



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS climate talks resumed on Monday exposing familiar rifts between rich and poor nations which delegates said would delay the start of formal negotiations. The 185-nation Bonn conference, which runs until June 11, is the biggest international climate meeting since a summit last December in Copenhagen failed to agree on a new deal to combat global warming, succeeding the Kyoto Protocol after 2012. Differences resurfaced on Monday when Latin American countries, the United States and South Africa said they could not launch negotiations on the basis of a text published in mid-May, which outlines a huge range of options for fighting climate change. Meanwhile, rich and poor countries have agreed on guidelines for releasing aid to save forests, in the first concrete sign of global action on climate change since Copenhagen. And a global poll has revealed that nearly one in 10 people believe global warming is part of a natural cycle of events, and nothing to really worry about, an alarming increase on the figures from two years ago. This analysis looks at why voters seem to be cooling to strong action to combat climate change even though this year is on track to be the warmest worldwide since records began in the 19th century.

■AFRICA

Africa Region - Poor working conditions in African mines combined with a lack of access to health care could be factors in tuberculosis outbreaks across the continent, according to a study. Countries that reduce mining see a rapid drop in the number of tuberculosis cases, according to the study.

D.R.C CONGO - Humanitarian access in Impfondo, in the northern Likouala region of the Republic of Congo (ROC), has improved following the reinforcement of security, say officials.

MOZAMBIQUE has launched a campaign called "Open Your Eyes" to combat child trafficking and unsafe child migration into neighbouring South Africa as footballers and fans start arriving there ahead of the Soccer World Cup kick-off on 11 June.

SOMALIA - Almost 1 million displaced Somalis in need of aid cannot be reached by the United Nations' refugee and food aid agencies because of growing insecurity and the threat of kidnappings to staff.

SOUTH AFRICA - The fight against tuberculosis (TB) has failed children: the share of paediatric TB is increasing, and children have not escaped the rising tide of drug-resistant strains, according to new research presented at the South African TB Conference.

■ASIA

CHINA has turned to an unlikely tool in hopes to prevent famine, alleviate poverty and make the most of its dwindling arable land resources: the potato. Facing a population boom that will require it to produce 100 million additional tons of food every year by 2030, China has ramped up research and training in the cultivation of the potato - a food resource that produces more calories per acre and requires less water to grow than rice.

INDIA - The UN Clean Development Mechanism has cut the number of carbon credits issued to India in the past five months by 51%, in part due to increased scrutiny being applied to hydropower projects as well as plans involving cuts in hydrofluorocarbons.

SRI LANKA - The Sri Lankan government has issued a new deadline to resettle tens of thousands of conflict-displaced still living in camps. More than 60,000 internally displaced people continue to live in three government camps, the UN Refugee Agency says.

■MIDDLE EAST

ISRAEL / OPT - Israel said it would complete on Wednesday the deportation of all the pro-Palestinian activists seized in its raid on a Gaza aid flotilla and vowed to stop other ships from reaching the Hamas-run enclave. Amid international outrage over the deaths of nine people in the interception at sea on Monday, Turkey, which has recalled its ambassador from Israel, demanded it lift its blockade of Gaza as a condition of restoring full ties. Israel had said it will deport 682 activists from more than 35 countries taken into custody after the maritime assault. The international outcry sparked by Israel's assault will help highlight the dire plight of the Palestinians living there but may have little immediate impact on Israel's policy of blockades, relief workers say

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

GUATEMALA - The hurricane season's first tropical storm wracked Central America, causing widespread landslides and flooding. Guatemala was particularly hard hit, with at least 146 people reported dead among collapsed roads and devastated bridges. Emergency officials are struggling to reach victims in remote areas, while some 35,000 people have taken to emergency shelters.

HAITI - Hundreds of camps housing the bulk of Haiti's 1.5 million homeless earthquake survivors are ill-equipped to manage hurricanes, aid agencies and officials warn. Aid groups are scrambling to find alternative locations, erect safe housing and clear roads of rubble.

WFWO's Communications Team