



■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon spoke via telephone with Myanmar pro-democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi for the first time since the Nobel laureate's release from house arrest. Ban expressed public support for Suu Kyi's campaign for the release of all political prisoners in Myanmar. Suu Kyi expressed hope that Ban would soon dispatch Vijay Nambiar, the UN adviser on Myanmar, for another visit to the country.

HUMAN RIGHTS - The United Nations has officially condemned what it described as "deplorable human rights practices" in Iran, North Korea and Myanmar. The UN General Assembly committee passed the resolutions, accusing the three countries of abuses, on Thursday. The resolution against Iran was backed by 80 nations, while the one against Myanmar received 96 votes and the one against North Korea was supported by 100 countries. The committee also said Myanmar's first elections in 20 years, held earlier this month, were neither free nor fair.

HIV/AIDS - South Africa's plans to decrease the rate of HIV/AIDS infections may cost as much as \$102 billion over the next two decades, but could reduce the number of new infections by more than half the current levels, according to a report from UNAIDS. South Africa is home to the world's largest number of people living with HIV/AIDS.

CLIMATE CHANGE - China will not agree to a deal at the upcoming Cancun climate summit that ties climate-change aid to international checks on greenhouse-gas emissions levels, Chinese officials say. Negotiations on an international treaty to battle climate change continue to be hamstrung by a lack of trust between developed and developing countries and differences over the inclusion of mandated emissions caps.

■AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA - With increased access to treatment and the implementation of prevention plans, South Africa's new HIV infection rates could fall below 200,000 a year by 2020, according to a report. The United Nations estimates that there are 5.7 million people infected with HIV in South Africa, more than anywhere else in the world.

UGANDA - Thousands of people in eastern Uganda's Bududa district are still at risk of deadly mudslides because money for their promised relocation has not been raised, officials said.

ZIMBABWE - When researchers returned to Zimbabwe several months after the end of a trial involving condom and diaphragm use, they were disappointed to find that condom use - which had risen to 86 percent during the trial - had reduced significantly.

■ASIA & PACIFIC

TIMOR-LESTE's government is engaging rural communities to improve the country's road network, which is almost 60 percent unpaved, to create jobs and develop vital infrastructure.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

HAITI - As the death toll from the cholera epidemic sweeping through Haiti surpasses 1,000, with more than 19,000 confirmed cases, officials say people living with HIV are especially vulnerable.

WFWO's Communications Team