

# Environmental report depicts increased volatility around the world

By the Associated Press  
INTERNATIONAL

LONDON — A quarter of the world's mammal species could face extinction within 30 years, the United Nations said today in a comprehensive overview of the state of the global environment.

The Global Environment Outlook-3 report depicts an increasingly volatile world in which ever more severe natural disasters and environmental degradation will endanger millions of humans as well as plant and animal species.

The report, released by the United Nations Environment Program in advance of this summer's U.N. World Summit on Sustainable Development, is based on contributions from more than 1,000 scientists collaborating with the Nairobi, Kenya-based U.N. agency.

It assesses environmental changes over the past 30 years and looks ahead to the next three decades.

The report says the world's biodiversity is under threat, with 1,130 of the more than 4,000 mammal species and 1,183 of the 10,000 bird species regarded as globally threatened — meaning they could become extinct but are not necessarily under immediate threat of extinction.

BOGOTA, Colombia — Colombia's civil war spilled into the country's second-largest city, Medellin, as security forces battled guerrillas hiding in hillside slums. Nine people were killed, including two children.

Residents screamed in fear and ran for cover as security forces crouched in the streets and fired toward the tops of apartment buildings in Tuesday's

## around the world

battle, some of the worst urban street fighting in 38 years of war. At least 37 people were wounded, and 31 suspected rebels were arrested.

The fighting began after an early morning raid involving hundreds of soldiers, police and federal agents against rebels believed to be hiding in one of the poor neighborhoods ringing the city. Two girls caught in the cross fire, ages 4 and 2, and an elderly man were among those killed.

### NATIONAL

PHILADELPHIA — Former Philadelphia Mayor Edward G. Rendell, once dubbed "America's mayor" by former Vice President Al Gore, has taken a big step forward in his bid for another title: Pennsylvania governor.

Rendell won the Democratic nomination for governor Tuesday after a hard-fought primary battle. He defeated state Auditor General Robert P. Casey Jr.

Rendell advanced to the November general election against Attorney General Mike Fisher, who was unopposed in the GOP primary.

In other primaries Tuesday:

—In Oregon, Ted Kulongoski, a former attorney general and state Supreme Court justice, won the Democratic gubernatorial nomination over Bev Stein and Jim Hill. On the Republican side, former lawmaker and ardent abortion foe Kevin Mannix won a slim, comeback victory over attorney Ron Saxton and state Labor Commissioner Jack Roberts.

—In Arkansas, freshman Sen. Tim Hutchinson defeated conservative

bankruptcy in the nation's history. Duncan has admitted illegally shredding documents and is cooperating with the government in exchange for lenience.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — A former Ku Klux Klansman on trial for a church bombing that killed four black girls may be a violent racist, but that's no reason to convict him in the deadliest act against the civil rights movement, a defense lawyer said.

Mickey Johnson argued that Bobby Frank Cherry had nothing to do with the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church and reminded jurors before they began deliberations Tuesday that his client was not on trial for his objectionable attitudes.

But prosecutors asked the jury of nine whites and three blacks to deliver justice by convicting the aging ex-Klansman for an act of "pure hate." The request came as photos of the four young victims were flashed in court during closing arguments.

"The time for justice is here. It's way overdue," prosecutor Don Cochran told the jurors.

The jury deliberated about 2 1/2 hours before recessing until today when the trial was scheduled to resume.

### WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON — Supporters of arming commercial airline pilots are asking Congress to overturn the Bush administration's decision against allowing firearms in the cockpits.

The House Transportation aviation subcommittee is to consider legislation Thursday to allow trained pilots to carry guns, and a bipartisan group of senators is moving ahead with a sepa-

rate bill. "While I'm disappointed with the Department of Transportation's decision, I will redouble my efforts to pass this measure," said Sen. Conrad Burns, R-Mont. "It's imperative that we provide pilots with this crucial option."

House Transportation Committee chairman Don Young, R-Alaska, said he plans to have his panel consider the bill next month.

But in the Senate, Commerce Committee chairman Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., remains opposed to armed pilots. "Pilots are supposed to fly," said Hollings, whose panel oversees the airline industry in the Senate. "They're not supposed to shoot."

Transportation Undersecretary John Magaw, who heads the new Transportation Security Administration, said Tuesday he would not allow pilots to carry guns. Reinforced cockpits and armed air marshals provide enough protection against terrorists who try to take over an airplane, Magaw said.

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department says it is ready to file lawsuits in Florida, Missouri and Tennessee alleging voting rights violations resulting from the bitterly disputed 2000 presidential election.

However, Assistant Attorney General Ralph Boyd told the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday that he expects the cities and counties targeted by the Justice Department's civil rights division to negotiate settlements by the time he's ready to file the five suits.

"My hope, my aspiration and my expectation is that in each of those we'll reach an enforceable agreement prior to the filing of the lawsuit," Boyd said.

The suits, according to Boyd, will allege different treatment of minority voters, improper purging of voter rolls, "motor voter" registration violations and failure to provide access to disabled voters.

Other charges, he said, include failing to allow voters with limited proficiency in English to have assistance at the polls and failing to provide bilingual assistance.

WASHINGTON — Citing the recent death of a Connecticut child who apparently fell victim to a man she met online, the House voted overwhelmingly to establish a new domain for kid-friendly Web sites and to expand wiretap authority to target Internet predators.

The domain measure, approved on a 406-2 vote, would have the federal government oversee a ".kids.us" domain on the Internet that would have only material appropriate for children under 13.

Web site operators' participation would be voluntary. Parents could set computer software to limit a child's access to only addresses ending in .kids.us.

Lawmakers cited the death of Christina Long, a sixth-grader from Danbury, Conn., in urging passage of both bills.

Police say she was strangled and her body dumped in a ravine by a 25-year-old man she met in an Internet chat room.

The wiretap measure, approved 396-11, would allow investigators to seek wiretaps for suspected sexual predators to help block physical meetings between molesters and children they meet via the computer.

# Graves signs budget, removes obstacle to capital dome statue

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer  
TOPEKA — Gov. Bill Graves signed a \$4.4 billion budget into law after removing an obstacle to placing a statue of a Kansa Indian atop the Statehouse dome.

The bill contains most of the appropriations for the state's 2003 fiscal

year, which begins July 1. Graves had few objections to its contents.

But, even though he allowed most of the bill to become law Tuesday, Graves did veto a provision that would have prohibited the Department of Administration from spending money to reinforce the dome to support the 20-foot "Ad Astra" statue of the Indian, draw-

ing his bow to the sky. "He's been a longtime supporter of Ad Astra," said Graves spokesman Don Brown.

The work, by Salina sculptor Richard Bergen, was chosen in a design contest sponsored by the Kansas Arts Commission in 1988.

Its name comes from the state motto,

"Ad astra per aspera" — "To the stars through difficulties." A replica now stands in the first floor rotunda of the Statehouse.

A dedication of the statue originally was set for July 4, 1990.

However, opposition from legislators and others and the cost of reinforcing the dome has prevented the statue

from going up.

This year, some legislators wanted to prevent spending tax dollars on the project, in part because they were forced to increase taxes \$252 million. Others did not want the project to be included in a \$135 million, eight-year renovation of the Statehouse, financed by bonds.

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