

NEWS IN BRIEF

**Annan completes Cyprus deal, Turkey side ready to send to referendum**

FUERIGEN, Switzerland (AP) — U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan presented his blueprint for reunification of Cyprus Wednesday and set an April 24 deadline for islanders to vote on the plan.

Turkey's government endorsed the proposal, but Greek side was more cautious.

Annan's plan is a last attempt to reunify the Mediterranean island before it joins the European Union on May 1. Turkey, which had hoped an agreement on Cyprus would help its cause.

Cyprus has been split into Greek Cypriot-controlled south and the occupied north since Turkey invaded in 1974 in the wake of a short-lived coup by supporters of union with Greece. The breakaway state in the north is recognized only by Turkey, which maintains 40,000 troops there.

**California seeks to overhaul workers' compensation**

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California's 91-year-old workers' compensation system has been under fire for the better part of the decade, but now, with premiums doubling and tripling, the economy stagnant and businesses threatening to leave the state, fixing it has become a priority for lawmakers.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said he will make it a top priority to overhaul the system.

Unlike many states, California covers all industries and all workers, making it the most expensive workers' compensation insurance system in America.

**Engineers in training**



Evan O'Connell • THE BATTALION

Sophomore agricultural engineering major Gary Nolan and junior agricultural engineering major Mark Macek load a trebuchet for a test Tuesday afternoon. They designed and built the trebuchet for a project in their biological systems engineering class and will analyze the data once they have concluded the test.

**Fallujah**

Continued from page 1A

Abdul Aziz Mohammed said. Some of the corpses were dismembered, he said.

Beneath the bodies, a man held a printed sign with a skull and crossbones and the phrase "Fallujah is the cemetery for Americans."

APTN showed the charred remains of three slain men. Some were wearing flak jackets, said resident Safa Mohammed.

One resident displayed what appeared to be dog tags taken from one body. Residents also said there were weapons in the targeted cars.

APTN showed one American passport near a body and a U.S. Department of Defense identification card belonging to another man.

Witnesses said the two vehicles were attacked with small arms fire and rocket propelled grenades.

At a donors conference in Berlin, Secretary of State Colin Powell, when asked about the attacks in Iraq, said terror-

ists and remnants of the old regime were still loose in Iraq. He said "the Iraqi people will be free. They will have a democracy."

The burst of killings Wednesday assured that March's death toll for U.S. troops will be the second-highest for any month since Bush declared the end of major combat.

The only month with more deaths was November, with 82. Prior to the deaths Wednesday of five soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division, at least 43 troops had been killed in March. With the additional five, the month's total more than doubles February's total of 21 and compares with 46 in January and 40 in December.

On Tuesday in Ramadi, one U.S. soldier was killed and another wounded in a roadside bombing, said Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt.

Northeast of Baghdad, in the city of Baqouba on Wednesday, a suicide bomber blew up explosives in his car when he was near a convoy of government vehicles, wounding 14 Iraqis and killing himself, officials said.

On Tuesday, a suicide bombing outside the house of a police chief in Hillah, about

60 miles south of Baghdad, killed an attacker and wounded seven others.

A bomb exploded late Tuesday at a movie theater that had closed for the night. Two bystanders were wounded by flying glass, said its owner, Ghani Mohammed.

The latest violence came two days after Carina Perelli, the head of a U.N. election team, said better security is vital if Iraq wants to hold elections by a Jan. 31 deadline. The polls are scheduled to follow June 30 transfer of sovereignty to an Iraqi government.

Top U.S. administrator L. Paul Bremer said Tuesday he had appointed 21 anti-corruption inspectors general to government departments to try to prevent fraud. Bremer will be named in coming days, he said.

The inspectors will work with two newly formed, independent agencies. Together, they will "form an integrated approach intended to combat corruption at every level of government across the country," Bremer said.

In Berlin, Powell met with special U.N. envoy Lakhdar Brahimi, who Powell said will go to Baghdad on Thursday.

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