

Palestinian leader expected to take stronger lead

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would destabilize it.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, the Labor leader, said Arafat "should be given a chance," suggesting that if he were, the Palestinian leader would be able to take a stand against militant groups.

"I expect he will become a leader who makes decisions. Right now, he is reluctant and hesitant," Peres told journalists after meeting Secretary of State Colin Powell on the sidelines of an anti-terrorism meeting of European foreign ministers in Romania.

Powell said Arafat "needs to do a lot more than we've seen so far," but he cautioned against too strong a retaliation, saying, "We have to get back to a

process that will lead to a cease-fire."

Arafat, speaking to CNN after the airstrike on his compound, accused Israel of trying to undermine his efforts to combat terrorism.

The Palestinian Authority has rounded up some 130 members of the militant Islamic Jihad and Hamas groups in response to weekend suicide bombings and shootings on Israelis that killed 26 people. Israel views Arafat's moves against the militants as token efforts.

"They (the Israelis) don't want me to succeed and for this he (Sharon) is escalating his military activities against our people, against our towns, against our cities, against our establishments," Arafat said. "He doesn't want a peace process to start."

In a sign of support for Israel, the Bush administration froze the assets of three organizations accused of helping finance Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic group that claimed responsibility for the weekend attacks. The organizations included a U.S.-based charity and two overseas financial groups.

Ranaan Gissin, a Sharon aide, welcomed the U.S. action as a way of "cutting off the umbilical cord of terrorist groups."

A Hamas spokesman in the West Bank town of Nablus, Tasir Imran, denied the groups were funneling Hamas money and called the U.S. move "part of the war against the Palestinian people." The Americans "want to support Israel in its siege and restrictions against our people," Imran

said.

Sharon on Monday declared a "war on terror" in response to the weekend's bloodshed, holding Arafat to blame and saying he has "chosen the path of terror." He has stopped short of placing the Palestinian leader in Israel's gunights, aiming largely at symbols of Arafat's rule.

The strikes have effectively grounded the Palestinian leader in Ramallah. Israeli missiles damaged Arafat's three helicopters in the Gaza Strip during the first retaliatory strikes Monday. Israeli troops today tore up the landing strip at Gaza's airport.

"We have stated publicly that we do not intend to harm (Arafat) personally," said a Sharon adviser, Danny Ayalon. "But since he is responsible for

the wave of terrorism ... we had to hit something close to him personally."

In Gaza City on Tuesday, F-16s dropped bombs on the office of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service in a residential neighborhood. Hundreds of children fled a nearby school about 200 yards from the station after the first missile hit.

"Sharon has declared war on us. God help us," said one of the children, Ayman Abdul Jawad, 13, running in the street with friends, blood on his head.

Fleeing children dropped to the ground, screaming, when warplanes swooped down and fired a second bomb. People evacuated buildings in the neighborhood and rescue teams rushed to the area.

Early today, Israeli troops tore up the landing strip of Gaza International Airport, a symbol of fledgling Palestinian sovereignty. The airport had been a vital link between the Palestinians and the rest of the world since it was opened in 1998.

It was closed to regular traffic for most of the past 14 months of fighting, but Arafat had been able to use it for his frequent trips abroad.

Israel also sent tanks into parts of Ramallah and the West Bank town of Nablus. In Ramallah, two tanks came within about 800 yards of Arafat's compound.

Since fighting broke out in September 2000, 231 people have been killed on the Israeli side and 794 on the Palestinian side.

City approves utility grant

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codes that applied when the house, fences and outbuildings were built, members said.

In other business:

- Eric Yonkey, ad representative for *The Goodland Daily News*, asked the commission for permission to close 11th Street between Main and Center from noon to 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 15 for the paper's Christmas on Us Drawing to be held in front of the Chamber of Commerce. The request was approved.
- The commission bought a holiday advertising package from the paper for \$89.
- Marilyn Cooper represented the Sherman County Historical Society in requesting grants of \$1,000 for utilities

at the Edith Handy House at 202 W 13th and \$500 for a downtown walking tour brochure. The commission approved a \$600 grant for utilities for the historic house, but no one made a motion on the other request.

- The commission approved Wane's Carpet & Drapery's bid of \$1,100 for one-inch mini blinds for the Federal Aviation Administration office at the airport.
- The commission chose Evans, Bierly, Hutchinson and Associates as engineering consultants for airport improvement projects from 2001-2006.
- City Manager Ron Pickman reported that the grants the city requested from the FAA for airport improvements had been turned down but that the city could apply again next year.

- An ordinance vacating the right-of-way for parts of the old wye on Cherry Street was tabled because the map included with the ordinance may vacate some portions of the new street. The map will be corrected.
- Mayor Tom Rohr volunteered to serve on the Grant Writing Committee, and the commission approved.
- Beer licenses renewals were approved for Pizza Hut, Gambino's, Bowladium Lanes, Safari Steakhouse, Buffalo Inn Restaurant, China Gardens, Total Gas Station and Convenience Store, Cowboy Loop, Presto Convenience Store, Travel Shoppe and Wal-Mart.
- The commission approved \$100 Christmas bonuses for 75 city employees, \$50 bonuses for four employees and \$25 bonuses for six.

Paper hires advertising representative

Bill Wagoner moved to Goodland from Bird City in June, taking a job as an advertising representative for *The Goodland Daily News* the next month.

He moved to Bird City about a year before he came to Goodland to be closer to family there. He has experience at three other newspapers and has been in sales for over 35 years.

Wagoner lived in Salida, Colo. for 22 years, where his two daughters, Jennifer, 21, and Kathryn, 23, grew up.

He said he is also the grandfather of a 19-month-old treasure named Macy Kate, Kathryn's daughter.

Wagoner said he loves riding his mountain bike, snow skiing, playing racquetball and watching the Broncos win.

"I've enjoyed meeting the community," he said. "Everyone has been very nice."

Wagoner said if you see him walking around town wearing his bright, white gatsby hat, say hello.



Wagoner

Tech student joins newspaper staff



Boland

The newest employee at *The Goodland Daily News* is a Technical College student, Skilar Boland.

She is pursuing a degree in Communications Technology and says that is a new experience, since she is one of few girls in the program.. As a high school student — she graduated in May from Osborn High School — she was on the yearbook staff. She said she plans to bring the newspaper job her experience and best work.

Boland said she wants to improve her ability in writing. She is enrolled in an English composition class through Colby Community College, and she says it is helping her out with writing obstacles she encounters.

Boland said she knows this will be an excellent experience for her and hopes the rest of the staff will think so also. Moving here from a small town, Boland said, she is excited to see all of the twists and turns that Goodland has to offer.

State officials consider increasing tuition at Kansas universities to boost budgets

TOPEKA (AP) — Kansas universities once praised for their "best buy" status by education analysts may soon lose their standing.

University and state officials are considering increasing tuition to boost funding for basic operations on campus. Plans on the table include raising

tuition next fall at the University of Kansas for all students by 16 percent to 24 percent, with freshmen seeing a 60 percent increase.

Any increase would require approval of the Board of Regents, which oversees the six state universities and 19 community colleges.

"We have been underfunded for so long," Kansas Provost David Shulenburg said. "If we are going to maintain what we have and progress, we need to be looking at a fairly substantial increase."

Kansas State also plans to increase tuition, though figures have not been

released. Tom Rawson, vice president of administration and finance, said the increase would not be near the 60 percent figure.

Undergraduate tuition and fees for one year is \$2,884 at Kansas and

\$2,835 at Kansas State. Only Oklahoma and Oklahoma State charge less than Kansas State among Big 12 schools.

Universities are being asked by the Regents to develop 5-year plans for

their campuses and the means for funding.

Those ideas will be presented in January, with tuition recommendations expected in April.



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