

Argentina president seeks backing for cost-cutting plan

By the Associated Press
INTERNATIONAL
 BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — Argentina's president said he was a step closer to winning political backing for a cost-cutting plan to rescue the nation from a deepening economic crisis that could damage markets elsewhere.

Fernando De la Rúa said governors from his ruling coalition agreed to back his plan to trim \$1.5 billion by reducing state worker salaries and pensions.

After a weekend of nonstop negotiations, De la Rúa still needed support from opposition lawmakers to see the cuts through. The plan aims to help Argentina avoid default on its burgeoning debt by reducing the deficit by year's end.

Today, he was to take the plan to Peronist Party leaders.

"We are living difficult moments," De la Rúa said during a nationally televised speech late Sunday to announce his party's support. "This savings plan is the only solution."

Winning Peronist support is seen by investors as Argentina's best chance of regaining international confidence that it can repay nearly \$130 billion in government debt.

Concerns that Argentina would have difficulty meeting its debt obligations sent Latin American stock markets and currencies tumbling last week.

MOSCOW — Russia's President Vladimir Putin and his Chinese counterpart Jiang Zemin today signed the first post-Soviet friendship treaty between the two nations, cementing their decade-long partnership.

The treaty marked Russia's and China's desire to offset the growing American influence in the world and their joint concern about U.S. missile defense plans.

The treaty is the first such document since 1950, when Joseph Stalin and Mao Tse-tung created a Soviet-Chinese alliance that later soured into bitter rivalry by the 1960s.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 Moscow and Beijing have put their disputes behind and forged what they call a "strategic partnership."

China is the biggest customer for Russia's struggling defense factories, rich in expertise and advanced weapon designs but short on orders from Russia's own impoverished

ap news capsules

military.

NATIONAL

WICHITA, Kan. — Tense moments unfolded when anti-abortion protesters descended on a church attended by an abortion provider — only to be met by churchgoers less than pleased by the disruption.

As part of the first full day of the weeklong Summer of Mercy Renewal demonstrations, nearly 30 protesters went to Reformation Lutheran Church, where Dr. George Tiller, one of the few physicians in the country who still performs late-term abortions, is a parishioner. Tiller wasn't there.

The demonstration upset many church members, particularly children who saw the protesters' bloody photographs of fetuses.

"I think what they would like us to do is ask the Tiller family to leave our church — that is hardly Christian," said church member David Johnson. "To put those signs out there is to frighten God's children."

Troy Newman, director of Los Angeles-based Operation Rescue West, said it was not the demonstrators' intention to upset children. "Every one of these children understand abortion is murder — that is why they are upset," he said.

Tiller's clinic was bombed in 1985 and he was shot and wounded two years after the first Summer of Mercy was staged in Wichita 10 years ago. Demonstrations also are planned near his clinic this week.

PENSACOLA, Fla. — On the same day doctors offered good news about the condition of the 8-year-old boy healing after a shark tore off his arm, a surfer some six miles from that attack felt a shark's jaw close on his leg.

The 48-year-old surfer, whose name was not released, was surfing Sunday afternoon off Santa Rosa Island when the shark bit him on the leg, causing puncture wounds, said Lt. Bob Clark of the Escambia County Sheriff's Office.

He was in good condition at a local hospital. The surfer told witnesses he had noticed small fish and a large shadow below him, but didn't think anything was wrong until he was bitten.

The attack occurred about six miles from where young Jessie

Arbogast was attacked earlier this month. On Sunday, doctors treating Jessie said his brain may not have been damaged from blood loss after the attack.

Jessie sometimes appears to understand what's going on around him, according to the medical team that reattached his arm after a 200 pound bull shark attacked him, also taking a large bite out of his thigh.

SPACE CENTER, Houston — Astronauts early today worked to hook up a new \$164 million air lock aboard the international space station in preparation for putting it to work later this week.

"It's a big milestone in the whole station assembly program because when we complete the air lock task we will have completed the first phase, the initial phase of space station construction," space shuttle Atlantis Commander Steven Lindsey said of the U.S.-built air lock, which was attached to the space station Alpha early Sunday.

The 6 1/2-ton, U.S.-built air lock will enable astronauts to conduct spacewalks from the station in American spacesuits. They have been able to step out into space from a Russian segment of the space station wearing Russian suits, but U.S. suits are incompatible with the Russian systems.

"It simply added to the spacewalking capabilities that we already had," said U.S. astronaut Susan Helms, who has been at the station for four months along with Russian cosmonaut and commander Yuri Usachev and U.S. astronaut Jim Voss.

Helms maneuvered a 58-foot robot arm to hoist the air lock from Atlantis' cargo bay and attach it to the station while Atlantis astronauts Michael Gernhardt and James Reilly II prepared it for transport and wired it up on a six-hour spacewalk.

BAYTOWN, Texas — A minivan ferrying three generations of a family toward Georgia careened out of control and rolled into the San Jacinto River, killing four people as it sank.

The search for a fifth van occupant was to resume today. Two others, including a grandmother, were rescued after the one-vehicle rollover Sunday night.

"We've only recovered four bodies so far," said Harris County Sheriff's Deputy Rodolfo Zepeda. "We are still looking for a 36-year-old male."

Another 36-year-old man and three children died in the crash, which occurred just before 7 p.m. on Interstate 10 between Houston and Baytown, county investigators said. The van sank upside-down in about 24 feet of water.

Identities of the victims and survivors were not immediately available. Zepeda said the dead children are a 7-year-old girl and 9-year-old boy, both from Houston, and a 15-year-old Georgia teen-ager.

The 56-year-old grandmother, who was driving the minivan, and her 11-year-old grandson were rescued. They were in good condition today at Ben Taub Hospital in Houston.

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON — The missile defense shield championed by President Bush got a major boost with a successful weekend test, but the plan still must overcome challenges — scientific and political, at home and abroad — if it is to be built by 2004.

The destruction of a mock warhead

in space by a missile interceptor launched from Kwajalein Atoll in the Pacific was an important step for the Pentagon's missile defense effort, but must be followed by more successes in more frequent and more realistic tests, officials said.

Russia, meanwhile, renewed its warning that the program would harm global security rather than improve it.

And one domestic skeptic, Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, cautioned that "it's not a real-world test yet. And we have a long way to go, and we should continue to pursue it."

The success Saturday night followed two dramatic test failures during the Clinton administration.

"This test is just one on a journey, one stop on a journey," Air Force Lt. Gen. Ronald Kadish, head of missile defense programs, told Pentagon reporters soon after the test. "We will press on to the next test."

WASHINGTON — Vice President Dick Cheney, Cabinet members and a squad of sympathetic lawmakers are scattering across the nation to

drum up support for the Bush administration's energy strategy.

The House and Senate are beginning to consider many of the recommendations President Bush outlined when he released the plan in May, and administration officials view this as a critical moment to take their case directly to voters.

Rather than argue for their plan from Washington, Cheney and the others were employing a forum favored by former President Clinton: the town hall meeting.

Cheney was moderating such a gathering on energy in Monroeville, Pa., east of Pittsburgh, this evening.

Five Cabinet members were also convening town hall meetings for Bush's plan, which calls for a blend of new coal and oil production; increased reliance on nuclear power; increased energy conservation; and research into such renewable power sources as wind and solar.

Anticipating the town hall meetings, the Natural Resources Defense Council renewed its criticism of the Bush plan, contending it would "increase pollution, despoil the environment, threaten public health and accelerate global warming."

public record

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF KANSAS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Plaintiff,

DIANA J. MCKNIGHT, Defendant.

Civil No. 01-1150-MLB

NOTICE OF SUIT

THE UNITED STATES TO: ALL DEFENDANTS IN ABOVE CAPTIONED HEREOF

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Complaint has been filed in the United States District Court, by the United States, on behalf of the Rural Housing Service, United States Department of Agriculture, by and through the United States Attorney for the District of Kansas, praying for a judgment against the Diana J. McKnight on two Promissory Notes dated October 4, 1989 (Exhibits A and B attached to

Plaintiff's Complaint), in the principal amount of \$22,861.31, with interest to January 22, 2001, of \$4,641.99 plus recoverable costs of \$503.54, plus interest accruing thereafter at the daily rate of \$5.4804 on the balance due and \$1.2104 interest on the recoverable costs per day, plus \$2,741.64 interest credit or subsidy subject to recapture, and \$5,057.63 in advances to the account, and for foreclosure of the real estate mortgage executed on October 4, 1989, covering real property located in Sherman County, Kansas described as:

All of Lot Four (4), in Block five (5), of Kohler First Addition to the City of Goodland, Kansas, according to the recorded plat thereof.

and you are hereby required to plead to said Complaint on or before August 30, 2001, in said United States District Court at Wichita, Kansas. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said Complaint.

JAMES E. FLORY
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 orney

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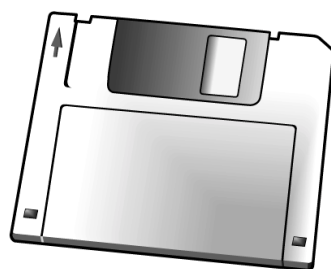
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