




## Modified Mosquitos

 Malaysia's plans to release genetically modified mosquitos to combat dengue fever are drawing criticism from environmental organizations. Some fear the move could fail to prevent the spread of the disease, and possibly have unintended consequences. Between 2,000 and 3,000 modified male *Aedes aegypti* mosquitos are slated to be released in two Malaysian states during October. They have been engineered so that their offspring die quickly, hopefully curbing the growth of the mosquito population. It's hoped a massive release could entirely eradicate the dengue mosquito if the test project works. Females of the species are responsible for spreading dengue, which has killed 100 people in Malaysia so far this year.


## Sumatran Eruption

 An Indonesian volcano that had been dormant for four centuries roared back to life in northern Sumatra, forcing about 30,000 people to flee their homes. Mount Sinabung produced strong eruptions for two consecutive days, with plumes of ash and steam soaring a mile and a half into the sky. Sinabung last erupted in 1600, leaving today's scientists with little or no historical information to determine its eruptive pattern and help predict what it might do. People began to evacuate almost two days before the country's National Disaster Management Agency advised them to do so. When the mountain did explode in the middle of the night, no one was injured as hot volcanic debris blanketed areas up to 20 miles away. Lava flowed for a short distance down Sinabung's slopes. Residents in the region were forced to wear facemasks and cloths over their nose and mouth as ash fell for the following three days.

## Migration Warning


 Wildlife groups are asking the Tanzanian government to reconsider building a highway through the country's Serengeti National Park, the world's best known wildlife sanctuary. The Zoological Society of London and the Wildlife Conservation Society warn that the road would disrupt the migration of 2 million wildebeest and zebras. Tanzania's government says the road is necessary to connect the country's west with commercial centers on the eastern coast. Critics say a new highway could just as easily be built through the southern parts of the park without disrupting the migration route.

## Tropical Cyclones

 Northern parts of the Windward Islands and Puerto Rico were buffeted and drenched by passing Hurricane Earle. The storm went on to lash parts of the U.S. eastern seaboard. Tropical Storm Fiona took a more easterly path in Earle's wake.

- Tropical storms Namtheun and Lionrock brought rain to Taiwan and parts of coastal China. Typhoon Kompasu killed three in Seoul as the strongest such storm there in 15 years.


## Earthquakes

 Three people were killed when a 5.9 magnitude temblor rocked the northern Iranian city of Damghan. State media reports that 40 others were injured during the shaking.


- China's quake-prone Sichuan province was jolted by a 5.0 magnitude quake that left 14 people injured and hundreds of homes damaged.

- Earth movements were also felt in Taiwan, northern Japan, Croatia, around the Greek capital of Athens and in central Oklahoma.

## African Swarms

 Crop-devouring locusts have swarmed across more than 40 villages in eastern parts of the West Africa nation of Guinea-Bissau. Officials say that the insects appear to be heading northward toward neighboring Senegal. Guinea-Bissau regional representative Queba Balde told AFP that as many as 125 to 150 locusts were found per square yard in some areas. The plant protection service in the city of Bafata told the agency it has been unable to contain the infestation with its limited resources. Massive locust swarms in 2004 caused a food crisis in Mali, Senegal and Mauritania.

## Salmon Bonanza

 Western Canada's sockeye salmon, which mysteriously vanished from the Fraser River last year, have returned in numbers not seen since 1913. The species had become so depleted in the British Columbia river last summer that the federal government launched an inquiry into the disappearance. The sockeye that have returned this summer were born in 2006, and left the river for the open Pacific in 2008. The Pacific Salmon Commission estimates that slightly over 25 million fish have returned to spawn. A record number of salmon smolts were born in the Fraser during 2005, and experts were baffled as to why they didn't return during the summer of 2009. Some speculated that they were eaten by predators or affected by warmer ocean temperatures and scarce food. Whatever the reason for last year's disappearance, British Columbia fishermen are now preparing for what may prove to be an epic fishing season thanks to this summer's river bonanza.