

Week ending Friday, June 26, 2020


Six-Month Deadline

The organization cautions that without immediate action, reaching the targets to address global warming will not be possible.

“This year is the last time we have, if we are not to see a carbon rebound,” said Fatih Birol, executive director of the International Energy Agency.

He told *The Guardian* governments must design economic recovery packages that promote shifts away from carbon-based fuels.

Earthquakes

 At least 10 people were killed when a magnitude 7.4 temblor rocked the Mexico state of Oaxaca.

- Tremors were also felt in central and southern parts of California, northern Iceland, northeastern India, eastern Japan and New Zealand's lower South Island.

26, 2020

Antarctic Plastic

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COVID Sanctuary

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Researchers write in the journal *Biology Letters* that bits of polystyrene were discovered in the guts of tiny organisms known as springtails, living in the soil not covered by ice on King George Island, off the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula.

Extensive scientific research, along with an airport, military facilities and visiting tourists, make it what the researchers call one of the most contaminated regions of the Antarctic.

The authors of the report said they believe the springtails inadvertently consumed the plastic fragments while grazing on their usual food.

Java Eruption

 Indonesia's most
restive volcano
spewed a column
of ash and hot va-
por 20,000 feet into the sky
above the island of Java.

Two separate eruptions of Mount Merapi prompted officials to warn nearby residents to be on the alert for possible lava flows.

The volcano has rumbled and produced frequent dark clouds over the landscape since last year.

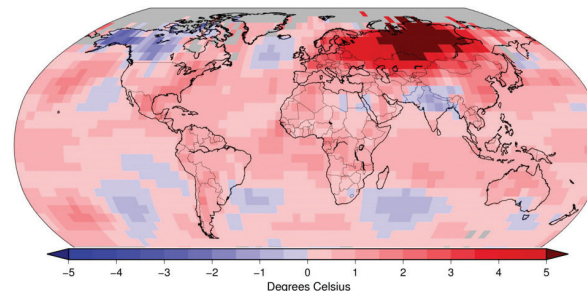
Merapi's last major eruption occurred in 2010 and killed 353 people.

COVID Sanctuary

Migratory birds are enjoying their historic summer habitats across the wetlands of southern Pakistan without threats from poachers because coronavirus lockdown measures have kept the criminals away.

The Sindh Wildlife Department counted 741,042 migratory birds this season, up from the 248,105 birds counted in 2019.

“The birds have stayed longer this year, maybe due to meager disturbances by humans due to the lockdown everywhere,” wildlife photographer Ahmer Ali Rizvi told Reuters. There have been no reports of trapping, hunting or illegal trading since the lockdown was imposed.



Unprecedented Siberian heat has lingered since earlier this year, as can be seen in this plot of January-April temperature anomalies. Image: NOAA


– Arctic Heat Wave

A persistent heat wave north of the Arctic Circle has resulted in one Siberian town reaching an all-time Arctic record high temperature of just above 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

While yet to be confirmed by the World Meteorological Organization, the reading of 100.4 degrees at Verkhoyansk, combined with unseasonable heat of 18 degrees above normal in parts of Siberia during March, April and May, have climate scientists concerned about what it means for global warming across the rest of the planet.

The warmth is melting the permafrost, releasing the greenhouse gases carbon dioxide and methane previously stored in the ground.

Tropical Cyclones

 An area of disturbed weather off the Canadian Maritime Provinces spun up briefly into Tropical Storm Dolly.

- Tropical Storm Boris was predicted to form late in the week over the eastern Pacific between Mexico and Hawaii.

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