

Protest groups rally against IMF

WASHINGTON (AP) — Masses of shouting anti-globalization protesters marched in the nation's capital Sunday, trying to disrupt international financial meetings.

But early sessions got under way as delegates were spirited to work under extraordinary protection.

With helicopters whirling overhead and police sirens blasting, one protest group formed a circle on Pennsylvania Avenue, about five blocks from the White House. Their arms were locked together in metal tubes called "lock boxes" or "sleeping dragons."

Police used pepper spray and pushed people back with billy sticks at one point.

The demonstrators blocked numerous downtown streets around the International Monetary Fund, a few blocks from the White House, and were blocking people trying to get into the meetings. But the delegates to the meeting got through and so did some IMF employees.

"It looks like most of them are here," Connie Lotze, speaking for the IMF, said of a morning meeting. "People were advised to come in early, about 5 o'clock."

One employee on a bicycle wore shorts and had a bandanna around his head, trying to fool the protesters.

The IMF's first meeting of the day, with finance ministers

from 10 countries, started on time at 8:30 a.m. (7:30 CDT), with Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers representing the United States.

A street near the downtown campus of George Washington University was blocked by protesters who'd strung up a large banner reading, "IMF Plus World Bank Equals Hundreds Rich, Billions Poor."

Not far away, a dozen demonstrators jumped on the bumpers of a couple of tour buses, yelling at the sightseers inside: "Get off the bus, join us."

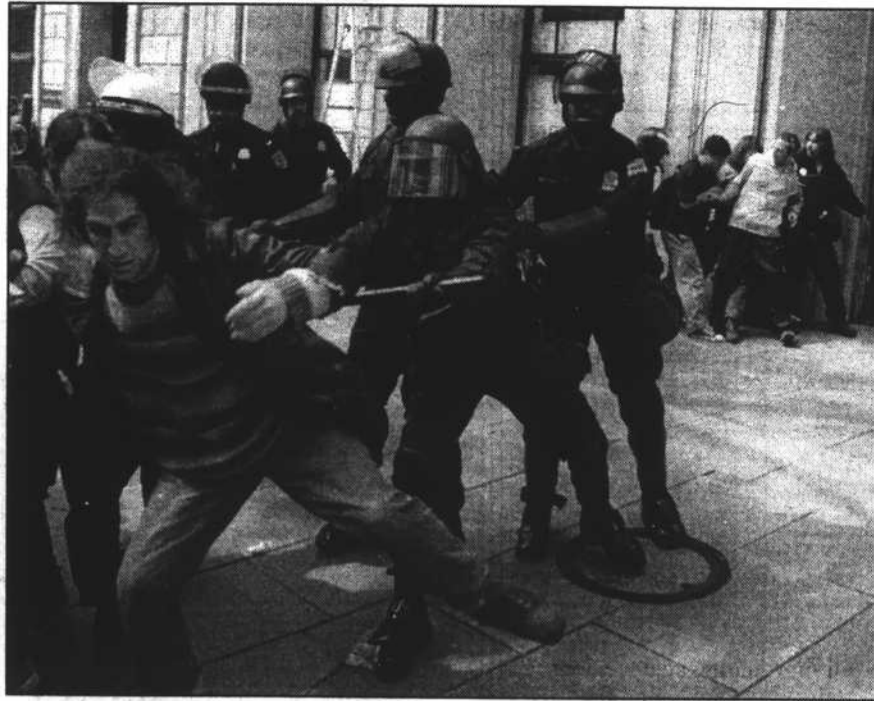
Marchers carried signs with slogans such as "Stop the War Against Poor." One group carried a large bright pink papier-mache pig emblazoned with the words "World Bank" and holding a globe in its mouth.

Seattle environmental activist Dave Batker, 46, one of the protest leaders, said security was so tight the demonstrators were unlikely to be able to stop the meetings, spread over Sunday and Monday.

But he said protesters could get their message across.

"What we wanted to accomplish was to make the public aware of the need for major changes in the way the IMF and the World Bank operates," he said.

One goal of the protesters is to have the institutions forgive more debt in developing countries.



Mark Wilson/NewsMakers
POLICE PUSH BACK protesters Sunday near the World Bank in Washington, D.C. Hundreds of people participated in the demonstrations against international financial policy and globalization in an effort to disrupt scheduled international finance meetings.

Michael Smith/NewsMakers
A DEMONSTRATOR WRITES a chalk message in the street during a world finance demonstration in Washington, Sunday. More than 600 demonstrators were arrested during protests of a meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.



Body part profits make some angry

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP) — Donated human remains are processed into medical products that generate hundreds of millions of dollars for U.S. companies despite laws barring profit from body parts, The Orange County Register reported Sunday.

Although grieving families are told that the donations are a gift of life, the newspaper found that material harvested from the dead fuels an industry that is expected to have \$1 billion in revenues by 2003.

"I thought I was donating to a

nonprofit. I didn't know I was lining someone's pocket," said Sandra Shadwick, whose brother's remains were given to a Los Angeles tissue bank. "It makes me angry. It makes me appalled. If it's not illegal, it ought to be."

The National Organ Transplant Act of 1984 banned profits from the sale of tissue, but companies and nonprofit tissue banks are allowed to charge reasonable fees to handle and process the parts. The law does not define a reasonable charge.

"The law has never been tested in

court. Nobody has ever decided what is selling and what isn't," said Jeanne Mowe, executive director of the American Association of Tissue Banks.

Nonprofit tissue banks may obtain body parts useful for up to 100 patients from a single cadaver. The parts are then sold to companies that make products used by doctors and dentists, and the banks and businesses share revenues.

Survivors urged to donate usually are told about vital organs, such as hearts or kidneys, but most of the

products derived from the dead are far from lifesaving: Cadaver skin may be used to puff up the lips of models, enlarge penises or smooth out wrinkles, the newspaper said.

A single body can provide material that is worth up to \$34,000 for nonprofit tissue banks, including skin, tendons, heart valves, veins and corneas that are then made available to doctors and hospitals for up to \$110,000.

With bone taken from the same body, a cadaver can be worth \$220,000.

216 hurt, 101 dead in airport explosion

KINSHASA, Congo (AP) — The death toll from a string of airport blasts rose to 101, the government said Sunday, as most rescuers ended the search for bodies in the wreckage of a hangar that collapsed in the explosions.

Kinshasa Gov. Theophile Bamba Fundu announced the new casualty figures, while religious dirges played on state radio and the president called a period of national mourning after Friday's blasts at Kinshasa's N'Djili international airport.

Hospital authorities said 216 people were injured. About 80 of those remained in critical condition on Sunday, Fundu said.

By the afternoon, all but a handful of Red Cross workers and other rescue volunteers were giving up the search through the collapsed hangar, used by customs and tax officials to handle incoming cargo from Europe. The rescue workers said they were hampered by lack of tools, water and food.

One man was rescued late Saturday evening after being buried

alive beneath the hangar for more than 30 hours, a Red Cross worker, Jean-Jacques Malutama, said. The man had broken ribs and legs and could not speak, he said.

"I don't know if there is anyone else alive inside," Malutama said. "It is difficult work. We are pulling out rubble by hand, and we did not eat yesterday, so it would be difficult to continue this evening."

Rescue officials said Saturday they feared 100 people were still trapped in the wreckage. It was not known how many people were still missing Sunday evening.

The reasons for the blast remained murky. Explanations ranged from a short circuit to a soldier dropping ammunition while unloading a plane full of weapons.

The explosions of fuel and army munitions shattered windows, toppled buildings and flung deadly debris several miles away into residential neighborhoods.

Some friends and family members of those still missing persisted in the search Sunday.



Michigan

Former Navy sailor accused of murdering prostitutes

DETROIT (AP) — A former Navy sailor fought back tears Friday as he was arraigned on charges of killing five prostitutes by strangling them.

Police around the world, meanwhile, are trying to match John E. Armstrong's account of at least 11 other slayings to unsolved murders in their cities.

Armstrong, 26, of Dearborn Heights, Mich., was arraigned on five counts of premeditated, first-degree murder and three counts of assault with intent to murder. The charges address crimes in the Detroit area in the past year.

Armstrong, who from 1993 to 1999 was a Navy refueler aboard the USS Nimitz, may have murdered his victims while the ship was in port around the world, police have said.

Saudi Arabia

Men to be flogged, jailed for sexual behavior

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Nine young Saudi men have each been sentenced to more than 2,000 lashes and at least five years in prison for deviant sexual behavior, a police officer said Sunday.

A court in the western city of Qunfuda on Saturday sentenced five of the men to six years in prison and 2,600 lashes. The men are to be flogged 52 times in 50 sessions, the officer said on condition of anonymity.

The four other defendants were sentenced to five years and 2,400 lashes. They are to be flogged 48 times in 50 sessions.

There will be a pause of 15 days between each of the flogging sessions.

Police started tailing the nine men after reports that they were acting strangely, the officer said. He said police found that they were dressing in women's clothes and engaging in deviant sexual behavior with each other.

Portugal

Night-club stampede leaves seven people dead

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — Two canisters believed to contain pepper gas were set off inside a crowded Lisbon nightclub Sunday just as the lights were cut, causing a panicked stampede by hundreds of people that left seven dead.

Sixty others were treated at a hospital for bruising and breathing difficulties after the crush to escape the fumes.

No one claimed responsibility for what appeared to be a planned attack. Police opened an investigation.

Washington

Board may recommend Boeing rudder redesign

WASHINGTON (AP) — A special Federal Aviation Administration engineering board is expected to recommend design changes in the rudder of the Boeing 737, the world's most widely-used jetliner.

Top Federal Aviation Administration officials said Sunday that preliminary recommendations prepared by the board also urge changes in training of crews to better deal with rudder problems and increased rudder inspections.

The 737 rudder system came under close scrutiny after the crash of USAir flight 427 near Pittsburgh, Pa., in 1994 that killed all 132 people aboard, which hearkened back to the 1991 crash of United Flight 585 in Colorado Springs, Colo.

WEATHER

TODAY

Partly cloudy
high 67, low 53

TOMORROW

Partly cloudy
high 79, low 50

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