

Students protest crisis in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Thousands of banner-waving university students demanded President Suharto's ouster Wednesday — the largest display of anger yet over the economic crisis that has Indonesia in an upheaval.

The protests came as the United States and other foreign lenders stepped up the pressure on Suharto to carry out reforms they consider crucial to rescuing the economy — reforms that could undercut much of Suharto's power and wealth.

"Hang Suharto!" shouted protesters in the Java island city of Yogyakarta, circling their campus on scooters under the scrutiny of hundreds of police and plainclothes officers. Students also rallied in several other cities on Java as well as on Sulawesi, another of Indonesia's larger islands.

Five people have been killed in riots this year over rising food costs, but Wednesday's rallies were peaceful.

Confined to campuses, they posed little threat to Suharto, who has resisted calls to overhaul the government he began shaping in the 1960s.

Even as the students protested, delegates to a special assembly were preparing

to extend Suharto's 32-year rule. Already Asia's longest-serving leader, the 76-year-old president is almost certain to get a seventh five-year term next week.

However, Suharto is under growing international pressure to carry out economic reforms in exchange for \$43 billion bailout by the International Monetary Fund.

"Suharto is the mastermind of the crisis."

Pedro Viera
Indonesian student

The IMF has already handed over \$3 billion, but still has not decided whether to grant the second \$3 billion installment, due March 15.

The United States, which exerts virtual veto power over the IMF, says Suharto is not moving fast enough on reforms that would remove business perks he, his family and

their associates have long enjoyed.

Indonesia says many of the measures, including the slashing of subsidies, are too strict and could provoke more social unrest.

But with the deadline nearing, Suharto said Wednesday that he had dismantled a string of monopolies in line with the IMF requirements.

In a meeting of top economic advisers, he said the government has stripped the state agency Bulog of all trade controls except for a rice monopoly.

Presidential spokesperson Mardiono, who attended the meeting, quoted Suharto's remarks on reform.

Indonesia's worst economic turmoil in three decades began when the currency, the rupiah, plunged in value last year, pushing up prices and unemployment in the nation of 202 million.

Protesters said Suharto is to blame. "Suharto is the mastermind of the crisis," said Pedro Viera, a student at the prestigious Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta, 310 miles east of Jakarta.

The Yogyakarta students also appealed for the government to take action against ethnic violence.

Floods in Pakistan leave homeless, 1,200 feared

TURBAT, Pakistan (AP) — Raging flood waters have submerged a remote corner of southwestern Pakistan, killing at least 100 people and washing away huts, hospitals and a school where dozens of students had been trapped.

Some 1,200 people were missing and feared dead Wednesday.

The one-room religious school was submerged by high water Tuesday, drowning 35 of 39 pupils there, said Ghulam Mohammed Afridi, a local official in Pakistan's southwestern Baluchistan province.

In the same hard-hit village of Marriabad, a man watched as the flood swept away two dozen members of his family. He survived by clinging to a tree.

Rains that began Sunday turned the usually dry Dasht River into a torrent that roared over hundreds of homes, most of them made of sun-baked mud and straw, said Noor Ahmed Shah, an official in Baluchistan province.

Residents of Turbat, a city of several thousand, said the rains had flooded dozens of homes, shops and at least two hospitals. Medical equipment was damaged and patients had to be moved to higher ground.

In Marriabad, a village of 6,000, there was barely a home still standing, said Nasir Mohammed, who lost 24 members of his family.

Family members had stacked beds on top of each other to escape as the water rose Monday and Tuesday. Then, a gush of water swept them all away, he said.

"I clung to a tree and I held on," he said. "I watched as everything just washed away."



It was there and then it was gone. Everyone."

The only other member to survive was his father.

Relentless rain and poor relief and rescue efforts left 370 miles west of the port city.

Afridi estimated that 500 had been left homeless, and barely enough aid for a few.

"They have dropped off 200."

"Who am I supposed to give?"

The Pakistan government's vately run Edhi emergency services helicopters with supplies in soaked areas.

Pakistani shot after forbidden love affair sparks riots

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) — The man whose marriage to the woman he loved landed them both in jail and sparked riots by their rival ethnic groups was shot and critically injured Wednesday when he arrived at court to face charges of having extramarital sex.

Police arrested the bride's fa-

ther, brother and the man her family wanted her to wed for the shooting of Kanwar Ahson.

Doctors said Ahson was fighting for his life Wednesday night with gunshot wounds in the chest, abdomen and leg.

Ahson, a member of the Mohajir community in his 20s, and Riffat Afridi, an 18-year-old

Pathan, eloped last month against her family's wishes. The marriage sparked riots in Karachi that killed two people, and a council of Pathan elders sentenced Afridi to death, saying she had dishonored her family.

As night settled on Karachi, police stepped up patrols and security forces stood guard in

armored personnel carriers, hoping to ward off possible ethnic violence.

Ethnic Pathans, who are from Pakistan's conservative Northwest Frontier province, have often clashed with Mohajirs, Muslims who migrated from India after the subcontinent was partitioned by the British in 1947.

Mick said, "They made my lips explode!"

Stevie said, "They're a Wonder!"

Bobby McFerrin said, "Don't worry, be happy, at

Question of the Week

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