

Today	Wednesday	Thursday
High: 72 Low: 54 Precip: 30%	High: 70 Low: 49 Precip: 30%	High: 74 Low: 52 Precip: 20%

IN BRIEF

Car bombs kill 24, wound more than 100 in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Insurgents unleashed a pair of powerful car bombs Monday near the symbol of U.S. authority in Iraq — the Green Zone, where the U.S. Embassy and key government offices are located — and hotels occupied by hundreds of foreigners. Two other explosions brought the day's bombing toll to at least 24 dead and more than 100 wounded. More than three dozen car bombings since the beginning of September illustrate the militants' seeming ability to strike at will despite recent pledges by the United States and Iraq to intensify the suppression of insurgents, and the morale-boosting recapture of Samarra over the weekend.

First open Saudi Arabian trial is canceled

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Saudi Arabia's first open trial for democratic advocates was abruptly closed by the judge Monday, a decision seen by progressive Saudis as a setback to reform efforts in the kingdom.

The three defendants are the last remaining detainees among 13 reformers arrested in March after openly criticizing the strict religious environment and slow pace of reform in the kingdom, where the United States has been pressing for democratic change.

Some of the 13 had signed a letter to Crown Prince Abdullah

calling for political, economic and social reforms, including parliamentary elections.

Rocket wins \$10 million prize for trip to space

MOJAVE, Calif. — A stout, star-spangled rocket plane broke through the Earth's atmosphere to the edge of space Monday for the second time in five days, capturing a \$10 million prize aimed at opening the final frontier to tourists. The privately built SpaceShipOne took off underneath the belly of a mother plane that carried it about nine miles over the Mojave Desert. From there, SpaceShipOne fired its engine and streaked skyward at about three times the speed of sound on a half-hour flight that took it more than 62 miles high, generally considered the point where space begins.

Teachers overlooked killing warning signs

NAGASAKI — The Nagasaki prefectural education board said Tuesday in a report that teachers had overlooked warning signs before an 11-year-old girl in the city of Sasebo killed her classmate in June because they had considered the girl to be "an earnest and hard worker."

The education board unveiled the report on its findings about the incident at the prefectural assembly meeting in the morning.

The girl, whose name has been withheld because she is a minor, killed Satomi Mitarai, 12, on June 1, by slashing her neck with a knife in an empty classroom at Okubo Elementary School in Sasebo during the lunch hour and leaving her to bleed to death.

— The Associated Press

Attack-plagued Indonesia holds democratic elections

Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono to begin presidency Oct. 20 after receiving 60 percent of the votes

BY MICHAEL CASEY
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono was declared Indonesia's next president Monday and now faces the tough task of rebuilding a country plagued by attacks from Al-Qaida-linked terrorists, separatist conflicts and an economy still reeling from the 1998 Asian financial crisis.

The U.S.-educated Yudhoyono won 60 percent of the vote compared to President Megawati Sukarnoputri's 39 percent in the Sept. 20 runoff election, final results showed Monday. He will be inaugurated Oct. 20 and is expected to announce his Cabinet soon after.

Even with his popular mandate, the 55-year-old general, who critics say has a history of indecisiveness, declined to declare victory on Monday or give specifics on how he intended to govern the world's largest Muslim nation.

"Our big theme will be reconciliation and working together within democracy for the country's future," he told reporters in his first comments after being declared the winner. He did not elaborate.

Yudhoyono was planning to make an acceptance speech but canceled after Megawati refused to concede, his aides said. Megawati's campaign spokesman Pramono Anung said she accepted the results but would "speak at the right time."

Analysts said Yudhoyono could go a long way to shoring up his popularity and pleasing markets in the first few weeks by picking a Cabinet

of professionals.

He also could unveil a policy agenda that reflects voters' desires for a crackdown on widespread corruption and reduction of the country's double-digit unemployment rate that has lingered since the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis.

He could also take a tougher stand against hardline Islamic groups by formally outlawing the Al-Qaida linked Jemaah Islamiyah terror group which has been blamed for a string of bombings, including the Sept. 9 attack outside the Australian Embassy and the Oct. 12, 2002 Bali bombings that killed 202 people.

Yudhoyono attended officer training college in the United States and led the country's anti-terror effort as Megawati's security minister. He is also credited with attempting to bring peace to the province of Aceh, where separatist guerillas have been fighting since 1976 for an independent homeland.

He has said he wants to settle the conflict peacefully but must contend with a powerful military that believes force is the best option.

"We still have a political and economic crisis in the country so it is important for us to have a credible Cabinet," analyst Eep Saefulloh Fatah said.

The election was the first in which Indonesia's 210 million people voted for their president directly. The ballot, which was peaceful and free of irregularities, was praised as a key step in the country's transition to

democracy after the downfall of ex-dictator Suharto in 1998.

Yudhoyono presented few distinct policies during the campaign, but voters hungry for change were impressed by his grasp of the issues and his steadfast, honest image.

Analysts said Yudhoyono could learn much from the largely unsuccessful administrations of Megawati and former president Abdurrahman Wahid, both of which he served in.

Megawati lost much of her support early on by allowing corruption to go unchecked and dragging her feet on economic reforms. Wahid is remembered as an erratic leader who routinely fired Cabinet ministers, issued contradictory policies and traveled abroad in times of crisis.

The biggest challenge for Yudhoyono will be balancing the expectations of his supporters for far-reaching reforms with the political realities on the ground.

His Democratic Party has less than 10 percent of the seats in parliament, meaning he will either have to forge coalitions with the political elite who he ran against, or go it alone and risk political gridlock during his five-year tenure.

An early test of his resolve will be how he deals with the issue of fuel subsidies, which have ballooned in recent months as oil prices reached \$50 per barrel.

Critics say the subsidies mostly benefit rich car owners, and cutting them would free up money for education and programs for the poor. Megawati cut the subsidies last year with little notice, prompting nationwide street protests.

Buy your textbooks on eBay

and save up to 45% off* the list price.

PREVENT OVERSPENDING

College for less. More for you.

Play online for a chance to WIN!**

- ★ \$2,500 eBay Shopping Spree!
- ★ SoBe cooler and drinks for a year!
- ★ Mobile phone and \$50 Verizon Wireless gift card!
- ★ Thousands of other prizes!



Prizes provided by:



www.ebay.com/college

*Savings based on a comparison of average sale prices for most popular textbooks on eBay.com during January 2004, with the list price of those books.

**No purchase necessary. The eBay Prevent Overspending Match and Win Game begins at 12:00 AM PDT 8/10/04 and ends at 11:59 PM PDT 9/30/04. Game is open to legal residents of the 50 United States and the District of Columbia, 18 years of age and older. Void in Puerto Rico and where prohibited. \$2500 shopping spree to be awarded as eBay Anything Points. For details and full official rules, go to www.ebay.com/collegerules

© 2004 eBay Inc. All rights reserved. eBay and the eBay logo are registered trademarks of eBay Inc. Designated trademarks and brands are the property of their respective owners.