



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - After an economic assessment of some 50 countries, the U.N. Development Programme has come up with a "concrete action agenda" to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

UNITED NATIONS - The surge in violence that has displaced more than 200,000 ethnic Uzbeks in southern Kyrgyzstan since last week was provoked by outside groups, according to a United Nations official. The spokesman for the UN high commissioner of human rights, Rupert Colville, said on Wednesday that the UN has "strong indications" that the riots which began in the city of Osh were not a spontaneous ethnic conflict.

CLIMATE CHANGE - Japan will aim to pass a shelved climate bill setting tough emission reduction targets before an annual UN meeting in Mexico later this year, according to its environment minister. Meanwhile, negotiators from 185 nations ended on June 11 two weeks of talks on a new climate treaty with a new blueprint for a pact that omits the most draconian options for greenhouse gas cuts by 2050. In addition, a report by European scientists demonstrated how rising global temperatures might already be helping infectious diseases to creep north. The report links warmer temperatures to the spread of dengue fever, yellow fever, malaria and even human plague in Europe. Separately, China could face increasing pressure in UN climate talks after data showed the country's carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels rose by 9 percent in 2009, bucking a global downtrend.

■AFRICA

CHAD - For decades, the government in Chad saw the environment as "the white man's problem" said Minister of Environment. "For so long, it was a problem for rich countries, but now our land has been denuded, cattle are dying water is shrinking, it is our problem too".

■ASIA

AFGHANISTAN - Putting a polling station in a school would be run-of-the-mill in most countries, but in Afghanistan it can be an invitation to an attack by Taliban insurgents, opposed to the government and western-style democracy.

BANGLADESH / MYANMAR - Governments and aid workers are scrambling to assist thousands of people - many of them stateless Rohingya refugees - stranded after three days of heavy monsoon rains caused severe flooding and landslides in the Myanmar-Bangladesh border region, killing at least 99 people and wiping out homes, roads and bridges, officials say.

KYRGYZSTAN / UZBEKISTAN - Ethnic Uzbek women, children and the elderly living in southern Kyrgyzstan continue to flee clashes with Kyrgyz groups and cross the nearby border into Uzbekistan in search of security and shelter.

■MIDDLE EAST

ISRAEL / OPT - After intense diplomatic negotiation with Israel, the UN has agreed to oversee the transfer of 70 truck-loads of humanitarian aid that Israel seized from a flotilla of six ships on 31 May.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

LAC Region - Deforestation in the Amazon not only contributes to climate change but can trigger malaria epidemics, US researchers warn. Cleared areas provide additional habitat for mosquitoes, the main vectors for the spread of malaria, the report warns.

BRAZIL / PERU - An energy deal that Peru and Brazil signed this week in the Amazon city of Manaus in Brazil is opposed by environmentalists and local indigenous communities in Peru where the planned hydroelectric dams will be built.

HAITI - Former U.S. President Bill Clinton returns to Haiti this week in a bid to jump-start the quake-ravaged nation's reconstruction as the 2010 Atlantic hurricane season looms over the Caribbean. Haitian Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive spoke of Clinton's return to Port-au-Prince, saying he would preside over a meeting of the Haiti reconstruction commission.

WFWO's Communications Team