

TUESDAY, JULY 3, 2007



By John Vinocur  
A dilemma of distance

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BUSINESS 10



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## U.S. links Iran to raid that killed GIs in Iraq

### General also accuses Hezbollah of acting as 'proxy' for Tehran

By Michael R. Gordon

**BAGHDAD:** Iranian operatives helped plan a January raid in Karbala in which five American soldiers were killed, an American military spokesman in Iraq said Monday.

The military spokesman, Brigadier General Kevin Bergner, also said that an Iranian unit, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, had used operatives from the Lebanese militia group Hezbollah as a "proxy" to train and arm an array of Shiite militant cells in Iraq.

American military officials have long asserted that the Quds Force, an elite unit of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, has trained and equipped Shiite militants in Iraq. The Americans have also cited extensive intelligence that Iran has supplied Shiite militants with the most lethal type of roadside bomb in Iraq, a device called the explosively formed penetrator, which is capable of piercing an armored Humvee.

But the assertions presented at a news briefing in Baghdad on Monday marked the first time that the United States has charged that Iranian officials have helped plan an operation against American troops in Iraq and have had advance knowledge of a specific attack that led to the deaths of American soldiers.

In effect, the United States is charging that Iran has been engaged in a proxy war against American and Iraqi government forces for years in an apparent effort to shore up its Shiite allies in Iraq and raise the cost of the American military presence there. Despite the broader implications of his presentation, Bergner sought to confine his comments to the specific incidents covered in his briefing.

When the Karbala attack was carried out Jan. 20, American and Iraqi officials said that it appeared to have been meticulously planned. The attackers carried forged identity cards and wore American-style uniforms. One American died in the raid, which targeted a center where American soldiers were coordinating with provincial officials. The rest of the American soldiers were abducted and later killed.

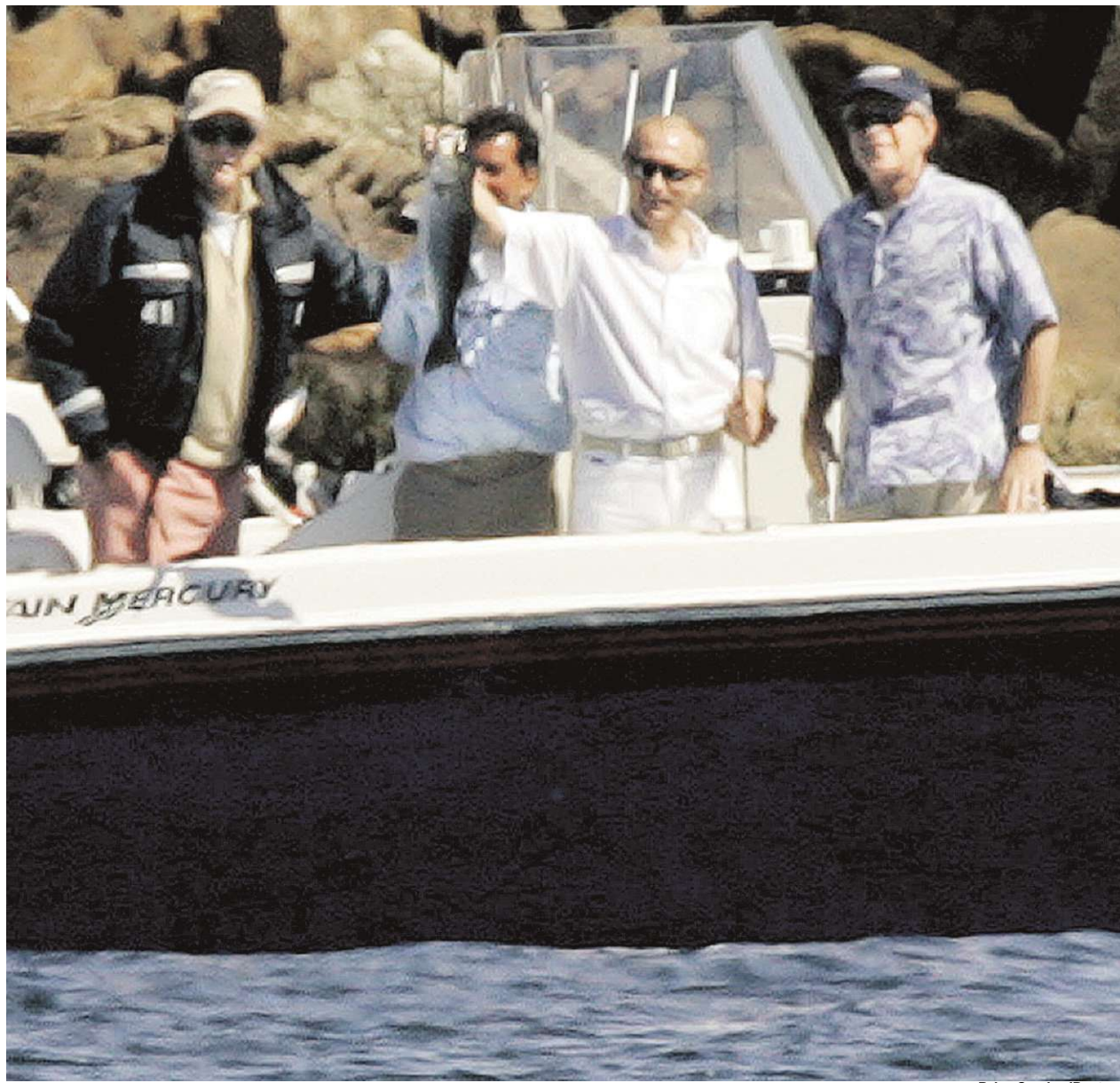
Some officials speculated at the time that the aim of the raid might have been to capture a group of American soldiers who could have been exchanged for Iranian officials that American forces had detained in Iraq on suspicion of supporting Shiite militants there. But while American officials wondered about an indirect Iranian role in the Karbala raid, until Monday they stopped short of alleging that the Quds Force was directly involved in planning the attack.

Bergner declined to speculate on Iranian motivations. But he said that the evidence for the American allegations consisted of interrogations of Qais Khazali, a Shiite militant who oversaw Iranian-supported cells in Iraq and who was captured several months ago along with another militant, Laith Khazali, his brother.

When the Khazali brothers were captured the Americans also seized a 22 page "planning and lessons learned" document the men had on the Karbala attack. That document, Bergner said, showed that the Iranian Quds Force had provided detailed information on the activities of American soldiers in Karbala, including shift changes and the defenses at the site.

Other information was obtained following the capture in March of a senior Hezbollah operative, Ali Musa Daqduq. The Americans also obtained Daqduq's

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Vladimir Putin with his catch on Monday in Maine with George W. Bush, right, and former President George H.W. Bush, left.

## For Putin and Bush, fish diplomacy

### Russian, in Maine, expands on his missile defense proposal

By Jim Rutenberg and Brian Knowlton

**KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine:** President Vladimir Putin suggested expanding his proposal for a shared missile defense system during talks here Monday with President George W. Bush, but he continued his opposition to an American plan to place antimissile facilities in Poland and the Czech Republic.

While Putin proposed a system to be based mostly in the former Soviet Union, the American president, while endorsing the spirit of the Russian's idea as a "very constructive and bold strategic move," again defended the choice of Poland and the Czech Republic.

So the proposal pointed to continued haggling over the system, despite two days of meetings and recreational outings in a serene, seaside setting that had been intended to smooth over differences.

Putin, joining the U.S. president along the rocky coastline outside the Bush family home, said he had proposed expanding cooperation on a missile shield to include Europe and NATO.

"We support the idea of consultations on missile defense and believe that the number of participants should be expanded to include the European states," Putin said.

He suggested that consultations take place within the NATO-Russia Council, where the two sides consult on a range of issues.

Putin, who not long ago proposed that the United States place its antimissile facilities in the former Soviet republic of Azerbaijan, said that he did not believe it was necessary to install the system in Poland and the Czech Republic.

Bush, however, said that while he was in "strong agreement" with the

concept of a regional approach, "the Czech Republic and Poland need to be an integral part of the system."

Putin's proposal seemed to catch the American side off-guard. Washington has been negotiating with Warsaw and Prague over the missile-defense plans, but the ferocity of Russian opposition to those plans had taken U.S. officials aback and was one factor among many in the hasty organization of the Kennebunkport meeting.

Bush and Putin also emphasized their common concerns about the Iranian nuclear program. Tehran says the program is peaceful but other powers see it as being aimed at producing a nu-

PUTIN, Continued on Page 3

Russia opens a campaign to spread its language. Page 3

## Chad leader's son found dead near Paris



Police cars converged on the building in Courbevoie where the son of President Idriss Déby of Chad was found Monday.

From news reports

**PARIS:** The son and onetime heir apparent of President Idriss Déby of Chad was found dead in the garage of his apartment building outside Paris early Monday, and the authorities opened a murder investigation, the French police and court officials said.

The victim, Brahim Déby, 27, had been groomed to succeed his father, triggering a feud in the family, until his arrest for possession of a handgun after a brawl at a Paris discothèque last year. "He clearly died a violent death," a spokeswoman for the prosecutor's office in the suburb of Nanterre said. "We are going on the hypothesis of murder."

Government prosecutors said late Monday that a preliminary autopsy result showed Déby had died of asphyxiation from chemicals released by a fire extinguisher.

Brahim Déby was seen as his father's choice of successor but was widely disliked, even by some of his own family who viewed him as unfit to govern,

causing a split within the ruling clan.

Déby was dismissed as an adviser to his father after his arrest last year and was eventually given a six-month suspended prison sentence by a Paris court for carrying an unlicensed semi-automatic handgun and for possession of marijuana and cocaine.

He had been living in a 17-story apartment building on Rue Baudin in the Courbevoie suburb of Paris, blocks from La Défense, the financial district on the edge of the capital. His body was found by the building's superintendent in the parking garage at about 7 a.m. with a gash on the right temple; a fire extinguisher was lying nearby, news agencies reported.

By many accounts, Déby entertained frequently and was not a stranger to violence. Some African news media have alleged that Déby shot and killed a man after an argument over women in Ndjamena, the capital of Chad, several years ago.

Last year, Idriss Déby was re-elected

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## New arrests made in U.K. bomb plots

### Police reportedly trailed 2 attackers; no direct links to Al Qaeda are found

By Alan Cowell and Raymond Bonner

**LONDON:** The British police investigating the failed car bombings in London and Glasgow arrested three more suspects Monday, bringing the total to eight in a conspiracy that apparently drew in medical doctors from Jordan and Iraq and saw the police closing in on two of the attackers just hours before they struck.

As details emerged, there were indications in Scotland that the police had been on the trail of two of the attackers in the morning of the day they rammed a Jeep Cherokee into the entrance doors of Glasgow Airport, setting it on fire. Investigators had used both cell-phone and highly sophisticated closed-circuit television technology on Britain's highways to trace the men, according to several accounts.

Law enforcement officials in the United States and Britain insisted that intelligence agencies investigating the failed attacks had so far discovered no direct link to Al Qaeda personnel or training camps.

With Britain's terrorism threat assessment at its highest level — "critical" — Prime Minister Gordon Brown said Sunday that "the nature of the threat that we are dealing with is Al Qaeda and people who are related to Al Qaeda."

But a British security official who spoke in return for anonymity under government rules said it was "far too early" to speak of a direct link to terror training camps outside Britain or to Qaeda personnel.

A senior Western law enforcement official, who spoke in return for anonymity, said there was "no indication of any outside direction" and "no connection with the United States whatsoever."

"Nothing from phone contacts, nor

any other way. There has never been any connection of any kind in the U.S.," the official said.

The conspiracy to detonate cars loaded with gasoline and gas canisters seemed markedly different from other recent plots in Britain — notably the July 7, 2005, suicide bombing attacks in London — which drew on disaffected young British Muslims, often of Pakistani descent.

British news reports, relatives and a person close to the investigation identified two of the detained people as medical doctors: Mohammed Asha, from Jordan, and Bilal Abdullah, from Iraq.

Asha, 26, was arrested Saturday when police officers in unmarked cars boxed in his car on the M6 highway in northwestern England and forced it to a halt. He was accompanied by a 27-year-old woman whose link to the alleged conspiracy was unclear. Contrary to earlier reports identifying him as an Iranian Kurd, Asha was said by a Jordanian official to be a Jordanian of Palestinian descent.

Abdullah was identified in news reports as one of two men suspected of trying to ram the Jeep Cherokee into the entrance of Glasgow Airport on Saturday afternoon. British medical records said he qualified as a doctor in Baghdad in 2004 and had been licensed to practice in British hospitals as a doctor under supervision since August 2006.

The Glasgow attack followed the discovery of two cars loaded with gasoline, gas canisters and nails in London on Friday and the police have said the episodes were linked. Officials declined to say whether the same people were suspected of carrying out both attacks.

A senior Western law enforcement

BRITAIN, Continued on Page 6



A bomb disposal expert examining a car Monday at a Glasgow hospital, after the attempted car bombing at the city's airport on Saturday and two in London on Friday.

## Londoners return to business as usual

With Britain still on its highest level of terror alert after the attempted car bombings last week, the police presence in London has been increased to "act as a highly visible reassurance," a spokesman for Scotland Yard said.

Security has also been increased at all of Britain's airports, most obviously in front of passenger terminals, where cars have been banned. Page 6

## Unlikely suspects linked to terror plots

Mohammed Asha, a Jordanian-trained doctor who has been arrested, but not charged, in connection with the terror plots in Britain last week-end, was proud of his career accomplishments but sometimes fretful about his life in Britain.

A second doctor was also reported to have been arrested in relation to the plots. Page 6

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### Newsstand prices

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### CURRENCIES | New York

	Monday 4 p.m.	Previous
€1 =	\$1.3623	\$1.3535
£1 =	\$2.0165	\$2.0082
¥1 =	¥122.263	¥123.116
\$1 =	SF1.2110	SF1.2215

Full currency rates | Page 13

### OIL | New York

	Monday 4 p.m.	Change
Light sweet crude	\$71.09	↑ \$0.41

### STOCK INDEXES

	Monday	Change
The Dow 4 p.m.	13,535.43	↑ 0.95%
FTSE 100 close	6,590.60	↓ 0.26%
Nikkei 225 close	18,146.30	↑ 0.04%

ihf.com/worldmarkets

## 18 face trial in Turkey for killing of journalist

The case that opened Monday is widely seen as a test of whether the Turkish judiciary will be able to investigate allegations of official negligence in the slaying.

Hrant Dink, an ethnic Armenian journalist, was gunned down on Jan. 19 and his killing led to international condemnation and debate within Turkey about free speech. Dink was hated by hard-line nationalists for describing the early 20th century mass killings of Armenians as genocide. Critics accuse the authorities of failing to act on reports of a plot. Page 3

## German nuclear power

One day before a major meeting on energy, Chancellor Angela Merkel faced increased pressure Monday to reverse course on closing Germany's nuclear power plants. The plants are seen as a way to reduce global warming. Page 9

## Oil trouble, but no oil

The first drop of oil has yet to be produced in the African island nation of São Tomé and Príncipe, but it may already have ample supplies of oil-related corruption. Page 9

## The green executive

Add to the roster of vice presidents in the top-level suites. Chief sustainability officers are moving in, and they wield surprising clout over everything from acquisitions to ads. Page 9



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