

Making new friends



Sgt. Ben Brody

First Lt. Zachary Boes of Company C, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, speaks with a young resident of Musayyib, Iraq, during a patrol March 7.

Karbala ready to boost agribusiness, tourism

SGT. JASMINE CHOPRA
MND-C PAO

KARBALA – Boosting agribusiness, tourism and private investment by way of social venture capital were the top issues discussed at a March 12 meeting at Iraqi Police Headquarters in Karbala.

Iraqi government officials, local businessmen, Multi-National Division - Center leaders and provincial recon-

struction team members participated in the meeting.

Security in Karbala is steadily improving, said Karbala provincial governor Aqil al-Khazali, as evidenced by the millions of pilgrims who safely commemorated Ashura in the holy city.

“Karbala is ready for investment,” al-Khazali said.

Brig. Gen. Edward Cardon, MND-C deputy commander for support, agreed

safety has improved and Iraqis are doing a good job of policing their own communities.

“I don’t have to visit Karbala often because you have proven capable of handling the situation,” he said to Maj. Gen. Ra’ad Jawad, chief of the Karbala provincial police.

With improved safety, local busi-

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Girls' school gets computers, Internet service

SGT. 1ST CLASS STACY NILES
214TH FB

FOB DELTA – While the school's infrastructure may be behind the times, students' education has been thrust into the modern era.

The al Kut Girls Secondary School received an Internet center complete with 10 computers and furniture. The school, established in 1932, educates 1,000 females, grades 10 to 12.

The center will be used by female students throughout the province, said the school manager, Zahrah Aljdrey. Students will now be able to do research and work on projects. The center will also allow the girls to complete exams they would otherwise have to travel to Baghdad to take.

Aljdrey said the computers will help students get a better education and will give them the opportunity to learn about different cultures.

For Sgt. Amanda Timmer, the Wasit Provincial Reconstruction Team head of women's initiative and program manager, the project provided her with a feeling of satisfaction.

"It was great especially after talking with the girls and seeing how optimistic and energetic they were," Timmer said. "It was as if they could sense that the



Sgt. 1st Class Stacy Niles

Sgt. Amanda Timmer, the Wasit Provincial Reconstruction Team head of women's initiative and program manager, talks with students at the al Kut Girls Secondary School after the ribbon cutting for a new Internet center March 10. The center features 10 new computers and furniture.

world was at their fingertips. Like they knew they were the future of Iraq.

"They already had the initiative, but this gives them the tools to help accomplish their initiatives and ambitions,"

she said.

The project was a cooperative effort between the Wasit PRT, the Wasit provincial council and the Iraqi Director General of Education.

OPERATION SMART – Recruiting referral program

The Army's recruiting referral program is receiving momentum with a directive from the Army vice chief of staff and a \$1,000 increase in the bonus.

Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Dick Cody has directed that all Soldiers register with Operation SMART, the Sergeant Major of the Army Recruiting Team, at Web site www.usarec.army.mil/smart. The U.S. Army Accessions Command is tracking how many Soldiers have registered.

Individuals who register with SMART are eligible for the \$2,000 referral bonus for recruiting civilians. Soldiers, Department of the Army civilians, to include Non-Appropriated Fund civilians are eligible to participate in the recruiting program. The bonus is paid in increments. The referrer will receive \$1,000 after the applicant completes basic training, and the last half will be paid after the applicant graduates from advanced individual training or one station unit training.

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ECONOMY: *Agribusiness, tourism discussed in Karbala*

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ness leaders and PRT members are planning ways to link Karbala to U.S. Agency for International Development programs as well as lucrative private investment, said Don Cook, a PRT team leader.

Vast agricultural resources, in particular poultry farms, make opportunities for high return in the agribusiness sector possible, said A.A. Araj, an agricultural economist who believes employing the use of greenhouses is an efficient way for Karbala to maximize its agricultural potential.

Al-Khazali and local business leaders are eager to see funds earmarked for Karbala's redevelopment make their way to local government instead of getting stuck in Baghdad bureaucracy, they said.

"We would like to see monies forwarded directly to our local government. We can handle such responsibility and we want to make sure promises for aid are kept," al-Khazali said.

In addition to agribusiness opportunities, participants discussed ways to tap into Karbala's religious tourism potential. Considered a holy city to most Shia Muslims, Karbala is home to sacred shrines. Under Saddam Hussein's regime, the pilgrimage to Karbala was banned. This year's Ashura events (which occurred late February- early March) were largely peaceful, Jawad said.



Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Brig. Gen. Edward Cardon, Multi-National Division - Center deputy commander for support discusses projects aimed at boosting agribusiness in Karbala as Craig Reilly (center), MND-C political advisor, looks on during a March 12 meeting at the Iraqi Police headquarters in Karbala.

in's regime, the pilgrimage to Karbala was banned. This year's Ashura events (which occurred late February- early March) were largely peaceful, Jawad said.

Local businessmen hope reduced violence will stimulate religious tourism and persuade would-be tourists to fill hotels and restaurants in Karbala, they said.

Safety Thought of the Day

Convoy Safety Reminders

- Ensure personnel wear all protective gear, to include ballistic eye protection, ACH, body armor with plates, and hearing protection.
 - Ensure seat and shoulder belts are fastened.
 - Keep doors locked.
- Driver's responsibilities include:
 - Safely operating vehicle and complying with applicable laws and regulations.
 - Performing proper PMCS in accordance with appropriate vehicle technical manual.
 - Caring for and cleaning the vehicle and its equipment at all times.
 - Ensuring cargo is properly secured.
- Senior occupant's responsibilities include:
 - Conducting pre-combat check prior to missions.
 - Enforcing speed restrictions.
 - Enforcing use of restraint devices.
 - Assisting the drive in identifying road hazards.
- Ensuring drivers keep the proper distance interval between vehicles.
- Reference: 3ID Warfighting Handbook Edition II (01 MAR 07)



File photo

Headline Highlights

Man burned alive; human remains in luggage; 'snow rage'

Newlywed man burned alive for 'not washing feet'

BEIJING (Reuters) - A Chinese bride burned her new husband to death after he got into bed after a drunken argument without washing his feet, state media reported on Wednesday.

"Wang and his wife, Luo, were married on February 2. The couple, however, frequently fought over trivial things while still on their honeymoon," the official Xinhua news agency quoted a local newspaper as saying.

The couple, from the central province of Hubei, had another fight on the night of March 4, "and in frustration they together drank a bottle of liquor to ease their anger."

"At about 10 p.m., Luo watched her husband get into bed without cleaning or washing his feet. In a fit of anger and intoxication, she set fire to the sheet he was sleeping in," the report said.

"When he awoke, the two began fighting before a very drunk Wang collapsed. As fire engulfed the bedroom, Luo escaped to the living room, leaving her other half to burn," it added.

The woman has been arrested, Xinhua said.

Airport stops women with human remains in suitcase

MUNICH, Germany (Reuters) - Two Italian women carrying luggage containing the remains of a man who died in Brazil 11 years ago were stopped by

Munich airport police during a stop-over on their journey from Sao Paulo to Naples.

"Airport security spotted the skull and bones when the suitcase was put through the x-ray machine," police spokesman Christian Maier said.

One of the women was the dead man's sister and she explained to surprised officials that it had been her brother's wish to be buried in Italy.

After showing his death certificate, the Italians, aged 63 and 62, were allowed on their next flight to Naples.

"We questioned the women and they produced a valid death certificate showing he had died 11 years ago of natural causes. As they were not violating any German laws they were allowed to continue their journey to Italy," said Maier.

Violent 'snow rage' erupts after 210 inches of snow

QUEBEC CITY, Quebec (Reuters) - Although Canada is one of the snowiest countries in the world, a series of violent "snow rage" incidents reveal that even the locals have their limits.

Police in the French-speaking province of Quebec said on Wednesday that people were fighting over snow clearing and even parking spaces.

Recent Canadian winters have been mild but this one looks set to break all-time records for snow. One storm last weekend dumped 23 inches on the capital Ottawa and 19 inches on Quebec

City, which has already received 210 inches this year.

Quebec City police said they had been called to a dozen violent disputes about snow from one property ending up on someone else's. The drifts outside some houses are 12 feet and higher.

Last Sunday, a man in an upscale Quebec City neighborhood became so upset a woman from a snow removal service was putting snow on his yard that he shouted at her and then took a shovel and hit the window of the vehicle she was driving.

"The woman apologized and returned to work ... a bit later the man opened his garage door and emerged with a shotgun, pointed it at the ground and looked at her in a threatening way," said police spokeswoman Catherine Viel.

Police arrested the man, who will be charged with negligent use of a firearm, and seized a total of 13 weapons from his home. Viel said snow-related fights were unusually common.

"It's happened particularly often this year ... you have to be used to snow if you live in Quebec but it's been a bit extreme this year. People are fed up," she said.

In Montreal, police said a man had produced a toy gun during a heated dispute Sunday between two drivers over a rare parking space. He may face weapons charges.

There may be more trouble to come, since Environment Canada says there is no sign winter is about to end.

Sudoku

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| 8 | | | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| | | 6 | | | | 9 | | |
| 7 | 2 | | | | | | | 8 |
| 5 | | 2 | 6 | 1 | | | | 4 |
| 6 | 7 | 3 | 5 | | 4 | | | |
| | | | | | | 7 | | |

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| 4 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 2 |
| 2 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 3 |
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| 7 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 9 |
| 3 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| 5 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 1 |
| 9 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 4 |
| 6 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 7 |

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

there

hi-nock