



IRON STRONG DAILY

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Iraqi children line up outside their classroom in anticipation for the Iraqi Army soldiers to distribute school supplies in the Sharif Primary school located in the southeastern region of Mosul, Iraq.

IA delivers school supplies to primary schools

**Story and photos by
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Soldiers with the 3rd Battalion, 5th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Army Division delivered much needed school supplies to children in two primary schools located in the

Sharif and Somer districts in the southeastern region of Mosul, Iraq.

Saturday marked the end of the school year for the Iraqi children in the two districts, said Capt. Ken Cook, operations officer with 3-5-2 Military Transition Team. "What better way to end the summer than with a celebration, Eid-el-fitr."

However, the beginning of a new

school year produced more than "in-the-classroom challenges."

"We found out from one of our last visits that some of the schools in this area are not getting the notebooks and some of the everyday materials needed that they would ordinarily get from the government

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Thund-Her-Struck, strikes COB Speicher



(LEFT) The all female AC/DC cover band Thund-Her-Struck, put on decimal blaring show for the Troops at the main gym on Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Saturday October 12. Lead Vocal Dyna Shirasaki belted out some classic hits by AC/DC

(RIGHT) Dyna Shirasaki leans into a crowd of Task Force Iron Soldiers as they swarm the stage. Thund-Her-Struck an all female cover band played some of the greatest hits of AC/DC at the Main Gym on Contingency Operating Base Speicher.



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(ABOVE) Two young Iraqi girls receive school bags from Soldiers with the 3rd Battalion, 5th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Army Division at the Somer primary school in the southeastern region of Mosul, Iraq. The schools supplies were donated to the Soldiers from non-governmental organizations.

(BELOW) Children line up to receive school supplies from the 3rd Battalion, 5th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Army Division at the Sharif primary school in the southeastern region of Mosul, Iraq. The children in the Sharif district began school Saturday.



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this year,” said Chicago native, Maj. John Ruckauf, intelligence advisor for 3-5-2 MiTT.

The IA was concerned for the children beginning a new school year, said Cook. “They’re coming in to make sure these guys know that we care about them just as well. We’re letting them know while they’re young that the Iraqi Army, Iraqi Police, Coalition force are not just here to go after the bad guys, they are here for their health and welfare. We want to look out for them and ‘spread the seed for a better future.’”

The Iraqi media is a powerful tool, said Ruckauf. “The media will be used to show that the Iraqi Army is here for more than breaking down doors and arresting people.

The Iraqi Army understands the condition of their people and that’s why they provide the security for their neighborhoods, but they feel they can’t do it alone said Iraqi Army Maj. Moseille Mohammed, operations officer for 3-5-2 IA.

“We have to push the sound of the people to national government,” said Mohammed. “There are a lot of problems that they need to address and the Iraqi people are suffering right now.”

During an interview with Al-Mosullia, the Headmaster for Sharif Primary school discussed a few concerns and issues.

“We need to help Iraqis how to learn to handle situations on their own,” said Headmaster Aeman Thibt Mavae through an interpreter. “Give them the skill-set to protect their own neighborhoods. Help the school work with the Iraqi government to start special projects that will boost the economy like; paving the roads, assisting markets and digging wells. The Iraqis want to become ‘one people, one body.’ We hope that the Iraqi people learn to be free in this country.”

Hopefully, the government will provide more assistance, until then, the children will have to make do with what they, said Mohammed.

HEALTH

(AFP) Exotic pets such lizards and more common animals like hamsters and hedgehogs pose a health risk to children and the elderly, a new study found Monday.

Although caring for pets can be beneficial for children, many animals such as tortoises carry diseases such as rabies or salmonella which can be transferred to their young owners, the study in the October edition of the Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics said.

Other more exotic creatures such as iguanas and monkeys can bite or scratch children causing infected wounds or allergies.

The study highlighted that most American homes have one or more pets, and recommended that families with children under the age of five should avoid adopting exotic animals.

The report said 11 percent of salmonella cases in children resulted from contacts with lizards, turtles and other reptiles, said lead author Larry Pickering.

Some 40,000 US homes have hedgehogs as pets, which are also carriers of two other kinds of salmonella found in their spines.

"Exotic animals imported to the United States have been associated with the introduction of infectious agents otherwise not present in the United States," the study says.

"Contact between animals from different areas of the world can lead to the appearance of disease in a new species and establishment of a pathogen in a new geographic area."

One example given is the arrival of human monkeypox in the United States in 2003, which was traced to an importation of African Gambian rats, which infected prairie dogs sold as pets.

The report also warned that "the natural reservoir of plague is wild rodents with humans becoming infected through bites of infected rodent fleas."

It highlighted that macaque monkeys have been found to carry a type of Herpes B virus, while cases of a nasty lymph disease known as tularemia, which can lead to painful



skin and mouth ulcers as well as pneumonia, have been traced to hamsters.

"Most non-traditional pets pose a risk to the health of young children, and their acquisition and ownership should be discouraged in households with young children," the report concludes.

TECHNOLOGY

(REUTERS) Shares of Apple Inc. rallied more than 9 percent Friday, as investors saw a newly attractive



valuation in the battered stock and anticipated new laptop computers.

Apple, which also makes iPod music players and iPhone communications devices, has scheduled a Tuesday event at which it is expected to unveil a line of lower-cost notebooks. The company is scheduled to release its quarterly results the following Tuesday.

With the economy likely facing a drastic slowdown in consumer spending, Apple's shares had dropped more than 40 percent in the last month.

But Yair Reiner, an analyst with Oppenheimer, said that with the Apple's stock trading at less than half the price of a year ago, the shares look attractive on valuation alone.

"Growth is just a bonus," Reiner said.

Other analysts agree. "Given the recent sell-off in technology stocks, Apple's stock offers a valuation entry point not seen in years," Bank of America analyst Scott Craig wrote in a note on Wednesday.

With the hype that typically accompanies an Apple product launch, investors will be watching next week to see if the company can maintain momentum.

Reiner said he thinks a line of less expensive computers could help the company ride out the turbulence of the coming months.

"One of the biggest fears about Apple is that it's going into a recession selling high-end electronics. I think that if it can broaden its product portfolio and include products that are competitive on the mid-end, it positions it to better weather the storm and appeal to a larger base of consumers."

Shares of Apple rose \$8.06 to close at \$96.80 on Nasdaq.

BASKETBALL

(REUTERS) The Golden State Warriors have suspended guard Monta Ellis for 30 games without pay for violating terms of his contract after being involved in a moped accident in which he injured an ankle.

Ellis tore a ligament in his left ankle in the August accident and underwent surgery.

"The cooperation that we received from Jeff Fried (Monta's representative) enabled us to be very diligent in collecting all of the facts surrounding the incident," Warriors president Robert Rowell said in a statement Saturday.

"This 30-game suspension is a result of that."

The suspension will take effect immediately and will end after their game on December 17.

"From this point forward, it is the complete focus of everyone involved to provide Monta with all the support he needs to have a successful rehabilitation, and to get him back on the court as an integral part of this team," Rowell said.

Ellis, a fourth-year guard, was expected to be out for 12 weeks following his surgery and rehabilitation period.

He is expected to lose about \$3 million in salary during his suspension, the San Francisco Chronicle reported on its website (www.sfgate.com).

Ellis signed a six-year, \$66 million contract several weeks before the accident.



FOOTBALL



(AP) Tony Gonzalez, the most productive tight end in NFL history, will be traded to a contender if the Kansas City Chiefs get the right price.

Three people familiar with the situation told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity that the nine-time Pro Bowl player could be dealt before the Tuesday trade deadline. The three didn't want to be identified because a deal hasn't been struck.

Gonzalez, who holds the NFL tight end record for receptions, touchdown catches and yards receiving, is active in civic and charitable affairs and enjoys great popularity in Kansas City. He has always said he would like to end his career with the Chiefs, who drafted him in the first round out of California in 1997.

But the Chiefs (1-4) are rebuilding from the bottom up and not likely to contend for the Super Bowl any time soon. In spite of all his personal accomplishments, Gonzalez, 32, has never even won a postseason game.

He would like an opportunity to play in a Super Bowl and the rebuilding Chiefs would like to acquire extra draft picks.

Two people involved in the situation said there had been discussion with the New York Giants, but that talks had not been productive.

The Giants traded tight end Jeremy Shockey to New Orleans last summer for Nos. 2 and 5 drafts pick in 2009. Shockey's replacement, Kevin Boss, has been a disappointment even though the defending Super Bowl champs are undefeated.

Chiefs general manager Carl Peterson is a notoriously tough negotiator and would probably demand at least a second-round pick for the man many Chiefs fans believe is the greatest offensive player in team history.

GOLF

(AP) South Africa's Rory Sabbatini birdied the final hole for a 7-under 63 and a one-stroke lead over Zach Johnson on Saturday in the Texas Open.

Sabbatini, a four-time tour winner who lives in Southlake outside Dallas, had an eagle and four birdies for a back-nine 29 on the La Cantera Golf Club's Resort Course. Winless since the 2007 Colonial in Fort Worth, he had a 14-under 196 total.

"It's fun to play a course where you actually know where the ball is going. It's been a frustrating year, but this feels good," Sabbatini said.

Johnson, the 2007 Masters champion, shot a bogey-free 62, playing the front nine in 5-under 30. He has three career PGA Tour victories, but has only one top-10 finish this year and entered the week 125th on the money list.

"Some of my best rounds have come with limited confidence," Johnson said. "I didn't have high expectations coming in. But when I've played well, I've putted well and that was the case today."

Tim Wilkinson (63), 1997 winner Tim Herron (67) and second-round leader Chris Stroud (69) were 11 under, and Mark Wilson (66), Joe Ogilvie (67), Michael H. Thompson (67), Jeff Overton (67) and Tim Petrovic (68) followed at 10 under.

Defending champion Justin Leonard, the former University of Texas star seeking a record fourth victory in the event, was 7 under after a 64.

"There's still a lot of golf to be played, but it's going to take another round like this or better to have a chance tomorrow," Leonard said.



NORTH KOREA



(AP) North Korea said Sunday it will resume dismantling its main nuclear facilities, hours after the U.S. removed the communist country from a list of states Washington says sponsor terrorism.

North Korea's Foreign Ministry said it will again allow inspections by the United States and the International Atomic Energy Agency at its Yongbyon nuclear complex to verify the disablement process, pledged under a 2007 disarmament-for-aid deal with the U.S. and four other regional powers.

"We welcome the U.S. which has honored its commitment to delist (North Korea) as 'a state sponsor of terrorism,'" the ministry said in a statement carried by the country's official Korean Central News Agency.

North Korea halted its nuclear disablement in mid-August in anger over what it called U.S. delays in removing it from the terror list. The country has since taken steps toward reassembling its plutonium-producing facility and barred international inspectors from the site.

The U.S. had said North Korea first had to allow verification of the declaration of its nuclear programs it submitted in June. On Saturday, the U.S. said it took the North off the terrorism blacklist because Pyongyang had agreed to all Washington's nuclear inspection demands.

U.S. officials said North Korea agreed to allow atomic experts to take samples and conduct forensic tests at all of its declared nuclear facilities and undeclared sites on mutual consent, and would permit them to verify that it has told the truth about transfers of nuclear technology and allegations it ran a separate secret uranium enrichment program.

U.S. officials, however, said the

North could again be placed on the blacklist if it doesn't comply with the inspections. The North also said Sunday that prospects for its disarmament depend on whether the U.S. delisting actually takes effect and the North receives remaining international oil shipments promised under the 2007 aid deal.

Under that agreement with the U.S., South Korea, China, Russia and Japan, the North agreed to abandon its nuclear programs in return for the equivalent of 1 million tons of oil shipments and other benefits. North Korea said even though it had completed eight of 11 key disablement procedures, only half of the promised oil shipments had been delivered.

Analysts called the latest development important progress in resolving the nuclear tensions, but said it could still take many years to get Pyongyang to completely dismantle its nuclear programs.

"The terrorism delisting is just one step in getting the North to abandon its nuclear programs," said Kang Sung-yoon, a North Korea expert at Seoul's Dongguk University. "I think we'll face tiresome discussions" on how to proceed with the nuclear inspections.

The delisting decision has been in the works since chief U.S. nuclear envoy Christopher Hill traveled to Pyongyang and met senior North Korean officials earlier this month. Hill has called the meeting "substantial," while the North's Sunday statement said it was "an in-depth beneficial discussion."

Earlier Sunday, South Korea's chief nuclear envoy Kim Sook said his country welcomed the U.S. decision and the North's corresponding moves to resume disablement work. He told reporters those developments would put six-party talks back on track and lead North Korea to give up its nuclear programs.

Kim also said the nuclear talks — which last convened in July — would resume soon to finalize details of the international inspections. South Korea's Yonhap news agency quoted U.S. State Department official Sung Kim as saying the discussions could take place this month.

China, which has played a key role as host of the six-party talks since 2003, had no immediate comment Sunday on the delisting, the country's Foreign Ministry said.

Japan, which has been at odds with Pyongyang over abductions of its

citizens by North Korean agents in the 1970s and 1980s, said it wanted to work with the other five nations toward a specific framework for nuclear inspections in North Korea, according to the Foreign Ministry.

Finance Minister Shoichi Nakagawa, however, who was in the U.S. to take part in talks on the global economic crisis, said Japan had been cut out of the negotiation process regarding the U.S. decision to delist the North.

"As to whether there were full discussions with Japan, as an ally, before the removal, I don't think that was the case, which is very regrettable," he said Saturday.

CANADA

(REUTERS) A rights tribunal on Friday dismissed a case against Maclean's magazine, which was accused of spreading hatred against Muslims in an article by conservative writer Mark Steyn.

The 2006 article "The New Word Order" may have caused some to fear Muslims as a threat to western society, but that did not mean that it promoted religious hatred, the British Columbia Human Rights Tribunal ruled.

"The article, with all of its inaccuracies and hyperbole, has resulted in political debate which in our view (the human rights code) was never intended to suppress," the three-member panel ruled.

Media and civil rights groups had opposed the complaint against Maclean's by the Canadian Islamic Congress, fearing that a ruling against the national newsweekly would lead to restrictions on freedom of the press.

Maclean's is owned by Toronto-based publishing and telecoms group Rogers Communications Inc.

Steyn argued in the article that the Islamic world would eventually dominate the non-Muslim world because it was younger and had a higher birth rate and global ambitions, while the West was "old and enfeebled."

The article was an excerpt from Steyn's book "America Alone".

The Canadian Islamic Congress lost similar complaints against the Maclean's article in Ontario and before the Canadian Human Rights Commission.