

# The New York Times

Late Edition

Today, patchy early clouds, then mostly sunny, warmer, high 82. Tonight, mainly clear, low 67. Tomorrow, mostly sunny and warm, high 82. Weather map is on Page D8.

VOL. CLVII . . No. 54,073

© 2007 The New York Times

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2007

\$1.25



ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Pro-Government Lawmaker Killed in Beirut Bombing

Antoine Ghanem, a prominent Christian member of Parliament and backer of Lebanon's prime minister, Fouad Siniora, died when a bomb in a parked car went off as he drove by in a Christian suburb of the capital. Six other people also died. Page A3.

## Big Terror Trial Shaped Views Of Justice Pick

By ADAM LIPTAK

On Jan. 17, 1996, after a nine-month terrorism trial and a rambling 100-minute lecture from a blind sheik found guilty of conspiring to wage war against the United States, Judge Michael B. Mukasey had had enough.

With a few terse, stern and prescient remarks, he sentenced the sheik, Omar Abdel Rahman, to life in prison. Judge Mukasey said he feared the plot could have produced devastation on "a scale unknown in this country since the Civil War" that would make the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center, which had left six people dead, "almost insignificant by comparison."

Long before most Americans had given deep consideration to the terrorist threat from radical Islam or to whether the criminal justice system is the right forum for trying people accused of terrorism, Judge Mukasey received an intensive education on those topics.

The vivid lessons Judge Mukasey took away from the trial — notably that the urgency of the threat requires tilting toward protecting national security even at some cost to civil liberties — have echoed through his speeches and writings. Now, as President Bush's choice for attorney general, he is poised to put those

Continued on Page A20

## Voices Rise in Egypt to Shield Girls From an Old Tradition

By MICHAEL SLACKMAN

KAFR AL MANSHI ABU HAMAR, Egypt — The men in this poor farming community were seething. A 13-year-old girl was brought to a doctor's office to have her clitoris removed, a surgery considered necessary here to preserve chastity and honor.

The girl died, but that was not the source of the outrage. After her death, the government shut down the clinic, and that got everyone stirred up.

"They will not stop us," shouted Saad Yehia, a tea shop owner along the main street. "We support circumcision!" he shouted over and over.

"Even if the state doesn't like it, we will circumcise the girls," shouted Fahmy Ezzeddin Shawsheeh, an elder in the village.

Circumcision, as supporters call it, or female genital mutilation, as opponents refer to it, was suddenly a ferocious focus of debate in Egypt this summer. A nationwide campaign to stop the practice has become one of the most powerful social movements in Egypt in decades, uniting an unlikely alliance of government forces, official religious leaders and street-level activists.

Though Egypt's Health Ministry ordered an end to the practice in 1996, it allowed exceptions in cases of emergency, a loophole critics describe as so wide that it

effectively rendered the ban meaningless. But now the government is trying to force a comprehensive ban.

Not only was it unusual for the government to shut down the clinic, but the health minister has also issued a decree banning health care workers — or anyone — from conducting the procedure for any reason. Beyond that, the Ministry of Religious Affairs also issued a booklet explaining why the practice was not called for in Islam; Egypt's grand mufti, Ali Gomaa, declared it haram, or prohibited by Islam; Egypt's highest religious official, Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, called it harmful; television advertise-

Continued on Page A8

## Subways to Get Cellular Service

Every underground station in the New York City subway system will be wired for cellphone use within six years, transit officials announced.

But riders may have to talk fast, because the tunnels will not be wired.

The company that won the right to wire the stations will pay at least \$46.8 million over 10 years, and will pay to build the network.

In interviews, riders were split on the idea of opening up every station to cellphone talk, text messaging, e-mail access and other aspects of a wireless world.

By WILLIAM NEUMAN, PAGE B1

## NBC Will Offer Its Shows Free For Downloads

### Move Designed to Lure a Younger Audience

By BILL CARTER

NBC Universal said yesterday that it would soon permit consumers to download many of NBC's most popular programs free to personal computers and other devices for one week immediately after their broadcasts.

The service, which is set to start in November after a test period in October, comes less than three weeks after NBC Universal said it was pulling its programs out of the highly successful iTunes service of Apple Inc. That partnership fell apart because of a dispute over Apple's iTunes pricing policies and what NBC executives said were concerns about lack of piracy protection.

NBC's move comes as companies throughout the television business search for new economic models in the face of enormous changes in the business. Networks continue to lose audience share, and viewers — especially many of the highly prized viewers under 30 years old — are increasingly demanding control of their program choices, insisting on being able to watch shows when, where and how they want.

At the same time viewers are finding more and more ways, like TiVo machines, to avoid watching the commercials that have long provided the bulk of television revenue.

Jeff Gaspin, the president of the NBC Universal Television Group, said, "The shift from programmer to consumer controlling program choices is the biggest change in the media business in the past 25 or 30 years."

NBC makes many of its popular shows available online in streaming media, which means that fans can watch episodes on their computers. Under the new NBC service, called NBC Direct, consumers will be able to download, for no fee, NBC programs like "Heroes," "The Office" and "The Tonight Show With Jay Leno" on the night that they are broadcast and keep them for seven days. They would also be able to subscribe to shows, guaran-

Continued on Page A17

## EFFORT TO SHIFT COURSE IN IRAQ FAILS IN SENATE

### G.O.P. MINORITY PREVAILS

### Vote Ends Democratic Bid to Alter Leave Plan for Troops

By DAVID M. HERSZENHORN and CARL HULSE

WASHINGTON, Sept. 19 — A proposal that Democrats put forward as their best chance of changing the course of the Iraq war died on the Senate floor on Wednesday, as Republicans stood firmly with President Bush.

With other war initiatives seemingly headed for the same fate, Senate Democrats, who only two weeks ago proclaimed September to be the month for shifting course in Iraq, conceded that they had little chance of success.

They said their strategy would now focus on portraying Republicans as opposing any change and on trying to chip away support for the White House as the war continued.

The proposal that failed Wednesday fell 4 votes short of the 60 needed to prevent a filibuster and would have required that troops be given as much time at home as they had spent overseas before being redeployed.

There were 56 votes in favor, including 6 Republicans — one fewer than the 7 Republicans who joined the Democrats in July, when the measure, by Senator Jim Webb, Democrat of Virginia, also fell 4 votes short.

Supporters of Mr. Bush's war strategy declared victory, saying they had firmly beaten back legislative efforts to change course.

"It means that Congress will not intervene in the foreseeable future," said Senator Joseph I. Lieberman of Connecticut, the Independent who has voted with the Republicans on war issues. "The fact that it didn't get enough votes says that Congress doesn't have the votes to stop this strategy of success from going forward."

The Senate vote was a crucial test of the war plan that Mr. Bush put forward last week, calling for only gradual reductions in troop levels in Iraq from their current high, and leaving intact by next summer a main body of more than 130,000 troops, about the same number as last February.

The outcome showed that the strong opposition to the war plan by Democrats and a few Republicans remained insufficient to overcome a powerful Republican

Continued on Page A7

## Armed Guards In Iraq Occupy A Legal Limbo

By JOHN M. BRODER and JAMES RISEN

WASHINGTON, Sept. 19 — The shooting incident involving private security guards in Baghdad on Sunday that left at least eight Iraqis dead has revealed large gaps in the laws applying to such armed contractors.

Early in the period when Iraq was still under American administration, the United States government unilaterally exempted its employees and contractors from Iraqi law.

Last year, Congress instructed the Defense Department to draw up rules to bring the tens of thousands of contractors in Iraq under the American laws that apply to the military, but the Pentagon so far has not acted. Thus the thousands of heavily armed private soldiers in Iraq operate with virtual immunity from Iraqi and American law.

There have been numerous cases of killings or injuries of Iraqi civilians by employees of private military contractors, including Blackwater USA, the company involved in the shooting on Sunday.

Last December, a Blackwater gunman was reported, during an argument, to have killed a bodyguard for Vice President Adel Abdul Mahdi.

He was whisked out of the country and has not been charged with any crime, said Peter W. Singer, a Brookings Institution scholar who has written extensively about contractors in

Continued on Page A6

### INSIDE

#### G.O.P. Blocks Terror Detainees' Right to Appeal

Senate Republicans blocked an effort to give terrorism detainees the right to appeal their detention to federal courts, rejecting complaints that a new law denying that option ran against the nation's principles. The issue is also before the Supreme Court. PAGE A18

#### Dubai Plans Nasdaq Stake

The government-controlled stock exchange in Dubai is planning to take a significant stake in Nasdaq and the London Stock Exchange, a move that is likely to raise security concerns. BUSINESS DAY, PAGE C1

#### Fossil Clues to Human Past

The discovery of four fossil skeletons of human ancestors in Georgia, a former Soviet republic, offers a look at a species in transition, primitive in its skull but more advanced in its spine and lower limbs. PAGE A11

#### Lawyer Facing Indictment

Melvyn I. Weiss, a leading securities lawyer whose firm, Milberg Weiss, has been under investigation in a kickback scheme, is expected to be indicted as early as today, the firm said. PAGE C1

#### Marry Me? (Say Cheese)

Some men are hiring photographers to record the moment they pop the question. Below, a marriage proposal in Central Park. THURSDAY STYLES, PAGE G1



SHAY STEPHENS PHOTOGRAPHY

#### Dan Rather Sues CBS

Dan Rather filed a lawsuit against CBS News, claiming his contract was broken when he was forced to step down as anchor. BUSINESS DAY, PAGE C1

#### Yankees Make Boston Sweat

The Yankees won their fourth straight game to pull one and a half games behind the first-place Red Sox, who lost their fourth in a row. SPORTSTHURSDAY, PAGE D1

#### Divorce Me, Please

Over half the Americans who might have celebrated their 25th anniversaries since 2000 were divorced, separated or widowed before the milestone. PAGE A14



JAMES EMILIJEN/TCM PHOTOGRAPHY

The Rev. Juanita Bynum says her husband, also a minister, attacked her in Atlanta last month.

## A Minister's Public Lesson on Domestic Violence

By SHAILA DEWAN

ATLANTA, Sept. 19 — The attack in a hotel parking lot here last month was remarkable not only because the victim, Juanita Bynum, is the most prominent black female television evangelist in the country, who is pals with Oprah, admired by Aretha, and who recently signed on to campaign for Obama.

It was shocking, especially to legions of women who had latched onto her message that only chastity and self-respect would bring true love, because the attacker who choked, stomped and kicked her, Ms. Bynum said, was her husband.

The episode has led to debate about domestic violence and how churches, particularly black churches, respond to it.

But it has also raised questions about the trajectory of Ms. Bynum's career as a woman who called herself a prophetess, and while condemning promiscuity spoke openly about her lust and

longing, in what has been called one of the most significant contemporary American sermons. Her struggle struck a chord in many black communities, where marriage rates are notoriously low, and it seemed to culminate in the form of an earthly reward: a televised, million-dollar 2003 wedding to a fellow Pentecostal preacher, Bishop Thomas W. Weeks III, followed by what seemed to be a model marriage.

Since the attack, Ms. Bynum, 48, has tried to reinvent herself once more, announcing that she is "the new face of domestic violence." But Tom Joyner, the syndicated radio talk show host, did not let her off the hook so easily: "If you're a prophet," Mr. Joyner asked, "didn't you see this coming?"

In a telephone interview, Ms.

Bynum said the public had overly romanticized the union. "What happened to me was reality," she said. "I made a right decision that went bad. If you choose a Cadillac, if two years later someone runs into you and tears it up, it wasn't a bad decision to buy the car."

Mr. Weeks, who according to

Continued on Page A20

### NEWS SUMMARY A2

Table with 2 columns: News Category and Page Number. Includes Arts, Business Day, Editorial, House & Home, International, Metro, National, Sports/Thursday, Obituaries, Real Estate, Classified Ads, Commercial Real Estate Marketplace.

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

