



All you need to know to commute by bike

SIDEKICK >>>

Social service agency faces dilemma on teen pregnancy HEALTH|SCIENCE, A11 Angels sweep Red Sox, 5-3 SPORTS, C1

VOLUME 274
NUMBER 21
75 cents

The Boston Globe

MONDAY, JULY 21, 2008

SUN-RAH

TODAY: Sunny, chance of storms. High 82-87. Low 68-73.
TOMORROW: Some sun with late storms. High 84-89. Low 66-71.
HIGH TIDE: 1:43 a.m. 2:15 p.m.
SUNRISE: 5:26 a.m. SUNSET: 8:15 p.m.
FULL REPORT: PAGE B12

In the news

US and Afghan forces killed nine Afghan police officers in a four-hour-long battle during which both sides mistook the other for militants. **A3**

More than a million Colombians rallied against the leftist guerrillas who have been battling the government for decades, demanding the release of all hostages and an end to political kidnapping. **A3**

The son of a governor was killed by US forces in a raid in Iraq, while the nation's electoral commission warned that time was running out to hold provincial elections. **A4**

The top Pentagon official said a specific time frame for withdrawing US troops from Iraq could jeopardize political and economic progress. **A4**



Barack Obama met with Afghan leader Hamid Karzai, pledging aid to the violence-plagued nation and vowing to pursue the war on terrorism "with vigor" if elected. **A8**

The passing of a UMass professor who ran a marine laboratory in Gloucester has spurred a debate about the future of the 7-acre seaside property. **B1**

A group pushing for females in the priesthood claimed to ordain three women as Catholic priests and a fourth as a deacon at a Protestant church in the Back Bay, in a ceremony denounced by the Catholic Church. **B1**

A Cambridge technology company and a clothing retailer are introducing an application that will allow customers to shop from their desktop without connecting to the Internet. **B5**

POINT OF VIEW: KEVIN CULLEN

"You will never convince Jim Rufo that David Woodman is dead for any other reason than that the show of force put on by police the night the Celtics won their 17th championship was something of a self-fulfilling prophecy: that if you hype police officers up for battle, if you send them into a crowd of civilians with weapons, you are asking for trouble." **B1**

Inside

Features	Classified
Business B5	Cars, Homes, Staff
Deaths B8	Notices C10-14
Editorials A14	Sidkick
Lottery B2	TV/Radio, Comics, Crossword, Sudoku, Horoscope, Movie times
Weather B12	

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DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

Michael Olinger (left) and Jonny Moore purchased their one-bedroom condo in the South End last month.

Bloom's off the brick row house

Buyers picking modern high-rise over classic style

By Kimberly Blanton
GLOBE STAFF

Jonny Moore's fantasy about living in Boston involved stepping out the wide door of an elegant brownstone and on to a picturesque, tree-lined street.

When his employer transferred him here from Dallas, Moore followed his real estate agent up the tilting stairways and down into the musty basements of brownstones and row houses for sale in the South End. He began to wonder what unseen repairs lurked behind the walls of buildings constructed in the late 1800s.

"But the thing I could not handle," said Moore, were the ugly air conditioning units spoiling beautiful bay windows. In June, Moore, a computer programmer, and his partner, Michael Olinger, a flight attendant,

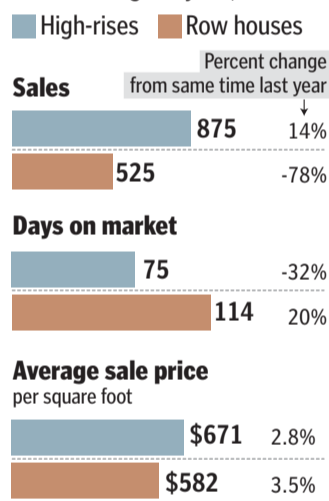
purchased a one-bedroom in a new midrise building on Shawmut Avenue in the South End with central air conditioning and a clean, dry basement.

Brownstones and brick row houses — Boston's signature architecture — are losing their cache among the buyers driving the city's busy downtown real estate market. Despite their elegance and authenticity, these older buildings don't have the modern features and amenities of the fancy condominium buildings sprouting up all over downtown: elevators, covered parking, soundproof walls, and personalized services such as catering and concierge.

"We are sucking people out of those brownstones," said Diane Maloney, whose Boston firm is marketing 45 Province Boston

ROW HOUSES, Page A16

Jan. 1 through July 11, 2008



SOURCE: Listing Information Network Inc.

AARON ATENCIO/GLOBE STAFF

Frank mediates mortgage rescue plan

Democrat shows his bipartisan side

By Alan Wirzbicki
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON — At first, it looked like the same old Barney Frank who appeared on CNBC last Monday morning, wearing a rumpled gray suit and his customary air of intelligence mixed with impatience.

But something was different: Instead of inveighing against corporate America or the Bush administration, Frank was defending the Treasury Department's handling of the crisis at Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and assuring anxious investors that the two mortgage giants remained fundamentally healthy.

"They are not in danger of going under," Frank said on the business news network, a line that he has echoed repeatedly in rounds of TV, radio, and newspaper interviews since the crisis deepened last week. "Their prospects going forward are very solid."



Barney Frank heads the House finance committee.

FRANK, Page A9



JONATHAN WIGGS/GLOBE STAFF

Vehicles traveled along Fore River Bridge, linking Quincy and Weymouth, last week. The vertical lift bridge has caused frustration in the community.

Temporary span is raising frustration on South Shore

The Fore River Bridge's replacement a long way off

By Eric Moskowitz
GLOBE STAFF

QUINCY — When the Fore River Bridge is raised to allow ships to pass, traffic grinds to a halt outside Patina's Hair Design, a half-mile from the bridge, and the line of stalled cars extends several blocks beyond it up Washington Street. But Pat Vegnani, the salon's owner, said the gridlock bothers her less than the persistent and ominous rumbling of the bridge.

"I just wish they'd hurry up and do something," Vegnani said. "It's scary."

Such is life in Weymouth and Quincy: massive traffic tie-ups, and banging and

clanking sounds from the temporary vertical-lift bridge over the Weymouth Fore River estuary.

The community's frustrations are partly a legacy of the Big Dig. Heavy debts left by the Central Artery/Third Harbor Tunnel project have sucked away billions of dollars from other long-awaited projects across the state, including construction of a permanent replacement for the Fore River Bridge, which carries Route 3A, a crucial South Shore artery, between Quincy and Weymouth.

The Globe reported last week that \$7 billion in additional interest payments have pushed the total Big Dig cost to \$22 billion, and that hundreds of millions of dollars in debt payments every year will continue through 2038.

BRIDGE, Page A16

Lightning leaves 4 in critical condition

Thunderstorm rattles Boston area

By James Vaznis and Emma Brown
GLOBE STAFF AND GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Ten spectators at soccer game were injured — four of them critically — in Dorchester yesterday when they sought refuge under a gigantic tree that was struck by lightning during a ferocious storm that swept across the region.

The victims, all males, had burns consistent with lightning strikes, authorities said. The youngest victim was 13 years old, while the oldest was in his 40s; paramedics monitored victims' hearts — including electrocardiograms on at least three of the injured — while transporting them to various hospitals, officials said. Witnesses said some of the victims were given cardiopulmonary resuscitation as they were taken away.

"They [the victims] sought the quickest shelter, but unfortunately, lightning strikes the tallest object, and that was the tallest tree in the area," Michael Bosse, an EMS deputy supervisor, said at a press conference at Boston Medical Center last night. Later he added, "I've been on the job 27 years, and I've never had 10 people struck by lightning at once."

The storm tore through the Boston area about 3:30 p.m. and dropped nearly an inch of rain in less than an hour, according to the National Weather Service. Wind speeds in some parts of Greater Boston hit 45 miles an hour. Across the region, the storm downed trees and power lines, washed out streets, and knocked out traffic lights, weather service and police officials said. Several boats in Boston Harbor sent out distress signals.

WEATHER, Page A16

Doctor defends firefighter diagnosis

Says he didn't know about bodybuilding

By Walter V. Robinson
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Albert Arroyo, the Boston firefighter and professional bodybuilder, paid 13 visits to Dr. John F. Mahoney, including five examinations in the 13 months before Mahoney concluded in April that Arroyo was "totally and permanently" disabled from a back injury.

Although Mahoney said Arroyo doffed his shirt during appointments, the neurologist at Caritas Carney Hospital insisted he never noticed Arroyo's near Hulk-like physique — until he saw Arroyo's photo in the Globe a week ago.

"If someone is doing bodybuilding and doesn't tell me, how the hell would I know?" said Mahoney when the Globe asked him Friday about Arroyo, a professional bodybuilder since 2003.

Mahoney said he noticed nothing amiss when he examined Arroyo, who looked to him like any patient who has "lost some weight and was working hard on his physical therapy and being fit."

He added: "When I saw that picture in the paper, I didn't recognize him as the man who came to my of-

FIREFIGHTER, Page A8

Obama pledges aid, military support to Afghanistan

By Candace Rondeaux
and Dan Balz
WASHINGTON POST

KABUL, Afghanistan — Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama met yesterday with President Hamid Karzai and later reiterated his call for additional US forces to deal with conditions in Afghanistan that he described as “precarious and urgent,” capping a two-day tour as casualties continued to mount from violence in the war-torn country.

Obama joined Karzai for a “working lunch,” marking the first meeting for the Afghan president and the presumptive Democratic nominee. Obama’s colleagues in the congressional delegation visiting Afghanistan, Senators Chuck Hagel, Republican of Nebraska, and Jack Reed, Democrat of Rhode Island, also were at the lunch, said Humayun Hamidzada, Karzai’s chief spokesman.

Hamidzada said the heads of Afghanistan’s ministries of defense and foreign affairs, and Karzai’s national security adviser, attended the nearly two-hour meeting.

Obama, interviewed in Afghanistan for CBS’s “Face the Nation,” called the country the “central front on our battle against terrorism.” He said the Iraq war had distracted attention away from this critical battlefield and that it is now time to begin with-



US COMBINED SECURITY TRANSITION COMMAND AFGHANISTAN VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS
Barack Obama and Sergeant First Class Ishanna Fenton of US Combined Security Transition Command yesterday in Kabul.

drawing troops from Iraq and shifting more military resources into Afghanistan.

“If we wait until the next administration, it could be a year before we get those additional troops on the ground here in Afghanistan, and I think that would be a mistake,” he said. “I think the situation is getting urgent enough that we’ve got to start doing something now.”

Obama also said that the United States should press neighboring Pakistan harder to help eliminate the terrorist sanctuaries and training camps along the border that are fueling the Taliban and Al Qaeda in Afghanistan. “I think

that message has not been sent,” he said in implicit criticism of the current administration.

Obama’s visit to Afghanistan marked the first leg of a foreign tour that will take him to Iraq, Jordan, Israel, Germany, France, and Britain between now and the end of the week.

From Afghanistan, Obama flew to Kuwait. The state news agency KUNA reported that he met with the Gulf Arab state’s emir, Sabah Ahmad al-Sabah. Obama was expected to continue on to Iraq for meetings with US and Iraqi officials and to speak with US military personnel today.

In a statement issued after the

meeting with Karzai, Obama, Hagel, and Reed said their trip had been aimed at assessing whether the United States has the right strategy and resources to defeat the Taliban and Al Qaeda.

“Our message to the Afghan government is this: We want a strong partnership based on ‘more for more’ — more resources from the United States and NATO, and more action from the Afghan government to improve the lives of the Afghan people,” they said.

Karzai and the three US politicians discussed topics including education, healthcare and the state of the Afghan National Army and Afghan national police.

“The discussions focused on the significant progress that we’ve made but also on the unmet challenges we still have ahead of us,” Hamidzada said.

Obama has made the US-led military mission in Afghanistan a central plank in his campaign platform, calling for 7,000 additional troops to be sent to the country as part of an overall drawdown in the number in Iraq.

He has said that, if elected, he would remove combat forces over a 16-month period and has repeatedly called for more troops and more resources in Afghanistan to fight the mounting threat from a Taliban resurgence and Al Qaeda.

“Losing is not an option when it comes to Al Qaeda, and it never

has been,” he said on “Face the Nation.” “and that’s why the fact that we engaged in a war of choice when we were not yet finished with that task was such a mistake.”

The Illinois senator and his Republican opponent, Senator John McCain, Republican of Arizona, have sparred intensely over the progress in both wars and how best to reshape US military missions.

That debate continued yesterday on the morning talk shows and elsewhere. McCain’s campaign issued a statement highlighting comments from the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mike Mullen, raising doubts about the wisdom of removing combat forces from Iraq over the next two years, as Obama has advocated.

The McCain campaign statement noted, “Barack Obama says he wants a ‘safe and responsible’ withdrawal from Iraq, but is stubbornly adhering to an unconditional withdrawal that places politics above the advice of our military commanders, the success of our troops, and the security of the American people.”

On Saturday, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki of Iraq was quoted in the German magazine Der Spiegel as embracing Obama’s 16-month withdrawal timetable, causing a stir at the White House. Officials at the US embassy in

Baghdad contacted Maliki’s office to express concern and seek clarification on the remarks, according to White House spokesman Scott Stanzel.

Later in the day, a Maliki aide released a statement saying the remarks had been mistranslated and misunderstood. Der Spiegel said it was standing by the quotations.

The meeting with Karzai took place a few hours after Obama, Reed, and Hagel met with US troops at Camp Eggers, a heavily fortified US base in the Afghan capital.

Karzai and Obama met over a traditional Afghan meal of rice, chicken, and mutton at the presidential palace a little more than a week after Obama pointedly criticized Karzai’s leadership in the face of deteriorating security conditions. In an interview with CNN, Obama said Karzai had “not gotten out of the bunker” to help the country develop.

Karzai’s spokesman declined to say directly whether the two touched on the senator’s recent remarks, but he said Obama’s comment was not without merits.

“We didn’t see that as a criticism per se because there is a degree of realism in that statement and that is the fact that while we are making significant progress in rebuilding our country,” Hamidzada said.

Obama, saving resources, cut back on campaign spending in June

Barack Obama cut back on his spending in June after securing the Democratic presidential nomination, building up his cash on hand as Republican rival John McCain outspent him with a heavy dose of television advertising.

Unlike McCain, who spent more than he raised in June, Obama accumulated cash during the month, holding back on a ramped-up television campaign until July. Obama is now matching McCain’s and the Republican Party’s spending on advertising.

McCain reported his June fund-raising in a monthly report filed Friday with the Federal Election Commission.

Obama’s campaign announced that he raised \$52 million in June, more than twice the nearly \$21.5 million raised by McCain during the month. Obama reported having \$72 million cash on hand to McCain’s \$27 million.

Besides raising his own money, Obama is also encouraging his contributors to help former rival Senator Hillary Clinton retire her campaign debt. Yesterday, Clinton reported having a \$25.2 million debt at the end of June, including her \$13.2 million loan to the campaign. She raised \$2.7 million from donors during the month and lent her campaign another \$1 million.

While McCain reduced his cash on hand from May to June, Obama increased his by \$29 million.

McCain plans to accept \$84 million in public funds for the fall presidential campaign, a move that prevents him from raising or spending any more money above

that sum. Obama has decided to the bypass the public finance system. That means Obama needs to build up his cash reserves going into the fall campaign, whereas McCain needs to deplete his.

McCain was flying last night to Maine, where he will appear today at receptions in South Portland and at the Walker’s Point summer home of President George H.W. Bush.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

McCain, Obama to appear at a megachurch forum

The Rev. Rick Warren has gotten John McCain and Barack Obama to agree to attend a forum at his Saddleback Church, in Lake Forest, Calif., on Aug. 16. He said over the weekend that the candidates would appear together for a moment, but that he would interview them in succession at his megachurch.

The forum still falls short of the kind of face-to-face, town-hall-style debates that McCain has called for this summer before formal debates scheduled for this fall.

Word of the forum came as a leading conservative Christian, James C. Dobson, signaled that he might reverse his position and endorse McCain.

“I never thought I would hear myself saying this,” Dobson, chairman of Focus on the Family, said for a radio broadcast today. “While I am not endorsing Senator John McCain, the possibility is there that I might.” He said that while he has differs with both candidates on some issues, McCain’s positions are closer to his own.

NEW YORK TIMES



COREY SIPKIN/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Senator John McCain attended the Yankees vs. Oakland Athletics game in New York yesterday with former mayor Rudy Giuliani.

Obama plans to speak near Berlin’s Brandenburg Gate

Barack Obama’s campaign said yesterday that he will give a speech on the future of trans-Atlantic relations in front of a Prussian war monument in downtown Berlin — in view of the historic Brandenburg Gate.

The announcement that he will speak at the Victory Column, or Siegessäule, ended weeks of speculation in Berlin. It also triggered criticism that the 226-foot column built in 1873 to celebrate Prussian war victories over Denmark, Austria, and France was an inappropriate choice.

One of Berlin’s best-known monuments, the column is topped by a golden, winged figure representing Victoria, the Roman goddess of victory.

It stood in front of Germany’s Parliament building, the Reichstag, until the late 1930s, when Adolf Hitler’s architect, Albert Speer, moved it to the middle of the Tiergarten park.

At the other end, about a mile away, is Pariser Platz square and the Brandenburg Gate.

Obama had wanted to give the speech there, but Chancellor Angela Merkel quashed the idea.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Giuliani takes McCain out to the ballgame in NYC

While Barack Obama was on another continent, Republican presidential candidate John McCain stayed closer to home yesterday, visiting Yankee Stadium in New York City with Rudy Giuliani, the former mayor.

The two high-profile Republicans are longtime friends, despite having campaigned against each other in the 2008 GOP primaries.

Could Giuliani, who moonlights as the number one Yankee fan, become the number two on the Republican ticket?

“You hear all kinds of stuff, but

I’m not thinking about anything but helping to get him elected,” Giuliani said. “Beyond the fact that he’s the candidate of my party, he’s a very good friend.”

When Oakland Athletics manager Bob Geren asked McCain what it’s like to run for president, the candidate answered: “It’s like being in AA [minor league baseball] and all of a sudden you’re playing in Yankee Stadium.”

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ON THE TRAIL
For more on the campaign, go to boston.com/politics

Doctor insists he saw nothing amiss with physique of firefighter

► **FIREFIGHTER**
Continued from Page A1
fice.”

Mahoney’s assertion that he had no idea Arroyo was a bodybuilder prompted a sharp rebuke yesterday from Samuel R. Tyler, president of the Boston Municipal Research Bureau, a business-supported watchdog agency.

“Dr. Mahoney’s statement that he did not notice Mr. Arroyo’s bodybuilding physique with his shirt off is not believable,” Tyler said. Such a “go along” attitude by Mahoney and others, Tyler added, “contributes to abuse of the disability retirement system, and those abuses are costing taxpayers millions of dollars.”

Mahoney is no stranger to firefighters with back and spine injuries. He was the Fire Department’s in-house medical officer for two years in the early 1980s. And city records made available to the Globe under a public records request indicate that since 2001, Mahoney has seen 25 firefighters whose injuries he determined to be so severe that the city should award them accidental disability pensions. Of the 25 firefighters, 21 have had their disability pensions approved; four

others are awaiting final approval.

The Arroyo case has focused attention on the doctors who give the approvals for firefighters to collect tax-free, lifelong disability pensions.

On May 3, just 15 days after Mahoney decided Arroyo could no longer work, the firefighter competed in a national bodybuilding competition and finished eighth.

With Mahoney’s letter, Arroyo filed for the disability pension in April. On May 21, Fire Commissioner Roderick J. Fraser Jr., citing the bodybuilding, asked the Boston Retirement Board to reject the application. The board, in turn, wrote Mahoney to ask if he stood by his diagnosis. Mahoney, without answering that question, responded on June 23 that he did not know Arroyo was a bodybuilder. The Fire Department quickly shifted Arroyo from injured leave at full pay and tax-free, to sick leave. Last Thursday, Fraser ordered Arroyo to show up today for his job as a fire inspector. If he does not, he faces possible termination.

Mahoney’s name was incorrectly redacted by the Retirement

Board before the city gave the Globe Arroyo’s records on July 11. Mahoney said during a lengthy interview that when he saw Arroyo’s photo last Monday, he concluded that his career would be ruined when his identity became known.

“I knew my practice would be destroyed. I accept that,” Mahoney said. “I am prepared to get [expletive]. . . Holy [expletive]. I am [expletive] and it was in the stars.”

He added: “I’m going to look like a foolish doc getting money from the city, knowing someone’s a bodybuilder and writing a letter that he’s disabled, and not knowing he’s a scam artist.”

Even so, Mahoney said that were it not for the restrictions imposed on him by the doctor-patient relationship, people would understand that his diagnosis was legitimate. But he acknowledged that the firefighter’s back problems may have resulted from the strict weightlifting regimen that bodybuilders follow and might not be job-related.

Ten days ago, Arroyo told a Globe reporter he would not answer questions. Last night, his lawyer, James E. Dilday, who is in

Vietnam on business, also declined to comment.

The Arroyo case has further fueled criticism over alleged fire department pension abuses, which in April spawned a federal grand jury investigation. Scores of firefighters have been subpoenaed and federal agents have issued sweeping subpoenas for thousands of documents from several city agencies.

One question that has left many perplexed is why nearly 75 percent of all firefighters who retired between 2005 and 2007 received accidental disability pensions, many of them after languishing on injured leave, at 100 percent of their pay, tax-free, for several years. Their pensions, once approved, guarantee them 72 percent of their pay, also tax-free. Boston’s disability rate is three times greater than other large cities.

In January, the Globe reported that, between 2001 and 2006, 102 Boston firefighters who received disability pensions reported that their career-ending injuries happened while they were temporarily filling in for superiors at the superior’s rate of pay. An additional 30 firefighters had similar

applications pending. On average, that means that each of the 102 will receive an extra \$250,000 over the course of his lifetime.

Many of those injuries were sustained by high-ranking district chiefs who were subbing, sometimes for a day, in desk jobs held by deputy chiefs. At the time, Fraser said he thought some of the claims were fraudulent.

All of those claims were certified as legitimate by physicians.

Mahoney, for his part, denied that he is a “go-to” doctor for disability-seeking firefighters and said virtually every firefighter he sees had been referred to him by the Fire Department’s medical office.

Yesterday, Dr. Michael G. Hamrock, the department’s physician, said that he does refer some firefighters to specialists who will

treat them immediately with “a goal of getting them back to work.” But he said Mahoney is not among those who receive such referrals.

Hamrock pointed out that the Firefighters Union contract permits injured firefighters to choose their own physicians. “Those who choose to see Dr. Mahoney do so on their own,” he said.

Tyler said the lack of skepticism by Mahoney and other doctors who are sought out by firefighters has played a critical role in the ballooning number of disability retirements. “These doctors need to be held more accountable because it is their certification of a firefighter’s medical condition that significantly influences the decisions to grant these lifetime disability pensions.”

Any doctor, Tyler said, “who certifies a disabling injury that is determined not to be legitimate should face consequences.”

A video of Albert Arroyo’s May 3 bodybuilding performance can be found at boston.com/globe. Walter Robinson’s email address is wrobinson@globe.com. Confidential messages can be left at 617-929-3334.