

# INTERNATIONAL

## Children's summit set

LONDON (AP) — Amnesty International called for an end to the killing, torture and arbitrary imprisonment of the world's children Monday.

As world leaders prepared for this weekend's World Summit for Children, the London-based human rights organization described violations in 19 countries including Iraq, Israel, South Africa and the United States.

"Of all the victims of human rights violations, children are among the least able to stand up for their rights. Governments must therefore be particularly vigilant in protecting those rights," Amnesty said in an appeal.

UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund, is organizing the summit that will discuss ways of improving the lot of millions of children whose lives are threatened by poverty, disease or malnutrition.

At least 60 heads of state, including President Bush and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, will meet Sept. 29-30 at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

## Mexico hit by rains

CHIHUAHUA, Mexico (AP) — Rescue workers searched collapsed low-income homes Monday for more victims of flash floods that left at least 45 dead, the Red Cross said. At least 30 others were missing.

"There are still more dead," said Alfonso Magallanes Contreras, a Red Cross paramedic and rescuer.

More than 5,000 people were left homeless by the weekend storm, the

worst to hit the northwestern city in 90 years, authorities said. More than 5 inches of rain had fallen since Saturday, and the rain continued Monday.

Gov. Fernando Baeza Melendez declared an emergency in and around Chihuahua, the state capital, which was hardest hit by the flash floods that thundered down gullies Sunday and into a normally nearly dry river that cuts through the mountain city.

"This tragedy that brought mourning to many Chihuahua families will be a mark in history. But we will know how to act. We are going to provide all the help needed to those who have lost their homes," Baeza Melendez said.

Rescue workers estimated about 240,000 people in the city of about 600,000 were virtually without water, power or telephones. Sewers in many areas were overflowing, posing health hazards.

Baeza Melendez said that of the 45 victims, 32 had been identified.

More than 350 homes were destroyed, and 1,000 more were damaged, Baeza Melendez said.

"Some homes disappeared completely by the floodwaters from one of the streams," Red Cross radio dispatcher Heriberto Perez said in a telephone interview.

In the Colonia Villa neighborhood alone, on the north side of the city, more than 150 houses collapsed, a report from the governor's office said. About 300 automobiles and other vehicles were also wrecked by the flood.

## Plant explodes

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — A car-

bide oven exploded at a chemical plant in Transylvania on Monday, killing five people and injuring 10, state radio said.

Two of the injured were reported in critical condition.

Experts ruled out sabotage and said early findings indicated the explosion in Tirmaveni, 240 miles north of the capital, was probably caused by a mixture of air and carbon monoxide gases that collected near the furnace.

The blast came as the furnace was being prepared for operation after five weeks of routine maintenance checks, the radio quoted sources at the plant as saying.

It said damage could total \$1 million. The government later called urgently for a law to form a special military corps to guard important industrial plants nationwide, the state news agency Rompres reported.

However, the decision seemed to arise from increased pilfering at state-owned works. Government officials have indicated that the theft of spare parts or damage to plants during break-ins could lead to major industrial accidents like Monday's.

The explosion was the third in two months at chemical plants in Transylvania, but a government statement said the number of industrial accidents was half of last year's.

## Bhutto indicted

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP) — A special court on Monday ordered ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to stand trial on a second corruption charge involving gas contracts and alleged nepotism.

Bhutto is accused of canceling lucra-

tive contracts for the distribution of liquefied gas and giving them to friends and relatives.

On Sunday, Justice Rashid Aziz Khan also ordered Bhutto, 37, to stand trial on Oct. 2 on another corruption charge, this one involving the alleged illegal sale of government-owned land to a company owned by a cousin.

If convicted of either charge, Bhutto could be barred from the Oct. 24 elections and from participating in politics for up to seven years.

## Soviet economy downturns

MOSCOW (AP) — While their leaders hedged and debated an economic rescue plan, Soviet consumers have lost patience with dwindling supplies of even basic goods such as bread, cigarettes, matches and paper.

Last week, President Mikhail S. Gorbachev admitted the Soviet Union had run out of time as well.

"We must move and act," Gorbachev scolded legislators Friday when they failed to muster a quorum to act on economic reform. "Don't wait."

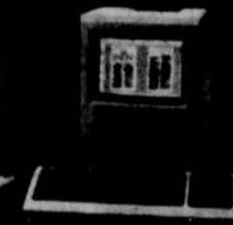
After months of indecision over what path to take, the Soviet parliament voted Monday to accept in principle a plan to move to a free market economy and reject central planning.

In the spring, Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov drew up an economic reform plan that called for continued central planning, a strong central government and a slow transition to the market. But it was quickly rejected by the parliament and returned to him for reworking.

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