Monday Globe

ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Doctors: Vaccine, bowel blockage not linked

Washington/ A new vaccine against rotavirus, the diarrhea infection that kills millions of children worldwide, does not appear to raise the risk of serious bowel blockages that caused a previous vaccine to be pulled from the market five years ago, doctors reported Sunday. The new vaccine, Rotarix, was licensed in Mexico and is expected to go on sale there this year. Its maker, GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals, plans to launch a study in the United States aimed at getting it approved for American infants.

PENNSYLVANIA

System would turn sewage into energy source

Scientists are developing technology that would turn raw sewage into an energy source, according to a report being published today in the American Chemical Society journal Environmental Science & Technology.

Researchers at Pennsylvania State University have tested a microbial fuel cell, similar to a hydrogen fuel cell, that has generated energy by converting biodegradable wastewater. A system is envisaged in which wastewater treatment plants would power themselves with this technology.

URUGUAY

Latest presidential candidate declares win

Montevideo/ Leftist candidate Tabare Vazquez declared victory in Uruguay's presidential election Sunday after exit polls showed him surging past two-thirds of a majority in the votes, apparently weighing the country in a regionwide political shift leftward. Vazquez would be the first leftist president in Uruguay's history.

AFGHANISTAN

Kidnapped election workers appear on video

Kabul/ Three kidnapped U.N. election workers appeared frightened but otherwise well in a videotape aired Sunday on the U-Jazeera satellite TV network. Their kidnappers, in telephone calls to news agencies, threatened to kill the hostages in 72 hours unless U.N. and foreign troops withdrew from Afghanistan, and Taliban and al-Qaeda prisoners were freed from U.S. military jails.

NIGERIA

Unions plan strike against oil corporation

Lagos/ Unions declared the top oil multinational here, Royal Dutch/Shell, "an enemy of the Nigerian people" on Sunday and called a Nov. 16 nationwide strike that they said would target oil exports in Nigeria's oil grant.

The threats in the world's No. 7 oil exporter, the fifth-largest supplier of U.S. oil imports, appeared likely to send new shocks through the global oil price market.

LIBERIA

U.N. arrests dozens via disarmament plan

Monrovia/ Armed U.N. troops arrested dozens of men Sunday in a sometimes bloody conclusion to a countrywide disarmament program, days...
a fresh burst of violence in the war-battered West African nation.

Sunday stood as the deadline for civilians to surrender weapons under a U.N.-supported disarmament program, launched in December after the end of the latest of nearly 11/2 decades of civil wars here.

RUSSIA

Civilians still targets, Chechen warlord says

Moscow: Chechen warlord Shamil Basayev, who claimed responsibility for last month's Beslan school hostage-taking, said Sunday that he was ready to fight Russia for a decade and that civilians remained a fair target. A car bomb exploded Sunday outside the Chechen capital's main hospital, injuring 17 in an attack that apparently targeted a Chechen security force bringing their wounded for treatment after an earlier explosion, officials said.

GERMANY

Rebuilt section of Berlin Wall unveiled

Berlin: Fifteen years after the destruction of the Berlin Wall, a museum in the German capital unveiled a rebuilt segment of the Cold War barrier Sunday, defying criticism that the structure uses a painful piece of German history to create a tourist trap.

The rebuilt concrete barrier stands at the former Checkpoint Charlie border crossing, next to a field of 1,065 crosses that represent those killed as they tried to escape the former East Germany between 1961 and 1989.

ITALY

High tides cause flooding in Venice

Venice: Unusually high tides sent sea water sweeping through Venice on Sunday, covering 80 percent of the city by afternoon. St. Mark's Square and other famous locations were inundated, forcing tourists and residents to don rubber boots and use elevated walkways.

Venice is prone to periodic flooding. The government has approved a plan to install mobile barriers on the Adriatic seabed near the entrance to the Venetian lagoon to protect the city from high tides.

From wire reports