



World Briefs

Israel offers to talk peace with Syria

JERUSALEM — Despite fierce debate at home, Israel will offer Syria "an attractive document" designed to advance a new round of peace talks in Washington this week, a senior Israeli negotiator said Sunday.

Israel's offer reflects "creative Israeli thought," and if Syria responds positively, the two sides will be able to draft "a joint document of principles," Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's chief negotiator with Syria, told Israel radio.

Such a document would mark a breakthrough for the two longtime enemies, whose negotiations have stirred heated debate in Israel over whether to yield part or all of the Golan Heights, seized by Israel during the 1967 war.

Rabinovich did not say what the document contained, but the strategy of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin appears to be to make guarded offers of territory, while insisting that Syria make clear what kind of peace it envisions.

The debate pits those who distrust Syria's stated desire for peace against those who say it should be tested with an offer of land for peace.

Israel wants a treaty that guarantees not just an end to the 44-year-old state of war between the nations but a peace with open borders and diplomatic ties, as exists between Israel and Egypt.

Syria in turn demands full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan.

The Daily Haaretz reported that the document stresses Israel will discuss territorial compromise only after Syria promises to continue negotiating even if talks with other Arab states deadlock.

Pro-democracy party leads in Thai election

BANGKOK, Thailand — Pro-democracy parties that want the military to stay out of politics appeared to be headed for a narrow victory in Sunday's parliamentary elections, the first since a bloody military crackdown in May.

The four parties pledged to form a coalition government if they won the vote, which was seen as a crucial test for a democracy that has weathered military coups and brutal suppressions of popular uprisings.

Nearly 32 million people were eligible to cast ballots, but turnout figures were not immediately available. As usual in Thai elections, there were reports of vote fraud.

Official results were expected early Monday. Projections based on exit polls by Television Channel 9 showed the pro-democracy parties would win 185, or 51 percent, of the 360 contested parliamentary seats. Television Channel 7 projected that the parties would win 190 seats.

The greatest influence on the elections was the so-called "Four Bloody Days" in May, when military forces killed more than 40 pro-democracy demonstrators and wounded hundreds of others in the streets of Bangkok.

The bloodshed shocked Thais, and further protests forced the resignation of Prime Minister Suchinda Kraprayoon, a former army chief appointed despite popular opposition.

The election pitted political parties that supported the demonstrators against those that had backed Suchinda.

—The Associated Press

Gaston police chief under indictment for drug, sex charges

By Stephanie Greer Staff Writer

Gaston Police Chief Gene Norwood, who was to be honored for his bravery and dedication by the Gaston Town Council, now finds himself facing allegations that he solicited prostitution and distributed drugs.

Norwood was charged with three counts of misdemeanor solicitation of prostitution and one count of distribution of diazepam (Valium) during the last week of August.

The charges are the result of a year-long investigation of Norwood by the State Bureau of Investigation.

"The public expects police officers to have a code of conduct that is above reproach," said Gaston Sheriff John Wood. "The police department will not tolerate any misbehavior like this."

Norwood's trial for the three misdemeanor charges began Thursday. The diazepam distribution charge is a felony and will be held over for superior court.

Norwood was released on \$2,500 unsecured bail.

No official complaints about Norwood have been made during his four years as police chief or during his eight years as jailer and deputy sheriff in both Halifax and Northampton counties, said Gaston town manager Don Johnson.

Norwood was suspended from his job Sept. 1 and will remain under suspension until the completion of his trial. Gaston Mayor E.E. Odom stated that Norwood would be reinstated if the charges were proven invalid.

The Gaston Town Council was to honor Norwood for valor on Tuesday. Norwood saved a woman from drowning after her boyfriend had thrown her into a river during an argument in the spring.

Halifax Community College also awarded Norwood a certificate of merit for his heroic actions.

Despite his honors, the case is a major issue because Northampton County has fewer than 20,000 people, Johnson said.

Although the charges have created questions about Norwood's moral character, there has been strong public support for him, Johnson said.

There is not a general consensus in the public as to why the investigation was begun, Johnson said.

"If you asked 50 or 75 people in town, each one would probably give a different answer — there are a lot of rumors flying around," he said.

For now, the county is in limbo until a verdict is reached at Norwood's trial. Johnson said that if Norwood was found guilty, he would be removed from office permanently.

Lacrosse

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saying they would "get" Shank after the bar closed.

"They waited at the bottom of the steps," Avery said.

To avoid an incident, Shank and Avery waited inside Players until the

team members left, Avery added.

"We went across the street to get a bite to eat," Avery said. "They were there."

Shank said several people surrounded him.

"That's when I took off, trying to avoid the situation," he said Sunday.

Avery said that when Shank ran, the group turned their attention toward Avery.

Avery added that he was shoved in the street and began walking away when the group came after him.

"One of them hit me in the head," Avery said.

Avery said he saw a police car's blue light from an accident on Franklin Street and started heading toward it for help.

Avery said he and a Chapel Hill police officer looked for the suspects in the alley by the Subway restaurant in the 100 block of E. Franklin Street.

Bell Tower

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a day.

One of the unusual results of Heller's job is her heightened awareness of the sound of the bells. She says she can hear the bells ringing from distances most people can't — even as far as two miles away.

On the wall inside the bell tower is a plaque that lists the first members of the "Guild of Bell Ringers." The names span the years 1931 to 1954. Heller said she considered herself part of the guild now, or, as she would have been called in 1931, "The Master Bell Ringer."

Heller has played the piano since she was in the third grade. She also plays the flute and several percussion instruments and is involved with a number of campus bands and ensembles.

Heller said that after graduation, she hoped to complete her teacher's certification and become a band director.

Why Ask Why?

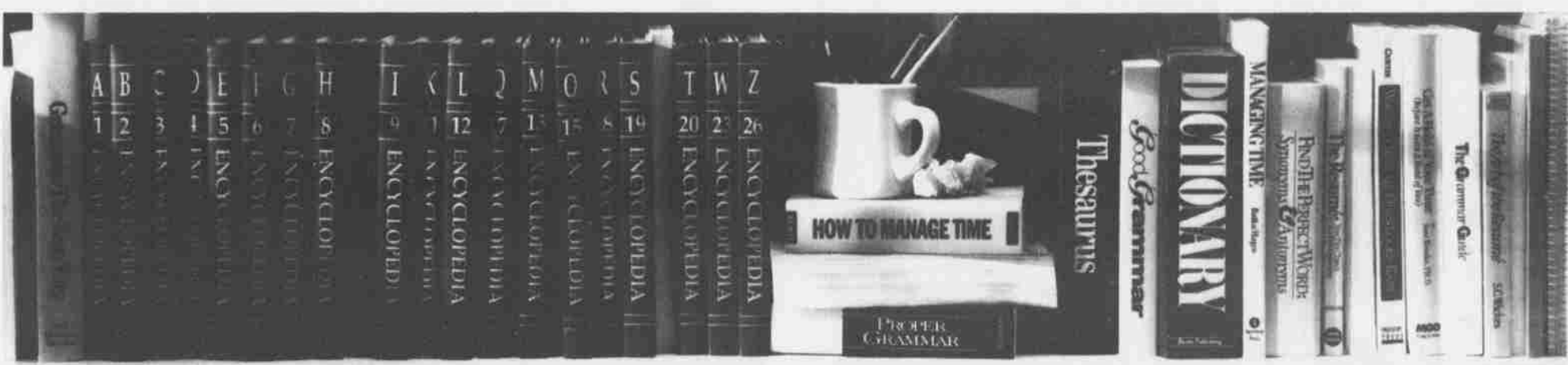
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