

## World Briefs

## A Couple in Eternal Embrace?

ROME (Reuters)—Archaeologists in Italy have discovered a couple buried 5,000 to 6,000 years ago, hugging each other.

"It's an extraordinary case," said Elena Menotti, who led the team on their dig near the northern city of Mantova.

"There has not been a double burial found in the Neolithic period, much less two people hugging—and they really are hugging."

"But I've never been so moved because this is the discovery of something special."

A laboratory will now try to determine the couple's age at the time of death and how long they had been buried.

## Kyrgyz Leader Appoints Ministers After Crisis

BISHKEK (Reuters)—Kyrgyzstan's president appointed a number of new ministers on Tuesday, rounding off a reshuffle that ended a dispute between government and parliament.

Former Prime Minister Felix Kulov and his team resigned in December in a row with parliament over constitutional changes following weeks of tension marked by street protests. The row appeared finally resolved last month when parliament agreed to President Kurmanbek Bakiyev's nomination of his long-serving aide Azim Isabekov as the new prime minister.

On Tuesday, Bakiyev re-appointed Daniyar Usenov as first deputy prime minister, and Dosbol Nurullu as deputy prime minister, the presidential press service said. Defense Minister Ismail Isakov and security chief Murat Satalinov will retain their posts. Bolotbek Nogoibayev was appointed interior minister.

The former Soviet state lies near Afghanistan and hosts both U.S. and Russian airbases. It has lurched through political crises since former President Askar Akayev fled violent protests against a flawed election in March 2005.

## Polish Defense Minister to Demote Ex-Communists

WARSAW (Reuters)—Newly appointed Polish Defense Minister Aleksander Szczyglo vowed on Tuesday to demote Soviet-era appointees such as ex-communist leader general Wojciech Jaruzelski and "restore patriotic values" in the military.

Prime Minister Jaroslaw Kaczynski took power in 2005, pledging to purge the military of Soviet-era influence and act against figures such as Jaruzelski, who led the 1981 crackdown against the anti-communist Solidarity trade union.

"The heroes of our military should be people who fought for the country's independence, patriots ... and not Soviet appointees," Szczyglo told Polish public radio.

Newspapers said Kaczynski and President Lech Kaczynski had accused Szczyglo's predecessor Radoslaw Sikorski of being too slow to remove high-ranking communist era officials. Szczyglo said he would support a law to demote communist era officials and reduce their pensions.

## Tribunal for Lebanon Political Killings Awaits Ratification

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters)—The U.N. legal counsel on Tuesday signed an agreement to create a special tribunal that would try suspects in the 2005 murder of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri and other anti-Syrian figures.

But the legal document, a step towards establishing the court, does not come into force until it is ratified by the Lebanese parliament, which has not been called into session because of the refusal of its speaker to do so.

The tribunal has become a contentious issue between the anti-Syrian government of Prime Minister Fouad Sinjora, which wants the court, and pro-Syrian factions that include President Emile Lahoud, parliamentary speaker Nabih Berri and the Shiite Hezbollah movement, who oppose it.

The United Nations is hoping that a solution will be found by Arab diplomats and others, who are attempting to defuse the crisis and break the political logjam.

# Amidst Iraq Chaos, Intellectuals Take Flight

## Thousands of the country's targeted professionals flee sectarian violence

BAGHDAD (Reuters)—Six months after the U.S. invasion, Esam Pasha, a 30-year-old Iraqi artist and writer, proudly painted a mural called "Resilience" over a giant portrait of Saddam Hussein on the wall of a government building.

Now he lives in the United States. Pasha is among hundreds of thousands of Iraqis who have been driven abroad since the war, many of them doctors, businessmen, academics, and other professionals whose skills Iraq can ill-afford to lose.

Pasha talks wistfully about sipping tea and chatting all day at a gallery in Baghdad: "I can still hear the sounds and the birds and almost smell the tea."

His mural was a colorful celebration of Baghdad life and what he called "the ever-shining sun of Iraq."

"I didn't use a single drop of black paint in it. I felt like Baghdad had enough of black burnt in its memory," Pasha said in a telephone interview from Connecticut.

The mural is on a wall of the Ministry of Labor, which like all government offices in Baghdad is now surrounded by blast walls and guards, off limits to the general public.

"Hopefully someday it will be safe enough to have public artworks in Baghdad that people walk by safely and enjoy," he said. "That was what I had in mind, that if other artists do as I did, Baghdad would be beautiful and clean as it once was. But if there's no security, nothing can be done."

Abu Mina, a ceramic artist and university professor, still goes to the gallery Pasha remembers so fondly, but he says nobody is buying art anymore and he too is considering leaving.

He hasn't been paid for a month by the university, and most of his students don't come to class because it is too dangerous.

"Maybe only three students will graduate this year. The other 27 never showed up," he said. "I wouldn't even recognize their faces."

## Academics Targeted

The Higher Education Ministry says



John Moore/Getty Images

**ON PATROL:** An Iraqi girl passes a U.S. Marine patrolling with his squad through the streets of Ramadi in Iraq's Anbar Province last week.

at least 185 university teachers have been killed since April 2003, another 52 kidnapped, and 41 wounded. A double bombing at a Baghdad university this month killed at least 70 people, mostly students.

Abu Mina's son is studying medicine but classes are only held about once every two weeks, and many professors have moved to the safety of Damascus to teach at a private university.

Finding a dentist or a specialist surgeon or consultant can take weeks and often proves impossible, driving those who can afford it to seek medical treatment abroad. Hospital emergency rooms faced with floods of casualties from bombings and shootings are often short-staffed and overwhelmed.

A United Nations report this month said there was a worrying increase in attacks on professionals such as teachers, doctors, artists, lawyers, ex-military officers, and journalists.

"These attacks are typically perpetrated by extremists practicing conformist ideology and by militant/terror groups intent on spreading fear and intimidation," the report said, adding that a growing climate of Islamic extremism was also linked to attacks on academics.

## Rules of the Jungle

Asam Rifaat, 38, a criminal lawyer living in the upscale Mansour district of Baghdad, said he has decided to take his wife and two children out of Iraq. "I can't live in Baghdad anymore. It's turned into a city for dead people and I'm not ready to have my children grow up as orphans," he said.

"I can't work for justice in a country run by militias which act above the law," he said, referring to armed groups blamed for operating death squads responsible for hundreds of

killings every week, many thought to work in collusion with the police.

"I mean it, we are living according to the rules of the jungle," Rifaat said. "Every time I leave my home, I take a long look at (my children) Nora and Mahmoud because I always have the feeling that I'm not coming back, I'll be killed or abducted."

His wife, a 35-year-old teacher, has quit her job to stay home with the children. "Every time Asam leaves for work I keep praying for his safety. And when I see urgent news on television about bombs, I start crying until he comes home."

Salim al-Taie, a former army officer, 45, lives with his wife and three children aged 5 to 12 in Amriya in western Baghdad. "In the last four years many things have changed in Baghdad and definitely for the worse. No one respects the law any more, which is a disaster," he said.

"Life in Baghdad is like living in a city run by the mafia where anybody can be killed in cold blood," he said, recalling two friends and former pilots who were killed by gunmen.

"Every time I convince my wife that we mustn't give up hope, the ever-increasing blasts and sectarian killing prove I'm wrong," he said, adding that he had stopped sending his children to school and decided to move to Egypt.

"When I stopped Nahida and Jumana from going to school they started crying about not seeing their friends anymore," Taie said. "They broke my heart and their tears encouraged me to pack up and leave Iraq forever."

"I want no more tears in my children's eyes, even if the price is never to return to Iraq."

# Norwegian Opposition Seeks Tougher Immigration Rules

OSLO (Reuters)—Norway's biggest opposition party announced plans this week to tighten rules for immigrants from non-Western countries and to link access to the Scandinavian state's generous benefits to their integration into society.

The Progress Party, Norway's increasingly popular anti-immigration and anti-establishment voice, believes many immigrants from Muslim developing countries are failing to integrate with Norwegian society and adopt commonly held values.

To foster integration and stem more dangerous problems, such as those that France or Britain face with their large

minority populations, the party wants immigrants to learn Norwegian or forfeit welfare benefits.

It also seeks to ban immigration to Oslo, Norway's capital and biggest city, where one in five residents was born abroad.

"We want to impose far more conditions to enable one to receive public support," party founder and former leader Carl Hagen told a gathering of party faithful in Oslo.

"We will no longer accept the development of ghettos and that children are born in Norway and cannot speak Norwegian."

The Progress Party, which critics

say exploits people's fears, is supported by about 30 percent of Norwegians, according to recent opinion surveys. Polls show it is neck-and-neck with the ruling Labor Party and, for the first time ever, has a shot at winning the next general election, due in 2009.

Norway, which has only 4.6 million people, has for decades been open to asylum seekers from Africa and Asia but the latest wave of immigrants has come from Poland and other post-communist states after they joined the European Union.

As many as 120,000 workers from poorer EU countries have found work in Norway since May 2004, boosting

the country's economy and moderating wage growth.

Per-Willy Amundsen, the party's spokesman on immigration, believes for the new wave of EU migrants largely share "Norwegian values," which he said were democracy, freedom, and equality, including Western-style gender relations.

But he said he doubted immigrants from outside Europe shared those values.

"How can someone from a village in Pakistan, for example, have much knowledge about such issues? And many of these people bring this baggage with them ... and do not adopt our

values," Amundsen told Reuters.

Amundsen said the Progress Party wants to curb the inflow of non-Western immigrants by tightening residence rules for non-EU citizens, as Scandinavian neighbor Denmark has done.

The government has in the past distanced itself from plans to change immigration policy, and analysts say the centre-left coalition faces a dilemma, with many Norwegians fearful about immigration but migrant workers helping fuel economic growth.

"Keeping the status quo may be their best option," said Bernt Aardal from the Institute for Social Research in Oslo.

# Battle Begins for Canberra

CANBERRA  
Continued from Page A1

## Cabinet Reshuffle

In a new-year cabinet reshuffle, Howard put tough man Joe Hockey into industrial relations to deal with the consummate Shadow Industrial Relations Minister Julia Gillard, while former Industrial Relations Minister Kevin Andrews was moved sideways into Immigration, left vacant after the dumping of Amanda Vanstone.

"I think Joe Hockey will be able to go with the punches a bit more," Macintyre said.

"Kevin Andrews is a quieter, safe pair of hands for Immigration once the PM decided Vanstone was going."

Elevating former parliamentary secretary, Malcolm Turnbull, to Minister of Environment and Water was also a shrewd move.

"He is clearly one of the major strengths in the Government at the moment. He has been in parliament for the same length of time as Peter Garrett," Dr. Macintyre said.

"I think he is someone the Liberal Party will be very happy to have as a potential future leader."

## Broader Concerns

Macintyre said recent polls taken in marginal seats in South Australia indicated that the electorate was taking Labor seriously as an alternative government.

Social researcher and political commentator Hugh Mackay says he is seeing similar results. Writing in *The Age* earlier this year, Mackay said that over the last five years, whether it was Australia's booming resource economy or the fear of terrorism, the Australian electorate had shown a distinct lack of interest in broader na-

tional and international issues.

"We couldn't get enough TV programs about backyards and home renovations, because that's where our heads were," he wrote. "Our narrow, inward focus excluded the things we half-knew needed our attention."

Mackay said that deeper-value questions were gaining attention and issues like climate change, multiculturalism, the Iraqi War, and David Hicks were suddenly attracting critical interest. So was Mr. Rudd.

"Kevin Rudd's accession to the opposition leadership adds another item to the list of things re-engaging us," he said.

"Now, for some reason, there's a stirring, a restlessness, a gnawing sense that we'd better take another look at the big picture."

"Can Labor win in 2007? Who knows? But the question has suddenly become more interesting, the contest more lively," said Mackay.



Holm Morten/AP/Getty Images

**NARROW DOOR:** Norway's Progress Party, led by Siv Jensen, plans to tighten rules for non-Western immigrants.