

Tonight
T-storm. Low 67.

Tuesday
HI 85
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PAGE TV 4

Journal Inquirer

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Corner lot



Lestloyd F. Alleyne Jr. / Journal Inquirer

A Victorian house rests today at the intersection of Ashley and Garden streets in Hartford after movers decided Sunday evening that it was too dark to continue transporting the building, which is being moved from Sigourney Street to Ashley Street. See Page 2.

Militants kill Iraqi official

9 die in truck bomb in Baghdad

By Ravi Nessman
Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Militants killed a top official in Iraq's Defense Ministry in a drive-by shooting as he walked into his house in Baghdad, the ministry said today.

Four gunmen drove up as Essam al-Dijaili, the head of the military's supply department, was bringing dinner home Sunday and opened fire, killing him and his bodyguard, said Mishal al-Sarraf, an adviser to the defense minister.

"He was killed in cold blood by the evil hands of the followers of the former regime," al-Sarraf said.

The assassination was the latest

attack on senior Iraqi officials. Assaultants killed the governor of Nineveh Province last week and tried unsuccessfully to assassinate the country's justice minister. They have also targeted police officers, accusing them of being collaborators with U.S. forces.

Today a fuel truck sped toward a police station in southwest Baghdad and exploded as policemen waited for their assignments, killing at least nine people and wounding 57, Iraqi officials and witnesses said.

The Philippines, meanwhile, announced that it had completed the withdrawal of its peacekeeping contingent from Iraq, meeting a demand by Iraqi insurgents threatening to behead a Filipino hostage but defying opposition from Washington.

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Corruption cases find way to DOT

By John Christoffersen
Associated Press

The state Department of Transportation is emerging as the latest front in a wave of corruption cases in the state, prompting calls for changes in a state agency so large and independent that critics call it a shadow government.

While scandals brought down a once-popular governor, a state treasurer, and two flamboyant mayors in recent years, the latest allegations involve little-known bureaucrats on

the front lines of a department responsible for spending about \$1.5 billion annually to ensure the public's safety on roads, bridges, and trains.

"There's no bigger candy store in the state than the DOT," said Sen. William A. Aniskovich, R-Branford, the second-highest Republican in the Senate and the ranking member of the legislature's Transportation Committee.

Critics say the store is not being sufficiently watched. Unlike other agencies which rely on the state's general fund, DOT has a separate funding source from the gasoline tax and motor vehicle fees that has led to an insular culture, they say.

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House pauses overnight before resuming journey

By Kym Soper

Journal Inquirer

HARTFORD — A stately Queen Anne Victorian house paused overnight Sunday in the middle of Garden Street before resuming its halting one-mile journey today to its new home around the corner.

The relocation of the 3,000-square-foot, two-story red brick house that for more than 110 years had stood at 47 Sigourney St. was stopped by 6 p.m. Sunday.

The light had started to fade as crews worked to negotiate a turn onto Ashley Street — a two-lane road with an island planted squarely in the center, police spokeswoman Nancy Mulroy said today. Mulroy said the department's traffic division foresaw no problems making the turn, but it was going to take time, and movers didn't want to attempt it in the dark.

By dawn today, the house again was on its slow-moving crossing, she said.

Police shut down Garden Street on Sunday afternoon between Ashley and Collins streets to accommodate

the move, and the section wasn't expected to reopen until midday today. The slow pace wasn't unexpected — on Saturday police issued a traffic alert, telling motorists to expect delays in the area this morning.

The house had been slated for demolition until preservationists stepped in to save it and move it to 21 Ashley St. Aetna, the insurance company that owned the building, had planned to demolish it to make room for more parking. But local neighborhood groups intervened, and Aetna agreed to donate the house to the Northside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance, a community development corporation that's moving it to the donated lot on Ashley Street.

The move cost about \$109,000 and was coordinated by the Corporation for Independent Living in Wethersfield.

Police closed a milelong stretch of city streets throughout the day Sunday as the house took up two lanes on its journey.

Bystanders stopped and took photos, Mulroy said, adding that some even set up lawn chairs as if watching a parade.