

DUNNBOYZ



by Will Lloyd

Israel orders construction of barrier to continue

JERUSALEM (AP) — A defiant Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Sunday that Israel will keep building its West Bank separation barrier, despite a world court ruling that the system of fences, trenches and walls is illegal and must be torn down. In Tel Aviv, Palestinian mili-

NEWS IN BRIEF

tants blew up a bus stop with a nail-studded bomb hidden in roadside shrubs, killing a female soldier and seriously wounding five people. It was the first deadly attack in Israel in four months, and Sharon linked it to the ruling against the barrier, which Israel says is needed to stop such attacks. "The decision sends a destructive message to encourage ter-

rorism, and denounces those that are defending themselves against it," Sharon said, promising an all-out diplomatic offensive against the ruling. The Palestinians also began preparations for what they would be a long diplomatic battle. Although the court decision is nonbinding, the Palestinians to push the United Nations to force the ruling.

Boy allegedly beaten by stepfather dies

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) — A 4-year-old boy who was allegedly beaten unconscious by his stepfather has died at an Austin hospital.

Tyrone Fenner Jr. was taken to Brackenridge Hospital on June 22 with injuries to his head and abdomen. He was taken off life support and died Saturday morning, College Station Police Sgt. Donnie Andreski told the Bryan-College Station Eagle.

"It's just a real tragic situation and, unfortunately, it came to an end that no one wanted to see," Andreski said.

The boy's stepfather, 26-year-old Timothy Lewis of Hearne, was charged with injury to a child, a first-degree felony punishable by up to 99 years or life in prison. He remains in the Brazos County Jail on \$50,000 bond.

With the boy's death, Assistant Brazos County District Attorney Earl Gray said charges against Lewis will likely be upgraded to murder within the next week.

Autopsy results to determine the boy's exact cause of death are pending, Andreski said.

Fenner was taken by medical helicopter to Brackenridge Hospital after emergency responders found him unconscious at his apartment home.

According to Child Protective Services, Timothy Lewis and Fenner's mother, Virginia Lewis, said the boy had fallen off a toilet. Virginia Lewis later changed her story and told authorities that Timothy Lewis was responsible for her son's injuries.

Authorities said a doctor also found signs of past physical abuse, including old fractures to a finger and rib.

No charges have been filed against Virginia Lewis.

Timothy Lewis was arrested at his home four days after Tyrone was hospitalized.

Timothy Lewis had a permanent residence in Hearne but also occasionally lived with Virginia Lewis and her children, authorities said.

The couple's two other children, 18-month-old and a 1-month-old, have been removed from the home and placed in foster care by CPS.

Japan's ruling coalition holds majority in Parliament vote, but opposition gains

By Joseph Coleman
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO — Japan's ruling coalition clinched a majority in the upper house of Parliament in elections Sunday, but gains by the opposition signaled discontent with the prime minister's cuts in pension benefits and deployment of troops to Iraq.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's Liberal Democratic Party and coalition partner Komeito party won 60 of the seats under contention, ensuring their dominance of the upper house, according to final results released early Monday by the Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications. The LDP alone won 49 seats.

The opposition Democratic Party boosted its standing in the chamber by 12 seats, taking 50.

Official results were expected during the day Monday.

The embattled premier, who took office in April 2001 promising far-reaching reform, insisted there was no reason for him to resign to take responsibility for the results. But the Democrats claimed victory.

"The people have issued a resounding 'no' to Koizumi's policies," said party

leader Katsuya Okada.

The election had not been expected to seriously threaten the LDP's hold on government. The party, which has governed almost uninterrupted since 1955, holds a firm majority in the powerful lower house, the stronger of the legislature's two chambers.

"The people have issued a resounding 'no' to Koizumi's policies."

— Katsuya Okada
Democratic Party leader

But the robust turnout for the opposition could undermine support for Koizumi within his own party.

"What we're seeing is a result of Koizumi's diminishing popularity — the 'Koizumi effect' is wearing off," said Jiro Yamaguchi, a political scientist at Hokkaido University. He predicted the party would become even more resistant to reform.

The election also bolstered the emergence of a two-party political system in Japan, with the LDP increasingly backed by the Democrats rather than easily dominating an opposition splintered into smaller groupings.

Half of the chamber's 242 seats were contested. Before the vote, the Democrats held 115 seats in the upper house and controlled a majority of seats together with Komeito's 23 seats. The Democrats had 70.

The LDP had set a total of 51 seats as its modest goal for the election. While local media speculated Koizumi could face pressure to step down if the goal was not met, the premier dismissed talk of resignation.

"There would be no need for that," said in an interview with NTV, a nationwide television network. "As long as we can keep control of both houses, we will continue with our reform policies."

The Liberal Democratic Party had to win political points from the economy, but with little success.

"We did well considering the odds were against us," said party secretary-general Shinzo Abe. "It's still possible to form a stable government."

Report

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which begins on July 26.

The public release will be dictated by the White House, which is reviewing the report to ensure that no classified information is disclosed. That is not seen as a major stumbling block, however. Once the report is cleared for release it will be available to the public via the Internet and at bookstores.

The commission met several times last week in private sessions, online and by telephone. "High-level concepts" have been agreed upon, commissioners said. Nuances of language, tone and specific detail are being debated.

The commission's preliminary reports have outlined failures in all those areas that helped the Sept. 11 hijackers carry out their plot.

Republican commissioner John Lehman said the reforms will be "very strong, substantive and practical." He has pushed for centralizing the intelligence agencies as well as improving domestic surveillance beyond FBI Director Robert Mueller's proposal to create an independent intelligence service within the bureau, such as by creating a domestic spy agency.

Research

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whoever speaks the loudest and longest, but not necessarily the best, will carry the weight."

Honors program executive director Edward Funkhouser said programs like the undergraduate research fellowship give students an edge in post-graduate studies.

"Students who participate in the honors program and become university undergraduate research fellows are able to 'test-drive' graduate school as they complete their baccalaureate degrees," Funkhouser said.

Barbara Gastel, professor of journalism, medical humanities and biotechnology, was a plenary speaker at the Sixth Undergraduate Conference in Bioethics 2003. She said Boatman's work will prove beneficial for his future.

"I'm very pleased to see that he did his thesis on this," Gastel said. "Writing a thesis is a very valuable experience, and it appears he is addressing a very serious and important topic."

Parents

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dependant on their federal income tax.

"The student owns his or her record, and with this system the student controls access to the record," Harper said.

Reactions among parents and students have been mixed.

Senior kinesiology major Robert Ringo said he has mixed feelings on the new system.

"The system has pros and cons; your parents can see what classes you're taking and how you're doing, but if your grades aren't very good that could be a bad thing," Ringo said.

However, Ringo said, it is good that students can control who has access to their record, preventing parents from finding information

Plant

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carefully through those situations. We have a lot of discussion with professors and building proctors about the impact it will have on their research."

Commission teams concentrate on facilities that are larger in square footage because they are the most energy intensive.

Rudder Theater Complex is one of several such buildings that have undergone heating, ventilation and air conditioning recommissioning. Rudder Theater Complex manager Bill Bielamowicz said he has witnessed the efforts and success of commissioning teams.

"The crew has been in this building and spent a lot of time working on it," Bielamowicz said. "I believe that there has definitely been an improvement in air quality in the building."

Bruner said recognition is part of the rewarding experience of successfully recom-

missioning a building.

"When our team goes through particularly challenging buildings and, through meticulous processes, brings a system back with minimal costs and receives recognition for that, it is very rewarding," Bruner said.

A&M's commissioning program is ranked highly among other universities' similar programs.

"As I go to conferences and seminars and talk to people from all over the world, I find that many people have toured our office here. We are certainly in the top five nationwide," Bruner said.

Bruner said that with the new energy conservation commission under A&M President Robert M. Gates, new life has been breathed into the energy program.

"We're very excited about this," he said. "We want to get students and faculty more involved."

Future involvement efforts include more seminars, a Web site offering news of recent achievements and competitions be-

the student wishes to keep private.

Nancy Curtiss, mother of junior environmental design major Kristin Curtiss, said she thinks it is crucial for parents to have access to grades and other information to ensure that their children are receiving a quality education.

"I feel it is very important for parents to have access to grades, schedules, etc. Parents technically have the right to access their dependent student's information," Curtiss said. "Parents have a great investment in their son or daughter's education, and need to have full disclosure of all pertinent information."

However, Curtiss said that as long as the student is legally dependent on the parents, the school should allow parents to have information about their child.

The first information available to parents will be grades from the first summer session of this year.

tween residence halls to see which has the least amount of energy.

"We are also hiring more people to get the job done," Bruner said. "We are interviewing now for a new energy coordinator to make sure the program is known and talked about."

Swick said students can contribute to conservation efforts by taking ownership of their buildings.

"Turn off electrical items that are not being used," Swick said. "This includes computers and stereo equipment."

He also suggested reporting leaking faucets or other toilet fixtures that are not operating properly.

"It takes energy to produce and transport utilities to a building, including water," Swick said.

Since 1996, more than 60 buildings have been recommissioned, and direct controls have been added to others. There are currently 31 buildings scheduled for lighting retrofits by December 2004.

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