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A U.S. armored vehicle passes the scene after a car bomb exploded Tuesday near a school for girls, killing six people in Baghdad's Christian neighborhood. (AP photo)

8 Soldiers Die in 2 Days

(AP) — A car bomb exploded Tuesday near a Baghdad junior high school for girls, killing six people, and eight American soldiers were killed in two days of insurgent attacks in and around Baghdad, the military said.

Al-Qaida's branch in Iraq, blamed for numerous terror attacks on U.S. and Iraqi targets, said in an Internet posting that its leader, Abu Musab

al-Zarqawi, had been wounded and called on supporters to pray for his recovery. The posting's authenticity could not be verified.

In the last two days, the military announced that 13 American troops have been killed since Sunday. Those reports came as insurgents carried out a string of explosions, suicide attacks and drive-by shootings around the country that

also killed 49 Iraqis.

At least 620 people, including 57 U.S. troops, have been killed since April 28, when Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari announced his new Shiite-dominated government. Washington hopes his government will eventually train police and an army capable of securing Iraq, allowing the withdrawal of coalition troops.

CBC Condemns Filibuster Deal

The Congressional Black Caucus has condemned a Senate filibuster deal that broke a deadlock over some of President Bush's nominees for lifetime appointments to the judiciary.

The caucus strongly opposes a deal that trades judges who oppose civil rights for a temporary filibuster ceasefire, said Rep. Melvin L. Watt, D-N.C., CBC chair.

"This deal is more of a capitulation than a compromise," he added.

The compromise between seven Democrat and seven Republican senators will pave the way for

votes on Janice Rogers Brown and William Pryor, judges with documented histories of opposing the rights of African Americans and of hostility to a broad mainstream of law and rights enacted by the Congress over the past 75 years.

"The only way to make a bad deal worse would be for these judges to succeed in getting the 51 percent of the Senate votes they will need for confirmation," Watt said. "We will be looking closely at the votes as they occur and expect any Senator who seeks our support and the support of our constitu-

ents to reject the judges who have rejected the obligation to protect our rights."

Among the final barriers to Monday's deal, according to officials in both parties, was finding language flexible enough to satisfy Democrats who wanted to say that their right to filibuster had been preserved while allowing Republicans to say they could always go back and seek a change.

In the end, the compromise said senators would filibuster future nominees only under extraordinary circumstances.

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The Sun, Britain's biggest-selling newspaper, published this front page Friday — a photo of Saddam Hussein while under U.S. custody and in his underwear. (AP photo)

Saddam Photos Heap Scorn on U.S. Image

(AP) - Tabloid photographs Friday of an imprisoned Saddam Hussein naked except for his white underwear prompted a U.S. military investigation and condemnation from the Red Cross that the photos violate the Geneva Convention. President Bush said he did not think the images would incite further anti-American sentiment in Iraq.

Some Iraqis called the photos the latest in a series of insults to

Arabs and Muslims. Others, however, said the humiliation is just what the 68-year-old former dictator deserves. Hussein has been in U.S. custody for over a year.

Regardless of any effect the images may have on Iraq's insurgency, they were certain to offend Arab sensibilities and heap more scorn on an American image already tarnished by the prisoner abuse scandals.

Feds Try to Deny Viagra to Rapists, Sex Offenders

(AP) - Federal officials are scrambling to find a way to plug a legal loophole that allows convicted rapists and other high-risk sex offenders to receive erectile-dysfunction drugs paid for by Medicaid.

The issue was revealed Sunday by the New York state comptroller's office, which said audits covering the period of January 2000 to March 2005 found 198 sex offenders in New York received Medicaid-reimbursed Viagra after their convictions. Their crimes included offenses against children as young as 2 years old, Comptroller Alan Hevesi said.

"Now that this issue has been

brought to our attention, we are certainly going to see what we can do administratively, if anything," said Mary Kahn, spokeswoman for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

She said legislation may be needed to address the issue. New York's two senators, Charles Schumer and Hillary Rodham Clinton, both Democrats, said they would support such a bill. Schumer said he will sponsor the legislation.

"Giving convicted sex offenders government-funded Viagra is like giving convicted murderers an assault rifle when they get out of jail," Schumer said.

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