



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - The US dollar should be replaced as the world's benchmark currency for trade with an International Monetary Fund proposed system of special drawing rights that would create an international reserve of assets made up of several currencies, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs says in a new report. Decreases in the value of the dollar over recent years have hit developing countries' economies hard, prompting growing calls for a more reliable system of international liquidity.

CLIMATE CHANGE - African nations led by Somalia, Mauritania and Sudan have the most precarious water supplies in the world while Iceland has the best, according to a survey. The ranking, compiled by British-based risk consultancy, says climate change and a rising world population will increase stress on supplies for uses ranging from farming to industry.

ENVIRONMENT - The approach of a hurricane has put the brakes on efforts to contain BP's oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico with controlled burns, boom placements and flights to spread chemical dispersants on hold. Hurricane Alex is expected to make landfall today bringing more oily waters onto the shores of Louisiana and Mississippi.

■AFRICA

CAMEROON - The Cameroon government has initiated a process to integrate local communities in the management of country's forests and wildlife. The Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife recently signed agreements with five traditional rulers for planting about 50,000 trees following a three day workshop that discussed issues of fighting climate change by adopting sustainable forest management practices.

EAST AFRICA - Pastoralists across East Africa are set to benefit as the region's national borders are relaxed amid joint efforts to mitigate the risks associated with their migration.

SOUTH AFRICA - School's out, the FIFA World Cup is on, and HIV/AIDS groups are using the opportunity to bring HIV messages to South Africa's youngest and least privileged soccer supporters.

SUDAN - Two rival Arab tribes in Sudan's conflict-ridden Darfur region signed a peace deal on Monday, according to the United Nations. The African Union-UN Mission peacekeeping force in Darfur and the local government brokered the agreement between leaders of the Misseriya and Rizeigat groups.

■ASIA

KYRGYZSTAN - The humanitarian crisis in Kyrgyzstan sparked by ethnic violence three weeks ago continues to unfold, according to the UN, as refugees return home to find they have no proper shelter. The UN said on Tuesday that nearly all of the estimated 100,000 refugees who had escaped to neighbouring Uzbekistan have now returned to Kyrgyzstan

PAKISTAN - Experts have warned that coastal communities in the southern Pakistan province of Sindh, already affected by Cyclone Phet on 6 June, face further homelessness, food insecurity and the threat of water-borne diseases in the upcoming monsoon.

■MIDDLE EAST

OPT - Eighteen months after Israel's 23-day offensive in the Gaza Strip, three-quarters of damaged homes, buildings and infrastructure remain unrepaired, according to a reconstruction needs assessment published by the UN Development Programme in Jerusalem.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

HAITI's population is on track to surpass pre-earthquake numbers by 2012, the U.S. Census Bureau says. An estimated 230,000 people died as a result of the massive Jan. 12 earthquake that devastated Haiti's capital Port-au-Prince and left millions in need of significant aid.

WFWO's Communications Team