



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - The Group of 77 (G77) has historically maintained a united front, vociferously protecting the economic interests of developing countries at the United Nations.

■AFRICA

BOTSWANA - Until just over a year ago, people living in Dukwi, a remote refugee camp about 200km from Francistown, Botswana's second city, were burying other residents who had died from AIDS-related illnesses at the rate of about five a month.

KENYA - An international human rights group said on Wednesday that widespread sexual violence in Kenyan slums prevents women from using communal toilets, putting them at risk of deadly diseases.

NIGERIA - State authorities and aid agencies in northern Nigeria are scaling up their food security and nutrition responses in the light of coming food shortages.

SUDAN - Tension over the future of Abyei, a flashpoint region roughly the size Lebanon on Sudan's north-south border, erupted into armed violence and street demonstrations this week.

TANZANIA - An initiative by the Tanzanian government hopes to reduce HIV transmission along the country's expanding road network by targeting construction crews and the communities that surround them.

■ASIA

INDIA - Floods triggered by heavy monsoon rains killed more than 50 people and displaced almost half a million more in India's south and northeast, government officials said. Overflowing rivers and reservoirs have inundated low-lying villages mainly in India's oil and tea-rich state of Assam, but also on the opposite side of the country in the southwestern coastal state of Kerala. Separately, Indian police fired at hundreds of stone-throwing protesters in Kashmir on Tuesday, killing three civilians, the latest violence in a region at the core of a dispute between India and Pakistan. The deaths of at least 14 people, mostly protesters, in the last three weeks have triggered the biggest anti-India demonstrations in two years across Muslim-majority Kashmir valley.

KYRGYZSTAN - The Permanent Council of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) should deploy a police mission in southern Kyrgyzstan that is large enough to reach all areas affected by the recent violence, Human Rights Watch said.

MYANMAR's Health Ministry has issued a warning after discovering dead rats infected with bubonic plague in a government office in Naypyitaw. The discovery follows notices carried by state-owned newspapers July 1 cautioning residents about the dangers of plague and urging people to report any cases to health authorities.

PAKISTAN - A new report by FAFEN, a coalition of 30 Pakistani civil society organizations, has highlighted a lack of female health workers in the country to serve the primary health care needs of women. It said Balochistan was the worst of the country's four provinces.

SRI LANKA - Internally displaced persons (IDPs) returning to Sri Lanka's Eastern Province face a big problem - elephants which have taken a liking to abandoned homesteads.

■MIDDLE EAST

ISRAEL / OPT - The UN and international relief organizations have cautiously welcomed Israel's easing of import restrictions on the Gaza Strip, but say only the complete lifting of the blockade can address the humanitarian crisis.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

HAITI - President Rene Preval rejected US Senate proposals for upcoming elections in Haiti and said one of them could even sow "anarchy" in the earthquake-shattered Caribbean country. Meanwhile, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for transparent and credible elections to be held in the country and he also urged international donors to ensure funds are available as soon as possible to hold smooth elections. But for one and a half million homeless survivors from January's devastating earthquake, disputes over land ownership, which could take years to resolve, are hampering the building of new homes.

WFWO's Communications Team