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IN BRIEF

**Car bombs kill 11; Rumsfeld visits Iraq**

ALASAD AIR BASE, Iraq — The United States may be able to reduce its troop levels in Iraq after the January elections if security improves and Iraqi government forces continue to expand and improve, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Sunday. Meanwhile, car bombers struck twice in rapid succession in the capital Sunday, killing at least 11 people including an American soldier. Rocket-propelled grenade explosions and machine gun fire rocked the insurgent stronghold of Ramadi, west of Baghdad, late Sunday. Residents reached by telephone said insurgents launched attacks in a half dozen parts of Ramadi, and that four huge explosions shook the center of the city Sunday night.

**Somalia is in final stage of peace plan**

NAIROBI, Kenya — Members of Somalia's transitional parliament on Sunday elected a former army colonel as interim president, the final stage of a peace plan meant to end 13 years of civil war in the Horn of Africa nation.

Col. Abdullahi Yusuf won with 189 votes in a third round of voting, Shariif Hassan Sheikh Aden told the 275-member transitional parliament and regional foreign affairs ministers, who observed the vote.

The vote was held in Kenya because of a lack of security in Somalia, where the country is divided into fiefdoms controlled by warlords. Thousands of people have been killed in the war.

**Heavy rains cause flooding, 177 deaths**

GAUHATI, India — Rescuers searching through knee-deep water found 33 more bodies in India's remote northeastern state of Assam on Sunday, bringing the death toll from unseasonably heavy rains in South Asia to 177.

Four days of devastating rainstorms triggered landslides in some parts of Assam and battered large areas of eastern India, Bangladesh and Nepal, flattening mud houses and leaving tens of thousands of people homeless, officials said.

In the hardest-hit district of Goalpara in Assam, receding waters Sunday revealed the bloated carcasses of thousands of cows, buffaloes, goats and poultry, said local administrator Anil Mazumdar. Soldiers were helping villagers clear the carcasses to prevent the spread of disease, he said.

— The Associated Press

# Mexico runners fight for ballots

*5,000 runners will carry a torch to New York to request absentee voting*

BY TRACI CARL  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEXICO CITY — Mexican migrants launched a two-month relay Sunday from Mexico's capital to New York, calling on lawmakers to grant them the right to cast absentee ballots in the 2006 presidential elections and organizing undocumented workers along the way.

The binational relay is in its third year, following a 3,800-mile route through northeast Mexico, then the southern and eastern United States, with runners carrying a torch to New York City in honor of Mexico's patron saint, the Virgin of Guadalupe.

Some 5,000 runners will carry the torch, sometimes passing through farm towns with only a few people, and other times — like when the torch passes through Atlanta, which has a rapidly growing migrant population — with thousands cheering them on.

The group is scheduled to arrive at New York's St. Patrick's Cathedral on Dec. 12, when Mexicans commemorate the day in 1531 when, according to legend, the dark-skinned virgin appeared to a poor Indian, Juan Diego, and left her image imprinted on his cloak.

Mexican migrants living in New York always celebrated Dec. 12 at St. Patrick's, leading pilgrimages from their neighborhoods but wishing they could travel to Mexico City's Basilica, as many Mexicans pilgrims do.


In 2001, at the urging of the Roman Catholic Church, they decided to try it, planning a trip that would take them from the Basilica to St. Patrick's. Each year, the march has grown, kicking off with the group celebrating a Mass in Mexico City and ending up in New York.

The route is expected to cross the border at Brownsville, Texas, on Nov. 7, then travel through Louisiana; Mississippi; Alabama; Georgia; South Carolina; North Carolina; Virginia; Washington, D.C.; Maryland; Delaware; Pennsylvania; and New Jersey.

Joel Magallan, executive director of New York's Tepeyac Association, which organizes the relay, said the event has grown into a march for all migrants' rights — not just Mexicans living in New York.

Under current Mexican law, Mexicans must return home to vote. Although there is a proposal in Congress that would grant Mexicans the right to vote while living abroad, it appears to have little chance at approval because of controversy over how to avoid fraud.

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE REC



### REC PROGRAM INFORMATION

**Indoor Soccer Manager's Meeting** - TODAY at 4:00 pm in Multipurpose Room #4 located in the SRC.

**Coed Volleyball Manager's Meeting** - Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm in the Ulrich Room located in the SRC.

\*Looking for a team? We can help - come and sign-up on the free agent list in the Rec Sports Office.

**New Dr. Pepper 4 on 4 Flag Football Tournament** - Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. This event is FREE! Entry deadline is Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> by 5:00pm. Men's, Women's and Coed Divisions offered. For more information contact the Rec Sports office at 346-4113 or drop by 102 Esslinger Hall.


**Free T-shirts for all participants plus prizes and giveaways.**

**Rec Aerobics Program** - Purchase a punch card (in 102 Esslinger Hall) and choose from 12 different classes each week. All classes are held in Multipurpose #1 of the SRC.

**Free Fitness Orientation Program** - Come and sign up for a free Fitness Orientation today! The Fitness Orientation program is conducted in a small group (1-5 people) and includes a tour of the facilities and basic instruction on the use of cardiovascular & weight training equipment. For more information call 346-1364.

**CONTACT US**  
PE & Rec Programs 346-4113  
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### ARE YOUR WEEKENDS MISSING SOMETHING?

Join us on Sundays for worship services featuring Holy Communion. We have traditional services on Sunday mornings and Marty Haugen services on Sunday evenings.

Sundays 9:00 am and 6:30 pm  
Student/Young Adult Bible Study, Sundays, 7:30 pm

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