

IRAQ

Continued from Front Page

The suicide bombing at the Kaokub al-Sharq (Eastern Planet) coffee shop on Baghdad's Saadoun Street killed 16 people and wounded 21, said police Lt. Bilal Mohammed. The blast under a parked car outside the nearby al-Mathak restaurant killed at least seven more and injured five, including two women, Mohammed added.

Alaa Abid Ali, a medic at Baghdad's Kindi Hospital, said at least 14 bodies have been received at his hospital, while nine were taken to Ibn al-Nafis Hospital.

The blasts shattered nearby shop windows and destroyed several cars. Wooden tables and chairs were strewn over the bloodstained pavement where rescue workers treated some of the wounded. Two men wailed above the bodies of two men covered with bloodstained blankets outside the coffee shop.

The appeal by Carroll's mother, Mary Beth Carroll, came on CNN one day ahead of the kidnappers' deadline for their demands to be met.

Carroll told CNN that video images gave her hope that her daughter is alive but also have "shaken us about her fate."

"I, her father and her sister are appealing directly to her captors to release this young woman who has worked so hard to show the sufferings of Iraqis to the

world," she said.

Al-Jazeera television showed the first video images of her since her capture Tuesday. The report said the 20-second video gave authorities until Friday night to free the Iraqi women or they would kill the reporter.

New images showing the journalist surrounded by armed and masked hostage-takers were aired Thursday by Al-Jazeera. The 20 seconds of silent video also showed her talking to the camera. An editor from Al-Jazeera said it was from the same video the station had shown part of earlier.

The U.S. military has said eight Iraqi women are in military detention. An Iraqi government commission reviewing detainee cases recommended to U.S. authorities on Monday that six of them be released.

Deputy Justice Minister Busho Ibrahim Ali said the six women would be released next week but "not part of any swap with any kidnappers."

"I insisted that the Americans should bring their files and release them and they will be freed next week along with other detainees," Ali told Associated Press Television News. He did not elaborate on who the other detainees were.

U.S. officials refused to comment Wednesday on whether any of the women were set to be

released.

An official from a prominent Sunni political organization called for Carroll's release and denounced all kidnappings.

"We condemn the abductions of innocent civilians and journalists and call for the immediate release of the American reporter and all innocent people who have nothing to do with the (U.S.-led) occupation," said Harith al-Obeidi of the Conference for Iraq's People.

French journalist and former hostage Florence Aubenais, who was released in June after being held hostage for 157 days, also called on Carroll's hostage-takers to release her.

"She came to this country to do her job as a journalist and not anything else," Aubenais told Al-Jazeera.

Iraqi Accordance Front head Adnan al-Dulami, a Sunni Arab leader whom Carroll had been attempting to interview before she was taken, called the kidnapping un-Islamic, the Christian Science Monitor reported on its Web site.

On the streets of Baghdad, the reaction among ordinary Iraqis was mixed.

"If the purpose behind the abduction was to free Iraqi female prisoners, it was a legitimate right for Iraqis," an Iraqi policeman said while conducting traffic in Baghdad. "But if it was

a terrorist act, we denounced that."

President Bush ignored shouted questions Wednesday about what his administration is doing to find Carroll. White House spokesman Scott McClellan said her safe return was a priority for the administration but refused to say more "because of the sensitivity of the situation."

David Cook, the Washington bureau chief for the Christian Science Monitor, told a news conference that Carroll's work has demonstrated she is respectful of Arab culture and people, and the newspaper has shown it treats different cultures and viewpoints fairly.

American and Iraqi officials had predicted a surge of violence ahead of the announcement of the election returns. Scores of people died in violence across the country Wednesday. Thirty people were dragged from their cars at crude checkpoints erected on unpaved roads and shot dead execution-style in farming areas in Nibaei, a town near Dujail, about 50 miles north of Baghdad, said police Lt. Qahtan al-Hashmawi.

Insurgents also opened fire on a convoy of the mobile telephone company Iraqna, killing six security guards and three drivers in western Baghdad. Two engineers, believed to be Kenyans, were missing and feared kidnapped.

WIND

Continued from Front Page

Miller and Dave Gerdes, a Pierre lawyer who represents utilities companies, worked on the plan with the PUC and six electric companies.

The legislation will be carried by Rep. Joel Dykstra, R-Canton, in the House of Representatives. The lead Senate sponsor is Sen. John Koskan, R-Wood. Their measure hasn't been assigned an official bill number yet.

The plan was outlined Wednesday afternoon during a briefing on energy issues for legislators and state officials.

Gerdes said the PUC will continue to have control over what a utility could attempt to recover from customers for a transmission project. He said the normal process of public notice, an official hearing and public comment would be followed.

"It's like any PUC docket," he said.

Miller said costs can run \$1 million per mile for high-capacity transmission lines. He said the plan being proposed would allow companies to more quickly recover the costs.

There are various versions of the approach already in law in other states including Kansas, Minnesota and Wisconsin, he

said.

The electricity industry has "neglected" expansion of the transmission network during the past 25 years, according to Miller.

"We let transmission slide perhaps a little more than we should have," he said. "We need to get it going again."

DOORS

Continued from Front Page

"Summertime was busy for us," Dick said.

At the same time, there was no lack of fun when the DeVilles would go water skiing on Lake Kampeska or invite kids from town out for picnics. In fact, it was a treat for many of their friends to come out to the restaurant for Coke out of the fountain and Wynns potato chips, the brother said.

And, of course, good food was never in short supply.

"We always ate good," Dick said. "When you're in the restaurant business, you always eat good."

Hildy would cook fried chicken for supper on Saturday nights, and the family would get the leftovers for Sunday dinner.

She was also known for her deviled eggs, shrimp, potatoes and pickled turkey necks, which she would serve at certain group banquets where they would just be devoured, Dick said.

The Sunnyside has become an annual gathering space for many organizations, the brothers said, from Ducks Unlimited and Pheasants Forever to the Lions

and Shriners to school sports teams throughout the region and the Farm and Business Association.

Since the news started spreading that the Sunnyside will be closing, many people have expressed sadness at the end of an era and wonder where they will hold their weddings and family reunions and other social events, the brothers said.

People also have expressed appreciation for the many occasions they have spent at the restaurant.

"We've had so many people come out and wish us well," Steve said. "You never really realize the impact you have on a community until (sometime) like now."

There are just too many memories to talk about them all. For example, suckers are a very important part of business out at the Sunnyside with the Treasure Box of suckers and are always a big hit with customers.

"There are 90-year-old kids who come in here and take suckers," Dick said. "And if you don't have the right kinds, they'll tell

you about it."

The brothers remember parents coming in with little babies who would get fussy and picking them up and carrying them around the restaurant with them.

"Now those kids are having babies," Steve said.

And Pork got his very own hat when the Pork Association held a banquet at Sunnyside. It reads, "Pork pleases people."

The brothers said they have enjoyed pleasing people through the years, from customers to employees to suppliers. They all become friends, the said.

"You know a lot of these people and just have fun with them," Dick said.

They believe the time has come, however, to let go of the business. Their children are not interested in taking over, they said, and running a restaurant takes a lot of time.

There also is a lot of competition now with so many restaurants opening up in Watertown, and people don't always want to drive all the way around the lake, especially when gas prices are high.

"And we're not getting any younger," Steve said.

Although there has been some interest in purchasing the Sunnyside in the past, the recent offer was kind of last minute, the brother said, and they had to make a quick decision.

They recently sold the Sunnyside to four local businessmen who they say have been customers and are good, respectable people.

While the brothers have heard a lot of rumors about what will happen to the Sunnyside location, they don't know what the new owners have planned.

"We've never asked them," Dick said. "We've never talked to them personally about it."

They did say it would be tough to let go of the business and will be especially hard to see the building torn down, which they assume will happen.

But they believe that this decision is the right one at the right time.

A banner hanging in the Sunnyside's front room really says it all, Steve said.

"Thanks for the memories."

BILLS

Continued from Front Page

Another bill offered Wednesday would give the attorney general extra slack in explaining the purpose and legal consequences of various political issues on the ballot every two years. Existing law is restrictive in what the attorney general can say about ballot measures.

Local governments that vote for exemptions from limits on property taxes would be able to

place those decisions on the ballot under a bill introduced in the state Senate. Only voters may force those elections now, doing so by getting enough signatures to qualify for ballot placement.

Other new bills would:

- Make it easier to get state tax refunds for the construction of large agricultural processing plants. Contractor's excise tax and sales tax refunds, which

range from 25 percent to 90 percent, would not change. However, the bill would lower the minimum cost of projects that qualify for increasingly larger refunds.

- Forbid the Game, Fish and Parks Commission from restricting the right to carry a concealed pistol if a person is licensed for such a gun.

- Ban GF&P from buying any

tract of land larger than 40 acres without legislative approval.

- Give the state agriculture secretary the option of holding a State Fair each year in Huron. Current law says the annual fair must be held.

- Establish a state task force to gather data on sexual assaults and recommend ways of better responding to those attacks and preventing them.

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