

THE BATTALION

Pakistan will hold prime suspect in journalist killing

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — After meeting with Pakistan's president, the U.S. ambassador said Tuesday she is "not disappointed" with his response to American requests to hand over the key suspect in the murder of *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl.

But Ambassador Wendy Chamberlin said no decision has been made about whether Pakistan will deliver Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh. The Bush administration said it wants to get its hands on the suspect, who already has been indicted in the United States in an earlier kidnapping.

Pakistan wants to hold on to Saeed for now — hoping he can help locate Pearl's body and identify his killers, an Interior Ministry official said on condition of anonymity. Thus far, Saeed has not been known to provide any help.

In Washington, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said it was made clear to President Pervez Musharraf during his meeting with Chamberlin that Washington wants Saeed sent to the United States, but he acknowledged Pakistan's rights in the case.

"A crime, a murder was committed in their country, and they have their own ways and laws of dealing with it. It's not atypical

at a time like that, when another nation makes a request, for that request to be considered, and it takes time," Fleischer said.

In a telephone interview with The Associated Press, Chamberlin said she had spoken several times with Musharraf in the past few months about the British-born Saeed.

"His spirit, his faith and his convictions have not been defeated."



MARIANE PEARL

Except to say she was "not disappointed," she declined to give details of her talks with Musharraf. Her spokesman, Mark Wentworth, said she thanked the president for Pakistan's cooperation in the Pearl inquiry and "encouraged further movement in the case."

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Musharraf telephoned Secretary of State Colin Powell after seeing

Chamberlin. "We want to see him in U.S. custody for the crimes he has committed against Americans," Boucher said of Saeed.

Pakistani officials are still searching for at least four key suspects and Pearl's body has not been found. How, when and where Pearl was killed are unknown.

A videotape delivered Friday to U.S. authorities in Pakistan showed the 38-year-old journalist being forced to say he was Jewish, followed by graphic images of Pearl's dead body being decapitated.

Handing over Saeed could be complicated because there is no clear extradition treaty between Pakistan and the United States and because Musharraf could face nationalist criticism if he surrenders Saeed for trial in a foreign country.

Saeed, 28, had been in custody for more than two weeks when the video confirming Pearl's death was made public. U.S. officials say they had requested Saeed's extradition two months before he was implicated in the Pearl murder.

Escorted by dozens of policemen toting AK-47 assault rifles, Saeed was taken to a court building Tuesday in the southern city of Karachi, where a witness in the Pearl case was asked to identify him, said Manzoor Mughal, a senior investigator.

Building collapse kills 22, injures 25



DAMIETTA, Egypt (AP) — Multicolored party lights were still hanging from Heba Maamoun Orabi's balcony Tuesday, strung out for what was meant to have been a wedding celebration. Instead, they were a macabre backdrop for a funeral.

Orabi was one of 22 people killed Monday in the collapse of an aging, Nile-front building that housed, among other things, a hair salon that was popular with brides. At least five women preparing for their weddings died in the four-story building.

Hundreds of people converged on mosques around the town of Damietta, 105 miles north of Cairo, to pray over coffins. All but one of the 22 dead were women; 25 other people were injured.

A mother of one victim screamed wildly and beat her fists on the door of an ambulance

covered with flowers. The vehicle bore the coffin holding her daughter — 17-year-old journalism student Basma el-Efny.

"She was an angel, she prayed all the time, she used to

"We were preparing for a wedding, now we are having a funeral."

— Ahmed
Uncle of bride to be

kiss me all the time. Who is going to kiss me now?" said the woman, who only identified herself as Manal.

Manal said her daughter had been at the salon with bride-to-be Shireen Said el-Sarta and el-Sarta's sister, Rasha, when the

building collapsed. All three died, the mother said.

At another funeral procession, the coffin of 18-year-old Marwah el-Khouli was draped with a white satin sheet. A relative said that was a sign both of a wedding and of a bride-to-be who dies prematurely.

"We were preparing for a wedding, now we are having a funeral," said Orabi's uncle, who identified himself only as Ahmed.

Angry residents said ambulance and rescue crews took more than an hour to arrive at the scene, by which time locals had found bulldozers and begun their own rescue operation.

"Where were our Egyptian emergency experts?" said Emad Said Rishk, a 36-year-old carpenter. "The bulldozers brought in (by the locals) were just killing the people underneath."

"I represent the people of Texas, not south Florida," Adcock said.

The federal government should leave elementary and secondary education to the states but should remain actively involved in higher education by providing funds for research.

Adcock worked for President George H.W. Bush's 1988 presidential campaign and for the Republican National Committee before returning to A&M and earning master's degrees in economics and finance.

should get your money," Carter said.

Carter said he would also fight for additional transportation funding to relieve the traffic congestion on Interstate 35.

Carter said his work as a judge — listening to both sides and making a decision — will help him be an effective congressman. During his career he has presided over several high profile cases and death sentence verdicts.

Carter said he opposes abortion in all cases except to save the life of the mother.

"I have a history of making tough decisions, doing what's right, and I'm not afraid to take the heat," Carter said.

Adcock

Continued from page 1A

Adcock said. Benefits should stay the same for those who have already paid into the system for 20 years, but younger workers should have the option of putting two percent of their paycheck (out of the 12 percent Social Security tax) into a private investment account.

Adcock, a 1986 A&M graduate, said he has both the policy expertise and the local

Carter

Continued from page 1A

and life experiences of his constituents.

"People here don't want a guy who lives in River Oaks or a real estate developer from Dallas to represent them," Carter said.

To stimulate the economy, Carter said he supports accelerating President Bush's tax cuts, eliminating the estate tax and reducing the capital gains tax.

"When you die, your children, not the federal government,

NEWS IN BRIEF

Worldwide drug dealers use Net

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Czech drug traffickers arrange deals at Internet cafes. Australians use courier Web sites to track illegal packages of pills. American dealers swap recipes for amphetamines in restricted-access chat rooms.

Worldwide, drug traffickers increasingly are taking advantage of encrypted e-mail and other Internet technology to sell their stashes, launder money and trade tips and techniques, the U.N. International Narcotics Control Board warned Wednesday in a report.

Because Internet use doubles every six months and 700 million people were online at the end of last year, greater vigilance and international cooperation are needed "to prevent the Internet from turning into a worldwide web of drug trafficking," said Hamid Ghodse, the INCB's presi-

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