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Car Bombings Relentless in Iraq

Latest carnage hits outdoor market

(AP) — Car bombs targeting Shiite areas devastated a bustling outdoor market and an auto dealership Tuesday, part of a relentless onslaught that killed 54 people and prompted the United States to de-

ploy more troops to combat insurgents in western Iraq.

The bombs also wounded 120 people, officials said. The death toll made Tuesday one of the bloodiest days in Iraq this month, and lawmakers still had not agreed on who should lead the nation's army and police forces.

Authorities also captured a suspected terrorist who allegedly confessed to beheading hundreds of people. The operation by Iraqi forces also netted documents, cell phones and computers containing information on other wanted terrorists and Islamic extremist groups.

The worst bombing hit the outdoor market as Iraqis were doing their evening shopping in Husseinayah, about 60 miles north of Baghdad. At least 25 people were killed and 65 were wounded, Interior Ministry spokesman Lt. Col. Falah Al-Mohamedawi said.

Hours earlier, a car packed with explosives blew up at a dealership in the largely Shiite city of Hillah, about 60 miles south of Baghdad, killing at least 12 people and wound-



An Iraqi woman and children are pushed in a wooden cart down a street in the Old City area of Najaf, Iraq Tuesday, as driving in the neighborhood is forbidden in an attempt to prevent car bomb attacks.

ing 32, Capt. Muthana Khalid said.

A bomb hidden in a plastic bag also detonated outside a bakery in a religiously mixed neighborhood in eastern Baghdad, killing at least nine people and injuring 10, police Lt. Col. Falah Al-Mohammedawi said.

Separately, mortar rounds fired by remote control from a car hit the third floor of the heavily guarded Interior Ministry and a nearby park, killing two government employees

and wounding three other people. A day earlier, 40 people were killed in various attacks, including a car bombing in Baghdad that killed two CBS News crewmen and seriously wounded network correspondent Kimberly Dozier. She underwent two emergency surgeries and was transferred to a U.S. military hospital in Germany, where she was reported to be in critical but stable condition.

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Press Informed Bush of Deaths

(AP) — President Bush learned of reports that U.S. Marines killed two dozen unarmed Iraqi civilians only after reporters began asking questions, the White House said Tuesday.

Asked when Bush was first briefed about the alleged atrocities in Haditha, an insurgent stronghold in western Iraq, White House press secretary Tony Snow replied Tuesday: "When a Time reporter first made the call."

Time magazine was first to report, in March, that the U.S. military was investigating a dozen Marines for possible war crimes in the November incident. The killings, which included women



President Bush participates in a ceremony with the Ambassador of Iraq to the United States Samir Sumaidaie (left) in the Oval Office of the White House Tuesday. (AP photo)

and children, came after a bomb rocked a military convoy on Nov. 19, killing a Marine.

Marines then shot and killed unarmed civilians in a taxi at the scene and went into homes and shot other people, according to Rep. John Murtha, D-Pa., a decorated Marine war veteran and prominent critic of Iraq policy who has talked with military officials.

Snow said that he has been assured by the Pentagon that "all the details" will be given to the public once the investigation is over. "We'll have a picture of what happened," Snow said.



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Tobacco Appeal to Highest Court

Local family awaits verdict

(AP) — The Supreme Court said Tuesday it will decide if tobacco giant Philip Morris must pay nearly \$80 million in damages to a longtime smoker, a case that could shield companies from large jury awards.

The Oregon Supreme Court had ruled that the amount wasn't excessive given the "extraordinarily reprehensible" conduct of Philip Morris in marketing cigarettes.

A jury had ordered damages be paid to the family of Jesse D. Williams, a local janitor and African American resident who smoked three packs of Marlboros a day before he died in 1997 of lung cancer. Williams took up cigarettes in the 1950s while serving in the Army in Korea.

The case gives justices a chance to clarify a 2003 ruling in an insurance case that said punitive damages should generally be in line with actual damages. Arguments will be this fall.

Philip Morris lawyers said that the punitive damages in the Williams case were nearly 100 times the compensatory damages and that the Oregon Supreme Court decision is "dangerous."

The state court said that the company "knew that smoking caused serious and sometimes fatal disease, but it nevertheless spread false or misleading information to suggest to the public that doubts remained about the issue."

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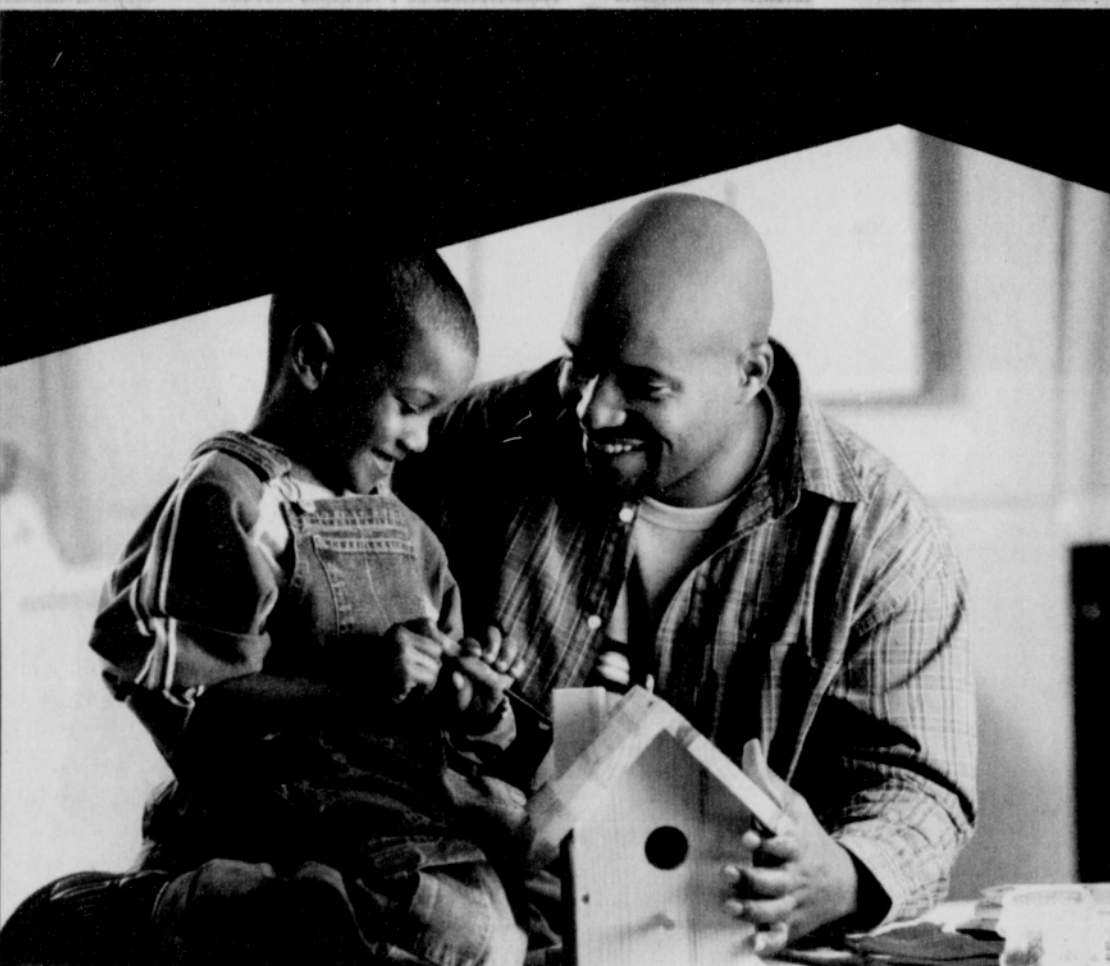
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