

Plastic, chemical pollution beyond planet's safe limit

AFP, Stockholm
The torrent of man-made chemical and plastic waste worldwide has massively exceeded limits safe for humanity or the planet, and production caps are urgently needed, scientists have concluded for the first time.

There are an estimated 350,000 different manufactured chemicals on the market and large volumes of them end up in the environment.
"The impacts that we're starting to see today are large enough to be impacting crucial functions of planet Earth and its systems", Bethanie Carney Almroth, co-author of a new study told AFP in an interview.

The study, by the Stockholm Resilience Centre, comes ahead of a UN meeting in Nairobi at the end of the month on tackling plastic pollution "from source to sea", UN Environment Programme head Inger Andersen said on Monday.

Chemicals and plastics are affecting biodiversity, piling additional stress on already stressed ecosystems.

Pesticides kill living organisms indiscriminately and plastics are ingested by living things.
"Some chemicals are interfering with hormone systems, disrupting growth, metabolism and reproduction in wildlife," Carney Almroth said.

While greater efforts are needed to prevent these substances being released into the environment, scientists are now pushing for more drastic solutions, such as production caps.

Recycling has so far yielded only mediocre results. Less than 10 percent of the world's plastic is currently recycled, even as production has doubled to 367 million tonnes since 2000.

Today, the total weight of plastic on Earth is now four times the biomass of all living animals, according to recent studies.



This handout video grab released by the Russian Defence Ministry yesterday, shows Russian tanks leaving for Russia after joint exercises of the armed forces of Russia and Belarus as part of an inspection of the Union State's Response Force, at a firing range near Brest. Russia yesterday said it was pulling back some of its forces near the Ukrainian border to their bases, in what could be the first major step towards de-escalation in weeks of crisis with the West.

PHOTO: AFP

UKRAINE CRISIS: WHO SAID WHAT

We've got Russian field hospitals being constructed near the border with Ukraine in Belarus, for what only can be construed as a preparation for an invasion.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson

February 15, 2022, will go down in history as the day Western war propaganda failed. (They have been) Humiliated and destroyed without a single shot being fired.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova

The time is now to defuse tensions and de-escalate actions on the ground. ... Abandoning diplomacy for confrontation is not a step over a line, it is a dive over a cliff.

United Nations chief Antonio Guterres

There are signs from Moscow that diplomacy should continue, this gives grounds for cautious optimism. But so far, we have not seen any sign of de-escalation on the ground.

Nato chief Jens Stoltenberg

Myanmar junta won't attend Asean summit

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar's junta on Monday said it would not attend an upcoming Asean summit after the bloc's "regrettable" exclusion of its top diplomat over a lack of progress in defusing post-coup violence. Asean invited Myanmar to send a "non-political representative" to this week's foreign ministers' meeting, citing a lack of progress on a consensus agreed last year to facilitate dialogue with opponents of the coup. The Southeast Asian country has been in turmoil since the military ousted Aung San Suu Kyi's civilian government, with more than 1,500 civilians since killed in crackdowns on anti-junta protests, according to a local monitoring group.

COVID REGULATIONS PROTESTS
Trudeau invokes emergency powers

AFP, Ottawa

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Monday invoked rarely used emergency powers to bring an end to trucker-led protests against Covid health rules, after police arrested 11 people with a "cache of firearms" blocking a border crossing with the United States. It marked only the second time in Canadian history such powers have been invoked in peacetime. The prime minister said the military would not be deployed at this stage, but that authorities would be granted more powers to arrest protesters and seize their trucks in order to clear blockades, as well as ban funding of the protests.



India's hijab dispute reaches UP

REUTERS, Lucknow

A dispute over restrictions on the wearing of the hijab by female students in a southern Indian state has now reached India's most populous state of Uttar Pradesh, with a group of youngsters asking a college to ban the head covering.

Authorities closed colleges in Karnataka in India's south last week after a new uniform policy barred students from wearing headscarves in classrooms, leading to protests by Muslim students and counter protests by Hindu students.

Muslims have criticised the ban as another way of marginalising a community that accounts for about 13 percent of Hindu-majority India's 1.35 billion people.

In Uttar Pradesh, in the country's north and bordering New Delhi, a group of more than two dozen young men reached the Dharma Samaj College in Aligarh district on Monday and handed a memorandum to its officials seeking a complete ban on the hijab within its compound.

They had saffron shawls around their necks - typically worn by Hindus - said the college's chief

proctor, Mukesh Bharadwaj, adding he did not recognise the people. Currently, religious garb is not allowed in classrooms, but can be worn elsewhere on campus.

Uttar Pradesh is ruled by a Hindu monk from PM Narendra Modi's party and is in the midst of a multi-phase election that ends next month. Hindu-Muslim disputes are often used for political gains in the state.

The hijab issue has already reached court in Karnataka. Hearings were scheduled to resume yesterday on whether the hijab should be allowed in class.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Upazilla Health Complex Ramu, Cox's bazaar
Tender Notice
Memo No-UHC/Ramu/MSR Tender/2021-22/594 Date: 15/02/2022
Invitation for Tender (IFT) for Procurement of MSR goods for Upazilla Health Complex Ramu, Cox's Bazar in the fiscal year 2021-22

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২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বছরে মানিকগঞ্জ জেলার ৬০ (পঁয়ষাটটি ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের কর্তৃক (০২ জন দফতরসহ ৪৩৬ জন পুরুষ এবং ০৯ জন মহিলাসহ) ০৯০ (নৌশত নকশী) জন গ্রাম পুলিশের (দফতার ও মহাল্লাসহ) "খ" তফসিলি বর্ণিত শোখার সরঞ্জামাদি সরবরাহের নিমিত্তে অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন একক সরকারস্বাক্ষরিত প্রতিষ্ঠানের দিকট হতে পিলাবারে ২০০৮ (সর্বশেষ সংশোধনকৃত) এর নিয়মাদুসারে সীমাবদ্ধকৃত বামে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তাবলীতে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাবে।