

# World & Nation

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The Battalion

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## Third World growth grinds to halt

WASHINGTON (AP) — The world's poorest nations suffered financial setbacks last year, compounded by the economic shocks from the Persian Gulf crisis, the World Bank said Sunday.

In its annual report, the 155-nation lending agency said overall economic growth in the Third World edged up 2.3 percent in 1990, the worst showing since 1982.

The situation was even more dire when the weak growth was measured against population increases in the developing nations, the report said.

Per capita income rose just 0.2 percent in 1990, compared to gains of 2 percent in 1988 and 1 percent in 1989 in the Third World.

The poor economic showing was blamed on many factors, including the spillover effect from the economic slowdown in rich industrial countries and a disturbing slowdown in the growth of world trade.

But the report said many of the shocks came from the turmoil associated with Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, which sent oil prices soaring.

## Gulf crisis, disrupted trade flows, refugees cause stagnation

ing, disrupted trade flows and triggered a flood of refugees from the war zone.

The economic difficulties were widespread throughout the Third World. Only Asia's developing countries increased their per capita income, the report said.

The 18 countries in East Asia saw per capita incomes rise on average 4.3 percent. The World Bank said slower-than-average growth in China had been offset by vigorous gains in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.

The eight countries in South Asia, including India, Bangladesh and Pakistan, experienced a per capita income increase of 2.1 percent in 1990, but the report warned that continued growth was threatened in India.

Developing countries in all other regions suffered declines in per capita income last year.

The biggest setback occurred

in Latin America, where per capita incomes fell by 2.6 percent in 1990. The report said the situation was most severe for Argentina, Brazil and Peru as their economies continued to be plagued by high debt burdens.

The nations of sub-Saharan Africa, including some of the poorest nations in the world, saw per capita incomes fall by 2.1 percent last year while the developing countries in North Africa, the Middle East and Europe suffered a 1.3 percent drop in per capita incomes, the first decline for this region since 1987.

This area included Egypt, Jordan and Turkey, the so-called front-line states that suffered the most from the Persian Gulf crisis, and also the newly emerging democracies in Eastern Europe.

All the Eastern European countries — Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Poland, Romania

and Yugoslavia — had negative growth rates stemming primarily from the disruptions as they transform their economies to free-market systems.

The World Bank noted that it had stepped up its lending to former Soviet bloc countries in an effort to support their economic reform movements with Poland getting the largest amount, \$1.44 billion.

Only countries that are members of the World Bank qualify for loans. The Soviet Union has applied for membership but the United States has successfully led the effort to block it. The Bush administration contends that the country is not far enough along in its reform efforts to qualify for full membership in either the World Bank or its sister lending organization, the International Monetary Fund.

Instead, the United States and other rich nations have offered the Soviets a newly created "special associate" designation that would allow the Soviets to qualify for technical assistance but not direct loans.

## Democratic campaign picks up steam, strives to gain recognition, return to basic values

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Democratic presidential hopefuls jockeyed Saturday for position in a field of little-known candidates that for now has no clear frontrunner and whose members often defy their party's traditional labels.

Seven of the party's declared and possible 1992 contenders were appearing back-to-back before the Democratic National Committee, some 400 party faithful from all 50 states gathered for the last time before next summer's nominating convention.

With the Iowa caucuses just five months away, this weekend's meeting brought sudden life to a campaign and a party that for months has appeared moribund. "Welcome to what is clearly the start of the 1992 presidential campaign," party Chairman Ronald H. Brown said in opening the meeting.

Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin was first up in the parade of candidates, warming the crowd with a spirited, mocking attack on President Bush and promising not to duck the liberal label that has hurt Democrats in campaigns past.

"I don't intend to apologize to anyone for being a Democrat," Harkin said in his podium-pounding speech. "We haven't been wrong, we've been right and we ought to be proud to say so. ... It's time for us to reassert ourselves and what our values are."

Former Massachusetts Sen. Paul Tsongas was next and kept up the Bush bashing while saying the party needed to stick to its commitment to women's rights and minorities and working people but must adopt a pro-business approach to economics.

"George Bush, this is the first day of the end of your presidency," said Tsongas, a long shot in the Democratic field.

For the candidates, the session offered a chance for media exposure and to lobby the party activists who hold the key to organizational support in their states.

Still, the Democrats would appear at this early date to have faint hopes of upsetting President Bush, particularly if their candidate enters the race with little national recognition.

A Gallup poll conducted last week for Ca-

ble News Network showed Bush with a 68 percent approval rating and that many of the Democratic prospects were little known even among Democratic voters.

Yet some Democrats see hope in this early weakness, arguing that a new face will have the best chance of making an effective case for change after 12 years of Republican control of the White House.

The hopefuls due to parade before the party faithful Sunday included two of three men considered as the top tier of the field: Harkin and Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton. The third, Nebraska Sen. Bob Kerrey, skipped the meeting but his aides worked aggressively throughout the past three days lining up support.

Also on the speaker's list were former California Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr., Jesse Jackson, Oklahoma Rep. Dave McCurdy and former Irvine, Calif., Mayor Larry Agran. In this group, Jackson and McCurdy have yet to decide whether to run. Not attending was Virginia Gov. L. Douglas Wilder, another announced candidate.

## Kurdish rebels release Noah's Ark explorers

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Five explorers abducted while searching for Noah's Ark said Saturday they had left a trail of dollars, hoping to help efforts to rescue them from Kurdish rebel captors.

Americans Ronald Wyatt of Nashville, Tenn., Marvin Wilson of Garland, Texas, and Richard M. Rives of Matthews, N.C., were

among five Westerners released unharmed Friday, near the central eastern city of Bingol.

Interviewed on Turkish television, the five said their captors made them walk by night and hide in woods by day to elude searchers.

"We could see the helicopters flying over, but they could not see

us," one of the Westerners told reporters at a news conference Saturday, a day after their three-week ordeal ended. He was not identified.

One of the former hostages, Gareth Thomas of Britain, said the men were told by their abductors where to find authorities after their release. The fifth explorer was Australian Allen Roberts.

The separatist Kurdish guerrilla group PKK, or Kurdish Labor Party, said it had held the men.

Officials searching for the explorers found U.S. currency near the abduction site.

They were captured Aug. 30 while searching for Noah's Ark, which the Bible says landed near Mount Ararat in present-day eastern Turkey.

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