

Protestors call discussions 'more of the same'

By the Associated Press INTERNATIONAL
MONTERREY, Mexico — Even as world leaders kicked off discussions on how to alleviate poverty — a theme anti-globalization activists have pushed for years — a motley crew of corn farmers, masked students and rebel supporters took to the streets denouncing the gathering as more of the same.

Finance, trade and foreign ministers exchanged ideas yesterday on how to close the gap between rich and poor during the first day of the weeklong U.N. International Conference on Financing for Development. President Bush — who arrives at the summit on Thursday — last week pledged an additional \$5 billion in aid to countries that demonstrate economic and political stability.

Mexican President Vicente Fox said the summit "will succeed in achieving a true harmony, offering discussions that will allow small countries to have open and equal dialogue with larger nations."

But while Fox and other leaders touted the summit as groundbreaking,

ap news capsules

hundreds of protesters outside chanted that it was "more of the same rubbish." Police kept their distance and no arrests or violence were reported. Yesterday's demonstration drew protesters angry about everything from globalization to local land disputes.

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistan will send the United States DNA samples from the body of a man believed to have carried out a deadly grenade attack on a Protestant church, a government official said today.

Police are hoping that DNA testing can provide leads to the Sunday attack at the Protestant International Church, located in a heavily guarded diplomatic quarter near the U.S. Embassy. Five people died and 45 were injured, many of them foreigners.

The attack has prompted the U.S. State Department to issue a fresh warning to Americans to defer travel to Pakistan.

Two Americans, an Afghan and a Pakistani were among the dead, but

investigators have continued to focus on the fifth body, whose identity remains unknown. Officials are suspicious because no one among the congregation has been reported missing.

President Gen. Pervez Musharraf convened a meeting today of his top security officials and four provincial governors to review the case and the overall security situation in Pakistan.

No group has claimed responsibility, but suspicion fell on Islamic extremists who were outraged by Musharraf's decision to cooperate with the United States during its war on terrorism.

NATIONAL
CUPERTINO, Calif. — The shareholder vote to decide the fate of Hewlett-Packard Co.'s \$21 billion acquisition of Compaq Computer Corp. is shaping up as one of the closest corporate elections ever — one that could influence the entire computer world.

At least 1,000 Hewlett-Packard shareholders were to cast votes today after hearing speeches from HP chief Carly Fiorina and opponent Walter

Hewlett, who have been involved in a bitter fight over the merger since September.

Since the vote is so close, individual investors will have an unusual amount of power in deciding what would be the computer industry's biggest merger. Individuals control one-fourth of HP stock.

Although both sides left open the possibility they would proclaim victory today, the official results won't be known for weeks. Independent proxy counters must verify each vote, and each side can challenge the results.

HP and Compaq say the deal is essential for their long-term survival in the consolidating computing industry. Hewlett, the son of one of HP's late co-founders, says HP is overpaying for Compaq, would get bogged down selling low-margin personal computers and services and can't afford to risk the complex integration of the companies' massive organizations.

HARLAN, Ky. — The National Guard was called in to help evacuate residents affected by a storm that damaged or destroyed at least 250 homes

in the worst flooding to hit eastern Kentucky in 25 years.

More rain was forecast today and the rest of the week for Tennessee and Kentucky, a day after floods and mudslides forced some residents to flee by boat as water lapped at the rooftops.

At least seven deaths in Tennessee were blamed on the storm, which dumped as much as 6 to 8 inches of rain.

Authorities ordered the evacuation of a string of communities in the Cumberland River basin, where rooftops could be seen protruding from the murky water. National Guard troops were sent in with three boats, three trucks and a Humvee to assist with evacuations.

Most school systems in the region were closed.

Nearly three dozen roads were still under water in Tennessee's Sevier County and dozens more in Blount, Knox and surrounding counties.

WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON — U.S. forces killed 16 fighters in an Afghanistan gunfight and captured 31 others at a

military compound as the war shifted from the scene of the largest ground battle of the war so far.

Pentagon officials acknowledged that some al-Qaida fighters may have escaped the ring of U.S., Afghan and coalition troops that had surrounded their mountainous hide-outs during Operation Anaconda, which ended yesterday. Some may have crossed into Pakistan, said Pentagon spokeswoman Victoria Clarke.

"Given the nature of the terrain and the porousness of the border, are ones and twos probably melting into the countryside or slipping over the border? Possibly. But we have not seen significant numbers," Clarke told reporters yesterday at a Defense Department news briefing.

No U.S. soldiers were hurt in the latest fighting, officials said. Those killed and captured did not appear to be senior al-Qaida or Taliban leaders, they said.

American forces and their coalition and Afghan allies will maintain pursuit of Taliban and al-Qaida fighters who escaped or are hiding out in Afghanistan, officials said.

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