

Wife pleads for release

ap news capsules

INTERNATIONAL

KARACHI, Pakistan — As Pakistani authorities closed in on his suspected kidnapers, the wife of reporter Daniel Pearl pleaded again today for his release. "This is an innocent man, with an innocent wife and an unborn son," she said.

Three men were arrested for sending e-mails last week that contained photographs of the Wall Street Journal reporter, sources closed to the investigation said.

"The fact is we know who has done it and we are very close to resolving the case," Mukhtar Ahmed Sheikh, in charge of police here in Sindh province, told The Associated Press. Sheikh refused to say who was behind the kidnapping or reveal other details.

Pearl, 38, the Journal's South Asian correspondent, was last seen Jan. 23.

Mariane Pearl, pregnant with the couple's first child, wrote in Pakistan's The Nation newspaper that her husband's captors "are preventing a man from writing about their concerns and accomplishing his chief work: to create a bridge between cultures."

JERUSALEM — Setting out for his fourth White House visit in a year, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon hopes to get U.S. help in isolating Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and thwarting what Israel sees as Iran's attempts to destabilize the Middle East.

Sharon's three-day visit centers around talks in Washington on Thursday with President Bush, who has sharply rebuked Arafat for not doing enough to rein in Palestinian militants.

Secretary of State Colin Powell said Tuesday, in his toughest statement on Arafat yet, that the Palestinian leader "must act decisively to confront the sources of terror and choose, once and for all, the option of peace over violence."

Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, who is already in the United States, said Arafat is not a partner for negotiations and asked U.S. officials to sidestep the Palestinian leader and hold talks with other Palestinian officials instead.

In an interview on MSNBC Tuesday night, Arafat said he had moved to restrain terrorist groups and "even arrested leaders. But no one can give 100 percent results."

NATIONAL

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida's death penalty could be stalled indefinitely after the U.S. Supreme Court blocked an execution in the state for the second time in two weeks.

The court issued a reprieve Tuesday to Linroy Bottoson, 62, three hours before his scheduled execution for the 1979 murder of an Orlando-area post-

master. The court's decision prompted Gov. Jeb Bush to postpone another man's execution scheduled for later this week.

The court did not comment on its decision, but it is considering an Arizona case that deals with a fundamental aspect of Florida's capital punishment law: the power of the judge, rather than the jury, to impose the death sentence.

If the Supreme Court overturns Arizona's law, that could result in Florida's law being declared unconstitutional.

Bush cited both stays in deciding to postpone Thursday's scheduled execution of 48-year-old Robert Trease, who was convicted of killing a man during a 1995 robbery in Sarasota.

The governor said he would issue an executive order Wednesday halting Trease's execution "until further action is taken by the court."

ATTLEBORO, Mass. — Two religious sect members who were jailed for allegedly hiding their newborn baby have until next week to either produce the child or show proof of a miscarriage.

Rebecca and David Corneau were sent to jail Tuesday after refusing to cooperate with authorities looking for the missing baby. The Corneaus belong to a small fundamentalist Christian group that rejects modern medicine, government and education.

The couple broke their silence Tuesday with the claim of a miscarriage, but refused to reveal where the remains were buried. Before Tuesday, they declined even to acknowledge that Rebecca Corneau had been pregnant.

"The limited testimony or evidence I have heard that a miscarriage occurred does not convince me that one did," said Judge Kenneth Nasif, who held the Corneaus in contempt and jailed them.

John Rego, a court-appointed attorney for the baby in question, said he was not prepared to believe the story of a miscarriage.

State child welfare officials have already taken custody of the couple's four other children. They say they believe there was another child and it may have been harmed because of the Corneaus' religious practices and

membership in the sect, called "The Body."

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON — Some lawmakers hope to give the nation's unemployed workers extended jobless benefits even if the Senate appears ready to give up on a broader economic stimulus package.

Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle said he would "continue to look for ways" to win approval of a simple 13-week extension of unemployment aid if, as expected, competing Republican and Democratic stimulus plans fail in votes planned today.

An \$89 billion House-passed package supported by President Bush and a leaner \$69 billion alternative pushed by Daschle both faced a 60-vote threshold to overcome Senate procedural hurdles. Neither side expected their plan to prevail, and Daschle said the Senate would move to other business.

"I've made every effort I can think of to find the common ground," said Daschle, D-S.D.

Republicans swiftly condemned the move. Minority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., said the failure to act is "sending a very dangerous and reckless message to an uncertain economy."

Bush, returning Tuesday from a trip to Pittsburgh, said he, too, was disappointed.

WASHINGTON — The House is heading toward a climactic vote next week on how best to rein in massive spending that has come to dominate the nation's federal elections.

Prodded by a grass-roots effort by House lawmakers, Republican leaders announced Tuesday that they will devote Feb. 12-13 to proposals to overhaul the nation's campaign finance laws.

"I expect that there will be a vigorous debate on this issue that will reflect well on the House of Representatives," said House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill.

Hastert, who opposes the leading campaign spending bill offered by Reps. Christopher Shays, R-Conn., and Marty Meehan, D-Mass., announced the dates after conferring with House Majority Leader R-Texas, and the Democratic leader.



Cynthia Bohl took a break from preparing for her grand opening to cut Manny Hernandez's hair last week at the 17th Street Barbershop. Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News

Barbershop has 'old' feel

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News

Antique furniture, old bottles lined up in the window, reproductions of old-styled cabinets, metal chairs with black cushions and, of course, the old-style barber poles set the ambiance in the new 17th Street Barbershop.

The barbershop, on 17th and Broadway, had a grand opening on Saturday, offering customers free food and door prizes.

Owner Cynthia Bohl said she set out to establish the old-time barbershop feel because she wants the shop to be a place where men will feel comfortable. Her passion for antiques has helped the theme along.

Though she is working toward her cosmetology license at the Northwest Kansas Technical College, Bohl said she is most interested in cutting men's hair.

"It is a barbershop first," she said.

Bohl said she went to barber school in Wichita, and has her barber's license. She moved back to Goodland in the summer, she said, and has been working on the shop since July.

Bohl said she did her own painting and wall papering, and is working on a stained glass sign to display between the mirrors on the old-style cabinets.

George Adelgren built the cabinets, she said, reproducing them to look antique. She said he did a wonderful job and she just can't thank him enough.

There are several cosmetologists in Goodland, she said, but only one other barber, Ron Weber. Bohl said he has encouraged her every step of the way.

She said she intends to cut men's, women's and children's hair during the day, but will only do chemical processes after hours by appointment.

The shop is now open three evenings a week and Saturday morning, she said, but she will open the it full-time in May when she graduates from the technical

college. Cynthia is the daughter of Larry and Marilyn Bohl, and grew up in Goodland.

Her family has always called her Cindy, she said, but everyone at school calls her Cynthia. Either is fine with her.

She graduated from Goodland High School in 1980, and has lived in Denver and in Attalla, Ala. Bohl said she grew up working for her father's custom harvesting business, driving one of his trucks. She said she was a truck driver for many years.

"That's all I ever knew," she said.

After being injured on the job, Bohl said she needed a new career, and she got help from vocational rehabilitation to go to school.

Bohl said she is 40 years old and has two sons, D.J., 20, and Elijah, 5. She said she's a single parent, and a country girl.

Legislators taking steps to protect agriculture

TOPEKA (AP) — Legislators took steps Tuesday to safeguard the state's food supply, tentatively approving a bill making it a crime to knowingly expose plants to infectious diseases.

The Senate advanced the bill on voice vote to final action Wednesday. The measure is designed to protect plants, raw agricultural products, processed feed or food products from infectious diseases. Intentional infection would become a felony.

"As an agriculture state, this is precisely the kind of leading-edge action that we ought to take," said Sen. Derek Schmidt, R-Independence, chairman of the Agriculture Committee.

Schmidt said the bill puts Kansas in the forefront by protecting the \$34 billion agriculture industry from economic ruin.

A state law enacted last year made it a crime to intentionally infect livestock and spelled out procedures for dealing with a disaster. This year's measure extends the protection to plants.

"In the wake of 9-11, it is clear that there are things that we should have done regarding the intentional introduction," said Schmidt in reference to the existing law.

Some senators raised concerns that the bill would let ranchers seek dam-

ages from out-of-state stockmen who ship animals to Kansas.

Sen. Ed Pugh, R-Wamego, said all cattle come to Kansas infected with shipping fever, a disease for which the animals are vaccinated on arrival.

Schmidt responded that the issue is intent. While both parties may know that the cattle are infected, he said, there are already accepted methods for containing the disease.

Meanwhile, the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee introduced four security measures sought by Maj. Gen. Greg Gardner, who is Kansas' adjutant general and director of the Division of Emergency Management.

One bill would make provisions for health insurance coverage for National Guard members who are called to active duty for longer than 30 days. Gardner said many policies lapse during these stints, meaning the soldiers and their families are left vulnerable.

A second bill would require the use of the "incident command system" in emergencies. The system is designed to best use resources and people in disasters.

Two other bills would add personnel to Gardner's staff, including six regional planners.

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