



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS Secretary General Ban Ki-moon called for a "transparent and independent" investigation into the death of a prominent human rights activist in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

ENVIRONMENT - The US Coast Guard says that BP has lowered a cap on the broken oil well in the Gulf of Mexico in order to trap escaping oil and natural gas - a solution described as a temporary fix. BP has ignored recent calls from Washington to put shareholder payments on hold until the full cost of the environmental cleanup in the Gulf region can be calculated and allocated, infuriating leaders who say that the current \$69 million bill estimate is likely to be just a fraction of the cost.

ENVIRONMENT - Though South Africa has pledged to build green facilities for hosting this year's World Cup tournament, the carbon costs associated with travel for participants and fans to and from South Africa as well as the energy required to accommodate the games and tourists will be considerable. The UN's Global Environment Facility has helped to develop a public transportation system and a solar energy initiative in order to reduce the carbon costs of the games.

■AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA - A complex mix of issues drives drug-resistant tuberculosis (TB) patients to default on medication, not least of which are alcohol and money, according to new research presented by the international medical charity, at the South African TB Conference in the east-coast city of Durban.

WEST AFRICA - The European Union released an additional \$29 million in aid Wednesday to help counter the effect of drought in West Africa. Aid agencies warn more funds are needed to overcome a food crisis that is affecting more than 10 million people in the region.

■ASIA

CHINA - Chinese emissions of sulphur dioxide increased by 1.2 per cent in the first quarter of 2010, government officials revealed on Thursday. This is the first quarterly rise observed in the world's top polluter since 2007.

KYRGYZSTAN / UZBEKISTAN - Confrontation last week between the residents of two villages on both sides of the border of an Uzbek enclave in Kyrgyzstan highlights the risk of further conflict over the use of natural resources in Fergana Valley, according to analysts.

PAKISTAN - As coastal areas in the southern Pakistani provinces of Sindh and Balochistan braced for Cyclone Phet, currently approaching Oman, authorities began evacuating 60,000 villagers.

■MIDDLE EAST

YEMEN - A two-year-old government scheme offering financial incentives to parents in the rural areas of two of the country's poorest governorates to send their daughters to school or to prevent them from dropping out is paying off as girls' enrollment rates have increased by around 9 percent in the targeted schools, according to education officials.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

MEXICO - With less than six months before Mexico hosts the next global climate change summit, Mexican environmental organisations hosting the parallel civil society forum are divided on how to carry it out - which some fear could ultimately weaken their role at the negotiating table.

WFWO's Communications Team