

Today	Wednesday	Thursday
High: 54 Low: 41 Precip: 30%	High: 54 Low: 43 Precip: 0%	High: 51 Low: 37 Precip: 30%

IN BRIEF

Roman Catholic bishops choose new president

WASHINGTON — America's Roman Catholic bishops chose a new president Monday who has released the names of priests accused of molesting children and reached out to victims, but who also plans to seek bankruptcy protection for his diocese because of abuse claims.

Bishop William Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., was elected conference president by his fellow bishops on the first ballot, just days after announcing his diocese will go into Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

Skylstad, who has served as conference vice president for the past three years, received 120 votes, or 52 percent of the total in a field of 10 candidates. Every vice president who has sought the top job has won.

Gunfight in Gaza City kills two, injures five

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — From the moment it ended, the gun battle that sent new PLO chief Mahmoud Abbas scrambling for cover was clouded in confusion.

In one version, it was an assassination attempt. In another, a misunderstanding gone awry in a room full of guns.

Either way, the incident Sunday that killed two security officers and injured five other people underscored the difficulties facing the new Palestinian leadership after the death of Yasser Arafat and highlighted fears Gaza could collapse into chaos.

Islamic radicalism spreads across the Netherlands

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — Spurred by the first terrorist killing on its soil, the Dutch justice minister said Monday that authorities need broader arrest powers to combat a growing threat from Islamic radicals in the Netherlands.

Justice Minister Piet Hein Donner also suggested Islamic radicalism is more widespread than the government previously acknowledged.

He said the new laws would empower anti-terrorism investigators to detain suspects without evidence that they may have committed a crime.

"In those cases where we can't even clearly prove the existence of recruitment or radicalization, but only have a suspicion, we will still use possible administrative powers and other powers to disrupt it as much as possible," said Donner, the country's leading terrorism official.

— The Associated Press

Fall recruiting season most active since dot.com boom

Job prospects brighten for college graduates; a survey says college hiring is expected to go up 13 percent

BY JUSTIN POPE
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON — The recovering economy and looming retirement of the baby boomers are making this a very good year to be a college senior looking for a job after graduation. Recruiters, career counselors and students say the fall recruiting season has been the most active since the dot.com boom.

Accountants are again finding increased demand for their services thanks to the wave of post-Enron regulation, but theirs is just one of several hot fields. Technology companies, investment banks and consulting firms appear to be picking up the pace, as do some defense contractors and even smaller businesses that haven't traditionally recruited on campus.

"I haven't been to school in the last three weeks because of my interview schedule," said Eric Golden, a senior at Bentley College, a business-oriented school in the Boston suburb of Waltham. He feels lucky to be graduating this year.

Friends with similar credentials who graduated earlier often ended up taking positions that weren't their top choices "just to have a job," Golden said. He's been juggling about a dozen interviews with companies

including money managers, investment banks and General Electric.

College hiring is expected to increase 13 percent over last year, according to a new survey from National Association of Colleges and Employers. Seven out of 10 employers said they expected to increase salary offers to new college grads, according to the survey released late last week, with an average increase of 3.7 percent.

Michigan State's College Employment Research Institute will release a report Thursday that director Phil Gardner said will show overall campus hiring is up as much as 20 percent this year, depending on the region.

Some engineers are still having a tough time, in part because so much manufacturing has moved off shore. And many businesses, notably financial services, learned to get by with leaner staffs during the downturn.

But there is clear momentum. At California State University, Fullerton, the number of companies at a fall career fair was up about 40 percent from last year; at the University of Florida, the number of recruiting companies is up as much as 15 percent.

And at the University of Notre

Dame in South Bend, Ind., interviews are up roughly 30 percent. For the first time since the dot.com boom, competition was fierce enough that companies were pushing students for immediate decisions on their offers.

Don Brezinski, executive director of corporate relations at Bentley, said "we're seeing companies that, instead of looking to hire one or two, have openings of a dozen. It's when you have the big companies going really deep, then you know you're hitting stride with employment recovery."

Accounting remains one of the best backgrounds to have for a job-hunting senior. PriceWaterhouseCoopers plans to hire about 3,100 people off U.S. college campuses this year, up almost 19 percent from last year. Ernst & Young, another big accounting firm, plans to increase hiring about 30 percent this year and bring on 4,000 new college grads. Jim Case, director of the career center at Cal State-Fullerton, says regional and local accounting firms are hiring, too.

Finance and, yet again, nursing skills are also in demand and job hunters willing to move have a big advantage. Computer science jobs are also returning after the tech slump, said Carol Lyons, dean of the career services department at Boston's Northeastern University, though other fields, like journalism, are still tough.

Mexico's former leading party wins two gubernatorial races

The Institutional Revolutionary Party lost presidency in 2001, but it could be a powerful contender in 2006

BY OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CIUDAD VICTORIA, Mexico — Mexico's former ruling party won two gubernatorial races and held narrow leads in two others Monday in an election showing that could make it a force in the 2006 national vote, in which the party seeks to regain the presidency it held for more than 70 years.

The Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, lost the presidency in 2000 after 71 years of one-party rule, ushering in what was widely considered to be the start of Mexico's true democracy. But the PRI has been working to rebuild, winning elections for governor in four states earlier this year.

The party was fighting to win all four seats up for grabs in Sunday's

voting. In the Pacific Coast state of Sinaloa, the PRI was surprised by a close race with President Vicente Fox's National Action Party, or PAN.

In the border state of Tamaulipas, with nearly all ballots counted, the PRI's Eugenio Hernandez, former mayor of Ciudad Victoria, was the clear winner with 58 percent of the vote, nearly double that of his challenger Gustavo Cardenas.

"Let's turn the page and look forward because this process has ended," Hernandez said, claiming victory an hour after polls closed. "We'll wait for the official results, but it's apparent the people of Tamaulipas have chosen us."

Cardenas, of PAN, promised to fight the results in court, saying the voting was marred by violations and accusing Gov. Tomas Yarrington of

interfering in the race by campaigning on behalf of Hernandez.

"We won't allow them to step on the will of the people of Tamaulipas," said Cardenas, a 46-year-old businessman and senator who ran for governor in 1998 and lost.

In central Puebla state, the PRI's Mario Marin won a landslide victory over the PAN's Francisco Fraile, a 56-year-old senator.

The PRI held slim leads in two other states, where the PAN was likely to fight the results until they are officially certified later this week.

As vote counting wrapped up in Sinaloa, the PRI's Jesus Aguilar, 42, a state lawmaker, had 46 percent compared with 45 percent for the PAN's Heriberto Felix, a businessman and former secretary for economic development in Sinaloa.

And in central Tlaxcala state, the PRI's Mariano Gonzalez, a senator, had 37 percent compared with 35 percent for the PAN's Hector Ortiz, the mayor of the city of Tlaxcala.

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