

Carnage in Kabul



AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Afghan and Indian officials struggle to remove the body of one of those killed in yesterday's bombing at the Indian Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan, from a vehicle. Some suspect the Pakistani intelligence service may have been behind the attack.

41 killed in bombing at Indian Embassy

BY ABDUL WAHEED WAFI
and ALAN COWELL
THE NEW YORK TIMES

KABUL, Afghanistan — A huge blast from a suicide car bomb at the gates of the Indian Embassy in Kabul killed 41 people and wounded more than 130 yesterday in the latest sign of a sharp deterioration in Afghanistan, where combat deaths have surpassed Iraq's in the past two months.

It was the deadliest suicide car bombing in Afghanistan since the U.S.-led invasion ousted the Taliban in 2001. It comes as Afghan and Western officials have noted with alarm both the weakness of the government of President Hamid Karzai and the growing strength of Pakistani militants in the tribal areas bordering Afghanistan.

Among the victims of the attack, the first in seven years on a regional diplomatic mission in Afghanistan, were at least four Indian citizens: the Indian defense attache, a political counselor and two other Indian officials.



An Afghan girl being treated at a hospital in Kabul, Afghanistan, was one of the more than 130 people injured in yesterday's suicide bombing.

AP / FARZANA WAHIDI

Six Afghan police officers were also killed. Many of the rest appeared to be civilians.

That the Indian Embassy was attacked raised suspicions among Afghan officials that Pakistani operatives allied with the Taliban had used the bombing to pursue Pakistan's long power struggle with India.

Afghan and Western officials have

said a recent spate of sophisticated, deadly attacks show the growing influence of al-Qaida and other foreign terrorists over Pakistani militants in the tribal areas, and possibly alliances between them. Part of the insurgent strategy has been to carry out suicide bomb attacks in the cities.

SEE BOMBING, A7

Withdrawal date sought for U.S. troops

Iraq's prime minister says before his government will agree to allow American forces to remain, he wants a timeline of when they will leave.

BY SUDARSAN RAGHAVAN
and KAREN DEYOUNG
THE WASHINGTON POST

BAGHDAD — Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has for the first time suggested establishing a timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq, a step that the Bush administration has long opposed.

Maliki raised the idea yesterday during a visit to the United Arab Emirates, where he spoke with Arab ambassadors about a security pact being negotiated to determine the future U.S. military role in Iraq.

"The current trend is to reach an agreement on a memorandum of understanding either for the departure of the forces or a memorandum of understanding to put a timetable on their withdrawal," Maliki said, according to a statement released by his office. "In all cases, the basis for any agree-

ment will be respect for the full sovereignty of Iraq."

The comments reflect the political dilemma confronting Maliki and other members of his Shiite-led government. Their primary rival in upcoming provincial elections, Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, is a leading critic of the American presence who has long called for a timetable, a position that is widely popular among Iraq's majority Shiites.

The talks on the security pact have also raised concerns across the Iraqi political spectrum — and the broader Arab world — about preserving Iraq's sovereignty and preventing a long-term American presence. Framing the agreement as a memorandum of understanding, possibly including a timetable, may make it more politically palatable, analysts said.

Nasar al-Rubaie, a senior

SEE IRAQ, A7



MALIKI

State takes steps to protect its Twin River take

Revenue director Gary Sasse says extra measures are in place to ensure the state gets its gambling money.

BY KATHERINE GREGG
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU

PROVIDENCE — As Twin River's owners struggle to pay back the hundreds of millions of dollars they borrowed to buy and renovate their sprawling video-slot emporium, the state has — very quietly — taken steps to safeguard its share of the money "in the event of a bankruptcy filing."

Business is still brisk at the refurbished greyhound racetrack with 4,751 video-slots.

Revenues shot up nearly 9 percent in May with the introduction

of 24-hour gambling on weekends and holidays. With Rhode Island's cash-strapped government heavily dependent on gambling money, the spurt came as welcome news.

Out of every dollar lost into one of the machines, the state gets close to 60 cents. If expectations play out, that would translate into \$254,459,280 for the state this year.

But in private talks with the governor's staff and top lawmakers

SEE TWIN RIVER, A4

Murderer on parole charged in robbery; his father tips police

The police say Raymond Earl McWilliams, 45, walked through the unlocked door of a North Kingstown house, threatened a woman at home with her baby and stole her SUV.

BY KATIE MULVANEY
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

NORTH KINGSTOWN — Erica Boutelle's world changed this Independence Day. She trusts a little less, worries a little more — and she locks the doors.

Boutelle was playing with her 11-month-old daughter on the floor of the baby's upstairs bedroom around 11 a.m. when a man walked in brandishing a box cutter and demanding the car keys.

"My goal was for him to leave my premises. That couldn't happen fast enough," she said. "I told him 'take anything,

SEE ARREST, A4

They sought, and found, the good in fighting dogs



THE WASHINGTON POST / CAROL GUZY

Bill Jones, a volunteer at a dog sanctuary in Kanab, Utah, and Lucas, believed to have been Michael Vick's champion fighter.

More than 40 animals recovered from Michael Vick's dog-fighting facility get a rare chance at rehabilitation.

BY BRIGID SCHULTE
THE WASHINGTON POST

When football superstar Michael Vick pleaded guilty last year to conspiring to run a dog-fighting operation, we knew he had kept about 50 pit bulls on his 15-acre property in rural Surry County, Va. We knew the dogs were chained to car axles near wooden hovels for shelter. And we knew the dogs that didn't fight were beaten, shot, hanged, electrocuted or drowned.

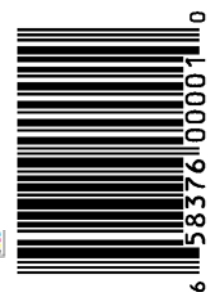
But we didn't know their names. Headlines described the nameless dogs as "menacing." Some animal-rights groups called for the "ticking time bombs" to be euthanized as

soon as Vick's case was closed and they were no longer valuable as evidence. That's what typically happens after a dog-fighting bust.

Instead, the court gave Vick's dogs a second chance. U.S. District Judge Henry Hudson ordered each dog to be evaluated individually, not judged by the stereotype of the breed. And he ordered Vick to pony up close to \$1 million to pay for the lifelong care of those that could be saved.

Of the 49 pit bulls animal behavior experts evaluated in the fall, only one was deemed too vicious to warrant saving

SEE DOGS, A7



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FUEL GAUGE

Beginning today, a new fuel tracker that monitors the prices of gasoline, diesel fuel and home heating oil in Rhode Island will appear every Tuesday in The Providence Journal. Today's report finds that the price of home heating oil hit a new record. **E1**

OFF LIMITS

Rhode Island's health director is asking health-care organizations to avoid recruiting staff from the struggling Landmark Medical Center. **B1**



TEEING-UP

Juliet Vongphoumy, 14, who will be entering her sophomore year at La Salle Academy in September, becomes the first female to take part in the 103-year-old R.I. Golf Association Amateur championship. **C1**