



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - The UN Security Council are close to finalizing a draft text authorizing a new round of sanctions against Iran and may have a vote on the matter within the next 10 days. Iran has rushed to clarify a nuclear test cited in the International Atomic Energy Agency's latest report on Iran's nuclear development program, a report that cited Iran for pyroprocessing - a technique used to purify uranium for use in nuclear warheads. Iran's atomic energy chief said that their experiments did not constitute pyroprocessing

ENVIRONMENT - Rising global wealth spells disaster for the planet, with environmental impacts growing roughly 80 percent with a doubling of income, reports the first comprehensive study of consumption. It adds to the mountain of evidence that the gospel of economic growth must be urgently transformed into the new gospel of resource-efficient green economies, a UN expert panel concluded wednesday.

■AFRICA

CHAD - Geologists are using technology known as magnetic resonance sounding to take "x-rays" of the ground to find new water sources in eastern Chad, where more than 300,000 refugees from neighbouring countries have arrived in recent years.

NIGERIA - Stocks of millet and sorghum, locally known as Guinea corn, in northern Nigeria's markets are dwindling as traders buy them up to export across the border to Niger, where some 10 million people face food insecurity.

SOMALIA - Prolonged conflict in Somalia, especially in and around the capital, Mogadishu, has contributed to an alarming increase in the number of mental health patients, according to health officials.

SOUTH AFRICA - A consortium of AIDS organizations has given the South African government three months to deliver on promises to integrate TB and HIV services.

UGANDA - A Ugandan draft policy recommending that HIV-positive children be informed of their status by the age of 10 has drawn mixed reactions from health workers.

■ASIA

CHINA - Nearly 3,000 people are dead or missing after a strong quake in China's northwest last month, the official Xinhua agency has said, giving a final toll for the tremor in largely Tibetan Yushu county. The April 14 quake killed 2,698 people, and 270 are still missing, Xinhua quoted the vice governor of Qinghai province, Zhang Guangrong, as saying. The figures are a significant increase from previous tolls given by the government.

PAKISTAN - Stagnant wages and rising food prices due to inflation led to a 10 per cent decline in consumption of wheat in Pakistan in 2009, according to the United Nations.

PHILIPPINES - Eight months after successive storms and typhoons brought misery and death to the Philippines, people evacuated from areas prone to flooding have returned to rebuild shoddy structures that could again put their lives in danger as the country prepares for this year's storm season.

■MIDDLE EAST

EGYPT / OPT - Gazans have been streaming through the Rafah border with Egypt over the past two days following an order from Egyptian President Mubarak to open the crossing "indefinitely".

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

BRAZIL - One out of every five Brazilian women has had an abortion despite severe restrictions on legal procedures, while more than 200,000 women are hospitalized every as a result of unsafe abortions, according to a new government study. While women's rights and health advocates are pushing Brazilian authorities to reform legislation, the Brazilian congress is debating a bill that would add additional restrictions.

HAITI - Representatives at a regional summit for Haiti are calling on international donors to honor their promises of aid, noting that only Brazil has made a contribution to the \$5.3 billion in reconstruction aid for the next two years promised at a 140-country gathering in March. Hundreds of thousands of Haitians left homeless by a Jan. 12 earthquake are living in camps or under tarps on the medians of busy roads while they await help in constructing more durable shelters.

WFWO's Communications Team