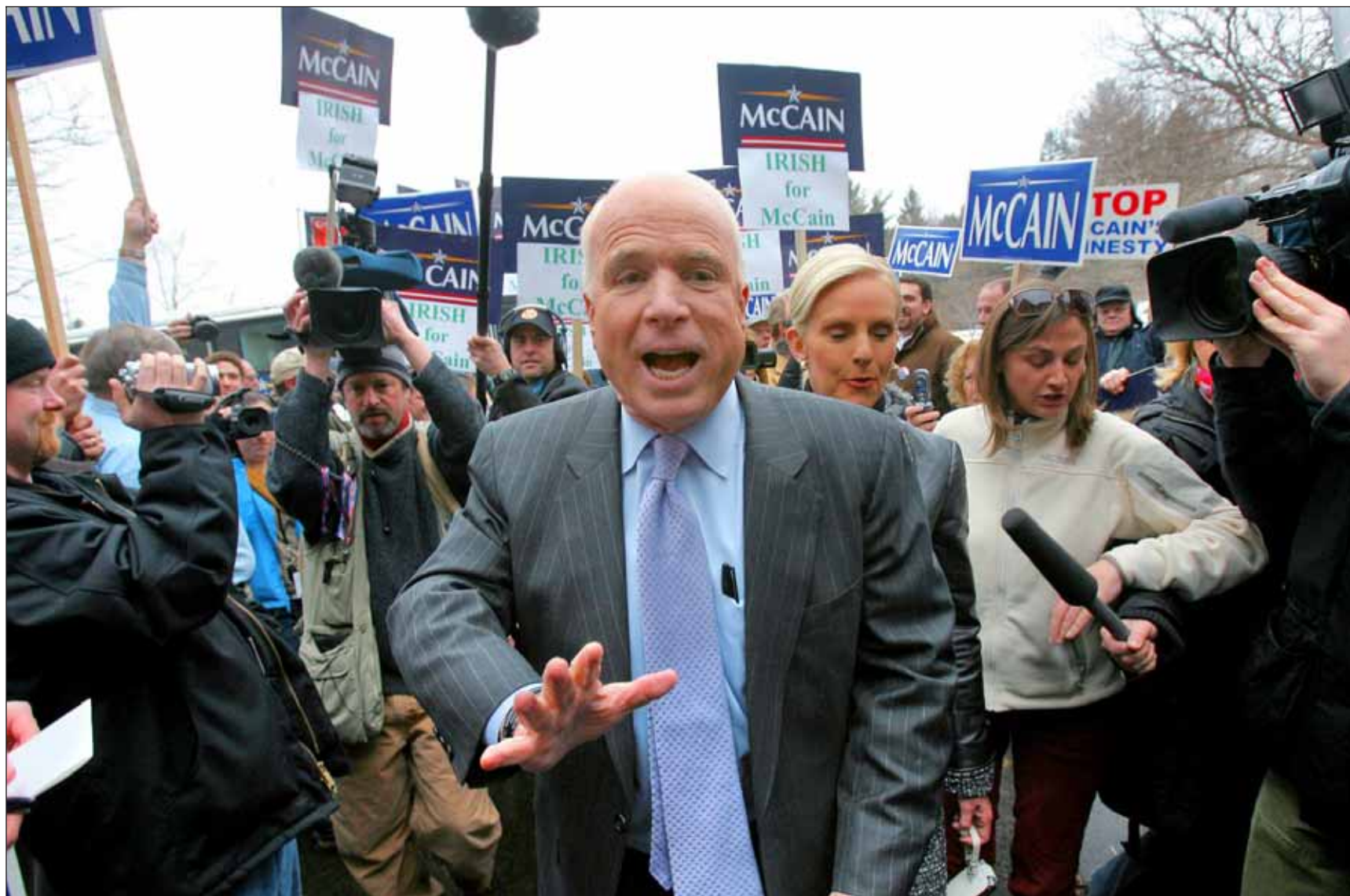
More dams are listed because they weren't properly assessed in the past or because new development has placed more people and property in harm's way should the dams fail.

"People were always at risk from some of these dams," says Paul Guglielmino, a DEM dam inspector. "But now they will know it."

The regulations establish timetables and deadlines for inspecting and repairing dams, particularly those that pose risks to the public. And they are going into effect at the same time that the DEM has intensified its efforts to track down owners of dams that have fallen into disrepair or appear to be abandoned.

SEE **DAMS, A4**

CAMPAIGN 2008



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GRETCHEN ERTL

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., trailed by his wife, Cindy, makes his way through a media scrum on his way to a campaign appearance yesterday in Salem, N.H. The senator largely bypassed Iowa to concentrate his campaign efforts in New Hampshire.

In N.H., one final charge

Democrats look to accentuate their differences

BY JIM KUHNHENN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANCHESTER, N.H. — The leading Democratic presidential candidates clashed yesterday over each other's claim to be the true candidate of change in the final hours of the slushy New Hampshire homestretch. Hillary Clinton told voters they should elect "a doer, not a talker." Barack Obama countered that his rivals are stuck in the politics of the past.

At a rally in a high school gymnasium in Nashua, Clinton skewered Obama for several votes he has cast in the Senate, such as his vote in favor of the Patriot Act and for energy legislation she described as "Dick Cheney's energy bill." She never mentioned Obama's name but left no doubt about whom she was discussing.

SEE **DEMOCRATS, A7**



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GRETCHEN ERTL

Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., campaigns at Salem High School in Salem, N.H., Saturday. A new poll shows him with a sizable lead over his rivals in the state's presidential primary.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., finds his campaign suddenly reenergized and is given a good chance of winning the Granite State's Republican presidential primary tomorrow.

BY SCOTT MacKAY
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

SALEM, N.H. — Time has thinned the nimbus of white hair and leavened his irreverence; the maverick mischief-maker of 2000 is no more.

Yet, as Sen. John McCain tries one last time for the White House and the resurrection of a campaign that was consigned to history's dustbin six months ago, the Arizona Republican's moment may have finally arrived.

As the hours dwindle to tomorrow's lead-off New Hampshire primary, polls show McCain is in a good position to win the contest and catapult to the top of the GOP presidential pack.

McCain is drawing big crowds all across snow-covered New Hampshire and is revel-

SEE **GOP, A10**

Celebrity father now facing deportation



Mynor Montufar at Women & Infants Hospital on Jan. 1, where his daughter was born at 2:06 a.m. New Year's Day.

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / RUBEN W. PEREZ

On Wednesday, a picture of Mynor Montufar, the father of the first baby born in Rhode Island in 2008 appeared in The Journal; by Friday, he was under arrest as an illegal immigrant.

BY KAREN LEE ZINER
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — Two days after local media featured Mynor Montufar and Carmen L. Marrero as the parents of Rhode Island's first baby of 2008, federal immigration agents arrested Montufar at his apartment.

Now Montufar is about to be deported. And David De La Roca — also an illegal immigrant, one of several people who shared the couple's apartment — is dead in an apparent suicide.

De La Roca was found hanging from a belt in a locked bedroom at 174 Bellevue Ave. on Friday, sev-

eral hours after immigration agents raided it and arrested Montufar and another man.

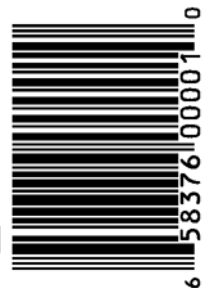
A Providence police report confirms an account given by Marrero's mother, who said she was one of several people present when a friend of De La Roca jimmied open the door and found the body.

Whether these events are connected is unknown, but family, friends, and some in the Hispanic community are asking these questions:

Did De La Roca hang himself when federal agents entered the apartment because he feared deportation? Was he already dead before agents arrived? Why didn't agents force the locked bedroom door?

Did immigration authorities pursue Montufar after seeing his picture on television and in the paper? "It's a coincidence," a spokeswoman for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said of Montufar's arrest so soon after the publicity.

SEE **ICE, A4**



INSIDE TODAY

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VIRTUAL ADVANTAGE

Video-game makers are unleashing squads of software programmers to combat what they see as a growing problem of cheating among online gamers. **D1**



PLAYOFF MATCHUPS

The Patriots will face the Jacksonville Jaguars in the AFC Divisional following San Diego's 17-6 victory over Tennessee, left; the New York Giants, right, advance to the next round of the NFC playoffs with their 24-14 win over Tampa Bay. **B1**

