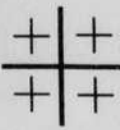


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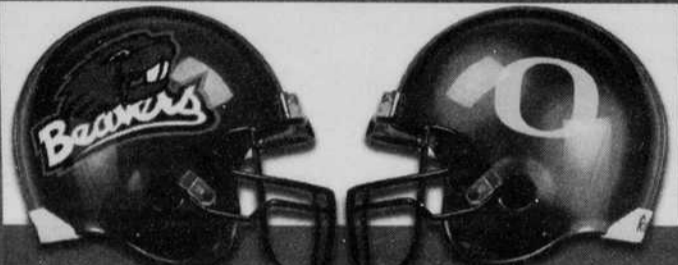
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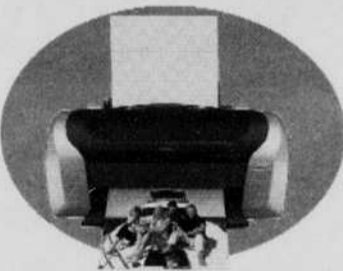
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# Emergency rule declared throughout most of Iraq

U.S. commanders warn troops to expect most brutal urban fighting since Vietnam War; attacks intensify

BY JIM KRANE  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEAR FALLUJAH, Iraq — U.S. forces stormed into western districts of Fallujah early Monday, seizing the main city hospital and securing two key bridges over the Euphrates river in what appeared to be the first stage of the long-expected assault on the insurgent stronghold.

An AC-130 gunship raked the city with 40 mm cannon fire as explosions from U.S. artillery lit up the night sky. Intermittent artillery fire blasted southern neighborhoods of Fallujah, and orange fireballs from high explosive airbursts could be seen above the rooftops.

U.S. officials said the toughest fight was yet to come — when American forces enter the main part of the city on the east bank of the river and the Jolan neighborhood where insurgent defenses are believed to be strongest.

The initial attacks on Fallujah began just hours after the Iraqi government declared 60 days of emergency rule throughout most of the country as militants dramatically escalated at-

tacks, killing at least 30 people, including two Americans.

Dr. Salih al-Issawi, the head of Fallujah's main hospital, said he had asked U.S. officers to allow doctors and ambulances go inside the main part of the city to help the wounded but they refused. There was no confirmation from the Americans.

"The American troops' take over the hospital was not right because they thought that they would halt medical assistance to the resistance," he said. "But they did not realize that the hospital does not belong to anybody, especially the resistance."

The action began after sundown on the outskirts of the city, which has been sealed off by U.S. and Iraqi forces, and the skyline was lit up with huge flashes of light.

Flares were dropped to illuminate targets, and defenders fought back with heavy machine gunfire. Flaming red tracer rounds streaked through the night sky from guerrilla positions inside the city, 40 miles west of Baghdad.

Before the assault began, U.S. commanders warned troops to ex-

pect the most brutal urban fighting since the Vietnam War.

Underscoring the instability elsewhere in Iraq, several heavy explosions thundered through the capital even as government spokesman Thair Hassan al-Naqeeb was announcing the state of emergency, which applies throughout the country except for Kurdish-ruled areas in the north.

Iraqi interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said the state of emergency is a "very powerful message that we are serious" about reining in insurgents before elections set for late January.

"We want to secure the country so elections can be done in a peaceful way and the Iraqi people can participate in the elections freely, without the intimidation by terrorists and by forces who are trying to wreck the political process in Iraq," he told reporters.

Insurgents, meanwhile, waged a second day of attacks across the restive Sunni Triangle north and west of Baghdad, storming police stations, assassinating government officials and setting off deadly car bombs. About 60 people have been killed and 75 injured in the two days of attacks.

At dawn, armed rebels stormed three police stations in the towns of Haditha and Haqlaniyah, 140 miles northwest of Baghdad, killing 22 policemen. Some were lined up and shot execution-style, according to police and hospital officials.

Three attacks on U.S. convoys in and around Baghdad killed two American soldiers and wounded five others, the military said.

A car bomb also exploded near the Baghdad home of Iraq's finance minister, Adil Abdel-Mahdi, a leading Shiite politician. Abdel-Mahdi and his family were not home at the time.

In a Web posting, the al-Qaida affiliate group of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, believed headquartered in Fallujah, claimed responsibility for the attacks on Haditha and Haqlaniyah.

"In the dawn of this blessed day, the lions of al-Qaida in Iraq faced up to a group of apostates in the proud city of Haditha," said the statement, which could not be authenticated. "The lions stormed the city's police directorate and killed everyone there...With this operation, the city has been completely liberated. The lions have been wandering in the city until late today."

Associated Press correspondents Tini Tran, Mariam Fam, Katarina Kratovac and Maggie Michael in Baghdad contributed to this report

### Iraq declares state of emergency

The Iraqi government declared a 60-day state of emergency throughout the country except for Kurdish-ruled areas in the north. The order comes as U.S. troops

prepare for an all-out assault on the guerrilla sanctuary of Fallujah.

► Rebels stormed three police stations killing 22 policemen, some of which were executed

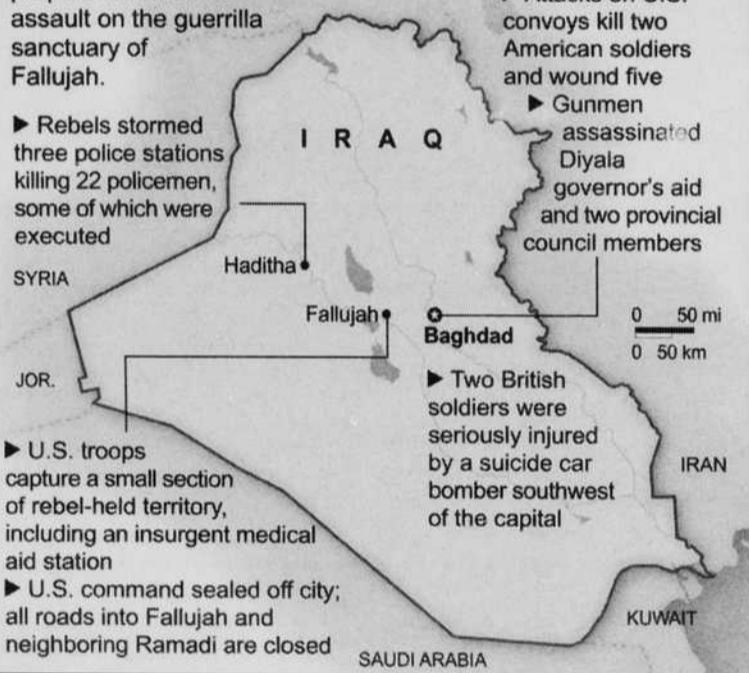
► U.S. troops capture a small section of rebel-held territory, including an insurgent medical aid station

► U.S. command sealed off city; all roads into Fallujah and neighboring Ramadi are closed

► Attacks on U.S. convoys kill two American soldiers and wound five

► Gunmen assassinated Diyala governor's aid and two provincial council members

► Two British soldiers were seriously injured by a suicide car bomber southwest of the capital



SOURCE: ESRI

AP

## Northern Japan experiences powerful aftershock Monday

Magnitude-5.8 earthquake strikes Japan; injuries not immediately reported, no danger of tidal wave

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO — A magnitude-5.8 earthquake Monday rocked northern Japan near where the deadliest earthquake to strike the country in years hit last month. No injuries were immediately reported.

The quake, which hit at 11:16 a.m., appeared to be an aftershock to last month's magnitude-6.8 temblor. It was centered close to the earth's surface in the Chuetsu area of Niigata prefecture, the Meteorological Agency said.

The quake posed no danger of a seismic tidal wave, the agency said.

Takeshi Minagawa, an official at the town hall in Nakanoshima, where the quake was the strongest, said he felt 10 seconds of vertical shaking.

He said this aftershock felt stronger than others, but there were no reports of damage and nothing fell off his office shelves or tables.

The town closed off several roads to confirm they were safe to use after the quake, Minagawa said.

The Oct. 23 quake that struck Niiga-

ta and aftershocks in the days that followed killed 39 people and injured more than 2,000. It was the deadliest quake to hit Japan since 1995, when a magnitude-7.2 quake killed 6,000 people in the western city of Kobe.

Thousands of people in the area are still living in temporary public shelters or are camped out in tents and cars because their homes are severely damaged. Many also fear aftershocks could set off landslides or cause already-damaged buildings to collapse.

Located along the Pacific "Ring of Fire," Japan is one of the world's most earthquake-prone countries. A magnitude 5 earthquake can cause damage to homes if it occurs in a residential area.