

IN BRIEF

U.S. gave \$1 billion in faith-based funds in 2003

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The government gave more than \$1 billion in 2003 to organizations it considers "faith-based," with some going to programs where prayer and spiritual guidance are central and some to organizations that do not consider themselves religious at all.

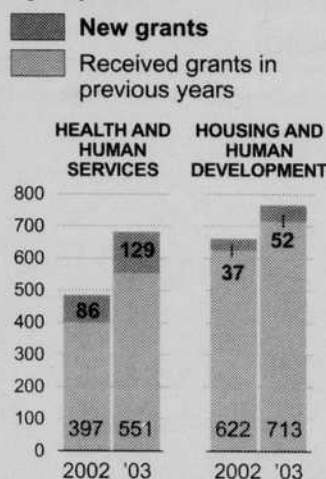
Many of these groups have entirely secular missions, and some organizations were surprised to find their names on a list of faith-based groups provided to The Associated Press by the White House.

"Someone has obviously designated us a faith-based organization, but we don't recognize ourselves as that," said Stacey Denaux, executive director of Crisis Ministries, a homeless shelter and soup kitchen in Charleston, S.C.

Faith-based grants

Most faith-based organizations were getting funding before the Bush initiative began in 2003.

Grants awarded to faith-based organizations, by department



SOURCE: White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

Israel sends tanks into Gaza in response to rocket fire

DEIR EL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — Mahmoud Abbas, the leading candidate for Palestinian president, called

on militants Sunday to stop firing rockets at Israel, as Israeli tanks and troops massed in northern Gaza in response to the latest barrage.

A poll released Sunday showed Abbas with the backing of two-thirds of his people, three times the support of his nearest rival before a Jan. 9 election to replace Yasser Arafat. Still, the candidate spent the day courting those who have disparaged him in the past — young militants.

With Israeli tanks gathering nearby, Abbas expressed his support for the gunmen — viewed as resistance heroes by Palestinians and as terrorists by Israel — at a campaign rally at a school in the northern Gaza town of Jebeliya.

However, he also criticized the rocket fire.

Funerals, protests follow Argentina fire in nightclub

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — Mourning families on Sunday buried victims of the nightclub fire that killed at least 188 people and injured more than 700, while Buenos Aires' public security chief resigned in the furor following revelations that some of the packed club's emergency exits were locked.

The funerals came before a pot-banging protest as irate Buenos Aires residents demanded a full government accounting for Thursday's calamity, the worst fire tragedy in the country in recent memory.

At one grave site, a toddler stood dazed as relatives tearfully clutched at a coffin before it was laid into the earth.

Elsewhere, anger was palpable on what is traditionally one of the most festive holiday weekends of the year. "Resign! Resign!" several hundred people shouted during a march late Saturday on the offices of Mayor Anibal Ibarra.

Croatian loses outright majority, runoff to follow

ZAGREB, Croatia — Croatia's pro-Western president failed to win an outright majority for re-election on Sunday, forcing him to face a runoff vote against the conservative government's candidate in two weeks.

Stipe Mesic had 49.03 percent of the votes — just short of the majority needed to give him a second term, the state-run Electoral Commission said after more than 99 percent of the votes were counted.

The 70-year-old incumbent, who was backed by most opposition parties, declared the results a "brilliant victory" and voiced confidence that he would win the runoff on Jan. 16.

"I led Croatia to the doors of the (mainstream) Europe, and I will lead it to it," Mesic said to cheers from his supporters.

— The Associated Press

U.S. helps distribute water, food to tsunami survivors

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — A Sumatran fisherman was discovered barely alive under his beached boat Sunday — the first survivor found in three days. But with tens of thousands still missing in crushed seaside settlements and in the flotsam washing the shores of the Indian Ocean, rescuers turned full attention to getting food and water to the living. Aid agencies said the death toll was expected to hit 150,000.

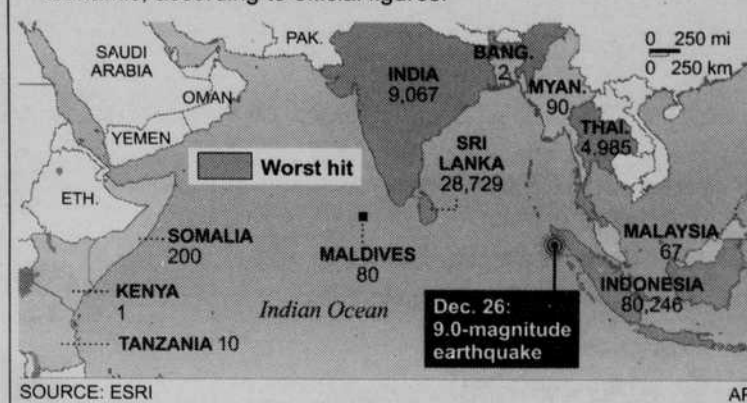
The discovery of 24-year-old Tengku Sofyan, who could barely speak and was badly dehydrated, came as relief efforts accelerated across the southern Asian destruction zone. He was sent to a hospital in Banda Aceh, on the northern tip of Sumatra, the hardest hit region where an estimated 100,000 died when the most powerful earthquake in four decades ripped a fault line beneath the sea bed 100 miles off shore. The tsunami it spawned turned the world upside down for people living as far away as Somalia, 3,000 miles away on the east coast of Africa.

With rescue teams focused on Sumatra, U.S. military helicopters flew in biscuits, energy drinks and instant noodles to hungry, homeless villagers. The operation was part of a \$2 billion global relief effort announced as international donors began assembling for a conference on rebuilding in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta, on Thursday.

As the relief efforts drove deeper into the sprawling disaster zone, American pilots had some of the first glimpses of wrecked Sumatran coastal villages such as Keude

Death toll continues to rise

At least 123,477 people were killed in 11 countries in southern Asia and East Africa from Sunday's massive earthquake and tsunami, according to official figures.



Teunom, where survivors in tattered clothing grabbed at bottles of water dropped from helicopters.

Officials said 8,000 of Keude Teunom's 18,000 residents were killed in the disaster.

Reporters were given a look at the wiped-out village of Malacca, on the Indian island of Car Nicobar, where the only structure still standing was a statue of independence leader Mahatma Gandhi. About 4,000 people are missing on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Indian territory off the coast of Malaysia.

In New York, U.N. humanitarian chief Jan Egeland said more aid was getting to survivors, but there were still problems helping those in Indonesia.

"We are seeing that the assistance is becoming increasingly effective in all of the countries," he

told reporters. "Overall I am more optimistic today than I was yesterday that we, the global community, will be able to face up to this enormous challenge."

Egeland said 1.8 million people in tsunami-hit countries would need food aid and that the figure could rise. It would take about three days to get food to 700,000 people in Sri Lanka but much longer to reach the one million hungry people in Indonesia, he said.

He warned there were still difficulties in reaching survivors in Sumatra's Aceh province. "That is where we are behind, really. ... 90 percent of our problems are in those areas because they are more remote, because the damage was much bigger, because the roads are more damaged, because the air strips are fewer and they are more damaged."

IN BRIEF

Suicide bombing kills 18 National Guardsmen

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Insurgents exposed the vulnerability of Iraq's security forces again Sunday, killing 18 National Guardsmen, five police officers and several civilians in separate attacks with elections just weeks away. Prominent Shiite leaders called for unity with Sunni Arabs wanting to delay the vote but insisted it be held despite the violence.

Also, the U.S. military sent new forces to counter the threat in Mosul, center of a worrying rise in car bombings and raids in recent weeks.

The worst attack Sunday occurred north of Baghdad when a suicide bomber detonated his explosives-laden vehicle next to a bus carrying Iraqi National Guard troops. It was the deadliest assault on Iraqi security forces since October, when insurgents gunned down about 50 new National Guardsmen at a fake checkpoint.

Guerrillas also launched a spate of other assaults across the country Sunday, killing an Iraqi soldier, seven police officers, a local government leader and a Muslim cleric, bringing Sunday's toll to 29.

The car bomb detonated as the bus passed a U.S. base in Balad, 50 miles north of Baghdad, U.S. military spokesman Maj. Neal E.

O'Brien said. Balad is in the so-called Sunni Triangle, the scene of frequent assaults on U.S. and Iraqi security forces.

"Those responsible for suicide attacks are seeking to halt Iraq's progress on the path to democracy," O'Brien said.

Six guardsmen also were wounded, he said.

The Shiite leaders who spoke Sunday belong to the Unified Iraqi Alliance, a mainstream Shiite coalition running in the election. The group is expected to do extremely well in the election, and its leaders likely will have top government posts if the vote goes through.

— The Associated Press

EMU BOARD MEETINGS
WINTER 2005

- 1/5.....Full Board Meeting
- 1/12...Committee Meetings
- 1/19...Full Board Meeting
- 1/26...Committee Meetings
- 2/2.....Full Board Meeting
- 2/9.....Committee Meetings
- 2/16...Full Board Meeting
- 2/23...Committee Meetings
- 3/2.....Full Board Meeting

All meetings are at 4:00 pm.
Check Schedule of Events for room location and changes.

SUMMER SEMESTER 2005



The University of
Montana

EDUCATE
& RECREATE

Blend academics with recreation — attend
Summer Semester 2005 at
The University of Montana-Missoula

You may register today and enjoy UM's relaxed
campus atmosphere, innovative course offerings
and exciting outdoor activities

To request your free Summer Semester Catalog
or to obtain more information, visit
montanasummer.com or call 406.243.4470

MONTANASUMMER.COM

useful campus cash
easy
convenient

Your UO ID Card can be used as a debit card for purchases on campus simply by activating your Campus Cash account.

CAMPUS CASH ACCEPTED HERE

Andrew Smash • Airium Café • The Buzz • Daily Grind Café
Grateful Bread Bakery • Hearth Café • Holy Cow Café
Lillis Café • Marketplace Foods • Subway • Union Market

ACTIVATE YOUR CAMPUS CASH ACCOUNT TODAY
on-line: campuscash.uoregon.edu
in person: UO Card Office EMU GROUND LEVEL