

"All the News That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

Late Edition

New York: Today, mainly sunny, cooler, high 56. Tonight, clear early, clouds late, low 45. Tomorrow, thickening clouds, high 58. Yesterday, high 61, low 48. Weather map, Page D9.

VOL. CLIV . . . No. 53,016 +

Copyright © 2004 The New York Times

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2004

ONE DOLLAR

Provincial Capital Near Falluja Is Rapidly Slipping Into Chaos

U.S. Troops Struggle to Contain Iraqi Insurgents

By EDWARD WONG

RAMADI, Iraq, Oct. 21 — The American military and the interim Iraqi government are quickly losing control of this provincial capital, which is larger and strategically more important than its sister city of Falluja, say local officials, clerics, tribal sheiks and officers with the United States Marines.

"The city is chaotic," said Sheikh Ali al-Dulaimi, a leader of the region's largest tribe. "There's no presence of the Allawi government," he added, speaking of Prime Minister Ayad Allawi.

While Ramadi is not exactly a "no go" zone for the marines, like the insurgent stronghold of Falluja 30 miles to the east, officers say it is fast slipping in that direction. In the last six weeks, guerrillas have stepped up the pace of assassinations of Iraqis working with the Americans, and marine officials say they suspect Iraqi security officers have been helping insurgents to attack their troops. Reconstruction efforts have ground to a halt because no local contractors are willing to work.

Most of the military's resources are channeled into controlling a bomb-infested, four-and-a-half-mile stretch of road that runs through downtown and connects two bases. Insurgents pop out of alleyways, mosques and a crowded market and fire at marines at will, then disappear when the Americans give chase.

Ramadi lies at the heart of rebellious Anbar Province and astride the major western supply route to Baghdad. The city, whose 400,000 residents have at best merely tolerated the foreign military presence, is seen as a crucial part of American efforts to plant a secular democracy in Iraq. But the disintegration of authority puts in jeopardy both the Bush administration's plan to stage nationwide elections by Jan. 31 and any sense of legitimacy such elections might have. It also complicates the American military's plans to invade Falluja, because of the close coordination between insurgents in the two cities.

With a powerful mix of propaganda and intimidation, well-financed guerrillas have turned the people of Ramadi against the American occupiers and their allies, Iraqis and marines here say.

"The provincial government is on the verge of collapse," said Second Lt. Ryan Schranell, whose platoon does 24-hour guard duty at the besieged government center opposite the main bazaar. "Just about everybody has resigned or is on the verge of resigning."

The provincial governor, Muhammad Awad, who doubles as the city's mayor, took office after the previous governor resigned in early August following the kidnapping of his three

Continued on Page A16

Red Sox Erase 86 Years of Futility in 4 Games



Shaun Best/Reuters

Boston players streamed out of their dugout onto the field at Busch Stadium last night after the game's last out. The Red Sox defeated the St. Louis Cardinals, 3-0, to win Game 4 and sweep the World Series.

By TYLER KEPNER

ST. LOUIS, Oct. 27 — This was for the believers. For Ted Williams and Yaz and all the others who spent a career beneath a boulder that kept rolling down a hill. This was an exorcism of 86 years of anguish.

On Wednesday night, Babe Ruth gave up. From Bangor to Brattleboro, Nashua to Nantucket, Waterbury to Woonsocket, the fans of New England can finally say it: the Boston Red Sox are the world champions. Nothing will ever be quite the same.

The Red Sox won the World Series on Wednesday for the first time since 1918, breaking the life sentence they incurred when they sold Ruth to the Yankees two years later. The Red Sox, the franchise that perfected heartbreak, won the title with one of

the most dominating performances in World Series history, silencing the St. Louis Cardinals, 3-0, in Game 4 to sweep a series in which they never trailed. They swept the Series after they had trailed the Yankees by 3-0 in the American League Championship Series.

They did it at Busch Stadium, in the same city where Johnny Pesky held the ball in Game 7 of the 1946 World Series, the first of four Series calamities for the Red Sox. They also lost in the seventh game in 1967, 1975 and 1986.

Six playoff losses followed in the next 17 seasons, building the anticipation ever higher in Boston. As the Red Sox' principal owner, John Henry, said before Game 4, "Some people have told me it would be the biggest

thing since the Revolutionary War."

The new question in Boston will not be when the Red Sox will ever win the World Series. It might be how many statues to erect at Fenway Hall. There were many heroes of this World Series, with the starting pitchers standing tallest.

Curt Schilling allowed no earned runs over six innings in Game 2, with blood seeping from his injured right ankle and through his sock. Pedro Martinez, the ace who may have thrown his last pitch for the team, shut out the Cardinals for seven innings in Game 3. Derek Lowe, who earned the victory in the clinching game of all three postseason series this fall, did the same on Wednesday.

Keith Foulke recorded the final out in every Series game. With two outs in the ninth inning on Wednesday, he fielded a grounder from Edgar Renteria, took a few steps toward first and carefully made an underhand toss to Doug Mientkiewicz.

The series was over, and catcher Jason Varitek pounced on Foulke between the mound and the first-base

Continued on Page D3

Police, Tracing 'John Doe' DNA, Name Suspect in Old Sex Crime

By SABRINA TAVERNISE

Eight years ago, a man tried to rape a woman in a Canal Street subway station on Halloween, prosecutors say. He could not be found, and in 2001, before the statute of limitations on the crime ran out, prosecutors drew up an indictment based on a DNA profile.

This month, the profile turned up a match to a man named David Martinez, prosecutors said. Mr. Martinez was arrested yesterday in what Robert M. Morgenthau, the Manhattan district attorney, said was New York State's first arrest based on what is known as a John Doe indictment, which uses DNA samples to charge an unknown sexual attacker before the statute of limitations expires.

The arrest of Mr. Martinez, 46, involves the first DNA match that prosecutors say has been confirmed in the John Doe Indictment Project,

a city effort in which prosecutors, investigators and scientists seek to tie the most serious sex crimes to specific DNA profiles, and then file charges even before they have identified a suspect. The Manhattan district attorney's office started seeking such indictments in 2000.

The aim was to aggressively pursue sex offenders by indefinitely preserving the ability to prosecute. The program allows prosecutors to freeze statutes of limitations, which protect people from being arrested long after a crime is committed and facing a prosecution based on the fading memories of witnesses.

Mr. Morgenthau said yesterday that without mandatory DNA testing of certain criminals, "we wouldn't have made this case."

"It reassures victims that we don't give up," he said, "and their attacker may eventually be located and prosecuted."

The arrest, and another this week, are a first for New York State, but not for the country. Norman Gahn, an assistant district attorney in Milwaukee County in Wisconsin, said

Continued on Page B6

INSIDE

Arafat's Health Reported To Be Worsening

The health of Yasir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, worsened and an ambulance was called to his West Bank compound amid unconfirmed reports that the Palestinian leader collapsed and lost consciousness at least once. Aides dismissed those reports, but said Mr. Arafat, 75, was weak with stomach flu. PAGE A3

Delta and Pilots Reach a Deal

Delta Air Lines reached a tentative agreement with its pilots union on long-sought wage and benefit cuts, averting a threatened filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, at least for now. BUSINESS DAY, PAGE C1



Ann Johansson for The New York Times

For Cars That Stop Traffic

Big Slice, above, is the man the rapper Snoop Dogg calls on to snazzy up everything from a 1967 Pontiac to a team bus. THE ARTS, PAGE E1

Check Writers Lose Float

Because of a new federal law, the grace period between the time a check is written and when money is taken from an account is about to get shorter. PAGE C1

New Species Revealed: Tiny Cousins of Humans

By NICHOLAS WADE

Once upon a time, but not so long ago, on a tropical island midway between Asia and Australia, there lived a race of little people, whose adults stood just three and a half feet high. Despite their stature, they were mighty hunters. They made stone tools with which they speared giant rats, clubbed sleeping dragons and hunted the packs of pygmy elephants that roamed their lost world.

Strangest of all, this is no fable. Skeletons of these miniature people have been excavated from a limestone cave on Flores, an island 370 miles east of Bali, by a team of Australian and Indonesian archaeologists. Reporting their find in today's issue of Nature, they assign the people to a new human species, Homo floresiensis.

The new finding is "among the most outstanding discoveries in paleoanthropology for half a century," say two anthropologists not associated with the study, Dr. Marta Mirazon Lahr and Dr. Robert Foley of the University of Cambridge, in a written commentary in the same issue.

The little Floresians lived on the island until at least 13,000 years ago, and possibly to historic times. But they were not a pygmy form of modern humans. They were a downsized version of Homo erectus, the eastern cousin of the Neanderthals of Europe, who disappeared 33,000 years ago. Their discovery means that archaic humans, who left Africa 1.5 million years earlier than modern people, survived far longer into recent times than was previously supposed.



Peter Brown

A skull, at left, found on a remote island. At right, a modern skull.

The Indonesian island of Flores is very isolated and, before modern times, was inhabited only by a select group of animals that managed to reach it. These then became subject to unusual evolutionary forces that propelled some toward gigantism and reduced the size of others.

The carnivorous lizards that reached Flores, perhaps on natural rafts, became giant-size and still survive, though now they are confined mostly to the nearby island of Komodo; they are called Komodo dragons. Elephants, because of their buoyancy, are surprisingly good swimmers;

Continued on Page A8

BUSH HITS BACK AT KERRY CHARGE OVER EXPLOSIVES

DISPUTE ON CACHE IN IRAQ

Facts Not Clear, President Says — Rival Keeping the Pressure On

By ELISABETH BUMILLER and JODI WILGOREN

PONTIAC, Mich., Oct. 27 — President Bush broke his silence on Wednesday on the disappearance of 380 tons of explosives in Iraq, accusing Senator John Kerry of making "wild charges" about the missing explosives and of "denigrating the actions" of troops in the field.

Mr. Kerry quickly responded that while "our troops are doing a heroic job, the president, the commander in chief, is not doing his job."

The president's comments, his first on the missing explosives since Mr. Kerry began accusing him on Monday of incompetence in failing to secure Iraq after the American-led invasion, reflected concern in the Bush campaign that the issue could be hurting the president only six days before what is expected to be an extraordinarily close election.

The missing explosives were first reported Monday by The New York Times and CBS News, and since then the issue and the possibility that American troops in Iraq let the explosives slip into terrorist hands have dominated the presidential campaign.

"Our military is now investigating a number of possible scenarios, including that the explosives may have been moved before our troops even arrived at the site," Mr. Bush told thousands of Republicans at an airport rally in Lancaster County, Pa., his first stop of a day that took him through three states.

"This investigation is important and it's ongoing," he said, "and a political candidate who jumps to conclusions without knowing the facts is not a person you want as your commander in chief."

The exact timing of the disappearance of the explosives is critical to the political arguments of each campaign. Mr. Kerry's contention that the administration did not adequately secure the country and was unprepared for the war's aftermath presumes that the explosives disappeared after the fall of Saddam Hussein on April 9, 2003, as officials of the interim Iraqi government say.

If the explosives disappeared be-

Continued on Page A26

Looters at Weapon Site

Looters stormed Al Qaeda, a weapons site in Iraq, just days after American troops swept through on their way to Baghdad in early April 2003, four Iraqi witnesses reported. Their accounts do not directly address the question of when 380 tons of powerful explosives vanished from the site sometime after early March 2003, the last time international inspectors checked the seals.

Article, Page A26.

Passion and Election Disputes On Rise in Florida as Vote Nears

By ADAM NAGOURNEY and ABBY GOODNOUGH

KENDALL, Fla., Oct. 27 — It is as if the presidential election of 2000 never ended here.

Six days before Election Day, Florida is again struggling with questions about potential voting irregularities, from complaints about missing absentee ballots in Broward County and accusations of voter suppression in minority neighborhoods to concerns about new touch-screen voting machines. Floridians have been standing for as long as three hours to cast early votes in the presidential race, testimony to the unresolved passions of the election of 2000. Interest is so intense that analysts predict that a staggering 75 percent of Florida voters will cast ballots by the time polls close Tuesday evening.

The disappearance of absentee ballots only fed suspicion among Democrats already distrustful of a state government controlled by President Bush's brother Gov. Jeb Bush, with pollsters saying Floridians are already concerned that their votes will not be counted.

The Florida Department of Law

Enforcement said Wednesday that it found no foul play after investigating widespread complaints of missing absentee ballots in Broward County. But questions remained about where the ballots had gone and whether the intended recipients would be able to vote.

The atmosphere here is not as toxic as in 2000, and neither party expects anything approaching the bitter 36-day stalemate that gripped this state that year. Still, Democrats and their supporters have already filed 11 lawsuits alleging various electoral violations, according to a count kept by Republicans. And both sides are bracing for more lawsuits, with most polls showing Florida to be in a dead heat.

"This feels more like the recount," Mindy Tucker Fletcher, a senior Republican strategist who was here in 2000, said on Wednesday. "I don't take phone calls from reporters on issues. I take phone from reporters on missing absentee ballots, or Democrat charges about suppressing the

Continued on Page A22

NEWS SUMMARY A2

Arts	E1-10
Business Day	C1-12
Circuits	G1-8
Editorial, Op-Ed	A28-29
House & Home	F1-12
International	A3-16
Metro	B1-10
National	A18-26
Sports/Thursday	D1-8
World Business	W1-8

Obituaries	A27	Weather	D9
Real Estate	F8		

Classified Ads F10-12 Auto Exchange D4

Updated news: nytimes.com
Tomorrow in The Times: Page D8

FOR HOME DELIVERY CALL 1-800-NYTIMES



0 354613 19 44404