

**Bolton  
To Step  
Down  
As US  
UN Envoy  
Page 21**



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See here's a tip: if the engine of your vehicle is engaged, it is probably not a good idea to stand outside the car and put it in reverse. It is possible that the owner of this vehicle was aware of this, but according to reports the gas pedal was malfunctioning and he had been trying to position the vehicle, which was at the Shell Bush Road gas station when he exited it and put it in reverse, causing it to speed backwards and slam into this trailer truck which was passing along Zagergat Road at the time. The incident occurred on Monday. Photo by John Haller.

## Surcharge on profit, income tax reduced

**PHILIPSBURG**—With eight votes in favour – four from National Alliance (NA), three from Democratic Party (DP) and one from People's Progressive Alliance (PPA) – the Island Council on Monday approved the reduction of the surcharge on income and profit tax by five per cent,

from 30 to 25 per cent. The reduction of the surcharge with effect from January 1, 2007 is part of the package agreed to by the social partners and government when they signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) earlier this year. One of the components of that MOU was the increase of the minimum

wage from NAI. 6.54 to 7.79 per hour from November 1, 2006.

The reduction of the surcharge can only go into effect after the Finance Minister in Curaçao approves the federal resolution enacting general measures. It is only then that the amendment to the

*Continued on page 5*

### IN BRIEF

#### Willemstad MINISTERS RESIGNED

NAI: Ministers Kenneth Gijzen (Transport and Telecommunications) and Sandra Smith (Public Health) handed in their resignations Monday morning. Page 4.

#### Philipsburg BURGLARS USE AXE

It must have taken some effort, but burglars still managed to break the wall of Gem Tours Travel Agency at #42 Conquerer Street with an axe and steal several computers and about US \$4,000 in cash over the weekend. Page 3.

#### Philipsburg TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENT

Management of the Shell gas station in Madonna Estate has come to the rescue of police officers in St. Maarten by putting in place a temporary arrangement that allows them to "tank up" their vehicles. Page 6.

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## Island Council supports Integrated Youth Policy

**PHILIPSBURG**—The Island Council ratified the draft Integrated Youth Policy Monday night, but not without National Alliance (NA) and People's Progressive Alliance (PPA) pointing out the importance of allocating financing to execute the document.

All seven members present vot-

ed in favour of the youth policy: There were three from the Democratic Party (DP), three from NA and one from PPA. Three DP Commissioners and one NA member didn't vote because they were absent.

Commissioner of Culture, Social

and Youth Affairs Louis Lawton presented the document. He was commended for his efforts, but the NA and PPA members were

*Continued on page 4*

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Scene of the destruction caused inside Gem Tours by burglars.

## Burglars use an axe to break office wall

PHILIPSBURG—It must have taken some effort, but burglars last managed to break the wall of Gem Tours Travel Agency at #42 Cannegieter Street with an axe and steal several computers and about US \$4,000 in cash over the weekend.

The owner of the establishment arrived to open her office around 7:45am Monday and from the outside had no idea that it had been broken into. Only when she lifted the hurricane shutters and opened the front door was she confronted with a mess as the intruder(s) had thrown all the files collected since the company opened on the ground and had emptied bottles of water on them.

She walked further into the office horrified at what she saw and was stunned when on the side of the building she saw a gaping hole in the wall and pieces of bricks on the ground.

Police were called to the scene and when they arrived they found a lock on the ground in a passageway between the office and the adjacent Marcus



The wall that was broken with an axe for the burglar(s) to gain access to the office.

Building that should have been securing a gate. They also found the axe that the bandit(s) had used to break the wall. Both items have been confiscated.

The owners and staff of

Gem Tours not only have to replace several flat screen computers, but will have to do extensive cleaning, as the burglar(s) made a mess in every office they entered.

## Sixteen-year-old girl in Belvedere goes missing

PHILIPSBURG—Police spokesman Inspector Johan "Janchi" Leonard reports that Laroya Meliska Phillips (16) of St. Maarten, who resides in Belvedere, has been missing since around 6:00pm on December 2.

Leonard said the former St. Dominic High School student had been seen last exiting a vehicle in the vicinity of KFC on Cannegieter Street in Philipsburg, wearing a pair of blue jeans, a pink blouse, black slippers, and a blue bandanna on her head.

She was described by police as being heavily built, of light brown complexion, with black braided hair. She is about 1.55 metres tall.

Leonard also stated that Diana Daniel-Martinez (17), who has been missing from her aunt's house on Zagerget Road since November 6, had not been found as far as police were aware. He said the family members should come inform the police of any updates they might have.

Diana arrived in St. Maarten on a LIAT flight from Tortola on November 4, after her parents there felt she was becoming too deeply involved with an elderly male person of ill-repute. She had been sent to live with her aunt, but after only two days her aunt reported to police that the girl had taken her passport, airline ticket and clothes, unknown to her. Diana has not been seen since November 6.

Detectives have already checked with LIAT and confirmed that she did not travel on that airline. It is not clear whether she obtained an other airline ticket with the assistance of her friend in

Tortola and returned to that island without her parents' knowledge.

Leonard said, "This is not a matter to be taken lightly, because there is no way of

knowing whether the child is safe until she is located. Therefore I am appealing to the general public: if you have seen this girl, please inform us immediately."

## Constitutional expert Carlos Dip (77) dies

WILLEMSTAD—Carlos Elias Dip, a lawyer specialising in constitutional affairs and the first Minister of State of the Netherlands Antilles, died last Saturday at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Curaçao. He was suffering from a pulmonary condition.

Dip would have celebrated his 78th birthday today, Tuesday, if he were alive. He was Curaçao's foremost constitutional expert and had defined the developments regarding law and regulations in the Netherlands Antilles for the past 40 years.

Dip was born in Curaçao, but his parents are of Azaric descent. His father was born in Syria and established himself in Curaçao in 1910. Dip followed his primary and secondary education in Curaçao and afterwards studied law at University of Leiden in the Netherlands. When he finished his law study, he returned to Curaçao and went to work for Government.

He served as head of the Bureau of Judicial and General Affairs of Government till 1968, and from 1978 till 1988. From 1971 till 1978 he was the director of and a



Carlos Elias Dip

teacher at the Law Academy and Academy of the Netherlands Antilles, which were the predecessors of University of the Netherlands Antilles (UNA). During his career, he devoted himself to supervising young lawyers and giving direction to the development of Antillean law.

He was a former president of the Social Economic Council SER and after 1988 served for 10 years as the vice-president of the Advisory Council, the highest advisory body of the Central Government and Parliament in the Netherlands Antilles.

Dip made clear on several occasions that he was very passionate about his area of expertise. He dedicated a lot of time to carefully formulating his thoughts, opinions and advices. His book *Collected writings of Carlos Elias Dip* is an example of this.

He also wrote several advices in light of the preparation of the separate status of Aruba in 1986. UNA gave him an honorary doctorate in 1995. His appointment as the first Minister of State of the Netherlands Antilles was the highlight of his career.

## Seven booths remain in 'We Christmas Village'

PHILIPSBURG—Only seven booths are remaining in "We Christmas Village" slated for Emilio Wilson Cultural and Historical Park from December 15 to 24 starting at 6:00pm until 11:30pm daily. Persons interested in the booths can register until December 8.

The annual event aims to portray how Christmas was celebrated in the past with special emphasis on the foods, dance and songs. The booths - styled like old fashioned Caribbean houses - are used to display artwork and to sell food, drinks and other items.

To register, contact Sharon Cangieter at Commissioner Louie Lavette's office at 542-5617 or Elmore Aventura-Pontouche at 542-2056.

## Caravanseraï Resort

Continued from page 1

ticularly from Princess Juliana International Airport, to the building's height due to its closeness to the airport runway.

"Luckily, the cancellations have been minor. People know we are serious about our intention to build and they believe in the project," he added.

Asked if there was any indication when the resort

would receive a casino license, for which it has been fighting for as long as the battle for the permits, Verhaar said, "Hopefully soon. We have a contract to build 216 rooms which is way above the [200-room] limit required by the Casino Policy."

Meanwhile, the second phase of the expansion project will include 20 full-

ownership condominiums.

In total, the expansion project entails the construction of five new five-story high and the fifth three-story high, bringing the number of available rooms to 216, to be built at Beacon Hill, south of the airport. The maximum height of the buildings will be 15.85 metres.

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## Integrated Youth Policy

Continued from page 1

quick to add that the policy was being presented without properly prioritising the proposed actions and without funds being allocated in the draft 2007 budget.

Laveist assured at the end of the meeting that a list of priorities of proposed actions would be made and that some of the short- and medium-term actions and plans had been included in the draft 2007 budget, which still has to come to the floor of the Island Council. He said a number of actions in the form of programmes and projects were already being carried out.

Besides the financial aspect, NA and PPA posed a number of questions on the implementation side of the Integrated Youth Policy. At one point Laveist became agitated that his colleagues in the Council were asking questions and seeking clarification on information that he said was clearly stated in the document.

"Did my colleagues not read the policy? It is all in there," he said, also noting that a PowerPoint presentation had been given in a Central Committee meeting.

This statement angered especially NA Councilman Frans Richardson, who referred to government as a dictatorship. "We should not question it, we have to sit down, keep quiet and accept it just because it is a nice document," he said, making clear that he played no games where it came to the youth. He stressed that

it was the duty of members of the Island Council to pose questions.

Richardson said the draft policy already had been written when it came to the Central Committee last month. He said figures from 2003 showed that unemployment was mainly a problem of the youth.

Addressing the problems of the youth, Richardson mentioned five keys to success: trust, integrity, respect, consistency and self esteem. He said the social fabric had deteriorated to an extent where persons in the village didn't care anymore what happened to the neighbour's child. He referred to a town hall meeting that he had organised last month and said the youth should be listened to.

PPA Councilwoman Graciela Arrindell started off by saying that she supported the policy. However, she said, supporting the draft policy in its entirety was one thing but the execution of that document was another thing. She said it was "reasonable" for members of the Council to pose questions. She commended Laveist for addressing the "good, the bad and the ugly" where it came to the youth crisis. She said the youth demanded action to solve their problems and wanted no more talk.

Laveist said he wanted no credit for the document that took some 2½ years to compile. He announced that a proposal to establish

a Youth Authority would go to the Executive Council early in 2007, defining how it would operate and with what kind of funds.

NA Councilman Hyacinth Richardson too pointed out that it was important for the Council members to be able to pose questions. Moreover, the Executive Council should respect these questions and answer them properly. He said government had a responsibility towards the youth. He announced that his foundation would donate some 500 dictionaries to the youth in a few months.

NA Councilman George Pantophilet said he hoped the policy wouldn't become just another paper, used and then thrown in a corner. He said there was no way NA couldn't support a policy that would assist the youth in solving their problems.

The Integrated Youth Policy is written from a holistic viewpoint, Laveist explained during his introduction. It is a document by the youth for the youth, for which the information was gathered from youngsters through many interviews. In those interviews youngsters were candid and addressed many issues, criticising all sectors. They said the support systems, family, school and religious institutions had failed them.

Laveist said it was important to listen to the youth and to involve them in their own development.

The 138-page policy contains an assessment of the youth and their problems per sector, socially, economically, educationally and health-wise. It contains a vision and goals, specifies the objectives, the rights, responsibility and obligations of the youth. It further contains an implementation mechanism and action plan, a conclusion and recommendations. A summarised version of the document is being made available to stakeholders.



The front door of this Back Street store was destroyed by the rock "Ghetto Credit Card" (inset) after bandits disabled the electrical control box for the hurricane shutters.

## Store on Back Street broken into

PHILIPSBURG—A store owner on Back Street was awoken by ADT Security early Monday around 6:30am and was told that his store was broken into. On arrival at Back Street #42, he was confronted with the shattered front and damaged hurricane shutters put in place to prevent just such an incident.

However, it was not the first time that the "Trendy" store had been broken into, as the owner said that twice before he had had similar

situations occur. It seemed that the bandits used some metallic item to force the hurricane shutters open, after destroying the telephone line which connected to the ADT Alarm system. Once he was able to lift the shutters, he used the "ghetto credit card" (a brick), to smash the glass door and gain entrance to the building.

The owner could not say at 9:30am what the extent of his loss was as detectives had not arrived to conduct

their investigation as yet. But from the empty cellular phone boxes on the ground and the empty racks, it was clear that some cellular phones and clothes had been stolen.

A female police detective arrived at the scene later and conducted her investigation. She was able to see where the point of entry was and also the destroyed loudspeaker which connected to the alarm system, as well.

## MAN Ministers have resigned

WILLEMSTAD—MAN Ministers Kenneth Gijpbertha (Transport and Telecommunications) and Sandra Smith (Public Health) handed in their resignations Monday morning. Their resignations followed a decision of coalition parties that there is no more support for the MAN party in the coalition.

MAN voting on island level against the accord with the Dutch Government on future constitutional change was the reason for coalition partners in the Central Government to decide not to work with MAN any longer. Gijpbertha told *The Daily Herald* he would be returning to his job at the oil refinery. Smith goes back to her old job at the Social Insurance Bank SVB.

Coalition parties are

also demanding that Parliament President Jean Franciscus step down. Franciscus is not in Curaçao at the moment, but has to return in time for the budget 2007 debates that are scheduled to start on Monday, December 11.

Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Eliaugh told this newspaper the Council of Ministers would decide in Wednesday's meeting what to do with the two vacant portfolios. A coalition meeting on the matter is scheduled next week. The Prime Minister acknowledged that it was almost certain that the Central Government would continue in its current form.

Ousting MAN from the Central Government means the coalition has lost its two-thirds majority in Parliament. MAN

leader Charles Cooper said in a televised interview that the party was being punished by PAR and PNP. "PAR and PNP put pressure on the other islands to agree to oust MAN from Government," Cooper said.

He was concerned that only seven of the 14 seats in Parliament that Curaçao holds are in Government. "This means the other islands will have a lot of power in the Council of Ministers," according to Cooper.

MAN Member of Parliament Dwigio Puriel also voiced his concern about only seven seats in Government. He fears a possible situation where in the Central Government will take a decision tying Curaçao – in one form or another – to the accord while Curaçao has rejected it.

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## Income tax reduced

Continued from page 1

island ordinance regulating the surcharge on profit, income and, by extension, the wage tax can be proclaimed, explained Commissioner Roy Marlin deputising for Finance Commissioner Sarah Westcott-Molinas.

For government, the reduction of the surcharge and the increase of the minimum wage is a blow, explained Democratic Party (DP) Councilwoman Maria Buncamper-Molinas. Government should receive NAF 116.2 million in revenues from the wage and income tax in 2006. This amount is expected to go down to NAF 114 million in 2007.

Expenditures on the other hand will go up. Government anticipates its expenditures for social welfare in 2006 to be NAF 5.2 million. Because social welfare is tied to the minimum wages, expenses for social welfare are expected to increase in 2007 to NAF 6.5 million. At the end of the day, government will net an estimated loss of NAF 4.38 million. It is anticipated that the expenses of social welfare will increase by 19 per cent, which is the same percentage with which the minimum wage has been increased.

Government hopes to recover the loss of income through the increased revenue of Turn-over Tax TOT and profit tax as a result of economic growth, also through the increase of the consumer's spending power. This has also been the reason the island government did not experience a loss of income as a result of the decrease in income tax of 12.5 per cent. Meaning that the latter category, should experience an increase as well, through normal developments in the economic sphere.

The Executive Council, in the persons of Commissioners Louis Laveist and Marlin, supported by Buncamper-Molinas argued that the increase of the minimum wage will result in an increase of buying power of the employee. The increase in the minimum wage would also benefit persons earning a salary of

around NAF 1,400. Laveist said every person had the right to earn a decent living to sustain their family. He explained the reasons for seeking an increase of the minimum wage, something which hadn't been done in 15 years.

NA Councilman George Pantophlet said he was happy to support any increase of the minimum wage. But, he added, there should also be proper control of prices to make sure that the increase is not negated by higher prices, especially of essential food items. He said the higher cost of employees because of the increased minimum wages should not be passed on to the consumers.

PPA Councilwoman Graciela Arindell also brought up the issue of price control and said merchants violating the maximum prices of essential food items were getting off with a "slap of the wrist." She said tax relief was important to the people and that the proposal to reduce the surcharge did benefit the hard working section of society.

NA Councilman William Marlin wondered how come a massive information campaign was embarked on regarding the increase of the minimum wage, while government didn't engage in a similar campaign on the bidding process of garbage pick-up and waste management. He questioned the "horrendous" situation at the dump, having immigrant workers work under bad circumstances and the picking up of garbage in open tracks.

Marlin also accused the Executive Council of "stealing the cheese from the bread" because it was actually the Central Government, the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs that approved the minimum wage increase. He said that being part of the Central Government coalition, he was instrumental in

realising the increase. He said he also talked with the unions and with the Minister when the Executive Council "jumped out" of the negotiations.

Marlin further questioned the tax burden being placed on a handful of residents. Visitors to the island did not contribute fairly, he said. He also asked where government's vision and policies were to prepare for country status.

NA Councilman Hyacinth Richardson talked about the social problems and the hardships of persons earning minimum wages. He questioned why government did not implement a recommendation dating back to 1991 to increase the minimum wage to NAF 1,640. He spoke of the need for fewer direct taxes and more indirect taxes.

NA Councilman Frans Richardson said an increase in the minimum wage also meant having to pay more taxes for them. As such, the increase meant more income for government. He said he hoped to hear from government how much it would make.

Commissioner Theo Heyligert said NA conveniently forgot to mention the hard work put in by the Executive Council and DP Members of Parliament to push for the higher minimum wage. He said NA behaved like a gorilla, pounding on the chest. He said NA had agreed to the increase in the AOV premium necessary to sustain the increase of the old age pension by NAF 100. He said the same minimum wage earners would also have to pay a higher premium.



Windward Islands Emergency Medical Service (WIEAMS) members joined their counterparts in Anguilla for the opening of EMS Week there with a church service Sunday. This is the first year Anguilla has planned activities to mark EMS Week. In photo: WIEAMS members and EMS members of Anguilla.

## Laveist pays tribute to volunteers on International Volunteer Day

PHILIPSBURG—Commissioner Louis Laveist on Monday paid tribute to the many persons in the community who dedicate their time to volunteering.

In a statement to the Government Information Service (GIS) on the occasion of International Volunteer Day being observed today, December 5, Laveist who is responsible for Youth & Social Affairs said "volunteers are the lifeblood of our community and there is incredible diversity in the community and voluntary sector."

He continued: "Volunteers provide an array of services and activities that are vital to the social, economic, environmental and

cultural wellbeing of the St. Maarten nation.

"Volunteering is an essential element of civil society. Our communities depend and rely on the efforts of our volunteers. Volunteers provide so many vital services to support our communities both individually and in organizations working on specific issues or with particular groups such as young people, older people or people with disabilities."

"I commend St. Maarten's volunteers and I say, thank you for your dedication and efforts in helping your society. I believe we can achieve so much more when we all work together. Your time spent in volunteering is an investment in your

community." GIS said Laveist acknowledged that the unpaid work that people do make a vital contribution to social development, the economy and the environment.

He concluded: "On behalf of the Executive Council and the people of St. Maarten, I wish to acknowledge the willingness to get involved and commitment of time that all volunteers make. Your contribution is appreciated. Along with the rest of the world, we pause to take stock and celebrate the value and vital contribution volunteers make to the vibrancy of our communities."

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The Westin St. Maarten at Dawn Beach Resort staff who completed the course, with Dr. Glenn Bryson.

## Westin staff trained in Basic Life Support

**DAWN BEACH**—Twenty-one staff members of soon-to-be-opened The Westin St. Maarten at Dawn Beach Resort and Spa recently completed a three-day Basic Life Support course.

The course was administered by personnel of Windward Islands Emergency

Medical Services (WIEMS) and Dr. Glenn Bryson, based on American Heart Association standards.

The Westin staff members, who received certification, are trained to administer emergency care to future guests of the five-star resort. The course covered

CPR, AED and relief of choking.

"The course is the latest effort undertaken by The Westin St. Maarten at Dawn Beach Resort and Spa to provide future guests with the highest service level," according to the resort.

## Temporary arrangement made for cops to 'tank up'

**PHILIPSBURG**—Management of the Shell gas station in Madame Estate has come to the rescue of police officers in St. Maarten by putting in place a temporary arrangement that

allows them to "tank up" their vehicles.

Officers were not allowed to "tank up" at local gas stations Friday night. According to police spokesman Inspector Johan "Jan-chi" Leonard, the problem arose because the Central Government had not paid the bill for the gas used by local police.

Leonard said this was not an acceptable situation, but in no way suggested that the gas station operators were in the wrong for refusing to let police officers fill their tanks.

Leonard said the situation should not have occurred

in the first place, as it was almost a hijack of the police operation in St. Maarten. However, he said a temporary solution had been found, thanks to the management of Shell Madame Estate.

He said the bills had been prepared for several weeks and were being processed for payment, but bureaucracy in some Central Government departments seemed to have slowed down the process.

He said he hoped the seriousness of the matter would be recognised and it would be resolved with no possibility of being repeated.

## Frans, Roy argue over MOU, FAMU scholarships payment

**PHILIPSBURG**—The issue of payment of scholarships for students at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was a topic of discussion between National Alliance (NA) Councilman Frans Richardson and Commissioner Roy Marlin on Monday.

According to Richardson, who brought up the matter during Monday's Island Council meeting, FAMU has not received a cheque for student cost for the fall of 2006 from St. Maarten's government and the MOU has not been signed yet.

Richardson indicated that the position of St. Maarten students studying at FAMU in Tallahassee might be jeopardised by this lack of action from the side of local government. He posed a number of questions to the Executive Council and wanted to know what moves government would make to solve the issue.

The MOU is important, Richardson explained, because it enables students to pay an in-state tuition fee instead of the international tuition fee. The in-state tuition fee is US \$7,500 per student per semester, half of the international tuition fee.

Marlin assured that there were no scholarship monies outstanding for the 26 students at FAMU. He dared Richardson to indicate what students hadn't received the money. He assured that if an error had been made, payment would

be made promptly. He warned Richardson to be careful when stating these things. He announced that computers would be bought for students next week.

Marlin said the MOU, submitted to the Island Government in September, had been approved by the Executive Council on November 14. He said it was to have been signed by Education Commissioner Sarah Wesco-Williams who is authorised to do so. He said Wesco-Williams had been out of office for almost two weeks due to personal family circumstances.

Marlin said he would look into having the MOU signed. He denied that not having the MOU signed jeopardised the students' scholarships. He clarified that the MOU would go into effect retroactively. He called Richardson's statement "pure baloney."

Richardson maintained that St. Maarten had been urged late last month to immediately pay the US \$13,000 it still owed to cover a cost of administration cost so St. Maarten students could enjoy the financial benefits of paying in-state tuition for the fall 2006 semester. The university urged immediate action to pay the outstanding amount and sign the MOU, otherwise St. Maarten students' tuition would be adjusted to the out-of-state rate effective spring 2007.

St. Maarten students have already expressed their concerns about the danger of being put out of school. Because they are in the US

on student visa, they would also become illegal. Seventy to 90 students from St. Maarten are studying at several universities and schools in the Tallahassee area, but not all are studying there on government scholarship. The non-scholarship students pay the out-of-state tuition fee.

St. Maarten signed a Sister City agreement with the Government of Tallahassee in 2006, making it possible for students from the island to be citizens of Tallahassee. FAMU wants St. Maarten's government to sign an MOU to specify the relationship between government, the students and FAMU. The MOU would secure that students pay in-state tuition.

Commissioner Marlin asked how serious Richardson was about the students abroad. He said Richardson had explained that he would go to Tallahassee, but that he couldn't go because of other commitments. Marlin asked why Richardson hadn't brought up the matter through a letter to the Chairman of the Island Council prior to the Island Council meeting of today.

"What would have happened if we hadn't had a meeting on the draft integrated youth policy? But he chose to bring it up now and to grandstand on the backs of the students," he said.

Richardson said he wanted a copy of the MOU handled by Executive Council. "Nothing has been sent or reached to protect our students," he said.

## Temporary relief

Continued from page 1

Smithcom's biggest clients in St. Maarten, by allowing clients of those companies to surf the 'Net and access e-mails. This spelled relief for banks with their ATM machines and some relief as well for Princess Juliana International Airport (PJIA), which had been without telephone, fax, and Internet since Saturday night.

TelEm and sister company TelCell also suffered significant loss of services, but unlike Smithcom, theirs was due to an electrical surge that burnt one of their main switches in Cole Bay, affecting services between that area and Cupecoy.

TelEm spokesperson Joe

Desnoque said TelEm's phone services had been 85 per cent restored by the start of work on Monday, as technicians had been able to repair the switch with assistance from the manufacturing company from which it was purchased.

TelCell's Technical Manager Earl Thomas told The Daily Herald that TelCell had been fully operational by 5:00pm Monday. The cellular service company had suffered loss of connectivity from Cole Bay to Cupecoy.

According to him, this was because the equipment for TelCell is housed in the same building as the

affected TelCell switch and because they both feed from the same main electrical source, the GSM service was affected.

TelCell and TelEm services were first interrupted by the electrical surge when GEBE's electrical power was restored to the Cole Bay area very early Sunday morning. The problem for both companies only grew worse when the ARCOES cable was broken, making it impossible for their subscribers to make international calls, and interrupting the Internet service of their sister company TelNet.



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Jeremy Newton and friends entertained youngsters and parents at the Little League Ballpark on Pond Island Sunday afternoon. The show, which also featured Shrek, Dora the Explorer and Stargate, was organized by Fun 4 Everyone Promotions. (Gronsky Wilson photo)

## Dutch school murder suspect denies guilt

AMSTERDAM—The 22-year-old suspect in the murder of eight-year-old schoolboy Jeroen Diegenams, who was killed at a primary school in the southern Dutch town of Hoogerheide, had his remand detention extended by 14 days on Monday.

But the suspect J. C. de

nied his guilt to a judge in the Court of Brabant, having earlier insisted to his defence lawyer that he was innocent of the stabbing. The suspect admitted being at the primary school where Jeroen was killed on Friday morning, but denied he was the murderer.

## Prison guards upset about job evaluation

POINTE BLANCHE—The civil servants union AIBO has asked all Pointe Blanche prison guards who believe they were treated unfairly during their annual job evaluation to file a complaint. The union board is planning to come to St. Maarten to take notice of the situation.

AIBO board member in charge of prison affairs Edith Williams told *The Daily Herald* he would inform Justice Minister David Dick about the situation this week.

"It cannot be that the prison director allows his friends to receive salary increases without their being evaluated, while the rest of the prison guards are being sacrificed," Williams said.

AIBO representatives at the Pointe Blanche prison Randall Salome and Pamela Richardson confirmed that a lot of prison guards were very upset with the evaluations that were taking place. They said that guards who received good evaluations last year suddenly had not received very poor evaluations this year.

"The prison guards feel that prison management is retaliating against them because they had several actions this year fighting for their rights,"

they said. Salome and Richardson believe that prison management is abusing its power and has been fighting a "cold war" with the prison guards.

Williams said he understood that Pointe Blanche staff members were not qualified to do the job evaluation. He gave as an example that some of the staff members had been in service for three months, but they were evaluating the whole year's performance of a prison guard.

Williams said the evaluations were supposed to take place twice a year, but in St. Maarten they were only now being done for the first time this year. He advised all prison guards to officially file complaints if they did not agree with their evaluations.

AIBO president Roland "Nacho" Ignacio also said the prison guards should file official complaints. "That's the legal way to go within the system. If they do that, we as a union can go to the Minister and ask for an external evaluation," Ignacio said.

However, Salome and Richardson said the prison guards somewhat feared more retaliation by prison management if they filed complaints.

Defence lawyer Henk van Aaselt said earlier statements that the suspect gave a "bizarre story" should instead be changed to "bizarre story." He also said it was possible that his client was telling the truth when he claimed to be at the school to pick up his foster brother.

He said all possibilities were still open and the question of whether police have arrested the right suspect is still not certain.

There is still no motive identified, Van Aaselt said, despite the fact that police have described C. as a "very serious suspect".

Jeroen Diegenams was stabbed and killed on Friday at the primary school Klink-op in Hoogerheide in the province of Brabant. A silent march in honour of the boy was held on Sunday.

## Operator confirms ARCOS Cable break in the Dominican Republic

By Alfred Harley

PHILIPSBURG—The ARCOS Fibre Optic Cable was damaged in the Dominican Republic and alternative connections through the Antillas Cable are being considered, Executive Vice President of Sales and Marketing Edward Gaudrillat of New World Network that owns and operates the cable confirmed Monday.

Up to Monday there was no confirmation about the cause of the breakage, but it is believed to have been caused by a boating accident.

Gaudrillat said *The Daily Herald* Monday that all efforts were being made to send a team of technicians and divers to the location in the Dominican Republic to assess the extent of the damage to the cable and conduct repairs, which should take three to five days.

However, relief is on the way, according to Gaudrillat. He said New World Network technicians were testing their equipment on Monday to determine compatibility with the Antillas Fibre Optic Cable. If the two networks can communicate, technically, NWN will reroute the traffic for the entire Caribbean region to that cable, which would facilitate the restoration of all services.

The interruption of services resulted in limited voice service internationally, as local telephone company Stetcom, the international carrier for Telcel and Telcel, terminates its calls through the SMPR 1 cable from St. Maarten to Curaçao and then links to ARCOS in Puerto

Rico that takes the calls to the United States mainland and the rest of the world.

TelNet and other companies whose Internet services depend on ARCOS are also affected.

Gaudrillat said, "We expect to have something in place to restore the Caribbean with equal capacity and we are conducting tests with our equipment as we speak to see if it is compatible with the equipment of the Antillas Fibre Cable that runs between Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, and connects to the Americas Two to the United States."

He said, "In this market we support each other in events like these."

Once they are certain the equipment works they will reroute the service. He said the ARCOS Fibre Optic Cable had experienced a cable cut in Nicaragua two weeks ago and that was being repaired but the repair was delayed due to bad weather conditions.

The pace of the repairs in the Dominican Republic will depend on weather conditions. Each repair will cost NWN more than US \$1.5 million.

Gaudrillat said anything dealing with submerged cable took time and noted that sadly this was one of the prices of progress.

He said that since the company Columbus had bought New World Network from Barclays Bank about a year ago, "we had been busy at the first quarter of this year with a Network Improvement Programme to the tune of US \$21 million that would

strengthen the areas where the ARCOS cable was vulnerable to breakage."

The intention is to replace the cable in areas of vulnerability with a stronger cable that will reduce the risk of breakage by boat or other means by more than 90 per cent.

Gaudrillat said the vulnerability of the fibre optic cable was not because of bad design, as the cable was made to be self-healing. He explained that the vulnerability was most often close to the shore in several of the 19 countries where the cable landed.

This, he said, is due largely to lack of proper control by Port Authorities against ships anchoring where the cable runs or fishing or passing in the area of the cable and hitting it in the process.

The ARCOS cable is a cheaper and faster way to communicate and its secret is the fact that it is a self-healing cable with redundancy. Now NWN plans to make it even stronger within the next few months to ensure maximum uptime.

"We regret the inconvenience this has caused for the end users and we are doing the best we can to ensure that St. Maarten and the other Caribbean islands are able to communicate with the rest of the world via our very robust self-healing cable network," Gaudrillat said.

He said it must be made clear that Stetcom was in no way responsible for the loss of communication and that the company's confidence in the ARCOS cable was well placed.

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<b>Four Corners</b>	25 35
<b>Diamond</b>	48 33 31
<b>Jackpot</b>	39 21 13 30 46 49 23 47 24 12
<b>2nd Chance</b>	06 02 42 20
<b>Next Jackpot</b>	<b>\$16,750</b>

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2nd Prize: 831	9643
3rd Prize: 350	6538

**Sunset**

PRICED	PRICED
1st Prize: 173	9959
2nd Prize: 249	7332
3rd Prize: 627	7392

**Evening**

PRICED	PRICED
1st Prize: 961	3484
2nd Prize: 660	4134
3rd Prize: 454	9157

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We 06	Nolimit Hold'em	6pm \$100 (+20)	Unlimited	Yes	
Th 07	Nolimit Hold'em	6pm \$300 (+30)	Freezout		
Fr 08	Nolimit Hold'em	6pm \$500 (+50)	Freezout		
Sa 09	Limit Hold'em	6pm \$200 (+20)	1	Yes	
Su 10	Nolimit Hold'em	6pm \$500 (+50)	1		
Mo 11	Supersatellite NLH for <b>Championship Event</b>	6pm \$150 (+20)	Unlimited	Yes	
Tu 12	<b>Championship Event Nolimit Hold'em Day 1</b>	4pm <b>\$3,000 (+200)</b>	Freezout		<b>\$500,000 guaranteed</b>
We 13	<b>Championship Event Nolimit Hold'em Day 2</b>	4pm --	--		
We 13	Nolimit Hold'em	6pm \$300 (+30)	Freezout		
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Th 14	Nolimit Hold'em	3pm \$300 (+30)	Freezout		

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## Drisana Jack takes island culture to Miami and beyond



Drisana Deborah Jack

**PHILIPSBURG**—Artist/poet Drisana Deborah Jack will expose St. Martin culture in Miami Thursday for the second time in less than one month. Jack is among a select group of artists operating the prestigious Art Basel 2006 at the Diaspora Vibe Gallery in culture chic Miami Beach on December 7.

Jack's photo and video art, especially her treatment of sail and sea, "had to score off the scales" to enter the Art Basel 2006, said Jacqueline Sample, president of House of Niche Publishers (HNP) and a former president of the New York art Organization BDA, Inc.

The juried exhibition, entitled *Rituals*, runs until December 31. Sample encouraged "travel-happy St. Maarteners who may be in that city" to attend the show. Art Basel Miami is the US sister event of Art Basel Switzerland, touted in haute art circles as "the most important annual art show worldwide for the past 37 years."

The Art Basel Miami curator is Renie Gordon-Walace and the organization mimes no words in pointing out that it is "the most important art show on the American continent and a cultural and social highlight of the Americas."

"This busy year for Debbie Jack comes from long dedication, hard work, and high creativity. Lasana Sekou's critique of her early work in the mid-1990s tagged her then at the 'articulate edge' of an emerging 'cultural brat pack' of St. Martin artists. She has grown impressively since then," said Sample.

In mid-November 2006, Jack and her new book *Skin* were at the Miami Book Fair International. She recited water poems 1, 3, 4, 5, "motherlines," "in memento mori," and "a sailing of sorts" from *Skin*—alongside Jamaica's Rhodes Scholar poet Mervyn Morris.

The author's dedication to art and literature keeps her doubly busy representing her nation. According

to Jack, "St. Martin writers are not widely known so any exposure especially to such an esteemed and knowledgeable audience is a plus."

*Skin*, launched in the Netherlands in January, is Jack's second volume published by HNP. In June, *Skin* was the featured title at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Martin Book Fair.

There is more. Jack is currently one of 34 contemporary artists in the Jersey City Museum exhibit *Tropicalisms: Subversions of Paradise*.

Jack, an assistant professor at New Jersey City University, is deeply concerned about the essential need for St. Martin art to be reviewed by critical experts. In fact, over the last two years, her work has received the most critical treatment of the island's visual arts, observed Sample.

Suggesting a highly effective reflection of the St. Martin experience in her *Tropicalisms* work, exhibit curator Rocío Aranda-Alvarado writes: "An endless loop of moving ocean water, Deborah Jack's (Untitled) Sea II is a solemn, poetic and magnificent reminder of how such bodies of water directly affect tropical locations in economic, political and social ways."

"The ebb and flow, the unrelenting movement of the waters against the shore is like a metaphor for the constant displacement of island populations." The NJ exhibit, online since September 2006, closes on January 14, 2007. [www.jerseycitymuseum.org/exhibitions/tropicalisms/index.html](http://www.jerseycitymuseum.org/exhibitions/tropicalisms/index.html).

## Christmas market at library Saturday

**PHILIPSBURG**—A grand Christmas market will be held at Philipsburg Jubilee Library on Saturday, December 9, from 10:00am until 3:00pm.

The library will be transformed into a marketplace with more than 50 crafters, artists and organisations displaying and selling their products. There will be all kinds of gifts on sale, such as crafts, Christmas ornaments and cards, gift baskets, plants, paintings, dolls, fashion and accesso-

ries, books, calendars and much more. Cake, pastries, food and beverages will also be available.

"This is an event you cannot afford to miss. It's a great opportunity to do some early Christmas shopping and buy original presents," librarian Ann Koelen stated in a press release issued Monday.

The Christmas Market will be opened with a performance by Soulaouga Jump Up Brass Band, after which Culture Commis-

sioner Louie Lovest will be opening an exhibition of old photographs of St. Martin. About 300 pictures of the days on a large screen.

The library will be open as usual. Books, magazines, DVDs and videos can be borrowed as usual. All overdue items can be returned free of charge. A selection of books can be purchased for the library's collection.



The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Royal Islander Club was marked Monday evening with a reception for hotel guests and management at Tortuga restaurant. The timeshare resort in Maho Village is one of oldest on the island. Long time General Manager Walter Kruse (centre) also started to bid farewell to the resort. He retires at the end of the month and will be replaced by Ralph Berlehold (right). Also joining as assistant manager is Sophie Kelly-Brookes (left). (John Halley photos)

## D'Vybz band makes its first public appearance

**ST. KITTS**—The newly renovated Club Kactus was swamped with party-goers hoping to catch a glimpse of new soca band D'Vybz at the official launch party on Saturday.

The band launched two of its songs from its debut album "No Turning Back" namely "Hello" and "Fun it Up."

Band leader and keyboard-

ist Steve Dublin said he was surprised by the response. He said he had hoped for a good concert and good crowd support but was totally humbled by the huge attendance.

D'Vybz Band comprises Dublin as keyboardist, arranger and vocalist, Carl "Ozzy" Osborne as guitarist, Chad "Sucky" Benjamin on bass, Emris "Jay" Forbes

on drums, and lead vocals Jacinth "Shakki" Smith and Lynnel "Shakkal" Peets.

Dublin, Benjamin and Osborne were originally members of the internationally acclaimed Nu Vybz band.

D'Vybz is scheduled to perform at Club Kactus this Saturday, December 9.

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**Hospital** 182211/182371  
**Landslide** 182218  
**Post Office** 182307  
**St. Eustatius Historical Foundation Museum** 182208  
**Wine Office** 182362  
**License Club** meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesday at the "Dive" next to the Airport.  
**Drug Prevention Foundation** meets every Tuesday 5.30pm at the Golden Inn Hotel.  
**Consanguine NARA** 113  
**St. Eustatius National park** Galdures Bay: 318 2884

## SABA

**Police Station**  
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**Hospital**  
**The Bottom**, tel. 4162280/4162289  
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**Flat Point**, tel. 4162210  
**SATEL**  
**The Bottom**, tel. 4163211  
**MINARF Airport**  
**Flat Point**, tel. 4162255/2714  
**Taxi Service Airport**  
**Flat Point**, tel. 4162255  
**Administration Building**  
**The Bottom**, tel. 4163110/4163124/463143  
**Land Office**  
**Windwardside**, tel. 4162251  
**Harbour Office**  
**Flat Point**, tel. 4163294  
**Saba Marine Park**  
**Flat Point**, tel. 4163295  
**Nature & Hike Guide**  
**James Johnson**  
**The Bottom**, tel. 4163307  
**Service Club**  
**Saba Lions Club** general meeting every 1st and 3rd Tuesday 8.00 p.m. at James A. Johnson Centre.  
**Consanguine NARA** 113  
**Red Cross**  
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**Rotary Club of Anguilla**  
**Boy's Restaurant** 6.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m. Every Thursday.  
**Sequelated International Day Care Centre**  
**4.30 p.m. 2nd Tuesday**  
**Sequelated Club** Tel. 497 3589  
**Lions Club**  
**The Valley Primary School**  
**1st and 3rd Tuesday at 8.00 p.m.**  
**Tel. 497 4259**  
**National Council of Women Arts and Craft Centre**  
**4.30 p.m. 1st Monday in month.**  
**Interact Club of Anguilla**  
**Meets every Friday at 7.15 p.m.**  
**at the Above Lake Lodge**  
**Comprehension School**  
**Abolish Aesthetics meetings**  
**every Sunday at 3.30 pm and**  
**Monday at 5.00 pm on Shoul Bay picnic area.**

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## Man shot by police

ST. KITTS—Virgil Gumbs of John England Village, St. Peters, who is nursing a gunshot wound to his leg, has been charged by police with the offences of "Resisting Arrest," "Escaping Lawful Custody" and "Battering on a police officer." Gumbs was reportedly shot in the leg while resisting arrest.

According to a police press



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A male driver lost control of his vehicle while driving on the road from Windwardside to St. John's in Saba last Thursday evening. He apparently was speeding and drove his car off the road in the corner where the GEBE workshop is located. In an effort to negotiate the curve the man veered off the right side of the road, then drove his car through the wall on the left side of the road and topped with his car off the slope, where it crashed into the trees and bushes. The car was totally wrecked, but the driver only sustained some scratches and bruises. The police and fire brigade rushed to the man's rescue, but by the time they arrived he had already managed to get out of his vehicle.

## Majority of Island Council reject referendum on accord

WILLEMSTAD—Despite appeals by representatives of the PAR and PNP parties as well as Curaçao interest groups, the Island Council members who recently voted against the Final Statement signed in Holland on November 2 see no reason to present it to the population in a referendum.

It was PAR faction leader Oscar Castillo who challenged the opponents to hold a referendum on the final statement. Castillo is convinced that the population would approve the final statement.

"This discussion has to be above politics. Let's go to a referendum. Let the population decide."

But none of the opponents declared themselves in favour of a referendum. Charles Cooper (MAN) compared the proposal to the temper tantrum of a little child who does not get his way. "We are going to renegotiate the final statement until we get



An email campaign in Papiamentu under the heading "enough" is demanding a referendum on the final statement.

everything that the people of this island have chosen for."

Cooper emphasised that the decision passed in the Island Council after the referendum of April 8 last year clearly described under what circumstances a new referendum would take place.

"The decision of council states that the result of the Round Table Conference (RTC) negotiation must be presented to the people in a referendum. The final statement is the result of governmental deliberations. We must not confuse these two with each other."

Several of the council members who voted against the final statement last Tuesday support Cooper's observation. For example, independent Councilman Rigmold Lak (MPK, formerly FOL), who, referring to last year's decision of council, indicated that the Island Council cannot op-

pose that.

But Dennis Everst (PNP) indicated on the other hand that, if these opponents are so sure that they are right, they should have the political guts to hold a referendum on this subject.

Also Castillo indicated that if the referendum on the final statement is not held, the people will still have the chance to speak out about the document in the next Island Council elections in April/May of 2007.

## CORRECTION

The article, "Mingo speaks about turnover tax in Aruba," which appeared on page 15 in the paper of Saturday, December 2, wrongly mentioned that tax expert Frank Mingo was one of the speakers. It was in fact Marlene E. Mingo, connected as tax lawyer with firm Bergman, Bloem & Bergman and previously tax inspector.

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Athletes running down the Bottom Mountain Trail

## Jesse Voza improves Hell's Gate Triathlon track record

SABA—Jesse Voza improved his record from last year in Ennia's Saba Hell's Gate Triathlon 2006, by a couple of minutes on Sunday, to capture first prize once more in an astonishing one hour, 41 minutes and 40 seconds.

First female was Terry de Witt with a time of two hours, seven minutes and 14 seconds. The Hooligan Youth Team finished first among the teams in a time of one hour, 59 minutes and 12 seconds.

This year 52 racers participated, among which four youth and seven adult teams. There were 22 individual athletes, including dog Stinch, who swam, biked and ran beside her boss.

Except for the fact that one biker got lost and mistakenly ran around the whole island, the event was deemed successful.

Most racers had already arrived Friday morning at Fort Bay Harbour where they were welcomed by triathlon committee members Helen Cornet and Shelley Lindvall. President Menno van de Velde couldn't attend as he was accompanying visiting dignitaries on Saba Day.

Soon one noticed the athletes along the road, running or biking, or at Wells Bay worrying about the big waves they would have to fight on Sunday morning.

After the arrival of the second group, the contestants were briefed on Saturday

evening. Jan den Dulk of the Saba Marine Park explained how the trail was set out and Cornet mentioned she had put fluorescent arrows on the roads. The Red Cross group was fully prepared. James Johnson had cleared the Bottom Mountain Trail and Public Works had cleaned the roads and hung the banners.

December 3 started bright and early. There was less wind than the days before and there was still enough sand on Wells Bay Beach to get into the surf. Stinch had his number securely fixed on his back and the other swimmers were marked with black markers on their arms and legs.

After Van de Velde gave the starting shot everybody ran into the ocean to get to the buoys as quickly as possible and back. The teams then switched and the individual athletes biked up to Rendez-Vous at the beginning of the Mt. Scenery

Trail. The first part involved a lot of walking instead of biking, but going down was easy and fast.

At the end of Mt. Scenery Road the bikes were left behind and running shoes were put on. Here the run through Saba's jungle along the well maintained trails to the end of the Sandy Cruz Trail at Hell's Gate started. A cheering crowd was waiting to welcome the athletes.

Prizes were handed out at the Ecology by Acting Lt. Governor Roy Smith, who emphasized that he was impressed by what was accomplished, not only by the athletes, but also by Stinch, who also received a certificate.

There was a little problem when the Dream Team was called to collect their prize for the first female team. They were fast asleep and had to be woken up to get their prize.

## Attention in Aruba for World Aids Day

ARUBA—About 80 people took part in Friday's torchlight procession on the occasion of World Aids Day in Aruba.

The procession organised by the Women's Club of Aruba ended in front of the building of Public Works and ended at Fort Zoutman.

Governor Fredin Refunjol and his wife also took part and he was presented with a copy of the book *Breuda* as a dragon in her blood in Fort Zoutman. The book is about a 3-year old girl who is HIV positive.

On World Aids Day, many countries pledged to fight the still growing disease which has victimized millions of people already.

# Strike at Valero oil refinery over

ARUBA—The strike at Valero refinery in Son Nicolas ended after the Independent Oil Workers Union (IOWUA) accepted a new proposal for a Collective Labour Agreement (CLA).

The settlement was apparently negotiated quickly during the weekend, even though management had earlier said its previous offer was final. Details are sketchy, but the new deal reportedly includes a bonus of 4,000 florins at the end of this year, a better wage increase and elimination of the 12-hour work schedule.

Valero spokesman David Smith had earlier said that the 12-hour schedule was not in the CLA and that the union had merely been asked to consult its members on it. "Once they rejected it, that book was closed for us."

IOWUA had earlier said that it was not the union that walked away from the negotiation table, but Valero. The moment it became clear that Valero's CLA proposal was no longer negotiable, IOWUA started to work on a counter-proposal together with Union Steekwerkers of America (USW).

The union said its members would have preferred to

continue working and they wanted to go back to work right away, but that the earlier CLA-proposal had simply been unacceptable.

Several entities involved with Valero in the United States had pressed general management to spur on the management in Aruba to start new negotiations, con-

firmed staff-employee of USW Jay Jeffries. He said that in the US, solidarity strikes are prohibited by law, so that was not a possibility.

He did not want to say in what way the pressure was exerted in the US, "because those are strategies that pay off when they stay out of the media."

## PAM leader and MP found guilty of obstructing police

ST. KITTS—Political leader of the opposition People's Action Movement (PAM) Lindsay Grant, and PAM's lone representative in the National Assembly Shawn Richards have been found guilty of obstructing a police officer in the execution of his duty during an incident in 2004.

Magistrate Sharon Cummings found that Grant and Richards wilfully obstructed Inspector Vincent Bridgewater in the course of his duty contrary to Section 36 (2) of the Small Charges Act, Cap. 75.

The Magistrate fined the two opposition politicians EC \$1,000 each and

ordered that they pay the fines in one week or serve one month imprisonment.

On the charge of "remaining in a roadway in such a manner so as to cause danger of obstruction to persons driving vehicles on the said road, contrary to Section 62(d) of the Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, Cap. 270," Magistrate Cummings found Richards guilty, but reprimanded and discharged him.

Charges brought by the police against Chesley Hamilton, another PAM official, were dropped.

Senior Crown Counsel Simone Bullen prosecuted the police matter.

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## Fred Thompson is Hotelier of the Year for second time

ANGUILLA—At a gala dinner last Friday, Fred Thompson was presented with the Hotelier of the Year award for the second time.

The dinner was held at Zura, the restaurant at the Tenmen Golf Clubhouse, and attended by many persons from the tourism industry and others in the community.

Each year two persons, who have worked in tourism for many years, receive the Pioneer of the Year award. This year the recipients were Ed Carty and John Rogers.

The Seaport Employee of the Year was Jeffrey Jackson and the Airport Employee of the Year was Philip Gumbs. They were both congratulated for their dedicated work.

The Allied Member award went to Janine Edwards of Sunset Homes, the Employee of the Year is Eddie Williams of St. Regis Tenmen Villas and the Supervisor of the Year is Dean Somaal. The award sponsors were: NIRA, Scotiabank, Cap Jaha, First Caribbean International Bank, and Caribbean Commercial Bank.

Thompson's two sons Shayne and Darryl received the award, sponsored by Scotiabank, from Managing Director of Scotiabank



Will Fleming, Shayne Thompson, Darryl Thompson and Kerwin Baptiste at the presentation of the Hotelier of the Year trophy.

Kerwin Baptiste, Executive Director of the Anguilla Hotel and Tourism Association (AHTA) Truly Nino described Thompson as a caring and nurturing manager who has supported the AHTA for many years.

Minister of Tourism Victor Banks was unable to attend the function as he is currently in New York. Special Adviser Donna Banks delivered a message and his apologies. He said that Anguilla holds its own in the region and the world in tourism, with its low volume and high quality tourism.

He said tourism has always been recognized as the main vehicle to drive the island's economy and foreign investment would be needed. He also pointed out that Anguillians should participate at all levels of the industry for there will be no sustainable development without such participation.

He congratulated the young Anguillians who "are taking the plunge" and investing in high quality properties. He also congratulated the awardees and urged all to live the tourism week slogan to the fullest for quality service and ownership.

During the evening there was lively music by Gossip and the Boys. There were many door prizes donated by AHTA members and other businesses on the island. The event was attended by, among others, Governor Andrew George and his wife, Minister of Social Development Evans McNeil Rogers, Chairman of the Tourism Board John Benjamin, Director of Tourism Amelia Venterpool-Kubrich and other members of the Tourism Board.

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**Thank God for living and giving you strength**



Officials at the opening of the new Jetty at Sandy Ground built by Edgill Associates of Barbados

## New jetty opened at Sandy Ground

ANGUILLA—The newly constructed jetty at Sandy Ground was officially handed over to the Anguilla Government on Sunday.

The jetty, built by Edgill Associates of Barbados, will accommodate small cargo boats, mainly from St. Martin, that are no longer allowed into Blowing Point. It is 200-feet long and has an area at the end of 1,600 square feet. It is lower than the main jetty at Blowing Point and eventually a new port at Corito that is planned to start in 2008.

The handing over ceremony was chaired by Chairman of the Port Board Fritz Smith. He said that the jetty is just the beginning of the port development for the island that includes work at Blowing Point and eventually a new port at Corito that is planned to start in 2008.

Minister of Infrastructure Kenneth Harrigan congratulated Edgill for "a first class job." He said only passengers will now come in to Blowing Point and it will be much safer without cargo there.

He said there is a master plan being developed to improve the Blowing Point terminal and parking area. Harrigan said the facilities at Sandy Ground, when Corito is developed, will be for small cruise ships, yachts and the customs buildings will be converted into shops and restaurants.

Retired Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Infrastructure Ken Banks thanked the Port Development Board for its work, which includes the new facilities, management structure of port services and advising the Government

on its options.

He said the new port development at Corito will cost about US \$40 million. Banks congratulated Richard and Edgill saying that the company is a very good partner and does the best for Anguilla. The cost of the new jetty at Sandy Ground is US \$800,000 and repairs to the larger jetty that are currently taking place are US \$400,000. He closed by wishing new Permanent Secretary Larry Franklin much success.

Richard Edgill thanked the people of Anguilla for allowing him to work on the project and said he was very pleased with the cooperation the company received. Edgill Associates previously built the Island Har-

bour and Cove jetties and also the Sandy Ground Road.

Edgill thanked everyone for their cooperation and said of the 12 islands where he has worked, the off-loading of cargo in Anguilla is the best. He is looking forward to continue working in Anguilla.

Among persons who attended the ceremony were Governor Andrew George and his wife, Chief Minister Osborne Fleming, Minister of Finance and Tourism Victor Banks and his wife, Attorney General Ronald Scipio and other Government officials. Also in attendance were boat owners, shipping agents, contractors and other business persons who use the jetty.

## Soroptimist Christmas Fair attracts many

ANGUILLA—The annual Christmas Fair organised by the Soroptimist Club was enjoyed and supported by many persons. It was held on the grounds of Government House.

The Soroptimists organised lunch, drinks, games and several stalls with crafts, art, pottery, toys, gifts, plants, cakes, books and other items.

Organizations that participated included the Anguilla Craft Group, the Anguilla Beautification Club, Devonish Gallery and individual artists. Santa was there and many children spent time with him posing for photographs. Christmas music supplied by Bob Riegan filled the air and Christmas songs by Catherine Riegan put everyone in a Christmas mood.

The Soroptimist raffish was won by J. Lloyd who won a trip for two to Puerto Rico on American Eagle. Second prize of a Pebble Phone was won by Rhona Richardson and the third prize of a DVD player was won by Barbara Oberly, who donated it to the Soroptimist



Santa with two children at the Soroptimist Fair

Day Care Centre.

The Craft raffish of the nativity scene made with knitted figures was won by Ingrid Estrada. Judy Bardfield won the hand-painted tray and third prize went to

Judy Carmichael who won a hand sewn flower.

Funds raised by the Soroptimists will be used for the Day Care Centre and other projects of the Club.

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On Thursday December 14th, 2006, at 10:00 a.m. a Public Sale as article 3:208 of the Civil Code of the Netherlands Antilles will be held at the offices of Merold M. Boekhoudt L.L.M., civil law notary on Sint Maarten of the following immovable property, situated on the Island of Sint Maarten:

a digit of land (area) till July 4th, 2014 on:

a parcel of land with an area of 858 m<sup>2</sup>, situated in the district of Calde-Sac at Southeward, described further in Certificate of Adjudication number 45/1984, with the rights of the long lease holder on the three standing dwelling houses, locally known as Reward Road 24.

Until 14 days prior to the auction private bids-in-writing can be delivered at the office of the abovesaid notary.

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For information about the property, the conditions of the auction and further details contact: Mrs. Merold M. Boekhoudt

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## Dutch defence minister honours Srebrenica troops

AMSTERDAM/SARA-JEVO—Dutch

Defence Minister Henk Kamp on Monday awarded medals to soldiers, whose withdrawal from the U.N. enclave of Srebrenica in 1995 led to the massacre of 8,000 Muslims—Europe's worst killings since World War Two.

In Bosnia the awards were met with incomprehension, and the presidency said it had summoned the Dutch ambassador to lodge an official protest.

The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague calls the massacre an act of genocide and has charged 20 people in connection with the killings.

The Dutch government led by Wim Kok resigned in 2002, after a report on the massacre blamed politicians for sending the Dutch U.N. troops on an impossible mission.

"All of you received today a special insignia as a visible acknowledgement... that in Srebrenica you had an extraordinarily difficult task," Kamp told 500 members of the "Dutchbat" battalion at a ceremony in the

northern city of Assen. "And also to acknowledge the fact that Dutchbat has for years wrongly been held responsible for what happened in the enclave," he said, according to the text of his speech.

During the 1992-1995 Bosnian war, Srebrenica became a supposed safe area guarded by a Dutch army unit operating under a United Nations mandate. The lightly armed Dutch soldiers, lacking air support, were forced to abandon the enclave to Bosnian Serb forces, who took away and massacred some 8,000 Muslim men and boys relying on the protection of the Dutch troops.

"This black page in the post-war history of Europe will always be connected with the mission of Dutchbat III," said Kamp, who unveiled a commemorative plaque at barracks in Assen. Official inquiries cleared the Dutch troops of blame. A total of 850 Dutch soldiers served in the enclave.

In Srebrenica, Zvezda Schemerovic who lost her husband in the massacre, expressed her astonishment at the awards. "...my memories are still very alive, memories

of the hope and trust we had in Dutch soldiers," she said. "Instead of the 'movement of shame' we see rewards today in Holland for the soldiers serving the U.N. troops in Srebrenica."

Of the 20 people charged by The Hague tribunal (the most important since the death of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic) were Bosnian Serb wartime leader Radovan Karadzic and his military commander Ratko Mladic—both still on the run. They were charged with genocide for orchestrating the massacre.

"Today we have this recognition for the Dutch battalion in Srebrenica by the Dutch Government. What does it mean?" asked Husein Silajdzic, a Muslim member of the Bosnian presidency. "It looks like Milosevic is dead but his project is going on—the legitimization of the project," he added.



Senior citizens in Arica can look forward to another British American Insurance sponsored Christmas luncheon this year, following a recent donation in excess of EC \$10,000 to the local chapter of the Red Cross. The luncheon, a 13-year-old annual tradition, is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, December 12, at the Methodist Conference Centre from 10:00am to 2:00pm with an open invitation for all seniors island wide and from all denominations. Transportation will be provided for those who reside in rural areas. In photo: Gloria Anlyn receives the sponsorship cheque from Charles Bussie of British American Insurance Company while Wellington Parris (left) and Spencer Hanley (right) look on.

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## Workers earning up to EC \$13,000 per annum exempted from levy

ST. KITTS—The Denzil Douglas Administration has raised the threshold for the payment of the Housing and Social Development Levy from EC \$12,000 per annum to EC \$13,000 annum, thus persons will not have to pay the levy if they earn EC \$13,000 per month.

With the new threshold becoming effective from January 1, 2007, the Social Security Board in conjunction with the Inland Revenue Department announced that based on the new annual EC \$13,000 threshold, persons paid EC \$250 weekly, EC \$500 every two weeks, EC \$541.67 every half month and EC \$1,083.33 per month, will not pay the levy deduction.

The Inland Revenue Department has given the relevant instructions to initiate the new exemption level and the agreed date for implementation is set at January 1, 2007. The Social Security Board has made the necessary adjustments to the Statement of Wages and Contributions form to take account of the changes.

A special note will be issued to all employers to assist them in understanding the details of the changes, said the statement.

The new Levy Exemption Threshold is in keeping with the provisions of the Housing and Social Development Levy (Amendment) Act, 2005 and all employers are asked to take special note and to be guided accordingly.

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Bajan soca artiste Raspey gets close to fans during his performance at MTV Tempo's Party with the Stars at the Haseley Crawford Stadium over the weekend. (Trinidad Express photo)

## Stabbing mars Tempo's inaugural birthday bash

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad—A stabbing, several fist fights and a poorly organised programme marred the local leg of MTV Tempo's first anniversary concert series, Tempo Turns One, on Saturday night.

The crowd was sent running in all directions during Machel Montano and Xzibit's performance, when a group of young men clashed in the middle of the venue in the carpark of the Haseley Crawford Stadium, Mucurapo.

The fight, which was reportedly started after a man snatched a gold chain off the neck of another partygoer, went on for several minutes, as the event's security team seemed reluctant to intervene.

Patrons looked on in horror as one young man had a

stone slammed into his face after being kicked mercilessly while down on the ground.

The fight continued at the front gate of the venue despite the presence of a large contingent of fire officers and ended with one man being stabbed several times.

The assailants made a run for the stadium exits while the victim's friends helped him to a nearby ambulance.

A combined unit of soldiers and police later converged on the venue and brought order to proceedings.

Earlier, things threatened to get out of hand when an unidentified man in the crowd threw a bottle of water at Tempo founder Fredrick Morion during his

welcoming address. Morion, who at the time was speaking of the oneness of Caribbean spirit, for which his music television station stands, called on his security team to remove the man.

One man later stripped naked and climbed a pole in the middle of the party. He was quickly taken away by security.

The unsavoury incidents took all the shine off what promised to be a glamorous night that began with a red carpet show that featured performances by Miss Alysha, Lil Bits, H2O Polo, JSuns, Kimba Soezano and Bumper Soprano, as well as a series of celebrity interviews conducted by Trinidad-born Tempo VJ Jeanille Bonterre. (Trinidad Express)

## Elections Commission fires about 50 staffers

GEORGETOWN, Guyana—The Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) has fired close to 50 employees over the past few days.

Sources told Kaieteur News that several employees, including some hired on a permanent basis to staff strategic departments within GECOM, have received termination letters signed by the Chief Elections Officer, Gecool Boodoo.

Several clerks from the

more than 20 registration offices have been included in the massive staff cut. Several employees who were hired on a permanent basis and who received termination letters questioned the move, since they had not been warned.

Some of these employees have spent the last few years in the Accounting and Stores Departments at GECOM.

Registration Clerks were also questioning the move, especially since GECOM

was preparing to embark on its second cycle of continuous registration in the coming weeks. "Why did they keep us on so long after the elections, if they knew they would not have wanted us? It is strange that, at a time when the second cycle of continuous registration is about to begin, it is now that they say they don't want us," a former clerk stated. (Kaieteur News)



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## Dalley declares 'war' on malaria as toll rises to 13

KINGSTON, Jamaica—The health ministry last night confirmed 13 cases of malaria in the country, and declared an all-out war to ensure the disease does not turn into a pandemic.

"It's a battle plan (that) we have for this malaria," Minister of Health Horace Dalley declared. "There is no way it's going to find root in this country again."

The new cases, the ministry said in a release, included five children who had been hospitalised. The release said the cases continue to be confined to the Kingston 12, 13 and 14 areas in the communities of Delacree Park, Denham Town, Birch Town

and Tivoli Gardens.

"The ministry of health is strongly recommending that all mass gatherings in these areas, such as 'Passa-Passa', be suspended for this week," the release said.

Checks at the Denham Town Health Centre, which has been specially opened to test people for malaria, revealed that close to 20 people had come in by late Sunday afternoon. Doctors there said most people had a fever and results were expected to be available by yesterday, Monday.

"The people in these communities have been cooperating and we want to thank them for it," Dalley said.

Meanwhile, Dalley said the plan to deal with the disease included mobilising retired health professionals and cleaning some drains in the affected areas.

Malaria is transmitted by the Anopheles mosquito. The ministry said yesterday that four breeding sites for the mosquitoes had already been destroyed.

Symptoms of malaria include fever, flu-like symptoms with chills, headaches, muscle ache and tiredness. The disease is not contagious, but if left untreated may lead to severe complications and, eventually, death. (Jamaica Observer)

## Dr. Carrington warns against dependence on remittances

~ UNFPA awards media for work on population issues ~

KINGSTON, Jamaica—The top Caribbean civil servant has warned regional countries not to depend on remittances alone to sustain them, as it could not, but to expand their economies to adequately meet the growing demands of the Caribbean people.

Caribbean Community (Caricom) Secretary-General Dr Edwin Carrington also reiterated that the loss of skilled and qualified labour could be crippling to the region's growth and development and urged countries to adopt economically appealing strategies to stem migration to developed countries.

Carrington's warning held the rapt attention of the United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) 2006 Caribbean Media Awards ceremony at the Mona campus of the University of the West Indies Saturday night.

At the ceremony at the Mona Visitor's Lodge, a total of eight media personnel from across the region received top honours for outstanding work on population and development issues.

The local winners were HOT-102 FM's "This Morning" current affairs show with



Caricom Secretary-General Dr Edwin Carrington (left) shares a light moment with Caribbean Media awarders. Web Content producer at RTR, Sasha Henriques (2nd left), UNFPA Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, Mariela Padron-Quero (2nd right), and Nationwide News producer Emily Crooks. The occasion was the 2006 Caribbean Media Awards ceremony at the Mona Visitor's Lodge last night. (Jamaica Observer photo)

presenters Emily Crooks, Beverly Anderson-Masley and Arlene Amstriglas; the production team from 'Nationwide News Network'; RTR producer Sasha Henriques; producer/presenter at CVM Susan Simc; Gleazer news editor Lyndell Simpson and Gleazer/Power 106 reporter Andrea Donner.

Natalie Edgcombe, producer at People's Television

in Montserrat, Cedric Martin, freelance features writer at the Trinidad Express and Judy Fitzpatrick of the Daily Herald in St. Maarten were the other winners. In the keynote address to the media personnel, Carrington stressed the dangers to the Caribbean of its skilled people migrating, usually in search of greener pastures.

He noted that almost all Caribbean countries were among the top 20 countries in the world with the highest tertiary educated emigration rates. For example, the region was losing about 400 nurses per year to the developed nations, and Guyana, in the last five years alone, had lost 80 per cent of its tertiary-educated citizens.

"The majority of Caribbean countries have lost more than 50 per cent of their labour force in the tertiary segment and more than 30 per cent in the secondary education segment," Carrington disclosed, using International Monetary Fund research.

"The virtual exodus of valuable professional skills compromises the attainment of the region's broader development goals...and the total losses due to skilled emigration far outweigh the recorded remittances for the region on average and in the individual countries," he said.

"We will only stem the tide when we expand our economies, increase professional and job opportunities and accentuate social mobility fast enough to satisfy the growing expectations of our people."

But Carrington said it was expected that intra-regional migration would be on the rise with the establishment of the Caricom Single Market and Economy. (Jamaica Observer)

## Firing squad walks free

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada—They can be described as the underlings of The October 19, 1983 killings of former Grenada Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and a number of his Cabinet colleagues.

However, Corporal Vincent Joseph and Privates Cosmo Richardson and Andy Mitchell played key roles in the executions. They were the triggermen. Each armed with a machine gun, the former members of the People's Revolutionary Army (PRA) repeatedly sprayed their former leader with bullets despite desperate pleas for mercy.

"I aimed my gun at the line of people in which Prime Minister Comrade Bishop stood and fired. The people in the line in which

Comrade Bishop stood, fell to the ground. Blood was running all about there," Joseph admitted to police in a statement which established him as one of the front line executioners.

Richardson also gave a detailed account of his participation, noting that he helped line up Bishop and his Cabinet colleagues against a wall at the then Fort Rupert Square which overlooks the Capital, St. George's.

"I opened fire from the Square on the people in the line. Some of them fell backward and some fell sideways..."

"The bodies were lying in pools of blood and they were burnt up," Richardson said in his govt account which was revealed to judge

and jury. They were horrific details that bore the resemblance of a Hollywood movie.

One salient legal point which stood out during the trial however was that Joseph, Richardson and Mitchell acted under duress and possibly fear for their own lives.

The three had obeyed orders from The PRA's Central Committee, headed by former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, to execute Bishop and his faithful Cabinet colleagues, including a pregnant Minister of Education, Jacqueline Creft.

Even during the year long trial, the three executioners said little in their defence, an apparent allegiance to their military superiors who stood next to them in the dock.

A 12-member jury believed the three did not participate of their own free will and subsequently found them guilty of manslaughter, while the remaining 14, which included Coard, his wife Phyllis and former army chief General Hudson Austin, were all deemed to die for their criminal roles.

Years later, in a seemingly act of clemency, the 14 had their sentences commuted to life imprisonment, with Phyllis a few years ago being released on medical grounds.

The three were sentenced to 30 years imprisonment for their roles.

Their release Saturday fell short by two days of spending 20 years behind bars since their conviction. It was the latest episode in the historic story about the Grenada Revolution, which gripped world attention 23 years ago with a United States lead military intervention, following the death of Bishop and his ministerial faithful.

An ideological outlook that had been exposed to Marxist political philosophy crumbled after Bishop who became a popular leader had taken control of the government from former Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy in a bloodless coup d'etat.

A power struggle between Coard and a group of his hardcore supporters and Bishop ended the 1979 experiment after it was felt that the popular leader had begun to stray from the Marxist ideology and practices. (Daily Nation)

## PM: UNC not cooperating, people will decide on constitutional reform

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad—Prime Minister Patrick Manning says constitutional reform may well have to be taken to the people in an election-type approach, since the opposition refuses to agree to anything the Government suggests on reform.

Manning said at local government level, Government can pass local government legislation by a simple majority, but to get the Constitution changed "we require a special majority. And you know our friends in the Opposition are not in a mood to agree with nothing we say. So to be able to do that, we are going to have to take an election approach".

People would therefore have to decide for themselves the changes they want to take place in the Constitution, Manning said, as he addressed villagers of Piaro at the community centre, following a walkabout in the area on Saturday evening.

In his opening comments, he told the gathering he planned to deal "openly" with the issue of race and race relations in Trinidad and Tobago.

The Prime Minister said there are too many people in society who tag Government as one which operates on the basis of race.

Some of them, he said, have been singing "this mantra for so long that some well meaning citizens have succumbed to believe that".

Describing how the issue of race was entrenched in places like Fiji, where immigrant East Indians cannot hold power, but that Fijians through their constitution have perpetual political power, Manning stressed that this country should move ahead from that kind of thought. He proposed the sharing of power between different groups at the local government level as a solution to the race problem.

"I have concluded that this country is to move ahead and one question that is to be put squarely on the table now is the question of race relations. We know that in any society in which you have people that are different from each other, those differences sometimes conspire to divide rather than to unite," the Prime Minister said.

Unlike some other places in the world with racial problems, however, Manning said in Trinidad and Tobago there is a difference of not only race, but religion, colour, class and all kinds of other differences.

"The one thing we cannot afford is to conduct our business in such a way that the differences among us are allowed to divide us rather than unite us. We cannot afford to do that."

As a result, he added that the PNM Government had decided that if race is an issue in society "let us fix that before we move on". (Trinidad Express)

## Brazilian firm scouting for 50,000 hectares Guyana land

GEORGETOWN, Guyana—Brazil's second largest producer of bio-diesel, BioCapital, is exploring the possibility of acquiring 50,000 hectares of land in Region Six (East Berbice Coast) for cane cultivation for ethanol production. Brazil's largest mining company, Companhia Vale do Rio Doce, is also considering the possibility of investing in the local bauxite industry in Guyana and has begun discussions with the government.

Brazil's Ambassador to Guyana Arthur VC Meyer made these disclosures in a brief telephone interview with the Sunday Starblock.

Speaking about BioCapital's interest Meyer said that a high level delegation from BioCapital was in Guyana last week and met with Prime Minister Sam Hinds, the Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Mannimar Prasad and Minister of Transport and Hydraulics, Robson Beas at the Prime Minister's office.

The Brazilian businessmen subsequently met with officials of the Lands and Surveys Department and Chairman of the Guyana Sugar Corporation, Ronald Allit. Part of Guyana's modernisation strategy is the production of ethanol for bio-fuel.

An official of the Lands and Surveys Division confirmed that the Brazilians have applied for land in New Amsterdam and said the established procedures would have to be followed. Starblock News was directed by the office of one commissioner to another.

Prime Minister Hinds, however, told the Sunday Starblock that at present there were a number of foreign businessmen interested in investing in ethanol production and the Brazilians were among them. (Sunday Starblock)

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## Key justice opposes use of race in school cases

WASHINGTON—A justice who may cast the decisive vote on the closely divided U.S. Supreme Court on Monday sharply criticized using race to decide where students go to school.

"You're characterizing each student by reason of the color of his or her skin," Justice Anthony Kennedy told a lawyer for one of two school districts arguing before the high court. "It seems to me that that should only be, if ever allowed, allowed as a last resort."

The Supreme Court justices considered the cases from Seattle and Louisville, Kentucky, that could affect millions of students nationwide by deciding whether the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of equality allows public elementary and secondary schools to use race as a factor in admissions.

Kennedy, widely believed to have the controlling vote on the nine-member court closely divided between liberals

and conservatives, said the justices never have upheld such race-based assignment plans voluntarily adopted to attain racial diversity. "That takes us on a very perilous course," he said in calling it "a troubling case."

Kennedy, a moderate conservative, expressed concern that a school board "may want to use race for political advantage."

The cases will add to a long line of rulings by the Supreme Court dating back to its historic *Brown v. Board of Education* decision in 1954 that outlawed racial segregation in the nation's public schools.

As the justices spent two hours confronting the important legal issues, hundreds of civil rights supporters marched outside the building in cold weather, carrying signs saying "Save Brown v. Board of Education" and chanting "We won't go to the court of the bus."

The court seemed split along

predictable lines. Conservatives, such as Justice Antonin Scalia, and Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito, the court's two newest members appointed by President George W. Bush, asked questions that appeared critical of the plans.

"What is the logical end point in this plan?" Roberts asked one of the school board's lawyers. He expressed concern that students "are being denied admission to the school of their choice."

The court's only black member, conservative Justice Clarence Thomas, followed his usual practice and did not ask any questions. But Thomas in the past has strongly opposed any government preferences for racial minorities.

The liberals, Justices John Paul Stevens, David Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer, all appeared sympathetic to the school plans to remain integrated. Sharply questioning the



Demonstrators rally in front of the U.S. Supreme Court prior to the Court hearing the case of *Meredith vs. Jefferson County (KY) Board of Education* in Washington on Monday.

Bush administration lawyer who opposed the race-based plans, Breyer seemed concerned that schools once again will become segregated.

"It seems to me from what I read that there is a terrible problem in the country. The problem is that there are lots

and lots of school districts that are becoming more and more segregated," Breyer said.

Ginsburg said the Louisville school district decided to keep a race-based plan that had been previously required under court order for years because it had worked well.

"What's constitutionally required one day gets constitutionally prohibited the next day? That's very odd," she said to a lawyer for a white parent who challenged the plan after her son was denied entry into his neighborhood school.

## LA mayor names black fire chief in race row

LOS ANGELES—Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, trying to extinguish a feud over charges of racism and sexism in the city's fire department, on Monday named a black officer as interim fire chief.

Douglas Barry, a 31-year veteran, will take over Jan. 1 and become the first black man to head the Los Angeles Fire Department. He replaces William Barnette, who announced his retirement last week amid political pressure over a black fireman who sued the city because he was served dog food in his firehouse spaghetti.

Barry was expected to head the department for as long as a year while Villaraigosa, who was roundly criticized by many blacks for vetoing a settlement in the dog food case, conducts a nationwide search for a permanent chief.

"I have agreed to serve as an interim, but my aim is to make permanent results," Barry, 53, said at a press conference. "I know that we can stop hazing and horseplay. I know that we can address the department's history of discrimination and exclusion."

Villaraigosa called Barry "a man for the hour" and the mayor was clearly hoping that the appointment

of a black chief would help knock down public outcry over the lawsuit by 19-year department veteran Terrie Pierce.

Pierce sued after fellow firefighters slipped dog food into his spaghetti as a prank in 2004. The case attracted little notice until the City Council voted this month to pay him \$2.7 million—one of the largest settlements in city history for a fire department discrimination claim. The huge payout, which also would have allowed Pierce, 53, to retire and collect a lifelong department pension worth roughly half his annual salary, triggered an uproar.

Villaraigosa vetoed the settlement after a pair of KFI-AM talk-radio hosts, John Kobyliv and Ken Chiampou obtained pictures of Pierce engaging in a series of fire station pranks—in one instance apparently helping to shove the genitals of a firefighter who was bound to a gurney. Some of Pierce's former colleagues described him as a known prankster who went by the nickname "Big Dog."

After Pierce made a tearful appearance at City Hall, three black members of the council led a move to overturn Villaraigosa's veto but fell short. The case is now headed for trial in March.

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# Bush meets Iraq Shi'ite leader

BAGHDAD—President George W. Bush met one of Iraq's most powerful Shi'ite faction leaders on Monday, while his military chief and envoy in Baghdad implored Iraqis to break a cycle of violence that will "destroy you and your country".

Bush, his Iraq policy under growing criticism even from former allies, said he and Abdul Aziz al-Hakim had discussed a need for Iraqi leaders to "reject the extremists that are trying to stop the advance of this young democracy."

"I told him we're not satisfied with the pace of progress in Iraq and that we want to continue to work with the sovereign government in Iraq to accomplish our mutual objectives, which is a free country that can govern itself, sustain itself and defend itself," Bush told reporters at the White House.

Hakim, a Shi'ite Muslim cleric who rose to power in Iranian exile at the head of SCIRI's armed wing the Badr Brigade, denies accusations by Saddam Hussein's once dominant Sunni minority that his party is behind

any of hundreds of weekly killings.

Bush met Shi'ite Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki last week and is due to meet Sunni Vice President Tarraq al-Hachemi later this month as he seeks a new approach to a deepening crisis that could split the entire Middle East.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan added his voice on Sunday to those now describing fighting in Iraq as civil war, a term Bush rejects. The 24 hours to Monday

evening saw 52 more victims of sectarian death squads dumped in Baghdad.

In one of the most vivid signs of American alarm, the U.S. ambassador in Baghdad and the commander of U.S. forces issued a joint statement on Monday, saying: "We implore all Iraqis not to become pawns of those who seek to destroy you and your country."

Condemning the worst bombing since the U.S. invasion, which killed over 200 Shi'ites in Baghdad last month, Sunday Khalilzad and General George Casey said: "Do not allow yourself to be drawn down the road of senseless brutality by striking back."

Many Iraqis, however, fear their oil-rich nation passed the point of no-return into sectarian division after the destruction of a Shi'ite shrine in February sparked a wave of tit-for-tat bloodshed that has grown ever since. Maliki's unity government has struggled to make any impact in seven months in office.

Maliki's government hit back at the U.N. chief. "In

## U.S. building 'enduring bases' in Iraq

The Bush administration is constructing 16 so-called "enduring bases" for a permanent, large-scale presence in Iraq of some 100,000 U.S. troops. Pentagon planners view the \$4.5 billion project as vital both to protect oil interests and as launchpads for future operations in the Middle East.



# Deaths mount in Midwest days after snow storm

CHICAGO—Deaths from bitter cold, falls in darkened homes and poisonous fumes from makeshift fires mounted on Monday in Illinois and Missouri as power outages now in their fourth day created hardships for hundreds of thousands, authorities said.

Ice-crusted tree limbs broke off and brought down more power lines even as utility crews enlisted from 14 states helped restore electricity to tens of thousands of others.

At the peak of the storm

that struck the Midwest late on Thursday and Friday, more than half a million customers of Ameren Corp. had lost power. More than 300,000 Illinois and Missouri customers of Ameren were still without power on Monday, the utility said.

National Guard troops in both states checked on abandoned vehicles and on residents shivering in unheated homes as temperatures dipped into the teens (-7 Celsius to -11 Celsius) at night.

Two men burning coal in a cooking wok died on Sunday, apparently from carbon monoxide poisoning, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported. Another man died when he tumbled down the stairs in his darkened home, and authorities found a man dead in his backyard from the cold.

At least eight people have died in the St. Louis area in the aftermath of the storm, the newspaper said. Some have gone to warming shelters, and others slept in their workplaces.

calling the events in Iraq a civil war, (Kofi Annan) is gilding the image of the former regime, which was known for crimes against humanity," it said.

Hakim has said all communities have a place in Iraq but SCIRI, which retains close ties with U.S. adversaries in Shi'ite Iran, also strongly defends the principle of Shi'ite majority rule.

On Wednesday, the bipartisan Iraq Study Group co-chaired by former secretary of state James Baker is to offer Bush further proposals on stabilising Iraq and reducing the U.S. presence. These could include U.S. troops taking a back-seat to Iraqi forces and seeking help from neighbouring Iran and Syria.

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39700-39750, 39750-39800, 39800-39850, 39850-39900, 39900-39950, 39950-40000, 40000-40050, 40

## Lebanese army increases forces in tense Beirut

BEIRUT—Lebanese army deployed more soldiers in Beirut on Monday after the killing of a pro-Syrian Shi'ite Muslim demonstrator raised fears anti-government protests could turn into sectarian violence.

Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa warned the crisis could worsen and indicated he had discussed ideas for a solution with Lebanese officials during a 24-hour

visit to Beirut. Security sources said the military increased its forces in Sunni districts that Shi'ite protesters drove through to get to central Beirut where the Hezbollah-led opposition is holding a sit-in to try to topple the Western-backed government. These districts saw clashes between residents and protesters on Sunday—from stone-throwing to fights with knives.

In the most serious incident, gunmen fired assault rifles at a group of protesters in a Sunni neighbourhood, a stronghold for the anti-Syrian majority coalition, killing one man. The body of Ahmed Mahmoud was brought to the protest site, where thousands of anti-government demonstrators read Koranic verses over a coffin wrapped in a Lebanese flag.

The opposition plans a mass funeral on Tuesday and said the death would not halt its drive to unseat the government. "Seniors out, we want a free government," the crowd chanted during a night rally at the tent camp, referring to the Western-backed Sunni prime minister, Fouad Stairis.

A few thousand soldiers and police were deployed around Beirut on the fourth day of the protests. Troops sat atop armoured vehicles at road junctions.

Many politicians and observers have said the crisis could spill over into sectarian strife in a country that has gone through two civil wars in the last 50 years.

Lebanon's most senior Shi'ite cleric Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah called for unity. "One of the most dangerous things is the devilish state of sectarian instigation by some political symbols which is making the political dispute open to sectarian sensitivities," Fadlallah said on Monday.

The leader of the anti-Syrian majority coalition, Sami Saad al-Hariri also urged calm and asked his supporters to ignore what he called

### Key players in Lebanon's political standoff

Lebanon's three highest offices are allocated by religion — the President must be a Maronite Christian, the Speaker a Shia Muslim, and the Prime Minister a Sunni Muslim. The current crisis was sparked after the Cabinet approved plans for a UN tribunal on the killing of sectarian Rafik Hariri.



## Bolton to leave as ambassador to UN

WASHINGTON—U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton announced on Monday he will step down and give up his bruising fight to convince enough Senate opponents to back him for a post they said he was ill-suited to fill.

President George W. Bush said he accepted Bolton's resignation reluctantly. "I'm not happy about it," he told reporters in an Oval Office meeting with the matched Bolton and his wife, Gretchen.

Bolton had a history of angering diplomats and colleagues in his previous State Department job. Bush bypassed the Senate and appointed Bolton to the U.N. job on a temporary basis in August 2006 despite protests that he would pursue a unilateral foreign policy.

When Bolton turned out to be far less of a lightning rod than expected, Bush tried again to gain Senate confirmation for him, but the opposition largely remained and the Democratic takeover of the Senate in November elections made the path even more difficult.

Bush blamed "shallow politics of the Senate" and said Bolton had done a fine



Bolton

job despite his critics. "He proved the critics wrong. I mean flat wrong," Bush told the Fox News Channel in an interview. "We weren't even close as they characterized John Bolton, as they anticipated his office, what he would do in office."

His departure gives Bush the opportunity to fill the key diplomatic position with a less ideological choice, much like the president is doing with Robert Gates as the nominee to replace Donald Rumsfeld as defense secretary. While there was much speculation in Washington that Bush might give Bolton another position that did not require Senate confirmation, Bolton's departure letter appeared to close the door on that option.

## NASA plans to build permanent base on the moon

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida—NASA said on Monday it plans to build a permanently occupied base on the moon, most likely at the lunar north pole.

The habitat will serve as a science outpost as well as a testbed for technologies needed for future travel to Mars, and construction will follow a series of flights to the moon scheduled to begin by 2020.

"We're going for a base on the moon," Scott "Doc" Horowitz, NASA's associate administrator for exploration, told reporters in a teleconference from the Johnson Space Center in Houston.

Plans for what the base will look like and what astronauts would do there have yet to be determined. Similarly, NASA has not projected a date when the base would go into operation.

The moon's polar sites are preferred to equatorial regions because of more moderate temperatures and longer periods of sunlight, which is critical for the solar-powered electrical systems NASA plans to develop. Eventually, nuclear power may be used to augment or replace the solar energy systems.

Scientists also suspect the poles have resources such as hydrogen, ice and other materials that could be used for life support. "It's exciting," said NASA deputy administrator Shana Dale. "We don't know as much about the polar regions."

The United States had already announced plans to develop new spacecraft to travel to the moon and land on its surface for the first time since the last Apollo flight there in 1972. It also plans to provide a communications system linking Earth and the moon.

provocations. Moussa met Lebanese leaders including Hezbollah officials during his brief visit. "The whole Arab area can't stand by and watch a situation that could develop to the worse," he said.

Asked about his plans to resolve the problems, he said: "It is still at its beginnings, but I see that it is a start that gives some hope."

Pro-Syrian President Emile Lahoud welcomed Moussa's efforts but said the Lebanese should settle the crisis themselves. "We learn this from experience," his office quoted him as saying.

The Shi'ite Hezbollah is backed by Syria and Iran, and has repeatedly criticized Stairis's government, saying it failed to back the group

during its summer war with Israel. The opposition, which includes some Christians, has been demanding veto power in the government, made up of anti-Syrian politicians from Christian, Sunni and Druze parties. But these politicians say the opposition only wants to weaken the government and derail a U.N. tribunal that would try suspects in the 2005 murder of ex-premier Rafik al-Hariri.

A preliminary U.N. inquiry has implicated Syria and Lebanon, security officials in the killing, which eventually forced Syrian forces to withdraw from Lebanon last year. In Damascus, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier urged Syria to persuade Hezbollah to end the demonstrations.

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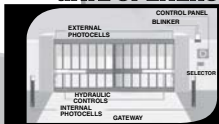
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## Venezuela colours red, really red after vote

CARACAS, Venezuela—President Hugo Chavez painted Venezuela the "red, really, red" of his anti-U.S. socialist revolution, after sweeping to re-election in Sunday's vote with wins in every state in the OPEC heavyweights.

National opposition newspaper El Universal displayed a map on its front page on Monday depicting his political movement's color red as a wave across all the Caribbean nation.

Polling above 60 percent of the vote on the back of support from the poor majority, Chavez said his win was a blow to U.S. President George W. Bush, who sees the ally of Cuba and Iran as a threat to regional democracy and stability.

Chavez, 52, in office since 1999, has a renewed mandate to press his socialist reforms, including land confiscations and increased state control over the oil industry, and will seek to forge an anti-U.S. front in Latin America.

In its reaction to the vote,

the White House congratulated Venezuelans for their commitment to democracy and praised lower Manuel Rosales—but failed to mention Chavez. That is typical of the U.S. strategy this year of avoiding a rhetorical fight with a man who earned world headlines by calling Bush the devil in a U.N. speech in September.

U.S. Sen. Ileana said the win reflected Latin America's rejection of the superpower's arrogance.

Smooth voting and a quick concession by his united opposition rival defied many Venezuelans' fears of post-vote chaos over a contested election and helped provide a stable political backdrop for investment in a booming economy.

Streets in polarized Venezuela were quiet on Monday. Shantytowns were recovering from late-night partying celebrating the victory of a leader who many in the poorest neighborhoods of the country's population of 27 million admire for lavish-

ing oil revenue on clinics and food hand-outs.

There were no celebrations in the upscale neighborhoods of the capital Caracas, where supporters had hoped opposition candidate Manuel Rosales would stop what they see as Chavez's wasting of oil wealth on populist programs.

But politics is polarized Venezuela is unlikely to be tame for long. Carlos Marval, 44, was worried the president would ignore the demands of the 40 percent of Venezuelans who voted against his leftist drive.

"There's no sense of an integrated country with an all moving forward together," the computer technician said. "A large part of the middle class feels marginalized."

Chavez, who has survived a brief coup and a recall referendum, acknowledges he thrives on confrontation. And he is loathed by many in the middle- and upper-classes who consider him a buffoon and dictator-in-the-making.

Chavez has vowed to use his mandate to scrap presidential term limits and wants to stay in power for decades past a single party he plans to create from the catch-all of groups that support him. Critics, including Washington, fear Chavez will be emboldened to intensify his buying of arms and influence with an oil bonanza from high prices in one of the world's top crude exporters.

The man known as El Comandante is the fourth Latin American leftist to win a presidential election in the last five weeks.



Supporters of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez wait for him outside the National Electoral Council in Caracas on Monday, where he was expected to appear to receive his certificate as the winner of the presidential election held Sunday. The ceremony was postponed until Tuesday.

## Afghan police force far from adequate, US report reveals

WASHINGTON—The U.S.-trained Afghan police force is largely incapable of carrying out routine law enforcement, hobbled by an illiterate corps and "pervasive corruption," according to a new U.S. government report.

Managers of the \$1.1 billion training program could not accurately say how many officers were on duty and many were using substandard equipment, according to the report by the inspectors general at the defense and state departments issued last month. A copy was obtained by Reuters on Monday.

The "readiness level to carry out its internal security and conventional police responsibilities is far from adequate," the report said. "The obstacles to establish a fully professional ANP (Afghan National Police) are formidable."

U.S. government officials acknowledged the Afghan police body's difficulties on Monday but said the assessment was six months old. They said they were already making changes to address the concerns and that the role of the police had expanded to deal with a growing insurgency there.

"The obstacles to establish a fully professional ANP are formidable, and all parties agree long-term international commitment is required to make lasting progress," said Pentagon spokesman Todd Vician.

The government review, first reported by The New York Times, comes five years after U.S.-led forces ousted the hardline Taliban government in 2001 following the Sept. 11 attacks. Fighting this year has been the worst since then as the Taliban have resurged,

and NATO, which took over command of the country in October, last month agreed to a small increase in troop numbers.

The Afghan Ministry of Interior has authorized a 62,000 person-strong force, but approximately 70,000 are on the payroll. And yet only about half those were trained and equipped to handle their duties, the U.S. report said.

State Department spokeswoman Susan Pittman argued that the numbers were outdated and there were now approximately 50,000 police trained and equipped. Still, the program has faced an attrition rate as high as 30 percent because some recruits have been pressured to return home to care for their families and some policemen have complained their superiors take a portion of their pay.

## Saddam genocide trial wraps up witness phase

BAGHDAD—A court trying Saddam Hussein for genocide against ethnic Kurds in 1988 agreed on Monday to a prosecution request to stop listening to more witnesses, a move that could speed up proceedings in the three-month trial.

Saddam, who is awaiting an appeal against a death sentence from a separate case for the killing of Shi'ite villagers in the 1980s, is on trial along with six co-defendants for the Anfal military campaign which prosecutors say killed up to 180,000 people. The Anfal trial opened in a Baghdad courtroom on August 21 and has heard more than 70 witnesses in 27 hearings, most of whom have described the campaign that ravaged Kurdistan. As a comparison, the court in the Dujail case for which Saddam was sentenced to hang, held 40-odd hearings during one year of proceedings, many of which were disrupted by Saddam's political strides and

defence counsel boycotts.

The chief judge in Anfal, who has indicated a readiness to get down to business, ordered proceedings to continue on Wednesday, when prosecutors are expected to present documents linking Saddam to the killing of Kurds, court officials said.

The nine-judge Appellate Chamber, which could amend both the verdict and the death sentence of the Dujail case, has unlimited time to make a ruling. The Iraqi High Tribunal rules say any execution must follow a final decision within 30 days. The Shi'ite-led government, which has been accused of political interference, says Saddam should be hung this year. But sources inside the Tribunal say an appeal ruling could be timed for some point next year to coincide with the end of the genocide trial so Kurds too would feel their grievances had been heard.

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## UN health agency launches pharmaceuticals sector review

GENEVA—The World Health Organisation launched on Monday its first intergovernmental review of the pharmaceuticals sector to try to find ways of making medicines more easily available to the world's poorest people.

In their five-day talks, the World Health Organisation's 193 member countries are expected to look at how international patents limit access by keeping drug prices high, and to highlight areas now lacking investment, such as tropical and parasitic diseases.

A WHO commissioned report earlier this year drawn up by former Swiss President Ruth Dreifuss slammed the existing drug development, marketing and pricing system. The issue is highly sensitive for developing countries who say that patent protections make life-saving medicines inaccessible.

Few expect the WHO members to recommend big changes to the intellectual property system, which the pharmaceutical industry says is crucial for drug innovation. But they are nonetheless expected to lay down an action plan in a report due to be completed by 2008.

Ellen T'Hoof of the Medicines Sans Frontières campaign for access to essential medicines said the Geneva talks should clearly identify current public health needs and priority areas for research and development. She said epidemics such as HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis would not be stopped without new drugs and better diagnostic tests, and expanded generic drug manufacturing and distribution.

## Coup fears as troops disarm police in Fiji

Troops have emptied Fijian police armouries of weapons, escalating the South Pacific nation's political crisis but stopping short of unseating the elected government of Prime Minister Laisenia Qarase. Armed forces chief Commander Frank Bainimarama claims that Qarase's regime is corrupt



**Breakdown by ethnic group**

Group	Percentage
Fijian	51%
Indian	44%
Other	5%



Frank Bainimarama

► **Demands:** Abandon three contentious bills and formally remove Fiji's police chief, Australian Andrew Hughes, from his post

► **Compromise:** Qarase has offered to suspend bill to grant pardons to conspirators in 2000 coup, and two other bills which Bainimarama says unfairly favour indigenous Fijians in land rights over ethnic Indian minority

► **Fiji:** Concerns of another coup could devastate Fiji's local economy, based on tourism and sugar. South Pacific nation of 906,000 people has endured three coups since 1987

Sources: Wire agencies © GRAPHIC NEWS

## Fiji PM: military staging coup

SUVA—Fiji's embattled prime minister said a coup was underway in the South Pacific island nation on Tuesday, as the military raided key installations and set up roadblocks throughout the capital Suva.

Troops surrounded the residence of Prime Minister Laisenia Qarase, isolating him from the rest of the capital. About 40 troops armed with M16s cut off the road leading to Qarase's residence and positioned themselves at the rear of his home, after earlier confiscating his motor vehicles. Qarase is inside his home meeting with several cabinet ministers.

"There is virtually a coup taking place. They

have strangled the police force, they have neutralised them and now they are strangling the government machinery," Qarase told Radio New Zealand on Tuesday.

The Fiji Times newspaper said on Tuesday the country was witnessing a "coup by strangulation".

The country has had three coups since 1987. Military commander Frank Bainimarama has repeatedly threatened to topple Qarase's government, which won a second five-year term in May, claiming it is corrupt. Heavily armed troops set up roadblocks throughout Suva on Monday, including around Qarase's office, and other towns like Nadi, the tourism hub in

the west of the main island of Viti Levu.

Soldiers also raided key police installations and removed the weapons of the police's only armed unit on Monday and disarmed the bodyguards of Qarase and other government ministers.

Qarase and Bainimarama have been embroiled in a power struggle all year. Bainimarama gave the government a list of "non-negotiable" demands a fortnight ago and threatened a "clean-up campaign".

Bainimarama believes Qarase's government has been too soft on those behind Fiji's last coup in 2000 and wants certain government members removed from office.

## World to see 380 million diabetic patients by 2025

CAPE TOWN—The global diabetes epidemic is projected to affect 7 percent of the world's adult population by 2025 as developing countries embrace bad health habits associated with affluence, medical experts said on Monday.

The stark picture painted by the rapid worldwide spread of the disease—expected to affect 380 million people in 20 years time—was illustrated by a new "Diabetes Atlas", launched at the World Diabetes Congress in Cape Town.

"This is an epidemic that some might have thought impossible," Martin Sliem, incoming president of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF), told a news conference. "The enormity of the epidemic has suddenly become apparent to everyone."

Experts say diabetes kills as many people as HIV/AIDS and is emerging as one of the chief public health challenges of the 21st Century, especially in developing nations. The IDF estimates that diabetes—a chronic condition that occurs when the body either cannot produce or utilise insulin, which is key in processing sugar—already affects 246 million across the world, up from just 30 million two decades ago.

Diabetes is blamed for the deaths of about 3.8 million people each year, mostly through complications such as strokes and heart attacks. Every year, 7 million people are afflicted with diabetes, most of them in developing countries where economic progress is bringing with it "lifestyle diseases" such as obesity, once mostly found in rich countries.

Experts say public health measures urging people to watch their diets and exercise more—something which has not resonated in rich Western countries—are still the single most important tool to fight

the epidemic. Researchers will also hear the latest results from drug trials targeted at stopping or preventing the disease.

The Diabetes Atlas showed that type 2, or adult-onset diabetes is now spreading quickest in the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East. The United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, for example, have diabetes prevalence rates of between 16 and 20 percent of their adult populations.

The small South Pacific nation of Nauru has the world's highest prevalence of diabetes at more than 30 percent, while India and China have the greatest numbers of diabetics at about 40 million apiece, the Atlas showed.

Jonathan Shaw of the International Diabetes Institute in Melbourne, Australia, said future projections showed diabetes spreading most quickly in developing countries through 2025. South America is expected to see rates double, Africa an 80 percent increase and the Indian subcontinent a 56 percent jump.

"This is not just a health issue, this is not just a social welfare issue, this is an economic issue," he said, adding that many of the most severely impacted countries were poorly placed to cope with rising health costs associated with diabetes care.

The Atlas also shows the impact of Western style, urban lives on the spread of diabetes, comparing people of similar ethnic backgrounds who live in different economic environments. Arabs in rural Tunisia, for example, have a diabetes prevalence of less than 10 percent but in the United Arab Emirates—where high-rises, shopping malls and freeways dot the landscape—the prevalence rate is about twice as high, Shaw said.



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# Poisoning case damaging British-Russia relations

MOSCOW—Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Monday the Litvinenko poisoning case was hurting ties with Britain, which sent detectives to Moscow as part of the investigation into the ex-KGB spy's death. Lavrov said investigations in Britain of high-level Russian involvement in Alexander Litvinenko's death were "unacceptable", adding: "It is of course damaging our relations."

British police officers flew to Russia to widen their probe into the death of Litvinenko, who died in a London hospital on Nov. 23 from a lethal dose of radioactive polonium-210. Both Russia and Britain believe Litvinenko's death should not be politicised, Lavrov added. "If there are any questions, they should be put through law enforcement agencies," Interfax quoted him as saying.

In Brussels, British Home Secretary John Reid said Moscow has "assured us we'll get all the cooperation necessary."

Associates of Litvinenko have alleged either Kremlin involvement in his killing or that rogue elements in Russia's state security service were responsible. Before he died, Litvinenko, a former Russian state security service agent who became

## On the poison trail of Litvinenko's killer

As British investigators await the results of an autopsy on the body of Alexander Litvinenko, a second man, who met with the former KGB agent on the day he fell ill, has tested positive for radioactive polonium-210

► Oct 26: Group of men, described by police as key witnesses, enter UK on flight from Moscow among secret fare heading to Arsenal-CRMA match

► Oct 31: Former-KGB agent Andrei Lagoroy (left) flies in from Moscow to Heathrow with family to attend match

► Nov 1: Litvinenko leaves home and heads for central London, visiting four locations

1 Isu sushi bar: Meets Iskon academic and security consultant Mario Scaramella

2 Millennium Hotel: Meets Lugovoy and two other Russians, Oleg Kovtun and Vyacheslav Sokolov

3 7 Down Street: Office of self-styled Russian tycoon and Kremlin critic Boris Beresovsky (right), who owns Muscov Hill home where Litvinenko family live

4 Grosvenor Street: Office of private security firm Enkys International

► Nov 3: Admitted to Bannet Hospital after two days of vomiting and diarrhoea

one of President Vladimir Putin's sharpest critics in the London-based Russian émigré community, accused Putin of ordering his death.

The Kremlin has denied any role in the killing, and Kremlin opponents also find the theory of Putin's involvement improbable, noting such a high-profile

killing on foreign soil could only damage him.

British detectives are likely to try to interview Russian citizens who met Litvinenko at London's Millennium Hotel on Nov. 1, the day he fell ill. Andrei Lagoroy, a former KGB agent, says he and businessman Dmitry Kovtun met Litvinenko that

Litvinenko publicly accused Russian president Vladimir Putin of involvement in murder of Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya, shot dead outside her Moscow apartment on Oct 7

► Positive tests for polonium-210  
Nine London sites plus two aircraft

Heathrow airport: Investigation extended to five airlines, three from British Airways, flying between London and Moscow

► Nov 17: Transferred to University College Hospital when condition worsens, treated for suspected thallium poisoning

► Nov 22: Litvinenko dies, scientists later confirm death due to polonium poisoning

► Dec 1: Sokolov (right) is second person to test positive for polonium-210

day at the hotel. But Lagoroy, now back in Moscow, says they discussed a business opportunity and denied anything to do with an attempt on Litvinenko's life.

Alex Goldfarb, a London-

based friend of Litvinenko, said the British investigators should see another ex-KGB agent, Mikhail Trepsashin, who had what he called "substantive information". Trepsashin, serving a four-

year sentence in an Urals prison for divulging state secrets, said in a letter last Friday that the FSB, the Russian state security service, had created a hit squad to kill Litvinenko and other enemies of the Kremlin.

Britain's Health Protection Agency said on Monday two more hotels in central London had been checked for radiation. Several other locations in the capital and some aircraft have also been checked amid a public health scare.

In addition, the Foreign Office said Britain's embassy in Moscow would be tested for radiation as a precautionary measure in the next day or two.

Among the other London locations caught up in the probe was the Parkes Hotel in upmarket Knightsbridge. The Sunday Times newspaper said this was where Lagoroy stayed when he visited London on his first of three trips in October. The agency has so far tested 99 urine samples.

"The only urine sample that the agency has examined that has shown higher levels of polonium-210, relates to an adult family member (of Litvinenko)," it said.

## Polish deputy PM under pressure over sex report

WARSAW—The Polish government faced pressure on Monday to dismiss a deputy prime minister after a woman accused him and other members of his party of recruiting employees in return for sex.

The Gazeta Wyborcza newspaper published a front-page story accusing Andrzej Lepper, one of 153 of the 460 seats in the lower house of parliament and is heavily dependent on its coalition allies.

The report is an embarrassment to Kaczynski's government which came to power a year ago promising a "moral revolution" and higher standards in politics after a string of scandals under the previous leftist administration.

The government did not immediately comment. A senior Law and Justice party official said there would be no official comment until more information about the accusations was available.

Lepper denied the allegations and called for an investigation by the public prosecutor's office. "I had no sexual relations with this woman. I want this to be clarified immediately by prosecutors," he told reporters.

Poland's news agency PAP said the public prosecutor

would start an inquiry into the case immediately.

Opposition parties called on Prime Minister Jaroslaw Kaczynski to dismiss Lepper, who leads one of two small parties that support the main conservative Law and Justice party in the governing coalition.

Kaczynski's party holds only 153 of the 460 seats in the lower house of parliament and is heavily dependent on its coalition allies.

The report is an embarr-

assment to Kaczynski's government which came to power a year ago promising a "moral revolution" and higher standards in politics after a string of scandals under the previous leftist administration.

The government did not immediately comment. A senior Law and Justice party official said there would be no official comment until more information about the accusations was available.



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# Blair pledges to renew Britain's nuclear arsenal

LONDON—Prime Minister Tony Blair pledged Britain would keep its nuclear arsenal well into the 21st century on Monday, saying it would be unwise and dangerous for it to give up its deterrent unilaterally.

Unraveling a policy document in parliament, Blair said the government planned to order up to four new, nuclear-armed submarines to replace its existing nuclear defence which will reach the end of its life in 2024.

In a concession to dozens of legislators in his Labour Party who oppose a new nuclear weapons system, Blair said Britain would cut its nuclear warheads by 20 percent to fewer than 160 and might reduce its submarine fleet to three from four. The decision keeps Britain in a nuclear club comprising all five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council—the others are the United States, Russia, China and France.

Blair argued that Britain needed a deterrent as an insurance against future unpredictable threats, particularly given the growing risk from so-called "rogue states".

"We cannot be certain in the decades ahead that a major nuclear threat to our strategic interests will not emerge," Blair told parliament. "There

is also a new and potentially hazardous threat from states such as North Korea which claims already to have developed nuclear weapons, or Iran which is in breach of its non-proliferation duties." North Korea carried out a nuclear test in October and the West accuses Iran of seeking to make an atomic bomb, although Tehran denies it. India and Pakistan possess nuclear weapons and Israel is widely believed to have them but has never confirmed it.

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and scores of Labour parliamentarians, however, say Britain is contributing to nuclear proliferation by replacing Trident. They argue there is no need for a costly deterrent now the Cold War has ended.

Britain's nuclear defence consists of Trident missiles carried on board four Vanguard-class nuclear-powered submarines, but it will reach the end of its life in 2024.

The government's policy paper, known as a white paper, said it estimated the cost of four new submarines would be 15 billion to 20 billion pounds, although it would decide at a later date what whether three new craft would be enough. It also said the government would join a U.S. programme to extend the life

of the U.S.-made Trident D5 missiles carried by Britain's Vanguard submarines.

Blair's announcement to parliament and the publication of a policy document signalled the start of weeks of debate, which will culminate in a parliamentary vote early next year. He is expected to be able to win the vote with the support of the opposition Conservatives despite a Labour revolt.

The issue is sensitive for Labour, which was committed to unilateral nuclear disarmament until former leader Neil Kinnock scrapped the pledge in the late 1980s.



Crew from HMS Vanguard, a British Royal Navy Vanguard class Trident Ballistic Missile Submarine, look out from the conning tower as they return along the Clyde river to the Faslane naval base near Glasgow, on Scotland Monday.

## EU ducks decision on growing GMO potato

BRUSSELS—Europe revealed its deep-seated differences over genetically modified (GMO) foods on Monday, failing to agree on whether to let farmers grow a GMO potato—the EU's first attempt in eight years to approve a biotech crop for cultivation.

Under the EU's complex weighted voting system, the experts' failure to reach a consensus either to approve or reject the application means the matter must be passed to EU ministers.

If the ministers fail to agree after three months, the European Commission, the EU's executive arm, gains the legal power to issue an approval: a method used in the EU several times since May 2004 to approve new GMO products for import.

That would make the potato, known as Amylopectin, the first GMO product for growing to gain EU approval since 1998. Shortly after that date, the bloc started its de facto moratorium on new biotech authorisations that ended in 2004.

The potato, engineered by German chemicals group BASF to yield high amounts of starch, would be used only for industrial processing to make items such as paper. It is not designed to be consumed by humans or used in animal feed.

The experts' debate was keenly watched for signs that the EU might have changed tack on biotech approvals after the World Trade Organisation ruled this year that the bloc was illegally blocking GMO food imports. The EU will not appeal.

The European Union has long been split on GMO policy and the EU's 25 countries consistently clash over whether to approve new varieties for import—but without reaching a conclusion. In Europe, consumers are well known for their scepticism, if not hostility, to GMO crops, often dubbed as "Frankenstein foods". But the international biotech industry says its products are perfectly safe and no different to conventional foods.

Just last week, Britain gave the go-ahead to research trials for another GMO potato—also made by BASF, but for resisting potato blight. It will not be used for food or feed.

## Brussels to give Serbia incentive after NATO

BRUSSELS—The European Union will keep its war crimes condition for talks with Serbia but plans to offer Belgrade a new incentive after NATO's surprise move to launch closer ties with the country, the bloc's enlargement chief said.

Enlargement Commissioner Oli Rehn said Brussels wanted next week's EU foreign ministers' meeting to signal to Serbia that it could get on a fast track towards eventual EU membership once it complies fully with the U.N. war crimes tribunal. The Commission froze negotiations on a first-level agreement with Belgrade in May after Serbia failed to keep a promise to arrest and hand over indicted war crimes fu-

gure Ratko Mladic.

"I would rather maintain rigorous conditionality but raise the stakes," Rehn told Reuters in an interview on Monday.

"Once Serbia is able to meet its obligations (on war crimes), thanks to its substantial institutional capacity, it can rapidly catch up and make rapid progress towards the next stage in the European integration process," he said.

The next stage after a Stabilisation and Association Agreement would be to receive official candidate status, followed by the start of membership negotiations.

Earlier, EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana said the 25-nation bloc should review whether to resume

talks with Serbia after a general election there on Jan. 21.

Solana praised NATO's decision to invite Serbia, Bosnia and Montenegro to take the first step towards eventual membership of the defence alliance despite unresolved war crimes issues. "I think NATO took a very wise decision on opening the door to Partnership for Peace for the three countries from the Western Balkans," Solana told a news conference after a regular EU-NATO ambassadors' meeting.

NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer stressed that the alliance still expected Belgrade to cooperate fully with the U.N. war crimes tribunal.

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United States Marine Lance Corporal Daniel Smith (C) is escorted from a courtroom by the police after he was found guilty of rape and sentenced to life imprisonment in a Manila courtroom on Monday.

## Philippine court finds Marine guilty of rape

MANILA—A Philippine court found one of four U.S. Marines guilty of raping a Filipino woman inside a van at a former U.S. navy base last year, sentencing the 21-year-old sailor to life in prison for "bestial acts".

The three other Marines were acquitted on Monday after a seven-month trial, which had prompted small protests against U.S.-Philippine military ties and intense local media interest.

The Philippine government hailed the result but said the verdict would do nothing to harm close relations with the United States, which provides funding, equipment and training to Filipino troops fighting Muslim and communist rebel groups.

"The court is morally convinced that Lance Corporal Daniel Smith committed the crime charged," a clerk said, reading the decision of Judge Benjamin Pison to a hushed, packed courtroom. The verdict, which included an order for Smith to pay 100,000

pesos (\$2,000) in damages to the victim and her family, will automatically go to a higher court for review.

Less than two hours after the ruling, a U.S. navy plane whisked the three acquitted Marines out of the Philippines to rejoin their unit in Okinawa, Japan. "This has been a difficult and emotional matter for all involved, and for their families and friends," the U.S. embassy, which had kept custody of the four Marines during the case, said in a statement.

Smith did not flinch when the verdict was read out but a quick volley of applause broke out inside the court. The victim, a 25-year-old management accounting graduate given the pseudonym "Nicole", burst into tears and said "Thank God".

"I am saddened the three got acquitted," the woman said, adding she was "willing to endure everything" in what was likely to be a prolonged legal battle during Smith's appeal.

The judge ordered Smith to be temporarily held at a jail in Manila while the two governments, bound by a Visiting Forces Agreement, resolve where he should serve his sentence. Before sun down, local police brought Smith to the Makati City jail where he will spend the night while his lawyers petition a higher court to reverse Pison's order.

Citing the Visiting Forces Agreement, U.S. embassy officials argued that Smith could remain under U.S. custody until after a final decision was made by the Supreme Court, which will review the lower court's ruling.

On the streets outside the court, 300 protesters, mainly women, cheered and punched the air triumphantly. Placards read "Jail the Rapists" and "U.S. troops out now".

During the controversial case, critics argued the Visiting Forces Agreement gives U.S. soldiers too much protection.

## WHO launches new drive for malaria vaccine by 2015

BANGKOK—The World Health Organization launched a new global effort on Monday to find a vaccine against malaria, which infects up to 500 million people each year, and the donors to pay for it.

The Malaria Vaccine Technology Roadmap aims to develop and license a first generation vaccine by 2015 against the mosquito-borne disease which kills more than one million people a year, mainly African children.

"The Roadmap marks the first concerted global attempt at mapping out a shared plan of action for making a preventive malaria vaccine reality," Marie-Paule Kiery, a top WHO official, said, on the sidelines of a vaccine conference in Bangkok.

Malaria is one of the world's oldest diseases, but only \$79 million was invested on researching a vaccine in 2004, according to a report by the Malaria Research and Development Alliance. That is a fraction of the money spent on finding a cure for HIV/AIDS or, more recently, the H5N1 bird flu virus which has killed 154 people since 2003 but has fanned fears of a global human pandemic.

For years, malaria was not seen as a profitable area of research, but that is changing slowly through private-public partnerships, said Zahir Hussain Reed, a WHO expert on vaccine and immunization issues. "The attention drives the research. That's not to say bird flu doesn't deserve the attention, but it should not be about one disease hijacking the agenda," she told reporters.

The Roadmap aims to have a first-generation vaccine by 2015 that is 50 percent effective and would last longer than one year. It sets a goal for a second-generation vac-

cine by 2025 that is more than 80 percent effective and offer protection for more than four years.

The WHO said more than 30 potential vaccines were under development, but there was not enough capacity or money to test them in clinical trials, especially in countries where the disease is endemic.

To overcome these and other hurdles the Roadmap makes a series of recommen-

dations:

— Standardise procedures for assessing vaccine candidates and use the Internet to share information between laboratories and clinics.

— Diversify the search for a vaccine. — Build up capacity for clinical trials in Africa and other areas where malaria is endemic.

— Secure sustainable funding and develop a regulatory strategy to speed up approval of a safe vaccine.

## Chirac and Merkel to seek new EU deadline for Turkey

BRUSSELS—France and Germany plan to jointly urge the European Union to set a new deadline for Turkey to open its ports to Cyprus or face a harsher blow to its membership bid, despite a plea from the EU's enlargement chief.

The call for a review date will be the central theme at talks between French President Jacques Chirac and German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Tuesday in the German town of Mettlach, a source in Chirac's office said on Monday.

The European Commission has proposed partially suspending Ankara's EU entry negotiations over its failure to open its harbours and airports to traffic from Cyprus, but Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn argued against setting another deadline. "The idea is to have a formal review so at a given moment we can see if Turkey has changed and whether we can take back that decision or toughen it," the French source said. He gave no date for the re-

view.

On the eve of the Franco-German meeting, Rehn told Reuters such deadlines did not produce results and the Cyprus problem was best solved comprehensively by the United Nations. "I would ask Chancellor Merkel and President Chirac to look for a balanced solution which on the one hand shows the consequences of non-compliance by a candidate state but at the same time keeps the accession process with Turkey alive," he said in an interview.

Rehn also urged Cyprus and Greece to end what he called their "undeclared strike", which has blocked all progress in the Turkish accession negotiations since September.

Asked whether he saw a risk of Turkey walking away from the EU in disenchantment, he said the European Commission's proposal to suspend talks on eight out of 35 policy areas, known as chapters, was carefully calibrated to avoid that.

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# Airbus takes swing at Boeing on subsidies

PARIS—Airbus launched a preemptive strike against Boeing Co. over subsidies as it drew a veil over the funding of its own re-engineered A350 mid-sized jet on Monday, saying Boeing's rival 787 model was padded with government financing.

Anxious to avoid fueling a trans-Atlantic dispute over aircraft aid, the European plane maker refused to say whether it would apply for government development loans for the 10 billion euro (\$13.3 billion) jet but said nothing had been ruled out.

The subsidiary of European aerospace company EADS also hinted at a possi-

ble capital increase among a number of market measures it said it was considering to help pay for the project, which overlaps with costly delays to its A380 super-jumbo.

"We are all aware in our hearts that the 787 is based on highly subsidized spending. There is government funding on both sides of the Atlantic. We are discussing with governments future R&D funding, but other options are on the table," Airbus President and Chief Executive Louis Gallois said. "We have no imminent (cash) needs. We are only asking for a level playing

field. No decision has been taken or is imminent."

Boeing contends that the traditional practice of handing Airbus projects with development loans from the four governments that support Airbus—Britain, France, Germany and Spain—violates international standards on hidden subsidies. Washington supports Boeing's case and has launched what could become the largest trade dispute at the World Trade Organization, matched by a counter-suit from the European Union.

Airbus and Boeing nip at each other on an almost daily basis, but Monday's launch presentation for the latest version of the A350 represented a step-up in rhetoric from Airbus, which has previously taken a lower-key stance on government aid. "We are not in a defensive attitude. We are clearly in an offensive attitude on the heavily subsidized 787," Gallois said.

Airbus says Boeing benefits from over \$3 billion in tax breaks from Washington state and lost defense contracts from the U.S. government which reduce its costs on civil aircraft development. Boeing denies receiving any government assistance.

Pointing to alternative financing methods, the French government said it did not exclude participating in a capital increase. The government owns 15 percent of EADS. EADS shares closed 1.2 percent higher at 23.15 euros after trading lower earlier in the session.

Talk of a capital increase comes at an uncomfortable time for EADS' biggest shareholder DaimlerChrysler AG, which wants to cut its 22.5 percent stake to 15 percent. It is in talks with German banks about transferring the shares.



Plane maker Airbus President and Chief Executive Louis Gallois poses with a model of the Airbus A350 XWB before a news conference in Paris on Monday.

ter AG, which wants to cut its 22.5 percent stake to 15 percent. It is in talks with German banks about transferring the shares.

A German government spokesman said talks over finding investors in EADS were continuing.

Monday's slick presenta-

tion signaled the start in earnest of a commercial dogfight between Airbus and Boeing for a rapidly growing segment of the \$30 billion world aircraft market, which saw record sales last year.

Boeing was first to spot opportunities for long-range air travel spanning 200 to

350 seats, as Airbus turned its back on the mid-sized market to bet on size with its A380 superjumbo. Airbus then came up with a cheaper A350 design that sold poorly. The European plane-maker responded in July by abandoning a 30-year-old fuselage design in favor of a

## EU moves to boost ties with energy neighbours

BRUSSELS—The European Commission on Monday urged the bloc to boost ties with eastern neighbours vital for future energy supplies and held out to them the prospect of trade pacts and increased economic assistance.

The EU executive called for billions of euros in loans and investment to help members of its European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) improve energy and other infrastructure and for steps to make it easier for their citizens to get visas to visit the EU.

In a policy paper, the EU executive also urged greater EU efforts to help resolve "frozen conflicts" left over from the Cold War in former Soviet states bordering Russia, and a stronger diplomatic presence in the EU's neighbourhoods.

"We cannot buy reforms in these countries. What we can do is support them," EU External Relations Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner, who wrote the paper, told a news briefing. "The potential cost of not supporting reform on our borders would be very great."

In the east the ENP covers Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine, though talks with Belarus are suspended. Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Syria and Tunisia form the southern bloc.

Members are offered closer EU ties in return for economic and political reform. Ferrero-Waldner said she wanted to ensure

those in the east enjoyed the same benefits as those in the south, which were already working towards free trade areas.

"Now we want to work towards deep and comprehensive Free Trade Areas with all our neighbours, going beyond free trade in goods and services to address non-tariff barriers and move towards comprehensive regulatory convergence," she said.

Ferrero-Waldner said funding for cooperation with neighbours for 2007-2013 would be 12 billion euros, a real increase of nearly one-third over the previous six-year period.

The Commission planned to set aside 300 million euros (\$397 million) over six years to support governance reform in neighbouring states and 700 million euros as an investment fund. The latter would support lending by institutions such as the EIB and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and by member states and could help raise up to five times this amount, she said.

Ferrero-Waldner said eastern and southern states would receive the same financial support per capita, but Ukraine, Jordan and Morocco could expect special treatment because of their progress in reforms.

She said the risk presented by unreliable energy supplies, illegal immigration and terrorism made it vital to strengthen cooperation with EU neighbours. Ensuring secure energy supplies has become a policy priority for the EU.

### Opinion Poll:

## Europeans, Americans wary of China economy

BRUSSELS—Nearly 60 percent of Europeans and Americans see China's growing economic power as a threat although they are becoming more positive about globalisation in general, an opinion poll showed on Monday.

The survey, by the German Marshall Fund, a transatlantic think tank, comes as policymakers in Brussels and Washington are planning to update trade and investment ties with China, wary of its new economic might but keen for more of

its huge market.

Fifty-nine percent of Americans and Europeans see China's economy as a threat due to its low-cost imports and companies relocating to China, according to the poll which covered France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Britain and the United States. Only a third of respondents on both sides of the Atlantic considered China to be an opportunity.

Of the six European countries covered, 70 percent of people in France and only slightly fewer in Poland, Italy and Slovakia expressed fears over China's emerging economy. Traditionally free-trading Britain alone had more people who saw China as an opportunity than a threat, the survey found.

With European manufacturing coming under pressure from Asia, the European Commission has imposed anti-dumping duties on a range of Chinese exports, including leather shoes, saying they broke

international trade rules. European trade chief Peter Mandelson last month said Beijing must show Europe that free trade is a two-way street by lowering barriers to its big markets for foreign exporters and investors.

EU and Chinese negotiators are due to begin talks next month on a broad new bilateral agreement, including economic issues. U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson is leading a high-level Washington delegation to China later this month.

In potentially good news for attempts to break a deadlock in world trade talks, the poll showed 14 percent of respondents favoured globalisation in general, up from 46 percent in 2005. Possibly behind that was a fall in dissatisfaction about the local economy and 41 percent of Americans and 27 percent of Europeans were satisfied with the economy, up from 30 and 20 percent respectively in 2005, the survey found.

### Stock Market Report

Key Stock Movements December 4 2006

	Daily % Change	2005 Year	2006 Year
	CLOSE	IN POINTS	HIGH
NEW YORK	12,200.48	+80.32	12,140.36
			(Jan 20)
LONDON	6,098.4	+28.9	6,245.9
			(Jan 11)
TOKYO	16,360.39	-81.9	17,040.37
			(Jan 11)
FRANKFURT	6,290.22	+54.50	6,404.3
			(Jan 11)

### London Currency Filing Rates December 4 2006

Following are the middle exchange rates for leading currencies against the dollar:

	CURRENT	HIGH	LOW
Euro	1.3327	1.3361	1.3284
Japanese Yen	125.3	115.82	115.11
British Pound	1.9096	1.908	1.9022
Swiss Franc	1.1941	1.1908	1.1902
Australian Dollar	0.7898	0.7906	0.786
Canadian Dollar	2.116	2.117	2.118
Canadian Dollar	1.1299	1.1427	1.1399
Hong Kong Dollar	0.7794	0.7792	0.7792
Mexican Peso	10.927	11.0277	10.9284
South African Rand	7.12	7.21	7.1265

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*"Beautiful mere words just aren't enough to take away our grief, so we rely on God for help and in our belief."*

We regret to announce the death of



## MRS. DOROTHY ARRINDELL

**Sunrise:** October 12th, 1925

**Sunset:** November 27th, 2006

She leaves to mourn her:

- Husband:** Wilson Arrindell  
**Children:** Mr & Mrs Annette Luke & Family  
 Ernestine Hendrickson & Family  
 Salome Arrindell & Family  
 Rose Arrindell & Family  
 Loraine Arrindell & Family  
 Everett Arrindell  
 Charles Arrindell & Family  
 Mr & Mrs Franklin Arrindell & Family  
 Mr & Mrs Deyrell Arrindell & Family  
**Brother:** Philip Richardson (Anguilla)  
 Austin Bryan (Deceased)  
**Sisters:** 2 in St. Kitts and Jamaica  
**Grandchildren:** 22  
**Great Grandchildren:** 14  
**Close Friends:** Sister Joe & family, Sheila Bute & family, Edith Douglas & family, Bregie & family, Kanta D. Narwan, Rose Arrindell, Yvonne Mathew and Hilda Edwards

Brother in law, Sister in law, Cousins, Nieces, Nephews, other family member and friends too numerous to mention.

She was a member of the Baptist Church.

She was related to the: Bryan, Luke, Romney, Hendrickson, Felix, Richardson, Rogers, Hodges, Muzzington, Connor, Bradley, Brown, Henry, Libard, Proctor, Vanterpool, Leonard, Virginita, Horton, Webster and Fleming Families.

*Funeral service will be held on Tuesday December 5, 2006 at the New Testament Baptist Church, Phillipsburg.*  
*Viewing at 12:30 - 2 pm. Service at 2 pm.*  
*Burial at the Cut-de-Sac Cemetery.*

As the Lord giveth, He taketh away.

It is with deep sadness that we announce the death of our loving mother, grandmother and sister

## Mrs. Edith Salomie Chittick Helligar

a.k.a. Lencie

**Sunrise:** August 24th, 1937

**Sunset:** December 1st, 2006

She leaves to mourn her:

- Children:** Joceline Helligar  
 Maria Helligar  
 Bernard Helligar  
 James Helligar  
 Michael Helligar  
 Anthony Helligar  
 Diane Helligar  
**Grandchildren:** Cynthia Boney  
 Glanville Smith  
 Gwladys Boney  
 Sharon Smith  
 Angelique Helligar  
 Michael Helligar  
 Alissa Helligar  
 Iris Chittick  
 Suki  
 Ting Carly  
 Jean Cook  
 Alicia Orthey  
 Bernard Brooks  
**Cousins:** Betty Chittick  
 Maribel Castillo (U.S.A.)  
 Violet Holder (U.S.A.)  
 Edna Cook  
 James Fleming  
 Eunice Howell  
 Gertrude Cook  
 James Cook  
 Albert Chittick  
 Jean Chittick  
 Ferdinand Chittick  
 Theresa Chittick  
 Lavetta Chittick  
 Del Chittick  
 Theresa Jeanine  
 Elaine Reger  
 Carmen Blagie  
**Special Friends:** Mr. & Mrs. Joan-Luc Hammet  
 Mr. & Mrs. Radford Richardson (Anguilla)

Many other family members and friends too numerous to mention.

She was related to the: Helligar, Chittick, Brooks, Cooks, Jamin, Roban, Barry Arrindell, Hymel, Bryan, Gamble, Davis, Blagie, Fleming, London, Lambert & Duncan families.

*Funeral will take place on Wednesday, December 6th, 2006 at the Methodist Church in French Quarter.*  
*Viewing of the body will be from 2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.*  
*Service will start at 2:30 p.m.*  
*Interment will follow at the Methodist Cemetery.*



Psalm 23:

*The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.*

## We regret to announce the passing of Mr. Charles Lanval Wattley better known as Wattley or Landi

**Born:** March 28th, 1945 • **Died:** November 28th, 2006

Left to mourn are his:

- Wife:** Mrs. Elaine Wattley  
**Children:** Heather Wattley  
 Colleen Wattley  
 Karen Wattley  
 Charles Wattley II & fam.  
 Jacky Chapman & fam.  
 Paula Chapman & fam.  
 Lanval Chapman & fam.  
 Jane Smith & fam.  
 Spencer Pringle & fam.  
**Stepsons:** 12  
**Grandchildren:** 12  
**Brothers:** Cedrick Wattley & fam. (St. Kitts)  
 Michael Wattley & fam. (St. Kitts)  
 Ricky Basson & fam. (St. Kitts)  
 Purline Phillips & fam. (SXM)  
 Joannita Wattley & fam. (St. Kitts)  
**Sisters:**

Nieces, nephews and friends too numerous to mention.

He was related to the: Wattley, Barry, Phillips, Douglas, Ogario, Roban, John, Johnson, Basson, Skates, Fleming and Quashy families.

He was a former employee of the Princess Juliana International Airport.

*Funeral service will be held on Wednesday, December 6th, 2006 at the New Testament Baptist Church in Phillipsburg.*  
*Viewing from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Service at 3:00 p.m.*  
*Burial at the Cut-de-Sac cemetery.*

Goodbye can be the saddest word  
 and often it is not a word we are prepared for  
 But at a time like this, words that would make  
 a difference are few

We are always taught that everything has a season  
 and that though the summer must go to make room  
 for autumn and winter, there is always a spring.  
 Somehow those words don't seem enough  
 at a time like this.

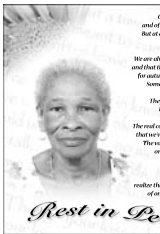
They are meant to comfort and console,  
 but often leave us feeling hollow.

The real comfort comes in knowing that we've cared  
 that we've invested ourselves and that we've loved.  
 The word is something no one can deny or fill  
 or talk away with words, but in grief,  
 we feel the magnitude of loss.

Though your loss is heavy  
 realize that your love was a great blessing in the life  
 of one... who heard the call to come home.

From Suki & Michel Helligar

## Rest in Peace Mom

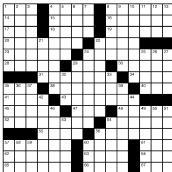


## ACROSS

- 1 Sis or bro  
4 Overhaul  
8 Molto or slogan, e.g.  
14 Rocky pinnacle  
15 Kuwaiti ruler  
16 Wanderer  
17 Fuss  
18 Fineside yarn  
19 Excursion  
20 Aluminum wrapping  
22 Helen or Bonnie  
23 Not hip at all  
24 Walking like a duck  
28 Capital of South Korea  
29 Damage to a degree  
30 Family car  
31 Paraphrases  
34 Signoret film, "Madame"  
35 Have a meal  
38 Portal  
40 Statute  
41 Political group  
43 Baltimore birds  
45 Greek letters  
47 Travel stopover  
48 Tabernacle table  
52 In an agitated state  
54 Funrow  
55 Lift one's voice  
56 Floating bridge support  
57 Tranquil  
60 Seneca or skirt lead-in  
61 Tango number  
62 Gaffer Gary  
63 Unwrap  
64 Walkie garland  
65 Bandleader  
66 Actress  
67 Gertrude  
68 Blunder

## DOWN

- 1 State of affairs  
2 First-aid topical  
3 Denver pro



12/5/06

## Monday's Puzzle Solved

SUM	JAPANESE	SCRIMP
AGO	IIVAN	WOODS
SLUGGARD	ANNEAL	
GITEE	RNC	ATE
USE	HEADPHONE	
USE	WALDO	ANKLE
RIDS	DIMS	LIEIN
IDOLS	LEI	STYLE
ALFIS	CRUISE	SLAM
HEFTS	MUNRO	ICY
STRONG	ROOM	
ESA	IAN	LOESS
REARND	ETHIOPIA	
MACRAE	FOOT	INC
ASSESS	FREE	EEK

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12/5/06

- 39 Longing  
42 Atwood novel  
44 One-armed bandit  
46 Black eye  
49 Play a flute  
50 Confessor  
51 Impressionist painter  
53 Motionless  
54 Hopeless case  
56 Meerschaum or cornucopia  
57 Mineral spring  
58 Building extension  
59 Quick blow  
60 Unruly crowd

# Age no barrier to anorexia, illness afflicts children

LONDON—Mary Oaten's daughter was a happy, healthy girl who loved table tennis and drama until at the age of 10 she developed anorexia. Twelve years on she is still fighting the illness, which almost killed her.

"I was absolutely distraught," said Oaten, 54. "It is the worst thing in the world to know your daughter might die."

At her darkest point, Oaten said her daughter existed on few flakes of cereal a day, washed down with a mouthful of water.

Children as young as seven can suffer from eating disorders. The illness also afflicts older women as well as men and boys, though it is most common in young women, health experts say.

In Britain, about five to ten percent of women aged 14 to 24 suffer from some form of eating disorder. The ratio falls to 1 percent for the whole female population, said Professor Janet Treasure, head of the eating disorders service and research unit at King's College London.

Bulimia nervosa, when a person binge and vomits, is two to five times more common than anorexia nervosa, when someone restricts their intake of food and drink, she said. Both psychiatric disorders, can be fatal—two models from Latin America died this year after becoming anorectic—or cause permanent health defects such as brittle bones and infertility.

For Oaten's daughter, who wanted to remain anonymous, the fear of changes to her body as she approached adolescence coupled with bullying at school drove her to stop eating. Her weight plunged and she ended up in hospital where she was treated as an inpatient and eventually allowed home. Two years later, however, she developed bulimia.

Now, at 22, she has had surgery for a prolapsed bowel and still makes herself sick, but she is trying to get better, said Oaten, who has used her experience with eating disorders to set up a support group in Hall, northern England, to help others.



Brazilian model Ana Carolina Reston, who died on November 14, 2006 in Sao Paulo from a generalized infection caused by anorexia, poses in this undated headshot. In Britain, about five to ten percent of women aged 14 to 24 suffer from some form of eating disorder.

## Children As Young As 7 Have Anorexia

Doctor Jon Goldin, a consultant child and adolescent psychiatrist at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in London, said: "We see children here as young as seven or eight with anorexia but that is very rare."

Asked why youngsters develop a problem with food

so early on, he said: "One contributing factor is that maybe children are under more pressure now than they were 10 or 20 years ago and somehow childhood is being prematurely shortened."

A perception in society that thin is glamorous, compounded by images of waif-like celebrities in magazines, is another of the many fac-

tors that triggers anorexia and bulimia.

But far from being sexy, the reality of the illness is lonely and desperate. Victims say they secretly starve their bodies or binge and then vomit until there is nothing left but the taste of stomach acid on their lips. They often exercise obsessively and feel fat even when grossly underweight.

"I hated the hunger and the cold and the tiredness, but the feeling of being able to control what I ate was brilliant," said Rebecca Slack, now 25, who became anorexic when she was 15 and dropped to five stone (32 kilograms).

## Age No Barrier

Young people are not the only ones at risk.

Alison Alden, a married mother of three from southeast England, said starvation became a way of life when she was 43, prompted by a desire to lose weight at a time when she had been under pressure running a guest house. Over three years, she dropped from 8 stone 7 (55 kilograms) to less than 6 stone (38 kilograms), but felt: "This couldn't be anorexia because I had never been ill in that way and I was too old."

Alden decided to get help for the sake of her family or she would die. She went to a doctor who diagnosed her as having anorexia fuelled by depression. He prescribed her some anti-depressants that helped strengthen her resolve to recover.

# CBS extends "Late Show" contract with Letterman

NEW YORK—Late-night TV comedian David Letterman extended his contract with the CBS network on Monday in a deal that will keep him hosting the network's "Late Show" through the fall of 2010, a year past the retirement of his NBC rival Jay Leno. Financial terms of the contract renewal were not given.

"I'm thrilled to be continuing on at CBS," Letterman,

59, said in a statement. "At my age you really don't want to have to learn a new commute."

Letterman, who began his network TV career on NBC, marked his 13th anniversary as host the "Late Show" on Aug. 30 of this year and will celebrate 25 years in late-night comedy this coming February.

The CBS "Late Show with David Letterman", averaging 4.3 million viewers per show this season, has generally ranked second in the behind-NBC TV ratings wars behind NBC's rival program "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno". Leno, by comparison, currently draws a nightly audience of 5.7 million viewers.

Letterman hosted his original show, "Late Night", on

For most sufferers, the first

port of call is the doctor, who may refer him or her to an eating disorder unit at a hospital as an outpatient to receive advice on eating healthily as well as counselling to understand why the problem started. There is no straight answer, but research has uncovered a likely genetic aspect that triggers the disorder when coupled with factors such as the onset of puberty, pressure from society to achieve, bullying and a low self-esteem, Treasure said.

Among a range of warning signs is an obsessive interest in dieting and a reluctance to eat around others, said Goldin. It may take several years, but eating disorders can be cured and the faster they are spotted the greater the chance of recovery for people of all ages, the two experts said.

"It's all about having a reason to get better and building strategies to cope," said Alden, now 47, who has written a book, "Sleeping Dragons and Poppy Seeds", about her struggle.

## TV 15 (local) St. Maarten Cable TV

Local time	Programme
<b>Tuesday, December 5</b>	
8:00am	Replay AVS News
8:30am	Replay GBS Bulletin
9:00am	Prime Time Caribbean
5:00pm	Music Videos
5:30pm	Prime Time Caribbean
6:00pm	GBS Production
6:30pm	Kiko to Kiko
7:00pm	In Expat
7:30pm	AVS News
8:00pm	Oral Gibbes Live
9:00pm	Island Life Domination
9:30pm	Westwood Park
10:00pm	St. Maarten Lottery
10:05pm	Kiko to Kiko
10:30pm	Rabbi's Lottery
10:35am	ICC Cricket World
11:00pm	AVS News
11:30pm	Caribbean Newsline

## TeleCarrao Channel 30 St. Maarten Cable TV

Local time	Programme
<b>Tuesday, December 5</b>	
6:30am	Mora Bonita
9:30am	Ban Hula e Standard
10:00am	Ernest
12:00pm	Al Dia
12:30pm	TeleCarrao Media
1:00pm	Tu's Mordida
3:30pm	Telugu
3:45pm	Cartoons
4:00pm	Believe & After Magazine (i)
5:00pm	Kiko to Kiko (i)
6:00pm	Deportes
7:00pm	Buen Prochecho
7:30pm	Tama Neta Sindical
7:45pm	Ban Papa Tatinio
8:00pm	Telenovela
9:00pm	Waga di Number Kerosa
9:05pm	Participacion di Morte
9:15pm	Dan Nos Kas
10:15pm	Telenovela (i)
11:15pm	Nova Den Haag vanding
12:00am	Estimote
1:30am	Night TV 8

## BYN (Dutch/Flemish) TV Channel 46 St. Maarten Cable TV

Local time	Programme
<b>Tuesday, December 5</b>	
11:00am	NOS Journal
11:35am	Prinsenvoetballers Sintmaarten
11:30am	Her ikkeldien
11:45am	Mus & Catherine
12:30pm	Overdeur Sintmaarten Journal
1:00pm + 7:00pm	Thuis
1:25pm + 7:25pm	Ordering super morgen
1:50pm + 7:50pm	De vrede is hier
2:10pm + 8:10pm	VRT Journal
2:50pm + 8:50pm	Een vinding
3:20pm + 9:20pm	Sportjournaal
3:25pm + 9:25pm	NOS Journal
3:50pm + 9:50pm	Wachterijen
3:55pm + 9:55pm	Huisman
4:35pm + 10:35pm	Holland Sport
5:25pm + 10:25pm	Gewoon Jan Smit
5:50pm + 11:50pm	Met het oog op tafel
6:15pm + 12:15pm	Nieuws Den Haag vanding
6:45pm + 12:45am	Mus hip bond







Director Steven Spielberg and singer Dolly Parton attend the Kennedy Center Honors Gala at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, on Sunday.

## Washington, entertainment elite at Kennedy Honors

WASHINGTON—Washington's elite hosted an eclectic mix of entertainers ranging from multiple-Oscar winner Tom Hanks to pop singer Jessica Simpson at the Kennedy Center Honors on Sunday, paying tribute to five superstars for their lifetime contributions to the arts and American culture.

U.S. President George W. Bush and his wife, Laura, led a mainly political audience as they stoically watched a gala performance at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts to honor movie mogul Steven Spielberg, country singer Dolly Parton, musical theater composer and stage producer Andrew Lloyd Webber, conductor Zubin Mehta and singer-songwriter Smokey Robinson.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, however, showed no inhibitions sitting next to her boss as she was nearly bounding out of her seat to dance to magnificent performances of Robinson classics such as "The Tracks of My Tears" and "My Girl" as performed by the Temptations and Sam Moore.

Following tradition, the honorees were not told who would perform in their tribute before the event. Parton looked surprised and thrilled when country singer Kenny Rogers strutted on stage to perform their hit song "Islands in a Stream" with Carrie Underwood as the Tennessee native watched from the presidential box.

Parton appeared to be

significantly less impressed as tabloid queen Simpson badly flubbed a performance of the song "9 to 5" and apologized to Parton from the stage.

Two of Spielberg's leading men—Hanks from "Saving Private Ryan" and Liam Neeson from "Schindler's List"—honored him for his contributions to the historical record of some of the most important events of the 20th century, rather than for his blockbuster hits such as "Jaws," "E.T." and "Raiders of the Lost Ark". Hanks invited World War II veterans and a Holocaust survivor to the stage to thank Spielberg for his films. Harold Baumgarten, a veteran of the exact spot in the Normandy D-Day invasion portrayed in "Saving Private Ryan," praised Spielberg for "showing it exactly as it happened."

The tribute for London native Webber included performances from his masterpieces "The Phantom of the Opera" and "Cats".

Mehta, the first Indian to receive the Kennedy Center honors and now music director of the New York Philharmonic, was honored by violinist Pinchas Zukerman.

Now in its 29th year, the Kennedy Center chooses its honorees based on the recommendations from a diverse nominating committee whose members range from comedic actor Dan Aykroyd to opera singer Beverly Sills. The show will be broadcast on the CBS television network on Dec. 26.

## Abstract artist lands coveted Turner Prize

LONDON—German-born artist Jannis Ahts on Monday became the first woman painter to land the Turner Prize in the 22-year history of one of the art world's most controversial awards.

The abstract painter, who has lived in London for the past 12 years, received the 25,000-pound (\$40,500) award from Yoko Ono and said afterwards in a subdued acceptance speech: "Thank you so much. It is a real honour to receive this prize."

Critics lauded the Kiel-born artist with writer Meredith Eiberington-Smith telling Reuters: "They are very subtle—it

is like looking at a drawing by an Old Master. They put me in mind of a 16th century minimalist."

Mark Rappolt, editor of Art-Review, agreed: "They are very small works with a lot going on in them. They are open to many different approaches."

But there were dissenting voices too. Charles Thomson, who heads the Stuckist Movement that stages demonstrations every year against the Turner, said of Ahts: "Her work deserves a prize for vacuous drabness. It looks like doodles done by a lo-homosexual computer." Sculptor Rebecca Warren had been hot favourite to land the prize

with her collection of non-life boxes full of ball and twigs.

But much of the pre-prize publicity centred on Phil Collins who set up an exhibit featuring a real-life office full of researchers wanting to interview people forever scared by their appearances on Reality TV shows. The shortlist was made up by Mark Titchner who uses everything from t-shirts to light boxes, adorning them with song lyrics and advertising slogans.

The Turner sparks controversy every year. Traditionalists argue that the prize is a travesty of modern art. But the show attracts up to 100,000 visitors

annually to the Tate Britain museum.

The Turner has certainly had its share of quirky winners. In 1995 BritArt "Bad Boy" Damien Hirst won with a pickled sheep. In 2003, transsexual potter Grayson Perry wore a frilly Shirley Temple dress to accept his award.

Artist Tony Kaye once tried to submit a home-made steel worker as his entry. Pop star Madonna notoriously swore live on television when presenting the prize in 2001 to Martin Creed who won with a bare room containing a light that switched on and off.

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## HOROSCOPE

By Linda C. Black

**Today's Birthday (December 5).** You have some great ideas you'd like to put into action this year. Get a coach who can help you turn fantasy into reality.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

**Aries (March 21-April 19)** - Today is a 9 - Do as much as you can over here in familiar territory. That'll give you more time for fun when you're over there.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)** - Today is a 4 - The temptation to over-spend is still very strong. If you must, only buy things that will greatly increase in value.

**Gemini (May 21-June 21)** - Today is an 8 - You're up against tough competition but that shouldn't bother you much. Put your heart into your presentation, and you'll change their opinions.

**Cancer (June 22-July 22)** - Today is a 5 - Look at your list of "to-dos" again, objectively. Could somebody else do some of them? Scratch off, delegate or hire.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)** - Today is a 9 - Your public and private personas are quite different, usually. Just assume the spotlight is always on you, 'cause it is.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** - Today is a 5 - You're in a time crunch as you race around, trying to get everything done. Luckily, you're good at this. Have fun.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** - Today is a 9 - Before you go racing off to buy new, check what you have on hand. You can save yourself both time and money and quite a bit of frustration.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** - Today is a 4 - You'll be buying and selling rapidly, if you want to make a huge profit. The possibility is there. Be decisive and move quickly.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** - Today is an 8 - You're in for some tough criticism. Luckily, you're in a good mood. Listen respectfully, and use the parts that will actually work.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** - Today is a 4 - As you get further into this project, you'll find all is not as you expected. Of course, now that you know that, you can have fewer expectations.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** - Today is a 9 - Tempers have cooled in some ways, and the climate has warmed up in others. Nobody's changed their minds, but everybody's laughing.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)** - Today is a 5 - Don't do a private project on company time. Nothing but grief will result, for you and everyone else.



**SEND LETTERS TO P.O. BOX 828**  
or e-mail [queenie@thedailyherald.com](mailto:queenie@thedailyherald.com)

**Dear Queenie,**

Every time I ask my husband why he loves me he just says, "Because you're you." I have told him many times why I love him but he refuses to do the same for me. I'm struggling to think he doesn't really love me and is trying to hide it.

Queenie, should I be worried about this?—**Insecure wife**

**Dear Insecure wife,**

Men are not good at expressing their emotions in words. Your husband probably doesn't know "why" he loves you, he just knows that he does. Stop nagging him about it before you damage his feelings for good.

**Note to my readers:** Due to the telecommunications problems over the weekend, I never received any e-mail on Saturday, Sunday and early Monday. If you sent me a letter during that time, please send it again now that service has been restored.

**Only notices of fund-raising events for non-profit or educational organisations will be placed in the Events/Notices column. Notices/Events should be sent to [notice@thedailyherald.com](mailto:notice@thedailyherald.com) in the format used on this page. Do not send photos or press releases to this address.**

**EVENTS****Tuesday, December 5****MOVIE**

Organised by Cineclub St. Maarten

Featuring: "I'M NOT SCARED"

Place: Anem, Frontstreet

Time: 8:00 pm

As Cineclub is a foundation, one must become a member for US\$10 (includes 1st movie). Each movie costs \$7.

**Thursday, December 7****BOOK LAUNCHING**

Title: 'The Status Scandal'

By Daniella Jeffry

Place: Belair Community Centre, in Cay Hill

Time: 7:00pm

She will also autograph her books at Librairie des Isles, Centre Llobregat, in Concordia, Marigot on Friday, December 8, starting 4:00pm.

For more information call 590 87 52 95 or 690 27 20 05, email: [daniellajeffry@wanadoo.fr](mailto:daniellajeffry@wanadoo.fr)

**Friday, December 8****4-COURSE DINNER**

Organised by Animals R Friends

Place: Le Bec Fin restaurant

Time: 7:00 to 11:00pm

Attire: Island Elegant

Tickets: US\$100

Proceeds to benefit 'Panes and Claws'

**NOTICES****School Registration**

Elvencor Learning Centre is registering children age 0 to 4, for more information call 548-4588 or visit the centre at Elvencor Road #92.

**Volunteers Needed**

Nature Foundation needs storytelling volunteers (English and/or Dutch speaking), to record pirate stories for a new educational program. Also help is requested for performing the 'turtle puppet show' in schools. For more information, contact Dominique at [dominique@naturefoundation.org](mailto:dominique@naturefoundation.org) or call 542-0267.

**Volunteers Needed**

The Special Olympics Foundation is looking for volunteers to assist in the training of athletes in Football, Track & Field, Bocci Ball, Swimming and Tennis. Volunteers are also needed to setup and maintain a database on the athletes training and progress. Interested persons are encouraged to call the National Director, Eileen Healy at 520-8408.

**Playing Badminton**

Orion Badminton Club invites all interested persons to join in badminton every Monday and Wednesday from 7:00 to 9:00pm at the gym of the St. Maarten Academy, L.B Scott Road. For more information call 553-2877.

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**Volunteers Needed**

Animals R Friends is looking for active Animal Lovers to help with different tasks. If you want to join us, please call: 5561191-5563688-5575799.

**Practice Sessions**

St. Martin Pony Baseball/Soccer League informs all players of Belvedere, Dutch Quarter and Middle Region areas that practice sessions will take place every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 3:00 to 6:00pm at Belvedere Ballpark.

**Tai Chi classes**

The Buddhist Compassionate Organisation: Tzu Chi is offering free Tai Chi classes at John LaRocca Centre on Longwall Road on Saturdays 8:30am-10am and Sundays 8:30am-10:30am.

**Daytime Bible Study**

God Answers Prayer (GAP) Ministries meets for Bible Study at the Rupert I. Maynard Community Centre, St. Peter Road, St. Peter. Every Thursday from 10:00am to 12:00 noon. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information call 548-3031 or 554-9590 or email [gopministry@net.net](mailto:gopministry@net.net) hotmail.com.

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# St. Kitts win Leeward Island

ST. KITTS—For the first time in 13 years St. Kitts tasted the thrill of a championship when they defeated Antigua and Barbuda by two wickets in their final 3-day Leeward Island encounter.

It was a tense and gripping affair as St. Kitts got to the victory target (208) with two balls to spare. The result meant that the visitors dethroned the home side to become the sole Leeward Islands cricket champions for the first time since they were joint champions with Nevis in 1993.

With the scores tied, wicket-keeper/batsman Jason Williams pulled the fourth ball of the last over for four to guarantee the St. Kitts victory. This created wild celebrations by the visitors, who raced onto the field in a delicious manner leaving the Antigua fans at the Falmouth Grounds silent.

It was a deserved come-from-behind win by St. Kitts, who had surrendered first innings by 44 runs before they fought back to restrict the Antiguan to 165 all out in their second innings just after lunch on the third and final day.

The target had to be achieved within the 47 overs that remained in the day. St. Kitts started solidly with Junior Mitham (36) and Shane Lee (29) providing a launch pad of 51 before the first wicket fell. Two other quick wickets fell in Leverette Taylor and Steve Liburd as St. Kitts continued to search for quick runs.

Jason Williams the wicket-keeper/batsman who was promoted in the order was the hero of the day, his 59 not out was the mainstay of the innings. He shared in an important fifth-wicket stand of 52 with Codville Rogers (21). Williams started out with a six and a four then mixed aggression with defense to keep St. Kitts in the hunt.

Later Elroy Powell contributed a quick fire 17 that included a six and kept hope alive for St. Kitts. With the victory in sight St. Kitts lost Powell, Jacques Taylor and Norval McCall in quick succession but Terrace Williams held on with Williams until the final over when Williams crown the moment by pulling for 4. Carl Simon the main strike bowler for Antigua finished with 2 for.

Earlier, Antigua & Barbuda, rearing on 67 for five, slumped further to 86 for seven before Orlando Peters, who top scored with 63 and Athanasz (21) added 63 for the ninth wicket.

Off-spinners Norval McCall, who bagged five wickets in the first innings, captured three for 52 and Jacques Taylor supported with two for 34 were the main ones to restrict the home team.

With full points St. Kitts finished top of the standings with 55 points while Antigua & Barbuda ended in second on 48 points.

President of the St. Kitts Cricket Association Ingle Liburd had high praise for the St. Kitts team as they went under very difficult circumstances. He noted the lack of facilities and the poor preparation period that St. Kitts endured during the build up to the Leeward Island Competition.

"We had to begged the Defense Force for their grounds and inconvenience the Defense Force teams and improve at the Cable and Wireless Grounds in order to get in some practice," he told the Daily Herald.

"All in all it is a great feeling for St. Kitts to come through all this and still win. Added to that, we did not have a proper league due to all the international commitments. It can be only better next when all the facilities are available and there will be much better preparation."

I think the players gelled well together and they were enjoying the cricket after while and now they are quite happy," said Liburd.

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## Washie and Spurs in Premiership thriller

ST. KITTS—Washington Archibald High School (Washie) suffered the second straight defeat going down 3-2 to Spurs in the manaque game on Saturday.

The match was a thriller as it was the source of much excitement for the many Washie fans. Indeed the fans were spared into celebration when Orlando Micham curled a direct free kick in the "V" of the Spurs

net for Washie to take the lead in the 14th minute. Washie continued to pressure Spurs and came close to increasing the lead on a couple of occasions. Spurs meanwhile was content to play long counter attacking balls and on the stroke of half time got a fortuitous goal from Sherwin Allen. Playing down the right flank Allen attempted to cross but the ball skewed from his foot and caught the goal

keeper Barrow back pedalling. He lost his balance in his attempt to save and gifted Spurs a goal on the stroke of half time.

With the scores locked on 1-1 School went in search of another leading goal and place immense pressure on the Spurs defense at the onset of the second period. But out of nowhere Spurs took the lead. A right side cross from a set piece found Sean Williams free in the six yard box and he made no

mistake at topping home. A third came ten minutes later when an early ball out of the Spurs defense from veteran Austin Higgins caught the pressing School team out of position in defense. Sherwin Allen was able to run into the inside right position and slot home past an advancing Barrow before help could arrive. A replica of School's first goal was repeated in the 84th minute by the same player Orlando Micham to take his season tally to 8. He missed a hat trick when a combination play ended at his feet in the box. He missed - kicked and School was left to rue that chance.

Earlier in the night Village Superstars marched on in victory of cellar place team Cayon 3-1. Alister Warner opened the scoring for Village in the 24th and Jevon Francis added a second in the 56th. Cayon started a come back effort that saw them scoring through Kevin Benjamin in the 66th minute and was threatening to equalize when they were made to pay for advancing with too many men. Jevon Francis added his second of the night and tenth for the season in the 88th minute to seal the deal.

## Ballesteros to play U.S. seniors tour

MADRID—Five-times major champion Seve Ballesteros quashed retirement rumours on Monday by announcing he will play on next year's U.S. seniors tour.

"The time has come to decide which direction I am going to take. Recently there has been a lot of speculation about whether I am going to retire or not, so to make it clear I am going to continue," Ballesteros told a news conference.

"I am just going to continue in a slightly different manner. I am going to compete in the champions tour of the USA and aim to play 14 tournaments there next year.

"I will also compete in others such as the British Open and the Masters."

The 40-year-old six-times European number one has suffered from persistent back problems. He returned from a two-year absence to compete again in 2005.

"Effectively I have been retired for the last few years but now is the time to get serious," Ballesteros said.

"It's a new challenge and I am confident in my abilities. Only time will tell from here on."

Ballesteros, affectionately known as the "Spanish Matador", said he could not face the prospect of retiring.

"Golf is my passion and I miss the competition," he said.

When asked if he felt his back problems would hinder what promises to be a punishing schedule after he turns 50 in April, Ballesteros said: "Obviously I will have to prepare well and I can't forecast what may happen."

"I haven't played much of late and my back has been better. It's not 100 percent

but then it never has been.

"My plan is to continue playing for another four or five years. That doesn't mean I'll retire then. I could decide to continue further. I just like to set objectives for myself."

## Van Bronckhorst extends with Barcelona until 2008

BARCELONA—Defender Giovanni van Bronckhorst has agreed to extend his contract with Barcelona for an extra season until June 2008, a spokesman for the club said on Monday.

The 31-year-old Dutch international joined Barcelona from Arsenal in 2003. He alternates at left back with another former Arsenal player Sthivins.

Van Bronckhorst, who made his name at Feyenoord and had a successful three-season spell with Rangers in Scotland, has won two Spanish titles and the Champions League with the Primera Liga side.

## BOWLERS

good lines, good lengths on a wicket that doesn't really suit him," he said.

Fletcher said England would wait to see how the first season develops on Tuesday before they decide whether to push for victory or settle for a draw but insisted the team had already proven their detractors wrong.

"It's a pretty difficult game, we'll have to see how the wicket plays first hour or two tomorrow. We will reassess it and see where we are and have a discussion tonight and then have a look at it tomorrow morning."

Continued from page 40.

"After that result in Brisbane a lot of people said would we not get back into the series."

"I just think this side has done that on numerous occasions and it's done it again where it's shown a lot of character and come back and really played good cricket for four days."

"That's important for a youthful side, we talked about being consistent over a long period of time and they've come here and put in season after season where they've played some very good cricket."



## West Indies will cope without Bravo, Sarwan, says King

RAWALPINDI—West Indies coach Bennett King believes his side will rise to the occasion in the five-match one-day series in Pakistan despite losing key men Dwayne Bravo and Ramnarain Sarwan.

Sarwan was ruled out of the one-day series with a hairline fracture of his right foot sustained on the last day of the final test while all-rounder Bravo was released from the team for personal reasons.

"I am confident of the side coming good but it will test us as a team as they have been over their key one day performers over the past six to 12 months," King said ahead of Tuesday's opener in Rawalpindi.

Sarwan and Bravo have been good performers in the good form shown by West Indies in recent one-day tournaments, which saw them reaching the finals of the DLF Cup in Malaysia and the Champions Trophy in India.

In both finals they were beaten by world champions Australia after defeating them in both tournaments in the group stages.

"The players coming in for the series bring with them freshness and energy after what's been a long tour for us," King said.

The Australian said that Pakistan were formidable opponents at home but the West Indians had improved in the one-dayers since being beaten 3-0 at home last year by Pakistan.

"We feel that we have improved individually and as a team since our last meet-

ing with Pakistan," King added. "Sarwan is one of the leading batters in the one-day game and he has proved that over a long period of time and has been a key to our past successes."

"Bravo was adapting to different roles within our side and it's unfortunate

that we can't build on those but where one door shuts another one opens."

The first game is likely to be affected by bad weather as heavy rains and cold weather has left parts of the Rawalpindi outfield covered in water with more rain forecast for Tuesday.

## India withdraw Antil after positive dope test

MUMBAI, India—India has withdrawn women's discus thrower Scema Antil from the Asian Games in Doha after she tested positive for a banned substance during an out-of-competition test, a sports ministry official said.

"I can confirm that a banned substance was found in her urine sample," the official told Reuters on Monday.

Antil, 23, was training in Muscat, Oman, with the rest of the Indian track and field contingent but was asked to return home.

India's national record holder and a medal hope at the Games, Antil won silver in the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne earlier this year.

It is Antil's second doping offence. She was stripped of the gold medal she won in the 2000 world junior championships in Chile after testing positive for the banned stimulant pseudoephedrine and was issued a warning.

This is the latest in a series

of doping incidents involving India around major international meets.

The Indian weightlifting federation is serving a ban after four lifters tested positive within a year, including two at this year's Melbourne Commonwealth Games.

At the 2004 Athens Olympics, two women weightlifters - Pratima Karnari and Sanamacha Chama - failed tests, and last year discus thrower Neelam Jaisankar Singh tested positive for a banned stimulant at the world championships in Helsinki.

Two male weightlifters were stripped of their medals after positive tests at the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester.

Distance runner Sanita Rani also lost the gold and bronze medals she won at the 2002 Asian Games after traces of nandrolone were found in her urine, although the medals were returned after discrepancies in the testing procedure.

## Mav's winning streak halted by Wizzards



Dallas Mavericks' Dirk Nowitzki (41), of Germany, is fouled by Washington Wizards' Elan Thomas (38) during the second quarter of an NBA basketball game in Washington last night.

WASHINGTON—Gilbert Arenas had 38 points and eight assists as the Wizards ended the Dallas Mavericks' 12-game winning streak with a 106-97 victory on Monday night.

All five of Washington's starters scored in double figures in the first three quarters, a feat they previously had accomplished only once in 16 complete games.

Antawn Jamison had 20 points and 12 rebounds for Washington. Caron Butler added 14 points, nine rebounds and seven assists for the Wizards, who built leads of 20 points in the

first half and 31 in the third quarter.

Dirk Nowitzki, who led Dallas with 27 points, capped a 19-6 run with a 3-pointer that pulled the Mavericks to within 102-95 with 1:07 remaining. Devin Harris scored nine points during the spree and finished with 14. Jerry Stackhouse and Deven George also scored 14 points for Dallas.

The Wizards went on a 17-4 run to open the third quarter, capped by Jarvis Hayes' 3-pointer for a 76-45 lead with 6:24 remaining in the period.

A sequence earlier in the

period epitomized the game. Arenas banked home a 3-pointer off the glass that gave Washington a 69-45 lead and Nowitzki's ensuing jumper at the other end drew nothing but glass.

## Five cities compete for world championships

LONDON—Five cities have bid for either or both the 2011 and 2013 world athletics championships, the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) said on Monday.

In a statement the IAAF said Barcelona, Brisbane, Taipei, Gothenburg and Moscow had confirmed they were candidates.

Brisbane, Gothenburg and Moscow are candidates for both championships. Barcelona has applied for the 2013 edition while the South Korean city of Taipei is a candidate for the 2011 championships only.

The hosts for both championships will be announced at a council meeting on March 27 next year after the world cross country championships in Mombasa, Kenya.

This year's world championships will be staged in Osaka, Japan, with the 2009 edition scheduled for Berlin.



New York Jets quarterback Chad Pennington (R) and Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre meet at mid-field after the Jets win over the Packers in their NFL football game at Lambeau Field in Green Bay, Wisconsin, Sunday.

## Packers great Starr backs Favre despite struggles

NEW YORK—Packers quarterback Brett Favre threw two interceptions and fumbled in Sunday's 38-10 drubbing by the visiting New York Jets but one of football's all-time greats from Green Bay still thinks he has what it takes.

"He is tough, hard-nosed. I love watching him because of that," Hall of Fame quarterback Bart Starr told Reuters in an interview on Monday.

Favre contemplated retirement before returning

this year for his 16th NFL season. The league's only three-time Most Valuable Player has only shown flashes of his strong-armed brilliance as the young Packers squad have posted a 4-8 mark.

Starr, who steered the Packers under coach Vince Lombardi to five NFL titles and two Super Bowl championships in the 1960s, believes the 37-year-old Favre has a lot more football in him.

"Gosh, his conditioning

is incredible," said the 72-year-old Starr. "I just saw him a couple months ago at practice in Green Bay. He looks super and is in great health."

Starr, who returns to Green Bay from his home in Alabama to watch a few games each season, said Favre sets a great tone for the young team.

"He is a wonderful example of enthusiasm and courage and leadership," Starr said. "He's just an unbelievable guy."

## Baseball will hold civil rights game in Memphis

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla.—Major league baseball will pay tribute to the civil rights movement with an exhibition game between the World Series champion St. Louis Cardinals and the Cleveland Indians in Memphis, Tenn., on March 31. The game will be played at the home of the Cardinals' Triple-A affiliate and raise money for the National Civil Rights Museum, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, the Jackie Robinson Foundation, the Negro Leagues Museum and Memphis charities.

With the game, which would be repeated annually, baseball officials hope to attract more young blacks to the sport.

"There are so many great athletes that we aren't getting into the game," St.

Louis general manager Walt Jocketty said. "I think we need to try harder."

The Indians, who made Larry Doby the AL's first black player and Frank Robinson the first black manager in baseball, hadn't planned to make any barnstorming stops between the end of spring training and the start of the regular season. But GM Mark Shapiro said he didn't hesitate when the commissioner's office suggested the game.

"It's a cause we felt it was important to honor," Shapiro said. "Competitive concerns went aside."

Also planned for the weekend is a five-minute documentary by Spike Lee on civil rights pioneers and baseball's role in the movement.

first captured at the world championships in Doha just over a year ago.

"I've been at the Asian Games three times and this is my first gold medal so I'm very pleased," said Pawina, who was cheered on by a small but vocal crowd of compatriots.

China's world champion Ouyang Xiaofang had to be carried from the stage after crumpling to the floor during her attempt to clean and jerk 137kg.

Unable to return for another lift, Ouyang had to settle for silver ahead of Myanmar's 20-year-old Fan Thaw Yaw, who only took up the sport a year ago and was competing in her first international competition.

"I would have won anyway," Pawina smiled when asked about her Chinese rival's injury.

## PAWINA

Ouyang's coach Ma Wen-bai told the referee had refused to allow her to reduce the weight and so the 23-year-old from Liaoning had rushed onto the stage to make her attempt, subsequently straining her right knee.

"I'm more concerned about injuries to our athletes than gold medals," said China's weightlifting chief Ma Wenguang, adding that the lack of a victory would not stop China competing in the class at the Beijing Olympics.

Pawina confirmed she had been suffering from a knee problem herself and described her physiotherapist as the "mother" of her success.

Her gold medal completes a set of Olympic, world championship, Asian championship, Southeast Asian

Games and Asian Games titles.

Athens Olympic gold medalist at middle-heavyweight, Pawina was named 2005's best female weightlifter when she became the first woman in over a century to set world records at three weights.

She said she was keeping her options open about which class to enter for the Beijing Olympics.

"I'll keep you guessing, I haven't decided," she said. Other medal winners in the third of competition at the 15th Asian Games on Monday included China's world number one Lin Dan picked up his second win in badminton.

Japan's Kosuke Kitajima claimed his first major title in two years, winning gold in the men's 100m breast-

stroke.

World champion Yang Wei gave China an eighth successive men's all-around gymnastics title when he defended the crown he won at Pusan in 2002.

Japan's women reached the team badminton final for only the second time in Asian Games history with a solid 3-0 win over Singapore.

Harem Ali won Iraq's first Asian Games medal for 20 years when he clinched a bronze in the men's lightweight weightlifting.

Thai teen Thanayalak Chre-paibun was overjoyed after helping earn the kingdom its first shooting gold medal.

Continued from page 40.

## Champions League 2006-07

WOL. P.4 P.5  
 Barcelona - Bremen, Chelsea - Leverkusen

<p><b>Chelsea 2-0</b>          Steven Gerrard: 2-0, 7-2, 12          Wesley Sneijder: 2-0, 10-4, 8          Dennis Bergkamp: 2-0, 2-1, 2-1</p>	<p><b>Bayern 3-0</b>          Bayern Munich: 3-0, 2-0, 2-0          Inter Milan: 2-0, 2-0, 2-0          Sporting Lisbon: 2-0, 2-0, 2-0          Sporting Moscow: 2-0, 2-0, 2-0</p>
<p><b>Liverpool 2-0</b>          Liverpool: 2-0, 2-0, 2-0          PSV Eindhoven: 2-0, 2-0, 2-0          Borussia Dortmund: 2-0, 2-0, 2-0          Schalke 04: 2-0, 2-0, 2-0</p>	<p><b>Valencia 2-0</b>          Valencia: 2-0, 2-0, 2-0          Arsenal: 2-0, 2-0, 2-0          Shakhtar Donetsk: 2-0, 2-0, 2-0          Olympique Lyonnais: 2-0, 2-0, 2-0</p>

LEADING THE FIELD: Top performers at the end of the group stage

<p><b>Nikola Piskic</b> 12          Dida 12          Nicolas Anelka 4.8          Cristiano Ronaldo 4.4          Christian Eriksen 4.3</p>	<p><b>Bayern Munich</b> 12          Arsenal 12          Chelsea 12          Liverpool 12          Valencia 12</p>
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GOAL MASTERS: Goals scored

<p><b>Bayern Munich</b> 12          Arsenal 12          Chelsea 12          Liverpool 12          Valencia 12</p>	<p><b>Bayern Munich</b> 12          Arsenal 12          Chelsea 12          Liverpool 12          Valencia 12</p>
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GOAL MASTERS: Goals scored

<p><b>Bayern Munich</b> 12          Arsenal 12          Chelsea 12          Liverpool 12          Valencia 12</p>	<p><b>Bayern Munich</b> 12          Arsenal 12          Chelsea 12          Liverpool 12          Valencia 12</p>
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GOAL MASTERS: Goals scored

<p><b>Bayern Munich</b> 12          Arsenal 12          Chelsea 12          Liverpool 12          Valencia 12</p>	<p><b>Bayern Munich</b> 12          Arsenal 12          Chelsea 12          Liverpool 12          Valencia 12</p>
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<p><b>Bayern Munich</b> 12          Arsenal 12          Chelsea 12          Liverpool 12          Valencia 12</p>	<p><b>Bayern Munich</b> 12          Arsenal 12          Chelsea 12          Liverpool 12          Valencia 12</p>
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<p><b>Bayern Munich</b> 12          Arsenal 12          Chelsea 12          Liverpool 12          Valencia 12</p>	<p><b>Bayern Munich</b> 12          Arsenal 12          Chelsea 12          Liverpool 12          Valencia 12</p>
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GOAL MASTERS: Goals scored

<p><b>Bayern Munich</b> 12          Arsenal 12          Chelsea 12          Liverpool 12          Valencia 12</p>	<p><b>Bayern Munich</b> 12          Arsenal 12          Chelsea 12          Liverpool 12          Valencia 12</p>
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GOAL MASTERS: Goals scored

<p><b>Bayern Munich</b> 12          Arsenal 12          Chelsea 12          Liverpool 12          Valencia 12</p>	<p><b>Bayern Munich</b> 12          Arsenal 12          Chelsea 12          Liverpool 12          Valencia 12</p>
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GOAL MASTERS: Goals scored

## Matchday

WOL. P.4 P.5  
 Bayern - Inter, Sporting - Sporting

<p><b>Bayern Munich 3-0</b>          Bayern Munich: 3-0, 2-0, 2-0          Inter Milan: 2-0, 2-0, 2-0          Sporting Lisbon: 2-0, 2-0, 2-0          Sporting Moscow: 2-0, 2-0, 2-0</p>	<p><b>Valencia 2-0</b>          Valencia: 2-0, 2-0, 2-0          Arsenal: 2-0, 2-0, 2-0          Shakhtar Donetsk: 2-0, 2-0, 2-0          Olympique Lyonnais: 2-0, 2-0, 2-0</p>
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LEADING THE FIELD: Top performers at the end of the group stage

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GOAL MASTERS: Goals scored

<p><b>Bayern Munich</b> 12          Arsenal 12          Chelsea 12          Liverpool 12          Valencia 12</p>	<p><b>Bayern Munich</b> 12          Arsenal 12          Chelsea 12          Liverpool 12          Valencia 12</p>
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GOAL MASTERS: Goals scored

<p><b>Bayern Munich</b> 12          Arsenal 12          Chelsea 12          Liverpool 12          Valencia 12</p>	<p><b>Bayern Munich</b> 12          Arsenal 12          Chelsea 12          Liverpool 12          Valencia 12</p>
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GOAL MASTERS: Goals scored

<p><b>Bayern Munich</b> 12          Arsenal 12          Chelsea 12          Liverpool 12          Valencia 12</p>	<p><b>Bayern Munich</b> 12          Arsenal 12          Chelsea 12          Liverpool 12          Valencia 12</p>
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GOAL MASTERS: Goals scored

<p><b>Bayern Munich</b> 12          Arsenal 12          Chelsea 12          Liverpool 12          Valencia 12</p>	<p><b>Bayern Munich</b> 12          Arsenal 12          Chelsea 12          Liverpool 12          Valencia 12</p>
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GOAL MASTERS: Goals scored

<p><b>Bayern Munich</b> 12          Arsenal 12          Chelsea 12          Liverpool 12          Valencia 12</p>	<p><b>Bayern Munich</b> 12          Arsenal 12          Chelsea 12          Liverpool 12          Valencia 12</p>
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GOAL MASTERS: Goals scored

<p><b>Bayern Munich</b> 12          Arsenal 12          Chelsea 12          Liverpool 12          Valencia 12</p>	<p><b>Bayern Munich</b> 12          Arsenal 12          Chelsea 12          Liverpool 12          Valencia 12</p>
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GOAL MASTERS: Goals scored

<p><b>Bayern Munich</b> 12          Arsenal 12          Chelsea 12          Liverpool 12          Valencia 12</p>	<p><b>Bayern Munich</b> 12          Arsenal 12          Chelsea 12          Liverpool 12          Valencia 12</p>
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GOAL MASTERS: Goals scored

## Chelsea looks for top spot in Group A

LONDON -- Barcelona face the prospect of spoiling their record as the first club to play 400 European matches this week by becoming the first Champions League title holders to be eliminated at the group stage.

The desire to avoid such ignominy and celebrate such a milestone with a victory at their Nou Camp stronghold will no doubt spur Barcelona to the win they need against Werder Bremen in Group A on Tuesday.

Anything less than victory in the final round of group matches, and Frank Rijkaard's side will hand the trophy over to another contender before even having a go at the knockout phase.

There is no shortage of credible aspirants to the crown, starting with Chelsea, the team that put Barcelona in this tricky spot.

Chelsea will watch from the comfortable vantage point of a home game against Levski Sofia, who have lost all five matches in Group A, scored only once and conceded 15 goals. Only a huge upset and a Werder shock in Barcelona can rob Chelsea of top spot in the group.

Arsenal, playing away to 2004 champions Porto in Group G on Wednesday, could help produce a double shock if they and Barcelona were both to lose and end up in the UEFA Cup.

If there is a draw at Porto, the Portuguese side will go through with Arsenal, but CSKA Moscow are waiting to pounce if there is a winner. The Russian side can take one of the berths if they win at Hamburg SV, who have lost all their matches, and leap into second place.

Liverpool, the champions the year before Barcelona,

return to the scene of their 2005 final victory over AC Milan in Istanbul to play Galatasaray on Tuesday with top spot in Group C in the bag.

PSV Eindhoven are also through and Girona Bordeaux, the team they entertain, have secured a UEFA Cup berth.

Premier League pacesetter Manchester United, looking to win the European Cup for the third time, must at least draw at home against Benfica in Group F on Wednesday to avoid the embarrassment of a second successive group stage elimination.

United should have gone into the match leading the group after beating Benfica 1-0 in Lisbon in September -- avenging their shock group stage elimination by the Portuguese team last season -- but a penalty miss by Louis Saha handed Celtic a 1-0 win and qualification in the all-British clash in Glasgow last month.

Wayne Rooney should give United the necessary inspiration but a defeat would send Benfica, their rivals in the final when they won the trophy for the first time in 1968, through instead.

AS Roma host twice finalists Valencia needing a draw to be sure of finishing second in Group D behind the Spanish side, who travel short of several first-choice players through injury and suspension.

If the in-form Francesco Totti's team should lose in Rome's Olympic Stadium they could hand qualification to Shakhtar Donetsk, who must beat Olympique Piraeus away.

There is also a place up for grabs in Group H, where six times champions AC Milan have already secured theirs. Lille are playing Milan at

San Siro looking for a shock victory to stand a chance of climbing from third place.

But they need AEK Athens, looking for a hat-trick of wins after failing to register any victories in their first 21 Champions League games, to lose at Anderlecht.

The impressive Olympique Lyon, who host Steaua Bucharest, and record nine times European champions Real Madrid, away to Dynamo Kiev, are already through in Group E. Steaua have qualified for the UEFA Cup.

In Group B, only top spot is at stake when Bayern Munich host Inter Milan, one of the pre-tournament favourites who made life difficult for themselves by losing their first two matches including the visit of the German champions to San Siro.

Sporting, who upset Inter 1-0 in Lisbon in their opening match, can secure a UEFA Cup place with a draw at home against Spartak Moscow.

## BLATTER

Continued from page 40.

Blatter's plan would force clubs to play a minimum of six players eligible to represent the national team of their country, with a maximum of five foreign players making up the numbers.

"It will mean greater identification between clubs and their fans," Blatter said. "Secondly it will give more opportunity to talented players. Thirdly it will ease the financial pressure on clubs when they are bringing in players from their own training programme."

Rules regarding freedom of movement within the EU could make such a limit impossible in Europe's big leagues.

## FIFA prepare to hear Warner case

BERNE, Switzerland--FIFA's executive committee will hear a report about alleged misconduct by vice-president Jack Warner at a two-day meeting in Zurich this week.

Warner has been under investigation by the world governing body's disciplinary committee since September after allegations that he personally profited from the resale of World Cup tickets, contrary to FI-

FA's own ticketing rules.

The matter was first brought to FIFA's attention following two separate investigations by auditors Ernst & Young in April and July.

FIFA announced in September that Warner's reported involvement in the resale of 180 World Cup tickets would be examined by the disciplinary committee.

FIFA spokesman Andre-

Herren declined to comment further on Monday and would only say that the executive committee would this week hear the disciplinary committee's report into the Warner case.

Warner, who is president of the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean football associations (CONCACAF), has denied any wrongdoing.

At the last meeting of the executive committee in September, FIFA agreed to set up an independent ethics committee to consider future allegations of misconduct by officials, players or players' agents.

The new committee, chaired by Britain's double Olympic gold medalist Sebastian Coe, was not asked to look at Warner's case since FIFA ruled that it could not act retroactively.

In other business, the executive committee is due to consider the current suspensions of the Kenyan and Iranian football associations.

It will also hear a report into the state of preparations for the 2010 World Cup and lay down a rough timeline for the bidding process for the 2014 World Cup.

## Hamburg's Van der Vaart gets four-match ban

BERLIN--Hamburg SV captain Rafael van der Vaart has been banned for the next four matches as punishment for his tackle on Torben Behrmann in Saturday's 2-1 defeat by VfL Bochum.

The Dutch international midfielder was sent off with 10 minutes to go in Hamburg's latest defeat in an ever more depressing season.

The ban, announced by the German Football Association (DFB) on Monday, deprives Hamburg of their best player for the last two league matches of 2006 and the first two after the mid-season break.

Hamburg, who finished third last season, are second from bottom of the Bundesliga with just 11 points from 15 games. Their two league games before the long break are against Nuremberg and Alemannia Aachen.

The club received further bad news on Monday when Argentine international defender Juan Pablo Sorin was diagnosed with a calf injury that will keep him out until the new year.

"Juan Pablo will not appear again in this half of the season," Hamburg doctor Oliver Dierck told reporters.

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Australia's Stuart Clark (L) appeals unsuccessfully for the wicket of England's Andrew Strauss (R) during the fourth day's play of the second Ashes test cricket match at the Adelaide Oval yesterday.

## Blatter proposes playing through the summer

BERLIN—FIFA president Sepp Blatter has proposed ending the traditional summer break in European club football and moving the season to a February to November schedule.

"I've recently suggested to the clubs that they play through the summer and have the season on a calendar year," Blatter, the head of world soccer's governing body, said in an interview with Kicker published on Monday.

"The season should run from the end of February to the end of November. Then there would be enough recovery time for the players and you could play three-week blocks of (international) qualifiers."

"The idea is supported by the major European clubs."

Blatter also said he was confident his long talked about plan to limit the number of foreign players in European club football would

soon come into force.

"The six-plus-five plan will come into force for sure," Blatter said.

*Continued on page 40*

## Pawina Thongsuk ends Thailand's title wait

DOHA—Pawina Thongsuk set a world record to win Thailand's first Asian Games weightlifting gold medal in 40 years on Monday, ending China's monopoly in the sport at Doha in the process.

In claiming Thailand's first women's weightlifting gold at the Asian Games, the 27-year-old middleweight champion became the first non-Chinese to win a title in three days of competition at the Al-Doha ban-

queuing hall.

Liu Haizha, however, immediately restored China to the top of the podium in the light-heavyweight class, blowing away the competition by 30kg to win her country's seventh gold in eight weightlifting events.

Pawina clean and jerked 142kg to beat Russian Svetlana Shinkova's world mark by 1kg and retake possession of the three middleweight records she

*Continued on page 40*

## Fletcher defends choice of bowlers for Adelaide test

ADELAIDE—Coach Duncan Fletcher has defended England's decision to field an unchanged bowling attack in the second Ashes test against Australia.

Despite calls for Monty Panesar to be included, the Northamptonshire spinner was overlooked for the match after England retained the same starting side that lost the first test in Brisbane.

England have put on a much improved performance in Adelaide and head into the final day leading by 97 runs with a draw looming as the most likely result.

Fletcher said he was pleased with the way England's bowlers had played on lifeless pitch that offered little assistance to either the spinners or quicks and the decision to go with four seamers and Ashley Giles as the lone spinner

was right.

"The key here is the seamers have played an important role in both sides for the moment," Fletcher told a news conference on Monday.

"We thought that the skiddy bowlers would be more effective. When we played South Australia here in that warm-up game Jimmy Anderson bowled very well on here and (Matthew) Hoggard bowled well."

"We thought it would be that skiddiness that would be to our advantage on that wicket."

Anderson managed only 1-85 but Hoggard bowled superbly to finish with 7-109, the best figures by an Englishman at the Adelaide Oval since Jack White's 8-126 in 1928/29.

"It was a pretty difficult wicket for the bowlers...and I just compliment Hoggard for just sticking to his task,"

Fletcher said.

"Hoggie is like that, that's why he's always been a very useful member of our side."

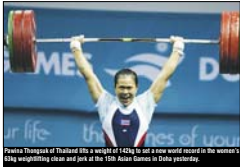
"He's prepared to run through a brick wall for us. There's a lot of overs he bowled in the last few days and he's still pretty cheery out there and he's that kind of individual, he's really prepared to stick it out and get stuck in."

Fletcher said he was also pleased by the improvement shown by England's main strike bowler Steve Harmison, even though he failed to take a single wicket in Australia's innings.

However, the Durham speedster did beat the but on a number of occasions and there was no repeat of the erratic wicket that affected him in Brisbane.

"I am sure he's turned a bit of a corner. From our point of view he's bowled some..."

*Continued on page 40*



Pawina Thongsuk of Thailand lifts a weight of 142kg to set a new world record in the women's 63kg weightlifting clean and jerk at the 15th Asian Games in Doha yesterday.

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