

# Gas explosion wrecks Mexico City hospital

The Associated Press

**MEXICO CITY** | Mothers grasping infants in their arms fled a maternity hospital shattered by a gas explosion Thursday, and rescuers began smashing sledgehammers through fallen concrete hunting for others who might be trapped.

A nurse and a baby died in the blast, and a second infant died later. More than 70 people were injured in the blast that collapsed about three-fourths of the city-run Maternity and Children's Hospital of Cuajimalpa.

The explosion occurred when a tanker truck was making a routine delivery of gas to the hospital kitchen and gas started to leak. Witnesses said the tanker workers struggled frantically for 15 or 20 minutes to repair the leak while a large cloud of gas formed.

People started to evacuate the hospital, and then came an explosion that sent up an enormous fireball.

The gas truck driver and two other employees of the Express Nieto company were hospitalized.