



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - Libya has ordered the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to leave, according to UN officials there, citing no reason for the decision, which could endanger more than 12,000 refugees and asylum seekers. A representative of UNHCR said that the decision is exacerbated by Italy's policy of turning away North African asylum seekers. Libya has never signed the 1951 convention on refugees and does not have an official policy guiding asylum.

HEALTH - Developing nations have faced an accelerated spread of diseases such as AIDS, yet painkiller access in those areas remains slim. Cumbersome regulations prevent people from getting painkillers in India, while East Asian nations' distaste for opium keeps many countries from allowing their citizens access to drugs. The International Narcotics Control Board has found that the world's seven richest nations consume 84% of the world's painkillers, while some 10 million people who suffer excruciating pain can find no relief.

ENVIRONMENT - Funds from carbon markets and taxes on emissions from shipping may be used to augment commitments of donor governments to help developing countries cope with the effects of climate change, says the Norwegian prime minister and co-chair of the UN's climate expert group. Representatives to the Copenhagen climate talks in December agreed on the need to raise \$100 billion a year as of 2020 without specifying how to source the effort.

■AFRICA

CHAD - BET, the acronym for the three northern regions of Chad - Borkou, Ennedi and Tibesti - comes up regularly in meetings of international aid agencies frustrated by the lack of information and difficulty of access to the remote territory. Drought in 2009 triggered the government's call for international assistance, but no one really knows the full extent of the problem, according to a local NGO.

MALI - Men in Mali's Dogon country are beginning to play a greater role in ensuring children eat properly - a shift nutrition experts say is important to tackling child under-nutrition, which is chronic across Mali and the entire Sahel region.

SENEGAL - A law on gender parity in electoral lists, approved by a large majority in Senegal's National Assembly, has been welcomed by women from diverse walks of life.

SOMALIA - Renewed militia fighting and heavy rains in Somalia's central regions of Hiiraan and Galgadud have forced thousands of people to abandon their homes, say officials.

SOUTH AFRICA - As South African children look forward to a mid-year school holiday that will last longer than the usual winter break because of the FIFA World Cup, parents and caregivers are faced with the dilemma of how to keep them safe during the five weeks of festivities.

SUDAN / DARFUR - Renewed violence in Darfur killed at least 597 people in May, making it the deadliest month since peacekeepers were deployed to the conflict-ridden west Sudan region in January 2008.

SWAZILAND - The effects of Cyclone Demonia are still being felt a quarter of a century after it ripped through landlocked Swaziland. The once-in-a-generation storm system swept in from the Indian Ocean and across neighbouring Mozambique, devastating infrastructure and sowing death among the Swazis, but its lasting legacy was the alien plant seeds that the winds carried.

■ASIA

INDONESIA is reportedly set to allow foreign investors to enter its agricultural sector and to ease investment limits in other areas such as healthcare and transport.

SRI LANKA - Health officials are stepping up their efforts to avert a dengue outbreak in the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

Latin America Region - Growing forest fires in the Amazon region are threatening to cancel out the benefits of efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emission by preserving rainforests, according to a new study.

WFWO's Communications Team