

Today	Thursday	Friday
High: 54 Low: 43 Precip: 0%	High: 51 Low: 38 Precip: 50%	High: 50 Low: 37 Precip: 20%

IN BRIEF

Probe: U.N. cash sent to bombers' kin

NEW YORK — Saddam Hussein diverted money from the U.N. Oil-for-Food Program to pay millions of dollars to families of Palestinian suicide bombers who carried out attacks on Israel, said congressional investigators who uncovered evidence of the money trail. The former Iraqi president tapped secret bank accounts in Jordan — where he collected bribes from foreign companies and individuals doing illicit business under the humanitarian program — to reward the families up to \$25,000 each.

U.S., Iraqis regain some ground in Mosul

BAGHDAD, Iraq — U.S. and Iraqi troops recaptured police stations and secured bridges in the northern city of Mosul on Tuesday in an offensive aimed at pushing out fighters

supporting the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah. Troops met "very little resistance" in securing several of the dozen or so police stations that had been captured by insurgents, the U.S. military command said. Nineveh province's deputy governor said militants blew up the Zuhour police station ahead of the U.S. advance, but the U.S. military denied any stations were destroyed.

Britain moves to ban smoking in public places

LONDON — Britain's government on Tuesday proposed banning smoking in most public places, setting off debate over what one smoker decried as the brainchild of a busybody "nanny state."

The ban, which would be phased in over four years, would affect offices, restaurants and any pub or bar that serves food — about 80 percent of England's drinking establishments.

The 20 percent of bars and pubs that serve no food would be free to restrict smoking if they chose, Health Secretary John Reid told the House of Commons.

"This is a sensible solution, I believe, which balances the protection of the majority with the personal freedom of the minority in England," Reid said, outlining the legislation he envisions. The proposal must be approved by Parliament.

One in four adult Britons smokes.

— The Associated Press

Video may show murder of kidnapped CARE worker

Margaret Hassan, 59, may be the first foreign female hostage killed

BY MARIAM FAM
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Margaret Hassan, an aid worker kidnapped after decades of helping Iraqis, was believed murdered, her family and aid officials said Tuesday after Al-Jazeera television said it received a video showing a hooded militant shooting a blindfolded woman in the head.

Hassan was believed to be the first foreign female hostage killed in Iraq's wave of kidnappings. More than 170 foreigners have been abducted this year, and at least 34 killed. One woman — a Polish-Iraqi citizen — remains captive.

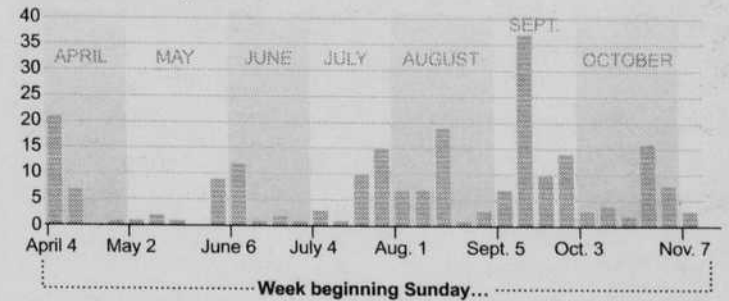
Hassan's family in London said the longtime director of CARE in Iraq was likely the victim, and British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said analysis of the video showed Hassan has "probably been murdered, although we cannot conclude this with complete certainty."

CARE said it was in mourning for the 59-year-old Briton, a veteran humanitarian worker known around the Mideast for her concern for Iraqis — particularly during the years of U.N. sanctions, whose effects on children

Aid worker believed dead

An Arab television network said Tuesday that it received a video of the slaying of a woman believed to be Margaret Hassan, the 59-year-old British CARE worker kidnapped Oct. 19.

Abductions by week



NOTE: Figures do not include unknown dates of abductions

By the numbers	Freed	illed	Still missing
	162	50	31

SOURCE: AP research

AP

she vocally denounced.

"To kidnap and kill anyone is inexcusable," Straw said. "But it is repugnant to commit such a crime against a woman who has spent most of her life working for the good of the people of Iraq."

The video shows a hooded militant firing a pistol into the head of a blindfolded woman wearing an orange jumpsuit, said Al-Jazeera spokesman Jihad Ballout. The station

received the tape a few days ago but had not been sure of its authenticity until recently, he said.

"We invited British diplomatic officials to come and view it," he said. "It's now likely that the image depicts Mrs. Hassan."

Hassan was abducted in Baghdad on Oct. 19 on her way to work, the most prominent of more than 170 foreigners kidnapped in Iraq this year.

Death angers Sunni Muslims, worries Iraqi government

Debate arises over whether the shooter, a U.S. Marine, acted in self-defense against the supposedly unarmed man

BY ROBERT H. REID
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The fatal shooting of a wounded and apparently unarmed man in a Fallujah mosque by a U.S. Marine angered Sunni Muslims in Iraq on Tuesday and raised questions about the protection of insurgents once they are out of action.

International legal experts said the Marine may have acted in self-defense because of a danger that a wounded combatant might try to blow up a hidden weapon; a key issue was whether the injured man was a prisoner at the time.

The shooting happened Saturday, one day after the Marine, who has not been identified, was wounded in the face and after another man in his unit was killed by the booby-trapped body of an insurgent.

However, the incident could cause major political problems for the government of Prime Minister Ayad Allawi and his U.S. backers at a time when Iraqi authorities are seeking to contain a backlash among Sunnis to the invasion of the former insurgent stronghold of Fallujah.

American and Iraqi authorities tried to prevent rage from spreading among Sunnis, many of whom watched dramatic footage of the shooting that aired throughout the day on Al-Jazeera television, a Qatar-based satellite station.

"Look at this old man who was slain by them," said Ahmed Khalil, 40, as he watched the video in his Baghdad

shop. "Was he a fighter? Was anybody who was killed inside this mosque a fighter? Where are their weapons? I don't know what to say."

It was unclear to what extent other Iraqis, particularly the majority Shiite Muslims, cared about the shooting.

Maysoun Hirmiz, 36, a Christian merchant in Baghdad, said she was not satisfied with an announcement by the U.S. military that it had removed the Marine from the battlefield and will investigate whether he acted in self-defense.

"They will say or do the same thing they did with the soldiers who committed the abuses against Iraqis detainees in Abu Ghraib prison, and they are still free, enjoying their lives while they destroyed other peoples' lives," Hirmiz said.

The central figures who allegedly carried out the physical abuse and sexual humiliation of inmates at the notorious prison west of Baghdad are currently on trial, facing trial or have already been sentenced.

The Abu Ghraib scandal, which erupted last spring when photos of the abuse became public, generated a worldwide wave of revulsion that raised questions about the treatment of Muslim prisoners in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere as part of the Bush Administration's war on terror.

The shooting in the Fallujah mosque became public Monday with the airing of the footage taken Saturday by pool correspondent Kevin Sites of NBC News.

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