

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed concern over ongoing protests in Egypt, which entered their ninth day today. "I once again urge restraint to all the sides," UN Secretary general said in London after talks with British Prime Minister David Cameron.

HEALTH - Stockpiling antiviral flu drugs and vaccines saves lives and reduces disease in a flu pandemic, but is too expensive for around two thirds of the world's population, scientists have said. Researchers from Singapore found stockpiling flu drugs "significantly reduced" death rates but said many nations cannot afford to build up stockpiles at current prices.

ENVIRONMENT - European carbon-emissions credit trading markets will shortly reopen after shutdowns prompted by the theft of \$38 million in permits two weeks ago. Interpol and European investigators are continuing to investigate theft and search for the stolen permits, while market officials review security protocols.

AFRICA

CAMEROON - Faced with rising temperatures and advancing desert in the north and disastrous flooding in the south, Cameroon's government will this year create a National Observatory on Climate Change.

MALI / BURKINA FASO - Trials in Mali and Burkina Faso support the intermittent use of antimalarial drugs as a preventative measure to halt the spread of the disease, according to a study published in an journal of Science. Drug treatments and the use of insecticide-treated bed nets could reduce the spread of seasonal malaria by as much as 80%, researchers say.

MADAGASCAR - In parts of Madagascar's drought-prone south people have resorted to eating cattle-feed, as successive years of crop failures and the current lean season give food insecurity a firmer grip on the region.

ASIA & PACIFIC

MYANMAR - Nearly five million people in Myanmar are affected by landmines, yet the international response to their plight has been "woefully insufficient". Thousands of civilians, mainly ethnic minorities, have been killed or injured by unexploded ordnance.

SRI LANKA - Vegetable prices, already on the rise in Sri Lanka, are now surging after devastating floods in early January that hit food production in the country. Experts warn more sharp increases may be around the corner, and could have an impact on the cost of the country's staple rice crop.

MIDDLE EAST

EGYPTIAN President Hosni Mubarak's statement that he will not seek re-election in the country's scheduled polls this year is insufficient to meet anti-government demonstrators' demands, opposition figure Mohamed ElBaradei says. The Nobel laureate called on all sides to refrain from violent confrontations and for Mubarak to leave the country.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

HAITI - The unprecedented humanitarian response to last year's devastating earthquake in Haiti has called into question the effectiveness of the hundreds, perhaps thousands, of nongovernmental organizations that have been providing emergency services. Haitian leaders - as well as NGOs, themselves - say that aid often is poorly coordinated, and the groups often suffer from high turnover and a lack of transparency.

WFWO's Communications Team